



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Sec. Jewell, Gov. Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono Join Community Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

1 message

Gordon, Gabriella (Janou) <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 4:16 PM

To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

March 31, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.govMonica L. Ivey (Monsanto), mlivey@monsanto.comDenise Park (JCCH), park@jcch.com

Sec. Jewell, Gov. Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono Join Community Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

National Park Service will now undertake collaborative public planning process to establish, interpret monument site

O'AHU, HI – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined Hawai'i Governor David Ige, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, National Park Service (NPS) Deputy Director Peggy O'Dell, state and local officials, and community leaders to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest and longest-used confinement site in Hawai'i for Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

In February, [President Obama used the Antiquities Act to establish the new national monument](#), which is now the fifth site in the park system associated with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

“As one of the newest units of the National Park System, Honouliuli National Monument speaks of a painful but important chapter in our involvement in World War II – the unjust internment of Japanese Americans and other citizens whose civil rights were trampled by the prejudice and fear of the time,” Jewell said. “I applaud President Obama for establishing this monument and all of those in Hawai'i who worked so hard to ensure this place is preserved and the story is told for future generations.”

The site is managed by the National Park Service, which will conduct a management planning

process with full public involvement. The NPS in March signed a cooperative agreement with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to help provide educational and interpretive opportunities of the site and to promote awareness of Japanese American internment experiences during the Pacific War.

"The National Park Service is proud to have Honouliuli National Monument among our sites that share important lessons from America's history," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "In dedicating this new national monument, we are recommitting ourselves to share the difficult stories of this place so that they are never forgotten and so future generations can learn from past mistakes."

"Today, we are proud to be among many friends and supporters to welcome U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to Honolulu and to thank her for supporting the preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp," said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. "This day honors our past – the memories of the former internees – and celebrates the future. The Honouliuli National Monument is a gift to future generations who will now have the opportunity to visit the former internment camp site and learn about the unique World War II experience of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i and lessons of civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. Honouliuli was lost and forgotten for many years. The new Honouliuli National Monument will ensure that people will never forget."

Monsanto Company donated the land for the new monument. The University of Hawai'i -West O'ahu is actively involved in research and interpretation of the site and has signed an agreement with the NPS to assure public access over its lands adjacent to the site.

"We're honored to participate in the celebration of the new Honouliuli National Monument and reach this historic milestone in the community's efforts to preserve the Honouliuli Internment Camp as part of the U.S. National Park System," said Alan Takemoto, Monsanto's Community Affairs Manager for Hawaii. "Transferring ownership of this land to the Federal Government is the result of years of planning and coordination. We're very proud to be part of this collaboration, from donating 123 acres for establishment of the National Monument, to working on site preparations with distinctive organizations like the National Park Service, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii."

The 155-acre site, located at the bottom of a deep gulch not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March 1943, and interned Japanese and European Americans and resident aliens, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. After the war, it was largely forgotten and overgrown with vegetation until it was identified in 2002.

Japanese American organizations and elected leaders in Hawai'i have strongly supported preserving and interpreting the camp. In 2010, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to conduct a study of the site for possible inclusion in the National Park System.

More information about the new monument is available at www.nps.gov/hono.

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

President Obama has used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

####

Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

For Review: Hawaii press release

5 messages

Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 10:47 PM

To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Margaret O'Dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Israpom Pananon <israpom_pananon@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Dalby <craig_dalby@nps.gov>

Attached is an updated press release for tomorrow. Please send edits directly to Emily Beyer. We are shooting to get this out around 4:00 PM EDT on Tuesday.

FYI -- This version has been approved by the Secretary. Losing wifi in a few minutes but will check when we land in Hawaii in 6+ hours.

NPS -- let me know if you want a Jarvis / O'Dell quote. If so, please send over and I'd be happy to include it. We are using quotes from Monsanto and JCCH so I tried to keep our voice with just the Secretary but happy to add another one if you would like.

Thanks!

Best,

Blake


--

Blake Androff

Director of Communications

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

 **03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR DRAFT v4.doc**
68K**Nicole Buffa** <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 11:22 AM

To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Margaret O'Dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Israpom Pananon <israpom_pananon@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Dalby <craig_dalby@nps.gov>

Good here.

[Quoted text hidden]

<03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR DRAFT v4.doc>

Slayton, April <april_slayton@nps.gov>

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 2:59 PM

To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Dalby <craig_dalby@nps.gov>

Can we please add the following quote from Director Jarvis to the press release? Apologies for the late notice - I was just able to hear from the Director.

"The National Park Service is proud to have Honouliuli National Monument among our sites that share important lessons from America's history," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "In dedicating this new national monument, we are recommitting ourselves to share the difficult stories of this place so that they are never forgotten and so future generations can learn from past mistakes."

--

April Slayton
Chief Spokesperson and Chief of Public Affairs
National Park Service
(202) 208-6843
Visit us at www.nps.gov



The National Park Service's Centennial goal: To connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. Find Your Park with us!

[Quoted text hidden]

Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 3:02 PM

To: "Slayton, April" <april_slayton@nps.gov>

Cc: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Dalby <craig_dalby@nps.gov>

Absolutely. Thanks.

Blake Androff

Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

On Mar 31, 2015, at 9:00 AM, Slayton, April <april_slayton@nps.gov> wrote:

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<image.png>

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Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 3:39 PM

To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Slayton, April" <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Dalby <craig_dalby@nps.gov>

Hi all,

Attached is the final version of this release. We'll now aim to send at 4:30pm ET to allow for notifications, etc.

Thanks,

Emily

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov



03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR Final.doc
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

March 31, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Monica L. Ivey (Monsanto), mlivey@monsanto.com
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The site is managed by the National Park Service, which will conduct a management planning process with full public involvement. The NPS in March signed a cooperative agreement with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i to help provide educational and interpretive opportunities of the site and to promote awareness of Japanese American internment experiences during the Pacific War.

[quote from JCCH]

Monsanto Company donated the land for the new monument. The University of Hawai'i -West O'ahu is actively involved in research and interpretation of the site and has signed an agreement with the NPS to assure public access over its lands adjacent to the site.

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####

Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 31, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 6:59 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO ATTEND CEREMONY DEDICATING HONOULIULI AS NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (3/30, 73K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Director of the NPS Peggy O'Dell will be in Hawaii on Tuesday for a private ceremony to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument. Meanwhile, Monsanto Hawaii is "working to donate an additional 22 acres to the site."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pacific Business News](#) (3/31, Shimogawa, Subscription Publication, 45K) and [Garden News](#) (3/31).

SECRETARY JEWELL HEADLINES 2015 ALBRIGHT LECTURE. [UC Berkeley](#) (3/30) says that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "appeared in conversation with UC President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley and UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks for the campus's 2015 Horace M. Albright Lecture in Conservation." The Albright Lecture was "one of the highlights of 'Parks for Science, Science for Parks: The

Next Century,' a conference celebrating the National Parks' centennial, and UC Berkeley's role in the parks' establishment, on campus last week."

FEDERAL AGENCIES MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW HYDROPOWER RULES. [The Hill](#) (3/31, Devaney, 224K) reports the Obama Administration is "moving forward with new rules for conducting hydropower license hearings." The Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce announced Monday that "they are issuing a joint rule that revises the procedures for holding expedited hearings to resolve disputes over hydropower licenses."

REPORTERS: FEDERAL OFFICIALS BECOMING INACCESSIBLE. In a piece running nearly 1,900 words, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, Farni, 5.17M) writes that reporters covering many Federal agencies are experiencing frustration with the lack of responsiveness from officials. They "recite tales with similar outlines: An agency spokesman – frequently a political appointee – rejects the reporter's request for interviews, offers partial or nonresponsive replies, or delays responding at all until after the journalist's deadline has passed." Those requests that are granted "are closely monitored, reporters say, with a press 'minder' sitting in," or are conducted via email so that officials can "carefully craft and vet their replies." A coalition of media organizations asked the White House to let Federal workers know they can and should answer media queries. The President "hasn't acted on the suggestion," but Press Secretary Josh Earnest "defended the president's record." Earnest wrote in reply, "While there is more work to do, the White House and federal agencies are far more accessible and accountable than ever before."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS CELEBRATED. Additional coverage of the sage grouse conservation agreement with Oregon ranchers was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (3/31, 56K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/31, 172K), and the [KLIX-AM Twin Falls \(ID\) Twin Falls, ID](#) (3/31, 492).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: AMERICAN EXPRESS PLEDGES \$5 MILLION TO BOOST VOLUNTEERISM ON PUBLIC LANDS. Additional coverage that "the American Express Foundation has committed to donating \$5 million over the next three years to boost volunteerism on public lands" was provided by [Inside Philanthropy](#) (3/31).

RECREATION EXERTING POLITICAL CLOUD. In a piece for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/30, 196K), Roger Phillips writes that recreation's political clout is increasing, according to a report in the Outdoor Alliance. The Alliance "points out that the appointment of Sally Jewell, former CEO of REI, as the Department of Interior Secretary, was a landmark shift in the clout of recreation at a federal level, and 'like a snowball rolling downhill, a clear signal of gathering momentum for outdoor recreation.'"

HISTORY OF DINOSAUR SKELETON RECOUNTED. In his column for [The Robesonian \(NC\)](#) (3/31, 43K), Jaymie Baxley writes about "Sue," the "largest, most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton ever discovered." The fossil was "found beneath a slice of Cheyenne River Indian Reservation owned by Maurice Williams, a member of the Sioux tribe," but since the Interior Department "held the land in trust, Sue was considered property of the U.S. government."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

YOSEMITE BIGHORN SHEEP RELOCATED. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/30, 323K) reports that "the next chapter in the restoration of the iconic bighorn sheep was played out over the last several days as two herds were moved into Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, federal officials announced Monday." According to the article, "twelve animals — nine females and three males — were moved from Inyo National Forest and Sequoia National Park into the Cathedral Range in Yosemite." Also, "seven females were relocated in Sequoia to the Laurel Creek area."

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (3/31, 3.41M) and the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/31, 694K).

SUPPORTERS OF PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK TO HOST TELEPHONE TOWN HALL EVENT. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/30, 166K) reports that "Lucas St. Clair and the president of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a telephone town hall event on Wednesday showcasing the proposed national park and recreation area in the region, St. Clair's spokesman said Monday." David Farmer, a former spokesman

for Gov. John Baldacci and St. Clair's spokesman, said, "It could be a couple thousand people who call in. We see some momentum building, but there is some confusion about what the park and recreation area would and would not do that we want to clear up if we can."

DIG PLANNED AT REVOLUTIONARY SITE IN NEW JERSEY. The *AP* (3/31) reports that "researchers are digging into the New Jersey site of a major Revolutionary War battle." According to the article, "officials are planning an archaeological dig for June at the site now known as Red Bank Battlefield Park in the southern New Jersey town of National Park." The NPS is "contributing \$46,000 in a grant to help fund the first such undertaking ever at the site."

PLAN FOR METRO STATION AT POTOMAC YARD IN ALEXANDRIA ADVANCES. The *Washington Post* (3/30, Lazo, 5.17M) reports that "a new Metro station in Alexandria's growing Potomac Yard community is a step closer to reality with the release of a federal environmental impact study that says the project would spur economic development and boost transit." The report, "released last week by the Federal Transit Administration, details the station's potential impact on the community, overall development, wetlands and views from the George Washington Memorial Parkway." The article notes that "the proposal that some have called the preferred option would intrude on the parkway's scenic easement and require the purchase of 0.16 acres of parkway property from the National Park Service, the report said." However, "in a letter to the city, the Park Service says it would support the construction of the station pending a negotiation of a benefits agreement."

NPS REVISES THOUGHTS ON TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE BY PACK ANIMAL IN ALASKA'S NATIONAL PARKS. The *Huffington Post* (3/31, News, 281K) reports that "in January, the National Park Service proposed a ban on domesticated sheep, goats, alpacas and llamas in Alaska's national parks after someone tried to take a pet goat into Denali National Park's Savage Alpine Trail, an area utilized by Dall sheep, according to Denali National Park and Preserve public affairs officer Kris Fister." However, "in a Park Service compendium published in mid-March, officials wrote that the transmission of disease from llamas or alpacas to wild sheep or mountain goats has not been documented, and the likelihood is 'probably low, although still possible.'" NPS regional communications officer John Quinley said the service "doesn't have a 'hard number' on the amount of pack animals traveling through national parks, but it estimates 'very few.'"

HUMORIST BOMBECK'S OHIO HOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The *Columbus (OH) Dispatch* (3/30, 605K) reports that "the suburban ranch-style home where humor writer Erma Bombeck launched her nationally syndicated column has been added to the National Register of Historic Places."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by the *Washington (DC) Post* (3/30, Brett Zongker |, Ap, 5.17M), the *Houston (TX) Chronicle* (3/31, Zongker, 2.28M), the *Denver (CO) Post* (3/31, Press, 804K), the *Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune* (3/31, Zongker, 1.37M), the *Lowell (MA) Sun* (3/31, 77K), the *Salt Lake (UT) Tribune* (3/31, 405K), the *Salt Lake (UT) Tribune* (3/31, Prettyman, 405K), the *Deseret (UT) News* (3/31, 538K), the *Baltimore (MD) Sun* (3/30, 810K), *Bloomberg* (3/31, 2.94M), *ABC News* (3/31, 3.41M), *Voice of America* (3/31, 70K), *WJLA-TV Washington (DC)* Washington (3/31, 12K), *KSBW-TV Monterey (CA)* Monterey, CA (3/31, 32K), and *KNXV-TV Phoenix (AZ)* Phoenix (3/31, 130K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BILL INTRODUCED TO ALLOW PADDLING ON NATIONAL PARK RIVERS. Additional coverage of H.R. 974, "a bill that would allow paddling on rivers in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks," was provided by the *Indian Country Today Media Network* (3/30, 49K).

Bureau of Land Management:

PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT DRAWS MIXED REACTION. The *Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News* (3/31, 23K) reports that "a proposal to designate a vast, sparsely populated area surrounding the Grand Canyon as a national monument is getting mixed reactions." According to the article, "about 100 people gathered in Flagstaff to weigh in on the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument" at a meeting hosted by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick "heard from environmental groups that want to protect the region's water, large-diameter trees and wildlife corridors" as well as "from the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and sportsmen's groups that oppose the effort to sidestep Congress and questioned the expense of running a national monument."

BLM INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE VIOLATION AGAINST DEVELOPER JIM RHODES. *KSL-TV Salt Lake*

City (3/31, 1.07M) reports that “a proposed land exchange in the Red Lake area between Las Vegas developer Jim Rhodes and the Bureau of Land Management may be in trouble.” The BLM is “investigating a possible trespassing violation against Rhodes.” The article notes that “while federal violations could throw a wrench in Rhodes’ proposed land exchange, officials say it won’t stop him from drilling more wells and plowing land being blamed for massive dust storms in Red Lake, Valle Vista and Golden Valley.”

BLM SEEKS TRAIL INVENTORY IN COLORADO. The [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (3/31, 1K) reports that the BLM “seeks the public’s help in reviewing its road and trail inventory for lands managed by the White River Field Office in northwestern Colorado.” White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, “If you use the roads and trails within the White River Field Office, we would like to hear from you.” According to the article, “over the next several years, the field office will undertake a comprehensive travel-management planning process looking at the roads and trails — collectively called routes — that it manages.”

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY TO ATTEND HEARING ON FIGHT OVER FEDERAL LAND HEADS. [KNPR-FM Las Vegas](#) (3/31, 3K) reports that “nearly a year after the very public fight between Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and the Bureau of Land Management, Bundy will be going to Carson City to talk to the Legislature about federal control of land in Nevada.” According to the article, “Bundy and his family are going to be at a hearing Tuesday concerning Assembly Bill 408, which would prohibit the federal government from owning or managing lands it did not acquire without the consent of the Legislature.”

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT CRITICIZED. In commentary for the [Daily Signal](#) (3/30), Marshal Wilson, a member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation, writes that “the federal government is ill-suited to manage vast amounts of land in the West,” according to a study released by the Property and Environment Research Center. The study found that “the federal government loses money managing valuable natural resources on federal lands, while states generate significant financial returns from state trust lands.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR NORTH CAROLINA’S PLAN TO MIX MUSTANG POPULATIONS. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Ferguson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Russ Ferguson writes that development has separates Spanish Mustangs on the Outer Banks in North Carolina and they are now isolated in two different areas, and as a result, each population has become severely inbred. Ferguson criticizes the Interior Department for opposing a plan by North Carolina to mix the two populations.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS HOPE TO SAVE GRIZZLIES IN NORTH CASCADES. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “federal and state agencies in Washington state’s rugged North Cascades are racing to save the iconic grizzly bear before the 600-pound behemoths disappear.” The NPS and FWS are “leading an effort that both agencies concede is long overdue to develop a formal plan to restore grizzlies in 9,800 square miles on the U.S. side of the North Cascades ecosystem.” The agencies “last month formally launched an environmental impact statement (EIS) to study a host of alternatives to restore grizzly populations across one of the largest contiguous swaths of undeveloped land in the Lower 48 states.”

ABUSED BEAR FINDS NEW HOME IN COLORADO. [NPR](#) (3/30, 1.58M) reports that “a badly abused Peruvian bear named Cholita is coming to a sanctuary in Colorado.” Animal Defenders International announced that the FWS “expedited the request and she will be on her way next month.”

WILDLIFE OFFICERS INVESTIGATING OSPREY NEST REMOVAL. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/30, 295K) reports that state and federal regulators are investigating whether an osprey nest with eggs has been disturbed. The nest had been removed for the Wando River bridge project. FWS spokeswoman Jennifer Koches “confirmed the investigation and said the S.C. Department of Natural Resources is handling it, but said she could not comment on an investigation underway.”

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS LINK PYTHONS TO DECREASE IN MAMMALS IN EVERGLADES. The [AP](#) (3/30, 157K) reports that “researchers have linked invasive Burmese pythons to the severe drop in the population of small mammals in the Florida Everglades.” A University of Florida research team “outfitted 30 marsh rabbits with radio collars and set them free,” and “when they later tracked the signals they found mostly pythons.” USGS herpetologist Bob Reed says “the study is the first hard evidence of invader pythons causing mammal declines

in Everglades National Park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, 2.28M).

SURVEY FINDS BIRTH CONTROL PILLS AFFECT FISH. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Fears, 5.17M) reports that a recent survey by the USGS “found that fish exposed to a synthetic hormone called 17a-ethinylestradiol, or EE2, produced offspring that struggled to fertilize eggs.” Ramji Bhandari, a University of Missouri assistant research professor and a visiting scientist at USGS, said, “If those trends continued, the potential for declines in overall population numbers might be expected in future generations. These adverse outcomes, if shown in natural populations, could have negative impacts on fish inhabiting contaminated aquatic environments.” According to the article, the chemical is released “when some women simply pour unused” birth control pills “down the drain.”

USGS AWARDING GRANTS FOR EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS RESEARCH. The [Science 2.0](#) (3/31, 2K) reports that the USGS “wants to award up to \$7 million in grants for earthquake hazards research in 2016, specifically for improving our understanding of earthquake processes, hazards and risks that will lead to reduced losses from earthquakes, more accurate and timely earthquake information and forecasts and better inform the public about earthquake safety.”

USGS STUDYING CHROMIUM 6 IN HINKLEY. The [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (3/30, 2K) editorializes “chromium 6 remains an issue in Hinkley for many of the few remaining residents.” PG&E has “taken steps to clean up the chromium 6 still in the groundwater — enough that much of Hinkley’s water now has chromium 6 levels below the state limit.” However, “there is disagreement of how much of the remaining chromium was the result of PG&E’s practices and how much belongs to nature.” As a result, the USGS “recently embarked on a five-year, \$5.4 million study to settle the issue.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS RAISE CONCERNS OVER DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/30, 101K) reports that “leaders of several major environmental groups say they are uneasy about a decision this month to separate federal and state parts” of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. They are concerned that the BLM will “feel pressured to take large-scale renewable energy projects on their properties.”

BLM Urged To Stick To Its Goals For Renewable Energy, Conservation. In an op-ed for the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (3/30, CASTRO, DASHIELL, 2K), Linda Castro, the DRECP organizer for the California Wilderness Coalition, and Stephanie Dashiell, the California Desert representative for Defenders of Wildlife, write that “the BLM recently announced that planning will proceed on our desert’s public lands, but the part of the DRECP that deals with privately-owned lands will be delayed.” The authors “do not want to see the BLM change its goals for either renewable energy development or conservation.” They write that “the BLM should not increase renewable energy development on public lands to ‘make up’ for the lack of private land designations, even in the short term,” and “similarly, conservation efforts on both public and private lands should proceed, whether or not they are part of the DRECP.”

Onshore Energy Development:

WASTEWATER INJECTION WELLS CREDITED WITH CAUSING SOME EARTHQUAKES. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Gilbert, 5.67M) reports in its “short answer” blog that the possibility of causing an earthquake by such means has been known for about 50 years, and that the effect is related to the depth of the well and the pressure of the injection. Fracking itself is regarded as less likely to cause an earthquake because of the location of the shale, though an Ohio report found that fracking was probably responsible for some smaller earthquakes last year. It also points out that in the Bakken Shale there has not been a large increase in seismic activity.

Oklahoma Supreme Court Hears Case Alleging Oil And Gas Companies Caused Earthquake. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Bustillo, Gilbert, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports on a suit being heard by Oklahoma’s supreme court alleging that oil and gas companies caused earthquakes by their wastewater

injections. The oil and gas industry is said to be concerned about the possibility of liability suits in these cases though the earthquakes in question are generally quite small. Oklahoma and Kansas are developing regulations to lessen the possibility of earthquakes, while Arkansas and Ohio have prohibited injection wells in some areas. Some companies have settled cases. Some in the industry are skeptical that injection wells are to blame. Meanwhile, Oklahoma's insurance commissioner John Doak is considering investigating insurance companies for denying earthquake claims.

Oklahoma Geological Survey Said To Be Pressured On Linking Fracking To Seismic Activity. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/30, Elgin, Philips, 2.94M) reports on what is interpreted as "pressure" applied to the Oklahoma Geological Survey to avoid coming to the conclusion that increased seismic activity in the state is due to fracking, specifically waste water injection wells. It describes a meeting called by University of Oklahoma president David Boren with Austin Holland, the state seismologist, an employee of the university, and Harold Hamm, founder of Continental Resources, a major oil and gas business and a major donor to the university. This is presented as part of "a steady stream of industry pressure" on OGS. All parties to the meeting deny that there was any "pressure" and Holland "bristles" at the suggestion that the OGS research was affected by it. Holland points out that "there have been large spikes of natural earthquakes in the past." He has now concluded that much of the increased seismic activity in the state is due to waste water injection wells.

BILL WOULD BLOCK MOUNTAINTOP MINING RULE. [The Hill](#) (3/30, Cama, 224K) reports that Rep. Alex Mooney "introduced a bill Monday that would block the Obama administration's efforts to restrict the controversial mountaintop removal coal mining process." The Interior Department is "planning to propose soon a regulation to restrict mountaintop removal mining near streams in an effort to protect streams in Appalachia from the mining waste." Mooney's legislation would "stop Interior's Office of Surface Mining from going forward with the rule for at least a year, stop it from using the Clean Water Act to justify the rule and require the agency to conduct a study into the industry impacts of the regulation."

Also reporting on the story is the [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (3/31, 1K).

FORMER BLM EMPLOYEE IDENTIFIES OLD UNPLUGGED WELLS IN UTAH. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/31, 405K) reports that "in defiance of Bureau of Land Management policy, several Hot Rod wells remain unplugged and unreclaimed along with hundreds of other nonproducing wells on federal lands in Utah, according to a new analysis by a retired BLM official who conducted well inspections for the agency's Vernal field office." The article notes that "such 'orphaned' wells unnecessarily enlarge the oil and gas industry's footprint on Utah's landscape, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, which released the analysis Monday." Stan Olmstead's "analysis identified 557 unplugged wells that haven't produced for the past 10 years."

BLM UPDATES OIL AND GAS DRILLING PLAN FOR PICEANCE BASIN. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/30, 506) reports that "a new master leasing plan proposed by the Bureau of Land Management for public lands surrounding northwestern Colorado's Dinosaur National Monument aims to reduce oil and gas drilling impacts to wildlife, archaeological treasures and other resources in the region." The plan "could work if it's implemented effectively, according to some public land watchdog groups, but doesn't do much to address the larger issue of trying to move away from fossil fuels."

WPOST FACT CHECKER FAULTS BOTH WEA AND BLM ON ESTIMATING COST OF FRACKING REGS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Lee, 5.17M) reports in its "Fact Checker" blog on Western Energy Alliance estimates that Interior Department rules for fracking on public lands could cost \$97,000 per well, in contrast to the department's own estimate of \$11,400 to \$11,800 per well. The difference in estimate is attributed to the Bureau of Land Management's belief that the new regulations incorporate current practice, and so do not expect much additional expense. The Fact Checker is unable to conclude which estimate is "more realistic," says that neither the WEA nor the BLM "really know" and so assigns "Two Pinocchios" each.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM RECEIVES THOUSANDS OF COMMENTS ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [AP](#) (3/31, Smith) reports, "Thousands of opinions poured in Monday" which was the last day the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management was accepting public comment on "what should be studied in an environmental impact statement of offshore drilling." Over 3,700 comments were submitted on Monday of a total of nearly 15,000. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/31, Dlouhy, 2.28M) reports on a "deluge of comments" received, explaining that those comments will be used "to shape the government's schedule for selling drilling rights along the nation's coastlines from 2017 to 2022." The draft proposes one sale in the Atlantic "near Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and

Georgia." In their comments, "eight industry trade groups," said that the draft was "overly conservative" in allowing just one Atlantic lease. They are hoping for a second Atlantic sale.

Also providing coverage are the [FuelFix](#) (3/30) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, Smith, 2.28M).

Maryland AG Joins Opponents Of Offshore Oil Exploration. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/29, Wheeler, 810K) reports that Maryland State Attorney General Brian Frosh, has joined Maryland Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin, "in objecting to the Obama administration's proposal" to allow oil exploration off the Atlantic coast. While the Administration is not proposing opening up the Maryland coast, Frosh argued that spills could have an impact on Maryland, noting that the Deepwater Horizon spill extended "hundreds of miles."

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/30, Press, 5.17M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, 2.28M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [FuelFix](#) (3/30, 7K), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (3/30, 64K), the [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (3/31, 42K), and the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/31, 295K).

PAPP: ROYAL DUTCH SHELL TO RESUME OFFSHORE DRILLING IN ALASKA. [Reuters](#) (3/30) reports that Royal Dutch Shell intends to resume offshore drilling in Alaska after operations were suspended for two years in the wake of rig grounding, according to Adm. Robert Papp, special US envoy to the Arctic. Papp is quoted saying in an interview that "clearly Shell and others will resume drilling and exploration up off the North Slope of Alaska," though he gave no indication as to when. Papp added, "I think Shell is putting significant resources into this to make sure they have enough people, equipment, resources, redundancy. They should be OK."

Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by [Rigzone](#) (3/30, 11K) and [Vox](#) (3/31, 737K).

BP SAYS FINES COULD RENDER US BUSINESS UNPROFITABLE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/31, Eaton, 2.28M) reports that BP in papers filed with the court on Friday argued that "even a fraction of the \$13.7 billion in fines it could face for the Deepwater Horizon disaster" might lead to bankruptcy for its US branch. Given current oil prices, BP estimates its US business is worth about \$5 billion and it may have about \$2.3 billion in "available cash" in 2015. US District Judge Carl Barbier could fine BP up to \$13.7 billion and over \$1 billion for Anadarko. BP argues that the money it has already spent "to stem the environmental impact" should reduce the penalty. BP contends that the legal liability extends only to its US subsidiary. Prosecutors argued that BP's US branch would have access to funds from the BP group and that it could take time to pay the fines.

NWF REPORT WARNS SPECIES STILL SUFFERING FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/30, Schleifstein, 621K) reports that the National Wildlife Federation released a report warning that oil spilled by the BP Deepwater Horizon well "continues to pose a significant threat to wildlife." The report identifies 20 species as being of particular concern, but points out that it would be "decades" before any final estimate could be made of the effects of the spill. BP Senior Vice President Geoff Morrell said that the NWF report is "a work of political advocacy." BP had issued a report March 17 finding that "wildlife and ecosystems in the Gulf were rebounding." Others are cited suggesting the reports are "premature" given the lack of peer-reviewed research.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

DROUGHT IMPACTING LAKE POWELL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Kirkpatrick, 5.17M) reports that "Lake Powell, one of the nation's largest reservoirs, is now below 45 percent of its capacity." Jonathan Waterman wrote in [National Geographic](#), "Many climate scientists think the Southwest is again due for a megadrought. The Bureau of Reclamation's analysis of over a hundred climate projections suggests the Colorado River Basin will be much drier by the end of this century than it was in the past one, with the median projection showing 45 percent less runoff into the river."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINES GENERATE CONTROVERSY. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K) reports that "last month, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn announced the release of new guidelines in the Federal Register to ensure that state and

federal courts comply with the statutes set forth in the Indian Child Welfare Act.” On March 12, the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA) “fired back with its own press release expressing its outrage that the BIA had published the guidelines without input from its membership.” The article notes that “many Indian child welfare advocates across the country, however, say that the organization’s emotionally-charged response was ill-considered, considering that the BIA went out of its way to seek input in meetings that were promoted and open to the public.”

In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K), Patricia Paul (Inupiaqis an appellate judge for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, writes about her experience being adopted.

TRIBAL LEADERS ATTEND CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K) reports that American Indian leaders “gathered, spoke and strategized at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change on March 10 and 11 in Portland, Oregon.” The meeting was sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University and the Department of Interior-Northwest Climate Science Center, and “brought together tribal, federal, regional and state agencies and leaders to discuss the climate change crisis facing our world.”

IRON BOULDER ACCUSED OF STABBING BIA’S DUFFY AT CROW CREEK. The [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (3/31, 620) reports that “federal prosecutors say Brian Iron Boulder stabbed Patrick Duffy in the back with a knife that penetrated his ‘chest wall,’ as the two were leaving the Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent’s office in Fort Thompson on March 25.” Iron Boulder “appeared in federal court in Pierre on Friday on a charge of ‘assaulting, resisting and impeding a federal employee’ which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison followed by three years of supervised probation.”

BUSINESSES IN PALM SPRINGS EVICTED ON SHORT NOTICE BY TRIBAL LAND OWNERS. [KESQ-TV Palm Springs, CA](#) (3/31, 2K) reports that last Friday, “nearly a dozen other tenants at Indian Canyon and Ramon Road were slapped with an eviction notice.” The property “sits on Indian land owned by members of various tribes.”

Top National News:

OBAMA URGES RETURN TO “CAMARADERIE AND COLLEGIALLY” IN US POLITICS. Coverage of the President’s [remarks](#) at the dedication of the new Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, which included reports on all three network newscasts, cast a very favorable light on the late senator’s legacy with a heavy focus on his outreach across the aisle, a point Obama took pains to highlight and set up as an antidote to today’s partisan acrimony. The President used “the dedication...to call for a new era of consensus-building,” says the [New York Times](#) (3/31, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), for example, noting that he “condemned the demise of bipartisan compromise in American politics.” The [Boston Globe](#) (3/31, Miller, 1.03M) reports that Obama “gave a speech anchored by a somber take on today’s politics, but optimistic that it can improve.” [USA Today](#) (3/31, Korte, 4.95M) quotes him as saying, “Ted understood the only point of running for office is getting something done. Not to posture. Not to sit there worried about the next election, or the polls. ... Ted grieved the loss of camaraderie and collegiality, the face-to-face interaction. I think he regretted the arguments made to cameras instead of colleagues, directed at a narrow base instead of the body politic as a whole.”

Obama, [ABC World News](#) (3/30, story 9, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported, praised “Kennedy as someone who bridged the partisan divide over and over again,” while the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/30, story 9, 2:25, Reid, 5.08M) noted Kennedy was “one of the most productive senators in US history because he knew his bills wouldn’t pass without Republican support.” In fact, “some of his former Republican partners were” in Boston yesterday, “including John McCain and Trent Lott.” The [AP](#) (3/31, Espo, Pickler) reports that Obama also asked, “What if we carried ourselves more like Ted Kennedy? What if we were to follow his example a little bit harder? ... To his harshest critics who saw him as nothing more than a partisan lightning rod, that might sound foolish. ... But there are Republicans here for a reason.” [Reuters](#) (3/31, Valdmanis, 281K) also highlights those Obama comments, while the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, Eilperin, Kane, 5.17M) notes that “speaking of Kennedy’s long friendship and legislative partnership with Sen. Orrin G. Hatch,” Obama said, “The point is we can fight on almost everything. But we can come together on some things. And those ‘somethings’ can mean everything to a whole lot of people.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/30, story 10, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) briefly noted the event – and the President’s presence at the dedication – at the end of its broadcast, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/31, Memoli, 3.49M), along the lines of

much of the coverage, says yesterday's tributes to Kennedy "often doubled as commentaries on....today's broken political system."

[The Blaze](#) (3/30, 2.17M) noted that in his remarks, Obama "invoked President John F. Kennedy's words about negotiation," just as the Administration works to finalize a nuclear agreement with Iran. Said the President, "As many of you know, John is in Europe with our allies and partners leading the negotiations with Iran and the world community and standing up for the principle that Ted and his brother, President Kennedy, believed in so strongly."

[McClatchy](#) (3/30, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 17K) quotes McCain as saying, "I miss my friend. I miss him a lot. ... I knew I would when I said six years ago the Senate wouldn't be the same without him. And it hasn't been. That's mostly for reasons unrelated to losing Ted, but I have no doubt the place would be a little more productive and a lot more fun if he were there." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/30, Keane, 169K) reports that "other speakers included U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, a potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, Vice President Joe Biden and Patrick and Ted Kennedy Jr., two of the late senator's sons."

In fact, the [Boston Globe](#) (3/31, Miller, 1.03M) notes that "in one of the lighter moments of the day, Biden told the story of Kennedy taking him, as a new US senator, to the Senate gymnasium and introducing him to his colleagues – some of whom were in the nude. The audience roared." [Politico](#) (3/30, Dove, 669K) notes that Biden said, "Oh God, was I embarrassed."

[TIME](#) (3/30, Rhodan, 19.19M) reported on its website that Warren, "a champion of progressive policies to benefit the working and middle class, shared a story of how...Kennedy's fight for bankruptcy reform inspired her to enter politics." Said Warren, "Senator Kennedy changed my life. ... And he changed what I understood about public service." Also reporting on yesterday's event are, among other news outlets, [The Hill](#) (3/30, Kamisar, 224K), the [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Boyer, 644K), [Roll Call](#) (3/30, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 102K), and the conservative [Daily Caller](#) (3/30, Ross, 318K), which reported that the Kennedy Institute cost taxpayers "\$38 million."

Obama Attends DNC Fundraiser In Boston. The [Boston Globe](#) (3/30, Annear, 1.03M) reports Obama "attended a fund-raiser at the" Area Four pizza restaurant "following the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute," part of the DNC's "'roundtable' fund-raiser at the restaurant, according to his White House schedule." Obama "arrived just before 2 p.m., and left roughly an hour-and-a-half later," after meeting with "thirty supporters who contributed up to \$33,400."

INDIANA GOP LAWMAKERS SAYS THEY WILL AMEND CONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION. The controversy over Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act continued to generate heated media attention, including reports on all three network newscasts and editorial pieces in the nation's major dailies. Most stories describe the Indiana law as potentially making discrimination against gay Americans legal, and paints the picture of a wide-ranging coalition of activists and business leaders working to amend it. On Monday, Indiana officials – widely cast as acting under great pressure – appeared to move in the direction of the law's critics. [ABC World News](#) (3/30, story 4, 2:20, Benitez, 5.84M) reported that "Indiana's Speaker of the House" is "saying a fix is on the way," hopefully "this week." Speaker Brian Bosma was shown saying, "It's our intent to make crystal clear in language that that type of discrimination is not allowed."

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Pérez-Peña, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that David C. Long, president pro tempore of the state Senate, said at a press conference with Bosma, "It is not the intent of the law to discriminate against anyone, and it will not be allowed to discriminate against anyone. ... We hope to have a fix very soon." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Peters, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) quotes Bosma as saying, "There is clearly unsettled waters right now, and that could have far-ranging impact. We determined we needed to step in and be sure that those waters are calm, and that the misconceptions about the bill are settled." Bosma, writing in [USA Today](#) (3/31, 4.95M), says the bill "does not provide for discrimination. We will clarify this even further to assure the public that our state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) is a protection rather than an infringement."

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/30, Terkel, 281K) reported that while Bosma and Long "said they were shocked, confused and completely caught off-guard by the backlash to their new 'religious freedom' law," their protestations are "hard to believe," given the example of last year's debate in Arizona and the fact that "there were...people in Indiana warning of the consequences before the legislation became law."

Yesterday, the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/31, Swiatek, Evans, 4.95M) reports, "a Who's Who of central Indiana

corporate leaders called on Gov. Mike Pence and legislative leaders to reform the newly passed Religious Freedom Restoration Act so it can't be used to 'justify discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender identity.' They did so in the form of a letter, "released Monday afternoon after being hand-delivered to Pence," Bosma and Long, "all Republicans." The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/30, story 3, 2:20, Diaz, 5.08M) similarly reported that "Indiana Republican leaders were in damage control mode...after a weekend of protests against the state's religious freedom law." The mayors of Seattle and San Francisco and the governor of Connecticut "have banned state employee business travel to Indiana," while Apple CEO Tim Cook "called the law part of a dangerous trend." In addition, "just days before the Final Four here, the Indianapolis-based NCAA said it's concerned about how the law could affect student athletes." In fact, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/30, story 3, 2:25, Gutierrez, 7.86M) reported, NCAA president Mark Emmert "wants the law to be clarified ahead of the Final Four here this weekend." Emmert was shown saying, "This bill is fundamentally at odds with some of the core principles of higher education and of intercollegiate athletics. So it's very disappointing."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Richardson, 644K), meanwhile, notes that "Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has engaged in some interstate payback by attempting to lure Indiana companies over the state's newly signed religious-freedom bill, but what he doesn't mention is that Illinois already has a similar law." Also weighing in, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) reports, was Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who "is putting out the welcome mat for Indiana business leaders who might be troubled by that state's new 'religious freedom' law."

Pence, in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), accuses critics of the law of mischaracterizing its contents and intent, and argues it will not serve to discriminate against anyone. [USA Today](#) (3/31, 4.95M) editorializes that Pence has "been doing more to undermine his case than to bolster it," because, "appearing Sunday on ABC's This Week," he "couldn't answer a basic question: Would the law allow businesses to invoke religious beliefs to discriminate against gays? If the governor can't answer that question with a resolute 'no,' then the law has big problems."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) editorializes, "We won't pretend that it's easy sorting out disputes between devout Christian bakers and the gay couple that is refused a wedding cake," but "red states are capable of having a productive discussion about this." For example, "Utah just granted anti-discrimination protections in employment and housing to its LGBT citizens. ... That's a much better example than the one Indiana has set over the past week." In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) turns the debate around, arguing the Indiana law does not foster discrimination. Rather, says the Journal, opponents are in fact discriminating against religion and religious Americans.

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial, "It is true that the law does not, as some opponents claim, specifically permit businesses to refuse to serve gays and lesbians. ... But nobody is fooled as to the law's underlying purpose. As its most prominent backers have said quite clearly, it is meant to protect 'Christian businesses and churches from those supporting homosexual marriages.' In other words, it should allow them to refuse service to gay couples." The Times writes, "Religion should not be allowed to serve as a cover for discrimination in the public sphere."

Stephen Prothero, an author and professor of religion at Boston University, asks in [USA Today](#) (3/31, Prothero, 4.95M), "Is it really necessary to pin a scarlet letter on those who believe the Bible prohibits gay marriage? Or might we learn to be satisfied with preserving liberty for ourselves without imposing our ideals (on sex or religion) on others? ... Let's not let culture warriors, on either side, sacrifice our freedoms on the altar of the culture wars."

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Eckholm, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that "when the federal government adopted a religious protection act in 1993, same-sex marriage was not on the horizon." Back then, "an informal coalition of liberals and conservatives endorsed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act because it seemed to protect members of vulnerable religious minorities from punishment for the exercise of their beliefs." However, "over time, court decisions and conservative legal initiatives started to change the meaning of those laws, according to liberal activists," and "the state laws were not used to protect minorities, these critics say, but to allow some religious groups to undermine the rights of women, gays and lesbians or other groups."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, A1, Somashekhar, Beman, 5.17M) similarly indicates that "the new laws are...fundamentally different." While the Federal law "protects only individuals seeking relief from government intrusions on their religious beliefs," the Indiana law "and others like it also apply to disputes between private parties."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Wetzstein, 644K) similarly reports that while "traditional values groups

defended...the religious-freedom laws...gay-rights groups and their allies have recast" them "as 'religious bigotry.'" [Reuters](#) (3/31, Ortiz) notes, however, that despite the controversy Arkansas lawmakers indicated yesterday they would move forward with a similar law, even as legislative efforts appeared to stall in Georgia and North Carolina.

[KTHV-TV](#) (3/31, 4.95M) reported on its website that "the Arkansas House Judiciary Committee concurred with the state Senate on amendments to its 'religious freedom' bill Monday, despite protests at the Capitol." The bill "is now headed for the full House, where it could be voted on Tuesday afternoon. If passed there, Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he will sign it into law." On its front page, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, A1, Somashekhar, Berman, 5.17M) reports that Georgia "lawmakers canceled a hearing set for Monday morning on their version of the bill."

According to "some Democrats and political analysts," says the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/30, Suhay, 380K), the push for such bills "is not originating with voters, but rather conservative 'bill mills' that finance state legislators to attend educational conferences that may provide both unified ideas and prefabricated bills to take home." The Monitor adds that "specifically, they see The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) as the primary driver of conservative state laws."

Indianapolis Star Runs A1 Editorial Denouncing Law. In a front-page editorial this morning, titled "Gov. Pence, Fix 'Religious Freedom' Law Now," the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/31, A1, 593K) writes, "We are at a critical moment in Indiana's history. And much is at stake. Our image. Our reputation as a state that embraces people of diverse backgrounds and makes them feel welcome." Gov. Mike Pence and the General Assembly "need to enact a state law to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, education and public accommodations on the basis of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity," provisions which "can co-exist" with the religious rights law.

Wilco Cancels Indianapolis Concert. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (3/31, Firozi, 2.32M) reports "Chicago-based band Wilco canceled its upcoming concert in Indianapolis after Indiana enacted a controversial religious freedom law last week."

GOP Presidential Hopefuls Come To Pence's Defense. The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Richardson, 644K) reports "a throng of likely Republican presidential contenders came to" Pence's defense Monday, including Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Bobby Jindal, Marco Rubio and Rick Santorum.

ONE DEAD AFTER SHOOTING AT NSA COMPOUND. [ABC World News](#) (3/30, lead story, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported on the "deadly scene playing outside the gates of one of the most heavily guarded sites in the country, the NSA." According to authorities, "this was no terrorism, but it was worrying and deadly." ABC (Avila) described the "wild scene, played out in broad daylight," as "two men driving this stolen dark-colored SUV approached the main NSA entrance" and drove "past the first gate." At the point "NSA police in a patrol truck opened fire, killing one of the men, and critically injuring the second." The two had apparently "been on a joyride after allegedly stealing a car following a night of partying." The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, A1, Hedgpeth, Horwitz, Nakashima, 5.17M) notes "an NSA police officer also was hurt in the incident."

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Shane, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that "a law enforcement official said both men were dressed as women, and identified the survivor as Kevin Fleming of nearby Baltimore." [AFP](#) (3/31) quotes NSA's director for strategic communications Jonathan Freed as saying, "The incident was contained to the vehicle control point." Amy Thoreson, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Baltimore office, stated, "The shooting scene is contained and we do not believe it is related to terrorism." The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Noble, 644K) notes Thoreson added that "the FBI is working with the US Attorney's Office in Maryland to determine whether federal charges may be filed."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/30, story 2, 1:40, Mikaszewski, 7.86M) noted that "any attack on the NSA puts everyone on high alert," because "it's America's top spy agency, eavesdropping on potential enemies around the world." Running similar accounts of the incident this morning, among other news outlets, are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/31, Mai-Duc, 3.49M), [Reuters](#) (3/31, Hosenball), [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Calvert, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) and [Huffington Post](#) (3/30, Jauregui, 281K).

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "In Indiana, Using Religion As A Cover For Bigotry." The [New York Times](#) (3/31,

Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial, "It is true that the law does not, as some opponents claim, specifically permit businesses to refuse to serve gays and lesbians. ... But nobody is fooled as to the law's underlying purpose. As its most prominent backers have said quite clearly, it is meant to protect 'Christian businesses and churches from those supporting homosexual marriages.' In other words, it should allow them to refuse service to gay couples." The Times writes, "Religion should not be allowed to serve as a cover for discrimination in the public sphere."

"Missing From New York's Budget." The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial that "a lot of important items were missing" from the New York budget framework agreed to by Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) and legislative leaders, such as a higher minimum wage, immigration reform, mayoral control of New York City schools, and campaign finance reform.

WASHINGTON POST. "An Arab Military Force." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) writes that the new Arab military force initiative is "as likely to compound as resolve the region's wars, and they ultimately may undermine U.S. interests." The Post notes that the force is "problematic" due to the fact that "Arab states are currently backing opposite sides. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates are supporting one of Libya's rival governments, while Qatar and non-Arab Turkey aid the other." The Post further warns of a "a regional war between Iran and Saudi Arabia and their allies — a conflict that flourishes in the vacuum created by U.S. retreat."

"Making Discrimination Easier." The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) editorializes, "We won't pretend that it's easy sorting out disputes between devout Christian bakers and the gay couple that is refused a wedding cake," but "red states are capable of having a productive discussion about this." For example, "Utah just granted anti-discrimination protections in employment and housing to its LGBT citizens. ... That's a much better example than the one Indiana has set over the past week."

"Strengthening Ethics Reform." The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) says in an editorial that Virginia legislators should accept amendments offered by Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) to weak ethics reform legislation passed last month. The Post says McAuliffe's changes "do not go as far as we — or, for that matter, he — would like," but they are better than what the General Assembly has so far approved.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The New Intolerance." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) turns the debate around, arguing the Indiana law does not foster discrimination. Rather, says the Journal, opponents are in fact discriminating against religion and religious Americans.

"The Little Bank That Could." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says in an editorial that just one new bank has opened in the US since the Dodd-Frank law took effect five years ago, a small rural Pennsylvania bank that has one employee devoted entirely to compliance. The Journal says the costs of Dodd-Frank are killing the community banking sector, and are ironically creating less competition for major financial institutions.

"Checking The IRS Overseas." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) backs Sen. Rand Paul's efforts to repeal the 2010 Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, which was intended to root out tax evaders hiding assets abroad, but which has resulted in complications for the 7.5 million Americans who live abroad. The law is also facing a court challenge over its constitutionality.

"Erdogan's Assault On Freedom." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes new restrictions on assembly and speech passed by Turkish lawmakers on Friday, which allow police greater freedom in firing on and detaining protesters. The Journal says that despite Turkey's claim that such laws are necessary to prevent violence, they are deliberately crafted to allow even nonviolent protesters to be targeted. The editorial says that the new law, as well as a proposed bill to block certain websites for political views, are evidence that Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party are running a country that is a democracy in name only.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Pan-Arab Force Could Add To Chaos](#)

Snapping Up Office Space
 "Daily Show" Plays Its Wildcard
 Back-Seat Driven
 Famed For Copter Reports, She Plots New Life Course

Wall Street Journal:

Iran's Supreme Leader Holds Key To Nuclear Deal
 Regulators Intensify Scrutiny Of Bank Boards
 A Shrewd Oil Call Reverses Fortunes For Lucky Few
 As China Expands Its Navy, US Grows Wary

New York Times:

Germanwings Co-Pilot Was Treated For 'Suicidal Tendencies,' Authorities Say
 Role Of Illness In Germanwings Crash Raises Worry About Stigma
 As US And Iran Seek Nuclear Deal, Saudi Arabia Makes Its Own Moves
 Driver Killed As Stolen Car Enters NSA Campus
 Indiana Races To Fight HIV Surge Tied To Drug Abuse
 Rahm Emanuel, Chicago's Rough-Edged Mayor, Tries The Sandpaper

Washington Post:

Maryland Clinic To Offer Abortion, Without Shame
 Co-Pilot Had Been Treated For Suicidal Tendencies
 Ind Legislators To Clarify Religious Freedom Law
 Fatal Wrong Turn Suspected At NSA
 Airstrike At Refugee Camp In Yemen Kills Dozens

Financial Times:

Dealmakers Have Fastest Start Since 2007
 Nigeria Election Count Shows Signs Of Tampering, Say Kerry And Hammond

Washington Times:

US May Have Lost Leverage In Talks By Easing Iran Sanctions
 Iowans Eager To Hear From Elusive Clinton
 GOP Looks At Zero-Based Budgeting
 Losses, Frustration With Democrats Rile Immigrant Activists
 Military Aspires To Launch Drones From Ocean Floor
 Dubai Sheikh Rides A Horse Race To Sell UAE Image

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NSA-Shooting; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; California-Firefighter Saved; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Yemen-Rebel Fighting; Spring Break-Police Control; Edward Kennedy Tribute; Robin Williams-Family Court.
CBS: Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; NSA-Shooting; California-Firefighter Saved; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Hillary Clinton-Server Wiped; Breast Cancer-Risk; Daily Show Host Replacement; Edward Kennedy Tribute.
NBC: Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; NSA-Shooting; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; California-Firefighter Saved; New York Gas Explosion-Bodies Found; Florida-Fatal Highway Accident; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Negotiators; Parenting Study; Edward Kennedy Tribute; NCAA Tournament; Daily Show Host Replacement.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Flight Crash – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
 Indiana-Religious Freedom Act – 7 minutes, 05 seconds
 Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
 Boston Marathon Bombing Trial – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; California Firefighter-Saved; Honolulu VA Hospital-Investigation; Ebola-US Healthcare Worker Condition Improved; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act.
CBS: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Asian Markets.

NPR: Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Syria-Al Qaeda Strategy; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; FBI-NSA Shooting.

FOX: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; NCAA Tournament.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with Secretary of Defense Carter.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: No scheduled events.

US House: REP. AARON SCHOCK LAST DAY — Rep. Schock's resignation becomes effective today.

March 31 – April 10. — The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13th. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

Other: SANDY HOOK RIDE ON WASHINGTON ARRIVAL — The Sandy Hook Ride on Washington is scheduled to arrive in Washington, DC today. <http://www.sandyhookrideonwashington.com/support/styled/index.html> 9:30 a.m. College Park meet and Greet. Location: Proteus Bike Shop, 9217 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Md. 11 a.m. Washington National Cathedral meet and greet. Location: Washington National Cathedral. 12 p.m. Southeast D.C. Rally. Nardyne Jones will welcome Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Monte Frank (Team 26) and other community leaders. Location: Faith Presbyterian Church, 4161 South Capitol St, SW, Washington, DC. 2 p.m. Capitol Hill press Conference. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will welcome Monte Frank (Team 26), Congressman Chris Van Hollen (MD-8), and Patrick Carolan (Franciscan Action Network). Location: House Triangle (West Side of US Capitol). Rain Location: HVC 215. 6:30 p.m. Team 26 hosts night of short films and discussion. Location: Busboys and Poets – 14th & V – Washington DC.

NIH FEDERAL FUNDING – SEN. MIKULSKI — 11:15 a.m. US Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, will tour the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), and call for increased support and investment in the physical and human infrastructure of NIH. Senator Mikulski will announce that she is requesting a major increase in NIH federal funding for fiscal year (FY) 2016 to combat sequester cuts. Senator Mikulski will be joined by NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins and NCATS Director Dr. Christopher P. Austin in touring the NCATS translational research facility. NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins will announce a new discovery in Alzheimer's disease research resulting from an NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences drug repurposing program. Speakers: Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee; Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health; Dr. Christopher P. Austin, Director of NCATS. Location: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), 9800 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD.

ANTIQUITIES ACT BRIEFING — 12 p.m. The Hispanic Federation and Coalition of National Park Service Retirees will participate in a briefing on the economic, community, and conservation benefits of the Antiquities Act, with Senator Tom Udall, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and Congressman Chris Gibson. Location: Mott House, 122 Maryland Ave NE.

NATURAL GAS ROUNDTABLE – OFFSHORE ENERGY — 12 p.m. Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the US Department of the Interior (DOI), will be the featured guest speaker at the Natural Gas Roundtable luncheon where she will discuss the current offshore energy production landscape. Location: The University Club, 1135 16th Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "There are reports that President Obama and his family may move to New York City after his term is over. Unfortunately, the city is so expensive, he's looking for another ex-president to be roommates with."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama and his family may move to New York City after his term is over. Apparently, they chose New York because they've gotten so used to people trying to break into their house."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that last week, Chris Christie defended his stance against legalizing marijuana, saying that any tax revenue generated from pot sales would be 'blood money.' Then, businessmen in New Jersey were like, 'Yeah, and we can't have that sort of thing here in New Jersey.'"

Seth Meyers: "You guys – during a speech on Friday, Senator Ted Cruz said that if you walk up to someone and say, 'Joe Biden,' the person will crack up laughing. Which is the same reaction you get if you say, 'President Ted Cruz.'"

Seth Meyers: "Congress has officially started their two-week spring recess. So, in a couple weeks they'll be rested, relaxed and ready to suck."

David Letterman: "I'm told now that we are very close to having a deal with Iran on its nuclear program. Iran will give all their nuclear materials to Vladimir Putin for safekeeping. What could possibly go wrong?"

Conan O'Brien: "The ex-governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, said, quote, 'The presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families.' Jeb Bush said, 'That's true. It should really just belong to one family. I think we should just keep it.'"

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Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

5 messages

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Bcc: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 3:16 PM

Please RSVP, if you have not already, using the link below. Due to limited space and security requirements, only guests who have RSVP'd will be permitted to attend the event. We encourage you to bring a photo ID.

WEATHER: Rain is in the forecast for Tuesday; please bring appropriate rain gear (umbrellas and/or rain coats) and footwear (comfortable shoes). Additionally, insects are abundant at the site so we encourage you to apply (and bring with you) bug repellent.

Thank you!



Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, Governor David Ige, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner and other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
9:30 a.m. – Final shuttle leaves for dedication site
10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Directions to Monsanto Parking Lot: From Honolulu, head west on H-1 Freeway. Take Kunia Rd. off ramp (Exit 5b) and head north on Kunia Rd. In about 1 mile and after passing 3 intersections, take an immediate left onto a gravel road. You will see signs for turn. Follow the road to the parking lot.

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP by clicking [HERE](#). This invitation is non-transferable. Casual attire is appropriate.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-513-0888

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 3:59 PM
To: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Aloha Rod,
As promised here is the link to RSVP for tomorrow's event. We look forward to having you attend to represent Congressman Takai's office.
Thanks,
Jeremy
[Quoted text hidden]

Tanonaka, Rod <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 7:08 PM
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Aloha Jeremy,

Thank you again for your help. Attached please find a message from Congressman Takai for tomorrow's events.

Rod

Rod Tanonaka

Chief of Staff

Office of Congressman Mark Takai

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Rm. 4-104 | Honolulu, HI 96850

808-541-2570 (office) | 808-533-0133 (fax)

takai.house.gov


If you will be in Washington, D.C., please join us at "Aloha on the Hill" with Congressman Mark Takai. Call us at 202-225-2726 for more information.

Connect with us on:



From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Tanonaka, Rod
Cc: Erin Frautschy Barrows; Maria Najera
Subject: Fwd: REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

[Quoted text hidden]

 **20150330CN01MES_Honouliuli.pdf**
86K

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 9:33 PM

Thank you very much!

From: Tanonaka, Rod
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 7:09 PM
To: Bratt, Jeremy
Reply To: Tanonaka, Rod
Subject: RE: REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

[Quoted text hidden]

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 9:34 PM

Fyi. I'm not sure if they intend to read this at some point, or what...

From: Tanonaka, Rod <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 7:09 PM
To: Bratt, Jeremy
Reply To: Tanonaka, Rod
Subject: RE: REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

[Quoted text hidden]

 **20150330CN01MES_Honouliuli.pdf**
86K



Congressman Mark Takai
1st Congressional District of Hawaii

March 31, 2015

On behalf of Hawaii's 1st Congressional District, it is my pleasure to send a warm aloha to President Obama, Secretary Jewell of the Department of the Interior, Director Jervis of the National Park Service, Deputy Director O'Dell of the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, President Hayashino of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Monsanto Company, President Lassner of the University of Hawaii and all those who helped rediscover and designate Honouliuli as a national monument. We are gathered here today in honor of the dedication ceremony of this important piece of history, whose legacy will be preserved and shared with future generations.

Shrouded in the tragedy of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States enacted Executive Order 9066. The result of this action led to the internment of more than 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawaii. Honouliuli opened on March 1, 1943, and held approximately 320 people detained on the suspicion of disloyalty. In addition to Japanese Americans, Honouliuli also housed residents of German, Italian, Russian, Scandinavian, and Irish descent. The camp was known by a different name to many of its interned population: it was called "Jigoku Dani" or Hell Valley. Honouliuli is a representation of the dangers of wartime prejudice, as well as the tenacity, steadfastness, and endurance of a community who remained unwavering in the face of racial prejudice. I am humbled by the bravery and courage of the civilians that were interned here. Their stories and experiences are what lends significance to this monument.

Honouliuli is Hawaii's second national monument pertaining to World War II. Our first, World War II Valor in the Pacific, is situated above the USS Arizona. The relationship and history of these two monuments are uniquely entwined. Like two sides of the same coin, each monument tells a different story of the same conflict. It is crucial that we strive to remember the entirety of our nation's history – if not to honor the men and women whose sacrifice and experience have led us here, than to endow our future generations with the knowledge to avoid the mistakes of the past. Honouliuli is a crucial reminder of the dangers of prejudice, fear, and hate. Today we commemorate this monument and dedicate it to the education of our nation's children. I extend my sincere wish that this place will serve as a beacon reminding us of the importance of civil liberties for all people.

I regret that my duties in Washington, D.C., do not allow me to join in this dedication, but please accept my warm wishes on this important occasion.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Takai".

Mark Takai
Member of Congress



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell, Governor Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

1 message

Gordon, Gabriella (Janou) <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 3:06 PM
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

Media Advisory

Date: March 30, 2015
Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell, Governor Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

OAHU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join Hawaii Governor David Ige, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, Monsanto representatives and community leaders to dedicate the Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai'i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama established the new monument, now a part of the National Park System, in February. Secretary Jewell visited the area in September 2013 to see the confinement site firsthand. She also heard from members of the community about how the National Park Service could play a role in preserving this difficult chapter in our nation's history and sharing the importance of protecting civil liberties.

The program will feature remarks, traditional blessings, and an opportunity for a media interviews.

Event #1 – Dedication Ceremony

WHO:

- Sally Jewell**, Secretary of the Interior
- David Ige**, Governor, State of Hawaii
- Brian Schatz**, U.S. Senator
- Mazie Hirono**, U.S. Senator
- Peggy O'Dell**, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service
- Carole Hayashino**, President & Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- John Purcell**, Hawaii Business and Technology Lead and Vice President, Monsanto

WHAT:

Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

WHERE:

Royal Kunia Park and Ride lot
94-640 Kupuohi St
Waipahu, HI 96797

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
9:00 a.m. HST – Reporter check-in
9:15 a.m. HST – Reporter shuttle departs
11:30 a.m. HST – Reporter shuttle returns

MEDIA:

Due to space limitations, credentialed members of the media are required to [RSVP HERE](#) no later than 4:00 p.m. HST on Monday, March 30, 2015, in order to secure a seat on the press shuttle bus.

Event #2 – Community Celebration

WHO:

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
David Ige, Governor of Hawaii
Brian Schatz, U.S. Senator for Hawaii
Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senator for Hawaii
Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director, National Park Service
Carole Hayashino, President & Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
John Purcell, Hawaii Business and Technology Lead and Vice President, Monsanto
Local community members

WHAT:

Community Celebration of Honouliuli National Monument

WHERE:

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Manoa Grand Ballroom (5th floor)
2454 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
11:45 a.m. HST – Reporter check-in
12:00 p.m. HST – Community celebration

MEDIA:

Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP HERE](#) no later than 4:00 p.m. HST on Monday, March 30, 2015.

###

—
Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445

Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

For review: Honouliuli Advisory

2 messages

Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 4:52 PM

To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Margaret O'Dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Israporn Pananon <israporn_pananon@ios.doi.gov>

Hi all,

We plan to issue the following advisory at 3pm ET on Monday. Please send any edits or questions by Monday at 12pm ET.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov**Secretary Jewell to Join Senators Schatz, Hirono to Dedicate
Honouliuli National Monument**

O'HAU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, and community leaders to hold a dedication ceremony for Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai'i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama [established the new monument](#), which will be part of the National Park System, in February under the Antiquities Act.


Who: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior**U.S. Senator Brian Schatz****U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono****What:** Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument**When:** Tuesday March 31, 2015, at 10 a.m. HST

Where: Monsanto Parking Lot
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to RSVP HERE by XXXX.

###

Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

 03-25-2015 Honouliuli NM advisory v2.doc
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Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 2:18 PM
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Margaret O'Dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Israporn Pananon <israporn_pananon@ios.doi.gov>

Below and attached is the final version of this, good for notifications. We're still set to send at 3pm ET.

Thanks, all.

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

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[Quoted text hidden]



03-25-2015 Honouliuli NM advisory Final.doc
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**U.S. Department
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www.doi.gov

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###



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 30, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + Secretary Jewell To Speak On National Parks At Berkeley.
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- + Senate Votes On Federal Land Transfer Amendment.
- + Interior's Instagram Photos Highlighted.
- + Additional Coverage Of Honouliuli National Monument Designation.
- + Additional Coverage Of Secretary's Jewell's Pending Decision On Shell's Drilling In Arctic.
- + Additional Coverage: Federal Agencies Renew Five-Year Partnership To Advance Hydropower.
- + Proposal To Reform Coal Leasing Supported.
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- + Rocky Mountain National Park To Allow Mountain Bikes.
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- + Small Pilot Wind Projects To Improve Acceptance.

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- + Colorado Drilling Plan Released.

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- + Cobell Scholarships Being Prepared.
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- + Interior To Hold Meeting On Minerals And Royalties.
- + Decision Delayed On Federal Recognition For Pamunkey Indians.
- + BIA Superintendent Who Was Stabbed Now In Stable Condition.
- + Sen. Blumenthal Now Opposes Federal Recognition Third Party Veto.
- + Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Chairman Wants Answers On Proposed Casinos.
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- + BIE Approves Conversion Of Isleta Elementary Moves.
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- + Pence Defends Indiana Law, Says Obama And Bill Clinton Backed Similar Measures.
- + O'Malley: Presidency Should Not Be Passed Between Two Families.

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- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:

+ [Headlines From Today's Front Pages.](#)

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

+ [Today's Events In Washington.](#)

LAST LAUGHS:

+ [Late Night Political Humor.](#)

DOI in the News:

SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS CELEBRATED. The [AP](#) (3/29) reports that "the Obama administration and Gov. Kate Brown joined with Oregon ranchers to celebrate agreements they all hope will help keep the sage grouse off the endangered species list." The deals "announced Friday in Bend, Oregon, give ranchers incentives to protect sage grouse and their habitat on 5,500 square miles of private land in central and southeastern Oregon." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the governor, and Agriculture Deputy Undersecretary Ann Mills "praised the spirit of cooperation the agreements represent, and expressed their hopes that both sage grouse and family ranches would thrive."

The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/29, 506) reports that Jewell said, "These voluntary agreements establish a collaborative partnership to ensure the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and sustain working western rangelands. The agreements in Oregon are more evidence that we can work together to provide regulatory certainty for ranchers and other westerners who rely on sagebrush habitat for their livelihoods, and also take important steps to protect the hundreds of species that rely on these landscapes." The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/29, 94K) reports that Jewell said, "I want to thank Oregon for being a leader."

Also providing coverage are the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/29, 90K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/27, 110K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/27, 36K), the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (3/29, 86K), [Reuters](#) (3/27), [My Central Oregon](#) (3/27), the [EIN News](#) (3/29, 1K), and [KTVZ-TV Bend, OR](#) (3/29, 4K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NEW FRACKING RULE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/29, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "an anticipated cascade of litigation targeting the Obama administration's new drilling rule gained speed yesterday as a Wyoming lawsuit became the second legal challenge on court dockets so far." Wyoming's suit accuses the BLM of "abusing its power in crafting new requirements for fracking and drilling on public and American Indian lands." The action "joins an industry lawsuit filed minutes after the rule's unveiling in kicking off what is likely to be a protracted legal battle over the controversial regulatory scheme."

In an op-ed for the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 32K), Jillian Melchior, an energy fellow at the Independent Women's Forum, writes that the "redundant rules leave American Indians at a competitive disadvantage, quashing a huge opportunity for economic growth." She claims that the "new fracking regulations make it harder for American Indians to compete and to have their shot at the American dream."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Copyright 2015; Chronicle, 2.28M) editorializes that "the real appeal is demonstrating to the greater public that fracking can and will be done safely." BLM Director Neil Komze has said that "these rules are intended to provide 'greater confidence that we are, in fact, protecting groundwater'." The paper asserts that "we have to make sure that confidence doesn't end at our borders."

Also providing coverage are [The Hill](#) (3/28, Cama, 224K), the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (3/29, 105K) and the [Huffington Post](#) (3/27, |, Levitan, 281K)

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK ON NATIONAL PARKS AT BERKELEY. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (3/30, 1K) reports that "on Thursday, March 26, the Horace M. Albright Lecture on Conservation will feature U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, UC President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley and Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks."

TESTER URGES CANCELLATION OF OIL, GAS LEASES NEAR BLACKFEET RESERVATION. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/29, 15K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester "joined the Blackfeet Nation Friday in calling on the federal government to protect the Badger-Two Medicine area from private industrialization, adding his voice to an unprecedented alliance of American Indian tribal nations urging the government to cancel existing oil and gas leases in the pristine region." Tester "sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary

Tom Vilsack urging them to rescind the energy leases in the Badger-Two Medicine, which is sacred to the Blackfoot Tribe and one of the Montana's most pristine outdoor areas." He wrote, "This area has unique cultural, historical, spiritual, and recreational significance to the people of the Blackfoot Nation and Montana. I request that the remaining oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine be cancelled to prevent adverse effects to the land or the people of the region."

Also reporting on the story is [The Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/29, 113K).

SENATE VOTES ON FEDERAL LAND TRANSFER AMENDMENT. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/29, 38K) reports that Sen. Steve Daines "came under fire from conservation groups and outdoor-related business interests Friday after his vote for an amendment critics say is a first step to federal land transfer or sale." The amendment, brought by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, "to the U.S. Senate budget resolution, authorizes the Senate to create a fund relating to any legislative action that results in transfers, sales or exchanges of federal lands with states or local governments."

INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTED. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 4.78M) highlights photos shared by the Interior Department on Instagram.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HONOLULI NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION. Additional coverage of the designation of the Honouliuli National Monument was provided by the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/29, 360K) and the [4-Traders](#) (3/29, 6K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S JEWELL'S PENDING DECISION ON SHELL'S DRILLING IN ARCTIC. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's pending decision on Shell's drilling in the Arctic was provided by [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 807K), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K), the [Arctic Journal \(GRL\)](#) (3/29), the [Seattle Stranger](#) (3/27, 162K), [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (3/30, 14K), and the [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (3/26, Aitchison, Subscription Publication, 48K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL AGENCIES RENEW FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE HYDROPOWER. Additional coverage that "the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of the Army for Civil Works...have extended their partnership to advance hydropower development for an additional five year" was provided by the [Breaking Energy](#) (3/27).

PROPOSAL TO REFORM COAL LEASING SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 405K), Jack Thomas, mayor of Park City, writes that "Interior has put forth a proposal to address some of these loopholes and begin reforming the federal coal program." He supports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's statement that "now is the 'time for an honest and open conversation' about reforming the federal coal program and ensuring the correct royalty rate is given to taxpayers." Thomas writes that "mountain communities across the West are looking to the future with trepidation, yet Interior has the power to ease the economic and environmental burden facing towns like Park City."

MONTANA'S SENATORS URGED TO SUPPORT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND . In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/28, 54K), Becky Edwards urges Montana's Senators to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund

NYTIMES: DENIAL OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAMPERS DISASTER PLANNING. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says planning for natural disasters "is hampered by politicians who deny the every existence of changes in the climate."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS LAUNCHING "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. The AP (3/30, Zongker) reports "after nearly 100 years, the National Park Service holds some of the most beautiful and historic places in the country, though there's also an \$11 billion backlog of unfunded maintenance and a visitor base that's aging and mostly white." Now, "with its centennial approaching in 2016, the park service will launch a major campaign Thursday in New York City to raise support and introduce a new, more diverse generation of millennials and children to 'America's best idea' the national parks." The article notes that "First lady Michelle Obama and former first lady Laura Bush will co-chair the campaign, calling on Americans to 'Find Your Park' to enjoy their public lands."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/30, Zongker, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/30, 4.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/30, Brett Zongker |, Ap, 5.17M), the [U-T San Diego \(CA\)](#) (3/30, 580K), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/30, 685K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/30, Zongker, 1.37M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/30, Zongker, 5.81M).

GREATER NAPLES YMCA CREATES CAMP WYHOWAY WITH BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. [WINK-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (3/27, 4K) reports that “the Greater Naples YMCA is embracing a new youth program focused around Florida’s national parks.” YMCA has “partnered with the Big Cypress National Preserve to create Camp Wyhoway.” J.D. Lee with the Big Cypress National Preserve said, “Some of the activities that we offer are educational walks, canoeing, we offer swamp buggy rides, we offer airboat rides.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Naples Herald](#) (3/28).

SECRET SERVICE TESTING WHITE HOUSE FENCE MODIFICATIONS. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Schmidt, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on how recent security breaches at the White House have prompted the Secret Service to look for a fence that is relatively “foolproof,” yet retains “curb appeal.” The agency “has conducted dozens of tests on possible modifications to the White House fence.” The effort includes the recruitment of “some of the agency’s best athletes — including tall, short, hefty and thin volunteers — to serve as pretend fence jumpers at a rural training ground outside Washington.”

TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO NPS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/29, 398K) reports that Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument’s first superintendent is Vincent Santucci, but his assignment is slated to last just 90 days. During that time, Santucci hopes to oversee the transfer of the property from the BLM to the NPS.

STUDY ANALYZES ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/27, 166K) reports that “Bangor has entered the debate over a new national park in Maine’s North Woods and, from the economic analyses, it’s a no-brainer for the city.” However, “the upside is not so clear for other cities and towns that don’t have Bangor’s economic base, rooted in growing health care employment.” The article notes that “in a review of past research from a range of Maine economists, a 2013 two-part study by Headwaters Economics, and commissioned by Roxanne Quimby’s land-holdings company Elliotsville Plantation Inc., posited the economic benefits of a national park, which it noted would come most immediately for Bangor.”

Millinocket Council Rejects Holding Public Vote On National Park. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/27, 166K) reports that Millinocket “voters won’t get the chance to tell the Town Council in June whether they support the proposed 150,000-acre North Woods national park and recreation area.” According to the article, “councilors on Thursday debated placing on a ballot for the annual school budget referendum in June a question asking voters whether they support Lucas St. Clair’s proposed gift to the National Park Service.” The council “voted 6-1 against the notion as suggested by Councilor Michael Madore, an outspoken park critic.”

EVENTS SET TO MARK THE 1865 FALL OF RICHMOND. The [AP](#) (3/28, Press, 5.17M) reports that “events are scheduled for April to commemorate the 1865 fall of Richmond.” According to officials, “the four-day commemoration beginning Wednesday will feature special illuminations, programs and tours of the city’s historic areas.” The article notes that “the events are being sponsored by a collaborative effort of historical societies, museums, national parks, tourism offices, commissions and cultural organizations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/29, 322K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/29, 322K), and the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Kennicott, 5.17M).

YOSEMITE’S GLACIER POINT ROAD OPENS EARLY IN SEASON. The [AP](#) (3/29, 2.28M) reports that “a road leading to spectacular views of California’s Yosemite National Park opened to drivers on Saturday, marking the earliest date for the occasion in at least 20 years.” Glacier Point Road “takes drivers to a lookout perched at 3, 214 feet above the valley floor, where visitors can view spectacles such as the Half Dome rock, Yosemite Falls and Yosemite’s high country.” The article notes that “this year’s March 28 opening is the earliest listed in records dating back to 1995 published on the park’s website.”

The [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/29, Sahagun, 3.49M) reports that “Yosemite National Park is bracing for its driest year on record, with visitor bureaus downplaying the allure of the park’s most famous waterfall and instead touting the park as a destination for hiking, bicycling and photography.” According to park officials, “Yosemite Falls will probably go dry in June — two months earlier than usual.” The article also notes that “with the drought

enabling western pine bark beetles to kill large swaths of forest, the park is preparing for a bad fire season.”

Also providing coverage are the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/29, Forgione, 3.49M).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TO ALLOW MOUNTAIN BIKES. The AP (3/29, 2.28M) reports that “mountain biking in Rocky Mountain National Park is close to reality.” The NPS has “finalized a report that allows mountain biking on a 2-mile stretch of trail on the park’s west side near Grand Lake.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/29, Press, 804K) and [The Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 76K).

NPS SURVEYS NASHVILLE TOLL BRIDGE. The [Tennessean](#) (3/28, 406K) reports that “continued interest in the history of the Nashville Toll Bridge, built in 1823, brought a team from the National Park Service to do a photographic survey, which was completed Saturday.” The article notes that “the bridge was recently designated as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail used by the Cherokee.” Also, there is “interest in the bridge’s relevance to early American engineering and bridge building and its designer Lewis Wernwag, known for a number of important bridges during the time period.”

NPS TO PLANT CHERRY TREES FOR ANACOSTIA FESTIVAL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/29, Polus, 5.17M) reports that “in keeping with this year’s theme of ‘celebrating the natural world,’ the National Cherry Blossom Festival is teaming with the National Park Service to host an event in Anacostia Park that will show off the park’s assets.” The NPS will “plant a small grove of cherry trees for the Anacostia festival, with the goal of extending the cherry blossoms farther beyond the Tidal Basin and raising awareness of a threatened but critical local waterway.” The article notes that “the river festival marks the official closing of this year’s Cherry Blossom Festival.”

JOSHUA TREE’S BARKER DAM RESTORED AFTER YEARS OF GRAFFITI. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/29, 85K) reports that “restoration experts from New Mexico and Vermont took paintbrushes to the concrete face of Barker Dam in Joshua Tree National Park last week, giving the historical landmark a facelift after years of vandalism.” The article notes that “their goal wasn’t to obliterate the scratched graffiti entirely” because “that would have involved damaging Barker Dam’s intricate texture, which still shows imprints of wood grain and corrugated metal from its construction, as well as old water lines.” Instead, according to the article, “the conservators settled on a different strategy: ‘inpainting,’ which involves dabbing the scratched areas with paint in an effort to recreate the natural color and texture of the dam.”

BILL WOULD RENAME WILDERNESS AREA IN LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE . The AP (3/27, 2.28M) reports that “Alaska’s U.S. senators have introduced legislation to rename a wilderness area after the late former Gov. Jay Hammond.” The legislation, from Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, would “name 2.6 million acres of wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area.”

RESTAURANT AT BIG ISLAND’S VOLCANO HOUSE TO REOPEN IN STAGES AFTER FIRE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/27, Jones, 3.49M) reports that “the main restaurant at a historic Big Island hotel in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is expected to reopen in stages after a fire Tuesday that injured an employee.”

YELLOWSTONE SPOKESMAN LEAVING AFTER NINE YEARS. The [Yellowstone \(WY\) Gate](#) (3/30) reports that “Al Nash has left the National Park Service after 9 years as the spokesman for Yellowstone National Park.” Nash, “the chief of public affairs for Yellowstone since 2006, reflected on nearly a decade in that role just before his last day on the job March 18.” The article notes that “the last nine years have seen sweeping changes in how the public finds and shares information about everything, including national parks.”

NEW YORK OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that New York officials have recommended the addition of the Skinny House, “along with 21 other properties and districts, to the National Register of Historic Places.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO DEPLOY BORDER COLLIES AT NATIONAL MALL.

Additional coverage of the proposal to deploy Border collies at the National Mall was provided by the [National Review](#) (3/29, 633K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK.

Additional coverage of the planning for the Manhattan Project National Park was provided by the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (3/27).

REPAIRS AT NATIONAL PARKS URGED. The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/27, 1.14M) editorializes that "there is a \$11.5 billion backlog of deferred maintenance at our parks." The paper asserts that "we have a responsibility to take care of the parks so the next generation can also enjoy and be inspired by them."

In an editorial, the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (3/30, 51K) argues that "the national debt means we cannot merely borrow our way out of this problem." It says that "a good chunk of the solution will have to come from users."

NPS URGED TO LET ARIZONA HUNTERS DEAL WITH BISON PROBLEM. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/29, 1.14M), Sen. John McCain and Rep. Paul Gosar note that "nearly 600 unwanted bison have migrated into Grand Canyon National Park, causing environmental damage." The NPS "plans to hire sharpshooters to cull the herd." Instead, they argue that "Arizona hunters should be allowed to take bison and keep the meat."

Bureau of Land Management:

KINGMAN FARMS OWNER FACING PROBE AMID BLM LAND SWAP DEAL. The [AP](#) (3/30) reports that "a proposed land exchange in the Red Lake area between Las Vegas developer Jim Rhodes and the Bureau of Land Management may be in trouble." The BLM is "investigating a possible trespassing violation against Rhodes."

DEADLINE FOR AGUA CALIENTE TRIBAL LAND SWAP COMMENTS APPROACHING. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/27, 85K) reports that the comments on a possible land exchange between the federal government and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is will be accepted until the end of Sunday.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

TRIBES RECEIVE GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION WORK. The [AP](#) (3/29, 81K) reports that the FWS has "awarded \$4.2 million in grants to Native American tribes in 13 states for conservation projects." The funds will "support 22 projects benefiting wildlife and habitat." The article notes that "projects are in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin."

Also providing coverage are the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/29, 51K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/29, 2.28M), and the [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (3/27, 34K).

FEDERAL STUDY LISTS SPECIES TO BE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (3/30) reported that a Federal study concluded that some species of birds in northwest Alaska "could benefit from climate change but increased temperatures could harm populations of several mammals."

FWS REVIEWING APPLICATION TO BRING RESCUED BEAR TO US. [NPR](#) (3/27, 1.58M) reports that Cholita, an Andean bespectacled bear, was "rescued from a circus in Peru after suffering from abuse. Animal Defenders International is now attempting to take Cholita to the U.S." but "it is still waiting for approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." FWS authorities said that "they received the application and are processing it in order to expedite the request."

PLANS TO STOCK ATLANTIC SALMON IN LAKE OaHE DELAYED. The [AP](#) (3/27, 2.28M) reports that "anglers will have to wait a little longer for a chance to catch Atlantic salmon in Lake Oahe." South Dakota wildlife officials had "wanted to stock the first batch of the new species in the Missouri River reservoir in the Dakotas in the spring of 2016, but a deal to get eggs from a federal hatchery in New Hampshire has fallen through." The FWS "facility in New Hampshire was working on a contract with an electric company that was restoring an Atlantic salmon population decimated by a hydroelectric dam, and that contract wasn't renewed, said Will Saylor, administrator of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department's fisheries program."

FWS PLANS STURGEON SPAWNING SITES. The [New Jersey Herald](#) (3/29, 39K) reports that "since 2003, the federal government has spent \$10 million to create six sturgeon spawning sites in the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, and two more are planned." The FWS has "taken the lead with help from the Ohio Department of Natural

Resources, Toledo Zoo and nonprofit conservation organization Lake Erie Waterkeeper.”

MAN FACING TRIAL OVER CLAIM HE PULLED PISTOL ON FEDERAL AGENT. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/29, 547K) reports that Andrew Watkins has been “charged with assaulting a federal officer with a deadly weapon, a felony that could net him 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.” The officer was FWS Special Agent Sean Mann, “who was investigating reports of vernal pool damage in violation of the federal Endangered Species Act.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS APPROVES APPLICATION TO IMPORT ENDANGERED RHINO’S HEAD. Additional coverage of the approval to import rhino trophies was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Copyright 2015; Chronicle, 2.28M) the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/26, 1.13M), the [National Geographic](#) (3/29, 32.58M) , [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, 685K), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, 5.81M), [BBC News](#) (3/29, 1.66M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 2.74M), and [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 807K)

MICHIGAN POLICYMAKERS CRITICIZED ON WOLF ISSUE. In an op-ed for the [Macomb County \(MI\) Advisor and Source Newspapers](#) (3/29, 155K), Jill Fritz, the director of Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, writes that “after being given a do-over on managing the state’s small wolf population, Michigan politicians and bureaucrats are following a familiar path of reckless behavior with their effort to restore trophy hunting of the now-endangered animals.” She offers “a pathway forward and a middle-ground on this controversial issue.” Fritz notes that “The Humane Society of the United States and 21 other animal protection and conservation groups, including the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Audubon Society, have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ‘downlist’ gray wolves from endangered to threatened.” According to Fritz, “this would retain federal protections for wolves, but also provide more flexible management so wildlife officials could kill or remove the occasional problem wolf.”

OP-ED TOUTS REMOVAL OF DAMS WEST FORK RIVER. In an op-ed for the [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (3/29, 42K) , John Schmidt, a project leader with the FWS, and Frank Jemejic, a retired fishery biologist with West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, write that “the Clarksburg Water Board’s approval Monday to remove three dams in the West Fork River is a decision that will benefit both people and wildlife in the river’s surrounding communities of Harrison County, West Virginia.” They write that “our goal in removing the dams is to preserve our national heritage and legacy of abundant fish and wildlife, with places for families to experience nature, enjoy waterways and go fishing.”

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS EXAMINE STRESSES AT SAN ANDREAS FAULT. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (3/29, 936K) reports that “by studying quartz samples collected a mile-and-a-half beneath the San Andreas Fault, a small team at Lawrence Berkeley Lab is examining earthquake-causing stresses at a nearly atomic level, allowing scientists a closer look at the process behind quakes than ever before.” The article notes that “the findings are of interest to the U.S. Geological Survey, which recently raised the odds of a 7.0 magnitude or higher quake hitting the Bay Area to 51 percent in the next 30 years, with San Andreas branches, the Hayward and Calaveras faults overdue for a major quake.” Pasadena USGS research geologist Kate Scharer said, “The hazard posed by the San Andreas is very high for the simple fact that it’s the fastest-moving fault we have, so it has the best odds of producing the next quake. The faults (cause) a magnitude 6.5 or higher earthquake every 100 or so years. We’ve come to the average interval.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND POWER ADVOCATES QUESTION NEW JERSEY’S COMMITMENT TO WIND POWER. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, A1, Warrick, 5.17M) reports that New Jersey’s lack of progress on wind energy development is “the subject of intense debate here.” According to the article, “some blame the governor, whose enthusiasm for wind energy appeared to flag around the time he began exploring a run for the Republican presidential nomination.” Political opponents claim “the turning point was a series of meetings in 2011 and 2012 with key Republican donors, including billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, oil-industry magnates who have bankrolled campaigns against renewable energy.” Meanwhile, the Obama Administration has “aggressively promoted wind and solar energy as part of its larger effort to reduce carbon emissions.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in an interview, “The technology is proven, and the economics will prove themselves over time.”

SMALL PILOT WIND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE ACCEPTANCE. Derrick Jackson wrote in his [Boston Globe](#) (3/28, Jackson, 1.03M) column that the failed Cape Wind project was “paralyzed by selfish and powerful people who feared the views from their seaside mansions would be ruined.” However, several nascent efforts are now underway to help offshore wind to gain broad-based acceptance. Deepwater Wind recently secured financing for a 5-turbine, 30-megawatt pilot project will allow people to “see it, feel it, touch it, and take offshore wind from theory to reality.” The Administration supports similarly sized pilot projects. Jackson is optimistic about recent cooperation between Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Onshore Energy Development:

COLORADO DRILLING PLAN RELEASED. The [AP](#) (3/27, Elliott, 2.28M) reports that “a federal government plan for drilling in energy-rich northwestern Colorado released Friday includes stepped-up protections for public land near Dinosaur National Monument.” The article notes that “the proposal would also ease limits on what time of year drilling rigs can operate if energy companies consolidate well sites to minimize environmental disruptions.” The proposal “covers nearly 2,700 square miles of federal land in Rio Blanco County and parts of Moffat and Garfield counties” in the BLM’s White River district.

Also providing coverage are the [Denver Post](#) (3/29, Elliott, 804K) and the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (3/29, 64K).

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/29, 405K) reports that the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association has “come out against drilling for oil and gas off the coast, joining what appears to be a growing opposition in Atlantic coastal communities.” In a recent letter to the BOEM, it argued that “an oil spill could jeopardize the city’s tourism industry”.

In an op-ed for the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/29, 405K), Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network, warns about “the devastation a massive offshore oil spill can cause to coastal environments and communities.” She also writes that “while people on the Atlantic should be worried about a major catastrophe like the BP spill, the effects of drilling will be felt even if everything proceeds according to the oil and gas industry’s plans.” Sarthou adds that “residents of the Atlantic coast should likewise be aware of the industry’s terrible track record of cleanup and safety procedures.”

In an op-ed for the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (3/29, 5K), Matt Rutherford, the founder and executive director of the Ocean Research Project, opposes offshore drilling. He argues that “moving forward with this plan would threaten our region’s natural beauty and marine life.” He also warns that “an oil spill off the coast of Virginia and near the mouth of the Chesapeake could potentially throw off the entire migration of these marine species, disturbing the balance of the bay.”

The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (3/30, 28K) editorializes that “offshore seismic testing for oil and gas, and if anything is found, possible drilling, is a scary prospect we should avoid.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/29, 291K), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/29, 291K), the [Surf City \(NJ\) Sandpaper](#) (3/29) and [Offshore Magazine](#) (3/29, 129K).

US URGED TO PURSUE ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/27, 146K) reports that “the United States should move swiftly to harness the tremendous oil and gas reserves locked under its Arctic waters while the industry improves the equipment used to drill wells and sop up spills, according to a government advisory committee report released Friday.” The report, “conducted by the National Petroleum Council at the request of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, makes the case for the United States to aggressively develop Arctic oil and gas that can help supply the country with energy long after production tails off from onshore fields.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Argus Media](#) (3/29).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

FEDERAL FUNDING LACKING FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS. The [AP](#) (3/30, 988K) reports that “during the widespread drought, officials are struggling to finish large-scale water infrastructure projects while populations are growing, drinking water resources are dwindling, and federal dollars are diminishing.” The article notes that “the federal government is responsible for paying about \$3 billion to complete several rural water projects around the country,” but “the amount — expected to grow by the time the work is done — represents a fraction of the more than \$600 billion needed to address the nation’s water and wastewater needs over the next 20 years.” The BOR has “about \$36 million for rural water projects for the next fiscal year,” and “in its most recent analysis, the agency estimates the projects could be completed by 2029 with a total federal investment of about \$3 billion.”

The [AP](#) (3/30, 3.41M) reports that the BOR has “\$36 million to spend on projects during the next fiscal year — a fraction of the funds needed for the work.” The article provides “a look at the projects and current allocations.”

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE WATER TO NEW MELONES RESERVOIR. The [Turlock \(CA\) City News](#) (3/29) reports that “U.S. Representatives Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) and Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) released a letter to key regional federal regulators calling on them to revise plans and take actions to prevent water releases that threaten to leave New Melones reservoir dry this coming summer.” Recently, the BOR “announced initial 2015 water supply allocations for the Central Valley Project (CVP) based on a ‘conservative estimate’ of the amount of water that will be available for delivery to CVP water users; these allocations will be re-examined on a monthly basis, taking into consideration a variety of factors, according to the Bureau.” The article notes that “the letter regarding the matter from Denham and McClintock was addressed to senior officials at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, requested that the agencies meet immediately and enter emergency consultation proceedings.”

BOR PROVIDES UPDATED WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (3/28, 578) reports that the BOR says that, “due to continued dry conditions, the initial 2015 water supply allocation released on Feb. 27 for Central Valley Project agricultural contractors and municipal and industrial contractors remains unchanged.” Mid-Pacific Regional Director David Murillo said, “When we announced the initial allocation, we committed to providing regular water supply updates, recognizing the severe impacts of this fourth year of drought on our water users. We continue to work closely with our customers, contractors and federal and state partners to do everything possible to deliver the maximum amount of CVP water, including the 3.1 million acre-feet of CVP water already announced for allocation to our senior water contractors and urban water users last month.”

CALIFORNIA GOV. BROWN SIGNS \$1 BILLION EMERGENCY DROUGHT PACKAGE. [Reuters](#) (3/27) reports that California Governor Jerry Brown signed emergency legislation on Friday that fast-tracks over \$1 billion in funding for drought relief and water infrastructure. Brown said, “This funding is just one piece of a much larger effort to help those most impacted by the drought and prepare the state for an uncertain future. Rain is not in the forecast and every Californian must be doing their utmost to conserve water.”

DROUGHT THREATENS AMERICAN RIVER FISH. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/29, 547K) reports that “endangered steelhead about to hatch in the American River could soon be killed by low flows and warm temperatures caused by the drought, a sign of the ongoing struggle over scarce water supplies.” The BOR, “which operates Folsom and Nimbus dams on the American River, dropped water flows in the river to 500 cubic feet per second on Thursday.” BOR spokesman Louis Moore said, “That was primarily an effort to help conserve water based on the persistent drought conditions. Everything is being done to make sure the water supply we have is being used to the best of our ability, and we’re working with others to stretch it.”

BOR ACCEPTING LEASE LAND BIDS. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/29, 45K) reports that the BOR “announced that sealed bids for agricultural leasing of 24 parcels of federal lease lands, totaling 3,597 acres, can be received until 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the Klamath Basin Area Office.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FORMER BOR COMMISSIONER SUGGESTS ABOLISHMENT OF AGENCY . Additional coverage of former BOR’s commissioner Daniel Beard’s book “Deadbeat Dams: Why We Should Abolish the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Tear Down Glen Canyon Dam” was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 405K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SENDS SECOND ROUND OF LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS ON ROSEBUD SIOUX

RESERVATION. The [Nation Sun News](#) (3/29) reports that the Interior Department has “sent another \$34 million in offers to nearly 11,000 landowners on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.” Michael Connor, the deputy secretary at Interior said, “The success of this program is a vital component of this Administration’s commitment to restoring tribal homelands and remedying the harms caused by the repudiated allotment policy. Consolidating and returning these lands to tribes in trust have enormous potential to improve tribal community resources by increasing home site locations, improving transportation routes, spurring tribal economic development, and preserving traditional cultural or ceremonial sites.”

Also reporting on the story are [KSFY-TV Sioux Falls, SD](#) (3/29, 3K) and the [Native American Times](#) (3/26, 337).

COBELL SCHOLARSHIPS BEING PREPARED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/24, 49K) (3/24, 49K) reports that the Interior Department has “transferred \$5 million to the Scholarship Fund for American Indian/Alaska Native students authorized by the Cobell settlement.” In an interview, Turk Cobell and Alex Pearl, members of the Board of Trustees for the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, discussed “the status of the scholarship program recently.” Pearl said, “This is meant to be a perpetual fund so that Indian students can be going to college and receiving Cobell Scholarship Funds well after we’re long gone. It operates like any other Scholarship Funds where you restrict a portion of it so that the fund can continue for years and years and years.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Nation Sun News](#) (3/29).

INTERIOR HOSTS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM 2015 LISTENING SESSION AT GILA RIVER. The [Native News Online](#) (3/29) reports that “more than 150 tribal leaders and individual landowners joined Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn at the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) 2015 Listening Session last Thursday.” The meeting, “held on the Gila River Indian Community, allowed Interior officials to share updates and hear directly from tribal communities about how the Program can best be implemented across Indian Country.” Connor said, “We must do all we can to give landowners a meaningful chance to participate in the Program and receive compensation for their fractional interests, many of which are simply unusable because of the degree of fractionation. We are focused on ensuring that landowners are aware of the Program and are given every opportunity to make informed decisions about the potential sale of their land at fair market value.”

PRESENTATION MADE ON LAND BUY BACK PROGRAM. The [Navajo Post \(AZ\)](#) (3/29) reports that “Land Buy-Back Program manager John H. McClanahan and Senior Advisor on Tribal Relations Santee Lewis, presented to Naabik’iyáti’ Committee members on Thursday.” The article notes that “on March 17, the Land Buy-Back Program issued a letter to President Ben Shelly formally offering the cooperative agreement which would provide funding to support land consolidation activities.”

INTERIOR TO HOLD MEETING ON MINERALS AND ROYALTIES. The [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (3/24, 167) reports that “the Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue will hold a mineral and royalty question and answer session April 9 at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Fort Washakie.” The event will “help American Indian mineral interest owners with questions or concerns about minerals or royalty payments from oil, gas, sand or gravel production that occurs on their land.” The article notes that “a popular subject this year will be how the falling oil prices are affecting the royalties rendered to enrolled tribal members, said Thomas Piccirilli of the ONRR.”

DECISION DELAYED ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION FOR PAMUNKEY INDIANS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Heim, 5.17M) reports that “the Pamunkey Indians — best known as the tribe of Pocahontas — will have to wait four more months to find out if its 35-year quest to become the first tribe in Virginia to be recognized by the federal government will be successful.” Kevin Brown, “the chief of the 208-member Pamunkeys, was notified of the delay in a letter sent to him on Friday by the Interior Department.” According to the article, “the letter said only that the office of the assistant secretary for Indian affairs needs additional time to issue a final determination.”

BIA SUPERINTENDENT WHO WAS STABBED NOW IN STABLE CONDITION. The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (3/29, 11K) reports that the BIA superintendent who was “stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition.” According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, “Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery.”

SEN. BLUMENTHAL NOW OPPOSES FEDERAL RECOGNITION THIRD PARTY VETO. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/27, 49K) reports that Sen. Richard Blumenthal “now says that a third party

veto provision he helped insert into the Bureau of Indian Affairs' proposed revisions of the federal recognition rules is unconstitutional." Blumenthal said, "I've argued, and so have other parties, that [the third party veto] raises very severe constitutional questions." He recommend "instead that 'Congress should have sole authority to approve post-1934 tribal trust land requests.'"

EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION CHAIRMAN WANTS ANSWERS ON PROPOSED CASINOS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/27, 49K) reports that "a proposal for one to two new casinos within the state of Connecticut has raised multiple questions for one tribal chairman." The article posts a letter by Dennis Jenkins, chairman of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, who "wants answers while also wondering where's the outcry like his tribe saw in seeking federal recognition."

PROPOSED SOUTH BEND CASINO COULD BE "GAME-CHANGER". The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (3/29, 283K) reports that "the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' plan to bring a Four Winds Casino and Hotel to South Bend could include a casino larger than Horseshoe in Hammond and a hotel with more rooms than Blue Chip's tower in Michigan City." The proposal, "which describes the largest development the Pokagon Band might pursue, is part of a draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs earlier this month." According to an industry analyst, "for Indiana's existing commercial casinos, it would be a 'game-changer' that would have a 'significant impact on all (casino) properties in the state.'"

BIE APPROVES CONVERSION OF ISLETA ELEMENTARY MOVES. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/29, 238K) reports that "the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education has officially authorized the conversion of Isleta Elementary School from a BIE school – a government operation since the 1890s – into a tribally controlled Grant School effective July 1." BIE administrator Casey Sova "handed the approval notification to Isleta Pueblo Gov. E. Paul Torres last Thursday at Isleta Pueblo."

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES SAY OREGON MAP OFFENSIVE. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on a controversy in Grant County, Oregon regarding names on a map that local Native American tribes call offensive and have asked to be changed. However, the Times says the "simple matter has turned into dispute" with white county leaders and has lasted for years and may not be resolved for several more years. The story asserts that "Oregon and many other states have learned the hard way that erasing objectionable place names is slow and difficult at best," can open old wounds, and pit people along racial lines over "what is offensive and whose history the names should reflect."

Top National News:

AS DEADLINE LOOMS, OUTCOME OF IRAN TALKS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. Coverage of the ongoing Iranian nuclear talks in Lausanne cast the parties as frantically seeking a deal before Thursday's self-imposed deadline, but points to significant obstacles still standing in the path to an agreement. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Morello, Booth, 5.17M) notes that the negotiations "are growing more intensive, starting early in the morning and continuing until almost midnight," and "a US official familiar with the negotiations said it would not be surprising if the talks come down to the wire, continuing through deadline day." Said the unnamed official, "A lot of other pieces of the puzzle that sit on the table are not yet resolved. ... But they are the kind of puzzle pieces that most of us think will fall into place more likely than not if we get through some of these really tough, tough issues." The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) says the "substantial differences between the sides may prove too difficult to bridge before Tuesday's deadline for a preliminary agreement," and cites Iranian push-back "on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms" as the most significant impediment to a deal.

Teny Moran reported on [ABC World News](#) (3/29, story 3, 1:55, Llamas, 5.84M) that the main "sticking points" are: "How fast will sanctions on Iran be lifted? And what kinds of nuclear programs will Iran be allowed after the deal?" According to unnamed "negotiators," Iran "has agreed to tougher inspections," but in exchange, "wants to keep a lot of their nuclear infrastructure intact." The US "is saying no to that, for now." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/29, Meyer, Foroohar, Tirone, 2.94M), meanwhile, sees "Iran's insistence on an immediate lifting of United Nations sanctions" as the "main obstacle to securing a framework agreement." As the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Mufson, 5.17M) reports, "the Iranian economy is still a shadow of what it could be if international sanctions were lifted."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest addressed the Iran nuclear negotiations on [ABC's This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), stating, "The President has been very clear that the best way for us to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons is by pursuing diplomacy to get Iran to take steps voluntarily to shut down the path to nuclear weapons. We want them to comply with stringent inspections. That is the best way for us to resolve our concerns about Iran's nuclear program and to definitively prevent them from obtaining a nuclear

weapon. At the same time, this requires Iran to make commitments. We have been negotiating about this for more than a year. The President believes we should be able to reach an agreement by the end of March, if one is doable. But there are still significant gaps that remain.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Wheaton, Toosi, 669K) reports Eamest also “reiterated that the White House is not looking to extend beyond Tuesday the talks in...Lausanne, where both sides in recent days have suggested the other should soften its stance.” Another [Politico](#) (3/29, Crowley, 669K) story, however, says “there’s no practical reason the United States and its partners couldn’t keep negotiating” beyond Tuesday, as “the real deadline of concern for the Obama White House is April 13, when the Senate is scheduled to return from its Easter recess – and will likely take up legislation cracking down on Iran if a framework is not in hand.”

The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) reports that as the talks continue, Secretary of State Kerry “canceled plans Sunday to return to the United States for an event honoring the late US Sen. Edward Kennedy,” while “French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, his German counterpart, scratched planned trips to Kazakhstan.” [Politico](#) (3/29, Wheaton, Toosi, 669K) sees Kerry’s decision not to attend the Kennedy event as “a sign that the talks were intensifying,” while the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Morello, Booth, 5.17M) notes “the British foreign secretary,” Philip Hammond, “was expected to arrive later Sunday, creating a joint front in the final push to settle unresolved issues.” [AFP](#) (3/30) notes that Hammond “said late Sunday he believed a nuclear deal with Iran could be reached, but insisted it must put an atomic bomb ‘beyond reach.’” [Bloomberg News](#) (3/29, Meyer, Foroohar, Tirone, 2.94M), meanwhile, reports “the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi,” was also “expected to offer fresh proposals.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/29, story 6, 1:15, Quintanilla, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell described the latest round of talks as “grueling,” and cautioned that even if Kerry manages to get a deal, “Congress may try to scuttle it when he gets home.”

[AFP](#) (3/30, Biddle), meanwhile, indicates that according to “diplomats...key parts of an outline had been tentatively agreed” for a “framework” accord, which is “meant to be fleshed out into a comprehensive agreement by June 30.” The key tenets of the deal would include, “a ‘one-year breakout time’”; Iran slashing “the total number of its centrifuges by about two-thirds, to about 6,000”; “staggered” sanctions relief, “linked to certain ‘milestones’”; the “virtually impregnable underground Fordo facility near the holy city of Qom would cease uranium enrichment”; and “the US bottom line,” which is that “Iran must agree to unprecedented inspections of both nuclear and production facilities as well as uranium mines and mills.”

Asked if a deal will be reached, House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), “A lot depends on whether Iran backs down on a couple of points. One is they want this deal lifted after ten years. They want the caps lifted after ten years. The second point, they don’t want inspections of some of their military facilities where they have done this research. And, lastly, the international inspectors have a list of 12 questions they want Iran to answer on nuclear modeling and explosive tests. So far, Iran has only agreed to answer half of the first question. ... There are very real concerns about why Iran won’t come clean with this evidence to the IAEA inspectors.”

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (3/29, Schieffer, 2.64M) that he has “just got bits and pieces [about the negotiation process] from Administration and other sources that are familiar with the negotiations,” and “it doesn’t seem to be headed in the right direction. Clearly, with the deadline of Tuesday, I’m concerned with what we might give away. Iranians don’t seem to want to conclude this. ... I would encourage the Administration to take more time.”

Iran No Longer Willing To Ship Uranium Stockpiles Abroad. The [Hill](#) (3/29, Byrnes, 224K) quotes “Iran’s lead negotiator,” Abbas Araqchi, as saying yesterday, “Getting to an accord is doable. Solutions have been found for numerous questions. We are still working on two or three issues... The talks are in their final phase and are very difficult.” [Reuters](#) (3/30, Charbonneau), however, notes that Araqchi also told reporters that the idea of sending stockpiles abroad is “not on Iran’s agenda.” That position, says the [New York Times](#) (3/30, Sanger, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), marks a shift “from a critical element of a proposed nuclear agreement” and could create “a potential roadblock at a critical time in the talks.” The Times adds that “for months, Iran tentatively agreed that it would send a large portion of its stockpile of uranium to Russia, where it would not be accessible for use in any future weapons program.” While “Western officials confirmed that Iran was balking at shipping the fuel out,” they “insisted that there were other ways of dealing with the material.”

McConnell In Israel As Netanyahu Derides “Iran-Lausanne-Yemen Axis.” The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) reports that Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu “renewed strong criticism of what he brands a bad deal,” linking “Iran’s alleged proxy grab for influence in the Middle East with what he sees as victory by Tehran at the negotiations in the Swiss city of Lausanne.” Said Netanyahu, “The Iran-Lausanne-Yemen axis is very dangerous for humanity and

must be stopped." The AP notes that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, "heading a delegation of American senators visiting Israel, said the lawmakers supported legislation to require Congress to approve any agreement on Iran's nuclear program, or to increase penalties against Iran if no deal is reached." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that McConnell, appearing alongside Netanyahu, said yesterday that "if there's no deal, then the view of this group...is that ratcheting up sanctions might be the best direction to take." [Politico](#) (3/29, Everett, 669K) says McConnell's trip to Israel had not been "previously announced." Speaker John Boehner is also "set to visit Israel over the two-week Easter recess for Congress."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/29, Bash, 420K) yesterday, Boehner defended his upcoming trip to Israel, which has been criticized as a "victory lap" after Netanyahu spoke before Congress, saying, "My visit there was planned months ago before the Prime Minister came to Washington and before his re-election, so it's not quite what I would describe as a 'victory lap.' There are serious issues and activities going on in the Middle East. I think it's critically important for members of Congress to hear from foreign leaders, other governments, and other parts of their government in order to get a real handle on the challenges we face there." Boehner also [stated](#) (3/29, Bash, 420K), "I think the animosity exhibited by our Administration toward the Prime Minister of Israel is reprehensible. I think that the pressure they've put on him over the last four or five years have, frankly, pushed him to the point where he had to speak up. I don't blame him at all for speaking up."

[AFP](#) (3/30) quotes Netanyahu as saying yesterday, "The dangerous accord which is being negotiated in Lausanne...confirms our concerns and even worse." Deputy Foreign Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, "who is close to Netanyahu," told "public radio that Israel 'will not be bound by an accord concluded by others and will know how to defend itself.'"

Saudi Ambassador Points To Kerry Assurances About Talks, Eventual Deal. Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel al-Jubeir said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), "I believe everybody wants a deal. But everybody wants a good deal. We have been assured by...Kerry that the United States intends to prevent Iran from acquiring an atomic bomb, close all paths leading to an atomic bomb, substantially limit Iran's ability to do research and enrich, and impose intrusive and continuous inspections on Iran. We hope this will be the case. But we really will not know until we see the details. I don't believe the details have been worked out yet. We expect there will be a framework agreement with the details to be negotiated over next two or three months. So the key will be in those details." In a report this morning, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/30, Hennigan, 3.49M) highlights that "Jubeir expressed hope that a deal would be reached that would ensure regional stability."

Former Obama Intel Official: Administration Showing "Willful Ignorance." The [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Griswold, 318K) reported that "Obama's former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn said on 'Fox News Sunday' he believes the White House is acting with 'willful ignorance'" in its dealings with Iran. Said Flynn, "To me, we have some major problems that we are dealing with and here we are talking to Iran about a nuclear deal with this almost complete breakdown of order in the Middle East. One of the things that we have to keep in mind on Iran is Iran is also a country with ballistic missiles, cyber capabilities, they are also still a state-sponsor of terrorism. And here we are dealing with them as though we're going to give them a carte blanche - I know it will be some number of years to have a nuclear capability. Give me a break!"

White House Steps Up Efforts To Build Support For Iran Nuclear Deal. A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, A1, Lee, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that with the deadline for a nuclear deal with Iran looming, the White House is stepping up its efforts to build legislative and public support for an agreement. The Journal adds that White House officials have privately expressed an openness to accept legislation to give Congress some oversight should the talks yield the main outlines of a deal.

Kasich: For Obama To Sidestep Congress Would Be "A Bad, Bad Idea." Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo](#) (3/29), "Any agreement with Iran should be taken to Congress and should be closely reviewed. ... The idea that the President may go to the United Nations and skirt Congress is a bad, bad idea."

Alfoneh, Gerecht Alarmed Over Possible North Korea-Iran Cooperation. Ali Alfoneh and Reuel Marc Gerecht, senior fellows at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, write in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Alfoneh, Gerecht, 5.17M) that the Administration "has shied away from a potentially paralyzing issue: the 'possible military dimensions' - the PMDs - of the regime's program," with "one of the most important issues - probable North Korean nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic," deserving "special scrutiny." Such a "disturbing partnership casts serious doubt on the Obama administration's hope that President Hassan Rouhani and his team have any intention of limiting Iran's nuclear ambitions." The authors go on to denounce contacts between the two nations and indicate that US intelligence doesn't seem to know "how long...this nefarious

partnership” continued and what came of it.

PENCE DEFENDS INDIANA LAW, SAYS OBAMA AND BILL CLINTON BACKED SIMILAR MEASURES.

Media coverage of Indiana’s “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” generally cast it as a vehicle that could potentially lead to discrimination against gay Americans, and describes a growing chorus of opposition from the business community, hurting the state’s reputation. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/30, Mack, 593K), for example, notes that the bill has earned “national criticism from people who think the bill could lead to discrimination from business owners or religious leaders who don’t want to serve gays or same-sex customers.” The Star adds “business leaders also have criticized” it, “saying that it gives the state a bad image and will make it harder to recruit top talent to Indiana.” [USA Today](#) (3/30, Wolf, 4.95M) similarly describes Indiana as “facing a rising tide of criticism and business boycotts,” and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/29, Lerman, Schoenberger, 169K) reports that “Angie’s List Inc., the consumer-review website, on Saturday withdrew a proposal to expand its Indianapolis headquarters, a planned \$40 million investment, days before it was to break ground,” and that “technology-industry leaders including Apple Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook and Salesforce.com Inc. CEO Marc Benioff have also spoken out.”

Cook, in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Cook, 5.17M), warns that “a wave of legislation, introduced in more than two dozen states, would allow people to discriminate against their neighbors,” and says “America’s business community recognized a long time ago that discrimination, in all its forms, is bad for business.”

Gov. Mike Pence’s arguments in defense of the law were also given plenty of play in most reports. On [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Pence said “the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was signed into Federal law by Bill Clinton more than 20 years ago,” and “after that, some 19 states adopted it. After last year’s Hobby Lobby case, Indiana properly brought the same version that then-state Sen. Barack Obama voted for in Illinois,” and “I was proud to sign it into law last week.” Pence also derided the “tremendous amount of misinformation around this bill,” and pledged that Indiana is “not going to change” it, because it is “about protecting the liberty of every Hoosier of every faith.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes “critics, however, say the Indiana law includes different wording that could open the door to wider discrimination.” Moreover, “critics...note that in many of the states with similar laws, including Illinois, sexual orientation is protected under civil rights law. In Indiana, gays and lesbians are not a protected class.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Robillard, 669K) notes Pence took issue with what he cast as “reckless” and “shameless” media coverage, “claiming Indiana has been hit with ‘an avalanche of intolerance,’” while the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Hicks, Halzack, 5.17M) reports that he “said he expects additional legislation this week to clarify the intent of the law.” The Post adds that “one idea under consideration is a proposal to add sexual orientation as a protected class under the state’s civil rights laws.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/29, Reilly, 281K) says Pence “refused to say...whether it should be illegal under state law to discriminate against gays and lesbians,” dodging “a question from George Stephanopoulos about whether the law would allow florists and bakers to deny their wedding services to gay couples by citing their religious beliefs. He also twice dodged a yes-or-no question on whether he believed it should be legal to discriminate against gays and lesbians under state law.” [Reuters](#) (3/30, Selyukh) notes that Pence assured the audience, however, that the law “does not apply to disputes between individuals, unless government action is involved.” [The Hill](#) (3/29, Hensch, 224K), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Zumbrun, Phillips, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), and the [Washington Times](#) (3/30, Richardson, 644K), among other news outlets, also report Pence’s comments.

In response, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), “If you have to go back two decades to try to justify what you’re doing today, it may raise questions about the wisdom of what you’re doing. It should be easy for leaders to stand up and say, ‘It’s wrong to discriminate against people just because of who they love.’ This is not a political argument. Business leaders all across the country say they’re reluctant to do business in the state of Indiana...because of this law.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Smith, 318K), meanwhile, ran a list of celebrity Twitter messages about the law, and says “Hollywood has been descending on the bill, calling it a ‘new hate law’ and decrying it as living ‘in the past.’” [ABC World News](#) (3/29, story 5, 2:05, Benitez, 5.84M) also noted the “big names...joining the protesters on social media. From Miley Cyrus to Hillary Clinton, tweeting, ‘Sad this new Indiana law can happen in America today.’ Apple chief Tim Cook, saying ‘We are deeply disappointed.’ Former NBA star Charles Barkley now calling for the NCAA to pull this week’s final four tournament out of Indiana.”

During Debate On Controversial Bill, State Lawmaker Accuses 18-Month-Old Of Racism. The [Washington](#)

[Times](#) (3/30, Howell, 644K) reports that state Democratic Rep. Vanessa Summers “drew gasps during a debate on the state’s religious freedom bill when she accused a colleague’s 18-month-old son of being racist.” Said Summers, “I told [Rep.] Jud McMillin I love his son, but he’s scared of me because of my color. ... He looked at me like I was a monster and turned around and cried. ... And I told him you need to introduce your child to some people that are dark-skinned so he will not be scared.”

O’MALLEY: PRESIDENCY SHOULD NOT BE PASSED BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES. The [AP](#) (3/30, Fram) reports that former Maryland governor and potential Democratic presidential candidate Martin O’Malley on Sunday “criticized the prospects of the Clinton and Bush families yet again seeking the White House.” Speaking on ABC’s “This Week,” O’Malley said, “The presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families,” adding that the country “always benefits from new leadership and new perspectives.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Robillard, 669K) says that O’Malley “portrayed himself as a new face for the Democratic Party and a progressive alternative, more willing to directly confront inequality and take on Wall Street,” and broke with his earlier strategy of ignoring questions about Hillary Clinton. When asked whether she would be the best candidate to address special interests, O’Malley replied, “I don’t know. I don’t know where she stands. Will she represent a break with the failed policies of the past? I don’t know.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/29, Reilly, 281K) quotes O’Malley as saying, “I believe that there are new perspectives that are needed in order for us to resolve the problems that we face as Americans and also the problems we face as people on this planet, and I believe that new perspective and new leadership is needed.”

According to the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Wagner, 5.17M), when George Stephanopoulos expressed surprise at O’Malley’s “forcefulness” and asked which two families O’Malley was referencing, “O’Malley demurred, saying it could be ‘any two families.’” The Post adds that O’Malley “reiterated that he plans to make up his mind about a White House bid this spring.”

He added on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), “I believe our country is at a defining moment in our history. The American dream is no longer true for the 80% of us working harder not getting further ahead. I have the experience after 15 years as executive, of governor of a state and mayor of a big city. Of getting things done. Bringing people to accomplish difficult things. To create a stronger economy.”

[McClatchy](#) (3/29, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that although O’Malley “raised strong doubts” about Clinton, she remains “far ahead of him and every other potential contender among Democrats in poll after poll.”

According to the [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Griswold, 318K), former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said Sunday that a primary campaign by O’Malley could cost him a cabinet position in Clinton’s Administration. Granholm said of O’Malley, “I was thinking he might make a nice member of a President Clinton administration, so he better watch it.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/30, Miller, 644K) says that O’Malley’s remarks on Sunday, as well as his “aggressive travel schedule” in primary states reflect his efforts “to make his way to the top of the ticket and beat back naysaying political analysts” who doubt his chances of victory. The article illustrates that despite his positions and positive feedback from supporters, many commenters speculate that O’Malley is posturing for a vice presidential spot, which they said he would be good for.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*For the Police, Quality Over Quantity.*” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/30, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) weighs whether the NYPD should add “more cops even though crime is at historic lows and a sense of civic calm – a [peacetime dividend,] as Commissioner William Bratton calls it – is evident across most of the city.” To the Times, “maybe the answer is it doesn’t matter that much.” Rather, “it’s how the department works, with responsive policing strategies, fewer arrests of petty offenders, less harassment of the innocent, and smart and forceful tactics for deterring crime, that will make the city a safer place.”

“*Stronger Dollar In A Weak Global Economy.*” The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) writes in an editorial that the dollar’s recent strengthening against other major currencies “largely reflects the realization among investors that the American economy will do much better than other major economies in the

coming months." While this renewed strength has "unnerved investors and policy makers," they argue that a stronger dollar "serves as a reminder that the world is still far too reliant on the United States, which itself has not yet fully recovered from the financial crisis." The editors believe this does bode well for "sustainable global growth."

WASHINGTON POST. *"We Don't Need Labels Telling Us Our Food Has Been Genetically Modified."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, 5.17M) says that the debate over genetically modified (GM) food "is a classic example of activists overstating risk based on fear of what might be unknown and on a distrust of corporations." According to the Post, efforts to mandate that GM food be labeled would deter its purchase "when the evidence calls for no such caution." The Post expresses support for a House bill that would "facilitate a voluntary labeling system and prevent states and localities from going any further to indulge the GM labeling crowd."

"Payday Lending Is Ripe For Some Consumer-Protection Rules." An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Editorial for the Washington (DC), Post, 5.17M) says the CFPB's proposal for regulation of the payday lending industry, which "mandates the kind of underwriting that payday lending characteristically avoids," could "go a long way toward ending, or at least reducing, payday-lending horror stories." But it will "probably come at the cost of precluding some mutually advantageous transactions that would otherwise have occurred." The Post expresses hope that as the proposal enters the review period, its "true costs and benefits will get a thorough discussion."

"The ABC's Of Policing Underage Drinking." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, 5.17M) lauds the "sound logic" of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe who, following the arrest of Martese Johnson, "a 20-year-old African American junior at the University of Virginia who required 10 stitches after he was tackled and arrested by agents of the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control," ordered that "ABC agents be retrained, and rein[ed] in the agency's law-enforcement arm." The Post adds that ABC agents must "get the message that restraint and measured responses are critical to good policing."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Preet Bharara's Methods."* An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) questions the methods of US Attorney for the Southern District of Manhattan Preet Bharara in his investigation of the hedge fund Level Global, noting that Bharara's team used information now known to be false to name fund founder David Ganek personally in a search warrant. The Journal adds that Ganek is now suing Bharara and says discovery in the case may provide an explanation as to how the false accusation made it into the warrant.

"One Less Fraud In Washington." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorial praises House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi for their efforts to require more accurate reporting on Federal loan programs but requiring the CBO to report loan costs using the fair-value accounting used in the private economy.

"The Reid-Obama Bargain." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) argues that Senate Majority Leader Reid has pushed the President's agenda on Capitol Hill as part of a political bargain under which the President blocked the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in return. The Journal adds that while the arrangement was beneficial for the President and Reid, it has been damaging to Senate Democrats, who will likely remain in the minority after the next election as a result.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Arab Force Aims To Offset Iran's Power](#)

When Death Row Runs Out Of Room

Reform Dreams Have Soured

A Gadfly On The Ball

Shift In Japan On Nuclear Facilities

Wall Street Journal:

[Rubio Makes Plans For 2016 Run](#)

[Obama Ramps Up Lobbying On Iran As Deadline Looms](#)

How Jeffrey Katzenberg Is Rewriting Dreamworks' Script
A Local Bank In Amish Country Flourishes

New York Times:

Iran Backs Off Key Point In Nuclear Energy Negotiations
Plane Crash Tests Germany's Faith In Its Precision
Bush And Walker Point Their Party To Contrary Paths
GNC To Strengthen Quality Controls On Dietary Supplements
Foreclosure To Home Free, As Legal Clock Expires
Defense Question In Boston: To Testify Or Not

Washington Post:

Foes: Christie Left Wind Power Twisting
Courting Careless Millennials, Suburbs Turn To Mass Transit
Arab Nations Will Create Joint Force
New Hepatitis C Drugs Cost Medicare Billions
Sanctions' Impact May Bring Iran To Nuclear Deal

Financial Times:

Mideast Tensions Heighten Over Yemen
China Industrialist Criticises US Over Visas

Washington Times:

Sunni Powers Pursue NATO-Like Alliance
Arab Allies To Use US Weapons, Not Leaders
Obama Now Hits Religious Freedom In Indiana
O'Malley Impresses—As Vice President
In Kennedy's Chair, Warren Tops Liberals Over Obama
Obama's Ill Views Of Israel Spread To Virginia State Bar Association

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Germanwings Flight Crash; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; New York City-Gas Explosion; Indiana Law-Religious Freedom Act; Coffee-Liver Cancer Reduction.

CBS: Preempted by sports.

NBC: Germanwings Flight Crash; Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Yemen-Arab Military Force; Tunisia-Islamic Militant Protests; Pope Francis-Palm Sunday Mass; Iran Nuclear Program Deadline; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; New York City Gas Explosion; US Power Grid Security; NCAA Tournament; Electronic Tipping; West Wing Receptionist.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Flight Crash – 5 minutes, 00 seconds
Air Canada Flight-Emergency Landing – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
Iran Nuclear Agreement- Deadline – 3 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Indiana Law-Religious Freedom Act; Iran Nuclear Deal-Deadline; NCAA Tournament Final Four; New York City Gas Explosion-Bodies Discovered; Pacific Earthquake; Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Orange County-Private Plane Crash.

CBS: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Syria-Chemical Warfare; Germanwings Crash-Memorial Service; Indiana Law-Religious Freedom Act; NCAA Tournament-Final Four; Asian Markets.

NPR: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Germanwings Crash-Memorials; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Mental Health; Air Canada Flight-Emergency Landing; NCAA Tournament-Final Four; New York City Gas Explosion-Bodies Found; Broadway Director Death.

FOX: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Syria President-International Inspection; Orange County-Private Plane Crash; Pacific Earthquake.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Celebrates the life and legacy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, Massachusetts; attends a DNC roundtable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Celebrates the life and legacy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, Massachusetts.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Celebrates the life and legacy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, Massachusetts.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: 1 p.m. — The House may meet in a pro forma session on Monday, March 30th at 1 pm. The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13th. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

1 p.m. **JOINT HOMELAND SECURITY, VETERANS' AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING** — Joint Hearing of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the U.S. Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives. Witnesses: Panel 1: Candace Delis, Aubumdale, WI; Ryan Honl, Tomah, WI; Noelle Johnson, PHARM.D., BCACP, CGP Urbandale, IA; Heather Simcakoski, Stevens Point, WI; Marvin Simcakoski, Stevens Point, WI. Panel 2: John Daigh, M.D., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Alan Mallinger, M.D., Senior Physician, Office of Healthcare Inspections; Carolyn Clancy, M.D., Interim Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Renee Oshinski, Acting Network Director, VISN 12, Veterans Health Administration. Accompanied by: Mario V. DeSanctis, FACHE, Medical Center Director, Tomah VAMC. <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/joint-hearing-of-the-committee-on-homeland-security-and-governmental-affairs-of-the-us> Location: Cranberry Country Lodge, 319 Wittig Road Tomah, Wisconsin 54660.

Other: AARP – LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED — 9:30 a.m. The AARP Public Policy Institute will release a new report on the results of a survey of the experiences of workers age 45 to 70 who faced unemployment in the past five years. The report and survey, titled "Against the Odds: Older Worker Reemployment in Today's Economy," focuses on reemployment, the steps people took to find work, and compares the new jobs of the reemployed with their prior jobs. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

'FULL EMPLOYMENT' – BEN BERNANKE — 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Full Employment Project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities presents: "Full Employment: How Can We Get There and Stay There? Why Does It Matter?" Keynote by former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Distinguished Fellow in Residence, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – GEN. WESLEY CLARK — 4:30 p.m. General Wesley Clark: Exclusive Briefing from Ukraines Front Lines. General Clark is the former NATO Allied Commander, who just returned from Ukraine where he met with Ukrainian military commanders and President Petro Poroshenko. <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/general-wesley-clark-exclusive-briefing-from-ukraines-front-lines> Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor (West Tower).

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday the White House confirmed that President Obama will meet with Pope Francis during his visit in September. Some experts are wondering if they'll discuss their disagreement over contraception. Then Joe Biden was like, 'I didn't even know they were dating.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The President will meet with Pope Francis at the White House in September. The two will meet for about an hour or so, then the Pope will spend the rest of the day hearing confessions from Secret Service agents."

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of the Secret Service, they're still dealing with the fallout from that reported crash outside of the White House. Their director, Joseph Clancy, said the agency will now store its video footage for a week after he revealed that normally they get deleted after 72 hours."

Jimmy Fallon: "This week another potential candidate, Rand Paul, said that he's the only one who can beat Hillary Clinton in certain swing states. Hillary was like, 'That's ridiculous.' While Bill was like, 'Did somebody say swing?'"

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Confidential



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 30, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS CELEBRATED. The [AP](#) (3/29) reports that "the Obama administration and Gov. Kate Brown joined with Oregon ranchers to celebrate agreements they all hope will help keep the sage grouse off the endangered species list." The deals "announced Friday in Bend, Oregon, give ranchers incentives to protect sage grouse and their habitat on 5,500 square miles of private land in central and southeastern Oregon." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the governor, and Agriculture Deputy Undersecretary Ann Mills "praised the spirit of cooperation the agreements represent, and expressed their hopes that both sage grouse and family ranches would thrive."

The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/29, 506) reports that Jewell said, "These voluntary agreements establish a collaborative partnership to ensure the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and sustain working western rangelands. The agreements in Oregon are more evidence that we can work together to provide regulatory certainty for ranchers and other westerners who rely on sagebrush habitat for their livelihoods, and also take important steps to protect the hundreds of species that rely on these landscapes." The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/29, 94K) reports that Jewell said, "I want to thank Oregon for being a leader."

Also providing coverage are the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/29, 90K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/27, 110K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/27, 36K), the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (3/29, 86K), [Reuters](#) (3/27), [My Central Oregon](#) (3/27), the [EIN News](#) (3/29, 1K), and [KTVZ-TV Bend, OR](#) (3/29, 4K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NEW FRACKING RULE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/29, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "an anticipated cascade of litigation targeting the Obama administration's new drilling rule gained speed yesterday as a Wyoming lawsuit became the second legal challenge on court dockets so far." Wyoming's suit accuses the BLM of "abusing its power in crafting new requirements for fracking and drilling on public and American Indian lands." The action "joins an industry lawsuit filed minutes after the rule's unveiling in kicking off what is likely to be a protracted legal battle over the controversial regulatory scheme."

In an op-ed for the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 32K), Jillian Melchior, an energy fellow at the Independent Women's Forum, writes that the "redundant rules leave American Indians at a competitive disadvantage, quashing a huge opportunity for economic growth." She claims that the "new fracking regulations make it harder for American Indians to compete and to have their shot at the American dream."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Copyright 2015; Chronicle, 2.28M) editorializes that "the real appeal is demonstrating to the greater public that fracking can and will be done safely." BLM Director Neil Komze has said that "these rules are intended to provide 'greater confidence that we are, in fact, protecting groundwater'." The paper asserts that "we have to make sure that confidence doesn't end at our borders."

Also providing coverage are [The Hill](#) (3/28, Cama, 224K), the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (3/29, 105K) and the [Huffington Post](#) (3/27, |, Levitan, 281K)

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK ON NATIONAL PARKS AT BERKELEY. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (3/30, 1K) reports that "on Thursday, March 26, the Horace M. Albright Lecture on Conservation will feature U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, UC President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley and Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks."

TESTER URGES CANCELLATION OF OIL, GAS LEASES NEAR BLACKFEET RESERVATION. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/29, 15K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester "joined the Blackfeet Nation Friday in calling on the federal government to protect the Badger-Two Medicine area from private industrialization, adding his voice to an unprecedented alliance of American Indian tribal nations urging the government to cancel existing oil and gas leases in the pristine region." Tester "sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary

Tom Vilsack urging them to rescind the energy leases in the Badger-Two Medicine, which is sacred to the Blackfoot Tribe and one of the Montana's most pristine outdoor areas." He wrote, "This area has unique cultural, historical, spiritual, and recreational significance to the people of the Blackfoot Nation and Montana. I request that the remaining oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine be cancelled to prevent adverse effects to the land or the people of the region."

Also reporting on the story is [The Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/29, 113K).

SENATE VOTES ON FEDERAL LAND TRANSFER AMENDMENT. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/29, 38K) reports that Sen. Steve Daines "came under fire from conservation groups and outdoor-related business interests Friday after his vote for an amendment critics say is a first step to federal land transfer or sale." The amendment, brought by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, "to the U.S. Senate budget resolution, authorizes the Senate to create a fund relating to any legislative action that results in transfers, sales or exchanges of federal lands with states or local governments."

INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTED. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 4.78M) highlights photos shared by the Interior Department on Instagram.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HONOLULI NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION. Additional coverage of the designation of the Honouliuli National Monument was provided by the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/29, 360K) and the [4-Traders](#) (3/29, 6K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S JEWELL'S PENDING DECISION ON SHELL'S DRILLING IN ARCTIC. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's pending decision on Shell's drilling in the Arctic was provided by [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 807K), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K), the [Arctic Journal \(GRL\)](#) (3/29), the [Seattle Stranger](#) (3/27, 162K), [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (3/30, 14K), and the [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (3/26, Aitchison, Subscription Publication, 48K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL AGENCIES RENEW FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE HYDROPOWER. Additional coverage that "the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of the Army for Civil Works...have extended their partnership to advance hydropower development for an additional five year" was provided by the [Breaking Energy](#) (3/27).

PROPOSAL TO REFORM COAL LEASING SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 405K), Jack Thomas, mayor of Park City, writes that "Interior has put forth a proposal to address some of these loopholes and begin reforming the federal coal program." He supports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's statement that "now is the 'time for an honest and open conversation' about reforming the federal coal program and ensuring the correct royalty rate is given to taxpayers." Thomas writes that "mountain communities across the West are looking to the future with trepidation, yet Interior has the power to ease the economic and environmental burden facing towns like Park City."

MONTANA'S SENATORS URGED TO SUPPORT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND . In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/28, 54K), Becky Edwards urges Montana's Senators to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund

NYTIMES: DENIAL OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAMPERS DISASTER PLANNING. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/29, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says planning for natural disasters "is hampered by politicians who deny the every existence of changes in the climate."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS LAUNCHING "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. The AP (3/30, Zongker) reports "after nearly 100 years, the National Park Service holds some of the most beautiful and historic places in the country, though there's also an \$11 billion backlog of unfunded maintenance and a visitor base that's aging and mostly white." Now, "with its centennial approaching in 2016, the park service will launch a major campaign Thursday in New York City to raise support and introduce a new, more diverse generation of millennials and children to 'America's best idea' the national parks." The article notes that "First lady Michelle Obama and former first lady Laura Bush will co-chair the campaign, calling on Americans to 'Find Your Park' to enjoy their public lands."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/30, Zongker, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/30, 4.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/30, Brett Zongker |, Ap, 5.17M), the [U-T San Diego \(CA\)](#) (3/30, 580K), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/30, 685K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/30, Zongker, 1.37M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/30, Zongker, 5.81M).

GREATER NAPLES YMCA CREATES CAMP WYHOWAY WITH BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. [WINK-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (3/27, 4K) reports that “the Greater Naples YMCA is embracing a new youth program focused around Florida’s national parks.” YMCA has “partnered with the Big Cypress National Preserve to create Camp Wyhoway.” J.D. Lee with the Big Cypress National Preserve said, “Some of the activities that we offer are educational walks, canoeing, we offer swamp buggy rides, we offer airboat rides.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Naples Herald](#) (3/28).

SECRET SERVICE TESTING WHITE HOUSE FENCE MODIFICATIONS. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Schmidt, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on how recent security breaches at the White House have prompted the Secret Service to look for a fence that is relatively “foolproof,” yet retains “curb appeal.” The agency “has conducted dozens of tests on possible modifications to the White House fence.” The effort includes the recruitment of “some of the agency’s best athletes — including tall, short, hefty and thin volunteers — to serve as pretend fence jumpers at a rural training ground outside Washington.”

TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO NPS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/29, 398K) reports that Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument’s first superintendent is Vincent Santucci, but his assignment is slated to last just 90 days. During that time, Santucci hopes to oversee the transfer of the property from the BLM to the NPS.

STUDY ANALYZES ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/27, 166K) reports that “Bangor has entered the debate over a new national park in Maine’s North Woods and, from the economic analyses, it’s a no-brainer for the city.” However, “the upside is not so clear for other cities and towns that don’t have Bangor’s economic base, rooted in growing health care employment.” The article notes that “in a review of past research from a range of Maine economists, a 2013 two-part study by Headwaters Economics, and commissioned by Roxanne Quimby’s land-holdings company Elliotsville Plantation Inc., posited the economic benefits of a national park, which it noted would come most immediately for Bangor.”

Millinocket Council Rejects Holding Public Vote On National Park. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/27, 166K) reports that Millinocket “voters won’t get the chance to tell the Town Council in June whether they support the proposed 150,000-acre North Woods national park and recreation area.” According to the article, “councilors on Thursday debated placing on a ballot for the annual school budget referendum in June a question asking voters whether they support Lucas St. Clair’s proposed gift to the National Park Service.” The council “voted 6-1 against the notion as suggested by Councilor Michael Madore, an outspoken park critic.”

EVENTS SET TO MARK THE 1865 FALL OF RICHMOND. The [AP](#) (3/28, Press, 5.17M) reports that “events are scheduled for April to commemorate the 1865 fall of Richmond.” According to officials, “the four-day commemoration beginning Wednesday will feature special illuminations, programs and tours of the city’s historic areas.” The article notes that “the events are being sponsored by a collaborative effort of historical societies, museums, national parks, tourism offices, commissions and cultural organizations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/29, 322K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/29, 322K), and the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Kennicott, 5.17M).

YOSEMITE’S GLACIER POINT ROAD OPENS EARLY IN SEASON. The [AP](#) (3/29, 2.28M) reports that “a road leading to spectacular views of California’s Yosemite National Park opened to drivers on Saturday, marking the earliest date for the occasion in at least 20 years.” Glacier Point Road “takes drivers to a lookout perched at 3, 214 feet above the valley floor, where visitors can view spectacles such as the Half Dome rock, Yosemite Falls and Yosemite’s high country.” The article notes that “this year’s March 28 opening is the earliest listed in records dating back to 1995 published on the park’s website.”

The [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/29, Sahagun, 3.49M) reports that “Yosemite National Park is bracing for its driest year on record, with visitor bureaus downplaying the allure of the park’s most famous waterfall and instead touting the park as a destination for hiking, bicycling and photography.” According to park officials, “Yosemite Falls will probably go dry in June — two months earlier than usual.” The article also notes that “with the drought

enabling western pine bark beetles to kill large swaths of forest, the park is preparing for a bad fire season.”

Also providing coverage are the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/29, Forgione, 3.49M).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TO ALLOW MOUNTAIN BIKES. The AP (3/29, 2.28M) reports that “mountain biking in Rocky Mountain National Park is close to reality.” The NPS has “finalized a report that allows mountain biking on a 2-mile stretch of trail on the park’s west side near Grand Lake.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/29, Press, 804K) and [The Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 76K).

NPS SURVEYS NASHVILLE TOLL BRIDGE. The [Tennessean](#) (3/28, 406K) reports that “continued interest in the history of the Nashville Toll Bridge, built in 1823, brought a team from the National Park Service to do a photographic survey, which was completed Saturday.” The article notes that “the bridge was recently designated as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail used by the Cherokee.” Also, there is “interest in the bridge’s relevance to early American engineering and bridge building and its designer Lewis Wernwag, known for a number of important bridges during the time period.”

NPS TO PLANT CHERRY TREES FOR ANACOSTIA FESTIVAL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/29, Polus, 5.17M) reports that “in keeping with this year’s theme of ‘celebrating the natural world,’ the National Cherry Blossom Festival is teaming with the National Park Service to host an event in Anacostia Park that will show off the park’s assets.” The NPS will “plant a small grove of cherry trees for the Anacostia festival, with the goal of extending the cherry blossoms farther beyond the Tidal Basin and raising awareness of a threatened but critical local waterway.” The article notes that “the river festival marks the official closing of this year’s Cherry Blossom Festival.”

JOSHUA TREE’S BARKER DAM RESTORED AFTER YEARS OF GRAFFITI. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/29, 85K) reports that “restoration experts from New Mexico and Vermont took paintbrushes to the concrete face of Barker Dam in Joshua Tree National Park last week, giving the historical landmark a facelift after years of vandalism.” The article notes that “their goal wasn’t to obliterate the scratched graffiti entirely” because “that would have involved damaging Barker Dam’s intricate texture, which still shows imprints of wood grain and corrugated metal from its construction, as well as old water lines.” Instead, according to the article, “the conservators settled on a different strategy: ‘inpainting,’ which involves dabbing the scratched areas with paint in an effort to recreate the natural color and texture of the dam.”

BILL WOULD RENAME WILDERNESS AREA IN LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE . The AP (3/27, 2.28M) reports that “Alaska’s U.S. senators have introduced legislation to rename a wilderness area after the late former Gov. Jay Hammond.” The legislation, from Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, would “name 2.6 million acres of wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area.”

RESTAURANT AT BIG ISLAND’S VOLCANO HOUSE TO REOPEN IN STAGES AFTER FIRE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/27, Jones, 3.49M) reports that “the main restaurant at a historic Big Island hotel in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is expected to reopen in stages after a fire Tuesday that injured an employee.”

YELLOWSTONE SPOKESMAN LEAVING AFTER NINE YEARS. The [Yellowstone \(WY\) Gate](#) (3/30) reports that “Al Nash has left the National Park Service after 9 years as the spokesman for Yellowstone National Park.” Nash, “the chief of public affairs for Yellowstone since 2006, reflected on nearly a decade in that role just before his last day on the job March 18.” The article notes that “the last nine years have seen sweeping changes in how the public finds and shares information about everything, including national parks.”

NEW YORK OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that New York officials have recommended the addition of the Skinny House, “along with 21 other properties and districts, to the National Register of Historic Places.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO DEPLOY BORDER COLLIES AT NATIONAL MALL. Additional coverage of the proposal to deploy Border collies at the National Mall was provided by the [National Review](#) (3/29, 633K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK.

Additional coverage of the planning for the Manhattan Project National Park was provided by the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (3/27).

REPAIRS AT NATIONAL PARKS URGED. The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/27, 1.14M) editorializes that “there is a \$11.5 billion backlog of deferred maintenance at our parks.” The paper asserts that “we have a responsibility to take care of the parks so the next generation can also enjoy and be inspired by them.”

In an editorial, the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (3/30, 51K) argues that “the national debt means we cannot merely borrow our way out of this problem.” It says that “a good chunk of the solution will have to come from users.”

NPS URGED TO LET ARIZONA HUNTERS DEAL WITH BISON PROBLEM. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/29, 1.14M), Sen. John McCain and Rep. Paul Gosar note that “nearly 600 unwanted bison have migrated into Grand Canyon National Park, causing environmental damage.” The NPS “plans to hire sharpshooters to cull the herd.” Instead, they argue that “Arizona hunters should be allowed to take bison and keep the meat.”

Bureau of Land Management:

KINGMAN FARMS OWNER FACING PROBE AMID BLM LAND SWAP DEAL. The [AP](#) (3/30) reports that “a proposed land exchange in the Red Lake area between Las Vegas developer Jim Rhodes and the Bureau of Land Management may be in trouble.” The BLM is “investigating a possible trespassing violation against Rhodes.”

DEADLINE FOR AGUA CALIENTE TRIBAL LAND SWAP COMMENTS APPROACHING. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/27, 85K) reports that the comments on a possible land exchange between the federal government and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is will be accepted until the end of Sunday.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

TRIBES RECEIVE GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION WORK. The [AP](#) (3/29, 81K) reports that the FWS has “awarded \$4.2 million in grants to Native American tribes in 13 states for conservation projects.” The funds will “support 22 projects benefiting wildlife and habitat.” The article notes that “projects are in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin.”

Also providing coverage are the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/29, 51K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/29, 2.28M), and the [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (3/27, 34K).

FEDERAL STUDY LISTS SPECIES TO BE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (3/30) reported that a Federal study concluded that some species of birds in northwest Alaska “could benefit from climate change but increased temperatures could harm populations of several mammals.”

FWS REVIEWING APPLICATION TO BRING RESCUED BEAR TO US. [NPR](#) (3/27, 1.58M) reports that Cholita, an Andean bespectacled bear, was “rescued from a circus in Peru after suffering from abuse. Animal Defenders International is now attempting to take Cholita to the U.S.” but “it is still waiting for approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” FWS authorities said that “they received the application and are processing it in order to expedite the request.”

PLANS TO STOCK ATLANTIC SALMON IN LAKE OAHE DELAYED. The [AP](#) (3/27, 2.28M) reports that “anglers will have to wait a little longer for a chance to catch Atlantic salmon in Lake Oahe.” South Dakota wildlife officials had “wanted to stock the first batch of the new species in the Missouri River reservoir in the Dakotas in the spring of 2016, but a deal to get eggs from a federal hatchery in New Hampshire has fallen through.” The FWS “facility in New Hampshire was working on a contract with an electric company that was restoring an Atlantic salmon population decimated by a hydroelectric dam, and that contract wasn’t renewed, said Will Saylor, administrator of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department’s fisheries program.”

FWS PLANS STURGEON SPAWNING SITES. The [New Jersey Herald](#) (3/29, 39K) reports that “since 2003, the federal government has spent \$10 million to create six sturgeon spawning sites in the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, and two more are planned.” The FWS has “taken the lead with help from the Ohio Department of Natural

Resources, Toledo Zoo and nonprofit conservation organization Lake Erie Waterkeeper.”

MAN FACING TRIAL OVER CLAIM HE PULLED PISTOL ON FEDERAL AGENT. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/29, 547K) reports that Andrew Watkins has been “charged with assaulting a federal officer with a deadly weapon, a felony that could net him 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.” The officer was FWS Special Agent Sean Mann, “who was investigating reports of vernal pool damage in violation of the federal Endangered Species Act.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS APPROVES APPLICATION TO IMPORT ENDANGERED RHINO’S HEAD. Additional coverage of the approval to import rhino trophies was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Copyright 2015; Chronicle, 2.28M) the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/26, 1.13M), the [National Geographic](#) (3/29, 32.58M) , [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, 685K), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, 5.81M), [BBC News](#) (3/29, 1.66M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 2.74M), and [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 807K)

MICHIGAN POLICYMAKERS CRITICIZED ON WOLF ISSUE. In an op-ed for the [Macomb County \(MI\) Advisor and Source Newspapers](#) (3/29, 155K), Jill Fritz, the director of Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, writes that “after being given a do-over on managing the state’s small wolf population, Michigan politicians and bureaucrats are following a familiar path of reckless behavior with their effort to restore trophy hunting of the now-endangered animals.” She offers “a pathway forward and a middle-ground on this controversial issue.” Fritz notes that “The Humane Society of the United States and 21 other animal protection and conservation groups, including the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Audubon Society, have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ‘downlist’ gray wolves from endangered to threatened.” According to Fritz, “this would retain federal protections for wolves, but also provide more flexible management so wildlife officials could kill or remove the occasional problem wolf.”

OP-ED TOUTS REMOVAL OF DAMS WEST FORK RIVER. In an op-ed for the [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (3/29, 42K) , John Schmidt, a project leader with the FWS, and Frank Jemejic, a retired fishery biologist with West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, write that “the Clarksburg Water Board’s approval Monday to remove three dams in the West Fork River is a decision that will benefit both people and wildlife in the river’s surrounding communities of Harrison County, West Virginia.” They write that “our goal in removing the dams is to preserve our national heritage and legacy of abundant fish and wildlife, with places for families to experience nature, enjoy waterways and go fishing.”

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS EXAMINE STRESSES AT SAN ANDREAS FAULT. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (3/29, 936K) reports that “by studying quartz samples collected a mile-and-a-half beneath the San Andreas Fault, a small team at Lawrence Berkeley Lab is examining earthquake-causing stresses at a nearly atomic level, allowing scientists a closer look at the process behind quakes than ever before.” The article notes that “the findings are of interest to the U.S. Geological Survey, which recently raised the odds of a 7.0 magnitude or higher quake hitting the Bay Area to 51 percent in the next 30 years, with San Andreas branches, the Hayward and Calaveras faults overdue for a major quake.” Pasadena USGS research geologist Kate Scharer said, “The hazard posed by the San Andreas is very high for the simple fact that it’s the fastest-moving fault we have, so it has the best odds of producing the next quake. The faults (cause) a magnitude 6.5 or higher earthquake every 100 or so years. We’ve come to the average interval.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND POWER ADVOCATES QUESTION NEW JERSEY’S COMMITMENT TO WIND POWER. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, A1, Warrick, 5.17M) reports that New Jersey’s lack of progress on wind energy development is “the subject of intense debate here.” According to the article, “some blame the governor, whose enthusiasm for wind energy appeared to flag around the time he began exploring a run for the Republican presidential nomination.” Political opponents claim “the turning point was a series of meetings in 2011 and 2012 with key Republican donors, including billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, oil-industry magnates who have bankrolled campaigns against renewable energy.” Meanwhile, the Obama Administration has “aggressively promoted wind and solar energy as part of its larger effort to reduce carbon emissions.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in an interview, “The technology is proven, and the economics will prove themselves over time.”

SMALL PILOT WIND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE ACCEPTANCE. Derrick Jackson wrote in his [Boston Globe](#) (3/28, Jackson, 1.03M) column that the failed Cape Wind project was “paralyzed by selfish and powerful people who feared the views from their seaside mansions would be ruined.” However, several nascent efforts are now underway to help offshore wind to gain broad-based acceptance. Deepwater Wind recently secured financing for a 5-turbine, 30-megawatt pilot project will allow people to “see it, feel it, touch it, and take offshore wind from theory to reality.” The Administration supports similarly sized pilot projects. Jackson is optimistic about recent cooperation between Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Onshore Energy Development:

COLORADO DRILLING PLAN RELEASED. The [AP](#) (3/27, Elliott, 2.28M) reports that “a federal government plan for drilling in energy-rich northwestern Colorado released Friday includes stepped-up protections for public land near Dinosaur National Monument.” The article notes that “the proposal would also ease limits on what time of year drilling rigs can operate if energy companies consolidate well sites to minimize environmental disruptions.” The proposal “covers nearly 2,700 square miles of federal land in Rio Blanco County and parts of Moffat and Garfield counties” in the BLM’s White River district.

Also providing coverage are the [Denver Post](#) (3/29, Elliott, 804K) and the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (3/29, 64K).

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/29, 405K) reports that the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association has “come out against drilling for oil and gas off the coast, joining what appears to be a growing opposition in Atlantic coastal communities.” In a recent letter to the BOEM, it argued that “an oil spill could jeopardize the city’s tourism industry”.

In an op-ed for the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/29, 405K), Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network, warns about “the devastation a massive offshore oil spill can cause to coastal environments and communities.” She also writes that “while people on the Atlantic should be worried about a major catastrophe like the BP spill, the effects of drilling will be felt even if everything proceeds according to the oil and gas industry’s plans.” Sarthou adds that “residents of the Atlantic coast should likewise be aware of the industry’s terrible track record of cleanup and safety procedures.”

In an op-ed for the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (3/29, 5K), Matt Rutherford, the founder and executive director of the Ocean Research Project, opposes offshore drilling. He argues that “moving forward with this plan would threaten our region’s natural beauty and marine life.” He also warns that “an oil spill off the coast of Virginia and near the mouth of the Chesapeake could potentially throw off the entire migration of these marine species, disturbing the balance of the bay.”

The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (3/30, 28K) editorializes that “offshore seismic testing for oil and gas, and if anything is found, possible drilling, is a scary prospect we should avoid.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/29, 291K), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/29, 291K), the [Surf City \(NJ\) Sandpaper](#) (3/29) and [Offshore Magazine](#) (3/29, 129K).

US URGED TO PURSUE ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/27, 146K) reports that “the United States should move swiftly to harness the tremendous oil and gas reserves locked under its Arctic waters while the industry improves the equipment used to drill wells and sop up spills, according to a government advisory committee report released Friday.” The report, “conducted by the National Petroleum Council at the request of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, makes the case for the United States to aggressively develop Arctic oil and gas that can help supply the country with energy long after production tails off from onshore fields.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Argus Media](#) (3/29).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

FEDERAL FUNDING LACKING FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS. The [AP](#) (3/30, 988K) reports that “during the widespread drought, officials are struggling to finish large-scale water infrastructure projects while populations are growing, drinking water resources are dwindling, and federal dollars are diminishing.” The article notes that “the federal government is responsible for paying about \$3 billion to complete several rural water projects around the country,” but “the amount — expected to grow by the time the work is done — represents a fraction of the more than \$600 billion needed to address the nation’s water and wastewater needs over the next 20 years.” The BOR has “about \$36 million for rural water projects for the next fiscal year,” and “in its most recent analysis, the agency estimates the projects could be completed by 2029 with a total federal investment of about \$3 billion.”

The [AP](#) (3/30, 3.41M) reports that the BOR has “\$36 million to spend on projects during the next fiscal year — a fraction of the funds needed for the work.” The article provides “a look at the projects and current allocations.”

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE WATER TO NEW MELONES RESERVOIR. The [Turlock \(CA\) City News](#) (3/29) reports that “U.S. Representatives Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) and Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) released a letter to key regional federal regulators calling on them to revise plans and take actions to prevent water releases that threaten to leave New Melones reservoir dry this coming summer.” Recently, the BOR “announced initial 2015 water supply allocations for the Central Valley Project (CVP) based on a ‘conservative estimate’ of the amount of water that will be available for delivery to CVP water users; these allocations will be re-examined on a monthly basis, taking into consideration a variety of factors, according to the Bureau.” The article notes that “the letter regarding the matter from Denham and McClintock was addressed to senior officials at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, requested that the agencies meet immediately and enter emergency consultation proceedings.”

BOR PROVIDES UPDATED WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (3/28, 578) reports that the BOR says that, “due to continued dry conditions, the initial 2015 water supply allocation released on Feb. 27 for Central Valley Project agricultural contractors and municipal and industrial contractors remains unchanged.” Mid-Pacific Regional Director David Murillo said, “When we announced the initial allocation, we committed to providing regular water supply updates, recognizing the severe impacts of this fourth year of drought on our water users. We continue to work closely with our customers, contractors and federal and state partners to do everything possible to deliver the maximum amount of CVP water, including the 3.1 million acre-feet of CVP water already announced for allocation to our senior water contractors and urban water users last month.”

CALIFORNIA GOV. BROWN SIGNS \$1 BILLION EMERGENCY DROUGHT PACKAGE. [Reuters](#) (3/27) reports that California Governor Jerry Brown signed emergency legislation on Friday that fast-tracks over \$1 billion in funding for drought relief and water infrastructure. Brown said, “This funding is just one piece of a much larger effort to help those most impacted by the drought and prepare the state for an uncertain future. Rain is not in the forecast and every Californian must be doing their utmost to conserve water.”

DROUGHT THREATENS AMERICAN RIVER FISH. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/29, 547K) reports that “endangered steelhead about to hatch in the American River could soon be killed by low flows and warm temperatures caused by the drought, a sign of the ongoing struggle over scarce water supplies.” The BOR, “which operates Folsom and Nimbus dams on the American River, dropped water flows in the river to 500 cubic feet per second on Thursday.” BOR spokesman Louis Moore said, “That was primarily an effort to help conserve water based on the persistent drought conditions. Everything is being done to make sure the water supply we have is being used to the best of our ability, and we’re working with others to stretch it.”

BOR ACCEPTING LEASE LAND BIDS. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/29, 45K) reports that the BOR “announced that sealed bids for agricultural leasing of 24 parcels of federal lease lands, totaling 3,597 acres, can be received until 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the Klamath Basin Area Office.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FORMER BOR COMMISSIONER SUGGESTS ABOLISHMENT OF AGENCY . Additional coverage of former BOR’s commissioner Daniel Beard’s book “Deadbeat Dams: Why We Should Abolish the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Tear Down Glen Canyon Dam” was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 405K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SENDS SECOND ROUND OF LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS ON ROSEBUD SIOUX

RESERVATION. The [Nation Sun News](#) (3/29) reports that the Interior Department has “sent another \$34 million in offers to nearly 11,000 landowners on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.” Michael Connor, the deputy secretary at Interior said, “The success of this program is a vital component of this Administration’s commitment to restoring tribal homelands and remedying the harms caused by the repudiated allotment policy. Consolidating and returning these lands to tribes in trust have enormous potential to improve tribal community resources by increasing home site locations, improving transportation routes, spurring tribal economic development, and preserving traditional cultural or ceremonial sites.”

Also reporting on the story are [KSFY-TV Sioux Falls, SD](#) (3/29, 3K) and the [Native American Times](#) (3/26, 337).

COBELL SCHOLARSHIPS BEING PREPARED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/24, 49K) (3/24, 49K) reports that the Interior Department has “transferred \$5 million to the Scholarship Fund for American Indian/Alaska Native students authorized by the Cobell settlement.” In an interview, Turk Cobell and Alex Pearl, members of the Board of Trustees for the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, discussed “the status of the scholarship program recently.” Pearl said, “This is meant to be a perpetual fund so that Indian students can be going to college and receiving Cobell Scholarship Funds well after we’re long gone. It operates like any other Scholarship Funds where you restrict a portion of it so that the fund can continue for years and years and years.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Nation Sun News](#) (3/29).

INTERIOR HOSTS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM 2015 LISTENING SESSION AT GILA RIVER. The [Native News Online](#) (3/29) reports that “more than 150 tribal leaders and individual landowners joined Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn at the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) 2015 Listening Session last Thursday.” The meeting, “held on the Gila River Indian Community, allowed Interior officials to share updates and hear directly from tribal communities about how the Program can best be implemented across Indian Country.” Connor said, “We must do all we can to give landowners a meaningful chance to participate in the Program and receive compensation for their fractional interests, many of which are simply unusable because of the degree of fractionation. We are focused on ensuring that landowners are aware of the Program and are given every opportunity to make informed decisions about the potential sale of their land at fair market value.”

PRESENTATION MADE ON LAND BUY BACK PROGRAM. The [Navajo Post](#) (AZ) (3/29) reports that “Land Buy-Back Program manager John H. McClanahan and Senior Advisor on Tribal Relations Santee Lewis, presented to Naabik’iyáti’ Committee members on Thursday.” The article notes that “on March 17, the Land Buy-Back Program issued a letter to President Ben Shelly formally offering the cooperative agreement which would provide funding to support land consolidation activities.”

INTERIOR TO HOLD MEETING ON MINERALS AND ROYALTIES. The [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (3/24, 167) reports that “the Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue will hold a mineral and royalty question and answer session April 9 at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Fort Washakie.” The event will “help American Indian mineral interest owners with questions or concerns about minerals or royalty payments from oil, gas, sand or gravel production that occurs on their land.” The article notes that “a popular subject this year will be how the falling oil prices are affecting the royalties rendered to enrolled tribal members, said Thomas Piccirilli of the ONRR.”

DECISION DELAYED ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION FOR PAMUNKEY INDIANS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Heim, 5.17M) reports that “the Pamunkey Indians — best known as the tribe of Pocahontas — will have to wait four more months to find out if its 35-year quest to become the first tribe in Virginia to be recognized by the federal government will be successful.” Kevin Brown, “the chief of the 208-member Pamunkeys, was notified of the delay in a letter sent to him on Friday by the Interior Department.” According to the article, “the letter said only that the office of the assistant secretary for Indian affairs needs additional time to issue a final determination.”

BIA SUPERINTENDENT WHO WAS STABBED NOW IN STABLE CONDITION. The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (3/29, 11K) reports that the BIA superintendent who was “stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition.” According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, “Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery.”

SEN. BLUMENTHAL NOW OPPOSES FEDERAL RECOGNITION THIRD PARTY VETO. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/27, 49K) reports that Sen. Richard Blumenthal “now says that a third party

veto provision he helped insert into the Bureau of Indian Affairs' proposed revisions of the federal recognition rules is unconstitutional." Blumenthal said, "I've argued, and so have other parties, that [the third party veto] raises very severe constitutional questions." He recommend "instead that 'Congress should have sole authority to approve post-1934 tribal trust land requests.'"

EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION CHAIRMAN WANTS ANSWERS ON PROPOSED CASINOS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/27, 49K) reports that "a proposal for one to two new casinos within the state of Connecticut has raised multiple questions for one tribal chairman." The article posts a letter by Dennis Jenkins, chairman of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, who "wants answers while also wondering where's the outcry like his tribe saw in seeking federal recognition."

PROPOSED SOUTH BEND CASINO COULD BE "GAME-CHANGER". The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (3/29, 283K) reports that "the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' plan to bring a Four Winds Casino and Hotel to South Bend could include a casino larger than Horseshoe in Hammond and a hotel with more rooms than Blue Chip's tower in Michigan City." The proposal, "which describes the largest development the Pokagon Band might pursue, is part of a draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs earlier this month." According to an industry analyst, "for Indiana's existing commercial casinos, it would be a 'game-changer' that would have a 'significant impact on all (casino) properties in the state.'"

BIE APPROVES CONVERSION OF ISLETA ELEMENTARY MOVES. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/29, 238K) reports that "the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education has officially authorized the conversion of Isleta Elementary School from a BIE school – a government operation since the 1890s – into a tribally controlled Grant School effective July 1." BIE administrator Casey Sova "handed the approval notification to Isleta Pueblo Gov. E. Paul Torres last Thursday at Isleta Pueblo."

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES SAY OREGON MAP OFFENSIVE. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on a controversy in Grant County, Oregon regarding names on a map that local Native American tribes call offensive and have asked to be changed. However, the Times says the "simple matter has turned into dispute" with white county leaders and has lasted for years and may not be resolved for several more years. The story asserts that "Oregon and many other states have learned the hard way that erasing objectionable place names is slow and difficult at best," can open old wounds, and pit people along racial lines over "what is offensive and whose history the names should reflect."

Top National News:

AS DEADLINE LOOMS, OUTCOME OF IRAN TALKS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. Coverage of the ongoing Iranian nuclear talks in Lausanne cast the parties as frantically seeking a deal before Thursday's self-imposed deadline, but points to significant obstacles still standing in the path to an agreement. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Morello, Booth, 5.17M) notes that the negotiations "are growing more intensive, starting early in the morning and continuing until almost midnight," and "a US official familiar with the negotiations said it would not be surprising if the talks come down to the wire, continuing through deadline day." Said the unnamed official, "A lot of other pieces of the puzzle that sit on the table are not yet resolved. ... But they are the kind of puzzle pieces that most of us think will fall into place more likely than not if we get through some of these really tough, tough issues." The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) says the "substantial differences between the sides may prove too difficult to bridge before Tuesday's deadline for a preliminary agreement," and cites Iranian push-back "on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms" as the most significant impediment to a deal.

Teny Moran reported on [ABC World News](#) (3/29, story 3, 1:55, Llamas, 5.84M) that the main "sticking points" are: "How fast will sanctions on Iran be lifted? And what kinds of nuclear programs will Iran be allowed after the deal?" According to unnamed "negotiators," Iran "has agreed to tougher inspections," but in exchange, "wants to keep a lot of their nuclear infrastructure intact." The US "is saying no to that, for now." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/29, Meyer, Foroohar, Tirone, 2.94M), meanwhile, sees "Iran's insistence on an immediate lifting of United Nations sanctions" as the "main obstacle to securing a framework agreement." As the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Mufson, 5.17M) reports, "the Iranian economy is still a shadow of what it could be if international sanctions were lifted."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest addressed the Iran nuclear negotiations on [ABC's This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), stating, "The President has been very clear that the best way for us to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons is by pursuing diplomacy to get Iran to take steps voluntarily to shut down the path to nuclear weapons. We want them to comply with stringent inspections. That is the best way for us to resolve our concerns about Iran's nuclear program and to definitively prevent them from obtaining a nuclear

weapon. At the same time, this requires Iran to make commitments. We have been negotiating about this for more than a year. The President believes we should be able to reach an agreement by the end of March, if one is doable. But there are still significant gaps that remain.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Wheaton, Toosi, 669K) reports Eamest also “reiterated that the White House is not looking to extend beyond Tuesday the talks in...Lausanne, where both sides in recent days have suggested the other should soften its stance.” Another [Politico](#) (3/29, Crowley, 669K) story, however, says “there’s no practical reason the United States and its partners couldn’t keep negotiating” beyond Tuesday, as “the real deadline of concern for the Obama White House is April 13, when the Senate is scheduled to return from its Easter recess – and will likely take up legislation cracking down on Iran if a framework is not in hand.”

The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) reports that as the talks continue, Secretary of State Kerry “canceled plans Sunday to return to the United States for an event honoring the late US Sen. Edward Kennedy,” while “French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, his German counterpart, scratched planned trips to Kazakhstan.” [Politico](#) (3/29, Wheaton, Toosi, 669K) sees Kerry’s decision not to attend the Kennedy event as “a sign that the talks were intensifying,” while the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Morello, Booth, 5.17M) notes “the British foreign secretary,” Philip Hammond, “was expected to arrive later Sunday, creating a joint front in the final push to settle unresolved issues.” [AFP](#) (3/30) notes that Hammond “said late Sunday he believed a nuclear deal with Iran could be reached, but insisted it must put an atomic bomb ‘beyond reach.’” [Bloomberg News](#) (3/29, Meyer, Foroohar, Tirone, 2.94M), meanwhile, reports “the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi,” was also “expected to offer fresh proposals.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/29, story 6, 1:15, Quintanilla, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell described the latest round of talks as “grueling,” and cautioned that even if Kerry manages to get a deal, “Congress may try to scuttle it when he gets home.”

[AFP](#) (3/30, Biddle), meanwhile, indicates that according to “diplomats...key parts of an outline had been tentatively agreed” for a “framework” accord, which is “meant to be fleshed out into a comprehensive agreement by June 30.” The key tenets of the deal would include, “a ‘one-year breakout time’; Iran slashing “the total number of its centrifuges by about two-thirds, to about 6,000”; “staggered” sanctions relief, “linked to certain ‘milestones’”; the “virtually impregnable underground Fordo facility near the holy city of Qom would cease uranium enrichment”; and “the US bottom line,” which is that “Iran must agree to unprecedented inspections of both nuclear and production facilities as well as uranium mines and mills.”

Asked if a deal will be reached, House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), “A lot depends on whether Iran backs down on a couple of points. One is they want this deal lifted after ten years. They want the caps lifted after ten years. The second point, they don’t want inspections of some of their military facilities where they have done this research. And, lastly, the international inspectors have a list of 12 questions they want Iran to answer on nuclear modeling and explosive tests. So far, Iran has only agreed to answer half of the first question. ... There are very real concerns about why Iran won’t come clean with this evidence to the IAEA inspectors.”

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (3/29, Schieffer, 2.64M) that he has “just got bits and pieces [about the negotiation process] from Administration and other sources that are familiar with the negotiations,” and “it doesn’t seem to be headed in the right direction. Clearly, with the deadline of Tuesday, I’m concerned with what we might give away. Iranians don’t seem to want to conclude this. ... I would encourage the Administration to take more time.”

Iran No Longer Willing To Ship Uranium Stockpiles Abroad. The [Hill](#) (3/29, Byrnes, 224K) quotes “Iran’s lead negotiator,” Abbas Araqchi, as saying yesterday, “Getting to an accord is doable. Solutions have been found for numerous questions. We are still working on two or three issues... The talks are in their final phase and are very difficult.” [Reuters](#) (3/30, Charbonneau), however, notes that Araqchi also told reporters that the idea of sending stockpiles abroad is “not on Iran’s agenda.” That position, says the [New York Times](#) (3/30, Sanger, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), marks a shift “from a critical element of a proposed nuclear agreement” and could create “a potential roadblock at a critical time in the talks.” The Times adds that “for months, Iran tentatively agreed that it would send a large portion of its stockpile of uranium to Russia, where it would not be accessible for use in any future weapons program.” While “Western officials confirmed that Iran was balking at shipping the fuel out,” they “insisted that there were other ways of dealing with the material.”

McConnell In Israel As Netanyahu Derides “Iran-Lausanne-Yemen Axis.” The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) reports that Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu “renewed strong criticism of what he brands a bad deal,” linking “Iran’s alleged proxy grab for influence in the Middle East with what he sees as victory by Tehran at the negotiations in the Swiss city of Lausanne.” Said Netanyahu, “The Iran-Lausanne-Yemen axis is very dangerous for humanity and

must be stopped." The AP notes that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, "heading a delegation of American senators visiting Israel, said the lawmakers supported legislation to require Congress to approve any agreement on Iran's nuclear program, or to increase penalties against Iran if no deal is reached." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that McConnell, appearing alongside Netanyahu, said yesterday that "if there's no deal, then the view of this group...is that ratcheting up sanctions might be the best direction to take." [Politico](#) (3/29, Everett, 669K) says McConnell's trip to Israel had not been "previously announced." Speaker John Boehner is also "set to visit Israel over the two-week Easter recess for Congress."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/29, Bash, 420K) yesterday, Boehner defended his upcoming trip to Israel, which has been criticized as a "victory lap" after Netanyahu spoke before Congress, saying, "My visit there was planned months ago before the Prime Minister came to Washington and before his re-election, so it's not quite what I would describe as a 'victory lap.' There are serious issues and activities going on in the Middle East. I think it's critically important for members of Congress to hear from foreign leaders, other governments, and other parts of their government in order to get a real handle on the challenges we face there." Boehner also [stated](#) (3/29, Bash, 420K), "I think the animosity exhibited by our Administration toward the Prime Minister of Israel is reprehensible. I think that the pressure they've put on him over the last four or five years have, frankly, pushed him to the point where he had to speak up. I don't blame him at all for speaking up."

[AFP](#) (3/30) quotes Netanyahu as saying yesterday, "The dangerous accord which is being negotiated in Lausanne...confirms our concerns and even worse." Deputy Foreign Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, "who is close to Netanyahu," told "public radio that Israel 'will not be bound by an accord concluded by others and will know how to defend itself.'"

Saudi Ambassador Points To Kerry Assurances About Talks, Eventual Deal. Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel al-Jubeir said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), "I believe everybody wants a deal. But everybody wants a good deal. We have been assured by...Kerry that the United States intends to prevent Iran from acquiring an atomic bomb, close all paths leading to an atomic bomb, substantially limit Iran's ability to do research and enrich, and impose intrusive and continuous inspections on Iran. We hope this will be the case. But we really will not know until we see the details. I don't believe the details have been worked out yet. We expect there will be a framework agreement with the details to be negotiated over next two or three months. So the key will be in those details." In a report this morning, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/30, Hennigan, 3.49M) highlights that "Jubeir expressed hope that a deal would be reached that would ensure regional stability."

Former Obama Intel Official: Administration Showing "Willful Ignorance." The [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Griswold, 318K) reported that "Obama's former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn said on 'Fox News Sunday' he believes the White House is acting with 'willful ignorance'" in its dealings with Iran. Said Flynn, "To me, we have some major problems that we are dealing with and here we are talking to Iran about a nuclear deal with this almost complete breakdown of order in the Middle East. One of the things that we have to keep in mind on Iran is Iran is also a country with ballistic missiles, cyber capabilities, they are also still a state-sponsor of terrorism. And here we are dealing with them as though we're going to give them a carte blanche - I know it will be some number of years to have a nuclear capability. Give me a break!"

White House Steps Up Efforts To Build Support For Iran Nuclear Deal. A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, A1, Lee, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that with the deadline for a nuclear deal with Iran looming, the White House is stepping up its efforts to build legislative and public support for an agreement. The Journal adds that White House officials have privately expressed an openness to accept legislation to give Congress some oversight should the talks yield the main outlines of a deal.

Kasich: For Obama To Sidestep Congress Would Be "A Bad, Bad Idea." Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo](#) (3/29), "Any agreement with Iran should be taken to Congress and should be closely reviewed. ... The idea that the President may go to the United Nations and skirt Congress is a bad, bad idea."

Alfoneh, Gerecht Alarmed Over Possible North Korea-Iran Cooperation. Ali Alfoneh and Reuel Marc Gerecht, senior fellows at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, write in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Alfoneh, Gerecht, 5.17M) that the Administration "has shied away from a potentially paralyzing issue: the 'possible military dimensions' - the PMDs - of the regime's program," with "one of the most important issues - probable North Korean nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic," deserving "special scrutiny." Such a "disturbing partnership casts serious doubt on the Obama administration's hope that President Hassan Rouhani and his team have any intention of limiting Iran's nuclear ambitions." The authors go on to denounce contacts between the two nations and indicate that US intelligence doesn't seem to know "how long...this nefarious

partnership” continued and what came of it.

PENCE DEFENDS INDIANA LAW, SAYS OBAMA AND BILL CLINTON BACKED SIMILAR MEASURES.

Media coverage of Indiana’s “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” generally cast it as a vehicle that could potentially lead to discrimination against gay Americans, and describes a growing chorus of opposition from the business community, hurting the state’s reputation. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/30, Mack, 593K), for example, notes that the bill has earned “national criticism from people who think the bill could lead to discrimination from business owners or religious leaders who don’t want to serve gays or same-sex customers.” The Star adds “business leaders also have criticized” it, “saying that it gives the state a bad image and will make it harder to recruit top talent to Indiana.” [USA Today](#) (3/30, Wolf, 4.95M) similarly describes Indiana as “facing a rising tide of criticism and business boycotts,” and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/29, Lerman, Schoenberger, 169K) reports that “Angie’s List Inc., the consumer-review website, on Saturday withdrew a proposal to expand its Indianapolis headquarters, a planned \$40 million investment, days before it was to break ground,” and that “technology-industry leaders including Apple Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook and Salesforce.com Inc. CEO Marc Benioff have also spoken out.”

Cook, in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Cook, 5.17M), warns that “a wave of legislation, introduced in more than two dozen states, would allow people to discriminate against their neighbors,” and says “America’s business community recognized a long time ago that discrimination, in all its forms, is bad for business.”

Gov. Mike Pence’s arguments in defense of the law were also given plenty of play in most reports. On [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Pence said “the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was signed into Federal law by Bill Clinton more than 20 years ago,” and “after that, some 19 states adopted it. After last year’s Hobby Lobby case, Indiana properly brought the same version that then-state Sen. Barack Obama voted for in Illinois,” and “I was proud to sign it into law last week.” Pence also derided the “tremendous amount of misinformation around this bill,” and pledged that Indiana is “not going to change” it, because it is “about protecting the liberty of every Hoosier of every faith.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes “critics, however, say the Indiana law includes different wording that could open the door to wider discrimination.” Moreover, “critics...note that in many of the states with similar laws, including Illinois, sexual orientation is protected under civil rights law. In Indiana, gays and lesbians are not a protected class.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Robillard, 669K) notes Pence took issue with what he cast as “reckless” and “shameless” media coverage, “claiming Indiana has been hit with ‘an avalanche of intolerance,’” while the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Hicks, Halzack, 5.17M) reports that he “said he expects additional legislation this week to clarify the intent of the law.” The Post adds that “one idea under consideration is a proposal to add sexual orientation as a protected class under the state’s civil rights laws.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/29, Reilly, 281K) says Pence “refused to say...whether it should be illegal under state law to discriminate against gays and lesbians,” dodging “a question from George Stephanopoulos about whether the law would allow florists and bakers to deny their wedding services to gay couples by citing their religious beliefs. He also twice dodged a yes-or-no question on whether he believed it should be legal to discriminate against gays and lesbians under state law.” [Reuters](#) (3/30, Selyukh) notes that Pence assured the audience, however, that the law “does not apply to disputes between individuals, unless government action is involved.” [The Hill](#) (3/29, Hensch, 224K), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Zumbrun, Phillips, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), and the [Washington Times](#) (3/30, Richardson, 644K), among other news outlets, also report Pence’s comments.

In response, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), “If you have to go back two decades to try to justify what you’re doing today, it may raise questions about the wisdom of what you’re doing. It should be easy for leaders to stand up and say, ‘It’s wrong to discriminate against people just because of who they love.’ This is not a political argument. Business leaders all across the country say they’re reluctant to do business in the state of Indiana...because of this law.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Smith, 318K), meanwhile, ran a list of celebrity Twitter messages about the law, and says “Hollywood has been descending on the bill, calling it a ‘new hate law’ and decrying it as living ‘in the past.’” [ABC World News](#) (3/29, story 5, 2:05, Benitez, 5.84M) also noted the “big names...joining the protesters on social media. From Miley Cyrus to Hillary Clinton, tweeting, ‘Sad this new Indiana law can happen in America today.’ Apple chief Tim Cook, saying ‘We are deeply disappointed.’ Former NBA star Charles Barkley now calling for the NCAA to pull this week’s final four tournament out of Indiana.”

During Debate On Controversial Bill, State Lawmaker Accuses 18-Month-Old Of Racism. The [Washington](#)

[Times](#) (3/30, Howell, 644K) reports that state Democratic Rep. Vanessa Summers “drew gasps during a debate on the state’s religious freedom bill when she accused a colleague’s 18-month-old son of being racist.” Said Summers, “I told [Rep.] Jud McMillin I love his son, but he’s scared of me because of my color. ... He looked at me like I was a monster and turned around and cried. ... And I told him you need to introduce your child to some people that are dark-skinned so he will not be scared.”

O’MALLEY: PRESIDENCY SHOULD NOT BE PASSED BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES. The [AP](#) (3/30, Fram) reports that former Maryland governor and potential Democratic presidential candidate Martin O’Malley on Sunday “criticized the prospects of the Clinton and Bush families yet again seeking the White House.” Speaking on ABC’s “This Week,” O’Malley said, “The presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families,” adding that the country “always benefits from new leadership and new perspectives.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Robillard, 669K) says that O’Malley “portrayed himself as a new face for the Democratic Party and a progressive alternative, more willing to directly confront inequality and take on Wall Street,” and broke with his earlier strategy of ignoring questions about Hillary Clinton. When asked whether she would be the best candidate to address special interests, O’Malley replied, “I don’t know. I don’t know where she stands. Will she represent a break with the failed policies of the past? I don’t know.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/29, Reilly, 281K) quotes O’Malley as saying, “I believe that there are new perspectives that are needed in order for us to resolve the problems that we face as Americans and also the problems we face as people on this planet, and I believe that new perspective and new leadership is needed.”

According to the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Wagner, 5.17M), when George Stephanopoulos expressed surprise at O’Malley’s “forcefulness” and asked which two families O’Malley was referencing, “O’Malley demurred, saying it could be ‘any two families.’” The Post adds that O’Malley “reiterated that he plans to make up his mind about a White House bid this spring.”

He added on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), “I believe our country is at a defining moment in our history. The American dream is no longer true for the 80% of us working harder not getting further ahead. I have the experience after 15 years as executive, of governor of a state and mayor of a big city. Of getting things done. Bringing people to accomplish difficult things. To create a stronger economy.”

[McClatchy](#) (3/29, Lightman, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that although O’Malley “raised strong doubts” about Clinton, she remains “far ahead of him and every other potential contender among Democrats in poll after poll.”

According to the [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Griswold, 318K), former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said Sunday that a primary campaign by O’Malley could cost him a cabinet position in Clinton’s Administration. Granholm said of O’Malley, “I was thinking he might make a nice member of a President Clinton administration, so he better watch it.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/30, Miller, 644K) says that O’Malley’s remarks on Sunday, as well as his “aggressive travel schedule” in primary states reflect his efforts “to make his way to the top of the ticket and beat back naysaying political analysts” who doubt his chances of victory. The article illustrates that despite his positions and positive feedback from supporters, many commenters speculate that O’Malley is posturing for a vice presidential spot, which they said he would be good for.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*For the Police, Quality Over Quantity.*” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/30, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) weighs whether the NYPD should add “more cops even though crime is at historic lows and a sense of civic calm – a [peacetime dividend,] as Commissioner William Bratton calls it – is evident across most of the city.” To the Times, “maybe the answer is it doesn’t matter that much.” Rather, “it’s how the department works, with responsive policing strategies, fewer arrests of petty offenders, less harassment of the innocent, and smart and forceful tactics for deterring crime, that will make the city a safer place.”

“*Stronger Dollar In A Weak Global Economy.*” The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) writes in an editorial that the dollar’s recent strengthening against other major currencies “largely reflects the realization among investors that the American economy will do much better than other major economies in the

coming months." While this renewed strength has "unnerved investors and policy makers," they argue that a stronger dollar "serves as a reminder that the world is still far too reliant on the United States, which itself has not yet fully recovered from the financial crisis." The editors believe this does bode well for "sustainable global growth."

WASHINGTON POST. *"We Don't Need Labels Telling Us Our Food Has Been Genetically Modified."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, 5.17M) says that the debate over genetically modified (GM) food "is a classic example of activists overstating risk based on fear of what might be unknown and on a distrust of corporations." According to the Post, efforts to mandate that GM food be labeled would deter its purchase "when the evidence calls for no such caution." The Post expresses support for a House bill that would "facilitate a voluntary labeling system and prevent states and localities from going any further to indulge the GM labeling crowd."

"Payday Lending Is Ripe For Some Consumer-Protection Rules." An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Editorial for the Washington (DC), Post, 5.17M) says the CFPB's proposal for regulation of the payday lending industry, which "mandates the kind of underwriting that payday lending characteristically avoids," could "go a long way toward ending, or at least reducing, payday-lending horror stories." But it will "probably come at the cost of precluding some mutually advantageous transactions that would otherwise have occurred." The Post expresses hope that as the proposal enters the review period, its "true costs and benefits will get a thorough discussion."

"The ABC's Of Policing Underage Drinking." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, 5.17M) lauds the "sound logic" of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe who, following the arrest of Martese Johnson, "a 20-year-old African American junior at the University of Virginia who required 10 stitches after he was tackled and arrested by agents of the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control," ordered that "ABC agents be retrained, and rein[ed] in the agency's law-enforcement arm." The Post adds that ABC agents must "get the message that restraint and measured responses are critical to good policing."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Preet Bharara's Methods."* An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) questions the methods of US Attorney for the Southern District of Manhattan Preet Bharara in his investigation of the hedge fund Level Global, noting that Bharara's team used information now known to be false to name fund founder David Ganek personally in a search warrant. The Journal adds that Ganek is now suing Bharara and says discovery in the case may provide an explanation as to how the false accusation made it into the warrant.

"One Less Fraud In Washington." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorial praises House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi for their efforts to require more accurate reporting on Federal loan programs but requiring the CBO to report loan costs using the fair-value accounting used in the private economy.

"The Reid-Obama Bargain." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) argues that Senate Majority Leader Reid has pushed the President's agenda on Capitol Hill as part of a political bargain under which the President blocked the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in return. The Journal adds that while the arrangement was beneficial for the President and Reid, it has been damaging to Senate Democrats, who will likely remain in the minority after the next election as a result.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Arab Force Aims To Offset Iran's Power](#)

When Death Row Runs Out Of Room

Reform Dreams Have Soured

A Gadfly On The Ball

Shift In Japan On Nuclear Facilities

Wall Street Journal:

[Rubio Makes Plans For 2016 Run](#)

[Obama Ramps Up Lobbying On Iran As Deadline Looms](#)

How Jeffrey Katzenberg Is Rewriting Dreamworks' Script
A Local Bank In Amish Country Flourishes

New York Times:

Iran Backs Off Key Point In Nuclear Energy Negotiations
Plane Crash Tests Germany's Faith In Its Precision
Bush And Walker Point Their Party To Contrary Paths
GNC To Strengthen Quality Controls On Dietary Supplements
Foreclosure To Home Free, As Legal Clock Expires
Defense Question In Boston: To Testify Or Not

Washington Post:

Foes: Christie Left Wind Power Twisting
Courting Careless Millennials, Suburbs Turn To Mass Transit
Arab Nations Will Create Joint Force
New Hepatitis C Drugs Cost Medicare Billions
Sanctions' Impact May Bring Iran To Nuclear Deal

Financial Times:

Mideast Tensions Heighten Over Yemen
China Industrialist Criticises US Over Visas

Washington Times:

Sunni Powers Pursue NATO-Like Alliance
Arab Allies To Use US Weapons, Not Leaders
Obama Now Hits Religious Freedom In Indiana
O'Malley Impresses—As Vice President
In Kennedy's Chair, Warren Tops Liberals Over Obama
Obama's Ill Views Of Israel Spread To Virginia State Bar Association

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Germanwings Flight Crash; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; New York City-Gas Explosion; Indiana Law-Religious Freedom Act; Coffee-Liver Cancer Reduction.

CBS: Preempted by sports.

NBC: Germanwings Flight Crash; Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Yemen-Arab Military Force; Tunisia-Islamic Militant Protests; Pope Francis-Palm Sunday Mass; Iran Nuclear Program Deadline; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; New York City Gas Explosion; US Power Grid Security; NCAA Tournament; Electronic Tipping; West Wing Receptionist.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Flight Crash – 5 minutes, 00 seconds
Air Canada Flight-Emergency Landing – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
Iran Nuclear Agreement- Deadline – 3 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Indiana Law-Religious Freedom Act; Iran Nuclear Deal-Deadline; NCAA Tournament Final Four; New York City Gas Explosion-Bodies Discovered; Pacific Earthquake; Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Orange County-Private Plane Crash.

CBS: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Syria-Chemical Warfare; Germanwings Crash-Memorial Service; Indiana Law-Religious Freedom Act; NCAA Tournament-Final Four; Asian Markets.

NPR: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Germanwings Crash-Memorials; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Mental Health; Air Canada Flight-Emergency Landing; NCAA Tournament-Final Four; New York City Gas Explosion-Bodies Found; Broadway Director Death.

FOX: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Syria President-International Inspection; Orange County-Private Plane Crash; Pacific Earthquake.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Celebrates the life and legacy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, Massachusetts; attends a DNC roundtable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Celebrates the life and legacy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, Massachusetts.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Celebrates the life and legacy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, Massachusetts.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: 1 p.m. — The House may meet in a pro forma session on Monday, March 30th at 1 pm. The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13th. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

1 p.m. **JOINT HOMELAND SECURITY, VETERANS' AFFAIRS – FIELD HEARING** — Joint Hearing of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the U.S. Senate and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives. Witnesses: Panel 1: Candace Delis, Aubumdale, WI; Ryan Honl, Tomah, WI; Noelle Johnson, PHARM.D., BCACP, CGP Urbandale, IA; Heather Simcakoski, Stevens Point, WI; Marvin Simcakoski, Stevens Point, WI. Panel 2: John Daigh, M.D., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Alan Mallinger, M.D., Senior Physician, Office of Healthcare Inspections; Carolyn Clancy, M.D., Interim Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Accompanied by: Renee Oshinski, Acting Network Director, VISN 12, Veterans Health Administration. Accompanied by: Mario V. DeSanctis, FACHE, Medical Center Director, Tomah VAMC. <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/joint-hearing-of-the-committee-on-homeland-security-and-governmental-affairs-of-the-us> Location: Cranberry Country Lodge, 319 Wittig Road Tomah, Wisconsin 54660.

Other: AARP – LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED — 9:30 a.m. The AARP Public Policy Institute will release a new report on the results of a survey of the experiences of workers age 45 to 70 who faced unemployment in the past five years. The report and survey, titled "Against the Odds: Older Worker Reemployment in Today's Economy," focuses on reemployment, the steps people took to find work, and compares the new jobs of the reemployed with their prior jobs. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

'FULL EMPLOYMENT' – BEN BERNANKE — 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Full Employment Project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities presents: "Full Employment: How Can We Get There and Stay There? Why Does It Matter?" Keynote by former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Distinguished Fellow in Residence, Economic Studies, Brookings Institution. Location: Kenney Auditorium, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL – GEN. WESLEY CLARK — 4:30 p.m. General Wesley Clark: Exclusive Briefing from Ukraines Front Lines. General Clark is the former NATO Allied Commander, who just returned from Ukraine where he met with Ukrainian military commanders and President Petro Poroshenko. <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/general-wesley-clark-exclusive-briefing-from-ukraines-front-lines> Location: 1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor (West Tower).

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday the White House confirmed that President Obama will meet with Pope Francis during his visit in September. Some experts are wondering if they'll discuss their disagreement over contraception. Then Joe Biden was like, 'I didn't even know they were dating.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The President will meet with Pope Francis at the White House in September. The two will meet for about an hour or so, then the Pope will spend the rest of the day hearing confessions from Secret Service agents."

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of the Secret Service, they're still dealing with the fallout from that reported crash outside of the White House. Their director, Joseph Clancy, said the agency will now store its video footage for a week after he revealed that normally they get deleted after 72 hours."

Jimmy Fallon: "This week another potential candidate, Rand Paul, said that he's the only one who can beat Hillary Clinton in certain swing states. Hillary was like, 'That's ridiculous.' While Bill was like, 'Did somebody say swing?'"

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Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

RE: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

3 messages

Paul, Malia (Schatz) <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 5:01 PM

To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Jeremy and Erin,

I apologize for the multiple emails from our office. I just returned from Tokyo and will be primary contact for this event.

Senator Schatz will be happy to give brief remarks at the Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony. He will also give brief remarks at the Reception (confirmed with Carole Hayashino from JCCH).

Please let me know if you need anything from us.

Best,

Malia

Malia Paul

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of Senator Brian Schatz

300 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7-212

Honolulu, HI 96850

(808)523-2061

www.schatz.senate.gov

Follow Senator Schatz on Twitter & Facebook



From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:06 AM

To: Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); Kaopuiki, Sarah (Schatz); James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod

Cc: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon; Erin Frautschy Barrows

Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello,

I wanted to share with you the latest on the schedule and logistics for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 and the latest RSVPs from the delegation. If you have any corrections to your boss's attendance, please let me know.

In particular, I wanted to flag for you that due to space constraints on the shuttle bus and in the Honouliuli Gulch, the plan is for Members of Congress attending the Gulch ceremony to have one staffer accompany them, (ie., no staffers at the Gulch without their Member present). Please let me know if that is an issue for your boss.

9:15 am - Gather at Monsanto Assembly Zone

9:30 am - Last shuttle bus departs Monsanto

10:00-10:30am - Honouliuli Gulch Dedication Ceremony and Program.

Members attending: Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono

Event will be open press.

Participants will be asked to join in the blessing ceremony, which involves untying a bow and ribbon at the site.

There will be informal remarks by some participants (ie., Secretary Jewell will speak for approx. 2-3 minutes). Members may speak if they like.

10:30-11:00am - Tours of Honouliuli Gulch

11:05 - Shuttle buses depart en route Monsanto Assembly Zone

12:00-1:30pm - Welcome Reception and Celebration of the New Honouliuli National Monument

Location: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

Members attending: Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono, Rep. Gabbard

Event will be open press.

There will be a 30 minute program and Members are welcome to speak.

I have copied my colleague, Erin Frautschy Barrows, on this email. She will be doing advance for the Secretary for this portion of the trip and will be our point of contact on the ground for any last minute issues that arise.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 5:33 PM

To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

Cc: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Malia,

Thank you for your e-mail and confirmation. I just got on the ground late Friday and advanced all of the locations yesterday, and got a briefing from our local team. I'm very sorry for the confusion, but due to some serious time constraints, we are going to request to limit remarks at the program at Honouliuli Gulch to just the Secretary and the Governor. We would, however, very much like the Senator to participate in both blessing ceremonies that are at the top of the program.

Again, I'm very sorry for the confusion, and please let me know if you have any concerns.

Thanks,

Erin

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Paul, Malia (Schatz) <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 5:34 PM

To: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Erin,

No problem. Senator will be happy to participate in the blessing ceremony.

Thanks,

Malia

Malia Paul

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of Senator Brian Schatz

300 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7-212

Honolulu, HI 96850

(808)523-2061

www.schatz.senate.gov

Follow Senator Schatz on Twitter & Facebook



From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin [mailto:erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:33 AM

To: Paul, Malia (Schatz)

Cc: Bratt, Jeremy; Gabriella (Janou) Gordon

Subject: Re: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

[Quoted text hidden]

Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

2 messages

Gabriella (Janou) Gordon <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Sat, Mar 28, 2015 at 9:06 AM

Do we also want Rep . Gabbard in the headline?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Date: March 27, 2015 at 10:10:57 PM EDT
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

EB - I think Hironos name is misspelled in the headline:

Hirano vs Hirono (correct spelling)

On Friday, March 27, 2015, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi all,

We plan to issue the following advisory at 3pm ET on Monday. Please send any edits or questions by Monday at 12pm ET.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw,
Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

**Secretary Jewell to Join Senators Schatz, Hirano to Dedicate
Honouliuli National Monument**

O'HAU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, and community leaders to hold a dedication ceremony for Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai'i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama **established the new monument**, which will be part of the National Park System, in February under the Antiquities Act.

Who: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono

What: Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday March 31, 2015, at 10 a.m. HST

Where: Monsanto Parking Lot
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to RSVP HERE by XXXX.

###

--

Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

--

Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov

Sat, Mar 28, 2015 at 9:07 AM

Well, she won't be at the ceremony itself, just the celebration after, so I think it's ok to leave her out.

From: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 9:06 AM
To: Jeremy Bratt

5/4/2016

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

Reply To: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon

Subject: Fwd: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

[Quoted text hidden]

Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

13 messages

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 11:07 AM

To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Hello Rachel,

We'd like to send out an invitation to interested stakeholders for the upcoming Honouliuli event and were wondering if it is ok to include the Congresswoman's name (please see below) as a confirmed attendee. We will most likely send this out around 3 p.m. this afternoon.

Thank you,
Jeremy

Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Governor David Ige, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, University of Hawaii President David Lassner other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site

9:30am - Final shuttle leaves for dedication site

10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP at your earliest convenience by clicking [HERE](#) (link).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 7:04 PM

To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Aloha Jeremy,

Thank you for checking first. Unfortunately, the Congresswoman will not be available to attend the site dedication at 10am. I hope that the information has not been sent out already, the time difference here can be so challenging with communication at times, I assume you meant 3pEST, not HST, right?

Are you all still planning on a community event hosted by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu around noon? Thank you.

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:08 AM
To: James, Rachel
Subject: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 2:28 PM

Hello Rachel,

Thanks for your email. We did not include the Congresswoman's name on the invite, so no worries in that regard.

We are still planning a welcome reception and community event from 12-1:30 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu). Will the Congresswoman be able to attend that portion of the day?

Thank you,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Carole Hayashino (hayashino@jcch.com)" <hayashino@jcch.com>

Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 3:18 PM

Aloha Jeremy,

Yes, the Congresswoman can attend and deliver brief remarks/congratulations at noon. She will need to depart no later than 1230p however. Will that be possible given the schedule of events for the reception? If you have any guidance regarding the tentative schedule for the reception and community event portion, it would be most helpful. We've been asked to confirm it on her calendar by COB (HST) today. The Congresswoman would like to participate, but has a short window of opportunity to do so. We are hopeful the schedule will allow her to participate. Thank you.

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:28 AM
To: James, Rachel
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

[Quoted text hidden]

James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 5:33 PM

We're playing phone tag and you're it! ☺

I just left a message, essentially we don't want to duplicate or overstep Secretary Jewel's ambitions for the community event and welcome reception. The Congresswoman would like to present the President's declaration and we wanted to see how that squared with Secretary Jewel's plans. I look forward to speaking with you. Aloha.

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:28 AM
To: James, Rachel
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 12:05 PM

Hello,
I just tried your office but I don't think it's open yet. Can you give me a call when you have a chance? I'm at 202-208-7696. thanks!
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:02 PM

Hello Rachel,

I don't think the Secretary has any plans to present the President's declaration to the group, so Rep. Gabbard should be fine to do so. I do want to flag, however, that the Japanese Cultural Center had representatives who attended the signing ceremony for the monument with President Obama, so I don't know if they may have already received a commemorative item of some sort from that ceremony.

I'm copying Erin Frautschy Barrows from our office, who will be doing advance on this trip, who can also be your point of contact for the day of the event.

Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:06 PM

Hi all,

I'm so sorry - Jeremy, there has been an update on this. It does look like the Secretary is planning to present the Declaration to a few key members, although we haven't yet worked out who and when this would happen. I can stay in touch as this develops.

Thanks,
Erin

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:17 PM

-Rachel.

Doh! Oh well. That's what I get for not confirming with you first. thanks for flagging this.

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Bratt, Jeremy
Reply To: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Cc: James, Rachel

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:36 PM

No - I'm sorry! I should have updated you when this came to light. I still don't really understand what's getting distributed, or when, but it's something.

[Quoted text hidden]

James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 3:33 PM

To: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>, "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you for the update, Erin. What is the best contact number for you when you are on island?

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin [mailto:erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:07 AM
To: Bratt, Jeremy
Cc: James, Rachel

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Cc: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 3:43 PM

Certainly. Please use my cell: (b) (6)

[Quoted text hidden]

James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
To: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 4:06 PM

Thank you, Erin. I can be reached at 808-341-6459. As you have updates, please feel free to call or email with additional information. Safe travels. I look forward to seeing you in Hawaii next week. Aloha.

Rachel

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin [mailto:erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 9:44 AM
To: James, Rachel
Cc: Bratt, Jeremy

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 27, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 6:59 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE NEW FEDERAL FRACKING RULES. The AP (3/27) reports that Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House "have issues with the Obama administration's new regulations requiring companies that drill for oil and natural gas to disclose chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing." While Republicans oppose the new rules due to the delays they can incur in new drilling projects, Democrats say the regulations do not go far enough. "Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., said the regulation was so lax it was like requiring the auto industry to ensure that every car has a steering wheel and a brake pedal," the article reports. But according to Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., delays caused by the new requirements could discourage energy companies from drilling on Federal lands, causing job losses and driving away revenue.

Coverage was also provided by the [FuelFix](#) (3/26, 7K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/26, Freking), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/27, 32K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Freking, 1.37M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/27, 238K), the [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (3/27, 168K), the [Seymour \(IN\) Times Tribune](#) (3/27, 29K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Freking, 5.17M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/27, 988K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/26, 685K), [Yahoo! \(CAN\)](#) (3/27, 85K), an [dKATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (3/27, 192K)

Wyoming Files Lawsuit Over Fracking Rules. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Gruver, 2.28M) reports that "Wyoming filed a lawsuit Thursday contesting new federal rules for oil and gas drilling on public land, alleging in part that they interfere with Wyoming's state rules." The action also claims the BLM "overstepped its statutory jurisdiction with the rules and that they conflict with the Safe Drinking Water Act." Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw "cited agency policy not to comment on pending litigation and declined to comment on the lawsuit," but she added that "states and tribes will be able to request variances from the rules, and Interior might grant them if they met or exceeded federal standards."

Coverage was also provided by the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (3/27, 293K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/27, 694K), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/27, 32K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 90K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/27, Gruver, 644K), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/27), the [Law 360](#) (3/27, 9K), Additional coverage was provided by the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (3/27, 379K) and the [Daily Signal](#) (3/26).

SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN NEVADA. The [AP](#) (3/27, Sonner) reports that "an unprecedented attempt to protect sage grouse habitat across parts of more than 900 square miles of privately owned land in Nevada will begin under a deal Thursday involving the federal government, an environmental group and the world's largest gold mining company." The deal comes as the FWS "approaches a fall deadline for a decision on whether to protect the greater sage grouse, a bird roughly the size of a chicken that ranges across the West, under the Endangered Species Act." The agreement involves Barrick Gold Corp., The Nature Conservancy, the BLM, and FWS. The deal "establishes a 'conservation bank,' providing the mining firm credit for enhancing critical habitat, in exchange for flexibility in future operations."

[NPR](#) (3/26, 1.58M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This is the kind of creative, voluntary partnership that we need to help conserve the greater sage grouse, while sustaining important economic activities on western rangelands."

Coverage was also provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/27, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Oregonian](#) (3/27, 950K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/26, 36K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 90K), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/27, 291K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Sonner, 1.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (3/27, 49K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Sonner, Press, 5.81M), [ABC Otus News](#) (3/27), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (3/27, 3K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ANNOUNCE SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that "the Obama administration has reached an agreement with Oregon ranchers to protect sage grouse that the ranchers hope will help avoid having the bird listed by the federal government as an endangered species." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Gov. Kate Brown are "expected to be in Bend, Oregon, on Friday afternoon to announce the agreements covering 5,500 square miles of private land in central and southeastern Oregon." The FWS says "the agreements signed last week with soil and water conservation districts covering Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Union, Grant, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties are the first for such a wide area."

Also providing coverage are the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.21M), [The East Oregonian](#) (3/27, 24K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/27, 51K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Bamard, 2.28M), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND HONOULIULI DEDICATION. The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/27, 360K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be "in Hawaii next week to help dedicate the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument in Kunia." Jewell will be joined at the Tuesday ceremony by Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, U.S. Sens. Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, president of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner, and other community leaders."

FEDERAL AGENCIES RENEW COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE HYDROPOWER. [Argus Media](#) (3/26) reports that "the US Departments of Energy and the Interior and the US Army yesterday renewed a commitment to cooperate on supporting hydro development for another five-year term." The article notes that "the goals of the partnership include increasing power output of existing plants with better water flow measurement tools and testing superconducting technology that could make existing plants more efficient."

REPUBLICAN SENATORS OBJECT TO CLIMATE PLANNING DIRECTIVE FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Cama, 224K) reports that "six Senate Republicans blasted the Obama administration's proposal to change how federal agencies consider climate change in environmental impact reviews." They "argued Thursday that the draft guidance from the White House is an illegal expansion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)" Urging the White House's Council on Environmental Quality to withdraw the proposal, they said, "We are deeply disappointed that the administration is continuing down a path that is both illegitimate and irresponsible."

SENATE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS OF IGS FOR 10 AGENCY VACANCIES. [Fierce Government](#) (3/27, 224) reports that "all 16 members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee sent a letter Monday to President Obama urging him to nominate permanent inspectors general at the 10 agencies who currently have vacancies." The Interior Department is among the 10 vacant inspectors general positions. Sen. Ron Johnson noted that "the DOI has gone without a permanent IG for 2,216 days."

HEARING HELD ON SUPREME COURT BUDGET. On [C-SPAN](#) (3/27, 38K), coverage of the testimony on the Supreme Court fiscal year 2016 budget and the federal judiciary system included comments by Rep. Sanford Bishop Jr., who said, "I applaud the court's ability to find savings in its budget. Your total FY16 request with salaries and expenses and buildings and grounds does represent a discretionary decrease of 1.1% from FY 15. It looks like this is a combination of the construction work being completed and savings from nonrecurring costs that are associated with implementation of your new financial system. Are there program increases that you are delaying but you still feel would be beneficial at some point? And with regard to implementation of your new financial system, which I understand you're leveraging resources from the executive branch, probably the Interior, specifically in the area of payroll and financial tracking. And I understand that this move has reduced your reliance on contract employees. And it seems to be a great step towards efficiency. Do you find that you're getting the same level, an improved level of service? And would you recommend this to other agencies that are looking to reduce their costs?" Justice Anthony Kennedy responded, "Well, I'm not enough of an expert to recommend it to other agencies but our staff tells us it's working very, very well. They like it. They like it better than the outside contractors and it's much cheaper. We are in partnership with an agency in the department of interior. And it has some similarities to us. And it's been the source of most of the savings we've had over the last few years."

INTERIOR BETA TESTED PERISCOPE. Covering the app Periscope, [CNN Money](#) (3/26, 1.76M) notes that the Interior Department was a beta tester.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INITIATIVE TO INCREASE VOLUNTEERISM. Additional coverage of the initiative to increase volunteerism at public lands was provided by the [Customs Today \(PAK\)](#) (3/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's new youth initiative was provided by [WABE-FM Atlanta](#) (3/27, 11K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS DISCUSSES FUTURE OF NATIONAL PARKS. [KQED-FM San Francisco](#) (3/27, 40K) reports that in anticipation of the NPS' 100-year anniversary next summer, the agency has "set lofty goals for its future: increase the diversity of visitors to include more youth and people of color, partner with health providers and ramp up collaborations with scientists, which is the focus of a summit this week at UC Berkeley." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, "in town for the summit," discussed his agency's future.

MAINE BUSINESSES ENDORSE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/26, 166K) reports that "more than 200 businesses from around the state endorsed a proposed 150,000-acre national park and recreation area in the Katahdin region Thursday." The article notes that "the endorsement, which included a letter signed by all the businesses to Maine's congressional delegation urging the creation of the park,

is the latest public approval of the controversial gift to the nation first proposed by entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby in 2011.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K), and [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K).

NEW LIMITS ON DOGS AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GENERATES OUTRAGE.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/26, 2.21M) reports that “Rep. Jackie Speier vowed Wednesday to unleash the forces of Washington against efforts to ban unleashed dogs from most of the Bay Area’s string of federal parkland.” According to the article, “the decadelong dogfight is reaching a crescendo as the National Park Service moves to issue a draft rule in the summer based on a 1,504-page Dog Management Plan that has canine fanciers howling.” The proposal would “limit free-ranging dogs ‘under voice control’ to seven spots in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, an 80,000-acre federal park that stretches from Tomales Bay in Marin County to Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County and attracts more than 15 million visitors a year.”

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PERMITS.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/27, 538K) reports that the NPS is “seeking public comment on a proposal to require permits for all motor vehicle and bicycle day use on the White Rim and Elephant Hill roads in Canyonlands National Park.” According to the agency, “requiring permits for day use on the roads will help the park better protect resources and the visitor experience.”

MAN COMMITS SUICIDE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK.

The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (3/27, 19K) reports that “a Virginia man apparently shot himself to death on Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park on Tuesday morning.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLANNING FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL

PARK. Additional coverage of the planning for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/27, Fowler, 371K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NPS BUDGET REQUEST.

The [Montana Standard](#) (3/27, 39K) reprints an editorial by The Missoulian, which urged support for President Obama’s federal budget request. It notes that “the budget request contains a total of \$11.49 billion for the National Park Service to finally begin crossing items off its long list of deferred maintenance projects.” The paper also notes that “next year – 2016 – marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service,” so “the president’s budget request is timely.”

EDITORIAL: NATIONAL PARK VISITORS SHOULD PAY FOR MAINTENANCE.

In an editorial, the [Denver Post](#) (3/27, Board, 804K) supports the increase in entrance fees proposed by the NPS. The paper argues that park visitors should shoulder more of the burden, rather than all taxpayers at large.

EDITORIAL: NPS MUST JUSTIFY ANY CHANGES TO PERRY’S MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT AT PUT-IN-

BAY.. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (3/27, 1.01M) editorializes that “friends of Perry’s Memorial and advocates for Put-in-Bay merchants are worried the National Park Service is preparing to give the site short shrift.” The agency is “studying a possible consolidation of management between Perry’s Memorial and the much newer, much-less-visited River Raisin National Battlefield Site in the marshy southeast corner of Michigan, where British forces and American Indians associated with Shawnee leader Tecumseh routed U.S. soldiers in bloody, merciless fighting during the War of 1812.” It says that “the park service also needs to explain the thinking behind any decision to favor the River Raisin site, especially if a “shared” superintendent would be based there, and not at the Perry monument.” The paper concludes that “downgrading the Perry monument, its oversight and upkeep is not an acceptable option.”

NONPROFIT GROUP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN OUTDOORS.

In a piece for the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/27, 322K), Tee Clarkson writes that Groundwork RVA, “a local nonprofit, has taken an unusual approach to teaching Richmond students about local ecology and urban conservation.” Giles Harnsberger, executive director for Groundwork RVA, said, “We teach neighborhood ecology. We want students to treat their community as if it’s as special as a national park.” She notes that “the program is designed to teach students not only about conservation and ecology, but also to prepare them for jobs in the National Park Service, as landscape architects, or for work in urban ecology.”

Bureau of Land Management:

“GRAND BARGAIN” BEING FINALIZED IN UTAH. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that under proposed legislation called the “Grand Bargain,” San Juan and some other counties in Utah would agree to wilderness and other restrictions on public lands in return for getting other areas designated for energy and other uses. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who is co-sponsoring the legislation with Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said, “We’re doing something of great significance and hopefully it will bring people’s blood pressure down.” After the draft legislation goes through more public vetting, a final bill is expected to be introduced in Congress by late spring.

BLM OFFICIAL GUILTY IN FRAUD CASE. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that “a senior official in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has been convicted on criminal charges that he covered up for an employee who left the agency for a job in Montana but kept drawing government pay.” John Grimson Lyon of Clifton, Virginia, was “convicted of wire fraud, false claims and theft of government property following a three-day jury trial that ended Wednesday night in Great Falls.” Lyon, the former state director for the BLM’s 31-state Eastern States Region, “could face 35 years in prison, \$750,000 in fines and the forfeiture of \$112,000.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Brown, 1.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Brown, 2.28M), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/26, 15K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [ABC Otus News](#) (3/27), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Brown, 5.81M), [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (3/27, 1K), [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (3/27, 4K), and [KBZK-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (3/27, 785).

JUDGE UPHOLDS BLM’S OWNERSHIP OF WISTERIA REMAINS. The [Florida Keys Citizen](#) (3/27, 33K) reports that “development will not come to Wisteria Island soon, if ever, because a federal judge has dismissed F.E.B. Corp’s lawsuit asking to be ruled the owner of the 22 acre island.” Judge Jose E. Martinez “issued a ruling Wednesday in favor of the Bureau of Land Management, which claimed government ownership of the roughly 22-acre island in Key West Harbor in 2011.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC’S HELP TO CURB VANDALISM. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/27, 165K) reports that “vandalism to facilities managed by the Bureau of Land Management’s Billings Field Office is mounting, and land managers are seeking the public’s help to bring it to an end.” The bureau “recently cited several people for vandalism at the Acton Recreation Area, 18 miles north of Billings,” and “on top of that, what the agency calls ‘nonstop vandalism’ at the popular Shepherd Ah Nei Recreation Area has led the BLM to cancel any further plans to repair or replace vandalized property.”

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO BISON GRAZING AT ALLOTMENT. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (3/26, 76K) reports that the American Prairie Reserve, “run by the not-for-profit American Prairie Foundation, has applied to change the class of livestock from cattle to indigenous bison on its permit to graze lands on the Flat Creek Allotment.” The BLM still must approve the livestock change. The bureau announced Thursday that “it is seeking public input for an environmental analysis on the change in classification from cattle to indigenous bison.”

RANCHERS ASSISTED BY PUBLIC SUBSIDIES. [Salon](#) (3/27, 688K) reports on the “welfare ranchers subsidized by US taxpayers.” The article says that “the biggest welfare ranchers of all, grazing livestock on the hundreds of millions of acres of public grass and forest land, all assisted by public subsidies paid for by US taxpayers” are the “billionaires that populate Forbes rich lists.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS APPROVES APPLICATION TO IMPORT ENDANGERED RHINO’S HEAD. The [Washington Post](#) (3/26, Fears, 5.17M) reports that “big game hunter Corey Knowlton’s long wait to kill an endangered black rhinoceros in Africa is finally over.” In a decision Thursday, the FWS “removed the last hurdle in the way of Knowlton’s quest.” According to the article, “more than a year after the wealthy Texan submitted the winning \$350,000 bid for a Namibian government permit at a Dallas auction to shoot the animal, the agency announced that it approved his application for a separate U.S. permit to import the animal’s carcass back home as a trophy.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dallas \(TX\) Observer](#) (3/27, 186K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/26, 1.13M), the [AP](#) (3/26, Press), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Newsday](#) (3/27, 1.41M), [Reuters](#) (3/26), and [KTVT-TV Dallas \(TX\)](#) Dallas (3/26, 101K).

MEASURE WOULD PREVENT FWS FROM PROHIBITING TRADE OF ANTIQUE GUNS CONTAINING IVORY. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Devaney, 224K) reports that "Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) are offering an amendment that would stop the Fish and Wildlife Service from cracking down on antique guns containing ivory." According to the article, "the federal government prohibits the trade of fresh ivory from endangered African elephants and rhinos, but the lawmakers argue that antique ivory used in handguns should be exempt from the rules."

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO PROTECT WILDFLOWERS THREATENED BY MINING. [KUSA-TV Denver](#) (3/26, 386K) reports that "conservation groups on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the name of protecting two wildflowers whose habitat coincides with oil shale formations in Colorado and Utah." The service "last August denied Endangered Species Act protection to the two wildflowers — White River beardtongue and Graham beardtongue — one year after it proposed protecting the plants and nearly 76,000 acres of their habitat."

Also reporting on the story is the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/27, 73K).

CO-OPS HOPEFUL THAT LISTING OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT WILL INCLUDE MAINTENANCE, RIGHT OF WAY PROVISION. [Electric Co-op Today](#) (3/26, Cash) reports the US Fish & Wildlife Service plans to announce a protection plan for the northern long-eared bat, which has been plagued by the fungal disease white-nose syndrome, on April 2. The service has "proposed a provision that would enable co-ops to carry out right-of-way and maintenance work if it lists the bat as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act." NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson said, "We have been encouraged by the willingness of Fish and Wildlife Service staff to listen to our concerns. America's electric cooperatives need a final rule that will allow for hazardous tree removal in emergency situations and allow the expansion of existing rights of way needed to provide service to new members."

DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UNDERGOING ROAD WORK. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/27, 398K) reports that the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is undergoing road work. According to the article, a 4-mile stretch of Corn Creek Road is being paved from the highway to Desert's \$12 million visitor center that opened at the end of 2013. The project began March 18 and is scheduled for completion by the end of July.

CLEANUP OF NEASE CHEMICAL SITE PLANNED. [WYTV-TV Youngstown, OH](#) (3/26, 1K) reports that "the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are working on a plan to clean up the former Nease Chemical site on Route 14 in Salem." According to the article, "a meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 6 p.m. at the Salem Public Library to discuss how best to proceed with the cleanup." The article notes that "the restoration plan will address damaged natural resources from the release of hazardous substances from the now-closed facility."

NTSB RELEASES REPORT ON WEST BOYNTON, FLORIDA PLANE CRASH. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/26, Jacobson, 660K) reports that on Wednesday, the NTSB released a report on the deadly March 2 plane crash in West Boynton, Florida. The plane crashed in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, killing pilot David Whitney and student pilot William Mahn. Citing the NTSB's report, the Sun Sentinel notes that the plane flew over the refuge for roughly "25 minutes before it crashed, and there was no flight plan for the trip."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS DATA SHOWS WATER USE FOR FRACKING HAS JUMPED IN THE LAST DECADE. The [National Geographic](#) (3/27, 32.58M) reports that "the evolution of hydraulic fracturing—and its demand on water supplies—can be seen in historical data covering nearly one million wells drilled over 63 years." An analysis from the USGS, "released in late January, notes that water-intensive horizontal or directional drilling increased dramatically between 2000 and 2010."

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL CONDUCTS TESTING WITH ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE SYSTEM. The [FuelFix](#) (3/26, 7K) reports that "Shell's Arctic oil spill response system is undergoing drills in waters near Bellingham, Washington,

with government officials observing the exercises.” The company is “conducting the testing as it plans a new round of exploratory drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska later this year.” BSEE Director Brian Salemo and Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider are “among the officials set to watch as the containment system is deployed, at Shell’s invitation.”

Also providing coverage is the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/26, 146K).

NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL: DRILLING IN ARCTIC NEEDED NOW BECAUSE SHALE WON'T LAST. The AP (3/27, Fahey, 5.17M) reports the National Petroleum Council says in a study to be released today that the United States “should immediately begin a push to exploit its enormous trove of oil in the Arctic waters off of Alaska, or risk a renewed reliance on imported oil in the future.” The US has dramatically “cut imports and transformed itself into the world’s biggest producer of oil and natural gas by tapping huge reserves in shale rock formations” however “the government predicts that the shale boom won’t last much beyond the next decade.” An executive summary of a draft obtained by the AP says that “in order for the U.S. to keep domestic production high and imports low, oil companies should start probing the Arctic now because it takes 10 to 30 years of preparation and drilling to bring oil to market.” The study was produced at Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz’s request.

BILL TO PROPOSE USING OIL SPILL MONEY FOR LOUISIANA COLLEGES. The AP (3/26) reports that the Louisiana Board of Regents on Wednesday supported a proposal to steer money from the Gulf oil spill to public colleges. The bill would be sponsored by Rep. Walt Leger, D-New Orleans, who would call for placing extra moneys into a fund with interest being directed to help colleges. “Those dollars are separate from other civil penalties from violations of environmental laws, money that’s required to be set aside for coastal restoration and protection projects,” the article reports. The first \$1 billion in economic damages money has already been earmarked “to repay Louisiana’s ‘rainy day’ fund and an elderly trust fund that have been used to plug budget gaps in recent years,” the article reports. The proposal will be considered by lawmakers on April 13.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. Additional coverage of the meetings being held on offshore drilling in the Atlantic was provided by the [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (3/26) and the [Coastal \(GA\) Courier](#) (3/27, 16K)

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR TO BEGIN NEW MELONES RESERVOIR RELEASES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (3/27, 27K) reports that the BOR will “release more than 4 billion gallons of water from New Melones Reservoir into the Stanislaus River over the next couple of weeks for ‘pulse flows’ intended to push salmon smolts out to sea.” According to BOR spokeswoman Erin Curtis, “the releases will reduce the amount of water stored in New Melones by about 15,000 acre-feet.” According to Curtis, “the idea is to push the smolts into the Delta earlier because the river temperatures will likely warm to lethal levels prior to normal pulse flows in April.”

BOR SEEKS NEW MANAGER FOR KLAMATH BASIN AREA OFFICE. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/27, 45K) reports that “a new manager for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Klamath Basin Area Office is expected to arrive in May.” According to acting area manager Brian Person, Sheryl Franklin is not returning. Franklin, “who joined the office in mid-May, was the KBAO area manager for seven months.”

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT TO REPAIR COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON FLOOD DAMAGE. The [Sky-Hi Daily News \(CO\)](#) (3/27, 728) reports that the BOR has “awarded a contract totaling nearly \$1.5 million to Lillard and Clark Construction Company Inc., Denver, for repair to the Big Thompson Diversion Structure, an element of the Colorado-Big Thompson project that was damaged during the September 2013 flood.” The work “to repair the Big Thompson Diversion Structure, located 8.5 miles west of Loveland, requires removal and restoration of flood-damaged concrete areas, installation of a precast concrete building, repair and replacement of electrical systems, gates, gear boxes, electric motors and other rehabilitation tasks.” The project is expected to begin in April 2015.

Empowering Native American Communities:

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE STUDY OF TRIBAL RECOGNITION CHANGES. The AP (3/27, Melia) reports that “several congressional members called on the U.S. Interior Department Thursday to slow down an overhaul of the rules for granting federal recognition to American Indian tribes, saying more study is needed of problems that could result from lowering the bar for the coveted status.” Rep. Rob Bishop “sent a letter with four other

lawmakers outlining their concerns to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." They wrote, "We are concerned that the Department's proposed rules fail to address many of the issues that have been identified and could create new problems that lead to unintended and unjustifiable outcomes."

Coverage was also provided by the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (3/27, Press, 936K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Melia, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Michael Melia |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Melia, 1.37M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/27, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/27, 81K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Melia, 5.81M), and [WBNS-TV Columbus \(OH\)](#) Columbus, OH (3/26, 151K).

BIA SUPERINTENDENT WHO WAS STABBED IN STABLE CONDITION, SUSPECT IN CUSTODY. The AP (3/27) reports that the BIA superintendent who was "stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition." According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, "Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery." The BIA says "its Office of Justice Services is continuing to investigate the attack," and "it said on Wednesday evening a suspect was in custody."

Coverage was also provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.28M), the [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (3/27, 620), [KELO-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/27, 18K), and [KSFY-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/27, 3K).

JUDGE REJECTS CHALLENGE TO INTERIOR'S DECISION ON ONEIDAS. The AP (3/27, Virtanen) reports that "a federal judge on Thursday rejected a challenge to the U.S. Interior Department's decision to put more than 13,000 acres in trust for the Oneida Indian Nation and exempt the property from state and local taxes." Judge Lawrence Kahn held that "the decision in 2008 to put in trust most of roughly 17,000 acres proposed by the Oneida Indian Nation in Madison and Oneida counties didn't exceed the department's authority under the federal law intended to enable tribes to adapt to modern society." Kahn "noted that the land around the Oneidas' Turning Stone Casino, including gas stations and golf courses, were re-acquired by the tribe two centuries after they last possessed it."

Additional coverage was also provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (3/27, 438K), the [New York \(NY\) Law Journal](#) (3/27, 33K), the [Utica \(NY\) Observer Dispatch](#) (3/26, Cooper, 3K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (3/27, 674K), and [WNYW-TV New York \(NY\)](#) New York (3/27, 68K).

SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IN INDIAN COUNTRY. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/26, 49K) reports that "the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law will hold a symposium and town hall meeting tomorrow, March 27, to discuss the 'School-to-Prison Pipeline in Indian Country.'" The article notes that a "keynote address will be presented after lunch by Charles Roessel, director of the Bureau of Indian Education."

WALL STREET JOURNAL SIDES WITH DEFENDANT IN EAGLE FEATHERS CASE . The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/26, 49K) reports that "after the federal government returned ceremonial eagle feathers earlier this month to pastor Robert Soto in the wake of a nine-year legal battle, the episode received scant media attention." However, "the incident caught the eye of the editorial board of The Wall Street Journal, which saw fit to run an editorial on the absurdity of persecuting and prosecuting the longstanding spiritual practices of this member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and leader of the McAllen Grace Brethren Church."

BIPARTISAN PUSH TO FIX INDIAN SCHOOLS LAUDED. In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Board, 1.37M) reports that this week in Washington, D.C., "bipartisan members of Minnesota's congressional delegation wielded their collective clout on a critical education issue: obtaining adequate funding for the nation's broken-down federally funded Bureau of Indian Education school system." According to the paper, "with Congress in the midst of the 2016 appropriations process, this is an opportune time for Minnesota's delegation, as well as other states' representatives, to make it clear that years of declining or minimal funding for school construction must end." It urges "follow-up work by all of them...to ensure that Congress acts."

OPPOSITION TO PAMUNKEY'S RECOGNITION CRITICIZED. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/27, 322K) editorializes that "Virginia's Pamunkey Indian tribe will soon learn whether it will receive federal recognition, which would make it eligible for various benefits." The paper asserts that "there's no doubt the tribe, which dates back centuries, deserves to be recognized." But it notes that "outside interests want to deny the Pamunkey tribe what it rightfully deserves in order to continue lining their own pockets."

Office of Insular Affairs:

GUAM'S CALVO, BORDALLO SEEK DETERMINATION OF POLITICAL STATUS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (3/27) reports that "Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo in February asked the Department of the Interior for a quarter of a million dollars to jumpstart the educational campaign to determine the island's political status." Also, "U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week said that the federal government had monies available for the education campaign regarding Guam's political status, all island leaders needed to do was ask."

Top National News:

OBAMA DEFENDS CFPB, PAYDAY LOAN REGULATIONS IN VISIT TO ALABAMA. Overshadowed by the Germanwings tragedy and the conflict in Yemen, the President's trip to Alabama was not mentioned on the network newscasts, and was largely ignored by commentators on cable news shows. Local TV, print, and online coverage, meanwhile, cast a favorable light on plans to issue Federal payday loan rules, and put Obama's comments – on both the regulations and the agency that will issue them, the CFPB – in the context of efforts to boost the middle class. By all appearances, that may have been the White House's intention yesterday. In fact, [McClatchy](#) (3/27, Wise, Clark, Subscription Publication, 17K) notes that the bleachers at the Lawson State Community College gym where the President spoke "were festooned with a large blue sign reading, 'Middle Class Economics.'" The [Birmingham \(AL\) Business Journal](#) (3/27, Phillips, Subscription Publication, 35K) says "the speech focused on progress made in making the American financial system stronger to prevent lending practices that caused the recession." Obama also "focused on protecting families and students from shady borrowing practices, mentioning that four times as many payday loan establishments exist than McDonald's restaurants."

As [American Banker](#) (3/26, McKendry, Subscription Publication, 26K) puts it, "the creation of" the CFPB "has become a key part of" Obama's "legacy," and [USA Today](#) (3/26, Korte, 4.95M) notes that he denounced GOP "efforts to defund" it. [The Hill](#) (3/27, Fabian, 224K) quotes him as saying, "If Republicans in Congress send me a bill to unravel Wall Street reform, I will veto it." In his remarks, says the [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (3/27, Taylor, 13K), Obama also tied the agency's workings to his overall economic theme, saying, "I'm pushing for what I call middle-class economics – the idea that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules." [WHNT-TV Huntsville, AL](#) (3/26, 5:36 p.m. CDT, 76K) showed Obama saying, "We've got to make sure working families feel more secure, that their paychecks can go a little further, that they are getting things like paid leave and child care not because they are luxuries, but because they support families."

[Alabama Live](#) (3/27, Garrison, 502K) reports the Rev. Shannon Webster, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, has been "one of Alabama's most outspoken opponents of payday lenders," and Obama yesterday "praised" his "work and singled him out." Said the President, "Pastor Webster's one of the pastors leading the effort to protect consumers here in Alabama. ... At a public hearing a few years ago, he explained why he decided to work on this issue. 'When our people are trapped in debt,' he said, 'they cannot escape, and we're all hurt.' We're all hurt. And that's a simple statement but it captures so much of what it means to be an American." The [AP](#) (3/27, Pickler) notes that Obama also said, "You have some very conservative folks here in Alabama who...are reading their Bible, they're saying, 'Well, that ain't right.'"

[WSFA-TV Montgomery, AL](#) (3/26, 6:02 p.m. CDT, 30K) noted that the President "talked about a scenario where someone borrows \$500, but ends up, because of high interest rates, paying \$1000 in fees and interest." Obama was shown saying, "The idea is pretty common sense. If you lend out money you have to first make sure that the borrower can afford to pay it back. Don't lend somebody money if you know they can't pay it back. As Americans, we don't mind seeing folks make a profit, and if somebody lends you money, we expect you to charge interest on that loan, but if you're making that profit by trapping hard working Americans in a vicious cycle of debt, you've got to find a new business model."

[WPMI-TV Mobile, AL](#) (3/26, 5:05 p.m. CDT, 4K) also focused on the President's economic message, reporting that he spent "the majority of his speech focusing on White House policies he says will benefit the middle class in the final two years and beyond of his presidency." He also "took the opportunity to address the budget introduced this week by House Republicans." Obama was shown saying, "In Alabama, this new tax cut they're proposing, I have got to laugh because it would average \$2 million dollars per person in tax cuts, and it would apply to less than 50 people per year here in Alabama."

The [AP](#) (3/27, Pickler) reports that "before his remarks, Obama met with community leaders working on lending

protections and later praised bipartisan efforts to address potentially catastrophic debt loads on families." During his visit, noted [WSFA-TV](#) Montgomery, AL (3/27, Robinson, 30K), the President also "supported the political efforts in Alabama to fight this predatory lending."

Around the rest of the country, local TV coverage of the CFPB's proposed rules and the President's endorsement of them was relatively light and most reports were brief. Typical of much of the local TV coverage were the stories on [WAND-TV](#) Champaign, IL (3/26, 5:25 p.m. CDT, 2K), [WSLS-TV](#) Roanoke, VA (3/26, 5:53 p.m. EDT, 17K), and [WCNC-TV](#) Charlotte, NC (3/26, 4:24 p.m. EDT, 77K).

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (3/27, Silver-Greenberg, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports the rules "could sharply reduce the number of unaffordable loans that lenders can make each year to Americans desperate for cash." Yesterday's "proposal covers a wide swath of credit, including certain loans backed by car titles and some installment loans that stretch longer than 45 days." CFPB Director Richard Cordray said in a statement, "We are taking an important step toward ending the debt traps that are so pervasive in both the short-term and longer-term credit markets." [Reuters](#) (3/27, Stephenson, Edwards) notes that following yesterday's announcement of a framework for the new regulations, a CFPB spokesman indicated the formal payday rules proposal will be unveiled later this year.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (3/27, Gelles, 617K) reports that "a White House fact sheet called" the agency's "rule-making plan 'an important first step toward writing rules to help prevent abuses in payday lending and protect consumers from getting trapped in expensive cycles of debt and fees.'" White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters in a conference call that the CFPB "is uniquely positioned to take this action," adding that "Republican efforts to undermine the CFPB are nothing more than attempts to undermine middle-class families all around the country."

In a blog post titled "Not Just Whistling Dixie," [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, Williams, 685K) reported that while studies find payday loans are particularly prevalent in the "Heart of Dixie," the profit "flows straight to Wall Street – one key reason industry lobbyists are continuing to fight the new regulations," including "defeating a cap on astronomical interest rates, described as the Holy Grail of consumer protection advocates." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that Dennis Shaul of the Community Financial Services Association of America (representing payday lenders) warned that the rules would curtail credit availability, and accused the CFPB of "listening to...critics" and producing research that is "neither extensive or thorough." The AP (3/27, Boak) quotes Shaul as saying, "The bureau is looking at things through the lens of one-size-fits-all."

SENATE CONSIDERS DOZENS OF AMENDMENTS ON WAY TO PASSING BUDGET PROPOSAL. In what is known as the "vote-a-rama," which accompanies the Senate's consideration of a budget, the upper chamber worked its way through dozens of amendments Thursday on the way to passing its budget blueprint. If Senators pass a plan on Friday, as expected, efforts to reconcile it with the proposal passed by the House earlier this week will begin when lawmakers return from a two-week recess. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Shabad, Carney, 224K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that the amendment votes are expected to end Friday morning and Republican leaders are confident "their blueprint will be approved, though they have a tight margin." The AP (3/27, Espo, Wemer) says Republicans "could afford three defections and still be assured a majority for the budget," but that "presented a challenge" as four Republican members "are likely or announced presidential contenders, and several more face potentially difficult 2016 re-election tests in swing states."

The [New York Times](#) (3/27, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) describes the process as "one of those dubious traditions of Congress's upper chamber," in which the Senate opens "its well to an unlimited number of amendments to the budget blueprint for the coming fiscal year," adding that none of the amendments "are binding." However, the AP (3/27, Werner) says it is an "opportunity to score points or showcase one stance or another." For example, "likely GOP presidential candidates, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky, laid down markers with amendments boosting defense spending by \$76 billion in the budget," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that Democrats offered amendments aimed at forcing Republicans into difficult votes that can be used against them in future campaigns.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/27, Dinan, 644K) reports that Democrats "walked away with dozens of votes they think can be used against the GOP in upcoming elections," while Republican leaders "said this year's budget includes instructions under a process known as 'budget reconciliation' that could pave the way for a major tax overhaul and, most politically charged, for a last major assault on Obamacare."

[Politico](#) (3/26, Raju, 669K) reported that the race for the 2016 Republican nomination was on display in the

Senate Thursday as competition between Sens. Rubio, Paul, Ted Cruz and Lindsey Graham "was on vivid display as the Senate took up a Rubio plan to pump tens of billions of dollars more into the Pentagon budget." Paul "blasted the idea because the new spending wasn't offset by other cuts." Cruz, "who's pitching himself as a fiscal conservative who can appeal to the hawkish and libertarian wings of the GOP" was "caught in the middle," but "ultimately sided with Rubio and Graham."

Groups Push Pro-Gun Amendments. *The Hill* (3/26, Devaney, 224K) reported that Republicans and gun rights groups "are pushing for a number of amendments that would expand concealed-carry laws and block the Obama administration from issuing what opponents call a 'backdoor' ban on guns." The Times reviews the various pro-gun amendments under consideration that "would expand concealed carry laws and block future gun control initiatives."

AMERICAN COUSINS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TERROR ATTACK, TRYING TO JOIN ISIL. Pierre Thomas reported on *ABC World News* (3/26, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) that according to the FBI, "Army National Guardsman Hasan Edmonds had mass murder on his mind, hatching a sinister plot to kill his fellow soldiers. He was arrested at Chicago's Midway Airport yesterday, allegedly en route to join and fight with ISIS." The FBI also said that Edmonds "planned to give his cousin, Jonas Edmonds, his uniform...so he could wear it to get inside a nearby base. The likely target: Joliet Armory, where Hasan had trained. And the plan, to massacre soldiers there with a body count as high as 150."

David Martin reported on the *CBS Evening News* (3/26, story 6, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) that "Hasan and Jonas wanted to join ISIS, taking the southern route to Syria through Egypt. If they couldn't do that, Hasan told the informant, 'I am content to fight and die here. Honestly, we would love to do something like the brothers in Paris did.'" The *New York Times* (3/27, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), however, reports the two sought to join ISIL in Libya, not Syria, which it says makes their case "unique compared with the others the Justice Department has brought against Americans accused of trying to join the Islamic State." According to the Times, the cousins "planned to travel to Derna, Libya, a city that is controlled by" ISIL.

On *NBC Nightly News* (3/26, story 7, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported briefly on the arrests as did Chris Wallace on *Fox News' Special Report* (3/26, 1.53M). The *Chicago Tribune* (3/27, Meisner, 2.32M) reports that Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, a spokesman for the Illinois National Guard, said "Federal authorities recently informed the guard that Edmonds was under investigation, leading them to take 'discrete but concrete steps' to ensure he didn't have access to equipment or computers."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "A Dangerous Escalation In Iraq." In an editorial, the *New York Times* (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says President Obama "has escalated America's involvement in the fight" against ISIL "without providing a shred of evidence showing how it could advance American interests, or what happens" when the airstrikes are done. The Times says if ISIL "is expelled from Tikrit, the Americans and Iraqis will need to bring security and govern in a way that respects the rights of all citizens."

"Reducing Risks After the Germanwings Crash." A *New York Times* (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorial says a requirement that two people must be in the cockpit "makes sense and all airlines should adopt it." The Times says this is "a sensible step to reduce the risk that comes with leaving the lives of dozens or hundreds of people in the hands of just one pilot."

"No Need To Prosecute Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl." An editorial in the *New York Times* (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) that in prosecuting Bowe Bergdahl, military lawyers will have a difficult time "explaining why it's worthwhile to prosecute a soldier the Army recruited despite significant concerns about his psychological state and who endured years of torture and privation during his captivity." The Times adds that while "the American military has good reason to punish service members who desert," it should "exercise discretion in extraordinary cases," and "Bergdahl's is certainly one."

WASHINGTON POST. "The Mideast Breakdown." In an editorial, the *Washington Post* (3/27, 5.17M) says while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "is hardly blameless for the Mideast impasse" it "makes no sense" for the Administration to "portray" him as "a single-handed spoiler." The Post notes the "framework" for a Palestinian state "was also spurned by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas" and the peace process has lacked momentum since that time. The Post says withdrawing US support for Israel in the Security Council "wouldn't improve the regrettable status quo."

“Protection From Gay Marriage.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) in an editorial says that while there may be “legitimate debate on the balance between religious liberty and laws intended to prohibit discrimination” with respect to same-sex marriage, state legislatures have been considering laws that “would go much further” even allowing “religious justification” for businesses’ “refusal to hire, employ or serve gay men or lesbians, or members of virtually any minority group.” The Post worries that some might use religion to justify discrimination against “lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people,” or “Jews or Muslims.” It is particularly concerned by state legislative efforts “to roll back local ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation,” urging governments to be “wary of embracing intolerance under the guise of protecting people of faith.”

“A ‘More Delightful’ Library.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) says that the question of “what to do with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library has vexed the District for a decade.” Now, there is an “exciting plan developed by library officials that we hope will have better success than the unrealized ideas of the past.” While “obstacles” to the remake “still exist,” library officials “seem to be well on their way, having hired architects and worked closely with the federal planning agency that will have to sign off on the design.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Obama’s Mideast Vacuum.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that Saudi Arabia would not have engaged in its risky intervention in Yemen if it trusted that the US could remain a stabilizing force in the region. The Journal says the US must send a clear message about its willingness to help the Saudis.

“Tim Robbins, Capitalist Tool.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) praises actor liberal actor Tim Robbins, who has come out against an effort by the Actors’ Equity Association to impose a minimum wage for smaller theater workers.

“The Spitzer-Schneiderman Rules.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) in an editorial says that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman appears to have followed what it describes as the practice of former state AG Eliot Spitzer in disregarding or hiding evidence that would undermine the state’s case against former AIG CEO Hank Greenberg. The paper argues that such was the case regarding testimony by Richard Napier, who served as a top witness for the state against Greenberg, and says that the US Justice Department had itself withheld notes regarding an interview with Napier at which staff from the New York AG’s office were also present. The paper argues that the case against Greenberg should be dropped.

“Iran Keeps Its Nuclear Secrets.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that Iran’s refusal to cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors should prevent any nuclear agreement from moving forward.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Co-Pilot Appears To Have Deliberately Crashed Plane
 Yemen Devolves Into Proxy War
 Obama Struggles With A Messy Mideast
 Regional Banks Fill Industrial Niche

New York Times:

Fatal Descent Of Plane Was A ‘Deliberate Act,’ French Authorities Say
 A Man Who Loved To Fly, Set On A Mysterious And Deadly Course
 Policy Puzzle In The Mideast
 On Second Try, A Kingly Burial For Richard III
 East Village Blast And Fire Fell Buildings And Hurt At Least 19
 In Evolving Role (And In Song), City’s First Lady Finds Her Voice

Washington Post:

Focus On Pilot Screenings And Cockpit Doors Grows
 Official: Crash Was Not An Accident
 Egypt Poised To Join Offensive
 Saudi Strikes Used US Intelligence US Assisted Saudi Strikes In Yemen

Iraqi Militias Balk At US Strikes In Tikrit
 DC Soccer Fans Carry On A Joyful, Messi Love Affair

Financial Times:

Co-Pilot's Fatal Actions Spur Cockpit Review
 Oil Price Jumps After Saudi-Led Air Strikes On Targets In Yemen
 Microsoft Joins Wage Inequality Debate Urging Paid Leave For Suppliers' US Staff

Washington Times:

Germanwings Crash Sparks Rush To Embrace US 2 Pilots In Cockpit Rule
 Yemen Crisis Threatens Obama Iran Nuclear Talks, Further Clouds Middle East Policy
 DHS Secretary Says Mayorkas Will Keep His Job Amid Immigration Flap
 House Passes Medicare Payment Overhaul In Rare Spark Of Bipartisanship
 DEA Agents Hired Prostitutes Paid For By Drug Cartels
 Marco Rubio Takes Aim At Restrictive DC Gun Control Laws

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; Germanwings Plane Crash-Cockpit Door; Germanwings Plane Crash-Analysis; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Congressman Schock Resigns; Texas-Bridge Collapse; California-Missing Woman Case; Pope Francis-Upcoming White House Visit.
CBS: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; US-Pilot Screening Procedure; Germanwings Plane Crash-Analysis; Airline Disasters Unsolved; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Bashar al-Assad Interview; Yemen-Saudi Arabia Airstrikes; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; DEA Misconduct Report; Hillary Clinton-CBS News Poll; Germanwings Plane Crash.
NBC: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; Germanwings Plane Crash-Cockpit Door; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; Yemen Conflict; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Texas-Bridge Collapse.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Plane Crash – 24 minutes, 40 seconds
 Severe Weather-Oklahoma – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
 New York-Building Explosion – 4 minutes
 FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
 Yemen Conflict – 2 minutes, 25 seconds
 Texas-Bridge Collapse – 1 minute, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Germanwings Plane Crash; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Alabama-Obama Economy Speech; Wall Street.
CBS: Germanwings Plane Crash; House-Budget Legislation; GOP-Obama Foreign Policy; DEA Misconduct Report; Pennsylvania-Faculty Restroom Dispute; Wall Street.
FOX: Germanwings Plane Crash; House-Budget Legislation; Alabama-Obama Economy Speech; California-Missing Woman Case; NCAA Basketball Tournament Results; Yemen Conflict; New York-Building Explosion; Idaho-Monsanto Fined.
NPR: Germanwings Plane Crash; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; Yemen Conflict; Pay Day Loan Regulations; Ebola Study; Iranian Nuclear Talks; New York-Building Explosion.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Unavailable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will be in Wilmington, Delaware. There are no public events scheduled.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: No votes are expected in the House.

Other: UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA — March 23 – 27. The United

Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea will visit the United States of America (23-27 March) to hear firsthand testimonies from Eritrean refugees and migrants there. During its visit, the Commission will be based in Washington D.C. For media requests, please contact the Secretariat of the Commission of Inquiry by email: coieritrea@ohchr.org. Contacts: coieritrea@ohchr.org. On the Net: <http://www.ohchr.org/COIEritrea>.

AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – BELL — Breakfast speaker: Robert Bell: “Senior Civilian Representative in Europe of the Secretary of Defense: “EPAA and ballistic Missile Defense in Europe. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/corporate/huessybreakfastseries>. Location: Capitol Hill Club. Contacts: Peter Huessy phuessy@afa.org. Notes: Invitation only.

MARINE CORPS MUSEUM — Museum Groundbreaking: 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Timothy T. Day Overlook Dedication: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Onsite media interviews can be arranged with advance request beginning at 9:30 a.m. Speakers include: Gen. James F. Amos, USMC (Ret), 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps; Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr., USMC (Ret), President & CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; Lin Ezell, Director, National Museum of the Marine Corps; Timothy T. Day, Chairman and CEO, Bar-S Foods, Co. Media contact Dan Gregory at 202.414.0785 or dgregory@susandavis.com. Location: National Museum of the Marine Corps, 18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Triangle, VA 22172.

BPC – ELECTION ADMINISTRATION — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. White House Counsel W. Neil Eggleston will discuss election administration during a Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) event marking one year since the release of recommendations by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA). Eggleston and PCEA co-chairs Bob Bauer and Ben Ginsberg will make remarks and take questions during the event’s opening session. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 ‘Eye’ Street, NW, Suite 1000, 10th Floor. Contacts: Jordan LaPier, jlapiere@bipartisanpolicy.org, 202-379-1630.

PPRI – MILLENNIALS SURVEY — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) will release the 2015 Millennials, Sexuality, and Reproductive Health Survey. Speakers: Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO of Public Religion Research Institute; Tina Hoff, Senior Vice President for the Kaiser Family Foundation and Director of the Foundations Health Communication and Media Partnerships Program; Dr. Krishna Upadhy, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; Elizabeth Dawes Gay, MPH, Founder of Black Women For. <http://publicreligion.org/newsroom/events/2015/03/release-of-the-2015-survey-of-millennials-sexuality-and-reproductive-health/>. VRQ_vfnF-So. Location: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundations Barbara Jordan Conference Center, 1330 G ST NW.

USIP – STATE OF FRAGILITY — 10:30 a.m. States of Fragility: Post-2015 Ambitions – OECD Releases Annual Report on Fragility. Speakers: Nancy Lindborg, Opening Remarks President, US Institute of Peace; Melissa Brown, Director, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, USAID; Alexandre Marc, Chief Technical Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence-Cross Cutting Solutions Area, World Bank Group; Brenda Killen, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; Jolanda Profos, Peace and Conflict Adviser, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; Sarah Hearn, Associate Director and Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation; Andrew Blum, Moderator, Vice President of Program Management and Evaluation, US Institute of Peace. <http://www.usip.org/events/states-of-fragility-post-2015-ambitions>. Location: US Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave. NW.

CATO – FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING — 12 p.m. Capitol Hill briefing New Incentives from Federal Transportation Funding. Speakers: Randal O’Toole, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; Baruch Feigenbaum, Transportation Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation; and Marc Scribner, Research Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute; moderated by Peter Russo, Director, Congressional Affairs, Cato Institute. Webcast at: www.cato.org/live. Location: B-369 Rayburn. Contacts: Cato Media Relations pr@cato.org (202-789-5200)

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM – MEDICARE 101 — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Medicare 101: What You Need to Know. <http://www.allhealth.org/briefthankyou.asp?registered=1&briefid=350&nam=AP%20Washington%20Daybook>. Location: Rooms B338 and B339 Rayburn. Contacts: Medicare101 (info@allhealth.org). Monica Laufer m Laufer@allhealth.org ((202)789-2300).

NPC – FDA COMMISSIONER HAMBURG — 12:30 p.m. Dr. Margaret Hamburg, the outgoing commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration, will speak at a National Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon. <http://www.press.org/events/npc-luncheon-dr-margaret-hamburg-commissioner-us-food-and-drug-administration>. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Stephanie Yao stephanie.yao@fda.hhs.gov (301-796-0394). Notes: This is a ticketed event. For more information, please contact Doris Margolis, dorismargolis@editorialassociates.com.

CSIS – US-JAPAN SECURITY SEMINAR 2015 — 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Speakers include: Masahiko Komura, Member, House of Representatives, Vice President, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; David B. Shear Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs; others. <http://csis.org/event/us-japan-security-seminar-2015-0>. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Second Floor Conference Center, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CARNEGIE – US – INDIA RELATIONS — 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. “Strategic Plus: Taking US-India Relations to a New Level. In his first visit to Washington since taking over as the US ambassador to India, Ambassador Richard Verma will discuss how the bilateral strategic partnership has moved into a new “strategic plus phase,” and what must be done to sustain the momentum that is transforming and deepening the two countries’ ties. <http://camegieendowment.org/2015/03/27/strategic-plus-taking-US-india-relations-to-new-level/i4mf>. Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

WILSON CENTER – NEW ALLIANCES FOR ASIA? — 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. New Alliances for Asia? Prospects for Relations Between Japan, India, and the United States. Speakers: James Clad, Senior advisor for Asia, CNA Corporation and former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia; Richard McGregor, Public Policy Fellow, Former Beijing and Washington Bureau Chief, Financial Times; Dhruva Jaishankar, Transatlantic fellow, German Marshall Fund. <http://wilsoncenter.org/event/new-alliances-for-asia-prospects-for-relations-between-japan-india-and-the-united-states>. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 4th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “Republican candidate Ted Cruz said recently that in the 36 hours after he announced that he’s running for president, he raised over one million dollars. And Hillary Clinton closed her checkbook and said, ‘Happy to help.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “That’s right, Ted Cruz raised over one million dollars after announcing he’s running for president, which is why today Radio Shack announced it is also running for president.”

Jimmy Fallon: “I read that since President Obama was elected, representatives from Google have visited the White House over 200 times. You know you’re the most powerful man in the world when you Google something and they show up at your door.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Yesterday, Jeb Bush criticized President Obama’s foreign policy and said that his Administration uses ‘schoolyard antics.’ When he heard that, Obama was like ‘Is this about Biden’s swing set? Because we can always take that down. It makes him happy.’”

Seth Meyers: “You know, there was a lot of talk last week, a couple weeks ago about Hillary Clinton and her email account. Well the Associated Press says that Jeb Bush used his second secret personal email address during his time as Florida governor and there is, you guys, there is some pretty embarrassing stuff in there. For example, it was a Hotmail address. Can you trust someone with a Hotmail address to lead this nation?”

Seth Meyers: “Mayor Rahm Emanuel is reportedly considering renaming one of Chicago’s airports after Barack Obama. And he’s going to name the baggage area after Joe Biden.”

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Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

1 message

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Bcc: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 3:06 PM

If you have not already done so, please RSVP using the [link](#) provided in the invitation below. Thank you.



Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, Governor David Ige, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner and other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

- 9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
- 9:30 a.m. – Final shuttle leaves for dedication site
- 10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Directions to Monsanto Parking Lot: From Honolulu, head west on H-1 Freeway. Take Kunia Rd. off ramp (Exit 5b) and head north on Kunia Rd. In about 1 mile and after passing 3 intersections, take an immediate left onto a gravel road. You will see signs for turn. Follow the road to the parking lot.

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP by Friday, March 27 by clicking [HERE](#). This invitation is non-transferable. Casual attire is appropriate.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-513-0888

Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Trip Schedule

1 message

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 12:26 PM

Cc: Kerry McNellis <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

Bcc: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov

Team - attached is the Secretary's current schedule for her travels to California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and New York

Please do not forward or otherwise distribute, and feel free to contact us should there be any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Erin

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

**SOI CA OR WA HI NY Travel 0326-0402.pdf**

572K



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

INVITATION: Join Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

1 message

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Bcc: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 6:07 PM



Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner and other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
9:30 a.m. – Final shuttle leaves for dedication site
10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Directions to Monsanto Parking Lot: From Honolulu, head west on H-1 Freeway. Take Kunia Rd. off ramp (Exit 5b) and head north on Kunia Rd. In about 1 mile and after passing 3 intersections, take an immediate left onto a gravel road. You will see signs for turn. Follow the road to the parking lot.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP by Friday, March 27 by clicking [HERE](#). This invitation is non-transferable. Casual attire is appropriate.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Do you have the most recent schedule for Hawaii that I can share with the Hill?

2 messages

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 4:30 PM

To: Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

Gracias!

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 5:32 PM

To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

9:15 am - Gather at Monsanto Assembly Zone

9:30 am - Last shuttle bus departs Monsanto

10:00-10:30am - Honouliuli Gulch Dedication Ceremony and Program

10:30-11:00am - Tours of Honouliuli Gulch

11:05 - Shuttle buses depart en route Monsanto Assembly Zone

12:00-1:30pm - Welcome Reception and Celebration of the New Honouliuli National Monument
Location: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

Let me know if you need more info!

Thanks,
ErinOn Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 4:30 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Gracias!

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Hawaii invitation

2 messages

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 5:25 PM

To: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

FYI - I'm getting ready to send this out. I'll include you on the email and you can forward to your folks. Cool?



Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner and other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
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Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Directions to Monsanto Parking Lot: From Honolulu, head west on H-1 Freeway. Take Kunia Rd. off ramp (Exit 5b) and head north on Kunia Rd. In about 1 mile and after passing 3 intersections, take an immediate left onto a gravel road. You will see signs for turn. Follow the road to the parking lot.

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP by Friday, March 27 by clicking [HERE](#). This invitation is non-transferable. Casual attire is appropriate.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Gordon, Gabriella (Janou) <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 5:25 PM

Sounds good! I'll send to the whole delegation.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445

Confidential



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

9 messages

Maria Najera (via Google Sheets) <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:37 PM

To: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov

Cc: gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov

maria_najera@ios.doi.gov has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:

 [Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15](#)



Would you guys add Congressional folks? I'm planning to send to ethics/GL shortly.

[Open in Sheets](#)

Google Sheets: Create and edit spreadsheets online.



Gordon, Gabriella (Janou) <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:38 PM

To: "Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Yup!

Jeremy, do you want me to add the whole delegation or just Schatz, Hirono and Gabbard?

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:42 PM

To: gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov, "Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Please add everybody and we can always pare down later.

From: Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:38 PM

To: Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)

Reply To: Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)

Cc: Jeremy Bratt

Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

[Quoted text hidden]

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:44 PM

To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Have any moc confirmed? I'd like to send the invite out tomorrow and was wondering if I needed to add anyone to the invitations.

Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Governor David Ige, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, University of Hawaii President David Lassner other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site

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Monsanto Parking Lot *

94-520 Kunia Road

Waipahu, HI 96759

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP at your earliest convenience by clicking [HERE](#) (link).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

202-208-1923

Maria Najera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240

☎ 202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)

maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:44 PM

We have tentative confirmations but nothing solid. What time are you sending tomorrow?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:45 PM

between 3-4 pm.

Maria Najera
Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
☎ 202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:48 PM

oh, great. Then I'll reach out to them first thing tomorrow and ask if we can include them.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 11:18 AM

Right now we have the ok from Senators Schatz and Hirono to include them in the invitation. Still haven't heard back from Rep. Gabbard, though, but I'll ping them one more time before you send it out around 3 or 4.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior

5/4/2016

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Honolulu Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 11:21 AM

Great! Thanks. And so you know, only members are invited. There is no room for staff at this time. Thanks again.

Maria Nájera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
☎ 202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation?

4 messages

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 10:50 AM

To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <andrew_winer@schatz.senate.gov>

Hello Malia and Andrew,

We'd like to send out an invitation to interested stakeholders for the upcoming Honouliuli event and were wondering if it is ok to include Sen. Schatz's name (please see below) as a confirmed attendee.

We will most likely send this out around 3 p.m. this afternoon.

Thank you,
Jeremy

Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Governor David Ige, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, University of Hawaii President David Lassner other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
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Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP at your earliest convenience by clicking [HERE](#) (link).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 11:11 AM

To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <andrew_winer@schatz.senate.gov>, sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov

I got Malia's out of office reply, so resending with Sarah on this email.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

Winer, Andrew (Schatz) <Andrew_Winer@schatz.senate.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 11:16 AM

To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

Jeremy: Ok with us.

Andy

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:50 AM

To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); Winer, Andrew (Schatz)

Subject: Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation?

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 11:17 AM

To: "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <Andrew_Winer@schatz.senate.gov>

Cc: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

Great, thanks!

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

for the weekly

3 messages

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

Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:00 PM

To: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Erin F <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Can you guys please let me know who will be at the HI event with SJ? This is all I have right now:

On March 31, Secretary Jewell will attend a dedication ceremony and community celebration for the newly established Honouliuli National Monument in Oahu, HI.

-

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

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:24 PM

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

Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Erin F <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Although I don't think we have official RSVPs because we haven't extended official invites yet (Booch and EFB, correct me if I'm wrong about that), we have heard that Sens. Schatz and Hirono will be at both events and Rep. Gabbard will be at the public event at the cultural center.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:33 PM

To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Erin F <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Great. Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

4 messages

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 3:31 PM

To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>, "Lin, Betsy (Hirono)" <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov>, "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>

Hello Team Hawaii,

Below is a draft schedule for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 with Secretary Jewell. This is still tentative and subject to change as details get firmed up, but I wanted to share this with you as soon as I received it from the Secretary's scheduling team.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will continue to share information as I get it.

Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

10:00am - Dedication Ceremony and tour at Honouliuli
Invitations to be handled by Interior

Guests will meet at Monsanto and take buses down; we will need a tight RSVP count for this as only two buses can make it down to the site. Consequently, space for staff will be very difficult to accommodate.

12:00-1:30pm - Community Reception at Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
Invitations to be handled by JCCH

THE JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII, PACIFIC HISTORIC PARKS, JAHL HONOLULU CHAPTER, and MONSANTO HAWAII

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A WELCOME RECEPTION FOR U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SALLY JEWELL AND A CELEBRATION OF THE NEW HONOULIULI NATIONAL MONUMENT

AT

MANOA GRAND BALLROOM
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
2454 S. BERETANIA STREET, 5TH FLOOR
HONOLULU

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
12 NOON TO 1:30 PM

RSVP: SPECIALEVENTSCOORD@JCCH.COM
OR CALL (808) 218-6747

Paul, Malia (Schatz) <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 3:48 PM

Thank you Jeremy.

Malia Oshima Paul

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of Senator Brian Schatz

300 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7-212

Honolulu, HI 96850

(808)523-2061

www.schatz.senate.gov

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:31 PM
To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); James, Rachel; Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Tanonaka, Rod
Subject: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Redacted signature box]

James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 7:20 PM

Thank you for the information, Jeremy! Although you may not have this info yet, I just wanted to make mention of it so that it is in your mind as things progress: 1. Will there be a formal reception for Secretary Jewell in the first part of the hour (i.e. 12-1230?) followed by the community reception? 2. Are each of the Hawaii Delegates being asked to speak? If they are not present themselves, will their staff be asked to share

the message on their behalf?

Just food for thought as be proceed. Thank you again, Jeremy. Take care

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); James, Rachel; Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Tanonaka, Rod
Subject: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Hello Team Hawaii,

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Redacted signature]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 10:36 AM

Hello,
Good questions - I will ask our scheduling team and try to find out!
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

HI event

6 messages

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:46 AM

When you've got more details on timing/location/etc for the Honolulu event, can you let me know? The Congressional offices are eager to learn more about the day. Gracias.

Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: EFB <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:57 AM

+ EFB

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:46 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

When you've got more details on timing/location/etc for the Honolulu event, can you let me know? The Congressional offices are eager to learn more about the day. Gracias.

--
Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling and Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5723 (direct)
202.304.4166 (cell)

Frautschy Barrows, Erin <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 12:33 PM

Hi Jeremy,

Here's what we're looking at:

10:00am - Dedication Ceremony and tour at Honouliuli (we are sending out invites for this piece)

Guests will have to meet at Monsanto and take buses down; we will need a tight RSVP count for this as only two buses can make it down to the site. (read= no staff if possible)

12:00-1:30pm - Community Reception at JCCH

Here's the info on that (we aren't sending out those invites)

THE JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

PACIFIC HISTORIC PARKS

JACL HONOLULU CHAPTER

MONSANTO HAWAII

AND
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
A WELCOME RECEPTION FOR
U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SALLY JEWELL
AND A CELEBRATION OF THE NEW
HONOULIULI NATIONAL MONUMENT
AT
MANOA GRAND BALLROOM
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
2454 S. BERETANIA STREET, 5
TH FLOOR
HONOLULU
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
12 NOON TO 1:30 PM
RSVP: SPECIALEVENTSCOORD@JCCH.COM

OR CALL (808) 218-6747

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 1:38 PM

To: erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov, "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you! Ok if I share this with Hill folks and say it's tentative and subject to change?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Iacobucci, Francis
Reply To: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Cc: Bratt, Jeremy
Subject: Re: HI event

[Quoted text hidden]

Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 1:44 PM

Yes

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-7551

[Quoted text hidden]

Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 3:31 PM

done.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

[Quoted text hidden]



Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument

1 message

Milakofsky, Benjamin <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 4:38 PM

A slightly happier message, folks.

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

From: **White House Press Office** <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 4:23 PM
Subject: Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument
To: benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2015

Attached and signed by the President today is the proclamation on the Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument.

###

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--
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2015honouliulimonument.prc.rel.pdf

86K

Confidential

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 24, 2015

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONOULIULI NATIONAL MONUMENT

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Honouliuli Internment Camp (Honouliuli) serves as a powerful reminder of the need to protect civil liberties in times of conflict, and the effects of martial law on civil society. Honouliuli is nationally significant for its central role during World War II as an internment site for a population that included American citizens, resident immigrants, other civilians, enemy soldiers, and labor conscripts co-located by the U.S. military for internment or detention. While the treatment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i differed from the treatment of Japanese Americans on the U.S. mainland in ways that are detailed below, the legacy of racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and failure of political leadership during this period is common to the history of both Hawai'i and the mainland United States.

Early on December 7, 1941, Japanese air and naval forces attacked Pearl Harbor and other military installations on O'ahu. Before martial law was invoked, government officials began selectively rounding up Hawai'i residents on suspicion of disloyalty. They were confined at local jails, courthouses, and other facilities on six of the main Hawaiian Islands before being transported to the U.S. Immigration Station and Sand Island Detention Camp on O'ahu. Nearly all of the internees were of Japanese descent, including leaders in the Japanese American community who were educated, were teachers or priests, or were distinguished by virtue of their access to means of communication with Japan or to transportation from Hawai'i. Most would be sent to the mainland to be held for the duration of the war in Department of Justice and War Relocation Authority camps. Despite the government's allegations of disloyalty, none of the Japanese American internees from Hawai'i was ever found guilty of sabotage, espionage, or overt acts against the United States, and all later received formal apologies and many received redress compensation from the United States.

On the Island of O'ahu, the U.S. War Department sought a place removed from the active combat areas of Pearl Harbor for internment of individuals. The War Department chose Honouliuli Gulch, the bottom of which was hidden from view by the gulch's steep walls. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened on March 2, 1943, with the transfer of internees from Sand Island and rapidly swelled in population with the influx of prisoners of war. Managed by the U.S. Army, it was the largest and longest used confinement site in Hawai'i.

Honouliuli is significant for having been used as both a civilian internment camp and a prisoner of war camp, with a population of approximately 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war over the course of its use. Honouliuli was divided into seven compounds: one compound for administration and guards, one for civilian internees, and eventually five compounds for prisoners of war. The civilian compound was further divided into sections for male civilian internees of Japanese ancestry, female civilian internees of Japanese ancestry, and civilian internees of European ancestry. Historic documents indicate there were 175 buildings, 14 guard towers, and over 400 tents among the 7 compounds on 160 acres. Many internees referred to Honouliuli as *Jigoku-Dani* (Hell Valley) because its secluded location at the bottom of a deep gulch trapped heat and moisture and reinforced the internees' sense of isolation and unjust confinement.

The majority of Honouliuli's civilian internees were American citizens or permanent resident aliens -- predominantly Japanese Americans who were citizens by birth -- interned on suspicion of disloyalty. The remaining group comprised predominantly German Americans, though there were also Americans and aliens of Italian, Irish, Russian, and Scandinavian descent. Honouliuli also held women and children who were Japanese civilians displaced from the Pacific.

The 4,000 prisoners of war in Honouliuli included enemy soldiers and labor conscripts from Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan, and Italy. The prisoner of war compounds were guarded by an African American infantry unit as well as units of Japanese Americans from the mainland.

Honouliuli closed in 1945 for civilian internees and in 1946 for prisoners of war. With the closing of the camp, fast-growing vegetation quickly took over the site. Honouliuli was forgotten as Americans celebrated the victories of World War II and focused attention on the valor displayed by Americans at Pearl Harbor and abroad.

While both mainland and Hawaiian internment camps are sobering examples of wartime prejudice and injustice, Honouliuli reminds us of the differences in the way that forced removal was approached in Hawai'i and on the mainland.

The primary difference between the Japanese American experience on the mainland and on Hawai'i is that the internment in Hawai'i targeted a relatively small percentage of the ethnic Japanese population on the islands. Less than one percent of Hawai'i's ethnic Japanese population was interned in Hawai'i. This contrasts with the mass exclusion of all 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast of the mainland. In Hawai'i, the Japanese American citizenry and immigrant population were over one third of the territory's total population. Without their participation in the labor force, the economy of the territory could not have been sustained and the war effort in the islands would have been crippled. Both the policies in Hawai'i and those on the mainland devastated Japanese Americans and their families and created a social stigma that was borne by Japanese Americans during and after the war. The selective nature of the internment in Hawai'i also sowed division within the Japanese American community in Hawai'i, leading to ostracism and other

backlash against the targeted individuals and their families that would last their lifetimes.

The declaration of martial law served as the basis to authorize internment in Hawai'i, as opposed to the mainland where mass exclusion was authorized by Executive Order 9066. During the period of martial law from December 7, 1941, to October 24, 1944, the U.S. Army issued hundreds of military orders, some of which were applicable only to persons of Japanese ancestry and enemy aliens. For example, people of Japanese ancestry were restricted from residing in certain areas of O'ahu and were forcibly removed from their properties. These types of discriminatory policies created an atmosphere of fear and suspicion.

Finally, Honouliuli is significant because of the comparatively lower level of public understanding and awareness of the history of internment of civilians in Hawai'i during World War II. On the mainland during World War II, mass exclusion was well known. In contrast, the internment in Hawai'i was largely kept secret during World War II, and has only recently become the subject of scholarship and awareness campaigns. It was not until 1998 that information about Honouliuli resurfaced. After 4 years of research and exploration, the site was uncovered in 2002. In 2008, an archeological research survey was conducted at the site. Honouliuli remains an object of archeological interest.

Honouliuli serves to remind every American about the critical importance of safeguarding civil liberties and maintaining our values during times of crisis. It is important to recognize Honouliuli as a part of our shared national heritage and national consciousness. It is a place to reflect on wartime experiences and recommit ourselves to the pursuit of freedom and justice.

WHEREAS section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

WHEREAS Honouliuli's objects of historic interest were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 as nationally significant for their association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

WHEREAS, for the purpose of establishing a national monument to be administered by the National Park Service, the Monsanto Company has donated certain lands at Honouliuli to the United States, and the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu has agreed to provide access across its property to those lands;

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to preserve and protect the historic objects at Honouliuli;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, hereby proclaim the objects identified above that are situated upon lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be the Honouliuli National Monument (monument) and, for the purpose of protecting those objects, reserve as a part thereof all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map entitled, "Honouliuli National Monument," which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation. The reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 123.0 acres, together with appurtenant easements for all necessary purposes. The boundaries described on the accompanying map are confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries described on the accompanying map are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights. Lands and interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.

The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall manage the monument through the National Park Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the monument, with full public involvement, within 3 years of the date of this proclamation. The management plan shall ensure that the monument fulfills the following purposes for the benefit of present and future generations: (1) to preserve and protect the objects of historic interest associated with Honouliuli Internment Camp, and (2) to study and interpret the history of World War II internment and detention in Hawai'i. The management plan shall set forth the desired relationship of the monument to other related resources, programs, and organizations associated with World War II internment, detention, and exclusion.

The National Park Service shall use available authorities, as appropriate, to enter into agreements to provide for access to the monument. The National Park Service shall also use available authorities, as appropriate, to enter into agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to provide for research, preservation, interpretation, and education at Honouliuli and additional sites associated with World War II internment in Hawai'i and exclusion elsewhere. The National Park Service shall also coordinate management with World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which commemorates the

broader story of the war in the Pacific and its impacts on Hawai'i.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

#



Smith, Valerie <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>

FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:03 PM

To: Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Just making sure everyone saw this. Thanks! jb

From: White House Press Office [mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:02 AM**To:** john_blair@ios.doi.gov**Subject:** FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2015

FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our Nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, today he will launch an "Every Kid in a Park" initiative that will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. He will also announce the creation of three new National Monuments across the country.

The President will make the announcements near the site of the historic Pullman town in Chicago, a location iconic for its history of labor unrest and civil rights advances, which will be the City's first National Park Service (NPS) unit. He also will announce that he will designate Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, the site of an internment camp where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II, and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, an historic site of extraordinary beauty with world-class recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the globe. Together, these monuments will help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Every Kid in a Park

In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President's [Every Kid in a Park](#) initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outside. A 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that young people now devote an average of more than seven hours a day to electronic media use, or about 53 hours a week – more than a full time job.

America's public lands and waters offer space to get outside and get active, and are living classrooms that

provide opportunities to build critical skills through hands-on activities. To inspire the next generation to discover all that America's public lands and waters have to offer, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. The initiative will also:

- ***Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips:*** The Administration will distribute information and resources to make it easy for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands and waters and to find programs that support youth outings.

- ***Provide transportation support to schools with the most need:*** As an integral part of this effort, the National Park Foundation (NPF) – the congressionally chartered foundation of the National Park Service – is expanding and re-launching its Ticket to Ride program as Every Kid in a Park, which will award transportation grants for kids to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools that have the most need.

- ***Provide educational materials:*** The initiative will build on a wide range of educational programs and tools that the federal land management agencies already use. For example, NPS has re-launched a website with over 1,000 materials developed for K-12 teachers, including science labs, lesson plans, and field trip guides. And a number of federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Education, and NPS participate in Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms and agency resources that connects students, teachers, families, and volunteers with public lands and waterways.

To further support this effort, the President's 2016 Budget includes a total increased investment of \$45 million for youth engagement programs throughout the Department of the Interior, with \$20 million specifically provided to the National Park Service for youth activities, including bringing 1 million fourth-grade children from low-income areas to national parks. This increase will also fund dedicated youth coordinators to help enrich children and family learning experiences at parks and online.

Pullman National Monument in Illinois:

This monument will preserve and highlight America's first planned industrial town, and a site that tells important stories about the social dynamics of the industrial revolution, of American opportunity and discrimination, and of the rise of labor unions and the struggle for civil rights and economic opportunity for African Americans and other minorities. The 203-acre site includes factories and buildings associated with the Pullman Palace Car Company, which was founded in 1867 and employed thousands of workers to construct and provide service on railroad cars. While the Pullman Company employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture railroad passenger cars, it also recruited the first porters, waiters and maids from the population of former slaves to serve on its luxury cars. Though lower-paying, these service jobs held prestige in the African-American community and played a major role in the rise of the African-American middle class and, through an historic labor agreement, the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th Century. The historic labor movement organized by A. Philip Randolph in the 1930s to win rights for these porters, waiters and maids ultimately created the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first labor union led by African Americans to receive a charter in the American Federation.

The National Park Foundation today announced that nearly \$8 million dollars has already been raised to support the monument, which will be Chicago's first National Park Service unit and will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado:

This monument will protect a stunning section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley. Located in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, the 21,586-acre monument features rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings, and mountain vistas that are home to a diversity of plants and wildlife, including bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Members of Congress, local elected officials, conservation advocates, and community members have worked for more than a decade to protect the area, which hosts world-class recreational opportunities that

attract visitors from around the globe for hiking, whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing. In addition to supporting this vibrant outdoor recreation economy, the designation will protect the critical watershed and honor existing water rights and uses, such as grazing and hunting. The monument will be cooperatively managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and USDA's National Forest Service.

Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii:

This monument permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Located on the island of Oahu, the monument will help tell the difficult story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the fragility of civil rights during times of conflict. Honouliuli Internment Camp, located in a steep canyon not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March, 1943 and was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. The camp was largely forgotten until uncovered in 2002, and the President's designation will ensure its stories are told for generations. The monument will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Background on Antiquities Act Designations

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as Cèsar E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

###

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, February 20, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 7:03 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

PRESIDENT OBAMA DEDICATES NATIONAL MONUMENT, HEAPS PRAISE ON EMANUEL IN VISIT TO CHICAGO. President Obama's visit to Chicago – where he [declared](#) the Pullman Historic District a national monument and appeared with Mayor Rahm Emanuel – generated just a 25-second mention on one network newscast, [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/19, story 12, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M). Print media reports highlighted the President's praise for his former chief of staff, with the [AP](#) (2/19, Lederman) reporting that "you'd be forgiven for mistaking the visit for a campaign event for...Emanuel." The coverage also cast Obama as snubbing Gov. Bruce Rauner, and generally described the Chicago monument designation as an opportunity for Obama to "pointedly" pay "tribute to the labor movement" as well as to its role in the civil rights struggle of African Americans, as the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/20, Schlikerman, 1.11M) puts it.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, Ruthhart, Pearson, 2.42M) notes "the struggles in the Pullman district played a key role in the creation of the first African-American labor union certified by the American Federation of Labor – the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters." [Politico](#) (2/19, Gass, 683K) quoted Obama as saying yesterday, "Going forward, it's going to be a monument to a painful part of our history so that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past." [The Hill](#) (2/19, Cama, 224K) reported that Obama also described the site as "the heart of what would become America's labor movement. And as a consequence," also "the heart of what would become America's middle class." In his remarks, the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports, Obama "noted that Michelle Obama's great-grandfather was a Pullman porter."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/20, Schlikerman, 1.11M) notes the President said of Emanuel – who introduced him at the monument designation – that "everybody knows" he "is passionate and he is tough and he is dogged in making sure that the city of Chicago is not just the coldest city – but also the greatest city. ... And you look at what's been accomplished in education, what's been accomplished in terms of the infrastructure, bringing jobs back to this city – I have confidence as a voter and as a resident of Chicago that he's going to continue to do a great job. ...I'm glad he's my mayor and I'm glad he's going to be my mayor for another four years." The [AP](#)

(2/19, Lederman) reports that White House spokesman Eric Schultz “disputed the notion that the monument designation was a partisan move,” arguing that “Obama felt Emanuel had been ‘a very strong mayor for this city’ and has remained close to the president.” [Reuters](#) (2/19, Edwards) also reports that Schultz said the trip was not scheduled to coincide with the campaign.

Obama Also Dedicates Monuments In Colorado, Hawaii. The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Sullivan, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that yesterday, the President also “dedicated the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, which he called an ‘outdoor paradise,’ as well as the Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, where Japanese Americans were held prisoner during World War II.” The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that also yesterday, Obama “introduced a new program to allow fourth graders and their families to visit national parks free of charge for the next year.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/20, 169K) quotes Obama as saying, “The country’s most special places should belong not just to the rich and powerful.”

The [EIN News](#) (2/20, 1K) reports that “Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today joined members of Congress, local elected officials, and conservation partners from the Upper Arkansas River Valley in applauding the President’s designation of Browns Canyon National Monument.” Jewell said, “Today’s designation follows a decade of work by the local community to protect this spectacular area. Browns Canyon is a major economic driver for Colorado, drawing tourists and adventure-seekers from near and far. The President’s action will ensure that remains the case for generations to come.”

Republicans Seek To Limit Monument Designations. The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/20, 315K) reports that “while the Obama administration celebrated naming three new national monuments on Thursday, the Republican-led Congress signaled it could move to limit the president’s authority to designate large swaths of land unilaterally under the 1906 Antiquities Act.” The article notes that “many people have endorsed the monument designations, saying the move provides needed protection to some of the nation’s pristine landscapes, culturally important places and threatened animal and plant habitats.” However, “many Republicans believe Obama’s frequent designations constitute a federal land grab executed without local input.”

The [AP](#) (2/20) reports “some Republicans have complained that Obama has abused his authority” to designate national monuments, and yesterday they “renewed their complaints over the newest designations, especially the Colorado site, the largest in size by far among the three new monuments.” Rep. Ken Busk said the President “should ‘cut it out,’” adding, “He is not king. No more acting like King Barack.” Rep. Doug Lamborn called the move a “top-down, big-government land grab by the president that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region.” However, “outdoors and wildlife groups applauded” it.

President Obama Launches “Every Kid In A Park” Initiative. The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that “Obama is launching an “Every Kid in a Park” initiative Thursday, White House officials said, an effort that aims to get every fourth-grader to visit a national park in the years ahead.” The new campaign “will offer all fourth-grade students and their families with free admission to national parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year.” The article notes that “in concert with the National Park Service’s centennial in 2016, the administration is seeking to expand young people’s participation in the system.”

Also providing coverage are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/20, 405K), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Detroit Free Press](#) (2/19, 987K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/19, 1.14M), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 584K), the [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/20, 1K), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/20, 988K), [MSNBC](#) (2/20, 9.31M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/19, 380K), the [International Business Times](#) (2/20, 1.19M), [Forbes](#) (2/19, 6.54M), [USA Today](#) (2/19, 10.32M), [ABC Otus News](#) (2/20), and the [Treehugger](#) (2/20, 24K).

The [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (2/20, 133K) editorializes that “the federal government should not pay” for the Every Kid in a Park initiative. It says that “getting urban and low-income kids out to experience America’s natural wonders is a great thing, which the federal government has no business funding.”

Commentary. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M) editorializes that “the people who deserve the most credit for Pullman’s long-sought federal designation were in the audience Thursday, not behind a lectern.” According to the paper, “the eclectic residents of Pullman — the entrepreneurs, the artists, the shopkeepers, the writers, the carpenters — made this day happen.” The editorial says that “their love of community expressed through decades of lobbying, pleading and working through crushing bureaucracy finally paid off.”

In his column for the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), Blair Kamin writes that Pullman’s future “may be brighter than you think.” He also notes that “the Park Service’s involvement should further boost Pullman’s revival.”

Additional Coverage. Also providing coverage are [CNN](#) (2/18, 14.35M), [ABC Otus News](#) (2/20, 3.41M), [USA Today](#) (2/19, 10.32M), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/19, Sheppard, 281K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/19, 644K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/20, Boyer, 644K), [The Hill](#) (2/20, Barron-Lopez, 224K), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/20, 169K), [Reuters](#) (2/19), [USA Today](#) (2/20, Madhani, 10.32M), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/20, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/18, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/20, Schlikerman, 1.11M), the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/20, 283K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/20, 9K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/20, 9K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/20, Lederman, Daly, 804K), the [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (2/19), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/20, 405K), the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (2/20, 637K), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 584K), the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (2/20, 60K), the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (2/20, 889K), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 584K), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/19), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/20, Lederman, 2.28M), the [Denver Post](#) (2/20, 804K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (2/20, 140K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/20, 9K), the [Asahi Shimbun \(JAP\)](#) (2/20, 33K), the [Examiner](#) (2/20, 1.01M), [Reuters \(IND\)](#) (2/18, 22K), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/20, 5.81M), [WBBM-TV Chicago](#) (2/19, 127K), [KCNC-TV Denver](#) (2/18, 102K), [KWGN-TV Denver](#) (2/19, 3K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (2/20, 1.07M), [WFLD-TV Chicago \(IL\) Chicago](#) (2/20, 159K), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit](#) (2/20, 219K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (2/20, 1.07M), [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\) Cheyenne, WY](#) (2/20, 519), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\) Washington](#) (2/20, 613K), and [WJBK-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit](#) (2/20, 253K).

WHITE HOUSE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS OF ENERGY BOOM. [The Hill](#) (2/19, Cama, 224K) reports that a boost in renewable energy usage and an increase in oil and gas production means the US "economy is stronger, greenhouse gases are down and security is better, the White House said Thursday." A report on the economy by the White House's Council of Economic Advisers determined that "those are some of the benefits" of the recent "energy boom." [The Hill](#) added, "And while lower oil and natural gas prices — caused largely by increased domestic production — could boost consumption, the White House concluded that the price drops are not going to harm its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." The report stated, "On balance, the energy revolution lays the foundation for U.S. leadership in global efforts to address climate change and paves the way toward a low-carbon energy future."

BILL TO PREVENT SALE OF FEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA TABLED. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (2/20, Kuglin, 38K) reports that a bill "to prevent the federal government from selling public lands in Montana" failed in the Montana state Senate and was ultimately tabled. Joe Balyeat, Montana state director for Americans for Prosperity, supported the bill, saying, "This debate is about local state control rather than Washington, D.C. control."

PHOTOS FROM INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM FEED HIGHLIGHTED. The [Public Radio International](#) (2/19, 3K) highlights "the 20 most popular images from the US Interior Department's wonderful Instagram feed, which updates daily."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RECENT ARCTIC DECISIONS. Additional coverage of the recent Arctic decision was provided by the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/20, 14K), the [Alaska Native News](#) (2/20, 245), [The Inquisitr](#) (2/20, 753K), and [The Hill](#) (2/20, Barron-Lopez, 224K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR OFFERS \$8 MILLION FOR AMERICAN INDIAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION. Additional coverage that the Interior Department is offering \$8 million to Alaskan Native American communities to encourage climate resilience was provided by the [Grist](#) (2/20, 9K).

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

National Park Service:

FORD'S THEATRE MUSEUM CLOSED FOR SECOND DAY AFTER WATER LEAK. The [AP](#) (2/19) reports that "the museum at the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site in Washington is closed for a second day Thursday after a water leak flooded the museum floor." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst says "about an inch of water was found in the museum Wednesday morning." He says "no museum artifacts have been affected or threatened by the water."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M).

NPS, PROJECT PROMISE TEACH SIXTH GRADERS ABOUT SALT RIVER BAY. The [St. Croix Source](#) (2/19) reports that "Project Promise has announced its partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to offer Salt River Bay's 2015 'Ticket to Ride' program." NPS Education and Interpretation Chief David Goldstein said, "This joint effort is in response to the Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell's call to invest in the next generation of National Park Stewards."

LAND OWNER CLOSES OFF ACCESS TO ANNIVERSARY NARROWS NEAR LAKE MEAD. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/20, 398K) reports that a private landowner has cut off access to a narrow slot canyon frequented by hikers at the northwestern edge of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. According to Lake Mead spokeswoman Christie Vanover, the owner is free to cut off access his property if he wants, and there's nothing the NPS can do about it short of letting people know that the road is no longer open.

NPS PLANS GATES OF THE ARCTIC COMMENT PERIOD. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (2/20, 39K) reports that the NPS is "proposing amendments to a management plan for the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve." According to the article, "an open house will be held from 4-7 p.m. tonight at Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center, 101 Dunkel Street."

SEVEN SOUTH DAKOTA SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (2/19, 116K) reports that seven South Dakota properties have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The sites include the concrete tipis at rest stops along the interstates, Anderson-Ridley Ranch in the St. Onge area, Drake Claim House near Colman, Kudma Homestead and Ranch near Scenic, Murdo State Bank in Murdo, Norbeck-Nicholson Carriage House in Redfield, and Quamman House in Lemmon.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MAPS NOISE LEVELS THROUGHOUT US. Additional coverage of the NPS' work to map noise levels throughout the US was provided by [NPR](#) (2/19, 1.58M).

Bureau of Land Management:

MESQUITE CITY COUNCIL PULLS ITEM BECAUSE OF "SECURITY ISSUE" INVOLVING BLM PRESENTATION. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (2/19, 46K) reports that "Mesquite City Council and staff pulled an item from Tuesday's upcoming City Council because of a 'security issue' involving a planned 'in-person' presentation by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)." According to the article, "after City Manager Andy Barton and Baker refused to elaborate in the open meeting on what the 'security issue' was, council and staff discussed the matter in attorney-client meeting after the tech review."

BLM PLANS WILD HORSE ROUNDUP. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (2/19, 46K) reports that BLM "wranglers will return to Beaver County next week to round up 100 wild horses federal land managers say are causing safety issues along state Route 21." Randy Trujillo, assistant field office manager for the BLM Cedar City Field Office, said, "By gathering these horses up that are hanging around Highway 21, we can avoid the horse and vehicle collisions and reduce the likelihood that one of the horses, or worse a motorist, is going to get killed."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS REINSTATES PROTECTIONS FOR GRAY WOLF. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/20, 699K) reports that the FWS on Thursday "reinstated protections under the federal Endangered Species Act for the gray wolf in Wisconsin and nearby states after a federal judge in December struck down the agency's decision to remove protections." The service's "actions apply to Wyoming, as well as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and portions of North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio."

The [Yahoo! News](#) (2/20, 5.81M) reports that "in a one-paragraph statement, the FWS explained that it had taken the action to comply with two federal court orders in 2014 that overturned the agency's move to end special protections for the gray wolves in these states"

Also reporting on the story are the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/20, Bergquist, 1.37M) and the [Detroit Free Press](#) (2/19, 987K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OREGON CHUB TAKEN OFF ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage of the removal of the Oregon chub from the federal list of endangered and threatened animals was provided by the

[Seattle Times](#) (2/20, 1.05M), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (2/19, 506), and [KFSN-TV](#) Fresno, CA (2/20, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS LAUNCHES EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. Additional coverage of the effort to save monarch butterflies was provided by the [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (2/20), the [Rappahannock \(VA\) News](#) (2/19, 9K), and [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (2/19, 386K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS REPORT FIND CENTRAL VALLEY LEADS NATION IN FALLING GROUNDWATER LEVELS. The [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/20, 163K) reports that "groundwater levels appear to be sinking faster in the Central Valley than anywhere else in the United States, the US Geological Survey says in a new report." The study "does not pinpoint causes, but a USGS expert on Thursday blamed, in part, increased agricultural pumping to make up for drought, now entering its fourth year." The report "urges unspecified 'improved water management' to ward off disaster."

The story also appears at the [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (2/20, 46K).

USGS URGES GREATER TRANSPARENCY, DATA SHARING ON QUAKES LINKED TO OIL, GAS PRODUCTION. The [Oklahoman](#) (2/20, 452K) reports that the USGS "urged greater transparency and data collection between industry and regulators as it highlighted new research Thursday on earthquakes linked to oil and natural gas production." The agency said "a rise in recent earthquake activity in Oklahoma and other areas not usually susceptible to earthquakes was from human-induced activities, not natural processes." The USGS said, "Large areas of the United States that used to experience few or no earthquakes have, in recent years, experienced a remarkable increase in earthquake activity that has caused considerable public concern as well as damage to structures. This rise in seismic activity, especially in the central United States, is not the result of natural processes."

NEW DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN NITROGEN CENTER NAMED. The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (2/20, 51K) reports that Jill Baron, a USGS and Colorado State University Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory senior scientist, has been "named the new director of the North American Nitrogen Center." Baron, "who began the position on Jan. 22, said 'Nitrogen pollution is one of the largest global changes that you've never heard of.'"

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE DEVELOPING BLASTING REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (2/19, Devaney, 224K) reports that the Interior Department is "moving forward with new rules for blasting operations at mines." The OSMRE "granted a petition from an environmental group to prohibit visible nitrogen oxide clouds during blasting operations." The office said "it will begin developing its own regulations to address the matter."

BLM CRITICIZED FOR NPR-A DECISION. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/20, 14K) editorializes that "the \$8 million exacted from ConocoPhillips in order to receive its permit to construct the Greater Moose's Tooth-1 project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska is a rather elegant combination of old school protection rackets and third world government kickbacks." According to the paper, "the ultimate irony of this petty graft is that ConocoPhillips has paid billions upon billions in royalties and taxes over the years that have benefited Alaska Natives far more than anything Sally Jewell can come up with, and it willingly gives millions more in actual contributions to successes such as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program."

Also providing coverage is [4-Traders](#) (2/20, 6K).

Offshore Energy Development:

OPPOSITION GROWS AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL, NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (2/19, 295K) reports that "a groundswell of Lowcountry coastal towns and cities is gathering to oppose exploring for natural gas or oil offshore, as environmental groups push communities before public meetings on the issue in March and April." The article notes that "the rally is being stirred partly by the

communities' own concerns and partly by the environmental groups, trying to counter a perception that the state largely supports the permits."

The [Saint Peters \(FL\) Blog](#) (2/20) reports that "three energy advocacy groups are condemning a decision to omit Florida from a proposed federal plan to conduct offshore oil and natural gas exploration in areas known to contain energy resources." The groups, Florida Energy Forum, the Consumer Energy Alliance and Florida Vets4Energy claim "the decision will have a negative impact on job creation, the state's economic portfolio and even national security."

Gov. LePage Joins Coalition Supporting Offshore Drilling. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/19, 159K) reports that Gov. Paul LePage has "joined a coalition of governors supporting offshore drilling and exploration for oil and natural gas." The Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition "announced Thursday that LePage had become the first governor from the Northeast to join the group."

BOEM Agrees To Additional Outer Banks Meeting. The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (2/20, 28K) reports that "in response to a request from Congressman Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., and the Dare County Board of Commissioners, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has agreed to hold an additional public scoping meeting on the Outer Banks regarding the federal government's proposal to conduct an oil and gas lease sale off the coast of North Carolina between 2017-2022." According to the article, "the meeting is expected to take place in mid-March, although a specific date, time and location have not yet been set."

Offshore Drilling Plan Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Janesville \(WI\) Gazette](#) (2/19, 58K), Michael Kraft, professor emeritus of political science and public and environmental affairs at UW-Green Bay, argues that the Obama Administration's new offshore oil and gas drilling plan "does little to wean the nation from dependence on fossil fuels, conflicts with other presidential initiatives, and puts coastal waters at serious risk from oil spills."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (2/20, 617K) editorializes that "the president's plan, which also protects sensitive waters off Alaska, has pleased coastal Republican governors who say the oil industry will fire up their economies." However, the editorial argues that "the benefits won't be as bountiful as they claim."

Additional commentary appears in the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (2/20, Kraft, 50K), the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (2/20, Milito, 50K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/20, Weinstein, 2.28M), and the [Canada Free Press](#) (2/20, 1.14M).

BSEE OFFICIALS TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT MAJOR DECOMMISSIONING SUMMIT. The [Your Oil and Gas News](#) (2/20) reports that "Susan Green, deputy regional supervisor for field operations at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), will deliver a keynote address at the 2015 Decommissioning & Abandonment Summit, 17-19 March in Houston." Green will "provide a crucial update on the regulator's priorities at a time when, despite the fall in oil prices, production is expanding in deepwater and ultra-deepwater."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SUES TO STOP CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE FRACKING PERMITS. The [Law 360](#) (2/20, 9K) reports that "the Center for Biological Diversity sued federal offshore drilling regulators on Thursday seeking to stop fracking off the coast of California, arguing the agencies were 'rubberstamping' permits without analyzing the environmental impact of the oil drilling." The center "claims US Department of Interior agencies approved oil companies' development plans for offshore drilling in the 1980s, but never asked for revisions to those plans once the companies sought permission to frack beginning in the mid-1990s."

BARBIER DENIES BP REQUEST TO CAP FINE FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL. The [Hill](#) (2/20, Barron-Lopez, 224K) reports US District Judge Carl Barbier "rejected BP's request to limit its liabilities for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill" yesterday. An article in the Houston Chronicle reported "Barbier blocked BP's call to have its oil spill liabilities no greater than \$4,300 per barrel maximum, and officially set at \$3,000." He "said he has not determined the final amount of the civil penalty" but that the company "will be responsible for paying as a result of the Deepwater Horizon spill, [which] could run as high as \$13.7 billion."

GULF BEACH SOIL MICROBES CHANGED FOLLOWING OIL SPILL. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Mohan, 3.49M) reports, "Microbes in beach sand apparently gobbled up a lot of oil washed ashore from the 2010 BP oil spill, but that assault altered the microbial population, leaving it less functionally diverse, according to a new study." Georgia Tech environmental microbiologist Konstantinidis Konstantinos, co-author of the study, noted, "One of the key groups that we saw disappearing, from the oil, was these nitrogen fixers." Konstantinos explained, "That's a concern because it supports the rest of the system." After examining soil samples at

Pensacola municipal beach one year following the spill, Konstantinos noted a decrease in oil levels. "The microbes in the beach sand seem to do a good job, biodegrading and removing the oil." The oil spill favored broader generalists rather than "narrowly niched species," according to the study. "It seems...those that can carry out many different functions, are better equipped to deal with oil spills, compared to some specialists," Konstantinos said.

WHISTLEBLOWERS WANT REVIVAL OF \$266 BILLION BP SUIT. The [Law 360](#) (2/20, 9K) reports that "whistleblowers urged a Texas federal judge to reconsider summary judgment in a \$266 billion False Claims Act suit involving BP PLC's Gulf of Mexico-based Atlantis facility on Wednesday, arguing that new evidence supports their allegations of false certification and liability." Plaintiffs Kenneth Abbott, a former BP contractor, and Food & Water Watch Inc. said "they obtained pages from a Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement report on the government's investigation into the platform through a Freedom of Information Act request."

ALASKA URGED TO ENSURE EQUITABLE SHARING OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS REVENUE. In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/19, 146K), Steve Haycox, professor emeritus of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage, writes that "despite President Obama's announcement two weeks ago that certain biologically sensitive areas of the Chukchi and Beaufort off the Slope will be off limits to drilling, it seems increasingly likely that offshore drilling there will pick up soon." In light of this, he urges Alaska's congressional delegation "to build support for revenue sharing legislation for Alaska from new Arctic offshore development."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DIRECTOR ADVISES AGAINST PUMPING MORE DELTA WATER. The [Courthouse News](#) (2/19, 7K) reports that "opposing recommendations from federal and state agencies Wednesday, the head of California's water board advised regulators to deny agribusinesses' request for increased pumping from the Delta during the next two months." The BOR and the Department of Water Resources "want to pump more water from the Delta south to agribusinesses, due to California's historic drought." But state Water Resources Control Board Director Thomas Howard "advised against it, in a standing-room-only audience full of state senators, farmers, fishermen and environmentalists."

Also reporting on the story is the [Breitbart](#) (2/19, 754K).

FARMERS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LEWIS AND CLARK PROJECT. [WNAX-AM](#) Yankton, SD (2/20) reports that "farmers are optimistic about the future of the Lewis and Clark rural water project with the \$9 million in funding received by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation for 2015." The article notes that "that's well above the \$2.4 million in the President's original budget."

Empowering Native American Communities:

SIX VIRGINIA TRIBES SEEK FEDERAL RECOGNITION THROUGH ACT OF CONGRESS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/19, 49K) reports that "last Wednesday, several Virginia Congressmen reintroduced the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act in hopes that six Virginia Indian tribes will eventually receive official federal recognition by an act of congress." The article notes that "the six tribes, which are all recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia and are currently seeking to gain federal recognition are the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock, the Monacan and the Nansemond."

SHAWNEE TRIBE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR NEW CASINO. The [AP](#) (2/20) reports that "the Shawnee Tribe has announced plans to build a casino in the state's Panhandle." According to tribal officials, "construction will begin in 2016 and would create 175 jobs with an estimated payroll of about \$4 million." The article notes that "in 2010, the Bureau of Indian Affairs rejected an attempt by the tribe to take land into trust under an equal footing exemption in order to open a \$400 million casino in Oklahoma City near Interstate 35."

LAW PROFESSOR MAKES CASE FOR KENOSHA CASINO. The [Milwaukee Business Journal](#) (2/20, Held, Subscription Publication, 3K) reports that "after a 155-mile walk to Madison failed to sway Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has several legal paths to follow in pursuit of an \$800 million, off-reservation casino project in Kenosha, according to University of Wisconsin-Madison law professor Richard Monette." The article notes that "the legal challenge with the most potential would test a provision of the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and could have an impact on future gaming operations run by Indian tribes across

the US”

Top National News:

OBAMA RHETORIC ON TERRORISM THREAT CONTINUES TO GENERATE DEBATE. Media coverage of the President's [remarks](#) at a White House Summit on Countering Violence Extremism continued to focus on the Administration's choice of words to describe the threat. As David Muir reported on the [ABC World News](#) (2/19, story 7, 1:05, Muir, 5.84M), the President is “making headlines...for his choice of words when it comes to describing” ISIL, as he “will not call” it “Islamic terror.” Jonathan Karl noted that the President “wants to make it clear to the world that the United States is not at war with Islam,” and in his speech “he said the notion that the West is at war with Islam is a, quote, ‘ugly lie.’” Republicans and some commentators – particularly on Fox News – continued to pounce on Obama's decision not to highlight ISIL and Al Qaeda's ties to Islam, while some Democrats and others news analysts came to his defense. Both sides of the argument were well-represented in the coverage, but the consensus media view is encapsulated in analyses such as the one on [The Hill](#) (2/19, Kamisar, Matishak, 224K), which says the President's “week has been thrown off message” by the ongoing debate, and Max Fisher's for [Vox](#) (2/19, 737K), where he writes Obama's effort to “downplay or outright deny” the “awkward but important fact” that “religion plays an important role as well” is “backfiring.”

All three networks referred to the controversy last night, with the [CBS Evening News](#) and [NBC Nightly News](#) combining their coverage with analysis of remarks Wednesday night by Rudy Giuliani, who told a GOP gathering that he does not believe the President “loves America.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/19, story 6, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M), Bill Plante noted “critics fault the President for not labeling the terrorists Islamic,” and [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M) showed House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul charging, “We will not defeat these fanatics if we refuse to define them” correctly. Fox added that “more worrisome for the President, a leading Democrat,” Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, “concluded the summit was a distraction from the real focus.” Sen. Joe Manchin, asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/19, 554K) if he agrees with the President's refusal to refer to the terrorists as radical Islamists, said, “I don't. I mean, it's pretty simple in the language we speak in West Virginia. It is what it is.” Manchin added that “there are radicals in all groups. When you have a radical person who hides behind a religion, whether it be Protestant or Islamic, it is what it is.”

[McClatchy](#) (2/19, Clark, Subscription Publication, 17K) notes Obama addressed “leaders from more than 60 countries” amid “criticism for his administration's reluctance to categorize as ‘Islamic extremism’ the threat posed by terrorists such as the Islamic State,” and Republicans “were quick to criticize his latest remarks.” Obama, says the [AP](#) (2/19), also “called on the world Thursday to confront efforts to use Islam to justify violence,” while the [New York Times](#) (2/20, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) indicates the President urged “nations around the world to expand human rights, religious tolerance and peaceful dialogue as they struggle to combat a spate of terrorism that has recently struck places as far afield as Australia, Canada and Europe.” Obama “said that poverty and political grievances fuel alienation that can lead to bursts of killing.” The Times also reports that “on promoting democracy and freedom as part of the solution to terrorism, Mr. Obama is returning to a theme he has advanced episodically in the past, and one that his predecessor, President George W. Bush, made the centerpiece of his second inaugural address in 2005.”

Also running similar accounts of Obama's remarks yesterday are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Lee, Schwartz, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [Reuters](#) (2/19, Wroughton, Hosenball), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/19, Alman, 281K), [The Blaze](#) (2/19, Lucas, 2.17M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/19, Shinkman, 685K) and [TIME](#) (2/19, Rhodan, 19.19M), among others. Yesterday's speech, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/19, Olorunnipa, 169K) points out, “came on the final day of a three-day summit as he pivoted from the summit's first two days, where the agenda mostly focused on domestic policy and drawing the cooperation of US Muslim communities.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that Ahmed Aboutaleb, “the mayor of Rotterdam and a practicing Muslim who is attending the summit, said in a phone interview that although he appreciates Obama and Vice President Biden's emphasis on the need for social inclusion in Western society, it does not explain all radical conversions.” Said Aboutaleb, “It's part of the answer. ... It remains to be seen why these individuals, some well-educated young people, some with a job, nevertheless decide to join ISIL.”

Ed Henry said on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (2/19, 767K) that in both Obama's speech and the summit as a whole, “the emphasis is off in the sense that I believe if you had been on Mars the last couple of weeks and then got a ticket to this White House summit, you would think that the crisis we're facing right now because of the President's emphasis is that the Muslims are...discriminated against. That seemed odd and off key. The

crisis is: people are being beheaded, specifically Christians and Jews.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Boyer, 644K) reports that Obama also “suggested that US policy has contributed to the problem over the decades.” Said Obama, “Obviously there is a complicated history between the Middle East and the West. ... None of us should be immune from criticism of specific policies.” In his opening monologue on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (2/19, 767K), Bill O'Reilly said the argument that American policies “provoked the jihadists into slaughtering thousands of innocent people” is insane, and “almost as crazy is believing, as apparently Secretary of State John Kerry does, that the United States can affect poverty in Muslim nations, that we can somehow upgrade the standard of living in Yemen and Afghanistan. The Federal government can't even eradicate poverty here in America. So, why is the Obama administration putting out this blather?”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/20, Ernst, 644K) reports former CIA Director James Woolsey said on CNN that “Obama ‘looks scared’ to called members of al Qaeda, the Islamic State group and other terrorist organizations ‘Islamic.’” Author and monthly [USA Today](#) (2/19, Robbins, 10.32M) columnist James Robbins says that at the summit, “all topics are fair game except Islamist extremism.” Under the headline “Sophistry Summit's Foolish Answer To Terror,” Windsor Mann, editor of [The Quotable Hitchens: From Alcohol to Zionism](#), also writes in [USA Today](#) (2/19, Mann, 10.32M) that Obama's rhetoric on terrorism is “bankrupt...ideologically and materially,” and lacks “moral clarity.”

[AFP](#) (2/20) reports that “there has been some criticism that the conference was hastily announced and representation was spotty,” but “top ministers from Jordan, Denmark, Egypt, France and Belgium which have all suffered serious setbacks at the hands of either extremist groups or lone wolves were present.” The [New York Times](#) (2/20, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that Secretary of State Kerry, “opening the day's proceedings, said there was no one-size-fits-all solution to the problem.” Said Kerry, “There's been a silly debate in the media in the last days about what you have to do. ... You have to do everything. You have to take the people off the battlefield who are there today. But you're kind of stupid if all you do is do that and you don't prevent more people from going to the battlefield.” UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also addressed the summit yesterday, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/19, Olorunnipa, 169K) reports.

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on [Fox News' On The Record](#) (2/19, 654K), that the summit is “kind of a cross between a sociology graduate school seminar and a community organizing workshop. This is not really a serious effort to confront the threat that we face, and I think part of it's political correctness. I do think part of it is just dishonesty. I think the message that the President and Secretary Kerry send is these are people who are inherently violent and they're using religion to justify the violence that they already want to commit. I don't think that's an accurate reflection of what motivates these guys. I think they're motivated by a religious ideology, and it's because they believe in that ideology that they're motivated to violence.”

Charles Krauthammer, asked [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M) what did not come out of the summit, said, “Anything of any importance. The idea behind it is the President wanted to assuage the feelings and the anxieties of the Muslim community here and around the world.” Krauthammer noted that while that “is a good thing to do,” he questioned why “at a time Christians are under savage attack in the Middle East, where this is the biggest ethnic cleansing since at least the Balking wars, where communities that have lives in the Middle East longer than Islam has existed, for 2,000 years, are being wiped out, enslaved, executed, crucified, and that the Christian presence which has been there for 2,000 years in the Middle East is at stake,” this is “the number one priority of this Administration, an Administration that supposedly is the bulwark against these savages? I find it extremely bizarre.”

Author Michael Weiss said on [CNN's Legal View](#) (2/19, 473K), “I think the problem with the United States policy right now is we're spending so much time arguing over the lexicon and the optics of this coalition and this campaign, we are actually spending less time focusing on how to destroy this organization. The President calls them ISIL. What does ISIL stand for? The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Then he says it has nothing to do with Islam. It has something to do with Islam.”

Howard Dean defended the President on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (2/19, 713K), “First of all, the Islamic terrorists want us to call them Islamists. Why? Because that cloaks them in a religion that a billion people believe in. In fact, the President is absolutely right to say this is not about Islam. This is about a bunch of thugs and murderers and terrorists that we need to get rid of. That deprives them of the very rationale they are using to recruit people.”

David Obeidallah of the Daily Beast said on [MSNBC's Now](#) (2/19, 213K), “We are having a game over this

dispute. People on the right – I would love them to tell me, if you use the word radical Islam, how would that change our policy in any way? ... There's a reasons that are doing that," which "are strategic and are ultimately helping us in this fight. That should be the number one issue. Not partisan fighting over words." On [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (2/19, 713K), Ron Fournier made a similar point, noting, "He could say it for the next 48 hours over and over again, but it wouldn't kill one terrorist, but it will stop playing this game with Republicans, stop taking their debate, stop letting them dominate the narrative here."

Michael Scherer, Washington Bureau Chief for TIME, noted on [MSNBC's Now](#) (2/19, 213K), "I think the White House has been very clear on this front that using this terminology hurts our cause. And what is interesting about what the President did today, and to a lesser extent yesterday, is he elevated his critics." The President "is elevating and saying these things that are being said by pundits in the press, he uses euphemisms, are actually going to hurt our national security. I don't think he's doing that because he wants to win political points. I think he's doing it because he thinks on the substance that there's a recruitment issue here. And if this story line becomes the West versus Islam, as the Islamists want it to be, or that ISIS begins to represent Islam in the eyes of many Americans....then there's an enormous danger of a future recruitment."

Fareed Zakaria, writing for the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, 5.17M), also argues that Obama is "deliberately choosing not to emphasize the Islamic State's religious dimension for political and strategic reasons. After all, what would be the practical consequence of describing the group, also known as ISIS, as Islamic? Would the West drop more bombs on it? Send in more soldiers to fight it? No, but it would make many Muslims feel that their religion had been unfairly maligned."

Democrats Denounce Giuliani, Urge Republicans To Follow Suit. Coverage of Giuliani's remarks Wednesday night reflected the barrage of criticism for the former New York City mayor, with Democrats out in full force and Republicans declining to defend him. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/19, story 6, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) tied Giuliani's criticism to Obama's choice of words to describe the ISIL threat, and showed the former New York City mayor saying, "I do not believe that the President loves America. What's wrong with this man?" Lester Holt noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/19, story 5, 1:55, Holt, 7.86M) that Giuliani's comments "set off a war of words." Andrea Mitchell noted that the comments "drew such sharp responses Giuliani backed down, sort of." Giuliani was shown saying, "He's a patriot, I'm sure. What I'm saying [is that] in his rhetoric I hear him criticize America much more often than other American presidents."

In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Haberman, Confessore, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), meanwhile, Giuliani "dismissed the criticism and said he was describing the worldview that had shaped Mr. Obama's upbringing." Said Giuliani, "Some people thought it was racist – I thought that was a joke, since he was brought up by a white mother, a white grandfather, went to white schools, and most of this he learned from white people. ... This isn't racism. This is socialism or possibly anti-colonialism." Giuliani also "challenged a reporter to find examples of Mr. Obama expressing love for his country." Said the former mayor, "I'm happy for him to give a speech where he talks about what's good about America and doesn't include all the criticism."

The [AP](#) (2/19, Thomas) reports that Democrats "urged the potential field of Republican presidential candidates to rebuke him for his comments," with DNC head Debbie Wasserman-Schultz saying "it's time for Republican leaders to 'stop this nonsense.'" Several GOP presidential hopefuls, however, "declined to get involved," even as Giuliani "softened his remarks somewhat in an interview, saying he didn't mean to question the president's patriotism."

[Politico](#) (2/19, Gass, 683K) noted that during a CNBC interview, Gov. Scott Walker said, "The mayor can speak for himself. I'm not going to comment on what the president thinks or not, he can speak for himself as well. I can tell you I love this country." Giuliani had made his controversial comments at an event with Walker. White House spokesman Eric Schultz, the [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Miller, 644K) reports, noted that fact yesterday, pointing out that "one of the GOP frontrunners was sitting just feet away and didn't say anything."

The [AP](#) (2/19, Thomas) reports Schultz said Giuliani already "test drove this line of attack during his fleeting 2007 run for the presidency." [USA Today](#) (2/19, Jackson, 10.32M) notes Schultz also called the comments "a horrible thing to say," but "declined to comment at length," remarking, "He seems embarrassed enough to be doing damage control this morning, so I'm not going to pile on from here." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/19, Lee, 3.49M) reports that on Twitter yesterday, "the hashtag #ObamaLovesAmerica began trending nationwide."

Rick Stengel, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/19, 487K), "I think the President loves the country in an extraordinary way. He's an American exceptionalist but with a slightly different attitude. What he said this morning, our job is not to tell you what to

do. Our job is to be your partner. That's a different division of power in the world and that is the vision for American power in the 21st century."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (2/19, 299K), "It shows a very troubling degradation of our politics, to attack the Commander-in-Chief at a time when we should be concerned about the ISIL threat and what it presents to national security, to people of decency all across the world." Jeffries added, "The problem with the Republican attack machine is that facts don't matter. If you look at this presidency, it has been one of the most successful in history, not just bringing us groundbreaking legislation to rein in Wall Street, to deal with the affordable healthcare crisis, but he's turned the economy around. He inherited an economic train wreck and the economy is back on track. To me, that's shows a tremendous love of America."

Dana Milbank said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (2/19, 299K), "I think it is a continuation of what we've been seeing over the last seven years now, that is to create the impression that this President is something other than a patriotic American. Of course Giuliani was questioning his patriotism before coming out and saying he wasn't questioning his patriotism, and he's not alone. We've got Ted Cruz. We've got Republican members of the House, we've got others raising doubts repeatedly about where this President's loyalties are, whether they're to America or to the terrorists."

Jeanne Cummings of Bloomberg said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/19, 487K) that Giuliani's comments seem "like a continuation of the questions about Obama's birth certificate, et cetera. That one strain of the Republican party has...been quite stubborn about these kinds of issues. The thing I thought was really odd was he wasn't raised like you and me. What's the American way of raising a child to love its country? We're all raised differently by our own families, that part was peculiar. And of course Scott Walker's silence in failure to say at minimum, I don't agree with him was also really striking."

Mara Liasson said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M) that Giuliani "should have quit while he was ahead. I mean, to say that Barack Obama is not Ronald Reagan in the eyes of a Republican? I mean, that's just a given. I think he stopped digging himself a hole." Judge Andrew Napolitano said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M), "I know Rudy, I like him. I think he is a deep thinker. I think it was an unfortunate choice of words. I don't know how he could possibly know what is in the President's heart."

Howard Dean said on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (2/19, 713K), "I actually have come to know Rudy in our post-political careers, and I actually think he's serious. I don't think he's just kind of catering to the right-wing nut jobs. I think there is just a disconnect between some people who just don't understand what Barack Obama is about. It's a shocking thing to say. I couldn't believe he doubled down the next day." Dean added, "I think frankly that stuff is so far out that only the hate wing of the Republican party is going to accept that. That's not very big."

Jindal: "Gist" Of Giuliani Comments "True." Whereas most Republicans yesterday failed to come to Giuliani's defense, Gov. Bobby Jindal defended the comments. The [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Chesmar, 644K) reports that Jindal said, "The gist of what Mayor Giuliani said – that the president has shown himself to be completely unable to speak the truth about the nature of the threats from these [Islamic State] terrorists – is true. ... If you are looking for someone to condemn the mayor, look elsewhere."

Harf Wrote College Thesis On How Evangelical Support For Israel Complicates US Foreign Policy. The [Daily Caller](#) (2/19, Howley, 318K) reported that according to Indiana University records, State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf "wrote her college honors thesis on 'how conservative evangelical support for Israel complicates US foreign policy.'" The Daily Caller said her thesis "further illustrates the collegiate thinking in an Obama administration that has alienated a key American ally in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

SHORTAGES DUE TO PORT LABOR PROBLEM BEGINNING TO BE FELT. The [New York Times](#) (2/20, Tabuchi, Stevenson, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that because of the labor difficulties at the West Coast ports, "essential items for the start of Chinese New Year celebrations on Thursday were in short supply" across the nation, in an "example of the widening and sometimes unexpected fallout from the gridlock at seaports on the West Coast." However, "labor officials indicated few signs of a breakthrough late Wednesday, saying only that the Obama administration would continue to work with both parties on an agreement."

[USA Today](#) (2/20, Woodyard, 10.32M) reports that with the labor dispute slowing work at West Coast ports, "driving into the Port of Los Angeles on recent weekends has been an eerie sight," with the lack of activity replicated up and down the West Coast. Overall, the piece portrays the Longshoremen in a favorable light, saying that "in negotiations, they have brilliantly traded gains in efficiency for big pay" and that the average

member "earns \$147,000 a year."

USA Today Blames Longshoremen For Slowdown, Says Raise Offer A Good One. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (2/20, 10.32M) says that the actions of the well-paid longshoremen are harming their "blue-collar brethren" with their work slowdown. The slowdown "is having a considerable impact on workers whose jobs and income rely on imports and exports, and who are wondering what they did to deserve their fates." USA Today says that the management offer of a 14% increase in wages over five years "seems reasonable in a period of low inflation and looming competition."

In an opposing op-ed for [USA Today](#) (2/20, Brenner, 10.32M), Mark Brenner, director of Labor Notes, writes at the "urging" of the longshoremen's union that the members' compensation is "the product of struggle. Longshore workers have fought for 80 years to get a fair share of the fruits of their labor. Today's standoff is just the latest battle." He says that they should be "applauded, not demonized, for defending good working-class jobs."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Egypt's Crisis Across The Border With Libya." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says, "There is little evidence that the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has thought through" its military response to militants in Libya. According to the Times, Egypt and other regional countries "should be working together to reinforce" the UN "negotiation initiative" in Libya, rather than taking actions that will enhance "divisions."

"Separate Philanthropy From Political Clout." The [New York Times](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, says the Clinton Foundation should "reinstate" its ban against foreign contributors, "who might have matters of concern to bring before a future Clinton administration." Restoring the ban, it argues, "would be a good way to make this point as Mrs. Clinton's widely expected campaign moves forward."

WASHINGTON POST. "Mocking Democracy In Va." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M) criticizes a move by Virginia legislators to alter the district of state Sen. Bryce Reeves (R) to make it more Republican. The Post says that the move "echoes the 'democracies' of Russia, Syria and other unsavory places."

"Thailand's Rule By Force." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, 5.17M) says Thailand's military "has little to show" for its coup. The Post says the "economy is stagnant," "reconciliation" has not occurred, and "martial law" remains in effect. The Post says "in the absence of meaningful steps...the Thai military will lose its relationship" with the US. In the absence of Presidential action, the Post urges Congress to "step in" to impose the consequence.

"Oil Train Safety." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, 5.17M) says that the West Virginia "oil train disaster was bad — but it could have been worse." Federal regulators "should have mandated modernization years ago," and now that they are considering them, should "require cars that are safer than the ones that derailed in West Virginia." Regulators "also should set an ambitious schedule to finish retrofitting and replacing old cars, and they should do so soon."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Ukraine Humiliation." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) during says Western leaders decision to acquiesce to Russia during the most recent Minsk negotiations allows Russian President Vladimir Putin to be more confident in his end-goal of a fearful West and regional dominance.

"Wal-Mart's Capitalist Payday." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that Walmart's decision to raise its minimum wage is being viewed as either a self-interested move or an enlightened one. However, the Journal says that what it really is a rebuke to those that believe in the necessity of raising the minimum wage. The Journal says that Walmart's move shows that the best way to increase wages is through faster economic growth that boosts demand for labor.

"The 'Risk Free' Hank Greenberg Case." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that evidence gathered by Federal investigators a decade ago undercuts the case brought against former AIG CEO Hank Greenberg by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. According to the Journal, the evidence, which Greenberg seeks to use in a civil case, shows that a key witness in Schneiderman's case testified falsely, and the Journal urges the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division to dismiss the

case against Greenberg..

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Wal-Mart Lifts Wages As Market Gets Tighter
 State Department Can't Root Out Hackers
 Greece Can Pay Its Debts In Full, But It Won't
 Hillary Clinton's Complex Corporate Ties

New York Times:

Walmart Lifts Its Wage Floor To \$9 An Hour
 Critics In GOP Say Chris Christie Is In A 'Bubble'
 US Muslims Take On ISIS' Recruiting Machine
 On Terror, Gentle Hand Or Iron Fist
 On Wall St., Rules On Capital Humble Banks And Shrink Pay
 An American Sniper, His Killer, And Deep Scars Bared For A Jury

Washington Post:

Chicago Battle Highlights Democrats' Rifts
 A Movement Or A Moment?
 Metro Kept Quiet About Radio Alarm Malfunctions
 Think Of Earth, Not Just Your Stomach, Advises Nutrition Panel
 Europe Confronts New Gun Culture

Financial Times:

Walmart Bows To Pressure In 1bn Boost For Lowest Paid
 Germans Rebuff Greek "Trojan Horse" Conditions For Extending Rescue Plan
 Lenovo Under Fire As Adware Leaves Laptops Vulnerable To Hacking Attacks

Washington Times:

US Plans Large-Scale Offensive To Take Mosul, Iraq, From Islamic State Militants
 Navy SEAL Who Killed Bin Laden Foresees US Ground Troops In Islamic State Fight
 Sheriffs Spent Violent Offender Tracking Funds On Shirts, Dinners With Spouses
 Attacks On Koch Brothers Contributed To Democrats' Midterms Losses, Party Officials Say
 Obama Appoints Czar To Combat Islamic State, Al Qaeda Propaganda As Summit Ends
 Climate Change Activists Dismiss Fossil Fuel Divestment Push As Waste Of Time, Resources

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Northeast; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; American Sniper Murder Trial; Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; Delaware-Domestic Violence Case; Walmart-Employee Raises; Coffee Recommendations.

CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Georgia; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Iraq-Battle For Mosul; ISIL-CBS News Poll; Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; Iran-Drug Addiction Crisis; Employment-Social Media Activity; Iwo Jima Anniversary; January Climate Report.

NBC: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Healthcare-Associated Infections; Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; American Sniper Murder Trial; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; California Refinery Explosion-Gas Prices; Walmart-Employee Raises; Dietary Recommendations; Australia-Tropical Cyclones; New National Monuments.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Winter Weather – 13 minutes, 40 seconds
 UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
 Extremism Summit-Obama Speech – 4 minutes, 55 seconds
 Las Vegas-Road Rage Case – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
 Walmart-Employee Raises – 2 minutes, 15 seconds
 American Sniper Murder Trial – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Dietary Recommendations – 1 minute, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Texas-Same-Sex Couple Gets Married; Extremist Summit-DOJ Study; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; Australia-Tropical Cyclones; West Coast Seaports-Labor Dispute; Wall Street.

CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; American Sniper Murder Trial; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Lenovo-Laptop Controversy; Wall Street.

FOX: Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; West Coast Seaports-Labor Dispute; Walmart-Employee Raises; California Refinery Explosion-Gas Prices; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Bobbi Brown Hospitalized.

NPR: Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; Texas-Same-Sex Couple Gets Married; West Coast Seaports-Labor Dispute; USPS-Labor Union Contract Talks; Tennessee-Armory Shooting; American Sniper Murder Trial; Obama Speech-Giuliani Comments.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; deliver remarks at the General Session of the 2015 DNC Winter Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC, travel pool coverage; attends a DNC Roundtable, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC, closed press; the President and the Vice President attend the Democratic Governors Association Meeting, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, pool spray at the top. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

MICHELLE OBAMA — First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver remarks at "Celebrating Women of the Movement", an event honoring Black History Month at the White House. At the event, the First Lady will introduce a panel of intergenerational women who have played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement – both past and present. The panel will be moderated by Vanessa De Luca, Editor-in-Chief of Essence magazine. This event will be livestreamed on WhiteHouse.gov/live. The First Lady's remarks are open press, but space is limited.

DR. JILL BIDEN — Dr. Biden will deliver remarks in Baltimore, Maryland at DREAM 2015 – Achieving the Dream's Annual Institute on Student Success – "to highlight the Administration's commitment to community colleges and their importance to America's future." This event is open press.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: No Scheduled Events.

Other: **USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM** — Feb. 19 – 20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced speakers for the 2015 Agricultural Outlook Forum, "Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century". Speaking at the 25 breakout sessions and five topical luncheons will be more than 100 distinguished experts. Breakout session topics on the agenda include: Perspectives on Global and U.S. Trade; Big Data's Impact on U.S. Agriculture; Commodity Situation and Outlooks; Food Price and Farm Income Outlooks; Moving Feed, Food and Fuel to Market; Opportunities in the Bio-Economy; Antimicrobial Resistance; and Bee/Pollinator Issues Facing Agriculture. Media planning on attending should register before the deadline at <https://www.etched.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=107650&>. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. Contacts: Brenda Chapin (202) 720-5447. On the Net: www.usda.gov/oce/forum.

DNC WINTER MEETING — Feb. 19 – 21. 2015 DNC Winter Meeting. At the first General Session on Friday, members will hear from President Barack Obama. At a second General Session on Saturday, members will hear from DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear. In addition, Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy will speak to the meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. You must RSVP to ChangE@dnc.org by 6PM, Wednesday, February 18 indicating which days you plan to attend. Due to space constraints, a limited number of credentials will be issued for General Session on Friday. All those receiving credentials will be notified on the 18th after RSVPs close. Please include "DNC Meeting RSVP" in the subject. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill.

STATE SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE — Microsoft and Politico host the Fifth Annual State Solutions Conference as a preview to the National Governors Association Winter Meeting. Governors from across the

country will discuss innovative approaches that their states have taken to address complex problems. The event includes a morning and afternoon session featuring conversations with Governors Bill Haslam, Rick Scott, Gina Raimondo, Terry McAuliffe and Jay Nixon. Location: Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center, 901 K St. NW. Contacts: Sarah Murphy (Sarah. Murphy@bm.com), 202-530-4695. Notes: The event will livestream at POLITICO.com/live.

NGA WINTER MEETING — Feb. 20 – 23. National Governors Association (NGA) 2015 Winter Meeting. For full agenda: <http://nga.org/cms/sites/meetings/home/wm15/gen/j4r/index.html>. Location: Main location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Various off site events as well. Check agenda for further details. Media: Justice Room. Contacts: NGA communications 202-624-5301. Notes: Media must register: <http://nga.org/cms/sites/meetings/home/wm15/gen/j4r/media.html>.

U.S. CHAMBER – NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNORS, PREMIERS — 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. U.S. Chamber to Host Discussion with North American Governors and Premiers. The U.S. Chamber will host a meeting of governors and premiers from across North America to focus on opportunities for economic cooperation and efforts to improve hemispheric integration. The breakfast event will feature a panel discussion and Q-and-A session designed to maintain momentum in advancing the three countries strategic relationship. Participants will include Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado; Gov. Jorge Herrera Caldera of Durango, Mexico, chairman of the National Conference of Governors; and Premier Paul Davis of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, incoming chairman of the Council of the Federation. Location: US Chamber of Commerce Headquarters, 1615 H Street NW. Contacts: Tyler Hernandez themandez@uschamber.com

AFL-CIO MEDIA BREAKFAST — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. The Metro Washington Council, AFL-CIO to host area reporters and local labor communicators and leaders to attend the second annual Labor-Media Breakfast “on background” Roundtable. Location: AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street NW. Contacts: RSVP to cgarlock@dclabor.org

SOLAR JOBS PANEL — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Top solar industry, non-profit and government leaders to discuss new solar jobs data and innovative partnerships for building a diverse and inclusive solar workforce. Speakers include: David Foster, Senior Advisor to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz; Brandon Middaugh, Chief of Staff, SunEdison; Andrea Luecke, President and Executive Director, The Solar Foundation; Erica Mackie, CEO and Co-Founder, GRID Alternatives; Salvador Torres, Solar Installation Supervisor and former Job Trainee, GRID Alternatives. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grid-alternatives-solar-jobs-panel-tickets-15525945521>. On the Net: <http://www.press.org/events/solar-jobs-panel>.

BROOKINGS – BESHEAR, HICKENLOOPER — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Center for Effective Public Management at Brookings will host Governors Steve Beshear (D-Ky.) and John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) to provide insight on the performance of their states' leadership in comparison with the “paralyzing gridlock” of the national government. Location: Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Contacts: Christine M. Jacobs, 202-797-6012.

WASHINGTON INSTITUTE – RETURNING TERRORISTS — 12:30 p.m. Counterterrorism lecture, “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters.” With Maj. Gen. Doug Stone, USMC (ret.). Location: 1828 L Street NW, Suite 1050. Notes: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/rehabilitation-and-reintegration-of-returning-foreign-terrorist-fighters>.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: “You know who’s ready to go with the presidential campaign? Jeb Bush. Jeb Bush. He has already got the crooked voting machines lubed up. He’s ready to go. And Jeb Bush already has plans to end the war in Iraq that his brother started. And all he needs is a hot tub time machine.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Jeb Bush had a big speech on national security yesterday. And he had a pretty rough time. Yeah, he accidentally said that ISIS has 200,000 men instead of 20,000. Big mistake. And he mispronounced the name of the terrorist group Boko Haram. So if history has taught us anything, Jeb is well on his way to winning the White House.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Now they’re saying that Rand Paul will announce that he plans to run for president in April. He is waiting until he feels more prepared, for a few other candidates to drop out, and for the birds on his head to

leave the nest.”

Conan O'Brien: “Yesterday during his speech on national security, Jeb Bush mispronounced Boko Haram and got confused between Iran and Iraq. Yeah. When reached for comment, his brother, George W., said, ‘He sure sounds presidential to me.’”

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Confidential



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 21, 2016

1 message

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Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL, DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TO VISIT HARNEY COUNTY. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/20, 32K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor will "travel to Harney County on Monday to meet with employees affected by the 41-day Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation, as well as community and tribal leaders, the agency announced Sunday." The announcement said Jewell will meet "with community and tribal leaders who are working collaboratively on thoughtful management of public and private lands in southeastern Oregon." Jewell said, "As the community continues to recover from the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, I know that deepening the strong partnerships already in place will be important to the healing process."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (3/21, 122K).

Lawmakers Seek Federal Funding To Reimburse Local Expenses For Malheur Occupation. The [E&E](#) (3/18) reports that "members of Oregon's congressional delegation are working to find federal dollars to help pay back local governments that responded to armed militants' takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge earlier this year." According to the article, "a top priority for Sen. Ron Wyden is getting 'compensation for the community, which basically blew through its budget as a result of this.'" Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley are "also

seeking to tap the existing budgets of other law enforcement agencies or provide new dollars for state and local agencies via the fiscal 2017 appropriations process.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the occupation was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (3/20, 864K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, 285K), [Reuters](#) (3/18, Johnson), the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/18, 975K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/20, 2K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DEDICATES BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT. The AP (3/19, 1.99M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “joined federal and state officials near the town of Williams on Saturday to mark the creation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.”

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (3/20, 165K) reports that Jewell was joined by Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Reps. Mike Thompson and John Garamendi. Thompson said, “After years of tireless work by countless numbers of people, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region finally has the permanent protection it deserves. It was an honor to join those who have been incredible partners and supporters in this effort at today’s dedication ceremony.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/19, 285K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 569K), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/20, 591K), the [Lake County \(CA\) News](#) (3/20, 530), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (3/20, 6K), [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (3/20, 6K), and [KRON-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (3/20, 124K).

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (3/20, 148K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited Santa Cruz Island last Friday. She was joined by Rep. Lois Capps and “dozens of Santa Paula fourth-graders.” According to the article, “the students’ trip was part of the Every Kid in a Park initiative launched last year by President Barack Obama to get children nationwide outdoors.” Jewell and Capps “handed out national park passes to fourth-graders from Thille School in Santa Paula.”

[KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (3/20, 1K) reports that “students were taken to the Channel Islands specifically to see the Channel Island Fox.” According to the article, “the animal has been brought back from the brink of extinction through conservation work.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (3/21, 1K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANCELS DISPUTED DRILLING LEASE ON SACRED SITE. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that last week, the Obama Administration canceled Solenex LLC’s undeveloped lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Lewis and Clark National Forest. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said “it was issued without proper environmental or cultural review.”

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, 48K) reports that Jewell said, “Today’s action honors Badger-Two Medicine’s rich cultural and natural resources and recognizes the irreparable impacts that oil and gas development would have on them.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (3/18, 308K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 388K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (3/20, 44K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication), and [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (3/20, 46K).

TRIBAL OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE RENAMING OF MT MCKINLEY TO DENALI. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/18, 2K) reports that the “renaming of North America’s highest peak from Mt. McKinley to Denali was recognized Wednesday by federal and tribal officials at the Tanana Chief’s Conference annual meeting in Fairbanks.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “took action last summer to formally re-name Mt. McKinley to its traditional Athabascan name Denali.” Jewell’s senior advisor for Alaska affairs Michael Johnson “pointed to the significance the name change in an address to Tanana Chiefs Conference delegates.” Johnson said, “This is a symbol, but it’s an important one ‘cause it’s about respect. And that’s, I think, first and foremost why the secretary was happy to do it.”

REP. CLAWSON SEEKS \$500 MILLION TO BUY LAND IN EVERGLADES. The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 131K) reports that “in what’s intended as a long-term solution to the damaging discharges of nutrient-laden waters from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers, U.S. Rep. Curt Clawson wants the Interior Department to buy land south of the lake for water storage.” Clawson introduced the Everglades Land

Acquisition Act on Friday. If enacted, the measure would "set aside \$500 million for the Interior Department to buy the land in the Everglades Agriculture Area in Palm Beach County after a study, also authorized in the bill, determined the right location."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (3/18, 190K).

NEW MEXICO STILL EYEING LAWSUIT AGAINST EPA OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL. [KUNM-FM](#)

Albuquerque, NM (3/20, 4K) reports that the EPA is "acknowledging the concerns of officials in New Mexico and elsewhere that spring runoff could stir up contaminants left behind by the Gold King Mine spill in southern Colorado." EPA Regional Administrator Ron Curry "wrote in a letter to the state's congressional delegation that the federal agency is providing \$2 million for long-term monitoring and planning." Curry also "confirmed the agency is reviewing the state's most recent request to be reimbursed \$1.5 million for expenses related to the August 2015 spill." However, "that will not dissuade state officials from pursuing a lawsuit against EPA." Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn said "he wants to see a long-term monitoring program and that's the biggest stumbling block right now."

ALASKA LOSES BID FOR EASEMENTS ALONG HISTORIC TRAILS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/18, 2K) reports that "in court, the state of Alaska lost its bid for easements along historic trails across Native Allotments near Chicken, in Interior Alaska." The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals held "in favor of the U.S. Department of Interior, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Native allotment owners Agnes and Anne Purdy."

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/20, 37K) reports that "federal and state agencies recently announced available funding for enhancing sage grouse habitat in Montana." The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service is "offering funding to private landowners for reducing the encroachment of conifers in sage grouse habitat." The state of Montana is also "offering funding to conservation agencies and organizations for projects benefiting sage grouse through the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team."

SEN. MURKOWSKI LOOKS TO ADDRESS PUERTO RICO'S ENERGY PROBLEMS. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Commerce Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski said "she was looking for ways to address the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico's long-standing energy problems." She said, "The fact of the matter is, their energy answer right now, it's not sustainable for them as an island." The article notes that "one major issue is the island's heavy reliance on importing oil for electricity, which continues to be wildly expensive despite the recent drop in prices."

REP. JONES MOVES TO BLOCK PORN ON FEDERAL COMPUTERS. In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (3/19, Hellmann, 862K) reports that Rep. Walter Jones is "leading a crusade to stop federal employees from watching and downloading porn on government equipment while at work." Jones "sent a letter to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers asking that future appropriations bills include language ensuring that computer networks funded by the government block the viewing, downloading and exchanging of porn." The article notes that "in an appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016, some federal agencies were blocked from watching porn, but not all." According to Jones, "language in the bill requires that computer networks funded by the government block the viewing, downloading and exchanging of porn, but while it covers several divisions of government, it left out divisions that include the EPA, SEC and Department of Interior, agencies that have all seen issues with employees surfing porn at work."

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES CALL FOR BREAKUP OF FEDERAL LAND. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, 1.99M) reports that "lost amid the shouting and relentless political attacks, the remaining Republican presidential candidates have found at least one area of agreement: the call for the federal government to relinquish its claim to the gigantic public wilderness of the West, a mostly contiguous patchwork nearly four times the size of Texas."

STUDIES FIND PAY DROPS IN FIELDS WHERE FEMALES ENTER. The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Miller, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reported on a Cornell University study that finds the single largest cause of the gender pay gap is "the difference between the occupations and industries" in which men and women work, and on a University of Haifa study that found that pay declines when women enter a field due to gender bias that work by women is less valuable. The latter study found that when the field of park recreation went from predominantly male to female, median hourly wages declined 57 percentage points, but that the reverse was true when jobs went from female to male, as it did with computer programming.

AP ANALYSIS: ADMINISTRATION SETS RECORD FOR FAILURES TO FIND FILES. An [AP](#) (3/18, Bridis,

Gillum) analysis of government data revealed the Administration "set a record for the number of times its federal employees told disappointed citizens, journalists and others that despite searching they couldn't find a single page requested under the Freedom of Information Act." The AP claims "in more than one in six cases, or 129,825 times, government searchers said they came up empty-handed last year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS PALMER BAYOU BOARDWALK

DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication of the new Palmer Bayou Boardwalk in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [Cleveland \(TX\) Advocate](#) (3/18, 73K), the [Eastex \(TX\) Advocate](#) (3/20), and [AmmoLand](#) (3/20, 9K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR DELISTED. Additional coverage of the decision to delist the Louisiana black bear was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, McConnaughey, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, McConnaughey, 285K), and [KLFY-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (3/20, 39K).

INTERIOR URGED TO END COAL'S SELF-BONDING "SCAM". In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M) says that Sen. Maria Cantwell is asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "to protect taxpayers from a long-standing scam in federal legislation that lets coal companies avoid their duty to clean up the lucrative mess they have made." The paper urges the Obama Administration to "support a prohibition on any new self-bonds for coal-mining reclamation going forward." It concludes: "end this scam available to the coal industry."

In an op-ed for the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, 616K), Howard A. Learner, executive director, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Chicago, writes that "the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is allowing Peabody Energy to potentially stick Indiana taxpayers with the company's \$163 million of mine reclamation costs." He argues Indiana officials to "heed the warning signals and act quickly to require Peabody to purchase surety bonds or otherwise provide necessary funds to provide for its mine reclamation responsibilities before it is too late."

UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL URGED TO LOOK AT LAWSUIT OVER FEDERAL LANDS RATIONALLY.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) editorializes that "the campaign to take control of federal land within Utah's borders is now in the province of Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, who is charged with deciding whether to proceed with an expensive lawsuit against the federal government to compel the transfer of more than 30 million acres." The paper says that "in approaching that decision, Reyes is duty-bound to act objectively, cautiously and sensibly to offer his client the best legal advice, regardless of which direction the political winds would tend to push him." According to the editorial, "from the start, the lands transfer campaign has been steeped in anti-federal sentiment, and whether it represents sound economic policy has been something of a secondary consideration." It concludes that "the primary consideration now is whether it reasonably can be accomplished through lengthy litigation, a question the attorney general needs to approach with the sober eye of a prudent lawyer."

OP-ED: EMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS OPPOSE PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE. In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K), artist and author Jonathan Bailey writes that "to rural Utah residents, Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative is seen as 'shortsighted.'" he claims that "the sentiment from Emery County residents is clear: Not only are they concerned about the impacts but they are overwhelmingly skeptical of any economic benefits."

DRABELLE REVIEWS "RIGHTFUL HERITAGE" BY DOUGLAS BRINKLEY. In a [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Drabelle, 8.98M) piece, Dennis Drabelle reviews the book "Rightful Heritage" by Douglas Brinkley on president Franklin D. Roosevelt, whom he calls "a tree-hugger from way back" who incorporated major landscapes of the early United States into its national park and wildlife systems. Drabelle says that Brinkley "is good at showing how strands of Roosevelt's life united to shape approaches to preservation that other presidents might have missed" and demonstrates the work and legacy of the former president as a conservationist.

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES HAVE GAINED ALMOST 400,000 ACRES UNDER OBAMA

ADMINISTRATION. The [AP](#) (3/20, Marcelo, Press, 1.99M) reports that "Native American tribes have been steadily gaining lands under President Barack Obama's administration." According to data from the BIA, "nearly 400,000 acres have been placed into trust for tribes since Obama took office in 2009." Obama has "pledged to place a total of 500,000 acres into trust for tribes before his tenure ends."

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (3/20, 4M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/20, Marcelo, 881K), the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (3/20, 76K), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (3/20, 534K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/20, Philip Marcelo |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, Marcelo, 285K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/20, 4.92M).

BILL TACKLES DAM MAINTENANCE BACKLOG IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that “dams are the latest outstanding infrastructure problem in Native American communities that Senate Indian Affairs Chairman John Barrasso wants to tackle.” Barrasso and Sen. John McCain introduced the “Dam Repairs and Improvements for Tribes (DRIFT) Act” last week “in hopes of fixing dams and improving flood prevention across Indian Country.” S. 2717 would “establish a revenue stream to clear more than \$500 million in deferred maintenance costs at tribal dams over the next 20 years.” The measure would also “create a tribal flood mitigation program within the Department of the Interior.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (3/20, 22K).

SEN. MCCAIN PUSHES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT. [Cronkite News](#) (3/18) reports that “tribal leaders were noncommittal Friday about a proposal that would divert Bureau of Indian Education funds into education savings accounts that individual Native American children could use to attend schools of their choosing.” Sen. John McCain said “he introduced the Native American Education Opportunity Act because BIE schools have ‘absolutely failed’ students, contributing to high unemployment and substance abuse – issues that have ‘plagued the Native American population.’” The measure would “create education savings accounts that could be used toward covering the cost of private schools, books, tutors and other educational needs for tribal youth.”

COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS OVER COWLITZ TRIBE’S CASINO. The [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (3/18, 72K) reports that “the Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s bid to build a \$510 million mega-casino will again be tested this week as their case heads to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C.” Last year, the Interior Department “placed 156 acres of property between Ridgefield and La Center into a ‘trust’ for the tribe, in effect creating a reservation.” According to the article, “observers say the outcome could have ripple effects across the nation, especially for tribes trying to establish a reservation or gain federal recognition.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Centralia \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, 903) and the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/18, 94K).

BIA SEEKS TO PREVENT OVERDOSES WITH NALOXENE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, 48K) reports that “cities and counties across the country now allow police and emergency rescue personnel to carry and administer naloxone, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs allows many of its officers to carry naloxone on patrol and many Indian Health Service pharmacies now dispense the drug.” On March 10, the Senate “passed a bill to combat opioid abuse.” The legislation will make naloxone more available.

QUINALT PRESIDENT TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS. The [Seattle Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M) reports that Quinalt Indian Nation President Fawn Sharp “told a congressional committee that the United States is falling short of meeting its treaty obligations and trust responsibilities, citing more than \$4 million the tribe is forced to come up with to supplement inadequate federal funding.” In testimony last Thursday before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Sharp “asked the government to support line-item requests by federal agencies supporting climate-change response and enforcement programs for tribes across the country totaling \$209.6 million as well as \$11.3 million to help support Quinalt Nation programs in salmon-habitat restoration programs and road construction and improvement.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (3/20, 1K).

PII PAASH UUMISH HOSTS “WATERS CONNECT US” ACTIVIST EVENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, Hand, 48K) reported on “The Waters Connect Us” event hosted by Pii Paash Uumish of the Gila River Indian Community in Phoenix, in which “poets, spoken-word artists, musicians, painters” and others paid homage to the late poet and activist John Trudell. Keynote speakers spoke on community empowerment, and attendees helped to strategize “the next steps for the Pii Paash water protection campaign.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO OWNERS OF FOND DU LAC LAND.

Additional coverage that land buy-back offers have been made to 3,200 Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa landowners was provided by the [Pine \(MN\) Journal](#) (3/20, 15K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR APPROVES \$1.8M IN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 641) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina "approved \$1.8 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to the Government of American Samoa from the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP)." Kia'aina said, "This year's funding reflects the priorities and needs of the people of American Samoa including self-determination, climate change adaptation, addressing threats to public health, and workforce development both in areas of health and public works. I am particularly pleased that we can support Governor Lolo Moliga, American Samoa's leadership, and the community in their efforts to advance political status options and climate change adaptation and resiliency initiatives."

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FOR ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE PARKING LOT PAVING PROJECT. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/20) reports that "a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Rota Mayor's Office parking lot paving project." Funded by the Interior Department through the Office of Insular Affairs, "the project has been contracted to Pacific Cooperation in the amount of \$187,145 and is to be completed by 180 calendar days."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR, EPA, PARTNER WITH WESTERN WATER DISTRICTS ON INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. [WaterWorld](#) (3/20, 96) reports that "three of the West's largest municipal water agencies have partnered with federal agencies to kick off the latest round of an expanded competitive grant program aimed at discovering the next generation of water-saving devices and technologies." According to the article, "for the first time," the EPA is participating with the BOR "as well as the Central Arizona Project, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Southern Nevada Water Authority in the Innovative Conservation Program." BOR's Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp said, "These kinds of successful programs with our partners are an important tool in Reclamation's Colorado River water management responsibilities as we face the effects of years of drought and the influences of climate variability."

BOR CATCHES RARE, WHITE STURGEON AT KLAMATH FALLS RESERVOIR. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the BOR caught a "massive white sturgeon" on "Monday morning at the mouth of the Link River where it empties into Lake Ewauna." According to Jared Bottcher, fish biologist for the BOR, "sturgeon were planted in Upper Klamath Lake in the late 1950s." The article says that "sturgeon have been found in Upper Klamath Lake and other places, but not in Lake Ewauna."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/18, 94K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, O'Brien, 285K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M), and [KOB1-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (3/20).

JUDGE TO HEAR CASE ABOUT WATER MANAGEMENT IN UPPER DESCHUTES. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/20, 2K) reports that "a federal judge in Eugene will hear a case Tuesday about water management in the Upper Deschutes River." Jim McCarthy with WaterWatch of Oregon says his group "opted to file a lawsuit against the Bureau of Reclamation after eight years of trying to collaborate through a collaborative effort called the Habitat Conservation Plan Working Group."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/21, 98K).

UTAH URGES LOCAL OWNERSHIP OF SOME FEDERAL WATER PROJECTS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) reports that "Utah lawmakers are pushing the state's congressional delegation to pursue the transfer of title on certain federal water projects already paid off by local users." Rep. Mike McKell "ran and got passed HJR4 in the 2016 legislative session that ended this month, urging title transfer of several Bureau of Reclamation projects that have construction costs paid off by local users, including the canal portion of the Strawberry Valley project and the Moon Lake, Emery County, Sanpete County and Provo River projects." McKell said, "There certainly is an appetite to see a transfer at this point, but it will take a lot of work and a lot of folks coming together to make sure all their interests are considered. This is not just a Utah issue. There are projects across the nation that have been repaid."

BOR NAMES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR LOWER COLORADO REGION. The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (3/20, 27K) reports that the BOR's Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp "announced the selection of Jacklynn L. Gould as the region's new deputy regional director."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. Continuing coverage of the drought in California was provided by [NPR](#) (3/18, 1.81M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/18, Stevens, 4.1M), and the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 279K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN STUDY RELEASED. Additional coverage of the release of the Republican River Basin Study was provided by the [McCook \(NE\) Daily Gazette](#) (3/20, 18K).

DELTA TUNNELS QUESTIONED. The [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (3/20, 35K) editorializes that “for years now, Gov. Jerry Brown has been telling us that he will save the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – the greatest freshwater estuary on this side of the continent – by taking water out of it.” It notes that “among the biggest and most enthusiastic backers is the largest irrigation district in the world, Westlands Water District, and the largest urban water supplier in the world, Metropolitan Water District.” The Securities and Exchange Commission “fined Westlands \$125,000 to settle the charges last week.” The paper asks: “How can we trust anything untruthful Westlands says? How do we keep faith in Westlands’ partners – Metropolitan and Brown?”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY TO HOST FORUM ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY. [Shore News Today](#) (NJ) (3/20) reports that Stockton University will “host a forum Tuesday, March 29 to discuss New Jersey’s potential to harbor an offshore wind energy industry.” Walter Cruickshank, deputy director of the BOEM, is the keynote speaker. At the end of 2015, the BOEM “sold two leases of nearly 344,000 acres for offshore wind energy development in New Jersey waters to RES America Developments Inc. and U.S. Wind Inc.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US OPENS UP NEW YORK COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BORM “took another step toward boosting ocean windpower by identifying an 8,130 acre wind area energy south of Long Island, New York” was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/18, 506), [Renewable Energy World](#) (3/20, 2K), [Windtech International](#) (3/20), and [Clean Technology Business Review](#) (3/20).

Onshore Energy Development:

CONSERVATIONISTS CHALLENGE BLM OVER FOSSIL FUEL PLANS. [Courthouse News](#) (3/18, 7K) reports that “the federal government has fast-tracked approval of a dramatic escalation of mining and drilling activity on 6.6 million acres of virgin land in Montana and Wyoming, conservationists claim in court.” According to the article, “in a complaint filed Tuesday in the Great Falls, Mont. Federal Court, the Western Organization of Resource Councils and others claim the Bureau of Land Management failed to exercise appropriate due diligence before approving resource management plans allowing for 18,000 new oil and gas well in the two states, as well as the mining of more than 100 billion tons of coal.” The plaintiffs contend that “by doing so that agency failed to adequately consider the affects of fossil fuel production on the environment.”

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE OPPOSES DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/19, 48K) reports that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is “trying to stop” the \$3.4 billion Dakota Access Pipeline. According to the article, “while the pipeline would not technically run directly through the Standing Rock Reservation, it would cross the Missouri River only a few hundred feet upstream from Standing Rock’s border, less than a mile from the community of Cannon Ball.” Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault has “already met with and garnered support from officials in Washington representing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.”

BANKS CUTTING FINANCING TO COAL INDUSTRY. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports JPMorgan Chase joined Bank of America, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley as big banks that are, “in one way or another, backing away from coal.” Some banks say its in order to address climate change, but bankers also reportedly say that lending to coal companies “is too risky and could ultimately prove unprofitable.” The Times adds that even “more daring investors like hedge funds and private equity firms, which are usually eager to pounce on industries in distress,” are distancing themselves from coal because of the industry’s uncertain future.

OIL DRILLING TO BEGIN IN "VAST, UNSPOILED SWEEP" OF NEVADA. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/21, Brean, 479K) reports that the US Bureau of Land Management approved Makoil Inc. to drill in "a vast, unspoiled sweep" of Nevada in the Basin and Range National Monument, recognizing existing, valid drilling rights. Nevada Minerals Division Deputy Administrator Mike Visser said "The area encompassed by the national monument has seen oil exploration in the past," but only one of six wells reported oil and gas production and none are operating today. If Makoil does find oil, the company "will need to generate electricity on site to run its production operation," given that the area's protected status "prohibits new power lines from being built across the monument."

OREGON FIRST STATE TO BAN COAL IN POWER SECTOR. [Newsweek](#) (3/20, 693K) reports that last Friday, "Oregon became the first state to ban coal outright, passing a bill that will phase out any electricity generated by coal by 2035." The case of Oregon is a "unique one" and it is "far from clear" whether other states will follow suit. Dave Robertson of Portland General Electric said that, "utilities are really coming to grips with how they need to adapt to a changing climate" and no new coal plants are planned in the US.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: LOCAL PROTESTS AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS SEEK GLOBAL RESULTS. A 1237-word [New York Times](#) (3/19, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis reported on recent opposition by environmental activists against what the article calls "Keystone-ization," or all "new oil, gas, and coal infrastructure projects." As part of this, the article indicated that this activism "combines traditional not-in-my-backyard protests against fossil-fuel projects with an overarching concern about climate change." Speaking to one protester, Colby Shultz, at the March 7 protest at a natural gas plant, he said, "There's a climate emergency happening ... It's a life-or-death struggle." The article provided in depth coverage of some of these protests and protest tactics, and also mentioned that following a July "kayaktivist" blockade in Portland, Oregon to keep Shell's Arctic drilling rigs from departing the port, the City Council "passed a resolution opposing the expansion of facilities for the storage and transportation of fossil fuels."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUP SAYS COAL COMPANIES RELY HEAVILY ON PUBLIC LANDS.

Additional coverage that "the three biggest coal mining companies in the United States depend on federal coal for the vast majority of coal they mine each year," according to Greenpeace, was provided by [CleanTechnica](#) (3/18, 18K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR RECLAIM ACT. In an op-ed for the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20), attorney Jack Kennedy commends Rep. Hal Rogers for introducing the RECLAIM Act. He argues that "we owe our miners and their families a heartfelt debt of gratitude for generations of their sacrifice and hard work." Kennedy concludes: "By thinking creatively about how existing federal programs can be used, Rogers and his colleagues have proposed a 'low-hanging fruit' option that could immediately infuse the region with capital to address environmental concerns while rebuilding a diverse and sustainable economy complete with high-tech energy jobs of the 21st century."

The piece also appears at the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, 337K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S COAL REGULATIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 917), Terry Jarrett, an energy attorney and consultant, and is a former commissioner of the Missouri Public Service Commission, criticizes the Obama Administration's coal regulations. He notes that the Interior Department "recently proposed a complete overhaul of coal mining regulations, largely replacing environmental oversight by the states with a massive new set of federal rules so broad as to potentially render more than half of U.S. coal reserves off-limits." Also, "even though states have demonstrated considerable success in policing their respective mining sectors, the 'Stream Protection Rule' (SPR) proposed by the Obama Administration has morphed into a staggering expansion of regulatory controls that, if fully implemented, could eliminate up to 280,000 jobs tied to the coal sector." Jarrett warns that these "proposals would result in higher electricity costs."

The piece also appears at the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/18, 472K).

FORMER BLM STATE DIRECTORS: BLM MUST ASSESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL. In a [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) op-ed, former BLM state directors Ann J. Morgan and Larry Hamilton wrote "BLM's coal leasing program needs to change" because of both financial markets and concerns for climate change, citing statements by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell that the BLM has "an obligation to current and future generations" to ensure the federal coal program "takes into account its impacts on climate change." Morgan and Hamilton call for the BLM to do "a comprehensive environmental analysis" that includes "the full

impact of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases associated with coal production on public land.”

EDITORIAL: COAL A PART OF ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY POLICY. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/20, 479K) editorializes in response to remarks by Hillary Clinton that her energy policy would harm coal firms and jobs, that coal “is a vital part of a clean, affordable and convenient energy mix.” Despite safety and environmental advances, “this era of environmental hysteria has seen the fossil fuel and nuclear power industries become unfair targets of propaganda, politics and misinformation.” The Review-Journal writes that “it’s time to dial down completely unnecessary regulations and get behind a truly all-of-the-above energy policy.”

CAMPION PRAISES ADMINISTRATION’S “BOLD ACTION” ON NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY. In a [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/18, 47K) op-ed, EnergyWorks CEO Douglas Campion wrote that “impacts of climate change and outdated natural resources policies” demand “a new way of thinking,” and said that President Obama’s energy policies are the “bold actions” needed to innovate the economy. Campion praised the planned review of the federal coal leasing program, natural gas reforms by the Department of Interior, and the establishment of new monuments as steps to preserve resources for future generations.

Offshore Energy Development:

NASA TO ADVISE BSEE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING RISK REDUCTION. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the BSEE and NASA are “embarking on a five-year partnership to improve offshore risk management.” Under the agreement, NASA will “share its probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) technique, technology evaluation processes, and failure and near-miss assessments. BSEE reached out to NASA because of the agency’s specialization in designing innovative technology for unconventional environments.” BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, “Both BSEE and NASA work in harsh and uncompromising environments, relying on cutting edge technology to go deeper and further than previously thought possible. This partnership brings together technical experts from BSEE and NASA to focus on the specific risks associated with offshore operations so that we can continue to find ways to improve safety for offshore workers and protect the environment.”

Additional coverage was provided by [World Oil](#) (3/20).

REP. HUDSON INTRODUCES BILL ALLOWING LEASING OFF NC COAST. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Yehle, Subscription Publication) reported that Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) last week introduced HR 4749, which would direct the Interior secretary to hold one lease sale off the coast of North Carolina every five years. While the bill is “unlikely to go far,” it “reflects Republican frustration with the administration’s surprise decision this week to take the Atlantic out of its five-year leasing plan.”

ALABAMA BEGINS WORK ON HOTEL USING BP MONEY FROM SEPARATE FUND. The [AP](#) (3/18, Reeves) reported that Alabama has begun construction on a multimillion-dollar hotel and conference center at Gulf State Park funded in part by money from the BP oil spill. Construction has begun “just weeks after a federal judge blocked the state from paying for the work with money from BP, the director of the project, Cooper Shattuck, said Thursday.” According to Shattuck, the project is legal because it is funded from a different source of BP money, not the one blocked by the judge. The Gulf Restoration Network, which sued over the project, “conceded that the funding mechanism is legal but called the move disappointing nonetheless.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. Additional coverage of the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 was provided by the [Coastal Point \(DE\)](#) (3/20), the [Sumter \(SC\) The Item](#) (3/20, 55K), the [Robesonian \(NC\)](#) (3/20, 41K), the [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (3/21, 148K), the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (3/20, 24K), the [Lynchburg \(VA\) News & Advance](#) (3/20, 92K), the [Ketchikan \(AK\) SitNews](#) (3/19), the [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (3/20, 236K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, 337K), the [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (3/20, 155K), the [Greenwood \(SC\) Index-Journal](#) (3/20, 35K), [Environment News Service](#) (3/17, 247), and [PoliticusUSA](#) (3/19, 34K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM DEVELOPING NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING AIR STANDARDS.

Additional coverage of the “proposed updated air quality regulations that will more accurately account for emissions from offshore oil and gas activity” was provided by [World Oil](#) (3/20), [Rigzone](#) (3/20, 8K), and [Splash 24/7 \(SGP\)](#) (3/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NOBEL LAUREATES URGE ARCTIC COUNCIL TO CEASE DRILLING.

Additional coverage that “six female Nobel laureates” have “urged Arctic countries to put a stop to drilling in the

region" was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/18, 211K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS IN CLEAN UP OF NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 211K) reports that "the federal government is fixing an environmental mess it left decades ago in the nation's largest oil reserve, removing rusting relics from an early era of exploration and providing a small counterweight of new jobs to the huge cutbacks on the North Slope oil patch." According to the article, "the progress was highlighted Tuesday with a ceremonial plugging of a decades-old well in the giant National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska." BLM Director Neil Kornze "poured a bucket of cement mix into an 8-inch-wide pipe, helping plug a well drilled in 1951 near the frozen U.S. Arctic Ocean."

BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ADVISORY COUNCILS. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (3/20, 32K) reports that the BLM is "seeking public nominations for open positions on 34 resource advisory councils, which advise the BLM on public land issues." The bureau's Northwest and Southwest Colorado districts are "seeking public nominations for 10 open positions on their Resource Advisory Councils." BLM Director Neil Kornze said, "The BLM resource advisory councils are an important forum for the community conversation that is a key component of public land management. With representatives with different land use perspectives, the RACs give community members an opportunity to dig into local issues and explore possible solutions."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/18, 47K), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (3/20, 1K), and [KMVT-TV Twin Falls \(ID\)](#) Twin Falls, ID (3/20, 1K).

"MR. SAGEBRUSH REBELLION" BANKROLLS PUSH TO SEIZE FEDERAL LAND. [Greenwire](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Bert Smith, who calls himself "Mr. Sagebrush Rebellion" has "quietly bankrolled a bevy of groups challenging the federal government's ownership of roughly 640 million acres of Western lands." According to the article, "the World War II veteran and ranch owner was a key leader in the 1970s push by ranchers and counties to defy Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land control." The article mentions that Smith calls jailed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy a "hero." The Ogden, Utah, resident

BLM RANGER JAILED UNDER QUESTIONABLE PRETENSES. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/21, 74K) reports that "in early December, a Bureau of Land Management ranger at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, in southern Utah, had a casual office conversation with a colleague about his frustration with how a holiday party was disrupting his day's work." Then, "two days later, he was in a Garfield County jail cell, purportedly for what he had said." The ranger, Jeff Ellison, was in his second year working with the bureau. According to the article, "whether Ellison's arrest was a form of intimidation or a simple misunderstanding is not yet clear."

DORENA GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER TRYING TO FIGHT PATHOGENS THAT KILLS SOME PINES AND CEDARS. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/21, 194K) reports that the Dorena Genetic Resource Center "collects the seeds and nurtures them into seedlings in the hopes of identifying those most resistant to disease, in particular two specific pathogens that have wreaked havoc among certain pines and a type of cedar." According to the article, "when the center periodically succeeds in cultivating disease-resistant seedlings, it gives them to U.S. Forest Service nurseries for eventual planting in the wild."

BLM SETS DATES FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTIONS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the BLM says "it will hold its wild horse and burro adoption events in May and September."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REP. CHAFFETZ SEEKS MORE INFORMATION ON BLM, FOREST SERVICE BONUSES. Additional coverage of the letter sent to the BLM seeking information on employee awards or bonuses was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/20, Davidson, 8.98M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM SEEKS TO REHABILITATE LAND AFTER SODA FIRE. Additional coverage of the rehabilitation efforts after the Soda Fire was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/19, Wiley, 285K) and the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/20, 51K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUNDY'S CATTLE POSES PROBLEM. Additional coverage of the quandary

posed by jailed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's cattle was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/21, 74K).

MINNESOTANS DISCUSS REGULATORY PROCESS FOR TWIN METALS COPPER-NICKEL MINE. In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/20, 1.25M) says the editorial board has "long held serious doubts that copper mining can be done responsibly at the Twin Metals site." However, just days after PolyMet, the state's first copper-nickel proposal, had its environmental-impact state called "adequate" following after a 10-year, state-driven review, moves made by Gov. Mark Dayton and the Bureau of Land Management to block the Twin Metals copper-nickel mine "raises serious questions about whether the mine review process is sufficiently insulated from politics." BLM could rule against automatically renewing Twin Metals' leases on thousands of acres of federal land, "a sign that officials may be weighing a protective zone on federal land around" Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Dayton also made a "personal call to the BLM's director to object to mining so close to the federally protected wilderness." The Star Tribune still opposes the Twin Metals mine, but hopes the "current science-based environmental-review process" should provide a sufficient, transparent ruling.

In the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune's](#) (3/20, 139K) "Reader's View" section, Becky Rom, national chairwoman for the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, praises the newspaper for "covering the threat of proposed sulfide-ore mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed." She also clarifies a point made in an March 17 editorial, saying the Department of Interior staff "has not been unresponsive to our request to withdraw federal minerals within the Boundary Waters watershed." The department has indicated it has received the request, and BLM "deserves credit for taking steps to ensure Twin Metals' expired leases receive a fair and full environmental review before any determination is made about whether they will be renewed." She is optimistic BLM will grant her request.

PUBLIC LAND GRAZING SAVES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$750 MILLION PER YEAR. In [The Hill's](#) (3/18, Richards, 862K) "Congress Blog," Brenda Richards, president of the Public Lands Council and an Idaho rancher, discusses the importance of public land ranching. Ranchers contribute to the nation's food supply and perform maintenance on the government land they lease. Richards writes that if you consider the costs of land maintenance, public land ranchers "ultimately save the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) more than \$750 million in taxpayer dollars each year." It costs the BLM \$5 per acre for necessary land maintenance on public lands, while it only costs the agency \$2 per acre "for land that's allotted for grazing since the ranger makes such a significant investment in maintaining the land for the government." Richards says public land ranchers "are able to turn an otherwise unusable natural resource into healthy, free-range, high-quality protein while reducing the land management burden and budget demands of our federal government."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS HANDS OUT BOATING GRANTS. [Trade Only](#) (3/20) reports that the FWS has "announced nearly \$14 million in grants to 32 states, commonwealths and territories for projects to support recreational boating through the service's Boating Infrastructure Grant program." FWS Director Dan Ashe said in a statement, "Our recreational boats and boat docks share the water with fish and wildlife species critical to our ecology and economy," service. "In the same way good hunting practices and land stewardship benefit terrestrial wildlife, boating facilities can benefit aquatic species by keeping waterways clean and driving revenues to state wildlife agencies through fishing that can be placed back into conservation. It's a cycle of success. Not only do these grants help to create safe and improved recreational boating facilities and provide improved access to boating and fishing opportunities — they put people to work."

HOUSE PANEL BLASTS FWS' REFUSAL TO USE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS AND REPORTING SYSTEM. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS "refuses to use a multimillion-dollar law enforcement records system that the Interior Department has spent more than a decade developing." The House Natural Resources Committee "highlighted the standoff at a hearing" last week of its Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. According to the article, "both Republicans and Democrats criticized Interior's handling of the database, which is meant to be a department wide repository for criminal investigations."

FWS PETITIONED TO PROTECT BLACK BEARS AS ENDANGERED SPECIES. [Greenwire](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "nearly 20 conservation groups and a half dozen scientists" last week called on the FWS to protect the Florida black bear under the Endangered Species Act. In a petition to agency, "the coalition argued that Florida's largest land mammal is at risk from habitat loss, vehicles and state-sanctioned hunts." The groups want FWS "to add the species to the threatened or endangered species list and

to set aside critical habitat, in which developments undertaken or permitted by the federal government should alleviate threats to bears.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (3/17, 712K).

RESTORATION ON TISHOMINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO BEGIN. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the FWS says “it will begin restoring the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge damaged by torrential rains last May and June.” According to the article, “the heavy rains caused widespread flooding throughout Texas and Oklahoma, affecting nine national wildlife refuges and a national fish hatchery in both states.” The Tishomingo refuge was hit with “the most extensive damage in Oklahoma, with about 85 percent of the refuge underwater for nearly three months.”

WORK ON WEST FORK RIVER DAM REMOVAL PROJECT TO BEGIN MONDAY. The [AP](#) (3/18, 285K) reports that “the removal of the first of three Clarksburg Water Board dams on the West Fork River is set to start next week, officials said.” According to FWS Coordinator Callie McMunigal, “a contractor will start moving in heavy equipment Monday at the West Milford Dam.” McMunigal said “the dam’s removal should take about three weeks, at which time workers will then proceed to remove the Two-Lick Dam, followed by the Highland Dam.”

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SET TO START IN PRIME HOOK WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (3/21, Press, 8.98M) reports that “road crews are set to begin work on a project aimed at alleviating flooding problems on the main road running through the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.” Gov. Jack Markell and Sen. Tom Carper were “among the guests scheduled to attend a ground breaking ceremony Monday for bridge construction and road improvements on Prime Hook Road.” According to the article, “the construction project includes a concrete-girder bridge on piles that will cross a new drainage channel being built by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER MAY LOSE ITS ENDANGERED CLASSIFICATION. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/20, 290K) reports that the FWS “last week published a finding indicating that there was ‘substantial information’ that the Southwestern willow flycatcher is not a subspecies, the designation under which it was classified as endangered in 1995.” According to the article, “the findings published in the National Register on Wednesday indicate that delisting the bird may be warranted ‘based on information related to taxonomic status.’” Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, “We’re still determining our way forward on resolving that question and are seeking information on the subspecies’ classification and genetics.”

AERIAL GUNNING REDUCES WYOMING WOLF PACK THAT KILLED CATTLE. The [AP](#) (3/18, 285K) reports that “wildlife managers have killed five wolves from a large pack that had been killing yearling cattle in western Wyoming.” According to the article, “the Dell Creek Pack numbered as many as 16 animals and repeatedly killed cows grazing on private rangeland in the Hoback River Basin southeast of Jackson this winter.” FWS Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Coordinator Mike Jimenez says that the “Dell Creek Pack hadn’t started killing livestock until this winter.”

FOUR BALD EAGLES DIE IN DELAWARE. The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Weil, 8.98M) reports that “four bald eagles died over the weekend in Delaware after being found about 30 miles from where 13 eagles were found dead last month in Maryland.” According to the article, “the causes of the deaths were not known.”

NARWHAL IVORY SMUGGLER EXTRADITED TO US FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TRIAL. [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, 442K) reports that “a former member of Canada’s federal police force was extradited to the United States on March 11 and is being held in custody until his trial in May on charges of money laundering from a \$2-million operation to smuggle ivory from narwhal between the two countries.” In an announcement of Gregory R. Logan’s extradition, Ed Grace, deputy chief of law enforcement for the FWS, said, “Modern wildlife crime investigations often track money as much as they track animals. This case shows the breadth of the illegal wildlife trade, normally associated with elephant ivory and rhino horn. Even species of the deep polar waters are not safe until we extinguish the market for protected animals and with it, the livelihood of criminal profiteers who benefit from their exploitation.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MILITARY POSTPONES TORTOISE RELOCATION PLAN. Additional coverage that “the Marine Corps base at Twenty-Nine Palms said Friday it had postponed plans to move 1,185 tortoises off prospective combat training grounds until wildlife agencies can determine whether the plan complies with the Endangered Species Act” was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/19, Sahagun, 4.1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO RAISE WHOOPING CRANES. Additional coverage of the effort

to raise whooping cranes was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (3/18, McConnaughey, 285K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ALBATROSS GIVES BIRTH AT 65. Additional coverage that Wisdom, "a Laysan albatross named Wisdom – she's at least 65 years old – became a mother again last month" was provided by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20).

FWS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RECOGNIZED. In an editorial, the [Key West \(FL\) Keynoter](#) (3/18, 28K) congratulates Jared Brierley, a FWS law enforcement officer, who has been named the 2015 James A. Clark Officer of the Year for the southeast region. Brierley "received his award this month at a training session in Mississippi and was recognized for his leadership in 'resource law enforcement,' cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and his professional demeanor."

National Park Service:

BING PARTNERS WITH NPS FOR #FINDYOURPARK PHOTO CONTEST. [Search Engine Land](#) (3/20, 11K) reports that "Bing has partnered with the US National Park Service for the organization's centennial celebrations and is hosting a #FindYourPark photo contest to help promote the US's 59 national parks." According to the article, "the grand prize winner's photo will be featured on Bing's home page during National Park Week and will serve as the cover photo on Bing's Facebook and Twitter pages for all of April in honor of Earth Month."

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by [CBS News](#) (3/20, 3.97M), [NPR](#) (3/19, 1.81M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/20, 1.25M), the [Poughkeepsie \(NY\) Journal](#) (3/18, 113K), and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (3/18, Leadbeater, 929K).

YOSEMITE FIGHT OVER NAMES ESCALATES AS NPS PUSHES TO CANCEL TRADEMARKS. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has "opened up a new front in the fight over the names of historic hotels and other beloved landmarks at Yosemite National Park." The park service has "asked a federal trademark board to cancel trademarks obtained by the company that previously ran the park's hotels, restaurants and outdoor activities." Attorneys for the U.S. Department of the Interior told the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board that the trademark registrations were causing "damage and injury" to the NPS.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Kaplan, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/19, Press, 8.98M), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (3/21, Press, 251K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 569K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, 1.1M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/19, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, 285K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, 3.37M), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (3/20, 333K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/20, 4.92M), [Skift](#) (3/19), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/21, 6.31M), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/20, 352K), and [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (3/20, 104K).

INTERIOR SUPPORTS BILL TO INCLUDE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE IN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department was "largely supportive of nearly two dozen bills under consideration" last week in the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. According to the article, "the most controversial bill that Peggy O'Dell, the National Park Service's deputy director for operations, gave the administration's blessing to was S. 1975, a bill from Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a unit of the national park system." Mikulski's bill is "co-sponsored by over half of the 20 women in the Senate, including Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the full committee." However, "Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), the chairman of the subcommittee, pressed O'Dell on how much the legislation could cost the Park Service, which is already struggling to pay down a nearly \$11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog."

CHERRY BLOSSOMS CLOSE TO PEAK BLOOM. In its "Capital Weather Gang" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Fritz, 8.98M) reports that the cherry blossom trees in DC "reached the peduncle-elongation stage on Thursday," the NPS said. According to the article, "that means we're just days away from peak bloom." However, "cold weather" over the weekend will "at least delay peak bloom."

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (3/18, 9.42M), [ABC News](#) (3/20, 4M), [USA Today](#) (3/18, Baskas, 5.45M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/19, Smith, 8.98M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/18, Thomson, 8.98M).

FAA Reminds Cherry Blossom Festival Attendees To Leave Drones At Home. The [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Halsey III, 8.98M) reports in its "Dr. Gridlock" blog the Federal Aviation Administration issued a news release

Friday to remind attendees that the "cherry blossom festival is a no-drone zone." The reason is that the area is "within a 15-mile radius of Reagan National Airport," and the District of Columbia's airspace "is the most restricted flight zone in the country." [WTOP-FM Washington](#) (3/19, Keyes, 255K) reports the FAA issued a video in which it "warned people to leave their drones at home." [DCist](#) (3/19, Sturdivant, 39K) also reports the warning.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT DISMANTLES RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE.

[National Parks Traveler](#) (3/20, 989) reports that Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga, "acting in the wake of a tide of sexual harassment complaints, has dismantled the River District Office where the grievances arose." Uberuaga, "in an email to all his employees, wrote that he takes 'full responsibility for the situation the park finds itself in and I acknowledge and accept that over time, a culture was tolerated that allowed sexual harassment and created a hostile work environment.'" The article notes that "that email, sent Wednesday, came a day after National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis sent an email to all Park Service employees stating that 'no employee has the right or the power by nature of their position to inflict their will or to subject co-workers, regardless of their status, to abuse.'"

Additional coverage of the complaints of sexual harassment was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, 518K).

FIRED PARK POLICE CHIEF RETURNING TO FORMER POSITION. [WAMU-FM Washington](#) (3/20, 30K) reports that "a U.S. Park Police chief who was fired in 2004 after complaining publicly that her department was understaffed and underfunded is officially returning to her former position Monday." Teresa Chambers was "suspended in December 2003 and fired the following July." The Interior Department said "it was due to insubordination and failure to follow the chain of command." According to the article, "earlier this month, a federal board ordered that Chambers be reinstated, saying she's entitled to back pay, interest, and other benefits."

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR CARLSBAD CAVERNS ELEVATOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park has "awarded a contract for overdue repair work to its elevators." Park officials announced last Friday that "the contract, worth more than \$235,000, will go to a company based in Illinois." Supplied Industrial Solutions will "start the work April 11 with a deadline of Memorial Day weekend, one of the park's busiest."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES PUBLIC LANDS PARTNER AWARD. The [Sevier \(TN\) News Messenger](#) (3/18) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Great Smoky Mountains Association were "jointly awarded the Public Lands Partner Award, a prestigious national award, during the recent Public Lands Alliance annual convention and trade show in Spokane, WA." Park Superintendent Cassius Cash and GSMA Executive Director Laurel Rematore were "awarded the Public Lands Partner Award, which recognizes an exemplary partnership for its stunning achievement to protect and preserve our country's public lands and enhance the experiences of visitors and users." According to the article, "the 65-year old partnership was singled out for a variety of successful partnership efforts, including unprecedented quantity and quality of visitor services at America's most-visited national park."

BIOLOGISTS DISCOVER NEW MULE DEER MIGRATION ROUTE. The [AP](#) (3/20, 285K) reports that "biologists say they are surprised after finding a new mule deer migration route leading to summer range in Grand Teton National Park that passes over the Teton Range." According to the article, "the rough, rocky 45-mile route took a doe that was being tracked from Colter Bay summer grounds north to a Snake River crossing above Jackson Lake and then west across the northern Tetons near Mount Berry." The article says that "the deer ended up wintering not far from the Teton River southeast of Ashton, Idaho, and researchers want to know if more deer are using that route."

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER REPAIR WORK. The [AP](#) (3/18, 285K) reports that Grand Teton National Park is "recruiting volunteers to help with construction and repairs over the summer." The new Grand Teton Hammer Corps program is "looking for volunteers to help a few days to several weeks." According to park officials, "the corps formalizes volunteer programs that have been going on for years."

HENRICO COUNTY SUBDIVISION LOCATED ON CONFEDERATE FORTS. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, Childers, 337K) reported the Battlefield Park Farms subdivision in Henrico County is located near Fort Harrison, the largest Confederate fort responsible for protecting the city. According to the Times-Dispatch, "the remains of another fort, Fort Hoke, lie along the neighborhood's western boundary." One battle in Sept. 1864 "went right through the East and West Chaffin road areas," according to Robert E. L. Krick, historian for the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Sandra Seelmann, a real estate agent with Varina & Seelmann, said, "You're literally surrounded by history in Battlefield Park Farms." Elaine Eberly, a real estate agent with Billy

Jacobs & Co., added, "The National Park Service owns a great deal of land around the subdivision" which limits the amount of room for development.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BATTLE OVER GRAZING AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed over cattle grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by [National Parks Traveler](#) (3/20, 989).

FRIENDSHIP URN RECALLS GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CUBA. The [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Montgomery, 8.98M) reported that the last time a sitting president visited Cuba was in January 1928, when President Calvin Coolidge was invited to give the opening address at the Pan-American Conference in Havana. Coolidge was met by Cuban President Gerardo Machado and "thousands of people cheered Coolidge's motorcade as it progressed slowly through Old Havana to the presidential palace." According to the National Park Service, Machado gave Coolidge the Cuban Friendship Urn to celebrate his visit. The urn was sculpted from a piece from a broken marble column from a monument to sailors killed on the USS Maine in 1898. The urn was "erected in a rose garden in West Potomac Park." It was later removed to accommodate highway construction, and forgotten. The urn was later found by NPS employees in 1996. It was then restored and rededicated in its current location near the Jefferson Memorial in 1998.

US Geological Survey:

SEISMOLOGIST LUCY JONES RETIRING FROM USGS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 1.99M) reports that "seismologist Lucy Jones, the face of earthquake science and safety in Southern California for many years, is retiring from the U.S. Geological Survey." Jones said "in a Twitter posting Friday that she's leaving federal service but will keep her appointment at the California Institute of Technology, where she is a research associate."

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (3/18, 853K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, 442K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/18, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, 285K), [Maine News Online](#) (3/19), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (3/18, 75K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/18, 6.31M).

STUDY: 70% OF COASTAL NORTHEAST COULD ADAPT TO RISING SEAS. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 195K) reports that "a new study published Monday suggests that up to 70 percent of the coast from Virginia to the Canadian border is actually more likely to shift and change rather than drown" from a rise in the sea level. According to the article, "barrier islands will migrate landward, get carved into dunes or split into inlets, the study says," and "low-lying forests will evolve into salt marshes, and salt marshes will build up and, in some cases, even expand." The new study led by the USGS "offers a more complex model that incorporates the coast's capacity for dynamic change depending on its particular ecosystem — beach, marsh, lagoon, barrier island, forest or developed land."

Top National News:

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTESTERS ARRESTED AHEAD OF OBAMA'S ARRIVAL IN CUBA. Coverage of the President's visit to Cuba, which included reports on all three network newscasts, is mostly favorable toward the White House. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, lead story, 2:50, Miller, 5.08M), for example, described Obama in its lead story as stepping "off Air Force One and into the history books," while the [AP](#) (3/20, Pace, Weissenstein) referred to the trip as "a crowning moment." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, DeYoung, Miroff, Eilperin, 8.98M) calls it an "affirmation" of Obama's "foreign policy vision," [Politico](#) (3/20, Dovey, 1.07M) "a metaphor for his foreign policy and a potential glimpse into his post-presidency," and [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) sees it as another example "of what might be called the Obama Doctrine: That engaging with isolated authoritarian regimes can bring about greater prosperity, peace, democracy and human rights." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 12, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), meanwhile, reported Obama's visit "has deep meaning to many ordinary Cubans who until now could only dream of the historic changes unfolding before them," while the [AP](#) (3/20, Weissenstein) highlights the fact that for "hundreds of thousands of black Cubans...Obama isn't just the first US leader to visit their country in nearly nine decades," but rather "a black man whose rise to the world's most powerful job is a source of pride and inspiration."

Nearly all reports, however, include accounts of the continuing political repression in Cuba, and allude to the debate in the US over whether the détente with the Castro regime will or will not lead to political and economic liberalization. One of the toughest assessments of Obama's approach to Cuba came from [Voice of America](#) (3/20, Bowman, 60K), which reported that "supporters and critics of...Obama's history-making trip to Cuba...agree on one thing: there has been little, if any, progress on basic liberties and human rights on the island

since Washington and Havana restored full diplomatic ties." Even at the height of the US political season, however, the coverage casts the debate at home as relatively tame. As the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) concludes in its story on Obama's arrival, headlined "From Cold War To Warm Welcome," the trip "is largely evidence that US-Cuba policy" has "lost its potency as a political issue."

Along similar lines, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, LaFranchi, 442K) said that Obama's Cuba policies, initially "labeled bold and provocative," are "evolving into one of Obama's more bipartisan foreign-policy initiatives." Reporting from Miami, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Marte, 8.98M) highlights the support for Obama's course among younger Cuban Americans. Nonetheless, "more than 200 protesters of all ages gathered in the core of Little Havana, Southwest Eighth Street and 13th Avenue" yesterday, the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Madan, 803K) reports, to rally against Obama's policies.

A number of media reports also note that shortly before the President's arrival in Cuba, and as they have for the last 46 Sundays, the dissident Ladies in White were arrested by police after marching in Havana to demand respect for human rights and the release of all political prisoners. [AFP](#) (3/20) reports that "the arrests are an almost weekly feature and the protesters" were "quickly released," but "the incident was embarrassing ahead of Obama's landmark visit." According to the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Cave, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), yesterday's protest "was widely expected to be a test of Cuba's tolerance for dissent during Mr. Obama's trip," and the arrests "confirmed that the government was maintaining and intensifying its repressive tactics ahead of the visit." Berta Soler, "the head of the Ladies in White, is one of a dozen dissidents invited to meet with Mr. Obama on Tuesday at the United States Embassy," but "other dissidents said...that it was not clear if she would attend because of her opposition to the American president's policy of engagement."

In fact, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, DeYoung, Miroff, Eilperin, 8.98M) reports, "as the Ladies in White began their ill-fated march" yesterday, "several held a banner that read 'Obama: Traveling to Cuba Isn't Fun. No more human rights violations.'" As the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) indicates, Obama "told reporters last month that it would be 'fun' to visit Cuba." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Gomez, 5.45M) notes that Soler told reporters before her arrest, "For us, it's very important that we do this so President Obama knows that there are women here fighting for the liberty of political prisoners. ... And he needs to know that we are here being repressed simply for exercising our right to express ourselves and manifest in a non-violent way."

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported after his arrival, Obama "visited old Havana," where he thanked Cuba's Cardinal Ortega for assisting Pope Francis in helping to broker secret talks between Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro. In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (3/20, lead story, 5:40, Muir, 5.84M) noted Obama will meet with Castro privately during the trip, but will first speak directly to the Cuban people in a televised speech. Cuban citizens will reportedly be watching closely to see if Obama delivers a tough stance against the island's human rights issues. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cave, Robles, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that while "security and control are mainstays of every country Mr. Obama visits," Cuba "has gone above and beyond to prevent embarrassing surprises." In fact, "beyond Mr. Obama's speech on Tuesday, which will be broadcast on national television, it is not even clear how much Cubans will get to see or hear."

The [AP](#) (3/20, Pace, Weissenstein) indicates that Cubans stayed "home in order to avoid extensive closures of main boulevards," and that the Cuban government "didn't appear to be calling out crowds of supporters to welcome Obama, as it has with other visiting dignitaries." [Reuters](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Trotta, Mason, Daniel, 518K) does indicate, however, that there are welcome signs with pictures of Obama and Castro in the area Obama toured last night, and [Politico](#) (3/20, Arnsdorf, 1.07M) says that despite the "drizzle that became a heavy rain," Cubans did turn out to see Obama, "standing by the side of the road as the motorcade passed or cheering as they lined the square outside the cathedral, where the president briefly put down his umbrella to shake some hands in the crowd."

[The Hill](#) (3/20, Hellmann, 862K), meanwhile, reports that "Cubans have been preparing for the Obama visit, with plainclothes officers reportedly blanketing the capital of Havana and public works crews laying down asphalt in pothole-laden streets." As the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Parsons, Wilkinson, 4.1M) puts it, the Castro regime "is eager to welcome Obama, but also determined to reassert its own socialist values that it insists will not be bent to US will."

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) notes that "Obama and the first family were greeted at the airport by Cuban delegates bearing flowers." But Raul Castro "was one prominent no-show on the tarmac." On its website, [The Hill](#) (3/20, Hellmann, 862K) noted that taking to Twitter after Obama's arrival in Cuba, Donald Trump wrote, "Wow, President Obama just landed in Cuba, a big deal, and Raul Castro wasn't even there to greet him. He

greeted Pope and others. No respect." Under the headline "In Cuba, Raúl Castro Proves A Pragmatic Communist," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Vyas, Colombia, Muñoz, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) credits the Cuban leader's pragmatism with making improved ties with the US a possibility.

Highlighting the historic nature of the trip, [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) notes Obama arrived in "the same airport the CIA once bombed in the 1960s, and whose broken-down Russian-built airplanes and colorful, antiquated terminals give testimony to the impact of 50 years of US sanctions and diplomatic isolation." The [New York Daily News](#) (3/20, Brown, 3.7M) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, De Córdoba, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), among other news outlets, run similar accounts of Obama's arrival in Havana.

In an interview on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), Jeffrey Delaurentis, US Ambassador to Cuba, says he thinks the newly reopened embassy now stands as a "beacon of hope" and opportunity, and hopes that the new relationship between the two countries can be one "where we can have frank discussion about ideas and issues where we do not agree such as, such as human rights." Delaurentis said he would like to see Cuba move faster to improve on that front, "But I think we have to be patient." He added that he doesn't see re-establishing diplomatic relations as a reward for the country's poor human rights record, and that the US feels "strongly that advocating for and promoting US interests and values can be best achieved through engagement." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) reports that Obama "brings to Havana a variety of diplomatic tools: 11 American CEOs eager to make deals in a newly emerging market; the possibility of further lifting of decades-old restrictions on trade and travel; and even a shared love of baseball."

More pessimistic is the assessment in the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Boyer, 285K), which sees "few expectations that the president's legacy-building visit will improve human rights for Cubans under the repressive military regime of the Castro brothers." To the Times, the "primary goal" of the trip is not political, but rather "to emphasize the economic potential of restoring ties between the US and Cuba." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes White House press secretary Josh Earnest telling reporters on Friday, "By deepening those ties and solidifying our efforts to normalize relations between our two countries, we can bring about the kind of change that we have long sought on the island nation of Cuba, and we can do it in a way that ends up being good for the American people and for the American economy."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (3/20, 5.45M) defends Obama's "much needed...adjustments" to US policies toward Cuba, and urges him to "use his time on the island to speak out on behalf of greater political and economic freedom for the Cuban people." In an accompanying op-ed, Lawrence Haas, a former Bill Clinton aide and currently a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, writes in [USA Today](#) (3/20, Haas, 5.45M) that Obama is "rewarding" the Castro's "bad behavior," and that his trip "will...reward and legitimize a brutal dictatorship" and "send an unfortunate signal to dictators and dissidents alike that the United States doesn't care as much about human rights as it proclaims."

Writing in [Politico Magazine](#) (3/20, Cruz), Sen. Ted Cruz also lambasted Obama's policies toward Cuba, terming them "appeasement of the Castro dictatorship." Their "effect will not be liberalization but rather the institutionalization of the Communist dictatorship as the profits from this détente will line the pockets not only of Fidel and Raul Castro, but also of Raul's son, Alejandro Castro Espin." Adds Cruz, "Corporate cronyism, meet communist totalitarianism."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Doming, 289K) reports that "even with little chance that Congress will end the US trade embargo on Cuba before he leaves office in January, Obama's betting that a rapprochement, symbolized by his historic visit, has now become irrevocable, no matter who succeeds him." Mary Anastasia O'Grady, in her [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, O'Grady, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) column, casts the trip as a White House PR effort to pressure Congress to end the embargo, and urges lawmakers to keep it in place until the Castros move toward political and economic liberalization.

[TIME](#) (3/20, Rhodan, 18.01M) reported on its site that "the rapprochement has only just begun, but many Republicans hope to delay or even reverse it, and there is little support in Congress for ending the Cuban embargo, which dates back to the 1960s." [NPR](#) (3/20, Horsley, 1.81M) similarly reported that "only Congress can lift the trade embargo against Cuba," though "the Administration has been chipping away at it, easing restrictions on both travel and commerce."

Obama's Cuban Mail Correspondent Extends Invitation Again. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 12, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported Obama's visit is particularly inspiring for Ileana Garza, who has written Obama five times to personally thank him for developing new relations. Garza was shocked when Obama sent her a hand-written response earlier this month. [ABC World News](#) (3/20, story 9, 1:55, Muir, 5.84M) also reported on the

correspondence between Obama and Garza, noting that Garza has again invited the president for coffee. In his letter last week, "one of the first direct letters to arrive here in decades," Obama said, "hopefully, I will have time to enjoy a cup of Cuban coffee."

Airbnb Allowed To Offer Services In Cuba. The [AP](#) (3/20, Weissenstein) reports that "online lodging service Airbnb is allowing travelers from around the world to book stays in private homes in Cuba after the San Francisco-based company received a special authorization from the Obama administration, Airbnb announced Sunday."

Cuban Migrants Drown Off Florida Coast. A later [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 3, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) segment reported that despite growing relations, many Cubans continue to make the dangerous journey to America "out of fear that the US law that for years has given Cubans special immigration status will change as relations with Cuba improve." The US Coast Guard said nine Cuban migrants died and 18 were rescued by a cruise ship on Friday 130 miles off the coast of Florida's Marco Island.

MCCONNELL RULES OUT LAME-DUCK SESSION TO CONFIRM GARLAND. In appearances on the Sunday talk shows, Senate Majority Leader McConnell ruled out the possibility that the Senate would take up Garland's nomination in a lame duck session after the election. The [AP](#) (3/20) reports McConnell "signaled no retreat or surrender from his firm stand to keep the court short-handed through at least January." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Tanfani, 4.1M) says McConnell redrew "his tough line against the Senate taking up the nomination" as "some members of his party have been suggesting that Garland should get a hearing and a vote."

However, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says McConnell, in a bid to "shut the door on a scenario that some Republicans in the Senate have said could allow them to prevent a more liberal jurist" than Garland rejected the possibility that Republicans could consider Garland's nomination after the election "even if a Democrat were elected president or Republicans lost their majority." Speaking on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), McConnell said, "The principle is the same. Whether it's before the election or after the election. The principle is the American people are choosing their next president and their next president should pick this Supreme Court nominee."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (3/20, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), McConnell said, "The way Supreme Court justices have been handled in presidential election years is very clear. It's been 80 years since a vacancy created in a presidential election year was filled. ... Joe Biden in 1992, when he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, laid down the Biden rule. He said when the campaign is underway, no Supreme Court judge would be confirmed."

According to [Reuters](#) (3/20, Cornwell), McConnell told CNN's "State of the Union," "I can't imagine that a Republican majority Congress, in a lame duck session, after the American people have spoken, would want to confirm" Garland. [Roll Call](#) (3/20, Bowman, 126K) noted that when McConnell was asked if he was "ruling it out, 100 percent," he replied, "Yes." McConnell said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace) he "can't imagine that a Republican majority in the United States Senate would want to confirm in a lame duck session a nominee opposed by the National Rifle Association, the National Federation of Independent Business that represents small businesses that have never taken a position on the Supreme Court appointment before."

[Politico](#) (3/20, Cohen, 1.07M) said McConnell "made it clear he believes the next president, and only the next president, should fill the vacancy created by the death of Antonin Scalia," saying, "We're in the process of picking a president, and that new president ought to make this appointment, which will affect the Supreme Court maybe for the next quarter of a century." The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Howell, 285K) describes McConnell's comments as a break "with members of his caucus," and notes that he argued Garland "would move the high court 'dramatically to the left' for a quarter century." McConnell told Fox, "Barack Obama calling this judge a moderate doesn't make him a moderate."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/20, Bash, 420K), McConnell said, "The right-of-center world does not want this vacancy filled by this president," adding, "even though Barack Obama calls him a moderate, he's opposed by the NRA. He's opposed by the National Federation of Independent Business, which has never taken a position on a Supreme Court nominee before."

Conservatives Divided Over Message In Nomination Fight. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Lipton, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says conservative groups are "divided over their message" in the Supreme Court nomination battle and may be "outflanked by groups on the left." The division "was on display on Sunday" as McConnell "dismissed the possibility that Republicans could consider Judge Garland in a lame duck session"

and House Speaker Ryan “posted a video on Twitter backing up Mr. McConnell.” Many conservative groups “are making the same argument,” but others “are still trying to paint Judge Garland as a reflexive liberal unworthy of a seat on the court.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Dionne, 8.98M) column, E.J. Dionne argues Senate Republicans’ “gambit evades a full and open debate over the conservative judicial agenda,” adding it is “precisely because Garland’s record reveals him to be a devout practitioner of judicial restraint that an intellectually frank dialogue over his nomination would be so dangerous to the right.” According to Dionne, conservatives “have embraced an astonishingly aggressive approach to judging” that “allows them to reach outcomes through the courts that they cannot achieve through the democratic process.”

Senate Schedules Pro Forma Sessions To Prevent Recess Appointment. The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Dinan, 285K) reports while the Senate is set to be on a break for the next two weeks, a “rearguard” has been left in Washington “to keep the chamber running on low gear, denying President Obama a chance to install his Supreme Court nominee.” In order to prevent the President making a recess appointment, senators “have scheduled pro forma sessions to meet a couple of times a week, with no business scheduled,” which, under Senate rules, “is enough to prevent the constitutional trigger that would let Mr. Obama deem the Senate in recess and make an appointment without them.”

Reid: McConnell Leading Republicans “Over A Cliff.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid, in an appearance on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) said McConnell is “marching these [GOP senators] over a cliff and I don’t think they’re going to go,” and predicted Republicans will lose Senate seats as a result.

McDonough: Obama Will Stand By Garland Nomination. The [Hill](#) (3/20, Savransky, 862K) reported in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog White House Chief of Staff McDonough also appeared on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), where he “defended” Garland and said the President will stand by him “even if a Democratic candidate wins the White House in November.” McDonough said, “The president will stand by his nominee. This is an unbelievably qualified, extraordinarily decent man who comes to this nomination with more federal court experience than any nominee beforehand,” adding, “We will stand by him from now until he is confirmed and he is sitting on the Supreme Court.”

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/20, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), McDonough commented on the progress being made toward holding a hearing and vote for Garland, saying, “We’ve seen some good progress, some good forward momentum. We have about 12 Republican senators who have now indicated that they’ll meet with him. As you know, before we announced him, people were saying they would not even deign to meet with him. And we’re also aware that early in the week, when the Congress comes back, in fact, Senator Collins, the Republican from Maine, has agreed to meet with Judge Garland up in the Senate. So we think this is a very good progress, good momentum.”

USAToday Analysis: Garland Has Rarely Dissented On US Appeals Court. A [USA Today](#) (3/18, Wolf, 5.45M) analysis describes Garland as “the polar opposite” of Scalia who “was best known for his pugnacious style, most clearly on display in frequent, angry dissents that mocked his colleagues’ majority opinions.” In his nearly 19 years on the US court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, Garland “has penned just 16 dissents” and “far more often” works “to unite the three-judge panels that decide most cases, molding the opinions so that they emerge unanimous.” Garland’s dissents “almost always to take a more progressive view – in favor of civil rights, workers’ rights, environmental protection or freedom of the press.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) decries what it says is Garland’s deference to the NLRB, noting that he wrote the majority opinion in 22 cases dealing with appeals of NLRB decisions and in 18 of those, Garland sided with the NLRB.

BELGIAN OFFICIALS: ARRESTED PARIS MILITANT ABDESLAM WAS PLANNING MORE ATTACKS.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) reported the Belgian prosecutor says Salah Abdeslam, the Paris attacker captured last week in Brussels, “relied on a large network of friends to stay hidden.” Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said Sunday that Abdeslam may have been planning further attacks while he hid in Brussels.

Reynders’ claim, according to [ABC World News](#) (3/20, story 5, 1:35, Muir, 5.84M), is “backed up by the large weapons cache found in a raid on Tuesday.” European officials warn that the threat of further attacks “is as high, or higher, than before Paris.” Abdeslam is currently fighting extradition to France, and his lawyer said Sunday

"they will take legal action against the Paris prosecutor for revealing details about the interrogations." He is expected to make his first court appearance Wednesday in Brussels.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:40, D'Agata, 5.08M) reported, "It turns out Salah Abdeslam wasn't just a driver," but "a key operative in the Paris massacre orchestrated directly by ISIS." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Bacon, 5.45M) reports that Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins "said Abdeslam has told Belgian authorities he was involved in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks and was supposed to die that night." Abdeslam "said he dropped off the other attackers before changing his mind, dumping his own suicide vest and fleeing back to Belgium." The AP (3/20, Cook) notes that Abdeslam's Belgian lawyer, meanwhile, "threatened to launch legal action Monday against a French prosecutor, accusing him of breaching the confidentiality of the investigation into the deadly rampage in Paris." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Mcauley, Mekhennet, 8.98M), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Strauss, 289K), [Reuters](#) (3/20, Emmott) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Barnes, Pop, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), said that Abdeslam's arrest sends "a very strong message that our allies and we, in support of them – we're not going to stop until we get all the facts of this case figured out. And now I know there will be an intensive process to figure out exactly what he knows and what he did and what he knows about what others may be doing. And that's why it's important that we dig very hard into this case and why the President called the French president and the Belgium prime minister on Friday to commend them for this good work."

Also on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), McDonough said that "there are indications that, in fact," the Paris attacks have ties to "some of those folks back in the Middle East. ... We're going to get to the bottom of this story. But what we're not going to do is let our guard down and that means, obviously, staying on offense against ISIL in Syria and Iraq and that's why we've done precisely that over the course of these last many months. We'll continue to do that...because we're not going to sit and wait. We're going to go get this."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*Religion And Birth Control At The Supreme Court.*" The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes on the case *Zubik v. Burwell* before the Supreme Court, which the Times says may "split 4-to-4, meaning that a crucial legal issue affecting large numbers of people will remain unresolved." The Times hopes that does not happen and urges the court to "reject the plaintiffs' absurd argument."

"A Presidential Rebuke To The Saudis." The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) praises President Obama for having "skewer[ed] a friendly government publicly" last week in an interview in *The Atlantic*, in "presenting a well-considered analysis of troubles in the relationship with Saudi Arabia." He described Saudi Arabia as a "free rider" that depends on the US "to fight their battles for them." The Times says that the US-Saudi relationship "born of antipathy to the Soviet Union and an American reliance on Saudi oil, is growing increasingly brittle." The Times concludes by saying "there is little time left" for Obama to do much with the Saudi relationship, and says that will be up "to his successor."

"Chinese Problems On America's Shores." The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) in an editorial warns that with inflows of money into the US, due to people seeking "a safe haven for their money in uncertain times," banks may be tempted to "lower their standards and make questionable loans." The Times points out that banks increased loans in 2015 "at the fastest pace since 2007." The Times worries that bank regulators may not be willing "to apply what they have learned to new circumstances and new threats."

WASHINGTON POST. "*The Next Step For Fixing Flint.*" The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) editorializes that "government at every level bears some responsibility" for the Flint water crisis, though the state is "most to blame." Still, the Post says it would be an "outrageous irony" if Republican lawmakers use the crisis as a pretext to cut EPA funding, especially since the agency's GOP antagonists "routinely attempt to undermine the agency." The Post says Michigan must ensure that resources needed both for fixing damaged pipes and addressing the public-health challenge "will be available for as long as Flint's residents, who were betrayed by their government, need them."

"The Annual Medicare Advantage Dance Avoids The Bigger Issues Of Entitlements." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) decries the debate over "impending 'cuts' to the Medicare Advantage program," arguing it is something of a yearly ritual in which HHS "announces how much it will pay insurance companies for

serving Medicare Advantage patients in the next year, and each year the insurance companies complain it's not enough" before the government "finally settle[s] on a new funding figure that is somewhat more to the industry's liking, and the kerfuffle [goes] away for another year" The Post questions "what would happen if we could put the same energy and resources behind a structural reform of Medicare and other entitlements."

"A New Rule Could Help Ensure That Prosecutors Share Info With The Defense." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of the US District Court for the District of Columbia adopting a new rule that would "establish court-wide standards for disclosure of information" between prosecutors and defense attorneys. While the best change would be to give defense counsels access to all investigative information, "with certain exceptions for public safety and witness protection," there seems "little chance of federal prosecutors moving to such a system anytime soon," which "makes all the more urgent the court's adoption of this modest reform."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Government By Google." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Journal, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against the FCC's proposed rule that would require television providers to create a universal cable-box adapter, arguing that it would effectively amount to federally-sponsored piracy by allowing companies like TiVo and Google to broadcast programs that providers pay to distribute. Meanwhile, 30 Members of the Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler over concerns that the rule would push minority programming to channels with limited audiences. In addition, Google can mine viewers' habits, and a universal adapter would be hackable.

"Judge Garland's Inconsistent Deference." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) decries what it says is Supreme Court nominee Judge Merrick Garland's deference to the NLRB, noting that he wrote the majority opinion in 22 cases dealing with appeals of NLRB decisions and in 18 of those, Garland sided with the NLRB.

"The Long Reach Of Islamic State." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that ISIL's global reach has been illustrated this past week by a suicide bombing in Istanbul, the capture of Salah Abdeslam, and the FBI's announcement Thursday that a November attack at the University of California, Merced may have been the result of self-radicalization inspired by terrorist propaganda. These events give even more reason for the US to accelerate its military campaign against ISIL to prevent others from being persuaded by the group's ideology. The Journal adds that President Obama is particularly obligated in this endeavor since his decisions in Iraq and Syria allowed ISIL to build its foundation and expand.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Scary News Via A Calm Voice
 Now, The Wrecking Ball
 Obama Takes 'First Step' In Cuba
 Trump's Rise Unnerves German Ancestral Town
 'A Good Villain' Spurs Arizona's Latino Activists

Wall Street Journal:

GOP Chairman Sees Long Fight Over Trump
 Paris Terror Suspect Says He Planned More Attacks
 Troubled Plane Dims China's Aviation Dream
 M&A Bankers Saying No To More Junk Debt

New York Times:

Obama Lands In Cuba With A Pledge To Listen To Its People
 Cubans Pack The Streets For A Glimpse Of President Obama
 As Coal's Future Grows Murkier, Banks Pull Financing
 First Step In Conservatives' Supreme Court Fight: Agreeing On A Message
 Donald Trump Courts Wary Jewish Voters
 Older Voters May Be Hillary Clinton's Answer To Bernie Sanders's Youth Appeal
 US Casts Wary Eye On Australian Port Leased By Chinese

Washington Post:

Obama Lands In Cuba To Begin Historic Visit
 A Nation, Divided
 Clinton Preps For Trump Matchup
 High Court To Examine Changes In Va Districts
 Hopkins Team Pokes A Hole In Apple's Encryption

Financial Times:

China Bank Governor Warns Over Corporate Debt
 Cameron Under Fire As Ruling Party Splits Ahead Of "Brexit" Referendum

Washington Times:

Maryland Beats Hawaii To Advance To Sweet 16
 Sanders' Weaknesses Give Strength To Clinton
 After Ohio Win, Kasich Fighting For Respect
 Brokered Conventions Unkind To Frontrunners
 Senators To Skip Recess To Prevent Obama Appointment
 Obama Takes Symbolic Steps In Cuba
 Intel's Ex-Chief Urges Army War-Data Overhaul

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; Severe Weather; Indiana Police Officer Killed; Paris Terror Attack Suspect-Plans; Russia Plane Crash-Investigation; Indiana-School Bus Crash; Bacterial Infection-Spread; President Obama Cuba Visit-Response.

CBS: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump Rallies; 2016 Politics-Arizona; Russian Plane Crash Investigation; Iraq-US Marine Killed; Pope Francis-Mass; US Trade Deals.

NBC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Cuba-US Ambassador Interview; Cuban Migrants; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans; Indiana-School Bus Crash; Severe Weather; Syrian Migrants-Italy; Star Cluster Identification; Comet Courses; Pope Francis-Mass; President Obama Cuba Visit.

Network TV At A Glance:

President Obama-Cuba Visit – 18 minutes, 55 seconds
 2016 Politics – 8 minutes, 35 seconds
 Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Severe Weather-New England Snow Storm; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump Rallies; Indiana Police Officer Shot; International Markets.

CBS: President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Pennsylvania-Toll Booth Shooting; NCAA Tournament.

NPR: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Cuba-US Hotel Chain Deal; United Nations-Northern Sahara Evacuations; Pennsylvania-Toll Booth Shooting; Indiana-Police Officer Shot; International Markets.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Visits Cuba with the first family.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Participates in an event in Seattle for Sen. Patty Murray, who is running for re-election.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session * Senate on recess from 18 Mar – 4 Apr Location: TBD <http://www.senate.gov/>

10:15 AM Senate Aging Committee field hearing on scams – Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing on 'Senior Scams: What Are They and How Can People Avoid Them' Location: 200 N River St Wilkes-Barre, PA Wilkes-Barre <http://aging.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2745, the Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference '16 – 'preeminent annual gathering of the pro-Israel community'. Speakers today include Vice President Joe Biden, with other speakers over three days including Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu (via satellite), presidential candidates Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republicans Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham; Democratic Reps. Brad Ashford, Brendan Boyle, Ted Deutch, Eliot Engel, Gwen Graham, Alcee Hastings, Steve Israel, Ted Lieu, Nita Lowey, Grace Meng, Donald Norcross, Kathleen Rice, David Scott, Brad Sherman, and Juan Vargas; Republican Reps. Barbara Comstock, Carlos Curbelo, Mario Diaz-Balart, Dan Donovan, Kay Granger, Mike Rogers, Peter Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ed Royce, Dan Sullivan, Mimi Walters, and Lee Zeldin; and former CIA and NSA Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
www.policyconference.org <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #PC16

4:00 PM Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks at Georgetown – Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks at Georgetown University on 'The Global Future of Security', as part of the university's 'Global Future Initiatives' series, addressing how historical challenges of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and great power rivalry are increasingly intersecting with new concerns, such as environmental and cyber security, and offering suggestions as to how the U.S. and the international community should respond to these and other security challenges in the years ahead Location: Copley Formal Lounge, Georgetown University, 37th and O Sts, Washington, DC www.georgetown.edu <https://twitter.com/Georgetown>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Trump Tower in Chicago was struck by lightning during the Illinois primary, which Donald Trump went on to win. Yeah, nobody was hurt. While God was like, 'Crap, I missed.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Trump, he recently said that if he becomes president he'll force Apple to start making its products in the United States. It's great news for anyone who wants to pay \$20,000 for an iPhone."

Jimmy Fallon: "And [Sen.] Lindsey Graham...has announced that he's supporting Ted Cruz since Jeb Bush is out of the race. And Graham had a lot of good things to say about Cruz, kind of. It explains Ted Cruz's new slogan, 'Ted Cruz, all you got left.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 25, 2015

1 message

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To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Wed, Feb 25, 2015 at 7:02 AM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.**DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015 7:00 AM EST**

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL, SEN. MURKOWSKI FACE OFF IN BUDGET HEARING. [The Hill](#) (2/25, Cama, 224K) reports that Senate Republicans "sharply criticized Interior Secretary Sally Jewell Tuesday for her budget request and other actions that they say are hurting energy development and the economy." Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has "repeatedly clashed with Jewell over how the administration treats Alaska, and kept up the pressure at Tuesday's hearing." Murkowski told Jewell, "I don't want to make this personal, but the decisions from Interior have lacked balance, and instead of recognizing the many opportunities Alaska has with regard to resource production, you have enabled an unprecedented attack on our ability to responsibly bring these resources to market."

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/24, Drajem, 2.94M) reports that Murkowski said "the Obama administration's restrictions on

oil production in her state threatens to dry up supplies that could flow through the trans-Alaska pipeline." Murkowski said to Jewell, "The actions of this administration seem destined to shut down our trans-Alaska pipeline, weaken our economy, forcing our state to make steep budget cuts and really violating the promises that were made to us at statehood and since then."

The [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (2/25) reports that Murkowski said, "I'm frustrated, I'm very frustrated with the delays, the denials, the restrictions that we continue to see from the Department of Interior."

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that Jewell said, "I am fully committed to supporting the efforts in the North Slope of Alaska to keep the trans-Alaska pipeline full. As you know I worked on that pipeline as a college student. As a petroleum engineer I understand how fields peak, and Prudhoe Bay oil field and related oil fields have been passed their peak production for some time, I'm aware of that."

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that Jewell added, "And we have recently approved ConocoPhillips' preferred proposal for drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve. Offshore, 90 percent of the estimated recoverable oil and gas will be available for leasing in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas."

The [Talk Radio News Service](#) (2/24) reports that "during her testimony Jewell focused on the positives of the budget, calling it balanced and 'forward-looking.'" Jewell said it "provides targeted investments to grow our domestic energy portfolio to revitalize our national parks as they approach the 100th anniversary."

The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "Jewell found an ally in ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), who called her budget 'a balanced and forward-leaning proposal that creates jobs and long-term economic opportunity.'" Cantwell also "praised Obama and Jewell's decision to recommend new wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Also providing coverage is the [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 705).

Sen. Cassidy Criticizes Revenue Sharing Proposal. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/24, 621K) reports that Sen. Bill Cassidy "used a budget hearing by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to castigate Interior Secretary Sally Jewell over the Obama administration's budget proposal to reverse Landrieu's 2006 legislation providing revenue sharing to Louisiana and three other Gulf states for off-shore oil and gas production." Cassidy said, "I am incredibly – I cannot put enough hyperbole in front of this – opposed to the department's budget proposal to deprive the Gulf Coast states of revenue promised under the Gulf of Mexico Security Act." Jewell responded that "the administration's proposal to 'revisit' the revenue sharing legislation reflects the 'balancing of assets (off-shore oil and gas) of all Americans' for communities throughout the nation impacted by serious environmental challenges."

Sen. Franken Pushes For Federal Funding For Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe School. [WDIO-TV](#) Duluth, MN (2/25, 1K) reports that "six months after federal officials visited a school on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation, Sen. Al Franken says their efforts to improve the facilities are appreciated – but not enough." On Tuesday, Franken asked Jewell what "she planned to do to improve the facilities." In response, Jewell said, "It's in bad shape, and it needs to be replaced. I will tell you that I've seen other schools that are in equally bad shape, and it just breaks my heart that around the country this is what we do in supporting Indian education."

Sen. Wyden Talks Oregon Priorities With Secretary Jewell. The [Portland \(OR\) Go Local PDX](#) (2/25) reports that "on Tuesday, Senator Ron Wyden discussed Oregon priorities with US Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at an Energy and Natural Resource Committee budget meeting." Wyden "stressed the importance of getting mandatory funding back for PILT, Jewell's continued support for the Upper Klamath Basin Agreement and funding for wildfire prevention."

Sen. Gardner Wants Funding For Arkansas Valley Conduit. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/25, 79K) reports that Sen. Cory Gardner wants the BOR to fund the Arkansas Valley Conduit. Gardner "questioned Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Mike Connor Tuesday about insufficient conduit funding in an energy and natural resources committee hearing."

HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (2/24, 73K) reports that "President Barack Obama officially designated Honouliuli Internment Camp as a national monument during a signing ceremony at the White House Tuesday." The article notes that "Gov. David Ige and Hawaii's Congressional delegation were present for the signing, as were Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and Jacce Mikulanec, president of the Honolulu

Japanese American Citizens League.”

Also reporting on the story are [NBC News](#) (2/25, 2.71M) and the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (2/25, 41).

Designation Of National Monuments Lauded. For the “Congress Blog” of [The Hill](#) (2/25, Pfund, Baruch, 224K), Nancy Pfund and Tom Baruch, co-chairs of the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition, write that their group “believes that the recently designated monuments are prime examples of the expansion of cultural and recreational opportunities so important to the growth and culture of entrepreneurial, job-creating companies in the United States.” They argue that “public lands are important to entrepreneurial companies not only because they help recruit and keep talented employees,” but because they are “enablers of these companies’ cultures.”

For the “Congress Blog” of [The Hill](#) (2/25, Scott, 224K), David Scott, president of the Sierra Club, writes that “the new monuments, including the birthplace of the first African-American union in America, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest used World War II internment camp, and a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination, represent the span of what our country’s public lands should represent – our full American story.” He adds that “these monuments embody the historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation’s outdoor legacy.” Scott says that through “Obama’s action, they will now be permanently protected as places of remembrance, historic contribution and inspiration for future generations.”

REP. BISHOP HOPES TO WORK WITH SECRETARY JEWELL. [The Hill](#) (2/25, Cama, 224K) reports that “the new chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee sees the Interior Department’s budget as a way to inject creative thinking into issues like oil drilling on federal land and offshore.” Rep. Rob Bishop will “hear next week from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on her agency’s budget request for 2016, and he’s optimistic that he and his colleagues can come up with a better plan than the Obama administration on energy and other priorities.” Bishop said, “We’re going to welcome Sally Jewell, because I think she’s a different kind of Interior secretary. She has a different background, she thinks differently than some who have come around before, and I’m excited to try and work with her.”

SECRETARY JEWELL: FEDERAL REGULATIONS WON’T TRUMP TOUGHER STATE FRACKING REGULATIONS. [FuelFix](#) (2/24, 7K) reports that “coming government mandates for hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands will not trump the rules in states that already have tougher regulations in place, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Tuesday.” Jewell said, “These are minimal standards on federal and tribal lands. If the state has a higher standard, the state standard will be adopted within that state.”

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES GEN-I NATIVE YOUTH CHALLENGE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/24, 49K) reports that President Obama “announced the Gen-I Native Youth Challenge at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference to tribal leaders and youth in attendance, but at the launch of the program Native youth learned how to become actively involved.” The article notes that “Cabinet Secretaries will be participating in a listening tour throughout 2015 – which kicked off February 10 with US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Phoenix, Arizona.” Jewell said in an Interior video released February 20, “My colleagues that serve in the Obama administration will host similar listening sessions with Native Youth across the country. I look forward to joining them, and continuing my own travels too, as we work to lift up the voices of an often forgotten community and we work to create a path for real opportunity.”

TINY ALASKA VILLAGE TO BE RELOCATED DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Mooney, 5.17M) reports that the 400 residents of the “tiny and isolated” Alaska town of Kivalina will have to be relocated because the ice around the island on which it lies has become too thin in recent years to allow the Eskimo residents to continue to hunt bowhead whales. The Federal government says that soon, because of climate change, it “may be too dangerous to live here at all, with less sea ice to protect the barrier island from powerful waves that wash across the village.”

CONSERVATION GROUPS UNITE TO OPPOSE ATTEMPTS TO TAKEOVER FEDERAL LAND. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Willoughby, 804K) reports that a coalition representing more than 30 sportsmen’s conservation groups and outdoor industry leaders will gather on Wednesday to protest attempts by some Western states to take over federally managed public lands. Kate Zimmerman, NWF’s public lands policy director, said, “Once again, a survey of public sentiment underlines just how off-track state and congressional lawmakers are when they push to take public lands out of public hands. Voters get it: These are America’s public lands. They belong to all of us, and we all have an obligation to take care of them and ensure our children, grandchildren and beyond enjoy the same opportunity to experience America’s great outdoor legacy.”

Utah Urged To Back Off Public Land Grab. In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (2/25, 74K), Hillary

Hoffmann, a law professor at Vermont Law School's Environmental Law Center, advises Utah to back off its Transfer of Public Lands Act. She argues that "the only viable path forward is to pass transfer legislation through Congress and obtain the president's signature – an approach that isn't going anywhere." Hoffmann concludes that "it's time for the backers of this doomed land grab to admit defeat and leave America's public lands alone."

In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/25, 405K) says that Utah politicians are fighting a "lost battle."

Wyoming's Proposed Land Grab Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/25, 90K), Erik Molvar, the Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director for WildEarth Guardians criticizes Wyoming's House Bill 209, which "requires the federal government to relinquish public lands across the state by 2017 and transfer them to the State of Wyoming so they can be sold off." He argues that "this is an act of startling hubris that, if implemented, will irreparably harm every Wyoming resident."

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE FIRINGS HIT RECORD LOW IN 2014. The [Federal Times](#) (2/24, 119K) reports that "even as lawmakers press for greater accountability within government, agencies have fired fewer employees than at any time in the last 10 years, according to data from the Office of Personnel Management." According to the data, "agencies fired 9,537 federal employees for discipline or performance issues in fiscal 2014, down from 9,634 in 2013 and down from a high of 11,770 in fiscal 2010." The article notes that the Interior Department, "which fired 220 employees in 2014 — up from 206 in 2013," was among the "agencies that saw smaller increases in firings."

GWICH'IN PEOPLE WELCOME ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RECOMMENDATION. In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/24, 146K), Julian Roberts, chief of the Native Village of Venetie tribal government, writes that "many here in Alaska welcomed President Barack Obama's announcement that the federal government's final Comprehensive Conservation Plan would recommend that Congress designate the coastal plain and other areas of" the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as "wilderness – the highest level of protection for public lands." Roberts notes that the Gwich'in Nation was "directed by our elders in 1988 to seek permanent protection...because it is the primary birthplace and nursery of the Porcupine herd." The Gwich'in are "truly thankful this administration has heard us and is upholding the subsistence rights of the Gwich'in Nation with its call for wilderness."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

RED ROCKS, CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Klemmaier, 804K) reports that Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre and a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Morrison have nominated to become National Historic Landmarks. NPS historian Christy Dickinson said, "It highlights the workers who built the amphitheater — the craftsmanship, the workmanship. It helps tell a more complete story of the park, where young men lived and worked during the (Great) Depression."

YOSEMITE PREPARES FOR TWO MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS. The [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (2/25, 1K) reports that "ahead of National Park Service (NPS) plans to celebrate its centennial next summer, Yosemite National Park officials announce an itinerary of ten signature projects they are undertaking to enhance visitor experience, restore critical ecological and wildlife habitats and engage the next generation of park stewards." Yosemite National Park Superintendent Don Neubacher said, "These ten signature centennial projects will continue the legacy of the National Park Service and celebrate the past 100 years of preservation and enjoyment of national parks across the country." The article notes that "the park will also commemorate its own milestone 125th anniversary on Oct. 1 with a number of events."

NATIONAL PARK STRAW POLL SET FOR EAST MILLINOCKET RESIDENTS. [WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (2/24, 30K) reports that "East Millinocket is giving the town's residents another chance to vote on creating a national park on 75,000 acres of nearby forested land owned by Roxanne Quimby and her son Lucas St. Clair."

[WABI-TV](#) Bangor, ME (2/24, 17K) reports that "the Board of Selectmen agreed at a meeting Monday night to take an opinion poll on June 11th."

20 STAFF AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RESCUED BY HELICOPTER FROM GRAND CANYON. The [AP](#) (2/25) reports that "twenty Northern Arizona University students and staff who were stranded in the snow

near the Grand Canyon's North Rim have been rescued." According to Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Gerry Blair, "the 16 students, two instructors and aides were flown out three at a time in a helicopter." Blair says "they're in good health."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/25, 2.28M), the [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 5.17M), and the [US News & World Report](#) (2/24, 685K).

Also reporting on the story are the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/24, 1.14M), [USA Today](#) (2/24, Mitchell, 10.32M), and [Reuters](#) (2/25).

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK REOPENS. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (2/25, 18K) reports that "after closing its doors all day yesterday due to icy roads, the Carlsbad Caverns National Park reopened today." The park is "now operating under normal winter hours."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DUO'S DAWN WALL CLIMB. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Blevins, 804K) reports on Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson's climb of El Capitan's Dawn Wall in Yosemite National Park.

Bureau of Land Management:

REPORT FINDS BLM MISSING OUT ON RECREATIONAL FEES. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/25, 94K) reports that the BLM is "missing out on potential revenue by not charging fees at some public camping sites and below-market prices at others, according to a report released Tuesday by the Department of the Interior's inspector general." The report states, "BLM does not maximize its opportunities to charge fees in a way that will generate revenue and protect resources. At a time when Federal agencies face continually decreasing appropriations, taking advantage of this (fees) program demonstrates BLM understands the need for additional funding."

BLM TO PARTICIPATE IN TESTING OF RECOVER SYSTEM. [Government Computer News](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that "to help coordinate data and wildfire response among a variety of agencies, the Rehabilitation Capacity Convergence for Ecosystem Recovery (RECOVER) cloud-based decision support system will assist teams create a post-fire rehabilitation plan." The article notes that "partner agencies using the program for Phase 1 testing include Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Lands."

BLM TO ROUND UP WILD HORSES IN UTAH. The [AP](#) (2/25) reports that the BLM will "round up and remove wild horses in central Utah near the Nevada border Wednesday." BLM authorities say "they will be removing the wild horses near Utah State Highway 21 that are causing concerns about public health and safety."

INTERIOR DISPUTES WYOMING'S WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT CLAIMS. The [Law 360](#) (2/25, 9K) reports that the Interior Department "asked a Wyoming federal court Monday to dismiss a petition from the state calling for a review of the Bureau of Land Management's refusal to comply with a request that the agency reduce the state's wild horse population under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act." According to the memorandum supporting the motion to dismiss, the BLM is "entitled to broad discretion in its management of wild horse populations in designated Herd Management Areas, or HMAs."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LAWSUIT FILED OVER RIO GRANDE LEVEE PROJECT. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "an environmental group that has been pushing the federal government to let the Rio Grande flow freely is taking aim at a levee project along the river." WildEarth Guardians on Tuesday filed a lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers and the FWS. The organization "claims the construction of dozens of miles of levees from the San Acacia Dam south to Elephant Butte Reservoir would have a negative effect on the Rio Grande silvery minnow and other endangered species."

Also reporting on the story is the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (2/25, 39K).

GROUPS CALL FOR RESTORATION OF RED WOLF TO WILD. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "several animal welfare advocacy groups have signed a letter to federal wildlife officials supporting efforts to restore the endangered red wolf to the wild." The letter dated Tuesday to the FWS "asks federal officials to oppose recent resolutions from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission."

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME CAUSES DECLINE IN BAT POPULATIONS. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (2/24, 379K) reports that "some bat populations across Kentucky have fallen by up to 90 percent as the full force of the deadly white-nose syndrome settles in, three years after it really took hold in the state, according to the latest scientific surveys." Mammoth Cave National Park scientists said "this week they have completed their winter bat counts in six of the caves they use to track bat numbers, and for three species — little brown, tricolor and Indiana — the preliminary results are grim." Meanwhile, "Kentucky wildlife officials wrapping up winter surveys of more than 70 caves in 21 counties are seeing the same thing for tricolored and little brown bats, which not had been among the most common bats in the commonwealth."

DEAD BALD EAGLE FOUND IN GULF STATE PARK The [Alabama Live](#) (2/25, 502K) reports that "officials at Gulf State Park responded Sunday to reports of a dead bald eagle found near a picnic area at Lake Shelby, not far from the park's two-year-old zip line course." The FWS "currently has the remains, where special agent Donnie Grace will conduct an analysis later this week to try to determine cause of death."

19 MANATEES RESCUED FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA DRAIN PIPE. [WFOR-TV Miami](#) (2/24, 57K) reports that "an unusual rescue in Central Florida has saved the lives of 19 manatees." The manatees became "lodged in a large drainage pipe near Cape Canaveral." According to the article, "a manatee-rescue team from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, along with police and firefighters, brought heavy earth-moving equipment to the Satellite Beach neighborhood, located on a barrier island along the Atlantic Ocean," and "one by one, each manatee was carefully pulled to safety."

US Geological Survey:

LAKE OKEECHOBEE PROJECT COULD TAINT DRINKING WATER. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (2/24, 660K) reports that "costly work to strengthen Lake Okeechobee's troubled dike may unintentionally pose a risk to drinking water supplies near the lake, according to new federal findings." The article notes that "a wall built to reduce the amount of lake water leaking through the southeast portion of the dike also appears to have allowed more saltwater from deep below ground to mix with a freshwater aquifer." According to the USGS, "that spike in salt levels could affect wells near the dike as well as farmland in western Palm Beach County."

USGS TO CONDUCT STUDY FISH OF THE SANTA ANA RIVER. The [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (2/25, 38K) reports that "San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) and the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Partners have contracted the US Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct the most extensive research that's ever been done involving native fishes in the Santa Ana River." The study will "examine the current population of Santa Ana sucker and Arroyo chub in approximately seven miles of the river as well as factors that create the best habitats for these threatened fish and other native species."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIRD CONSERVATION GROUP WANTS TIGHTER REGULATIONS ON WIND ENERGY OPERATORS. [KCET-TV Los Angeles](#) (2/25, 15K) reports that "a national bird protection group is calling on the federal government to require wind energy operators to get permits to kill birds that are protected under one of the nation's oldest environmental laws." The American Bird Conservancy, "which projects more than 1.4 million annual bird deaths in coming years from wind turbines and their associated transmission lines, petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service this month to require owners of wind power facilities to apply for permits under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 before being allowed to build their projects." The FWS has been "asking wind companies to follow voluntary bird-protection guidelines when siting and designing their projects, but American Bird Conservancy claims in its petition that the voluntary approach has been roundly ineffective at protecting birds from wind turbines."

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN RECEIVES 12,000 COMMENTS. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/24, 85K) reports that "more than 12,000 people submitted comments on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan before this week's deadline, many of them urging policymakers to protect specific parts of the desert from development." The article notes that "major environmental groups have largely supported the idea of balancing large-scale renewable energy development and conservation, but local activists have called the plan an existential threat to the desert's iconic landscapes and delicate ecosystems."

OKLAHOMA BILL PLACES RESTRICTIONS ON WIND INDUSTRY. The AP (2/25) reports that legislation “to place new restrictions on the growing wind industry in Oklahoma has passed a House Committee.” On Tuesday, “the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 11-2...for the bill to restrict how close giant wind turbines can be built near airports and schools, and to require wind energy producers notify nearby property owners before construction.” In addition, the bill “requires a public hearing to be held.”

SIMMONS, LOFTHOUSE DISPARAGE FEDERAL WIND SUBSIDIES AS UNNECESSARY. Writing for the “Contributors” blog in [The Hill](#) (2/25, Simmons, Lofthouse, 224K), Director of the Institute for Political Economy Randy Simmons, PhD and Utah State University political economy professor Jordan Lofthouse asked, “What do we have to show” for 23 years of Federal Production Tax Credit subsidies to wind power? The answer, they said, is that only “1.6 percent of total U.S. energy in 2014” came from wind power, but “now the Department of Energy wants to reach a ridiculous goal of 20 percent wind energy by 2030.” In the opinion of the authors, continuing government subsidies for wind power to help the “fledgling” sector reach this goal is “crony capitalism.”

Onshore Energy Development:

IN OSAGE COUNTY, OIL PRODUCERS BLAME BIA FOR ECONOMIC WOES. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (2/25, 395K) reports that “drilling has come to a virtual standstill in Osage County, and the problem started last summer when the price per barrel was still over \$100, long before production began slipping anywhere else.” The article notes that “producers still have more than 600 pending applications to drill in Osage County.” According to producers, “the bigger problem” is the BIA, “which is responsible for processing those permit applications, since the mineral rights belong to the Osage tribe.”

COLORADO’S OIL AND GAS TASK FORCE FORWARDS NINE PROPOSALS TO HICKENLOOPER. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Jaffe, 804K) reports that Colorado’s 21-member oil and gas task force, started by Gov. John Hickenlooper, is supporting increased community input at the local level on large oil and gas projects. At the same time, the task force did not endorse giving local governments increased authority on drilling projects and land use. The state’s Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Mike King supported the task force’s nine recommendations, which will be sent along to Hickenlooper.

Offshore Energy Development:

NOAA PROPOSES EXPANSION OF CRITICAL HABITAT AREA FOR NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES. [McClatchy](#) (2/25, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that “oil and gas companies hoping to drill in the Atlantic Ocean will have to contend with a new federal proposal to declare waters off the Carolinas and Georgia as critical for endangered whales.” The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is “proposing a huge expansion in the critical habitat area for endangered North Atlantic right whales.” According to the article, “if the habitat proposal is finalized, companies that want to explore for energy must show that the activities wouldn’t harm the critical habitat or the whales.” The BOEM would then have “to consult with NOAA to see whether its scientists agree.”

In his column for the [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/24, 269K) Ron Littlepage criticizes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. He notes that “the extremely rare North Atlantic Right Whales, which are familiar to our coast, would be in danger.” Also, “fisheries that are commercially important would likely be impacted.”

SEVEN GOVERNORS AGREE ON LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY FOR REVENUE SHARING FROM OFFSHORE ENERGY. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/25, 8K) reports that “seven coastal governors agreed Feb. 20 to push Congress for a bill to set a multi-state strategy for revenue sharing from federal offshore energy development, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory (R) said after the governors’ meeting.” The article notes that “the governors have not yet settled on a model for the sharing of federal revenues with states—whether it should follow the established pattern of the Gulf Coast region or another approach, he said.” According to McCrory, “the governors would prefer to see either one system of sharing revenues or at least regional approaches rather than state-by-state approaches.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/24, 146K).

US, MEXICO TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBONS AGREEMENT TAKES FORM. The [E&P Magazine](#) (2/25) reports that as special assistant to the chief for the BOEM’s Office of Strategic Resources, Robert Sebastian is “fielding questions and sharing information about the transboundary agreement between Mexico and

the US concerning oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico." At Rice University's Baker Institute, Sebastian said, "Implementation is still ongoing. It is really just beginning. The agreement is really, to me, just a framework. It's a very good one, but there are many details, processes and procedures to work out." The article note that "among these are developing the model unitization agreements that will be used, putting in place Joint Commission rules of procedure and establishing dispute settlement mechanisms such as mediation, arbitration and expert determination if the parties cannot reach agreements, he said."

BSEE ISSUES ALERT ON DP SYSTEM FAILURE. The [Marine Link](#) (2/25, 1K) reports that the BSEE has "issued a Joint Safety Alert addressing a dynamic positioning (DP) incident involving an offshore supply vessel (OSV) which resulted in a loss of position while conducting a critical Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activity."

Also providing coverage are the [Maritime Executive](#) (2/25, 21) and the [Marine Log](#) (2/25, 249).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED PURSUE ENERGY EXPLORATION. In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 102K), Rep. Renee Ellmers writes that "in order to unleash our true energy potential, we must explore all options — including exploration on federal lands. It is time to have a long-term energy policy for America." Ellmers views the recent Mid- and South-Atlantic offshore plan as "one step forward and two steps back because" it "has removed millions of acres of potentially resource-rich land from exploration." Ellmers urges the Obama Administration to "yes to energy; it is time to open the 87 percent of federal land currently prohibited from potential energy exploration."

In an op-ed for the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/25, 322K), Michael Whatley, the executive vice president of the Consumer Energy Alliance, writes that "the Obama administration took a commendable first step forward recently when it announced that it would consider — with public input — opportunities to lease offshore oil and natural gas fields in designated areas of US coastal waters — including along the southeastern coastline, from Virginia to Georgia." He argues that "increases in offshore production will spur high-wage job growth all across our economy, increase tax revenue and supply revenue needed to fund badly needed infrastructure improvements throughout the US and especially in Virginia and its adjacent Atlantic states."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CONTINUING DROUGHT COULD LEAD TO DRAINING OF LAKE TULLOCH. The [Calaveras \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (2/25, 18K) reports that "as the drought continues in California, fears that Lake Tulloch Reservoir might be drained for irrigation and fish flow may become a reality." Oakdale Irrigation District General Manager Steve Knell has "released a statement outlining a plan to deal with the district's fifth year of drought conditions," and "the plan included the draining of Tulloch Reservoir by July or August of this year."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR LAND PURCHASE OFFERS ON PINE RIDGE. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "the deadline is approaching for owners of parcels on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to accept land buyback offers from the federal government." The Interior Department says "owners of fractional interests have until April 20 to accept the purchase offer."

Also providing coverage are the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (2/25, 101K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (2/25, 51K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (2/25, 66K), the [Nation Sun News](#) (2/24), and the [Native News Online](#) (2/25).

PROPOSED MUSKEGON COUNTY CASINO MOVES AHEAD. The [MLive](#) (2/25, 525K) reports that "the tribal casino proposed for the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack took a step forward on Monday." The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians on Monday "filed its application at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' regional office to take land into trust for a proposed casino and retail development project to be located on 60 acres in Fruitport Township." Little River Band Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli said, "For the past seven years, we have worked with the Muskegon region to bring viable economic development to both of our communities. This project would jumpstart the local economy and help provide support for expanded tribal government services for our tribal members."

Also reporting on the story are the [MLive](#) (2/25, 525K), the [Shoreline Media Group \(MI\)](#) (2/25), [WZZM-TV](#) Grand Rapids, MI (2/24, 43K), and [WWTV-TV](#) Cadillac, MI (2/25, 24K).

LEGISLATORS DISCUSS PROPOSED NEW MEXICO GAMBLING COMPACT. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that

"casinos run by some American Indian tribes in New Mexico would get to stay open around the clock and offer complimentary food and lodging under a revamped gambling compact negotiated by Gov. Susana Martinez's office and the tribes." According to the article, "a special committee of lawmakers met Tuesday to discuss the latest version, which would also clear the way for the casinos to extend credit to some high-rolling patrons." The article notes that "the Legislature is under pressure to act this session because the current compact with the Navajo Nation and some other tribes expires in June."

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETS ON INSULAR AREAS. The [St. Croix Source](#) (2/25) reports that "Tuesday in Washington, D.C., Delegate Stacey Plaskett pressed federal officials to remember insular territories' tourism industries while opening to Cuba, and Gov. Kenneth Mapp asked US Customs Officials to take away newly imposed hurdles to importing." According to the article, "Mapp, Plaskett and their counterparts in American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, met with officials from the US Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services among others at the 2015 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas to discuss issues of critical importance." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "opened the meeting, but left shortly after for Congressional budget hearings, leaving White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jerry Abramson and Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina to run the meeting."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA DEFENDS FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (2/25, 61K) reports that "Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo questioned the Department of the Interior's priorities, in light of its increasing focus on climate change," at a meeting in Washington, D.C. Bordallo said "the impact of the exodus of migrants from the remote Micronesian islands to Guam and Hawaii, is more urgent than climate change as far as the host governments are concerned." Interior Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina "responded that climate change is a priority for President Obama and that her agency was following the White House's 'marching orders.'"

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: KEYSTONE VETO A SIGNAL TO GOP MAJORITIES. The President's veto of legislation authorizing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline generated extensive print coverage, as well as brief mentions on all three network newscasts. Reports cast the veto as a win for environmentalists, while noting that the President, in his [veto statement](#), did not rule out approving construction of the pipeline once he is assured that it will have no harmful effects on the environment. Because of that fact, some commentators downplayed the importance of the veto, which had been widely expected. For example, in an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/25, 5.17M) bemoans the "attention slathered on this overblown issue," which should be dispatched "to the footnote it deserved in the first place." The main theme in today's media coverage, however, is the idea that yesterday's veto marks the launch of a new strategic phase in the Obama presidency as he grapples with GOP majorities in both the House and Senate who are intent on undoing his agenda.

To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/25, Parsons, Hennessey, 3.49M), for example, Obama "unceremoniously opened a fourth chapter of his presidency Tuesday – the veto era." While "Obama's first two years were built around legislative victories...the final two years...will almost certainly be dominated by defense as he fends off Republican efforts to undo his policies." The [AP](#) (2/25, Lederman) says the President "sought to reassert his authority" while "rebuffing GOP lawmakers," and [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 10.32M) notes the White House "has already issued 13 formal veto threats so far this year – the most ever at this point in a new Congress since President Reagan first started issuing written veto threats in 1985." [Politico](#) (2/25, Lerner, 669K) ran a similar analysis under the headline "Keystone Veto Will Be First Of Many For President Obama," while the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Davenport, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) describes the veto as "a demonstration of political strength directed at Republicans."

The veto "is expected to usher in a new era of hostile confrontation between the president and the Republican Congress," says the [National Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 111K). The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), on the other hand, says that it will test whether Obama and the GOP Congress can clash on certain issues and still work together on others down the line. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) also notes the theme of a new phase in the Obama presidency, but casts Obama's strategy as a move further left and away from bipartisanship.

Last night, Lester Holt noted in a brief [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/24, story 9, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) report that yesterday's was "just the third veto of" Obama's presidency, while Scott Pelley reported on the [CBS Evening](#)

[News](#) (2/24, story 9, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) that the President "said he's still considering the environmental impact" of the pipeline. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/25, Keane, 2.94M) notes Obama "has repeatedly said a State Department review of the TransCanada Corp. project...should proceed before a decision is made."

On that issue, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/25, Parsons, 3.49M) notes that a recent EPA report to the State Department found that "the pipeline would add as much carbon dioxide to the air each year as 6 million passenger vehicles," but White House press secretary Josh Earnest "said the EPA assessment doesn't necessarily decide the question." In fact, the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Davenport, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the review found "the pipeline was unlikely to contribute to a significant increase of planet-warming greenhouse gases because the fuel was likely to be extracted from the oil sands and sold with or without construction of the pipeline," though "this month, environmentalists pointed to a different" EPA "review...that they said proved the pipeline could add to greenhouse gases." Tim McDonnell, in an online piece for [Mother Jones](#) (2/25, 719K), says that according to the EPA, "a green-light for the pipeline would lead to greater greenhouse gas emissions than if it were not approved." Bret Baier, on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1.53M), indicated the veto came "despite the State Department's conclusion that it would have no adverse effect on the environment."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Eilperin, Zezima, 5.17M) notes Earnest said of an eventual presidential approval, following the review, "It certainly is possible," and Nicholas Confessore of the New York Times said on [MSNBC's Now](#) (2/24, 213K), "I'm not entirely convinced he eventually doesn't approve this," adding that it is possible that "all the approvals come in, that the studies say 'yes, we should do this,' and then he eventually signs off on it." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Harder, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), likewise, emphasizes that Obama vetoed the legislation, but that does not preclude the eventual construction of the pipeline. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/25, Parsons, 3.49M) notes that "the project's backers...have become increasingly gloomy about ever receiving a green light from Obama."

On [ABC World News](#) (2/24, story 11, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir said that Republicans "are expected to come up short on the votes needed to override the veto." Likewise, [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 10.32M) calls an override "unlikely," but [AFP](#) (2/25, Beatty) reports, nonetheless, that "a Senate aide said the chamber will hold an override vote before March 4." Moreover, according to [McClatchy](#) (2/25, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K), "pipeline backers are talking about other tactics to pressure Obama on the issue, such as attaching pipeline approval to bills that fund federal agencies."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Eilperin, Zezima, 5.17M) quotes Speaker Boehner as calling the veto "a national embarrassment," adding that "it's embarrassing when Russia and China are plowing ahead on two massive pipelines and we can't get this one no-brainer of a project off the ground. The president is just too close to environmental extremists." RNC chair Reince Priebus, meanwhile, "said the veto shows that Obama is 'out of step' with Americans."

Republicans, said the [Daily Caller](#) (2/24, Bastasch, 318K), "have hit Obama for shutting down a project that would make the US less dependent on oil from OPEC, Russia and other unfriendly nations." A.B. Stoddard of TheHill.com said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1.53M) that the pipeline is "still a very good issue for Republicans who have had a very rough two months in their new majority in the Senate and expanded majority in the House."

Also on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1.53M), Steve Hayes of The Weekly Standard argued that it is "time for Republicans to move on. Republicans have used the Keystone pipeline. They have talked about it ad nauseam. They have used it, I think, as a replacement for a real agenda. It is time for a real agenda." Chris Hayes said on [MSNBC's All In](#) (2/24, 251K), "I think there is a massive gulf in how much Republicans think people are following the Keystone fight, and the broad political appeal, and how much it actually has." David Francis, writing for [Foreign Policy](#) (2/24, 325K), says the pipeline has "become more about politics than the limited energy benefits it would provide." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, Gilmour, 380K) similarly reported that "ultimately, Keystone XL, with a planned capacity of 830,000 barrels per day, would represent less than ten percent of the roughly 12 million barrels of oil the US produces each day and the roughly 19 million barrels it consumes."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Eilperin, Zezima, 5.17M) notes Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune "said that Obama 'kept his word' and rejected the bill." Sen. Bernie Sanders "also praised Obama," saying, "This veto tells the world that our nation takes seriously the planetary crisis of global warming and that we will not support legislation that would let a Canadian oil company ship some of the dirtiest oil on the planet across the United States." The [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, Sheppard, 281K) quotes Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, as saying, "This misguided Keystone XL bill, pushed by the fossil fuel industry, has met its

just and expected doom. ... The president got it exactly right by vetoing it." Suh, in a [USA Today](#) (2/24, Suh, 10.32M) op-ed, urges Obama "to kill this project once and for all," because "it's not a plan to help our country," but rather "it's about big profits for big oil – and big pollution for the rest of us." [Roll Call](#) (2/25, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 102K) and [The Hill](#) (2/24, Barron-Lopez, 224K) run similar reports this morning.

On [MSNBC's The Ed Show](#) (2/24, 444K), Ed Schultz called the veto a "huge win" for "Nebraska landowners who still have imminent domain issues," adding that environmentalists "are going to be applauding the President." Rebecca Leber, writing for the [New Republic](#) (2/25, 165K), asked of the environmentalists' reaction, "But what are they celebrating? This wasn't an outright rejection of TransCanada's permit to build the pipeline" and "the veto wasn't even a surprise," which "didn't stop Keystone opponents from overreacting."

[USA Today](#) (2/24, Board, 10.32M) editorializes that "Congress ought to end this drama by overriding Obama's veto," and "if the votes can't be mustered on Capitol Hill, the president has more than enough information to bring down the curtain. It is long past time to just say yes."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1.53M), "The President's statement in the veto is astonishing. He gives two reasons why he had to exercise the veto. Number one, it conflicts with the established executive branch procedures. This is a man who, about a month ago, signed with a pen the legalization of five million illegal aliens in contradiction to the statute, to the law, and to what he, himself, Obama had said at least a dozen times was unconstitutional and illegal. ... The other argument: He says he exercised the veto because the thing that they passed in Congress cut short thorough consideration of the issues. This is after 2,300 days of considering the issue. This is after five State Department reviews. You could have reviewed the Bible 11 times and done it in a shorter period of time."

Canadians Confident Pipeline Will Be Built. [Politico](#) (2/25, Schor, 669K) reported "the Canadian government put on a brave face, predicting that Keystone will eventually be built." Canadian Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford said in a statement, "It is not a question of if this project will be approved; it is a matter of when."

MEDIA ANALYSES: MCCONNELL BLINKS IN DHS FUNDING STANDOFF. Media reports cast Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's proposal to avoid a DHS shutdown as something akin to a capitulation in the partisan standoff over funding the agency. [Politico](#) (2/25, Everett, Kim, 669K), for example, described McConnell as "bending to Democratic demands," with [USA Today](#) (2/24, Kelly, Davis, 10.32M) saying he was "bowing to political realities" and [McClatchy](#) (2/24, Memoli, Subscription Publication, 17K) stating that he acted out of eagerness "to spare his party political blame for a...shutdown." The [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Miller, 644K) describes McConnell as "flailing for an exit strategy," while on its website, [Roll Call](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 102K) headlined its report "McConnell Throws In Towel On DHS Fight." Neil Munro, reporting for the conservative [Daily Caller](#) (2/25, Munro, 318K), called McConnell's proposal "a strategic victory for" the President and Senate Minority Leader Reid.

Moreover, analysts predict a tough road ahead for McConnell's plan, which has not yet won the Democrats' endorsement and could encounter serious headwinds from House Republicans and Senate conservatives. McConnell, [USA Today](#) (2/24, Kelly, Davis, 10.32M) reports, "would allow a vote on a Homeland Security funding bill without any immigration provisions attached," and then "seek a separate Friday vote that would allow senators to go on record in support or opposition to...Obama's executive actions on immigration." [McClatchy](#) (2/24, Memoli, Subscription Publication, 17K), however, says the plan "faces an uncertain path with just days before a midnight Friday deadline," because while "conservatives quickly expressed reservations at what they considered another cave-in by Republican leadership," Democrats "would not commit to cooperating unless" Speaker Boehner "guaranteed a vote in the House." [Politico](#) (2/25, Everett, Kim, 669K) noted that Reid said, "Unless Boehner's in on the deal, it won't happen." [Politico](#) (2/25, Everett, Kim, 669K) noted that Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid said, "Unless Boehner's in on the deal, it won't happen." Dana Milbank, in his [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Milbank, 5.17M) column, writes that for Reid and his caucus, "revenge is a dish best served bold." At this point, he adds, "Democrats don't have a lot of incentive to take yes for an answer just yet."

Underscoring Democratic mistrust for McConnell's intentions, [The Blaze](#) (2/24, Kasperowicz, 2.17M) cites unnamed Senate "aides" who said McConnell is simply "trying to test whether a handful of Senate Democrats might support a stand-alone bill to defund Obama's action." Moreover, while "many interpreted McConnell's move as a sign that a separate vote would be allowed on a 'clean' DHS spending bill," he "made no promises on Monday that this would happen." Reid spokesman Adam Jentleson said yesterday, "In other words, all...McConnell's move tonight allows him to do is force an initial procedural vote on Friday morning on a bill that doesn't fund DHS, with DHS funding set to run out Friday night."

On its website, [Roll Call](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 102K) reported that Boehner spokesman Michael Steel last night did not indicate his boss' stance on the plan, and the [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, Foley, 281K) and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/24, Przybyla, 169K) note House Republicans will meet this morning to review their strategy. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Cornwell), meanwhile, reports that a letter written by a group of conservative House members, including Reps. Jeff Duncan, Steve King, Louis Gohmert, Jim Jordan, Matt Salmon, and Mick Mulvaney urged Boehner to reject the deal.

Moreover, notes the [AP](#) (2/25, Espo, Werner), "even in the Senate, McConnell's plan had its GOP critics" yesterday. The [National Journal](#) (2/25, Fox, Mimms, Subscription Publication, 111K) reports that Sen. Jeff Flake said that when McConnell "announced the decision at a conference luncheon," it "had drawn ire from more-conservative members who believe" he "was giving in to Democratic demands without holding the president accountable." In fact, "multiple Republicans in the meeting said there was still broad disagreement as to whether a caving to Democrats demands for a clean funding bill was the best course forward." Citing "four senators at the lunch session," [Politico](#) (2/25, Raju, Sherman, 669K) recounted that "a frustrated Sen. Jeff Sessions angrily dismissed...McConnell's plan, arguing that his party should be prepared for an all-out battle." However, Sen. Kelly Ayotte, "who could face a tough reelection next year, sharply countered that McConnell's plan was the only option to not hamper law enforcement agencies that rely on money from" DHS. On its website, meanwhile, the [National Review](#) (2/25, Gerhrke, 633K) quotes an unnamed GOP lawmaker describing McConnell's plan as "cave, cave, cave."

If McConnell's proposal fails to pass, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, Kiefer, 380K) reported, "another option would be to buy more time...by passing a short-term 'continuing resolution' that temporarily extends DHS funds based on last year's budget." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that Sen. Bob Corker yesterday predicted that will be the endgame, "My guess is that ultimately that's where we end up. ... I think short-term extensions are a lousy way of running government, but on the other hand you'd rather be fully funded than not have it."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Nakamura, Sullivan, 5.17M) reports that Obama, meanwhile, "prepared to inject himself more forcefully into the debate with a town hall-style forum planned for Wednesday in Miami," but both he "and his aides have limited their dealings with Capitol Hill," believing "that there is little the president can do." An unnamed White House official tells the Post, "This is not a battle with the White House. This is a battle taking place on Capitol Hill. ... What you're going to see from the administration on DHS is up until Friday continuing to call attention publicly to the potential impact of shutting down DHS." The [Miami Herald](#) (2/25, Mazzei, 694K) notes that, at the event, which "will later air nationally on Miami-based Telemundo and sister network MSNBC," Obama "is expected to take questions Wednesday directly from undocumented immigrants," and "will also likely address the Homeland Security Department budget."

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/24, 487K) that if DHS is not funded, Republicans "will get significant share of the blame, the majority share of the blame," adding, "The courts have done what the Republicans want. It has basically stopped the President from enforcing his own policy. It will be appealed. That's the place to decide this issue, not by putting the conditions on something so essential as funding homeland security."

Luke Russert said on [MSNBC The Reid Report](#) (2/24), "In light of those threats that the United States has received from the Somali terrorist group al-Shabab about possibly attacking shopping malls, from operatives I spoke to within congressional Republican circles, there is a real worry if, heaven forbid, anything were to happen with a lapse of DHS funding an attack on a mall, it could stain the GOP brand on national security for a long, long time."

Juan Williams said on [Fox News' The Five](#) (2/24, 408K), "You know who has heartburn? It's Mitch McConnell. ... This is pure politics and that's why the American people are going to punish Republicans." Josh Hicks of the [Washington Post](#) noted on [Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting](#) (2/24, 925K) that after Republican won control of the Senate in the midterm elections, McConnell "said there aren't going to be anymore shutdowns so he has to live up to that at this point. He's put in the good fight and he's had a few...attempts to try to overcome this Democratic filibuster in the Senate. It hasn't happened. Now it makes sense for him to divide this legislation up and try to pass these two measures separately."

Republican strategist Hogan Gidley said on [MSNBC's The Reid Report](#) (2/24) that Republicans "have a problem here. Constitutionally, if McConnell passes a funding bill for DHS from the Senate, we don't know if that is legal constitutionally because...spending bills are supposed to originate in the House." In addition, if the bill "does go back to the House...Tea Party Republicans are going to say we got re-elected or elected for the first time on

getting rid of this executive amnesty. If you take this out of the bill, we have no leverage to argue with the President on anything else. So right now it is a stalemate and I have no idea where this is going to go."

Also on [MSNBC's The Reid Report \(2/24\)](#), Jonathan Capehart of the Washington Post noted that "the common denominator between the two congresses, whether Republicans are in the majority or Democrats in the majority in the Senate, [is] Mitch McConnell," who is again "saving Speaker Boehner from his caucus and from himself." Capehart added that while spending bills are supposed to originate in the House, if "Boehner is smart and can grab a hold of his caucus at least little bit, he will say to them, let's pass the identical bill, send it back to the Senate and let's get this done with."

Johnson Weighs In On Shutdown's Effects On Potential Security Threats. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune \(2/25, Sherry, 1.37M\)](#) reports that while DHS Secretary Johnson "stopped short Tuesday of saying potential terrorist targets like Bloomington's Mall of America would be more vulnerable to attack," if his agency's funding is allowed to expire at the end of the week, he "noted he needs resources to keep the nation safe." Asked if the nation would be "more vulnerable during a shutdown, Johnson said, 'A shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security has real consequences to homeland security and public safety. Period. End of sentence.'"

Obama Defends Immigration Actions Delayed By "Partisan Lawsuit." In an op-ed that ran on [The Hill \(2/24, Obama, 224K\)](#) yesterday, the President defended his immigration measures and notes Judge Andrew Hanen's ruling "in response to a partisan lawsuit that delays" his "lawful, common-sense steps." Added Obama, "But make no mistake, I disagree with this judge's ruling." Obama also welcomes "the opportunity to work with anyone who wants to build on the improvements we've put in place, and fix our broken immigration system once and for all." Josh Gerstein reported in an online story for [Politico \(2/25, 669K\)](#) that Hanen "signaled Tuesday that he isn't inclined to rush a decision on the Obama Administration's request to lift the injunction he imposed last week." Hanen said "he'll give the states suing the federal government another week to respond," but "the issue of a possible stay in the case will likely be taken up by a federal appeals court before he rules one way or another."

Former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and David N. Strange, partner at Whittenburg Strange & Walker, write in [USA Today \(2/24, Gonzales, Strange, 10.32M\)](#) that Republicans should not seek to defund DHS, which would put them "in the crosshairs of critics and concerned Americans because of ISIL and other growing threats around the world." Critics of Obama's orders, they argue, "have been handed a gift by...Hanen," and "now have the opportunity to take the initiative on meaningful immigration reform that enhances our national security and our economy."

USCIS Moves To Implement Part Of Obama's Immigration Action. The [Washington Times \(2/25, Boyer, 644K\)](#) reports that despite a Federal judge's order halting the President's temporary deportation amnesty, the Administration "moved Tuesday to carry out portions of President Obama's executive action on immigration." USCIS "announced it is extending eligibility to dependent spouses of H1-B visa holders to obtain work permits as part of Mr. Obama's immigration action." The [New York Times \(2/25, Preston, Subscription Publication, 9.97M\)](#) reports that the rule change has been "long sought by technology companies and other businesses."

GAO Praises Johnson's Leadership, DHS Improvements. The [Washington Post \(2/24, Markon, 5.17M\)](#) reported on its website that according to GAO, DHS "has made significant progress in fixing its numerous management challenges, and Secretary Jeh Johnson has shown 'exemplary commitment' in improving the agency charged with safeguarding Americans." GAO said DHS "has improved since its 2013 report in key areas such as financial management, IT acquisitions and senior leadership," and though it "remains on the high-risk list, GAO said it has 'fully addressed' nine of 30 high-risk areas and made progress toward addressing the other 21."

THUNE BACKS OFF EFFORT TO PUSH NET NEUTRALITY LEGISLATION. The [New York Times \(2/24, A1, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M\)](#) says in a front-page story that the push for net neutrality has been "the longest, most sustained campaign of internet activism in history," and one "that the little guys appear to have won." The Times adds that on Tuesday, Sen. John Thune (R) "all but surrendered on efforts to overturn" the ruling, expected to be passed by the FCC on Thursday. Thune cited ongoing opposition from Democrats to even discussing bipartisan legislation on the issue until after the FCC had acted.

In a similar theme, the [Washington Post \(2/24, Fung, 5.17M\)](#) says in its "The Switch" blog that the expected passage "marks a key achievement for tech firms after a months-long campaign against some of the communications industry's most sophisticated lobbying operations." The Post adds that it is "easy to point to the coming FCC's vote as another indication Silicon Valley's time has come in Washington" but the "reality" is that

the industry "has already arrived, and in a major way."

Democratic Commissioner Reportedly Seeking Late Changes To Proposed Rules. However, in a potential late wrinkle, [The Hill](#) (2/25, Hattem, 224K) reported that Mignon Clyburn, one of the three Democrats on the FCC, "wants to narrow the scope" of the rules. Clyburn has asked Chairman Tom Wheeler "to roll back some of the restrictions before the full commission votes on them, FCC officials said," though Wheeler has yet to respond. The move puts Wheeler in "the awkward position of having to either roll back his proposals, or defend the tough rules and convince Clyburn to back down." Wheeler needs Clyburn's vote to enact the rules, as the Democrats have only a 3-2 majority on the commission and both Republicans oppose the rules.

Meanwhile, in an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Editorial, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that while net neutrality is drawing most of the scrutiny right now, Wheeler also is seeking to override state authority to regulate municipal broadband networks. The Journal bemoans his desire to preempt state laws that bar or limit municipal broadband.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "An Emerging Nuclear Deal With Iran." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the "quickenning pace of talks suggests that negotiators...might be able to complete a framework by the end of March," but "this isn't certain." The Times says if the two sides are able to reach a deal, they "may be able to tackle other differences, including Iran's missile program and its growing involvement in regional conflicts," so "even if the deal is not perfect, the greater risk could well be walking away and allowing Iran to continue its nuclear activities unfettered."

"Four Months To Get It Right On Greece." The [New York Times](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial that EU leaders "avoided a potential catastrophe," but "did not...resolve any of the big problems that have grounded the economies of Greece and other eurozone countries." It argues that "it is in the interest of the rest of the eurozone...to strike a new kind of deal with Greece," or face the possibility that it "defaults on its debts and abandons the euro."

"Is That Really A Five-Star Nursing Home?" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) welcomes a "revised system" to be put into effect on Friday by the Federal government that it says will provide consumers with "more accurate ratings of nursing homes." The Times says the move is "a step toward ensuring that a five-star rating really means that the home provides exemplary service and is not simply inflating its scores by lying about its performance."

WASHINGTON POST. "An 'Invitation' For Mr. Putin." The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, 5.17M) editorializes that "by withholding military aid from Ukraine and declining to punish the Debaltseve attack," President Obama "is risking the destruction of the Kiev government...and inviting a larger conflict with Russia."

"Misplaced Keystone Furor." In an editorial about the President's veto of the Keystone Pipeline bill, the [Washington Post](#) (2/25, 5.17M) bemoans the "attention slathered on this overblown issue," which should be dispatched "to the footnote it deserved in the first place."

"A Chance For Charter Schools." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Board, 5.17M) endorses Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's proposed reforms to the state's charter school law, "currently the worst in the nation." While teachers union officials and "traditional public school officials are aghast," the Post says "lawmakers should look past their over-the-top rhetoric and bring Maryland into line with common-sense policies of other states."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Tom Wheeler's Other Web Takeover." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Editorial, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that while net neutrality is drawing most of the scrutiny right now, FCC Chairman Wheeler also is seeking to override state authority to regulate municipal broadband networks. The Journal bemoans his desire to preempt state laws that bar or limit municipal broadband.

"President Veto." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes the theme of a new phase in the Obama presidency, but casts Obama's strategy as a move further left and away from bipartisanship.

"The Varieties Of Political Experience." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication,

5.67M) criticizes the media for its focus on asking 2016 Republican presidential candidates about the President's patriotism and faith, arguing that the press should instead focus on the President's denials that religious fanaticism motivates ISIL militants.

"Britain's Lost Girls." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that the British teenagers attempting to join ISIL were actively seeking out the group, and treating them only like victims will not aid the efforts to combat ISIL recruiting.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Former Mayor Drops Senate Plans
A Crash Then Chaos
Upgrades Fare Well
FCC Spurs Debate On Open Internet
Sony Names New Movie Chief

Wall Street Journal:

Yellen Puts Fed On Path To Lift Rates
Doubts Shadow Greek Bailout
What Clever Robots Mean For Jobs
Chad's Army Aids Boko Haram Fight

New York Times:

In Greek Crisis, Rare Moment Of Consensus
Once "Fixed," Now Pensions Haunt Christie
Teenage Girl Leaves For ISIS, And Others Follow
GOP Concedes Fight To Obama On Internet Rule
Cause Celebre, Scorned By Troops
After Babies Are Switched In France, A Lesson In Maternal Love

Washington Post:

As Ice Melts, The Future Fades
D.C. Sets Limits On Legalized Marijuana
Senate Opens A Path For DHS
Fear Of Islamic State Revives Afghan Mujahideen
"My Struggle" Provokes A New One For Germany

Financial Times:

Yellen Paves Way For Rate Rise This Year As US Jobs Market Gains Pace
Europe's Biggest Banks Face Renewed Capital Clampdown, Warns Watchdog

Washington Times:

Relocation Of Somalis To Minnesota Taxes Welfare, Raises Terror Concerns
Obama Veto Of Keystone Puts Greens Over Labor
Jeb Bush Heading Into Tricky Audition For Activists At CPAC
Paul Aide Solicits Funds For Personal Adoption
Lynch Dodges Questions, Falls In Line With Holder
Kerry Defends Iran Nuke Talks; Dissidents Claim Proof Of Lies

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: California-Railroad Crossing Accident; New Jersey-Gas Explosion; Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Great Lakes; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; DOJ-Zimmerman Investigation; American Sniper Trial; VA Secretary-Service Record Controversy; Nigeria-American Kidnapped; ISIL-American Fighters; Keystone Pipeline Bill; Bus Drivers Investigation; UK-Three Parent Technique Approved.
CBS: VA Secretary-Service Record Controversy; DOJ-Zimmerman Investigation; California-Railroad Crossing Accident; Severe Winter Weather; Medication Billing Abuse Investigation; ISIL-Kidnapped Christians; ISIL-US Airstrikes; American Sniper Trial; Keystone Pipeline Bill; New Jersey-Gas Explosion; Pilot Rest Rules-Cargo

Pilots; Connecticut-Robbery Plot.

NBC: California-Rail Crossing Accident; Railroad Crossing Accidents; Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; New Jersey-Gas Explosion; American Sniper Trial; DOJ-Zimmerman Investigation; VA Secretary-Service Record Controversy; Keystone Pipeline Bill; Paris-Drone Mystery; NCAA-Kansas State Basketball Incident Alaska-Marijuana Legalized.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Winter Weather – 8 minutes, 10 seconds
 California-Railroad Crossing Accident – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
 VA Secretary-Service Record Controversy – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
 New Jersey-Gas Explosion – 3 minutes, 20 seconds
 DOJ-Zimmerman Investigation – 3 minutes, 15 seconds
 American Sniper Trial – 3 minutes, 15 seconds
 Keystone Pipeline Bill – 1 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: American Sniper Trial-Guilty Verdict; California-Rail Crossing Accident; New Jersey-Gas Explosion; Wall Street.
 CBS: American Sniper Trial-Guilty Verdict; DOJ-Zimmerman Investigation; California-Rail Crossing Accident; Chicago-Mayoral Race; Severe Winter Weather;
 FOX: American Sniper Trial-Guilty Verdict; DHS Funding Debate; ISIL-Kidnapped Christians.
 NPR: American Sniper Trial-Guilty Verdict; VA Secretary-Service Record Controversy; Ukraine Ceasefire; Nigeria-Suicide Bombings; Wall Street; New Jersey-Teachers' Benefits Settlement; Alaska-Marijuana Legalized.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President will travel to Florida International University in Miami, Florida to participate in an immigration town hall hosted by Telemundo and MSNBC.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will travel to New Hampshire to deliver remarks on the Administration's economic policies at The Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership & Public Policy in Concord. The Vice President will also participate in a roundtable discussion at Manchester Community College in Manchester that will focus on the importance of helping more Americans go to college and the critical role that partnerships between community colleges and employers can play in helping Americans obtain the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes and begins a period of morning business.

SEN. REED TRIP — 12:15 p.m. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee, will hold a press conference to talk about his recent trip to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. Location: Senate Radio & TV Gallery. Contacts: Chip Unruh, 202-224-4642.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT — 2 p.m. US Sens. Dick Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Sherrod Brown and Michael Bennet will join Reps. Lloyd Doggett, Richard Neal, Rosa DeLauro, and Sander Levin to introduce a series of bills aimed at cutting taxes for the middle class. Location: Senate Radio/Television Gallery. Contacts: Ben Marter (Sen. Durbin), 202-228-5244

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION CAUCUS — 2:30 p.m. Senators Chuck Grassley and Ron Wyden will host a press conference to launch the Whistleblower Protection Caucus. Sen. Grassley is the chairman of the caucus and Sen. Wyden is the vice-chairman. Location: Senate Judiciary Committee hearing room, Dirksen 226. Contacts: Mary Jane Wilmoth mjw@whistleblowers.org ((202) 342-1902). On the Net: <http://www.whistleblowers.org>.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS — 9:30 a.m. Hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on perspectives from owners, operators, and users of the system. Opening remarks: Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission;

Thomas J. Riordan, President and CEO, Neenah Enterprises, Inc.; Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation; Walt Rowen, President, Susquehanna Glass Company; David Gardner, Vice President Supply Chain and Customer Experience, Ingredion Incorporated. http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=26e9c9e7-de24-cd3b-de08-81f0cc03dfcb. Location: 406 Dirksen.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine preserving the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. Witnesses: Fadi Chehade, CEO, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); Ambassador David Gross, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP, and former US Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, US Department of State; Lawrence Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), US Department of Commerce. <http://www.commerce.senate.gov>. Location: 253 Russell.

HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine a 21st century regulatory system. Witnesses: Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Ph.D., President, American Action Forum; Jerry Ellig, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University; Michael Mandel, Ph.D., Chief Economic Strategist, Progressive Policy Institute; Sally Katzen, Former Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget. <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/> Location: 342 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Department of Defense hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Air Force. Witnesses: Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force; General Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the US Air Force. <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/advisory-committee-schedule-week-feb-23-2015>. Location: 192 Dirksen.

BUDGET — 10:30 a.m. Hearing, "The Coming Crisis: America's Dangerous Debt." Witnesses: Dr. Laurence Kotlikoff, Professor of Economics, Boston University; Heather Pfizenmaier, Director, Young Leaders Program, The Heritage Foundation; Bruce Bartlett, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy, United States Department of the Treasury. <http://www.budget.senate.gov/republican/public/index.cfm/hearing-schedule?ID=b0454fea-3691-46e6-b6a4-ce735d2e96ad>. Location: 216 Hart.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 1:30 p.m. Hearings to examine the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), focusing on building the coalition and ensuring military effectiveness. Witnesses: General John R. Allen (USMC, Ret.) Special Presidential Envoy For The Global Coalition To Counter ISIL US Department of State. <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/the-fight-against-isis-building-the-coalition-and-ensuring-military-effectiveness>. Location: 419 Dirksen.

ARMED SERVICES — 2:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Personnel will hold a hearing to receive testimony on the healthcare recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission. Witnesses: Panel I: Alphonso Maldon, Jr., Chairman, Military Compensation And Retirement Modernization Commission; Stephen E. Buyer, Commissioner, Military Compensation And Retirement Modernization Commission; Michael R. Higgins; Commissioner, Military Compensation And Retirement Modernization Commission; General Peter W. Chiarelli, USA (Ret.), Commissioner, Military Compensation And Retirement Modernization Commission; Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (Ret.), Commissioner, Military Compensation And Retirement Modernization Commission. Panel II: Joyce W. Raezer, Executive Director, National Military Family Association; Thomas J. Snee, National Executive Director, Fleet Reserve Association; Vice Admiral Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret.), President And Chief Executive Officer, Military Officers Association Of America; Major General Gus L. Hargett, Jr., ARNG (Ret.), President, National Guard Association Of The United States. <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/15-02-25-healthcare-recommendations-of-the-military-compensation-and-retirement-modernization-commission>. Location: 216 Hart.

ARMED SERVICES — 2:30 p.m. Hearings to examine regional nuclear dynamics. Witnesses: Dr. Andrew F. Krepinevich, Jr., President Center For Strategic And Budgetary Assessments; Dr. Matthew Kroenig, Associate Professor Of Government And Foreign Service Field Chair International Relations; Dr. George Perkovich, Vice President For Studies Carnegie Endowment For International Peace; Dr. Ashley Tellis, Senior Associate Carnegie Endowment For International Peace. <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/15-02-25-regional-nuclear-dynamics>. Location: 222 Russell.

INDIAN AFFAIRS — 2:30 p.m. Business meeting to consider the following legislation: S. 230, A bill to provide

for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; S. 321, A bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; S. 501, A bill to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes. <http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/business-meeting-consider-s-230-s-321-and-s-501>. Location: 628 Dirksen.

US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for morning hour, then at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP STAKEOUT — 10 a.m. Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH); House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA); House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA); Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Conference Vice Chair Lynn Jenkins (R-KS); House Committee on Education & the Workforce Chairman John Kline (R-MN). Location: Center Steps, US Capitol. Contacts: Conference Communications, conferencepress@mail.house.gov, 202-225-5107

IMMIGRATION IMPLEMENTATION — 10:30 a.m. Rep. Luis V. Gutiirrez (D-IL) and fellow Democrats, including Whip Steny Hoyer, will announce that preparations for implementation of the President's executive actions on immigration are continuing across the country despite a federal judge's temporary injunction. Location: House Radio/TV Gallery Studio A in the House Visitor's Center. Contacts: Douglas G. Rivlin, 202-225-8203

TRI-CAUCUS HOUSE MEMBERS – EDUCATION BILL — 10:30 a.m. The day before the House of Representatives votes on a proposal to weaken the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), members of the congressional Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific American caucuses will come together on a press call urging their colleagues to "reject this proposal and keep protections for vulnerable students". Participants: Congressman Bobby Scott, ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Work Force and member of the CBC and CAPAC; Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Congresswoman Judy Chu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; Nancy Zirkin, executive vice president of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. Please RSVP to Simpson@civilrights.org. Dial-in: 877-876-9173 Verbal Passcode: "Education". Contacts: Scott Simpson Simpson@civilrights.org ((202) 466-2061)

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS – SOCIAL SECURITY — 11:30 a.m. Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, Rep. Sander Levin (MI-09), Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee, and Seniors Task Force Co-Chairs Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), and Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-06), will host a telephone press conference call with seniors groups on "protecting Social Security from Republican stealth attacks." Contacts: Daniel Herrera, 202-225-1400. Notes: Call-in 888-810-5906. Code: DEMCAUCUS

GRIJALVA – PUBLIC LANDS – MOCK AUCTION — 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Mock auction and news conference to highlight threats to the future of conservation in the US Participants: Congressman Raul Grijalva (AZ 3rd District); Elizabeth Ouzts, Environment America; Auctioneer Fred Reger, Fred Reger Auctions, Other conservation leaders. Contact: Elizabeth Ouzts, Environment America, elizabetho@environmentamerica.org, 919-672-9803 Bertha Alisia Guerrero, Office of Congressman Grijalva, Bertha. Guerrero@mail.house.gov, 202-680-2041. Location: 421 Cannon.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

APPROPRIATIONS — 9:30 a.m. Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Quality of Life in the Military. Witnesses: Command Sergeant Major Daniel A. Dailey, United States Army; Master Chief Petty Officer Michael D. Stevens, United States Navy; Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett, United States marine Corps; Chief Master Sergeant James A. Cody, United States Air Force. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393984>. Location: 2362-B Rayburn.

AGRICULTURE — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing: Re: To launch the top-to-bottom review of the SNAP program. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103004>. Location: 1300 Longworth.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10 a.m. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Health and Human Services. Witnesses: Sylvia Burwell, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393986>. Location: 2358-C Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10 a.m. Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related

Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Agriculture Office of the Secretary. Witnesses: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; Dr. Robert Johansson, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture; Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=394001>. Location: 2362-A Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10 a.m. Financial Services and General Government Oversight Hearing – Internal Revenue Service. Witnesses: J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of Treasury; Nina E. Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393985>. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

ARMED SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full Committee Hearing on How is DOD responding to Emerging Security Challenges in Europe? Witnesses: General Philip Breedlove, USAF, Commander, Supreme Allied Command Europe and US European Combatant Command; Christine Wormuth, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103011>. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Energy and Power Subcommittee and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee joint hearing, "The Fiscal Year 2016 EPA Budget." Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy will be the sole witness. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing on "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy with Federal Reserve Board Chair Janet Yellen." <http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398720>. Location: HVC-210.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Full committee hearing, "Advancing US Interests in a Troubled World: The FY 2016 Foreign Affairs Budget." Secretary of State John Kerry will testify. <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/hearing-advancing-us-interests-troubled-world-fy-2016-foreign-affairs-budget>. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

INTELLIGENCE — 10 a.m. CLOSED Meeting on "World Wide Threats." Location: HVC-304.

OVERSIGHT & GOVERNMENT REFORM — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on National Security OGR Joint Hearing "A Review of the Department of Homeland Security's Policies and Procedures for the Apprehension Detention and Release of Non-Citizens Unlawfully Present in the United States." <http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/review-department-homeland-securitys-policies-procedures-apprehension-detention-release-non-citizens-unlawfully-present-united-states/> Location: 2154 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets hearing on "Preventing Another MH370: Setting International Standards for Airline Flight Tracking." Witnesses: Christopher A. Hart, Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; Kevin L. Hiatt, Senior Vice President, Safety and Flight Operations, International Air Transport Association. <http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/preventing-another-mh370-setting-international-standards-airline-flight-tracking/> Location: 2247 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — 10 a.m. Full Committee, "An Overview of the Department of Energys Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2016." Witness: Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Presidents Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs. Witnesses: Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; accompanied by Master Chief Steven W. Cantrell, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard; Paul "Chip" N. Jaenichen, Sr., Administrator, Maritime Administration; Mario Cordero, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission. <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398626>. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

JUDICIARY — 10:15 a.m. Hearing on The Unconstitutionality of Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration. Witnesses: Adam Laxalt, Attorney General of Nevada, Professor Josh Blackman, South Texas College of Law, Testifying in his personal capacity; Professor Elizabeth Price Foley, Florida International University College of Law, Testifying in her personal capacity; Professor Stephen H. Legomsky, Washington University School of Law, Testifying in his personal capacity. <http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2015/2/hearing-the-unconstitutionality-of-obama-s-executive-actions-on-immigration>. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10:30 a.m. Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Oversight Hearing – Department of Justice, Department of Commerce, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Witnesses: Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, Department of Justice; Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, Department of Commerce; Paul K. Martin, Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393987>. Location: H-308 the Capitol.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Hearing on “The Uncertain Future of the Internet.” Witnesses: Robert Atkinson, Founder and President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation; Rick Boucher, Honorary Chairman, Internet Innovation Alliance; Larry Downes, Project Director, Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy; Gene Kimmelman, President and CEO, Public Knowledge. <http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/the-uncertain-future-of-the-internet>. Location: 2322 Rayburn. Notes: The purpose of this hearing is examine the legal, economic and policy uncertainties created by the FCCs proposed action to reclassify broadband Internet access services as a telecommunications service subject to Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF16/20150225/103018/HHRG-114-IF16-20150225-SD002-U1.pdf>

HOMELAND SECURITY — 11:30 a.m. Hearing on “The Administrations Cybersecurity Legislative Proposal on Information Sharing.” Witnesses: Suzanne Spaulding, Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, US Department of Homeland Security; Dr. Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, US Department of Homeland Security; Eric Fischer, Senior Specialist, Science and Technology, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. <http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearing-administration-s-cybersecurity-legislative-proposal-information-sharing>. Location: 311 Cannon. Notes: Time changed to 11:30.

APPROPRIATIONS — 1 p.m. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of the Interior. Witnesses: Sally Jewell Secretary, Department of the Interior.; Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393988>. Location: B-308 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS — 1 p.m. Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Budget Hearing – Department of Housing and Urban Development. Witnesses: Julian Castro, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393989>. Location: 2358-A Rayburn.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET — 1 p.m. Members’ Day Hearing. <http://budget.house.gov/hearingschedule2015/members-day.htm>. Location: 210 Cannon.

APPROPRIATIONS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs budget hearing with John Kerry, Secretary, Department of State. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393991>. Location: 2359 Rayburn.

APPROPRIATIONS — 2 p.m. Legislative Branch Budget Hearing – House of Representatives, Government Accountability Office, and United States Capitol Police. Witness: Panel 1: Ed Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer, House of Representatives; Karen L. Haas, Clerk, House of Representatives; Paul D. Irving, Sergeant at Arms, House of Representatives. Panel 2: Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office. Panel 3: Chief Kim Dine, Chief of Police, United States Capitol. <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=393990>. Location: HT-2 the Capitol.

ARMED SERVICES — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces Hearing: Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces. Witnesses: Sean J. Stackley Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition); Vice Admiral Joseph P. Mulloy, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Integration of Capabilities and Resources; Lieutenant General Kenneth Glueck, Jr. USMC, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development, and Integration; and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_id=2FC85DBF-22D6-44B9-BAE8-663CC6A30A5B. Location: 2212 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT & GOVERNMENT REFORM — 2 p.m. Full Committee hearing “FCC Process: Examining the Relationship Between the FCC and the White House.” <http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/fcc-process-examining-relationship-fcc-white-house/> Location: 2154 Rayburn.

SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY — 2 p.m. Full Committee Markup of: H.R. ____, The Secret Science

Reform Act of 2015 and H.R. _____, The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015. Location: 2318 Rayburn.

SMALL BUSINESS — 2 p.m. Full committee hearing on The SBA Budget for FY 2016: Does it Meet the Needs of America's Small Businesses? Witness: Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator, United States Small Business Administration. <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=397858>. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Aviation Roundtable, "Issues Regarding Modernizing and Operating the Nation's Airspace System." Location: 2167 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 2 p.m. Social Security organizational meeting, immediately followed by a hearing focused on the financial status of the Disability Insurance (DI) and Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Funds. Location: B-318 Rayburn.

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING — 2:30 p.m. The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission hearing on "Serbia's Leadership of the OSCE." Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ivica Dacic, will testify before the Helsinki Commission in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. He takes the helm to conclude the implementation of a joint leadership plan developed with Switzerland, which chaired the OSCE in 2014. Location: 2200 Rayburn. Contacts: Stacy. Hope@mail.house.gov ((202) 225-1901). On the Net: Stacy. Hope@mail.house.gov.

RULES — 3 p.m. Business Meeting: H.R. 5 Student Success Act Amendment consideration. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103062>. Location: H-313 The Capitol.

ARMED SERVICES — 3:30 p.m. Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, "Information Technology Investments and Programs: Supporting Current Operations and Planning for the Future Threat Environment." Witnesses: Terry Halvorsen, Acting Department of Defense Chief Information Officer; Lieutenant General Robert S. Ferrell, United States Army, Chief Information Officer / G-6; Lt Gen William J. Bender, United States Air Force, Chief, Information Dominance & Chief Information Officer; Dr. John Zangardi, Acting Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Information Operations and Space; Brigadier General Kevin J. Nally, United States Marine Corps, Director, Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4)/Chief Information Officer of the Marine Corps. http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings-display?ContentRecord_id=37E24D03-852E-4742-B74C-F6B4FD990736. Location: 2118 Rayburn.

Other: NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE — Feb. 21 – 25. The National Association of Counties brings over 2,000 elected and appointed county officials from across the country to focus on legislative issues facing county government. <http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/LegislativeConference/Pages/Legislative-Conference.aspx>. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. NW.

STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL MEETING (NAAG) — Feb. 23 – 25. The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) hosts its annual Winter Meeting. Forty-one state and territorial attorneys general, including 13 who are newly-elected or appointed, and their staff will join federal officials and other representatives to discuss several new challenges they face as the chief legal officers of their states. Topics for discussion will cover marijuana regulation, drones, and cyber-hacking of corporate databases; etc. Federal speakers are FBI Director James Comey, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray, Leigh A. Bradley, US Department of Veterans Affairs general counsel, Roy Austin, Jr., deputy assistant to the president for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, White House Domestic Policy Council, and Mary McLeod, acting legal adviser, US Department of State. Draft Agenda: <http://www.naag.org/assets/redesign/files/meetings/agendas/2015-02-11WntrPublic.pdf>. Highlights: James Comey, Director, FBI remarks. Vice President Biden remarks. Media Access: Media may check in between 2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (ET); Final Access: 3:00 p.m. (ET). This event is pooled for television. Correspondents and still photographers who wish to cover this event should direct RSVPs to Marjorie Tharp with NAAG at mtharp@naag.org or 202-326-6047 with your name, outlet, phone number and email address no later than Monday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. eastern time. All media will be required to present a government-issued ID and a media credential upon check-in. Location: The Ritz Carlton Hotel, 1150 22nd Street, NW. Contacts: Marjorie Tharp, NAAG mtharp@naag.org (202-326-6047). On the Net: <http://www.naag.org/>

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS — Feb. 23 – 26. Holds its 2015 Executive Council Winter Session. <http://www.ncai.org/events/2015/02/23/2015-executive-council-winter-session>. Location: Capital Hilton, 16th and K Sts. NW.

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — Feb. 23 – 25. 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The 2015 Climate Leadership Conference brings together thought leaders in business, government, academia and nonprofits to share innovative ways to address climate change through policy and business solutions. Speakers include Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, former US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, EPA Acting Deputy Administrator Stan Meiburg, National Academy of Sciences President Ralph Cicerone, and former EPA Administrator Carol Browner. Highlights: 10 a.m. Gerard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United States, discusses Preparing for COP 21. Location: The Ritz-Carlton, 1250 South Hayes St, Arlington, Va. (Metro: Pentagon City). Contacts: Laura Rehrmann (rehrmann@c2es.org), 703-516-0621. Notes: More information at: <http://www.climateleadershipconference.org/> To request a press pass, email press@climateleadershipconference.org.

DOJ – FTC WORKSHOP ON HEALTH CARE COMPETITION — Feb. 24 – 25. The Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission host a joint public workshop, Examining Health Care Competition, examining recent developments related to health care provider organization and payment models, with an emphasis on how they may affect competition in the provision of health care services. Highlights: 8:40 a.m. Assistant Attorney General Bill Baer of the Antitrust Division will deliver remarks at the Examining Health Care Competition workshop. Location: Constitution Center Auditorium, 400 7th St. SW. Contacts: Betsy Lordan (FTC), 202-326-3707. Emily Pierce (DOJ), 202-514-2007. Notes: The workshop will be webcast live on the FTC's website. Registration information, an agenda, directions to the FTC Conference Center and a list of speakers will be available on the event web page.

NEW AMERICA – FUTURE OF WAR — Feb. 24 – 25. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Future of war: First Annual Conference. <http://www.newamerica.org/international-security/future-of-war/> Highlights: 4:30 p.m. Remarks by Sen. John McCain. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Pavilion Room, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY SUMMIT — Feb. 25 – 27. Partnership for a Healthier America presents the Fourth Annual Childhood Obesity Summit. First Lady Michelle Obama, former US Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and US Senator Cory Booker join leaders from PepsiCo, Campbell Soup Company and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation during the three-day event. Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW. Notes: Media interested in covering the event should register for credentials by visiting www.ahealthieramerica.org/summit/press. For more information, please contact news@ahealthieramerica.org.

CPAC 2015 — Feb. 25 – 28. The Conservative Political Action Conference. Highlights: Activist Boot Camp. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD. Contacts: (202) 347-9388. On the Net: <http://http://cpac.conservative.org/> Notes: Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty will be at booth 738 in the CPAC exhibit hall. Contact Jon Crane at 203-982-4575 or email joncrane@criticalpr.com www.conservativesconcerned.org.

BLOOMBERG – GLOBAL TRADE – SENS. GRAHAM, DONNELLY — 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Discussion, "Keeping Our Edge: Jobs, Exports and Global Competitiveness." Senator Lindsey Graham, former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez and former Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte join American manufacturers and suppliers to speak at Bloomberg Government event on global trade; Audience includes more than 500 suppliers and manufacturers from across the country. Location: The Marriott Renaissance Hotel, 999 Ninth St. NW. Contacts: Lindsay Bomar, lbomar1@bloomberg.net. Notes: Media must be credentialed to attend the event. To RSVP please contact Lindsay Bomar at lbomar1@bloomberg.net

CSIS – TRADE ASSISTANCE – BOUSTANY, POLIS — 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Opportunities in Strengthening Trade Assistance Opening Remarks By: The Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D. US Congressman, R-LA; Jared S. Polis, US Congressman, D-CO. Panel Discussion: Thelma Askey, President, the Rockardt Group Global Strategies; Paul DeLaney, Partner, Kyle House Group; Andrea Durkin, Principal, Sparkplug, LLC. Moderator: Scott Miller, William M. Scholl Chair in International Business and Senior Adviser, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Daniel F. Runde, William A. Schreyer Chair and Director, Project on US Leadership in Development, Center for Strategic and International Studies. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW. Contacts: RSVP to ChevronForum@CSIS.org. On the Net: <http://www.csis.org>

SECRETARY DUNCAN – EARLY LEARNING — 8:15 a.m. Education Secretary Duncan will visit Patrick Henry Elementary School to discuss the importance of early learning for the academic success of students. Secretary Duncan also will propose that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act — also known as No Child Left Behind — needs to include preschool for all children. Location: Patrick Henry

Elementary School, 4643 Taney Ave., Alexandria, VA. Contacts: Education Press Office, press@ed.gov, 202-401-1576.

NDI – BROOKINGS – UKRAINE LAWMAKERS — 9 a.m. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Brookings Institution host a discussion with members of the Rada, Ukraine's parliament, and other international experts on the situation in Ukraine and opportunities for US-Ukrainian cooperation. Speakers will include Andriy Parubiy, first vice speaker of the Rada; Leonid Holopatiuk, Ukraines deputy minister of defense; Viktor Chumak, deputy head of the Rada committee on anti-corruption; Steven Pifer, former US ambassador to Ukraine; Anders Aslund, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics; and Jonathan Katz, deputy assistant administrator for Europe and Eurasia at the US Agency for International Development. Location: NDI Boardroom, 455 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 8th floor. Contacts: Bryan Lesswing (blesswing@ndi.org), 202-728-5447. Notes: Media wishing to cover the event should RSVP to Bryan Lesswing, blesswing@ndi.org, with name, outlet, position, phone number and email address.

SECRETARY JOHNSON – PRIVATE SECTOR — 9 a.m. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson will deliver remarks at the Department of Homeland Security Strategic Industry Conversation on the Department's work with private sector partners and the need for Congress to pass a full-year appropriations bill. Location: Ronald Reagan Building Amphitheater, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. Notes: Credentialed media planning to attend must RSVP to Sharon McCoy at sharon.mccoy@hq.dhs.gov by 8:00 a.m. on Feb. 25. Media must arrive by 8:15 a.m.

SBA ADMINISTRATOR – SMALL DOLLAR LOANS — 10 a.m. Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator of US Small Business Administration (SBA) and Dan Berger, President National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to invest in American entrepreneurship by expanding access to capital through SBA small dollar loans. As part of the ceremony, they will highlight Washington Gas & Light Federal Credit Union, a local lender that plans to channel SBA guaranteed-loans into their community of potential small business owners. Location: Washington Gas & Light, Federal Credit Union, 6801 Industrial Road, Springfield, VA. Contacts: RSVP to Miguel Ayala Miguel.ayala@sba.gov (202-450-0148) On the Net: www.sba.gov.

BIOETHICS COMMISSION – EBOLA — 11:15 a.m. The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues will hold a media teleconference a day before it publicly releases its report "Ethics and Ebola: Public Health Planning and Response," a brief on public health emergency response in the context of the current Ebola epidemic. During the teleconference, Commission Chair Amy Gutmann, Ph.D. and Vice Chair James W. Wagner, Ph.D., will outline the Bioethics Commission's findings and recommendations and answer questions. All information presented and discussed during the teleconference will be embargoed until February 26 at 8 a.m. Notes: Call-in info: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eajj0Inecc22eafe&llr=drajzjdab>

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES — 11:30 a.m. The National Partnership for Women & Families will host a congressional briefing to discuss the specific legislative and policy proposals the nation's women and families want this year. The event will feature members of Congress, and leaders and policy experts from the National Partnership. With Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) and Debra L. Ness, President of the National Partnership for Women & Families. Location: SVC 201-00, US Capitol Visitors Center. Notes: Media must have valid press credential and are encouraged to RSVP in advance to Sadie Kliner at skliner@nationalpartnership.org or 202-986-2600.

MICROSOFT – US DIPLOMACY CENTER — 12 p.m. Mark Penn, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Microsoft, and Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Special Advisor for the Secretary's Initiatives at the US Department of State, will announce a unique partnership between Microsoft and the US Diplomacy Center Foundation in support of the US Diplomacy Center (USDC) via conference call. Dial-in for audio: 877-876-9173 (toll-free) or 785-424-1670 (local). Passcode: Microsoft. <http://connexevent.adobeconnect.com/microsoft/> Contacts: RSVP disherwood@mercuryllc.com.

HERITAGE – EXECUTIVE AMNESTY — 2 p.m. "The Ruling on Executive Amnesty: Attorneys General Argue Their Case." Featuring Ken Paxton (R-TX), Attorney General, State of Texas. Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE. Contacts: n/a, 202-675-1761.

SECRETARY JOHNSON – PREDECESSORS — 2 p.m. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson will participate in a media availability with former Secretaries of Homeland Security Governor Tom Ridge and Judge Michael Chertoff to discuss the need for Congress to pass a full-year appropriations bill for the Department of

Homeland Security. Location: US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Julie Myers Conference Room, 500 12th St. SW. Notes: Credentialed media planning to attend must RSVP to Amanda DeGross at amanda.degross@hq.dhs.gov by 12:00 p.m. on Feb. 25. Media must arrive by 1:15 p.m.

PENTAGON BRIEFING — 2:30 p.m. US European Commander Air Force Gen. Phillip Breedlove briefs the Pentagon Press Corps, Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973). Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

SECRETARY MONIZ – BLACK HISTORY MONTH — 2:30 p.m. In celebration of Black History Month, Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz will join Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Director, National Museum of African Art for a “fireside chat” on engaging African Americans in energy sector opportunities. Following their conversation, there will be a roundtable discussion on the Department’s Minorities in Energy Initiative and engaging African Americans through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Technology (STEAM) education and workforce development opportunities. Location: National Museum of African Art, 950 Independence Avenue, SW. Contacts: n/a, 202-586-4940. Notes: Media should email RSVP@hq.doe.gov to attend.

21ST CENTURY CONFLICT – NATIONAL SECURITY — 6 p.m. The Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law presents The Future of Interrogation: National Security in 21st Century Conflict. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Detention and Interrogation Program (SSCI Report) has reignited debate about the ethics and legality of Enhanced Interrogation Techniques. The Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law (CERL), of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Perry World House, will host a public panel discussing the Report’s findings. The panel will address the moral and legal status of harsh interrogation methods, the rights of detainees, as well as the role of international law in regulating interrogation practices. Panelists: John D. Altenburg, Jr. Major General (Ret), USA, Of Counsel Greenberg Traurig, LLP; Juan E. Mendez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Alberto J. Mora, Former General Counsel to the Department of the Navy and a Senior Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government; Stephen N. Xenakis, Brigadier General (Ret), USA, CERL Executive Board Member. Moderator: Claire Finkelstein, Algernon Biddle Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy, CERL Director. <http://www.press.org/events/future-interrogation-national-security-21st-century-conflict>. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor. Contacts: RSVP cerl@law.upenn.edu.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “This week, new Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said that he’s open to letting transgender people serve in the military. That’s right. He says there’s no reason to prevent people from being generals just because of their privates.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Well this is not good here – the White House just announced that many Obamacare members got the wrong tax information and may have to re-file their taxes this year. It’s pretty inconvenient. Mainly, just remembering what you lied about the first time you filed your taxes.”

Seth Meyers: “A new CBS News poll released last week shows Chris Christie is ranked ninth out of all Republican presidential candidates. Ninth out of all presidential candidates. He’s just behind Bobby Jindal and just ahead of a gun wearing a cowboy hat.”

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FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:03 PM

To: Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Just making sure everyone saw this. Thanks! jb

From: White House Press Office [mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:02 AM**To:** john_blair@ios.doi.gov**Subject:** FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National MonumentsTHE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2015

FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our Nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, today he will launch an "Every Kid in a Park" initiative that will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. He will also announce the creation of three new National Monuments across the country.

The President will make the announcements near the site of the historic Pullman town in Chicago, a location iconic for its history of labor unrest and civil rights advances, which will be the City's first National Park Service (NPS) unit. He also will announce that he will designate Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, the site of an internment camp where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II, and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, an historic site of extraordinary beauty with world-class recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the globe. Together, these monuments will help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Every Kid in a Park

In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President's [Every Kid in a Park](#) initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outside. A 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that young people now devote an average of more than seven hours a day to electronic media use, or about 53 hours a week – more than a full time job.

America's public lands and waters offer space to get outside and get active, and are living classrooms that

provide opportunities to build critical skills through hands-on activities. To inspire the next generation to discover all that America's public lands and waters have to offer, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. The initiative will also:

- **Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips:** The Administration will distribute information and resources to make it easy for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands and waters and to find programs that support youth outings.

- **Provide transportation support to schools with the most need:** As an integral part of this effort, the National Park Foundation (NPF) – the congressionally chartered foundation of the National Park Service – is expanding and re-launching its Ticket to Ride program as Every Kid in a Park, which will award transportation grants for kids to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools that have the most need.

- **Provide educational materials:** The initiative will build on a wide range of educational programs and tools that the federal land management agencies already use. For example, NPS has re-launched a website with over 1,000 materials developed for K-12 teachers, including science labs, lesson plans, and field trip guides. And a number of federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Education, and NPS participate in Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms and agency resources that connects students, teachers, families, and volunteers with public lands and waterways.

To further support this effort, the President's 2016 Budget includes a total increased investment of \$45 million for youth engagement programs throughout the Department of the Interior, with \$20 million specifically provided to the National Park Service for youth activities, including bringing 1 million fourth-grade children from low-income areas to national parks. This increase will also fund dedicated youth coordinators to help enrich children and family learning experiences at parks and online.

Pullman National Monument in Illinois:

This monument will preserve and highlight America's first planned industrial town, and a site that tells important stories about the social dynamics of the industrial revolution, of American opportunity and discrimination, and of the rise of labor unions and the struggle for civil rights and economic opportunity for African Americans and other minorities. The 203-acre site includes factories and buildings associated with the Pullman Palace Car Company, which was founded in 1867 and employed thousands of workers to construct and provide service on railroad cars. While the Pullman Company employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture railroad passenger cars, it also recruited the first porters, waiters and maids from the population of former slaves to serve on its luxury cars. Though lower-paying, these service jobs held prestige in the African-American community and played a major role in the rise of the African-American middle class and, through an historic labor agreement, the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th Century. The historic labor movement organized by A. Philip Randolph in the 1930s to win rights for these porters, waiters and maids ultimately created the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first labor union led by African Americans to receive a charter in the American Federation.

The National Park Foundation today announced that nearly \$8 million dollars has already been raised to support the monument, which will be Chicago's first National Park Service unit and will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado:

This monument will protect a stunning section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley. Located in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, the 21,586-acre monument features rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings, and mountain vistas that are home to a diversity of plants and wildlife, including bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Members of Congress, local elected officials, conservation advocates, and community members have worked for more than a decade to protect the area, which hosts world-class recreational opportunities that

attract visitors from around the globe for hiking, whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing. In addition to supporting this vibrant outdoor recreation economy, the designation will protect the critical watershed and honor existing water rights and uses, such as grazing and hunting. The monument will be cooperatively managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and USDA's National Forest Service.

Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii:

This monument permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Located on the island of Oahu, the monument will help tell the difficult story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the fragility of civil rights during times of conflict. Honouliuli Internment Camp, located in a steep canyon not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March, 1943 and was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. The camp was largely forgotten until uncovered in 2002, and the President's designation will ensure its stories are told for generations. The monument will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Background on Antiquities Act Designations

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

###

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 6, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL APPEARS BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. [The Hill](#) (3/6, Cama, 224K) reports that during hearing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Rep. Rob Bishop "on Thursday blasted the Interior Department's budget request, arguing it avoided confronting major problems while creating expensive, unnecessary programs." Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said "the plan was 'really underimpressive' and that he 'found no idea in there that I consider creative or different or unusual.'" Bishop "criticized what he saw as 'just the same old, same old, raise taxes, raise fees, write more regulations and then throw money at a problem' in the \$13.2 billion budget request, including money to acquire

new federal land while current property needs maintenance.” On the other hand, Rep. Raúl Grijalva “welcomed the budget, pointing out that Interior, which leases land to energy production, proposes to bring more money in than it will spend.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/6, Kamisar, 224K).

Secretary Jewell Questioned On Wolf Protection. The [Agri-Pulse](#) (3/6) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection.” The article notes that “legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing.” According to the article, “under questioning by one of the bill’s cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn’t endorse the measure (HR 884), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted.” Jewell said, “Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress. My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law.”

Rep. Young Criticizes Protection Of Wolves. In its “In The Loop Blog,” the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Itkowitz, 5.17M) reports that “Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young, famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they ‘wouldn’t have a homeless problem anymore.” The article notes that “the strange comment was made during a halting five-minute exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on her agency’s budget.” Young “accused her and her department of making decisions without consulting the states they’d affect.”

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/5, 2K) reports that “in a written statement afterward, Young said he was employing analogy and hyperbole to point out that wolves are a problem for communities that have them.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Kamen, Itkowitz, 5.17M), [CBS News](#) (3/6, 8.2M), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/6, Lavender, 281K), and the [Bayou Buzz \(LA\)](#) (3/6, 4K).

Secretary Jewell Questioned On Interior’s Priorities. [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (3/6, 171) reports that “as she did last week during the Interagency Group on Insular Areas Working Group, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo today during a House Committee on Natural Resources hearing questioned the Department of the Interior’s priorities.” Bordallo said, “Can you elaborate why the budget adds \$3 million for technical assistance grants and \$7 million for climate change funding yet decreases compact impact discretionary by nearly \$1.5 million over last years enacted level. Would you agree that we should perhaps all take a second look at this?” Jewell responded, “I agree that the relatively small amount in the discretionary part of the budget does not address the challenge but we have also heard from regions in the pacific that they are really struggling with a number of other issues, struggling with how to deal with climate change, coastal erosion, invasive species so our budget reflects tough choices. And we welcome working with this body and you certainly as the budget goes through the process to assess what other opportunities there might be to address this issue.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL APPEARS BEFORE INTERIOR AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE. The [Alaska Native News](#) (3/6, 245) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, “criticized the Interior Department’s \$12.1 billion budget proposal for programs within the subcommittee’s jurisdiction– including the over \$1 billion increase – for ignoring the statutory caps placed on Congress by the Budget Control Act.” Murkowski also “pressed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on a number of issues important to Alaska: Arctic infrastructure, offshore oil development, revenue sharing, tribal courts and the administration’s commitment to Alaska’s coastal communities.”

Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell: Decision Close On Shell Lease Suspension Request Additional coverage that the Obama Administration will “decide soon whether to grant Royal Dutch Shell’s request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters” was provided by [Seeking Alpha](#) (3/6, 573K) and the [Petro Global News](#) (3/6).

BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION COMMEMORATED. The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (3/6, 9K) reports that Friends of Browns Canyon met with White House officials in celebration last week to recognize the recent designation of Brown Canyon National Monument.

Meanwhile, the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (3/6, 9K) reports that “responses were quick following a statement Thursday from Rep. Doug Lamborn regarding Browns Canyon.” Lamborn said, “Contrary to Secretary (of the

Interior Sally Jewell's claims, there was not a sufficient amount of public input before the president unilaterally claimed it as a national monument." Friends of Browns Canyon Executive Director Keith Baker said he was "disappointed that Rep. Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument."

Also reporting on the story is the [Mountain Mail](#) (3/6, 17K).

Browns Canyon Designation Lauded. For the "Ballot Box" blog of [The Hill](#) (3/6, Miller, 224K), Steve Miller, the owner-operator of New Wave Rafting, lauds the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument. He says that "protecting Browns Canyon is also good for business, not only for Colorado, but for outdoor outfitters and guide companies throughout the West, including here in northern New Mexico."

Additional Coverage Of Honouliuli Designation. Additional coverage of the Honouliuli designation was provided by [Hawaii Magazine](#) (3/6, 152K).

SEN. WYDEN CONTINUES PUSH FOR KLAMATH WATER SETTLEMENT. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/6, 45K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden is "continuing to reinforce his commitment to the Klamath water settlements and has asked top resource managers to pledge theirs." During a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on February 25, Wyden "pointed out that resolution to Klamath Basin water conflicts is still a priority for Oregonians." Wyden asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "We'll have to figure out how to ensure fair treatment for the Tribes. The Tribes have really stepped up on this issue. Can we count on your support and continued interest in this?" Jewell responded: "You certainly can. I want to compliment you and members of the Oregon delegation, as well as the unprecedented cooperation between the Tribes and the ranchers and interests that had been on different sides of the table coming together on the Klamath agreements. It would be a real shame if this does not get approved through Congress and done."

SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON OPPORTUNITIES IN US ARCTIC. The "Post Politics" blog of the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Debonis, 5.17M) reports that on a snowy day in Washington, DC on Thursday, Sen. Lisa Murkowski held a hearing for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on "opportunities for the United States to build on its status as an Arctic nation." Much of the hearing focused "on 'resource development' in the Arctic – including the new opportunities for commerce created by historic low levels of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Sea." Murkowski said, "We can debate here in the Congress on the pro and cons of offshore development in the Arctic. ... But even if you suggest that we take that off the table, the reality is these activities in the Arctic will continue with or without the United States' involvement." Sen. Al Franken "questioned the wisdom of hailing new oil exploration opportunities while questioning the professor, Cecilia Bitz, a University of Washington atmospheric science researcher who testified about what she described as an alarming decline in the extent of Arctic sea ice."

INTERIOR HOSTING "HACKATHON" FOR DEVELOPMENT OF APPS FOR TRAVELERS. In its "Federal Eye" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Rein, 5.17M) reports that "with spring and summer vacation season around the corner, the Obama administration is announcing a digital initiative for tourists Friday: An app to guide them to parks, forests, campsites, rivers and other federal property they may not know about." The Interior Department, "working with the Department of Agriculture, will host a 'Hackathon' on April 11 and 12 for web developers and other entrepreneurs outside government to design user-friendly, mobile apps for travelers." The objective is "to improve access to the vast empire of federally-managed land that's open to the public, by using a trove of data the agencies has compiled and made public." Tim Fullerton, Interior's director of digital strategy, said, "Honestly, the sky is the limit. We could see a situation where someone develops an app that can help someone near Las Vegas, say, plan a trip to a public land near there."

RELM WIRELESS RECEIVES INTERIOR ORDERS. The [Orlando \(FL\) Business Journal](#) (3/6, Barth, Subscription Publication, 28K) reports that Relm Wireless Corp. has "received orders totaling \$1.5 million from the US Department of the Interior for its mobile and portable radios with accessories."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF KIVALINA. Additional coverage of Kivalina, which is threatened by climate change, was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Mooney, 5.17M).

RECENT DECISIONS AFFECTING ALASKA CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (3/6, 315K), Cathy Giessel, a Republican in the Alaska State Senate, writes that "on a Sunday morning last month, President Obama showed once again his determination to stunt our state's development when he designated as a wilderness area the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." She observes that "this comes after his executive actions to close energy leasing in Bristol Bay and the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas." Giessel notes

that “these decisions were all made without the support of Congress or Alaskan officials.” Giessel claims that “this is not just an overreach, it is a slap in the face.”

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TRUSTEE SAYS AGENCY PURSUES NATIVE HAWAIIAN SELF-DETERMINATION INITIATIVES. In a piece for the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (3/6, 41), Peter Apo, a sitting trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, provides a history of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and its role as a state agency, and its mission on behalf of Native Hawaiians. He notes that “one of OHA’s highest program priorities is to vigorously pursue Native Hawaiian self-determination initiatives by intensifying its political advocacy at the highest levels of the state and federal governments.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OFFICIALS COMING TO OAK RIDGE ON MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK MISSION. The [Oak Ridger \(TN\)](#) (3/5, 15K) reports that “the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is another step closer to reality, according to information from Oak Ridge Council member Chuck Hope.” During Tuesday night’s City Council work session, Hope, “who recently attended an Energy Communities Alliance meeting in Washington D.C., told fellow Council members that some of his time in D.C. was used to meet with National Park Service and Department of Interior representatives about the park.” Hope said “about 15 representatives from those agencies will be in Oak Ridge March 25 and 26.”

MAN FOUND DEAD IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WAS SHOT IN HEAD WITH ARROW. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that “a man found dead at a campground in Olympic National Park in Washington state was shot in the head with an arrow from a crossbow, and authorities are trying to determine how it happened.” According to Mark Nichols, the Clallam County prosecutor and coroner, “there’s no obvious evidence of a crime, but the death of Christopher E. Boysen remains under investigation.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (3/6, 3.41M), the [Denver Post](#) (3/6, 804K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, 2.28M), and the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M).

Also reporting on the story are the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M) and [KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (3/6, 217K).

WARM TEMPERATURES IMPACTING GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. [KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (3/6, 2K) reports that “rising temperatures could spell bad news for Glacier National Park.” Rangers and scientists at the park spoke about “how this warm weather is affecting the crown of the continent.” The article notes that “an increase in winter temperatures here at Glacier National Park could lead to an increase in winter tourism, but it also means in the long run the Crown of the Continent could be losing some of its jewels.”

The piece also appears at [KWYB-TV](#) Butte, MT (3/6).

NPS RELEASES SECOND REPORT ON DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (3/5, 43K) reports that the NPS has “released a second report focusing on a new, streamlined vision for maintaining and promoting the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.” According to the article, “Vision 2030 — completed last fall — and a ‘foundation document’ released last week both address how to move away from a park designed in 1965 around a dam and 37-mile-long reservoir that were never built.” The article notes that “both reports call for a long-term strategy to protect and promote the recreation area’s scenic, environmental and historic properties and sites, during an era of diminishing funding.”

NPS SURVEYS EDNA E. LOCKWOOD . The [Easton \(MD\) Star Democrat](#) (3/6, 49K) reports that “Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Boatshop Manager Michael Gorman, along with his apprentices and volunteers, have hauled out the 1889 nine-log bottom bug-eye Edna E. Lockwood this winter to make room for the National Park Service to laser scan and photograph the historic boat’s log hull.” The article notes that “the information is being put together by NPS’s Heritage Documentation Programs to document the different parts of the hull and how they come together as a greater whole.”

SEARCH FOR LONE WOLF IN VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK COMES UP EMPTY. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/6, 129K) reports that “a lone wolf seen following snowmobiles in Voyageurs National Park may have left the area, park officials said Thursday.” No visitors have reported seeing the wolf since Sunday. Voyageurs Superintendent Mike Ward said that “officials will continue to monitor the area for the wolf into this

weekend.”

PHOTOS PROVIDE CLOSE SHOTS OF SANTA MONICA MOUNTAIN LION AND HER TWO KITTENS.

[KDVR-TV](#) Denver (3/5, 180K) reports that “new photos released Wednesday show a mountain lion in the Santa Monica Mountains known as P-19 and her two nearly-grown kittens, P-32 and P-33.” The pictures were “posted on the Facebook page of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M).

GROUP SHOOTS STUNNING VIDEO OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. [KESQ-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (3/6, 2K) reports that More Than Just Parks has shot a “beautiful 5 minute video utilizing ultra HD 4k video” of the “stunning landscapes, unique rock formations, and beautiful desert vistas” at Joshua Tree National Park. The group says the purpose of the project is “to raise a greater awareness of America’s most treasured possessions – our national parks.”

RANGERS LOOKING FOR MAN REPORTED MISSING AT LAKE MOHAVE. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/6, 398K) reports that NPS said rangers are looking for a 31-year-old Las Vegas man who disappeared on Lake Mohave nearly a week ago.

HISTORY OF MEGA-CONCERTS ON NATIONAL MALL PROVIDED. In its “Style Blog,” the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Ramanathan, 5.17M) provides an overview of the “memorable, free performances” that have been held on the National Mall.

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS PROPOSALS TO KEEP WILD HORSES IN PASTURES. The [AP](#) (3/6, Gruver) reports that the BLM is “seeking additional homes for potentially thousands of wild horses rounded up from Western rangelands by asking landowners in a dozen states to submit proposals to rent out pastures for the animals.” The bureau “currently has contracts with landowners to keep 31,000 wild horses on about 20 off-range pastures in Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Dakota,” but “the problem with wild horses on the range is they keep proliferating. They can double their numbers every four years.” The BLM is “seeking additional off-range pastures in any of a dozen states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Fox News](#) (3/5, 8.25M), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, Gruver, 2.28M), the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/6, Gruver, 5.81M).

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER ANCIENT STONE TOOL. The [AP](#) (3/6, Bamard) reports that “archaeologists have uncovered a stone tool at an ancient rock shelter in the high desert of eastern Oregon that could turn out to be older than any known site of human occupation in western North America.” The discovery was announced Thursday by the BLM, “which controls the land on which the site was found.” According to University of Oregon archaeologist Patrick O’Grady, “the tool, a hand-held scraper chipped from a piece of orange agate not normally found in eastern Oregon, was found about 8 inches below a layer of volcanic ash from an eruption of Mount St. Helens that has been dated to 15,800 years ago.” BLM archaeologist Scott Thomas said that “if the age of the site holds up to scrutiny, it would be the oldest west of the Rockies, and another predating the so-called Clovis culture, once generally believed to be the first people to migrate from Asia into North America.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [U-T San Diego](#) (3/5, 580K), the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/5, 685K), [NBC News](#) (3/6, 2.71M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/6, Bamard, 5.81M),

Also reporting on the story are the [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/6, 3K) and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/6, 4K).

REP. HARDY SEEKS MORE TIME FOR COMMENT ON BLM’S NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/6, 398K) reports that Rep. Crescent Hardy on Thursday asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that Nevadans be given more time to comment on a new resource management plan for 3.1 million acres of federal land in Southern Nevada.

BLM Threatened By Bundy Family Member. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/5, 46K) reports that “after

being re-invited to give a presentation in Mesquite, Bureau of Land Management representatives received threats from Ryan Bundy, son of Cliven Bundy, who said the BLM needs to 'stay gone and the people won't allow them to come back.'" According to the article, "BLM representatives came to discuss how to give comments on the Resource Management Plan Draft but were instead drilled with public comments mostly about the Gold Butte area." Ryan said, "BLM does not have authority of these lands. The people will not allow roads to be closed. We've had a peaceful year without you running around out there, so stay gone."

VVWD Staff To Discuss Water Rights With BLM. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/5, 46K) reports that "the VVWD Board at its regular Tuesday meeting directed staff to provide comments to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the draft resource management plan." According to the article, the "Board questioned why VVWD is not considered a 'cooperating agency' with the BLM, while the Moapa Valley Water District is."

GOV. MEAD WELCOMES FEDERAL WILD HORSE RULING. The [County 10](#) (3/5) reports that Gov. Matt Mead was "pleased with US District Judge Nancy Freudenthal's decision to allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to remove more than 1200 wild horses from checkerboard lands in southwestern Wyoming." Mead said, "The decision is a victory for the State of Wyoming. The BLM used the appropriate tool to remove wild horses from private lands and this decision supports that. However, the BLM has demonstrated they don't have the resources necessary to effectively manage wild horses. We will continue to insist that they develop a strategy that works for Wyoming."

MINE COMPANY ADDRESSES DEER MIGRATION COMPLAINT. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/6, 22K) reports that "a mine representative expects to see an agreeable solution for a pit expansion proposal that drew concerns from outdoorsmen and conservationists due to its potential impact to deer herds." Barrick Gold Corp.'s Bald Mountain Mine is "in the permitting stages of an expansion at its site." According to according to Bill Upton, Barrick's permitting director, "in response to concerns that the expansion would interfere with deer migration, the mine and agencies are tinkering with the plans."

BLM TO OFFER TOUR OF OFF-RANGE HORSE CORRAL. The [Lahontan Valley \(NV\) News](#) (3/6, 11K) reports that the BLM has announced "it is offering a public tour of the Indian Lakes Off-Range Corral northeast of Fallon on Saturday."

BLM URGED TO USE "BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE" TO COMPLETE SAGE-GROUSE PLANS. In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/5, 168K), Terry Riley, PhD, a certified wildlife biologist, writes that the BLM "must use the best available science to complete its 14 remaining land use plans that aim to conserve sage-grouse habitat while balancing the need for multiple uses of our federal public lands." Riley argues that "delaying these actions will prolong the uncertainty over how to effectively manage this species and the ecologically-important sagebrush ecosystem in which it lives." Riley concludes that "the health of our interior West depends" on an effort to "balance conservation with responsible use of our public lands."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO ANNOUNCES NEW RESTRICTIONS ON SNAKES. The [Miami Herald](#) (3/6, 694K) reports that on Friday, FWS Director Dan Ashe is "expected to announce new restrictions on the popular boa constrictor and four other large exotic constrictor snakes, making it illegal to import or sell them across state lines." The article notes that "the move comes three years after federal officials enacted the same ban on the Burmese, the voracious, fast-growing snake that got loose in South Florida and quickly gobbled its way across the Everglades." FWS spokesman Ken Warren said, "The overall goal is to limit the spread of these nonnative invasive species. We've already seen with the Burmese how they can get established and almost single-handedly wreck an ecosystem."

The piece also appears at the [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/5, 136K).

RHODE ISLAND AWARDED \$459,000 WILDLIFE GRANT. The [Providence \(RI\) Business News](#) (3/6, 22K) reports that the FWS has "awarded Rhode Island a \$459,840 state wildlife grant to preserve the state's wildlife and their habitats." Sen. Jack F. Reed said, "From our coastlines to our forests, protecting and preserving our diverse natural landscape is a smart investment in the health of our environment and our economy."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS WANT MORE INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR BAT SPECIES. [The Hill](#) (3/6, Cama, 224K) reports that "the House Natural Resources Committee wants more information from the federal government before it decides whether to designate the northern long-eared bat as an

endangered species.” According to the article, “the panel’s Republicans, led by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), wrote in a letter that they are worried that an endangered listing or even a lesser ‘threatened’ designation, could ‘impose unnecessary regulatory burdens on economic development, forestry, wind power generation, energy development, agriculture, and conservation projects.’” The legislators “sent the letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which proposed in 2013 to list the bat either as endangered or threatened, which could come with new regulations designed to protect it or its habitat.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Newton County \(AR\) Times](#) (3/6, 7K).

COURT ORDERS FWS TO CREATE CONSERVATION PLANS FOR LOWER KLAMATH, TULE LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGES. [The Oregonian](#) (3/6, 950K) reports that “federal fish and wildlife managers must complete a plan to ensure commercial activities at two Northwest federal wildlife refuges do not harm wildlife, a US District Court judge has ruled.” According to the article, “Magistrate Judge Mark Clark’s preliminary ruling Thursday calls upon the US Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake refuges, both of which are near the Oregon-California border.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (3/5, 56K).

BEGINNING NEXT SEASON, LOUISIANA HUNTERS WILL KNOW DUCK DATES NEARLY YEAR IN ADVANCE. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/6, 621K) reports that “beginning next year, Louisiana’s duck hunters will know the coming season dates nearly a year in advance, according to a presentation state waterfowl study leader Larry Reynolds made to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting Thursday.” The FWS has “changed the entire framework for setting seasons because it has run into timing issues in recent years with getting the process completed before seasons open in more northern states, Reynolds explained.”

TRAIN WITH CRUDE OIL DERAILS IN ILLINOIS. The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that “a BNSF Railway freight train loaded with crude oil derailed Thursday near the northern Illinois city of Galena and erupted into flames, authorities said.”

[WRIC-TV](#) Richmond, VA (3/5, 13K) reports that the FWS said that “fire crews were pulled away from the fire because of the danger.”

FWS, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION PARTNERING ON MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (3/6, 181K), Dan Ashe, Director of the FWS, and Collin O’Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, write that the FWS and the National Wildlife Federation are “joining to take action” against the decline of monarch butterflies. The FWS will “make key investments in monarch conservation totaling more than \$3.2 million this year,” and “working with partners,” it will “restore and enhance more than 200,000 acres of habitat for monarchs on public lands, along highway rights-of-way and on other public and private lands this year, while supporting more than 750 schoolyard habitat projects and pollinator gardens nationwide.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS BEGINS STUDY IN HINKLEY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH CHROMIUM-6 WAS NATURAL. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/5, Steinberg, 101K) reports that the USGS has begun a “long-awaited study has begun to determine how much of the world’s largest chromium-6 plume is the result of a San Francisco-based utility’s operations and how much was put there by nature.” The article notes that “the findings of this pioneering scientific effort that will span five years could add or subtract multiple millions of dollars from the ultimate environmental cleanup cost in this High Desert community.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

EPA RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT DRAFT DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Barstow \(CA\) Desert Dispatch](#) (3/5, BRODEUR, 55) reports that the EPA has “filed 14 pages of comments on the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, raising questions about air and water quality.” The agency also “called on the Renewable Energy Action Team agencies — the Bureau of Land Management, US

Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and California Energy Commission — to rethink the amount of ‘renewable energy that may need to be produced in the plan area.’”

Onshore Energy Development:

STATOIL AGREES TO PAY \$2 MILLION FOR ILLEGAL WELL IN NORTH DAKOTA. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that “a Norwegian oil company that illegally operated a well on federal property in North Dakota has agreed to pay a nearly \$2 million settlement to avoid legal action, federal prosecutors announced Thursday.” According to authorities, “the well was drilled about two weeks after Statoil Oil & Gas Services Inc. acquired Brigham Oil & Gas L.P., which had originally planned the facility,” and “the company later discovered that the well drilled into unleased federally owned minerals.” Timothy Purdon, US Attorney for North Dakota, “credited Statoil for its willingness to settle the case without forcing the government to file a civil suit.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Long Beach \(CA\) Press-Telegram](#) (3/5, 163K), [ABC News](#) (3/6, 3.41M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/6, Kolpack, 5.81M).

Also reporting on the story is the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (3/6, 3K).

BLM TO AUCTION LAND NEAR PAYETTE FOR OIL, GAS LEASES. The [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (3/5, 103K) reports that “as controversy continues over oil and gas exploration in Payette County, the Bureau of Land Management is putting five parcels of land six miles east of the city of Payette up for auction.” The article notes that “the parcels, which range in size from 560 acres to more than 1,700 acres, carry two stipulations: no activity can take place either above or below the surface of the land,” until “the Four Rivers Resource Management Plan—which brings together three separate western Idaho land use plans—is completed.” According to Tate Fischer, field manager for the Four Rivers Field Office, the plan should be complete by 2016.

LINK BETWEEN SEISMIC ACTIVITY, FRACKING DISCUSSED. [USA Today](#) (3/5, Hughes, 10.32M) reports, “Oklahoma had at least 5,415 earthquakes, with 585 of them of magnitude-3 or greater. In comparison, the state had 109 magnitude-3 quakes in 2013, according to the Oklahoma Geologic Survey.” State geologists refuse to pin all seismic activity on water from fracking, but Federal scientist contend, “Large areas of the United States that used to experience few or no earthquakes have, in recent years, experienced a remarkable increase in earthquake activity.” They said, “This rise in seismic activity... is not the result of natural processes... Deep injection of wastewater is the primary cause of the dramatic rise in detected earthquakes.” USGS seismologist Bill Ellsworth says that while injection wells have been used for decades, what may have changed is the volume and pressure of the water being pumped into them, or perhaps they’re starting to have a cumulative effect. Current injection well regulations focus on protecting drinking-water aquifers rather than preventing quakes, he said.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ORDERED TO REVIEW APPROVAL OF NAVAJO MINE EXPANSION. Additional coverage that “a federal judge determined that regulators did not adequately assess the environmental impact from a proposed expansion of the Navajo Mine in New Mexico” was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/5, 28K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (3/5, 646), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (3/6, 212K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (3/6, 49K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/6, 81K), [KWES-TV](#) Odessa, TX (3/6, 5K), and [KOLD-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (3/6, 21K).

OBAMA SHOULD BAN FRACKING, BLOG SAYS. Lois Marie Gibbs, director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice in Falls Church, Virginia, writes for [The Hill](#) (3/5, Gibbs, 224K) in its “Congress Blog” praising New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s decision to ban fracking in his state and calling on President Obama to follow in his footsteps. She writes, “Obama and his Administration... have consistently failed the American people on this issue by ignoring and minimizing the science on fracking.” She continues, “Obama’s half-measure – a methane reduction plan for inherently dirty fuel, extracted through a destructive and dangerous process – is inadequate.” She calls for a halt in investments in fossil fuels and says, “Leadership on climate change requires departing from these energy sources, not minor fixes around the edges that maintain them.” Gibbs cites several statistics from a Physicians Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) analysis about the impact of fracking and shale gas development on health and the environment.

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/6, 69K) reports that Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker and Rep. Frank Pallone “oppose the drilling proposal

because they believe a major spill could be carried to the Jersey Shore." They are "urging state residents, business owners, fishermen and community leaders to make their views known."

Also reporting on the story are the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (3/5, 371K) and the [Sputnik News](#) (3/6).

Additional Coverage Of Opposition. The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (3/6) reports that "foes of oil and gas production off the coast of South Carolina are mobilizing to present their arguments against seismic testing and exploration to government officials this month." According to the article, "members of the Winyah Chapter of Sierra Club made plans to attend a meeting of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management next Wednesday in Mount Pleasant and to write the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to argue against approving seismic testing in the ocean." Also, "a second group organized by Goffinet McLaren and Terry Munson met at the Waccamaw Library to represent Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island in efforts to oppose oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic."

The [Maryland Coast Dispatch](#) (3/5, 52K) reports that "Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) announced last month its opposition to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) proposed offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling leases for the Mid-Atlantic coast." Kathy Phillips, ACT Executive Director and Assateague Coastkeeper, said, "ACT stands firm in its commitment to encourage solar and offshore wind energy development for our region, with less dependency on fossil fuel technologies. If these lease proposals are approved by BOEM, it would put the Delmarva coastline in the crosshairs of a future BP-style disaster, essentially destroying the Eastern Shore's nearly \$2 billion tourism economy, nearly \$1 billion commercial and recreational fishing industry, and our priceless coastal ecosystem. Even a small spill could have devastating effects on a region so reliant on clean water and beaches."

The [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (3/6, 6K) reports that at Middle Township Committee's March 2 meeting, "a resolution expressing opposition to the Department of the Interior's inclusion of the Atlantic Ocean in its five-year program for outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing was approved."

The [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (3/6, 6K) reports that "Stone Harbor joined other county municipalities in expressing opposition to the proposed inclusion of a portion of the southern Atlantic Ocean in the US Department of the Interior's program that would allow offshore drilling."

Marine Scientists Warn About Seismic Testing. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "marine scientists are raising concerns about the Obama administration's decision to move ahead on use of seismic air guns in the Atlantic Ocean for oil and gas exploration." According to the article, "seventy-five scientists from around the globe on Thursday sent a letter to President Barack Obama saying the use of the guns, which create canonlike air blasts underwater, represents a 'significant threat to marine life throughout the region.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M), [ABC News](#) (3/6, 3.41M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M), and [WITN-TV](#) Washington, NC (3/6, 102K).

Also reporting on the story are [NBC News](#) (3/6, 2.71M), the [Maritime Executive](#) (3/6, 21), and the [Science 2.0](#) (3/6, 2K).

Former Secretary Salazar Interviewed. Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar was interviewed on [E&E TV](#) (3/6), where he discussed oil and gas development. On the topic of the recently released offshore drilling plan, Salazar said: "Well, I think that if you watch what this administration has done from the beginning, the all-of-the-above energy strategy has included oil and gas, and so the critics of the administration that have said that it was not supporting oil and gas need to look at the reality of the facts in terms of the decisions that the administration has made, including opening up parts of the Arctic and in the more recent decisions that were announced by the administration, looking at the Atlantic in terms of finding out what is there. And so there is – oil and gas are a significant portion of the energy portfolio of the United States of America, and it is, indeed, a part of why we're having the economic resurgence, the best of times that we've had for a long time, and again addressing the fundamental issue of energy security has, I think, been one of the major achievements of the last six, seven years."

Commentary. For the "Ocean Views" blog of the [National Geographic](#) (3/5, 32.58M), Brett Garling asks if it is "really a smart idea to drill 50 miles from the coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia after what happened to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida" with the Deepwater Horizon blowout? He also adds that "even if the drilling is successful — that short-term success only contributes to our long-term problem."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ARCTIC DRILLING. Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by the [Pacific Standard](#) (3/6).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

NEW YAKIMA FIELD MANAGER NAMED. The [Ellensburg \(WA\) Daily Record](#) (3/6, 16K) reports that "Chad Stuart, formerly a manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers in California, has begun work as the new Yakima field manager for US Bureau of Reclamation operations in Kittitas, Yakima and Benton counties." Stuart also will "assist the bureau's Columbia-Cascades area manager in carrying out the overall responsibilities related to conservation of land, water and natural and energy resources within the three-county Yakima Project area."

THREE TRIBES BEGIN MEDIATION PROCESS ON KLAMATH BASIN RESTORATION AGREEMENT. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/6, 45K) reports that "three Basin tribes have begun a mediation process that could end in termination of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA)." The Klamath Tribes, the Karuk Tribe, and the Yurok Tribe have "each filed dispute initiation notices, which is the first step in the resolution process outlined in the KBRA."

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER TRANSFER DOCUMENTS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (3/5, 578) reports that the BOR and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority have "released for a 20-day public review an Environmental Assessment and Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration on the effects of proposed water transfers from willing sellers to buyers in the Sacramento Valley."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA, BIE REQUEST \$2.9 BILLION. [KBJR-TV](#) Duluth, MN (3/6, 2K) reports that the BIA and the BIE are "requesting \$2.9 billion from President Obama's budget proposal for 2016, which is a 12% increase compared to what was received for 2015." The article notes that "the tribal organizations are asking for \$323.5 million more for 2016 than they received in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget." BIA Director of Public Affairs, Nedra Darling, said, "We've asked for more this year for the first time in a long time." According to the article, "the BIA's budget has been cut down, so that is a major reason why they are requesting more money for tribal self-determination and to strengthen Native communities."

SLOW PROGRESS SEEN ON RETURN OF TRIBAL REMAINS, OBJECTS. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "for 25 years, federal agencies have sifted through dusty storage rooms to comply with a congressional mandate to return Native American remains and sacred objects – the spoils of massacres, wars and 20th-century development – to tribes," but "progress has been slow." According to the article, "stymied by poorly curated collections, long-lost records and limited operating budgets, agencies have taken mere baby steps toward meeting the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, according to many American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian groups." According to the National NAGPRA Program, "74 percent of federal collections ready for repatriation are now back with tribes," but that figure "represents less than 10 percent of all Native American remains in museum and federal collections, including potentially thousands left in limbo as federal officials and museums squabble over responsibility."

WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BITING BIA OFFICER ON ARM. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "a North Dakota woman has pleaded guilty in federal court to biting a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer on the arm." Jessie Grant is "charged with assaulting a federal officer" and "faces a maximum penalty of eight years in prison."

Top National News:

KERRY MEETS WITH GULF OFFICIALS AS SOME SAUDI MEDIA SHOWS SUPPORT FOR NETANYAHU. The ongoing debate over the Administration's nuclear talks with Iran was not mentioned on the network newscasts last night, but continued to generate print and online coverage, as well as cable stories. Some reports note this morning that as Secretary of State Kerry moves to ease concerns about the deal from key Persian Gulf allies, Wednesday's speech before Congress by Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu is receiving support – or "tacit support," as the [AP](#) (3/6, Batrawy) puts it – from Saudi Arabia. The Saudis, adds the AP, view Iran as "a regional rival that is perhaps even more menacing than Israel," and "that was clear in a string of columns this week published in Saudi state-linked media, which is widely seen as reflecting official views and

mainstream thought in the kingdom." In an example that illustrates the Saudis' "acute" concern, said [The Blaze](#) (3/6, Schwartz, 2.17M), the "pro-government" daily Al-Jazirah ran a piece by columnist Ahmad Al-Faraj Monday in which he said, "I believe that Netanyahu's conduct will serve our interests, the people of the Gulf, much more than the foolish behavior of one of the worst American presidents." [Reuters](#) (3/6, McDowall, Bakr), meanwhile, notes that Saudi King Salman, in recent meetings with leaders of Gulf nations as well as Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt, has called for a Sunni coalition to confront both Iran and ISIL, something Reuters sees as reflecting – in part – concerns about US policies. [Al Arabiya](#) (3/6, 22K), for example, reported that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, "in a strongly worded statement," expressed concerns yesterday "during a joint conference with Kerry in Riyadh that 'Iran is taking over Iraq.'"

Jennifer Griffin noted on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/5, 1.53M) that in Riyadh yesterday, Kerry "met the foreign ministers of UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia...all of them Sunni, all worried about Shiite Iran's real intent in Iraq and Syria." According to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Omran, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Kerry invited the group – who make up the Gulf Cooperation Council – to visit Washington in April for further discussions. The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the group's concern is that "lifting economic sanctions against Tehran – the quid pro quo for the nuclear limits Iran is being asked to accept – will not only help Iran's economy but also enhance its ability to send weapons and Quds paramilitary forces to support President Bashar al-Assad in Syria." The [Voice of America](#) (3/5, Dockins, 70K) casts the GCC as "unnerved by Shi'ite Iran's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons and its increasing assertiveness throughout the region," while the [Saudi Gazette](#) (3/5, 51K) similarly describes them as "perturbed" over Iran's actions.

In its story on the talks, the [Kuwait News Agency](#) (3/6) says both Faisal and Kerry "expressed mutual views on most of the region's issues, along with their keenness to resume talks on resolving them," and notes Faisal "described the meeting in Riyadh as 'constructive' and being 'characterized by depth and transparency.'" Faisal also said, "Iran is a neighbor towards whom nobody bares any animosity. But if it continues to intervene in internal affairs (of other nations) it will position itself against Arab interests and international principles."

Kerry, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Morello, 5.17M), "assured Arab allies" yesterday that the US "will work with them to counter Iranian influence in the region even if a deal is struck over Tehran's nuclear program." The Post adds that "the gulf states want a commitment from Washington that it will not soften its opposition to what they see as Iran's increasing aggressiveness in the region, including in Yemen, where rebels apparently backed by Tehran toppled the US-allied government in January." Kerry said yesterday, "The first step is to make sure they don't have nuclear weapons. ... Nothing else changes on the next day with respect to our joint commitment to stand up against any kind of interference or violation of international law or support for terrorism." The Post also reports that "senior State Department officials said Kerry sought to allay their concerns that Iran could build nuclear weapons at the end of a deal with a 10-year or longer time frame."

The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), meanwhile, quotes Kerry as saying, "We are not seeking a grand bargain. ... We will not take our eye off of Iran's other destabilizing actions." But "it was clear from" Faisal's remarks, adds the Times, "that Arab nations are acutely worried about Iran's effort to exercise influence in the region and the prospect that it could grow as economic sanctions are lifted as part of a nuclear deal." Later on Thursday, [AFP](#) (3/6, Biddle) reports State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf "insisted" that the nuclear talks "in no way represent 'a broader warming of ties, lessening of concerns on our part,'" adding, "This is not about a broader rapprochement in any way. This is about the nuclear issue and that's it."

Al-Hayat Newspaper: Kerry Offering GCC Nations US "Nuclear Umbrella" In Response To Iranian Threat. [Israel National News](#) (3/6, Eidelberg, 10K), meanwhile, reported that according to "the London-based Arabic language Al-Hayat" newspaper, "Western sources have reportedly revealed that...Kerry is offering Gulf States an American nuclear umbrella to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat."

As Controversy Over Nuclear Talks Continues, Iran Steps Up Role In Iraq. The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that with Obama "under political pressure from congressional Republicans over negotiations to rein in Tehran's nuclear ambitions," there is "a startling paradox" in the fact that the President "is becoming increasingly dependent on Iranian fighters as he tries to contain" ISIL "without committing American ground troops." While it may be "technically true" that the US "is not coordinating with Iran" in the fight for control of Tikrit, "American war planners have been closely monitoring Iran's parallel war against the Islamic State...through a range of channels, including conversations on radio frequencies that each side knows the other is monitoring."

The AP (3/6, Burns) says "Iran's growing influence in Iraq is setting off alarm bells," and presenting "both a political and military dilemma for the Obama administration." Adds the AP, "The battle for Tikrit raises the question: Who is really running this war? Iraq? The US? Iran?" [Politico](#) (3/6, Brietman, 669K) similarly reported that the battle for Tikrit "appears to represent a new level of Iranian engagement," and added that "top Pentagon officials have decided not to provide air support to the attack on Tikrit because Iran is backing the operation with special operations assistance, artillery support and other military help." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/6, Mulrine, 380K), however, headlines its story "Why Iran's Latest Foray Into Iraq Doesn't Worry Pentagon," reporting that "top US military officials are actually sanguine, in many respects, about the presence of Iranian advisers. They know that they're there – and what's more, they add, these Iranian-backed forces might actually be able to help."

"Iran's powerful influence in Iraq has been on display" in the push for Tikrit, says the [New York Times](#) (3/6, Bamard, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) in a similar report, while in an editorial titled "A Naive US Welcome For Iran In Iraq," the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M) argues that the Administration is "risking the undoing of all the work that has been done since last summer to prevent Iraq from fragmenting along sectarian lines – and it is allowing Iran to take another step toward replacing the terrorist regime with its own malevolent hegemony."

Davutoğlu: Iraq Risks Sectarian War By Allowing Shiites To Rescue Sunni Cities. [USA Today](#) (3/6, Michaels, 10.32M) reports Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu "warned that sectarian war may ignite in Iraq because" Shiite militias "are helping to liberate Sunni areas" controlled by ISIL. Davutoğlu said the Sunni cities "should be liberated by the inhabitants of those cities. If Shiite militias come in, then there will be sectarian war."

Zarif: 10-Year Moratorium May Be Acceptable. [Reuters](#) (3/6, Charbonneau) reports that in an interview with CNN, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif did not rule out accepting a 10-year moratorium on some parts of his country's nuclear program, "It depends on how you define it," he said, adding, "If we have an agreement, we are prepared to accept certain limitations for a certain period of time but I'm not prepared to negotiate on the air." Reuters notes that Zarif was quoted earlier this week as calling such a moratorium unacceptable.

McConnell Relents, Postpones Vote On Corker-Menendez Bill. [McClatchy](#) (3/6, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that "faced with a likely Democratic filibuster," Senate Majority Leader McConnell yesterday "postponed a vote on a bill," sponsored by Sens. Bob Corker and Bob Menendez, "that would allow Congress to reject or approve any deal to curb Iran's nuclear program." The AP (3/6) notes that vote "had been scheduled for Tuesday."

[Politico](#) (3/6, Everett, Raju, 669K) noted that McConnell spokesman Don Stewart said, "It is clear that Senate Democrats will filibuster their own bill – a bill they rushed to introduce before the White House cut a deal with Iran. So, instead, the Senate will turn next to the anti-human-trafficking legislation while Democrats decide whether or not they believe they and Congress as a whole should be able to review and vote on any deal the President cuts with the leaders of Iran." [Reuters](#) (3/6, Zengerle) reports that Corker said in a statement, "I greatly appreciate the Majority Leader's commitment to getting the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act across the finish line by allowing the vote to occur at a time when we will more likely generate a veto-proof majority." [Defense News](#) (3/6, Bennett, 9K), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/6, Bendery, 281K), [The Blaze](#) (3/6, Kasperowicz, 2.17M), and [The Hill](#) (3/5, Camey, 224K), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

In an editorial, [Bloomberg View](#) (3/6, 99K) criticizes the bill, arguing that while "of course Congress has the right (backed by ample historical precedents) to weigh in on the Iran negotiations," the President "doesn't need Congress's approval to conclude this deal, which is why the White House has rightly promised a veto." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), also in an editorial, criticizes Democrats for blocking the bill, and accuses the President of showing disdain for congressional oversight.

Michael Gerson, in the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M), says "a sort of offer to Iran was always on the table, at least during the George W. Bush years, if the regime would: (1) abandon its nuclear ambitions, (2) respect human rights and (3) end support for terrorism. Iran, in essence, could be treated as a normal nation if it actually became a normal nation." But "Obama has now narrowed US demands entirely to the first category, the nuclear file," and under this approach he would "allow Iran to escape sanctions, rejoin the global community and even become a partner in defeating Sunni extremism. It is, presumably, an offer the Iranians can't refuse."

Obama Reportedly "Furious" Over Netanyahu's Speech. Ed Henry was asked on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (3/5, 767K) about reports that the President personally dislikes Netanyahu. Henry said, "They don't hate each other. I think it's exaggerated. There is absolutely no love lost between them. ... I think my read from

people behind the scenes is they get a lot more business done in phone calls than you ever hear about publicly." But in "this recent situation with Netanyahu speaking before the US Congress," the President "was furious" and "his top aides were furious," which is "why you heard the President lash back at him. He felt like he was being disrespected."

Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/5, 554K) that Netanyahu's words "speak for themselves," adding that he said something he has "never said before. He said you should link removing the restrictions that are being placed on Iran's nuclear program as part of this deal, you should link the removal of those restrictions to a change in Iran's behavior." Asked if he has spoken to the White House since Netanyahu returned to Israel, Dermer said, "We have had a dialogue with the administration for well over a year. So they have heard a lot of our views," adding that "the problem is not that there is a breakdown in communication. The problem is we have a difference of policy. We want to prevent Iran not only from having a nuclear weapon today, we want to prevent it from having a nuclear weapon tomorrow."

Later in the interview, Dermer was asked to respond to a report in Haaretz, which quoted an Administration official as saying that the White House considered him persona non grata. Dermer said, "I serve at the pleasure of the Israeli government and I will continue to serve every day in order to advance Israel's interests and strengthen the relationship between the US and Israel. I believe that relationship is going to grow even stronger in the years ahead." Wolf Blitzer, meanwhile, reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/5, 554K) that in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress, Iran's Foreign Minister "is speaking out to CNN," accusing Netanyahu of "fearmongering."

Charles Krauthammer praises the speech in the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M), calling it "Churchillian in its appeal to resist appeasement." Fareed Zakaria, also in the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M), terms it "utterly divorced from reality," and says "Congress joined" Netanyahu "in his fantasy ride."

Eugene Robinson, in his [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Robinson, 5.17M) column, saw moments in which the Prime Minister "showed a more nuanced and realistic view of the Iran nuclear negotiations than his generally bombastic tone would suggest. But you had to listen carefully." For example, he "allowed that there is a potential agreement his nation 'could live' with. Among other things, he said, Iran should not have 'such a short breakout time.'"

Rezaian's Friends And Family To Appear At National Press Club Next Thursday. [USA Today](#) (3/6, Hinchliffe, 10.32M) reports that "next Thursday, friends and family of Jason Rezaian, the Washington Post reporter who has been jailed in Iran since July, will gather at the National Press Club in Washington to draw wider attention to Rezaian's plight." The family is particularly concerned about Iran's decision to give Rezaian the right to an attorney, "only it wasn't the one his family has been working with for months" but instead one picked by the case's "hard-line judge," a step "illegal under Iranian law."

AMID CONTINUING CONTROVERSY, CLINTON ASKS STATE DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE HER EMAILS. For the third consecutive day, the controversy surrounding Hillary Clinton's use of personal email while serving as secretary of state drew heavy media coverage, including Thursday evening reports on all three network newscasts. While some stories note that several leading Democrats on Thursday rallied to Clinton's defense, other analyses indicate that the controversy has some in the party worried about the impact the flap will have on her expected 2016 run for president. In addition, some reports indicate Clinton may have "violated" State Department policy on private email and security.

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/5, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that Clinton "has responded to the controversy" and is "now asking the State Department to release those emails, but that doesn't mean the public will see them anytime soon." Andrea Mitchell added that the State Department "said they will review them for release as soon as possible," but "officials say it could take months to decide what involves national security and what can be made public."

[Politico](#) (3/5, Debenedetti, 669K) reported that on Wednesday night, via Twitter, Clinton said, "I want the public to see my email. I asked State to release them. They said they will review them for release as soon as possible." In brief reports, [USA Today](#) (3/5, Korte, Jackson, 10.32M) and the [Huffington Post](#) (3/5, Bobic, 281K) also reported on Clinton's Wednesday night tweet. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/6, Drajem, Lakshmanan, 2.94M), however, says that while Clinton "says she wants the public to see her e-mails...there are some that voters may never see: the ones she didn't give to the government. Clinton used a private server and e-mail address while" at the State Department, "and the law doesn't force her to release any of the e-mails that she hasn't turned over to the" agency.

Doug McKelway reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/5, 1.53M) that Clinton's tweet was her "first foray into damage control," adding that the House Select Committee on Benghazi was "unsatisfied by the tweet," responding, "The former Secretary is welcome to and should release all of her e-mails, but legitimate investigations do not consider partial records."

Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/5, story 6, 1:50, Rose, 5.08M) that Clinton's tweet "prompted a scathing response" from Select Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy, who said in a statement, "The former Secretary's tweet does not answer questions about why this was not done when she left office." Gowdy's statement accused Clinton "of a 'scheme to conceal them.'" Cordes added that "the campaign arm of the Republican Party sent a letter to the State Department urging them to open an internal investigation into whether Clinton violated any policies there." [Politico](#) (3/5, French, 669K) reported that a spokesperson for Gowdy said in a statement, "The chairman has said the former secretary is welcome to and should release all of her emails, but legitimate investigations do not consider partial records. And that is the point of the subpoena issued yesterday by the Benghazi Committee."

[The Hill](#) (3/5, Wong, 224K) reported that Rep. Peter Roskam, who serves on the Benghazi panel, compared "Clinton to President Nixon for her use of private email accounts in office," saying in a statement, "The last time we saw a high government official seeking to edit their own responses was President Nixon, and at least then he enjoyed the benefit of executive privilege."

In his opening monologue on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (3/5, 767K), Bill O'Reilly said that if Clinton "did, indeed, hold back emails and investigators find them that will absolutely hurt her presidential run. If she held emails back on Benghazi, she might even be prosecuted." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the House Oversight panel and the Benghazi panel are preparing for what's expected to be lengthy probes of Clinton's use of private email while serving as secretary of state.

Brianna Keilar reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/5, 554K) that the emails Clinton asked the State Department to release are emails that she and her team "had already turned over at their discretion from her server, from her private email account to the State Department when they were requested to do so in 2014." Keilar noted that the White House and State Department have been "peppered" with questions, adding that Secretary of State Kerry "brushed them off." Kerry: "I think we have all the ones that are [state.gov](#), which are appropriate. Let me check on that when I have time to pay attention to such an important issue when I get home." Mitchell noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/5, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that Kerry "sounded impatient about the fuss."

The [AP](#) (3/6, Braun) reports that the State Department's review of the emails "could take months, potentially a drawn-out distraction for Clinton and an unnerving development for the many Democrats who see her as the party's presidential nominee-in-waiting for 2016." Under the headline "Review Of Hillary Clinton Emails To Take Months: US Official," [Reuters](#) (3/6, Holland, Wroughton) offers a similar report.

The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that as attorneys at the State Department last summer worked their way "through a new batch of documents related to the Benghazi attacks, they repeatedly" noticed "emails sent to and from a personal account for...Clinton." The attorneys, who "were working to respond to a request from" the House panel probing the 2012 Benghazi attacks, "noticed that among the 15,000 documents they examined, there were no emails to or from an official departmental account for Mrs. Clinton. 'This all raised the question to us: What else are we missing, and what do we need to comply' with the request, said one official briefed on the matter."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (3/6, Board, 10.32M) says that in using "a private e-mail account, complete with her own server at her New York home, to communicate" during her time at the State Department, Clinton's "actions violated regulations, and policies of the Obama administration, directing public officials to use government e-mail systems." USA Today adds that Clinton's "behavior amounts to ignoring rules that others have little problem obeying" and "indicates a distinct disdain for openness in government."

In her [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) column, Peggy Noonan says that the email controversy is just the latest example of how Clinton has not played by the rules. Noonan adds that the current flap recalls previous controversies from the 1990s involving Clinton, such as the so-called Travelgate imbroglio.

Clinton Said To Have "Violated" State Department's Policy On Private Email. Jonathan Karl reported on [ABC World News](#) (3/5, story 9, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M) that Clinton "violated State Department email policy for all

four years she served as Secretary of State. A senior State Department official tells us, while Mrs. Clinton was Secretary, State Department employees were only allowed to use private email if they turned them over to be entered into government computers, and until they did that, they were in violation of the rules. Mrs. Clinton did not turn over emails until late last year, nearly two years after she stepped down as Secretary."

On its front page, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, A1, Leonnig, Helderman, 5.17M) reports, "A State Department review of...Clinton's e-mails from her time leading the agency could reveal whether she violated security policies with her use of a private e-mail server, a senior department official said Thursday night." According to that "official," Clinton's "use of personal e-mail did not automatically break the rules, but the analysis could show whether work e-mails sent from her personal account included sensitive information that is typically required to be handled on a system that meets security protocols." The Post adds, "The official's comments are the first time the agency has indicated any uncertainty about whether Clinton complied with its e-mail policies."

RNC Calls On State Department IG To Investigate. [McClatchy](#) (3/6, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that RNC Chief Counsel John Phillippe on Thursday called on the State Department's IG to probe Clinton's "use of personal email to conduct government business," writing "in a letter that the investigation should focus on whether" the former secretary of state "violated department policies or caused the department to violate the requirement to archive emails."

Clinton-Helmed State Department Blasted US Ambassador Over Use Of Private Email. [Politico](#) (3/5, Gerstein, 669K) reported that the State Department "has had a policy in place since 2005 to warn officials against routine use of personal e-mail accounts for government work," a rule "that appears to be at odds with" Clinton's "reliance on a private email for agency business." Politico added that "the 2005 policy was described as one of several 'clear cut' directives the agency's own inspector general relied on to criticize the conduct of a US ambassador who in 2012 was faulted for using email outside of the department's official system."

On its website, [The Hill](#) (3/5, Bymes, 224K) said that in that 2012 report, the office of the State Department's Inspector General "said Ambassador to Kenya Scott Gration 'willfully disregarded Department regulations on the use of commercial email for official government business,' saying that his 'greatest weakness is his reluctance to accept clear-cut US Government decisions.'" Among other things, the report "highlighted how shortly after arriving to the Nairobi embassy in May 2011, Gration had a commercial Internet connection installed so he could send private emails."

The [Daily Caller](#) (3/6, Munro, 318K) reported that Gration's "boss" at the time, "Clinton, also used her own private email system." The Caller added that much "of the report's criticism of the ambassador also" applies "to Clinton's use of her own-mail system, which was installed in her home without the usual anti-hacker and record-keeping capabilities required by agency rules."

Wisconsin's Walker Similarly Used Private Email As County Executive. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/6, Marley, 699K) reports that while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's political team is attacking Clinton over her use of a private email account during her tenure at the state department, the likely 2016 GOP presidential candidate "had a similar setup in his office when he was Milwaukee County executive." According to the Journal Sentinel, "A top aide to Walker set up a private router in the county executive's office that was used to trade emails that mixed government and campaign business," and records "show Walker routinely used his campaign account — skw@scottwalker.org — to discuss county business."

Analyses: Clinton Controversy Worries Some Democrats. The AP (3/6, Pace, Thomas) reports that to some in the Democratic Party, the email "controversy has raised concerns that Clinton's" expected 2016 bid "will be hampered by the same questions about openness and ethics that have long followed her and...President Bill Clinton." In addition, says the AP, Team Clinton's "sluggish response to the" controversy "suggests they may not have fully learned from missteps in the 2008 campaign."

[Politico](#) (3/5, Debenedetti, 669K) reported that amid the ongoing Clinton email controversy, "Democrats are showing signs of stress." Politico added that in interviews it conducted with over "three dozen Democratic activists, donors, and officials from across the country — including many in the influential presidential nominating states of Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina — some were scathing in their criticism over the revelations, while others admitted to being unnerved."

In a report that appeared online Wednesday morning and runs in today's edition, the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Wagner, 5.17M) reported that "Democratic activists in early presidential nominating states say that new

controversies" buffeting Clinton "have made them more eager than ever for alternatives in 2016." However, "few Democrats see other credible contenders. 'The problem is, there's nobody out there who's not Clinton who's the equivalent of Barack Obama,' said Larry Drake, chairman of the Portsmouth Democrats in New Hampshire."

Writing for [McClatchy](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 17K), David Lightman said that with the ongoing email controversy, Clinton "is suddenly a weaker presidential candidate." Lightman added that although Clinton is still the "strong favorite" in the race for the 2016 Democratic nomination, "she's now more vulnerable to a party challenger – and, perhaps more ominously, more likely to give an already-alienated electorate new reasons to drop out of the political process."

Some Democrats Rally To Clinton's Defense. [USA Today](#) (3/6, Schouten, 10.32M) reports, "The Democratic Party's establishment" came to the defense of Clinton on Thursday, saying that the email controversy "would not resonate with the American public nor change perceptions of one of the nation's best-known political figures." For example, ex-Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, described as "a longtime Clinton ally," is quoted as saying, "I don't think this has any legs. When voters go to the polls in November 2016, they won't be talking about e-mails."

Similarly, [The Hill](#) (3/5, Matishak, 224K) reported that with Clinton "now facing congressional subpoenas, Democrats began to circle the wagons Thursday," pointing to her "statement late Wednesday that she wants her emails released to the public as soon as possible." For example, Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House Benghazi panel, "suggested Clinton is going to above and beyond the call of duty with her pledge," saying in a statement, "As far as I am aware, no other Cabinet secretary in history has ever called for the release of his or her emails — in their entirety and throughout his or her tenure. I commend Secretary Clinton's decision."

In a [USA Today](#) (3/6, 10.32M) op-ed, attorney Lanny J. Davis, who served as special counsel to President Bill Clinton from 1996-1998, defends Hillary Clinton's use of private email while at the State Department, saying that the former secretary of state's actions violated no laws. Among other things, Davis notes that former secretary of State Colin Powell has acknowledged using private email while serving at the State Department, and that during his tenure as governor of Florida, Jeb Bush "also used private e-mail for personal and official business." Davis adds, "Is there a double standard applied to the Clintons but not to Gov. Bush or Secretary Powell? What else is new?"

NYTimes Analysis: Administration, Clinton Occasionally Butted Heads Over Her Staff. Under the headline "When Clinton Joined Obama Administration, Friction Was Over Staff, Not Email," the [New York Times](#) (3/6, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the controversy over Clinton's "use of only a private email account to conduct government business — and her aides' control over what emails to release and when — threaten to give" her critics "a means to cast her tenure as secretary of state in a new and unflattering light." Said former senior Obama adviser David Axelrod, "It's a ball of wool that won't go away until the questions are answered." The Times adds that "Axelrod was present for some of the bumps involved in incorporating Mrs. Clinton and her team into the State Department after the brutal 2008 primary fight."

FOR FIRST TIME, ALL MAJOR BANKS PASS FED STRESS TESTS. The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Eavis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the Federal Reserve announced on Thursday that the nation's largest banks "appear to have the financial strength to survive a nightmarish world where unemployment soars." The results of the Fed's annual "stress tests" look to "assess whether the institutions would be able to withstand the sort of economic and financial storm" that occurred during the financial crisis.

The AP (3/5, Crutsinger, Sweet) reports that the Fed tested the nation's 31 largest banks, and that as a group, found that they are "stronger than they have been at any time since the 2008 financial crisis struck, thanks to a steadily recovering economy." [Bloomberg News](#) (3/6, Katz, 2.94M) reports that the Fed said in a statement that the 31 big banks "continue to build their capital levels and to strengthen their ability to lend to households and businesses during a period marked by severe recession and financial market volatility."

[McClatchy](#) (3/6, Hall, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that the Fed's stress test are based on the "severe scenario" that assumed "27 months of protracted economic decline, 10 percent unemployment, a 60 percent drop in the stock market and a 25 percent decline in home prices," along with "higher defaults of corporate bonds, something possible for large energy firms if oil prices remain unusually low."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Tracy, Mcgrane, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that the bank's strong performance on the stress tests could bolster the banks' effort to be allowed to return more of their profits to

their shareholders after many years of modest payouts.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"The President's Weak Privacy Proposal."* The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, says that while the President argues that the country "needs a strong privacy law so consumers can protect personal information from advertisers, Internet firms, employers and other businesses," it's "not going to get it from Mr. Obama." The Administration's bill, says the Times, "will do little to help individuals while giving companies great leeway in determining how they collect, use and share personal data. ... No bill at all would have been better than this one, which would effectively codify bad behavior."

"Gov. Christie Goes Easy On A Big Polluter." An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (3/6, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) blasts the amount of the New Jersey's legal settlement with Exxon Mobil Corporation as "stunningly low," calling it "a pittance compared to what [Gov. Chris] Christie could and should obtain." The settlement, the Times argues "shortchanges the people of New Jersey, challenges his environmental credentials and casts doubt on his reputation as he looks to the national arena in 2016."

"India's Careful Plan For Growth." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) welcomes Indian Prime Narendra Modi's "incremental pragmatism in proposing his first full budget." The Times says that while the "\$288 billion budget did not fulfill the expectations for economic reform that he has fostered...he offered enough initiatives on spending, taxes and other areas of economic policy to satisfy many investors for now, and to keep alive hopes that he can guide India to greater growth and development."

WASHINGTON POST. *"Rahm Emanuel Pays The Price For Not Pandering."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) says that next month's Chicago mayoral runoff "appears to be close." The Post says that Democratic Party "purists and special interest groups" have come to the "startling conclusion" that the "able and decidedly liberal incumbent is not liberal enough, and they are intent on punishing him for not toeing their line." The Post says that if there is no room in the party for "pragmatic progressives" like Mayor Rahm Emanuel, then "the party, and by extension the country, are in trouble."

"A Naive US Welcome For Iran In Iraq." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M) argues that the Administration is "risking the undoing of all the work that has been done since last summer to prevent Iraq from fragmenting along sectarian lines – and it is allowing Iran to take another step toward replacing the terrorist regime with its own malevolent hegemony."

"Virginia's GOP Moves Further Away From Democracy." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M) says that the Virginia's conservatives are "pressing for the GOP to hold a convention rather than a state-run primary to choose a presidential nominee in 2016," which "would be undemocratic."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"The Senate's Iran Test."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes Democrats for blocking a bill to allow Congress to approve or reject any deal on Iran's nuclear program, and accuses the President of showing disdain for congressional oversight.

"Closure In Ferguson." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that despite the rioting and unrest that came in the wake of Michael Brown's shooting, DOJ's finding exonerated former officer Darren Wilson, and adds that liberals would be better served by addressing the harassment of minority residents and other abuses of power cited by DOJ than using the shooting as a national symbol for racism.

"Mario Draghi's Yield Of Dreams." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says if the new ECB stimulus program fails, then Europe will have to turn to reform that encourages growth.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Apple Pay Stung By Low-Tech Fraudsters](#)

America's Terror Recruits
 US Furniture Survivor Tries To Go Global
 Latest Oil Dilemma: Where To Put It

New York Times:

Ferguson Report Puts 'Hands Up' To Reality Test
 Venture Capitalists Under Spotlight In Bias Suit
 Iran As Unlikely Ally
 Tehran's Clout On Full Display
 Shepherd Through Era Of Debt, Scandal And 9/11
 De Blasio And Builder Are Close, But Not On Affordable Housing

Washington Post:

State Dept. Reviewing Clinton Use Of Email
 Four-Letter Word Again Blankets The Region
 Crime Lab's DNA Work Questioned
 Struggles Endure In Selma, 50 Years After Historic March
 A Healing Implement That Can Spread Infection

Financial Times:

Knife-Edge Bidding War For \$21Bn Biotech Group Fuels Pharma Frenzy
 Upbeat Draghi Says Landmark €1.1Tn ECB Bond-Buying Starts On Monday

Washington Times:

House Republicans Weigh Coup Against Boehner After Series Of Political Defeats
 State Department To Review Thousands Of Private Hillary Clinton Emails
 Democrats On 'Witch Hunt' For Doomsday-Denying Climate Scientists
 Democrats Recruit Big Names In Bid To Unseat Freshman Republican Senators
 Iowa Gov Terry Branstad Warns 2016 GOP Hopefuls Against Fuel Standard Opposition

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Severe Winter Weather-Travel; Severe Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Washington-School Bus Crash; Boston-Tsamaev Trial; Ferguson-Civil Suit Filed; Seoul-US Ambassador Attacked; Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account; Ringling Brothers-Elephant Acts Announcement; California-Plane Crash; NASCAR Driver-Domestic Assault Case; Superbug Outbreaks.
 CBS: New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Severe Winter Weather-Travel; Boston-Tsamaev Trial; Ferguson-Civil Suit Filed; Seoul-US Ambassador Attacked; Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account; ISIL Recruit Warning; Iraq-Battle For Tikrit; Ringling Brothers-Elephant Acts Announcement; Canada-Spoeking Five Dollar Bills.
 NBC: New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Severe Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Seoul-US Ambassador Attacked; Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account; Boston-Tsamaev Trial; ISIL-Virginia High School Student Arrested; California-Plane Crash; Ringling Brothers-Elephant Acts Announcement; Former New York Archbishop Dies.

Network TV At A Glance:

New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident – 9 minutes, 25 seconds
 Severe Winter Weather – 9 minutes, 20 seconds
 Boston-Tsamaev Trial – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
 Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account – 6 minutes
 Seoul-US Ambassador Attacked – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
 Ringling Brothers-Elephant Acts Announcement – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
 California-Plane Crash – 50 seconds
 Ferguson-Civil Suit Filed – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Harrison Ford Hospitalized; Severe Winter Weather-Travel; New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Severe Winter Weather; Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account.
 CBS: Harrison Ford Hospitalized; New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Severe Winter Weather; Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account; Boston-Tsamaev Trial; Alaska Congressman-Grey Wolves Comments; Wall Street.
 FOX: Hillary Clinton-Private Email Account; New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Detroit-Federal Judge Shot; Philadelphia-Police Officer Killed; Ebola Outbreak; Illinois-Train Derailment; FDA-Milk Study; Severe Winter Weather.

NPR: Boston-Tsamaev Trial; Illinois-Train Derailment; Harrison Ford Hospitalized; New York-LaGuardia Airport Incident; Palestine Suspends Security Cooperation With Israel; ISIL Destroys Iraqi Artifacts; Seoul-US Ambassador Attacked.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President departs the White House, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives Columbia, South Carolina, Columbia Metropolitan Airport, open to pre-credentialed media; participates in a town hall event, Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Columbia, South Carolina, Columbia Metropolitan Airport, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives the White House, South Lawn, open press. Notes: Press Secretary Josh Earnest will gaggle aboard Air Force One.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

US House: 2 p.m. — The House will meet in a pro forma session.

Other: HRC SPRING EQUALITY CONVENTION — The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization host Vice President Joe Biden will deliver remarks during their Spring Equality Convention. Location: Renaissance Washington DC.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY FORUM — 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. "Cyber Landscape — Gaining Traction or Falling Behind?" US Telecom kicks off its fifth National Cybersecurity Policy Forum with a keynote address by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), the new chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Mary Schultz, mschultz@ustelecom.org, 202-326-7345. Notes: <http://www.ustelecom.org/events-education/executive-education/national-cybersecurity-policy-forum-0>

SECRETARY VILSACK – SCHOOL MEALS — 11:30 a.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a media call to announce tens of millions of dollars in grants to fund new school kitchen equipment and provide training to school nutrition professionals. The resources being announced are part of USDA's ongoing efforts to help schools serve healthier meals by providing additional funding, training, technical support, and other assistance. Contacts: USDA Communications, 202-720-4623. Notes: DIAL: 888-790-3533. PASSCODE: Nutrition (Given Verbally). TROUBLE NUMBER: 202-720-8560.

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM – ACA — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Congressional briefing, "ACA 101: What You Need to Know." With Jennifer Tolbert, director of state health reform, Kaiser Family Foundation; Sabrina Corlette, research professor and project director at the Center on Health Insurance Reforms, Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute; Paul Fronstin, director of the Health Research and Education Program, Employee Benefit Research Institute; Charlene Frizzera, senior advisor, Leavitt Partners, and former CMS acting administrator. Location: G-50 Dirksen. Contacts: Marilyn Serafini, mserafini@allhealth.org, 202-789-2300.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday the Supreme Court spent over an hour listening to arguments on whether Obamacare is unconstitutional. Yep. Listening to arguments about Obamacare for an hour, or as most people call that, 'Thanksgiving dinner.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The Supreme Court spent over an hour listening to arguments on whether Obamacare is unconstitutional. It's pretty close right now. Looks like four opposed, four in favor, and one asleep."

Jimmy Fallon: "There's rumors former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley may enter the race and challenge Hillary [Clinton] for the Democratic nomination. Yeah, Hillary's not worried. I mean, who's going to go from being totally unknown to beating her for the presidency?"

Jimmy Fallon: "There are reports that Russia is actually working with North Korea to encourage collaboration

and cooperation between the two countries. Yeah. They believe that with Russia's economic power and North Korea's technology they could be a real threat to 1987."

Seth Meyers: "There's been a lot of talk about politicians and emails this week ... But John McCain said today that he doesn't use email because he's not a calm person and he wouldn't want to email something he'd regret. Also, he can't find the send button on his typewriter."

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Confidential



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 27, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 6:59 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE NEW FEDERAL FRACKING RULES. The AP (3/27) reports that Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House "have issues with the Obama administration's new regulations requiring companies that drill for oil and natural gas to disclose chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing." While Republicans oppose the new rules due to the delays they can incur in new drilling projects, Democrats say the regulations do not go far enough. "Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., said the regulation was so lax it was like requiring the auto industry to ensure that every car has a steering wheel and a brake pedal," the article reports. But according to Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., delays caused by the new requirements could discourage energy companies from drilling on Federal lands, causing job losses and driving away revenue.

Coverage was also provided by the [FuelFix](#) (3/26, 7K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/26, Freking), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/27, 32K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Freking, 1.37M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/27, 238K), the [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (3/27, 168K), the [Seymour \(IN\) Times Tribune](#) (3/27, 29K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Freking, 5.17M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/27, 988K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/26, 685K), [Yahoo! \(CAN\)](#) (3/27, 85K), an [dKATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (3/27, 192K)

Wyoming Files Lawsuit Over Fracking Rules. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Gruver, 2.28M) reports that "Wyoming filed a lawsuit Thursday contesting new federal rules for oil and gas drilling on public land, alleging in part that they interfere with Wyoming's state rules." The action also claims the BLM "overstepped its statutory jurisdiction with the rules and that they conflict with the Safe Drinking Water Act." Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw "cited agency policy not to comment on pending litigation and declined to comment on the lawsuit," but she added that "states and tribes will be able to request variances from the rules, and Interior might grant them if they met or exceeded federal standards."

Coverage was also provided by the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (3/27, 293K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/27, 694K), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/27, 32K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 90K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/27, Gruver, 644K), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/27), the [Law 360](#) (3/27, 9K), Additional coverage was provided by the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (3/27, 379K) and the [Daily Signal](#) (3/26).

SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN NEVADA. The [AP](#) (3/27, Sonner) reports that "an unprecedented attempt to protect sage grouse habitat across parts of more than 900 square miles of privately owned land in Nevada will begin under a deal Thursday involving the federal government, an environmental group and the world's largest gold mining company." The deal comes as the FWS "approaches a fall deadline for a decision on whether to protect the greater sage grouse, a bird roughly the size of a chicken that ranges across the West, under the Endangered Species Act." The agreement involves Barrick Gold Corp., The Nature Conservancy, the BLM, and FWS. The deal "establishes a 'conservation bank,' providing the mining firm credit for enhancing critical habitat, in exchange for flexibility in future operations."

[NPR](#) (3/26, 1.58M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This is the kind of creative, voluntary partnership that we need to help conserve the greater sage grouse, while sustaining important economic activities on western rangelands."

Coverage was also provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/27, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Oregonian](#) (3/27, 950K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/26, 36K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 90K), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/27, 291K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Sonner, 1.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (3/27, 49K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Sonner, Press, 5.81M), [ABC Otus News](#) (3/27), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (3/27, 3K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ANNOUNCE SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that "the Obama administration has reached an agreement with Oregon ranchers to protect sage grouse that the ranchers hope will help avoid having the bird listed by the federal government as an endangered species." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Gov. Kate Brown are "expected to be in Bend, Oregon, on Friday afternoon to announce the agreements covering 5,500 square miles of private land in central and southeastern Oregon." The FWS says "the agreements signed last week with soil and water conservation districts covering Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Union, Grant, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties are the first for such a wide area."

Also providing coverage are the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.21M), [The East Oregonian](#) (3/27, 24K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/27, 51K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Bamard, 2.28M), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND HONOULIULI DEDICATION. The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/27, 360K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be "in Hawaii next week to help dedicate the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument in Kunia." Jewell will be joined at the Tuesday ceremony by Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, U.S. Sens. Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, president of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner, and other community leaders."

FEDERAL AGENCIES RENEW COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE HYDROPOWER. [Argus Media](#) (3/26) reports that "the US Departments of Energy and the Interior and the US Army yesterday renewed a commitment to cooperate on supporting hydro development for another five-year term." The article notes that "the goals of the partnership include increasing power output of existing plants with better water flow measurement tools and testing superconducting technology that could make existing plants more efficient."

REPUBLICAN SENATORS OBJECT TO CLIMATE PLANNING DIRECTIVE FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Cama, 224K) reports that "six Senate Republicans blasted the Obama administration's proposal to change how federal agencies consider climate change in environmental impact reviews." They "argued Thursday that the draft guidance from the White House is an illegal expansion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)" Urging the White House's Council on Environmental Quality to withdraw the proposal, they said, "We are deeply disappointed that the administration is continuing down a path that is both illegitimate and irresponsible."

SENATE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS OF IGS FOR 10 AGENCY VACANCIES. [Fierce Government](#) (3/27, 224) reports that "all 16 members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee sent a letter Monday to President Obama urging him to nominate permanent inspectors general at the 10 agencies who currently have vacancies." The Interior Department is among the 10 vacant inspectors general positions. Sen. Ron Johnson noted that "the DOI has gone without a permanent IG for 2,216 days."

HEARING HELD ON SUPREME COURT BUDGET. On [C-SPAN](#) (3/27, 38K), coverage of the testimony on the Supreme Court fiscal year 2016 budget and the federal judiciary system included comments by Rep. Sanford Bishop Jr., who said, "I applaud the court's ability to find savings in its budget. Your total FY16 request with salaries and expenses and buildings and grounds does represent a discretionary decrease of 1.1% from FY 15. It looks like this is a combination of the construction work being completed and savings from nonrecurring costs that are associated with implementation of your new financial system. Are there program increases that you are delaying but you still feel would be beneficial at some point? And with regard to implementation of your new financial system, which I understand you're leveraging resources from the executive branch, probably the Interior, specifically in the area of payroll and financial tracking. And I understand that this move has reduced your reliance on contract employees. And it seems to be a great step towards efficiency. Do you find that you're getting the same level, an improved level of service? And would you recommend this to other agencies that are looking to reduce their costs?" Justice Anthony Kennedy responded, "Well, I'm not enough of an expert to recommend it to other agencies but our staff tells us it's working very, very well. They like it. They like it better than the outside contractors and it's much cheaper. We are in partnership with an agency in the department of interior. And it has some similarities to us. And it's been the source of most of the savings we've had over the last few years."

INTERIOR BETA TESTED PERISCOPE. Covering the app Periscope, [CNN Money](#) (3/26, 1.76M) notes that the Interior Department was a beta tester.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INITIATIVE TO INCREASE VOLUNTEERISM. Additional coverage of the initiative to increase volunteerism at public lands was provided by the [Customs Today \(PAK\)](#) (3/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's new youth initiative was provided by [WABE-FM Atlanta](#) (3/27, 11K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS DISCUSSES FUTURE OF NATIONAL PARKS. [KQED-FM San Francisco](#) (3/27, 40K) reports that in anticipation of the NPS' 100-year anniversary next summer, the agency has "set lofty goals for its future: increase the diversity of visitors to include more youth and people of color, partner with health providers and ramp up collaborations with scientists, which is the focus of a summit this week at UC Berkeley." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, "in town for the summit," discussed his agency's future.

MAINE BUSINESSES ENDORSE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/26, 166K) reports that "more than 200 businesses from around the state endorsed a proposed 150,000-acre national park and recreation area in the Katahdin region Thursday." The article notes that "the endorsement, which included a letter signed by all the businesses to Maine's congressional delegation urging the creation of the park,

is the latest public approval of the controversial gift to the nation first proposed by entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby in 2011.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K), and [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K).

NEW LIMITS ON DOGS AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GENERATES OUTRAGE. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/26, 2.21M) reports that “Rep. Jackie Speier vowed Wednesday to unleash the forces of Washington against efforts to ban unleashed dogs from most of the Bay Area’s string of federal parkland.” According to the article, “the decadelong dogfight is reaching a crescendo as the National Park Service moves to issue a draft rule in the summer based on a 1,504-page Dog Management Plan that has canine fanciers howling.” The proposal would “limit free-ranging dogs ‘under voice control’ to seven spots in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, an 80,000-acre federal park that stretches from Tomales Bay in Marin County to Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County and attracts more than 15 million visitors a year.”

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PERMITS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/27, 538K) reports that the NPS is “seeking public comment on a proposal to require permits for all motor vehicle and bicycle day use on the White Rim and Elephant Hill roads in Canyonlands National Park.” According to the agency, “requiring permits for day use on the roads will help the park better protect resources and the visitor experience.”

MAN COMMITS SUICIDE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (3/27, 19K) reports that “a Virginia man apparently shot himself to death on Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park on Tuesday morning.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLANNING FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. Additional coverage of the planning for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/27, Fowler, 371K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NPS BUDGET REQUEST. The [Montana Standard](#) (3/27, 39K) reprints an editorial by The Missoulian, which urged support for President Obama’s federal budget request. It notes that “the budget request contains a total of \$11.49 billion for the National Park Service to finally begin crossing items off its long list of deferred maintenance projects.” The paper also notes that “next year – 2016 – marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service,” so “the president’s budget request is timely.”

EDITORIAL: NATIONAL PARK VISITORS SHOULD PAY FOR MAINTENANCE. In an editorial, the [Denver Post](#) (3/27, Board, 804K) supports the increase in entrance fees proposed by the NPS. The paper argues that park visitors should shoulder more of the burden, rather than all taxpayers at large.

EDITORIAL: NPS MUST JUSTIFY ANY CHANGES TO PERRY’S MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT AT PUT-IN-BAY.. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (3/27, 1.01M) editorializes that “friends of Perry’s Memorial and advocates for Put-in-Bay merchants are worried the National Park Service is preparing to give the site short shrift.” The agency is “studying a possible consolidation of management between Perry’s Memorial and the much newer, much-less-visited River Raisin National Battlefield Site in the marshy southeast corner of Michigan, where British forces and American Indians associated with Shawnee leader Tecumseh routed U.S. soldiers in bloody, merciless fighting during the War of 1812.” It says that “the park service also needs to explain the thinking behind any decision to favor the River Raisin site, especially if a “shared” superintendent would be based there, and not at the Perry monument.” The paper concludes that “downgrading the Perry monument, its oversight and upkeep is not an acceptable option.”

NONPROFIT GROUP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN OUTDOORS. In a piece for the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/27, 322K), Tee Clarkson writes that Groundwork RVA, “a local nonprofit, has taken an unusual approach to teaching Richmond students about local ecology and urban conservation.” Giles Harnsberger, executive director for Groundwork RVA, said, “We teach neighborhood ecology. We want students to treat their community as if it’s as special as a national park.” She notes that “the program is designed to teach students not only about conservation and ecology, but also to prepare them for jobs in the National Park Service, as landscape architects, or for work in urban ecology.”

Bureau of Land Management:

“GRAND BARGAIN” BEING FINALIZED IN UTAH. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that under proposed legislation called the “Grand Bargain,” San Juan and some other counties in Utah would agree to wilderness and other restrictions on public lands in return for getting other areas designated for energy and other uses. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who is co-sponsoring the legislation with Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said, “We’re doing something of great significance and hopefully it will bring people’s blood pressure down.” After the draft legislation goes through more public vetting, a final bill is expected to be introduced in Congress by late spring.

BLM OFFICIAL GUILTY IN FRAUD CASE. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that “a senior official in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has been convicted on criminal charges that he covered up for an employee who left the agency for a job in Montana but kept drawing government pay.” John Grimson Lyon of Clifton, Virginia, was “convicted of wire fraud, false claims and theft of government property following a three-day jury trial that ended Wednesday night in Great Falls.” Lyon, the former state director for the BLM’s 31-state Eastern States Region, “could face 35 years in prison, \$750,000 in fines and the forfeiture of \$112,000.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Brown, 1.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Brown, 2.28M), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/26, 15K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [ABC Otus News](#) (3/27), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Brown, 5.81M), [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (3/27, 1K), [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (3/27, 4K), and [KBZK-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (3/27, 785).

JUDGE UPHOLDS BLM’S OWNERSHIP OF WISTERIA REMAINS. The [Florida Keys Citizen](#) (3/27, 33K) reports that “development will not come to Wisteria Island soon, if ever, because a federal judge has dismissed F.E.B. Corp’s lawsuit asking to be ruled the owner of the 22 acre island.” Judge Jose E. Martinez “issued a ruling Wednesday in favor of the Bureau of Land Management, which claimed government ownership of the roughly 22-acre island in Key West Harbor in 2011.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC’S HELP TO CURB VANDALISM. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/27, 165K) reports that “vandalism to facilities managed by the Bureau of Land Management’s Billings Field Office is mounting, and land managers are seeking the public’s help to bring it to an end.” The bureau “recently cited several people for vandalism at the Acton Recreation Area, 18 miles north of Billings,” and “on top of that, what the agency calls ‘nonstop vandalism’ at the popular Shepherd Ah Nei Recreation Area has led the BLM to cancel any further plans to repair or replace vandalized property.”

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO BISON GRAZING AT ALLOTMENT. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (3/26, 76K) reports that the American Prairie Reserve, “run by the not-for-profit American Prairie Foundation, has applied to change the class of livestock from cattle to indigenous bison on its permit to graze lands on the Flat Creek Allotment.” The BLM still must approve the livestock change. The bureau announced Thursday that “it is seeking public input for an environmental analysis on the change in classification from cattle to indigenous bison.”

RANCHERS ASSISTED BY PUBLIC SUBSIDIES. [Salon](#) (3/27, 688K) reports on the “welfare ranchers subsidized by US taxpayers.” The article says that “the biggest welfare ranchers of all, grazing livestock on the hundreds of millions of acres of public grass and forest land, all assisted by public subsidies paid for by US taxpayers” are the “billionaires that populate Forbes rich lists.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS APPROVES APPLICATION TO IMPORT ENDANGERED RHINO’S HEAD. The [Washington Post](#) (3/26, Fears, 5.17M) reports that “big game hunter Corey Knowlton’s long wait to kill an endangered black rhinoceros in Africa is finally over.” In a decision Thursday, the FWS “removed the last hurdle in the way of Knowlton’s quest.” According to the article, “more than a year after the wealthy Texan submitted the winning \$350,000 bid for a Namibian government permit at a Dallas auction to shoot the animal, the agency announced that it approved his application for a separate U.S. permit to import the animal’s carcass back home as a trophy.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dallas \(TX\) Observer](#) (3/27, 186K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/26, 1.13M), the [AP](#) (3/26, Press), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Newsday](#) (3/27, 1.41M), [Reuters](#) (3/26), and [KTVT-TV Dallas \(TX\)](#) Dallas (3/26, 101K).

MEASURE WOULD PREVENT FWS FROM PROHIBITING TRADE OF ANTIQUE GUNS CONTAINING IVORY. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Devaney, 224K) reports that "Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) are offering an amendment that would stop the Fish and Wildlife Service from cracking down on antique guns containing ivory." According to the article, "the federal government prohibits the trade of fresh ivory from endangered African elephants and rhinos, but the lawmakers argue that antique ivory used in handguns should be exempt from the rules."

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO PROTECT WILDFLOWERS THREATENED BY MINING. [KUSA-TV Denver](#) (3/26, 386K) reports that "conservation groups on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the name of protecting two wildflowers whose habitat coincides with oil shale formations in Colorado and Utah." The service "last August denied Endangered Species Act protection to the two wildflowers — White River beardtongue and Graham beardtongue — one year after it proposed protecting the plants and nearly 76,000 acres of their habitat."

Also reporting on the story is the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/27, 73K).

CO-OPS HOPEFUL THAT LISTING OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT WILL INCLUDE MAINTENANCE, RIGHT OF WAY PROVISION. [Electric Co-op Today](#) (3/26, Cash) reports the US Fish & Wildlife Service plans to announce a protection plan for the northern long-eared bat, which has been plagued by the fungal disease white-nose syndrome, on April 2. The service has "proposed a provision that would enable co-ops to carry out right-of-way and maintenance work if it lists the bat as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act." NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson said, "We have been encouraged by the willingness of Fish and Wildlife Service staff to listen to our concerns. America's electric cooperatives need a final rule that will allow for hazardous tree removal in emergency situations and allow the expansion of existing rights of way needed to provide service to new members."

DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UNDERGOING ROAD WORK. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/27, 398K) reports that the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is undergoing road work. According to the article, a 4-mile stretch of Corn Creek Road is being paved from the highway to Desert's \$12 million visitor center that opened at the end of 2013. The project began March 18 and is scheduled for completion by the end of July.

CLEANUP OF NEASE CHEMICAL SITE PLANNED. [WYTV-TV Youngstown, OH](#) (3/26, 1K) reports that "the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are working on a plan to clean up the former Nease Chemical site on Route 14 in Salem." According to the article, "a meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 6 p.m. at the Salem Public Library to discuss how best to proceed with the cleanup." The article notes that "the restoration plan will address damaged natural resources from the release of hazardous substances from the now-closed facility."

NTSB RELEASES REPORT ON WEST BOYNTON, FLORIDA PLANE CRASH. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/26, Jacobson, 660K) reports that on Wednesday, the NTSB released a report on the deadly March 2 plane crash in West Boynton, Florida. The plane crashed in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, killing pilot David Whitney and student pilot William Mahn. Citing the NTSB's report, the Sun Sentinel notes that the plane flew over the refuge for roughly "25 minutes before it crashed, and there was no flight plan for the trip."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS DATA SHOWS WATER USE FOR FRACKING HAS JUMPED IN THE LAST DECADE. The [National Geographic](#) (3/27, 32.58M) reports that "the evolution of hydraulic fracturing—and its demand on water supplies—can be seen in historical data covering nearly one million wells drilled over 63 years." An analysis from the USGS, "released in late January, notes that water-intensive horizontal or directional drilling increased dramatically between 2000 and 2010."

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL CONDUCTS TESTING WITH ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE SYSTEM. The [FuelFix](#) (3/26, 7K) reports that "Shell's Arctic oil spill response system is undergoing drills in waters near Bellingham, Washington,

with government officials observing the exercises.” The company is “conducting the testing as it plans a new round of exploratory drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska later this year.” BSEE Director Brian Salemo and Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider are “among the officials set to watch as the containment system is deployed, at Shell’s invitation.”

Also providing coverage is the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/26, 146K).

NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL: DRILLING IN ARCTIC NEEDED NOW BECAUSE SHALE WON'T LAST. The [AP](#) (3/27, Fahey, 5.17M) reports the National Petroleum Council says in a study to be released today that the United States “should immediately begin a push to exploit its enormous trove of oil in the Arctic waters off of Alaska, or risk a renewed reliance on imported oil in the future.” The US has dramatically “cut imports and transformed itself into the world’s biggest producer of oil and natural gas by tapping huge reserves in shale rock formations” however “the government predicts that the shale boom won’t last much beyond the next decade.” An executive summary of a draft obtained by the AP says that “in order for the U.S. to keep domestic production high and imports low, oil companies should start probing the Arctic now because it takes 10 to 30 years of preparation and drilling to bring oil to market.” The study was produced at Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz’s request.

BILL TO PROPOSE USING OIL SPILL MONEY FOR LOUISIANA COLLEGES. The [AP](#) (3/26) reports that the Louisiana Board of Regents on Wednesday supported a proposal to steer money from the Gulf oil spill to public colleges. The bill would be sponsored by Rep. Walt Leger, D-New Orleans, who would call for placing extra moneys into a fund with interest being directed to help colleges. “Those dollars are separate from other civil penalties from violations of environmental laws, money that’s required to be set aside for coastal restoration and protection projects,” the article reports. The first \$1 billion in economic damages money has already been earmarked “to repay Louisiana’s ‘rainy day’ fund and an elderly trust fund that have been used to plug budget gaps in recent years,” the article reports. The proposal will be considered by lawmakers on April 13.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. Additional coverage of the meetings being held on offshore drilling in the Atlantic was provided by the [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (3/26) and the [Coastal \(GA\) Courier](#) (3/27, 16K)

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR TO BEGIN NEW MELONES RESERVOIR RELEASES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (3/27, 27K) reports that the BOR will “release more than 4 billion gallons of water from New Melones Reservoir into the Stanislaus River over the next couple of weeks for ‘pulse flows’ intended to push salmon smolts out to sea.” According to BOR spokeswoman Erin Curtis, “the releases will reduce the amount of water stored in New Melones by about 15,000 acre-feet.” According to Curtis, “the idea is to push the smolts into the Delta earlier because the river temperatures will likely warm to lethal levels prior to normal pulse flows in April.”

BOR SEEKS NEW MANAGER FOR KLAMATH BASIN AREA OFFICE. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/27, 45K) reports that “a new manager for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Klamath Basin Area Office is expected to arrive in May.” According to acting area manager Brian Person, Sheryl Franklin is not returning. Franklin, “who joined the office in mid-May, was the KBAO area manager for seven months.”

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT TO REPAIR COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON FLOOD DAMAGE. The [Sky-Hi Daily News \(CO\)](#) (3/27, 728) reports that the BOR has “awarded a contract totaling nearly \$1.5 million to Lillard and Clark Construction Company Inc., Denver, for repair to the Big Thompson Diversion Structure, an element of the Colorado-Big Thompson project that was damaged during the September 2013 flood.” The work “to repair the Big Thompson Diversion Structure, located 8.5 miles west of Loveland, requires removal and restoration of flood-damaged concrete areas, installation of a precast concrete building, repair and replacement of electrical systems, gates, gear boxes, electric motors and other rehabilitation tasks.” The project is expected to begin in April 2015.

Empowering Native American Communities:

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE STUDY OF TRIBAL RECOGNITION CHANGES. The [AP](#) (3/27, Melia) reports that “several congressional members called on the U.S. Interior Department Thursday to slow down an overhaul of the rules for granting federal recognition to American Indian tribes, saying more study is needed of problems that could result from lowering the bar for the coveted status.” Rep. Rob Bishop “sent a letter with four other

lawmakers outlining their concerns to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." They wrote, "We are concerned that the Department's proposed rules fail to address many of the issues that have been identified and could create new problems that lead to unintended and unjustifiable outcomes."

Coverage was also provided by the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (3/27, Press, 936K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Melia, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Michael Melia |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Melia, 1.37M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/27, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/27, 81K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Melia, 5.81M), and [WBNS-TV Columbus \(OH\)](#) Columbus, OH (3/26, 151K).

BIA SUPERINTENDENT WHO WAS STABBED IN STABLE CONDITION, SUSPECT IN CUSTODY. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that the BIA superintendent who was "stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition." According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, "Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery." The BIA says "its Office of Justice Services is continuing to investigate the attack," and "it said on Wednesday evening a suspect was in custody."

Coverage was also provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.28M), the [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (3/27, 620), [KELO-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/27, 18K), and [KSFY-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/27, 3K).

JUDGE REJECTS CHALLENGE TO INTERIOR'S DECISION ON ONEIDAS. The [AP](#) (3/27, Virtanen) reports that "a federal judge on Thursday rejected a challenge to the U.S. Interior Department's decision to put more than 13,000 acres in trust for the Oneida Indian Nation and exempt the property from state and local taxes." Judge Lawrence Kahn held that "the decision in 2008 to put in trust most of roughly 17,000 acres proposed by the Oneida Indian Nation in Madison and Oneida counties didn't exceed the department's authority under the federal law intended to enable tribes to adapt to modern society." Kahn "noted that the land around the Oneidas' Turning Stone Casino, including gas stations and golf courses, were re-acquired by the tribe two centuries after they last possessed it."

Additional coverage was also provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (3/27, 438K), the [New York \(NY\) Law Journal](#) (3/27, 33K), the [Utica \(NY\) Observer Dispatch](#) (3/26, Cooper, 3K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (3/27, 674K), and [WNYW-TV New York \(NY\)](#) New York (3/27, 68K).

SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IN INDIAN COUNTRY. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/26, 49K) reports that "the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law will hold a symposium and town hall meeting tomorrow, March 27, to discuss the 'School-to-Prison Pipeline in Indian Country.'" The article notes that a "keynote address will be presented after lunch by Charles Roessel, director of the Bureau of Indian Education."

WALL STREET JOURNAL SIDES WITH DEFENDANT IN EAGLE FEATHERS CASE . The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/26, 49K) reports that "after the federal government returned ceremonial eagle feathers earlier this month to pastor Robert Soto in the wake of a nine-year legal battle, the episode received scant media attention." However, "the incident caught the eye of the editorial board of The Wall Street Journal, which saw fit to run an editorial on the absurdity of persecuting and prosecuting the longstanding spiritual practices of this member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and leader of the McAllen Grace Brethren Church."

BIPARTISAN PUSH TO FIX INDIAN SCHOOLS LAUDED. In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Board, 1.37M) reports that this week in Washington, D.C., "bipartisan members of Minnesota's congressional delegation wielded their collective clout on a critical education issue: obtaining adequate funding for the nation's broken-down federally funded Bureau of Indian Education school system." According to the paper, "with Congress in the midst of the 2016 appropriations process, this is an opportune time for Minnesota's delegation, as well as other states' representatives, to make it clear that years of declining or minimal funding for school construction must end." It urges "follow-up work by all of them...to ensure that Congress acts."

OPPOSITION TO PAMUNKEY'S RECOGNITION CRITICIZED. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/27, 322K) editorializes that "Virginia's Pamunkey Indian tribe will soon learn whether it will receive federal recognition, which would make it eligible for various benefits." The paper asserts that "there's no doubt the tribe, which dates back centuries, deserves to be recognized." But it notes that "outside interests want to deny the Pamunkey tribe what it rightfully deserves in order to continue lining their own pockets."

Office of Insular Affairs:

GUAM'S CALVO, BORDALLO SEEK DETERMINATION OF POLITICAL STATUS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (3/27) reports that "Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo in February asked the Department of the Interior for a quarter of a million dollars to jumpstart the educational campaign to determine the island's political status." Also, "U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week said that the federal government had monies available for the education campaign regarding Guam's political status, all island leaders needed to do was ask."

Top National News:

OBAMA DEFENDS CFPB, PAYDAY LOAN REGULATIONS IN VISIT TO ALABAMA. Overshadowed by the Germanwings tragedy and the conflict in Yemen, the President's trip to Alabama was not mentioned on the network newscasts, and was largely ignored by commentators on cable news shows. Local TV, print, and online coverage, meanwhile, cast a favorable light on plans to issue Federal payday loan rules, and put Obama's comments – on both the regulations and the agency that will issue them, the CFPB – in the context of efforts to boost the middle class. By all appearances, that may have been the White House's intention yesterday. In fact, [McClatchy](#) (3/27, Wise, Clark, Subscription Publication, 17K) notes that the bleachers at the Lawson State Community College gym where the President spoke "were festooned with a large blue sign reading, 'Middle Class Economics.'" The [Birmingham \(AL\) Business Journal](#) (3/27, Phillips, Subscription Publication, 35K) says "the speech focused on progress made in making the American financial system stronger to prevent lending practices that caused the recession." Obama also "focused on protecting families and students from shady borrowing practices, mentioning that four times as many payday loan establishments exist than McDonald's restaurants."

As [American Banker](#) (3/26, McKendry, Subscription Publication, 26K) puts it, "the creation of" the CFPB "has become a key part of" Obama's "legacy," and [USA Today](#) (3/26, Korte, 4.95M) notes that he denounced GOP "efforts to defund" it. [The Hill](#) (3/27, Fabian, 224K) quotes him as saying, "If Republicans in Congress send me a bill to unravel Wall Street reform, I will veto it." In his remarks, says the [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (3/27, Taylor, 13K), Obama also tied the agency's workings to his overall economic theme, saying, "I'm pushing for what I call middle-class economics – the idea that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules." [WHNT-TV](#) Huntsville, AL (3/26, 5:36 p.m. CDT, 76K) showed Obama saying, "We've got to make sure working families feel more secure, that their paychecks can go a little further, that they are getting things like paid leave and child care not because they are luxuries, but because they support families."

[Alabama Live](#) (3/27, Garrison, 502K) reports the Rev. Shannon Webster, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, has been "one of Alabama's most outspoken opponents of payday lenders," and Obama yesterday "praised" his "work and singled him out." Said the President, "Pastor Webster's one of the pastors leading the effort to protect consumers here in Alabama. ... At a public hearing a few years ago, he explained why he decided to work on this issue. 'When our people are trapped in debt,' he said, 'they cannot escape, and we're all hurt.' We're all hurt. And that's a simple statement but it captures so much of what it means to be an American." The [AP](#) (3/27, Pickler) notes that Obama also said, "You have some very conservative folks here in Alabama who...are reading their Bible, they're saying, 'Well, that ain't right.'"

[WSFA-TV](#) Montgomery, AL (3/26, 6:02 p.m. CDT, 30K) noted that the President "talked about a scenario where someone borrows \$500, but ends up, because of high interest rates, paying \$1000 in fees and interest." Obama was shown saying, "The idea is pretty common sense. If you lend out money you have to first make sure that the borrower can afford to pay it back. Don't lend somebody money if you know they can't pay it back. As Americans, we don't mind seeing folks make a profit, and if somebody lends you money, we expect you to charge interest on that loan, but if you're making that profit by trapping hard working Americans in a vicious cycle of debt, you've got to find a new business model."

[WPMI-TV](#) Mobile, AL (3/26, 5:05 p.m. CDT, 4K) also focused on the President's economic message, reporting that he spent "the majority of his speech focusing on White House policies he says will benefit the middle class in the final two years and beyond of his presidency." He also "took the opportunity to address the budget introduced this week by House Republicans." Obama was shown saying, "In Alabama, this new tax cut they're proposing, I have got to laugh because it would average \$2 million dollars per person in tax cuts, and it would apply to less than 50 people per year here in Alabama."

The [AP](#) (3/27, Pickler) reports that "before his remarks, Obama met with community leaders working on lending

protections and later praised bipartisan efforts to address potentially catastrophic debt loads on families." During his visit, noted [WSFA-TV](#) Montgomery, AL (3/27, Robinson, 30K), the President also "supported the political efforts in Alabama to fight this predatory lending."

Around the rest of the country, local TV coverage of the CFPB's proposed rules and the President's endorsement of them was relatively light and most reports were brief. Typical of much of the local TV coverage were the stories on [WAND-TV](#) Champaign, IL (3/26, 5:25 p.m. CDT, 2K), [WSLS-TV](#) Roanoke, VA (3/26, 5:53 p.m. EDT, 17K), and [WCNC-TV](#) Charlotte, NC (3/26, 4:24 p.m. EDT, 77K).

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (3/27, Silver-Greenberg, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports the rules "could sharply reduce the number of unaffordable loans that lenders can make each year to Americans desperate for cash." Yesterday's "proposal covers a wide swath of credit, including certain loans backed by car titles and some installment loans that stretch longer than 45 days." CFPB Director Richard Cordray said in a statement, "We are taking an important step toward ending the debt traps that are so pervasive in both the short-term and longer-term credit markets." [Reuters](#) (3/27, Stephenson, Edwards) notes that following yesterday's announcement of a framework for the new regulations, a CFPB spokesman indicated the formal payday rules proposal will be unveiled later this year.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (3/27, Gelles, 617K) reports that "a White House fact sheet called" the agency's "rule-making plan 'an important first step toward writing rules to help prevent abuses in payday lending and protect consumers from getting trapped in expensive cycles of debt and fees.'" White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters in a conference call that the CFPB "is uniquely positioned to take this action," adding that "Republican efforts to undermine the CFPB are nothing more than attempts to undermine middle-class families all around the country."

In a blog post titled "Not Just Whistling Dixie," [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, Williams, 685K) reported that while studies find payday loans are particularly prevalent in the "Heart of Dixie," the profit "flows straight to Wall Street – one key reason industry lobbyists are continuing to fight the new regulations," including "defeating a cap on astronomical interest rates, described as the Holy Grail of consumer protection advocates." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that Dennis Shaul of the Community Financial Services Association of America (representing payday lenders) warned that the rules would curtail credit availability, and accused the CFPB of "listening to...critics" and producing research that is "neither extensive or thorough." The AP (3/27, Boak) quotes Shaul as saying, "The bureau is looking at things through the lens of one-size-fits-all."

SENATE CONSIDERS DOZENS OF AMENDMENTS ON WAY TO PASSING BUDGET PROPOSAL. In what is known as the "vote-a-rama," which accompanies the Senate's consideration of a budget, the upper chamber worked its way through dozens of amendments Thursday on the way to passing its budget blueprint. If Senators pass a plan on Friday, as expected, efforts to reconcile it with the proposal passed by the House earlier this week will begin when lawmakers return from a two-week recess. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Shabad, Carney, 224K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that the amendment votes are expected to end Friday morning and Republican leaders are confident "their blueprint will be approved, though they have a tight margin." The AP (3/27, Espo, Wemer) says Republicans "could afford three defections and still be assured a majority for the budget," but that "presented a challenge" as four Republican members "are likely or announced presidential contenders, and several more face potentially difficult 2016 re-election tests in swing states."

The [New York Times](#) (3/27, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) describes the process as "one of those dubious traditions of Congress's upper chamber," in which the Senate opens "its well to an unlimited number of amendments to the budget blueprint for the coming fiscal year," adding that none of the amendments "are binding." However, the AP (3/27, Werner) says it is an "opportunity to score points or showcase one stance or another." For example, "likely GOP presidential candidates, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky, laid down markers with amendments boosting defense spending by \$76 billion in the budget," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that Democrats offered amendments aimed at forcing Republicans into difficult votes that can be used against them in future campaigns.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/27, Dinan, 644K) reports that Democrats "walked away with dozens of votes they think can be used against the GOP in upcoming elections," while Republican leaders "said this year's budget includes instructions under a process known as 'budget reconciliation' that could pave the way for a major tax overhaul and, most politically charged, for a last major assault on Obamacare."

[Politico](#) (3/26, Raju, 669K) reported that the race for the 2016 Republican nomination was on display in the

Senate Thursday as competition between Sens. Rubio, Paul, Ted Cruz and Lindsey Graham “was on vivid display as the Senate took up a Rubio plan to pump tens of billions of dollars more into the Pentagon budget.” Paul “blasted the idea because the new spending wasn’t offset by other cuts.” Cruz, “who’s pitching himself as a fiscal conservative who can appeal to the hawkish and libertarian wings of the GOP” was “caught in the middle,” but “ultimately sided with Rubio and Graham.”

Groups Push Pro-Gun Amendments. *The Hill* (3/26, Devaney, 224K) reported that Republicans and gun rights groups “are pushing for a number of amendments that would expand concealed-carry laws and block the Obama administration from issuing what opponents call a ‘backdoor’ ban on guns.” The Times reviews the various pro-gun amendments under consideration that “would expand concealed carry laws and block future gun control initiatives.”

AMERICAN COUSINS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TERROR ATTACK, TRYING TO JOIN ISIL. Pierre Thomas reported on *ABC World News* (3/26, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) that according to the FBI, “Army National Guardsman Hasan Edmonds had mass murder on his mind, hatching a sinister plot to kill his fellow soldiers. He was arrested at Chicago’s Midway Airport yesterday, allegedly en route to join and fight with ISIS.” The FBI also said that Edmonds “planned to give his cousin, Jonas Edmonds, his uniform...so he could wear it to get inside a nearby base. The likely target: Joliet Armory, where Hasan had trained. And the plan, to massacre soldiers there with a body count as high as 150.”

David Martin reported on the *CBS Evening News* (3/26, story 6, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) that “Hasan and Jonas wanted to join ISIS, taking the southern route to Syria through Egypt. If they couldn’t do that, Hasan told the informant, ‘I am content to fight and die here. Honestly, we would love to do something like the brothers in Paris did.’” The *New York Times* (3/27, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), however, reports the two sought to join ISIL in Libya, not Syria, which it says makes their case “unique compared with the others the Justice Department has brought against Americans accused of trying to join the Islamic State.” According to the Times, the cousins “planned to travel to Derna, Libya, a city that is controlled by” ISIL.

On *NBC Nightly News* (3/26, story 7, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported briefly on the arrests as did Chris Wallace on *Fox News’ Special Report* (3/26, 1.53M). The *Chicago Tribune* (3/27, Meisner, 2.32M) reports that Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, a spokesman for the Illinois National Guard, said “Federal authorities recently informed the guard that Edmonds was under investigation, leading them to take ‘discrete but concrete steps’ to ensure he didn’t have access to equipment or computers.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A Dangerous Escalation In Iraq.” In an editorial, the *New York Times* (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says President Obama “has escalated America’s involvement in the fight” against ISIL “without providing a shred of evidence showing how it could advance American interests, or what happens” when the airstrikes are done. The Times says if ISIL “is expelled from Tikrit, the Americans and Iraqis will need to bring security and govern in a way that respects the rights of all citizens.”

“Reducing Risks After the Germanwings Crash.” A *New York Times* (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorial says a requirement that two people must be in the cockpit “makes sense and all airlines should adopt it.” The Times says this is “a sensible step to reduce the risk that comes with leaving the lives of dozens or hundreds of people in the hands of just one pilot.”

“No Need To Prosecute Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.” An editorial in the *New York Times* (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) that in prosecuting Bowe Bergdahl, military lawyers will have a difficult time “explaining why it’s worthwhile to prosecute a soldier the Army recruited despite significant concerns about his psychological state and who endured years of torture and privation during his captivity.” The Times adds that while “the American military has good reason to punish service members who desert.” it should “exercise discretion in extraordinary cases,” and “Bergdahl’s is certainly one.”

WASHINGTON POST. “The Mideast Breakdown.” In an editorial, the *Washington Post* (3/27, 5.17M) says while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “is hardly blameless for the Mideast impasse” it “makes no sense” for the Administration to “portray” him as “a single-handed spoiler.” The Post notes the “framework” for a Palestinian state “was also spurned by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas” and the peace process has lacked momentum since that time. The Post says withdrawing US support for Israel in the Security Council “wouldn’t improve the regrettable status quo.”

“Protection From Gay Marriage.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) in an editorial says that while there may be “legitimate debate on the balance between religious liberty and laws intended to prohibit discrimination” with respect to same-sex marriage, state legislatures have been considering laws that “would go much further” even allowing “religious justification” for businesses’ “refusal to hire, employ or serve gay men or lesbians, or members of virtually any minority group.” The Post worries that some might use religion to justify discrimination against “lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people,” or “Jews or Muslims.” It is particularly concerned by state legislative efforts “to roll back local ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation,” urging governments to be “wary of embracing intolerance under the guise of protecting people of faith.”

“A ‘More Delightful’ Library.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) says that the question of “what to do with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library has vexed the District for a decade.” Now, there is an “exciting plan developed by library officials that we hope will have better success than the unrealized ideas of the past.” While “obstacles” to the remake “still exist,” library officials “seem to be well on their way, having hired architects and worked closely with the federal planning agency that will have to sign off on the design.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Obama’s Mideast Vacuum.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that Saudi Arabia would not have engaged in its risky intervention in Yemen if it trusted that the US could remain a stabilizing force in the region. The Journal says the US must send a clear message about its willingness to help the Saudis.

“Tim Robbins, Capitalist Tool.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) praises actor liberal actor Tim Robbins, who has come out against an effort by the Actors’ Equity Association to impose a minimum wage for smaller theater workers.

“The Spitzer-Schneiderman Rules.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) in an editorial says that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman appears to have followed what it describes as the practice of former state AG Eliot Spitzer in disregarding or hiding evidence that would undermine the state’s case against former AIG CEO Hank Greenberg. The paper argues that such was the case regarding testimony by Richard Napier, who served as a top witness for the state against Greenberg, and says that the US Justice Department had itself withheld notes regarding an interview with Napier at which staff from the New York AG’s office were also present. The paper argues that the case against Greenberg should be dropped.

“Iran Keeps Its Nuclear Secrets.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that Iran’s refusal to cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors should prevent any nuclear agreement from moving forward.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Co-Pilot Appears To Have Deliberately Crashed Plane](#)
[Yemen Devolves Into Proxy War](#)
[Obama Struggles With A Messy Mideast](#)
[Regional Banks Fill Industrial Niche](#)

New York Times:

[Fatal Descent Of Plane Was A ‘Deliberate Act,’ French Authorities Say](#)
[A Man Who Loved To Fly, Set On A Mysterious And Deadly Course](#)
[Policy Puzzle In The Mideast](#)
[On Second Try, A Kingly Burial For Richard III](#)
[East Village Blast And Fire Fell Buildings And Hurt At Least 19](#)
[In Evolving Role \(And In Song\), City’s First Lady Finds Her Voice](#)

Washington Post:

[Focus On Pilot Screenings And Cockpit Doors Grows](#)
[Official: Crash Was Not An Accident](#)
[Egypt Poised To Join Offensive](#)
[Saudi Strikes Used US Intelligence US Assisted Saudi Strikes In Yemen](#)

[Iraqi Militias Balk At US Strikes In Tikrit](#)
[DC Soccer Fans Carry On A Joyful, Messi Love Affair](#)

Financial Times:

[Co-Pilot's Fatal Actions Spur Cockpit Review](#)
[Oil Price Jumps After Saudi-Led Air Strikes On Targets In Yemen](#)
[Microsoft Joins Wage Inequality Debate Urging Paid Leave For Suppliers' US Staff](#)

Washington Times:

[Germanwings Crash Sparks Rush To Embrace US 2 Pilots In Cockpit Rule](#)
[Yemen Crisis Threatens Obama Iran Nuclear Talks, Further Clouds Middle East Policy](#)
[DHS Secretary Says Mayorkas Will Keep His Job Amid Immigration Flap](#)
[House Passes Medicare Payment Overhaul In Rare Spark Of Bipartisanship](#)
[DEA Agents Hired Prostitutes Paid For By Drug Cartels](#)
[Marco Rubio Takes Aim At Restrictive DC Gun Control Laws](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; Germanwings Plane Crash-Cockpit Door; Germanwings Plane Crash-Analysis; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Congressman Schock Resigns; Texas-Bridge Collapse; California-Missing Woman Case; Pope Francis-Upcoming White House Visit.
CBS: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; US-Pilot Screening Procedure; Germanwings Plane Crash-Analysis; Airline Disasters Unsolved; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Bashar al-Assad Interview; Yemen-Saudi Arabia Airstrikes; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; DEA Misconduct Report; Hillary Clinton-CBS News Poll; Germanwings Plane Crash.
NBC: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; Germanwings Plane Crash-Cockpit Door; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; Yemen Conflict; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Texas-Bridge Collapse.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Plane Crash – 24 minutes, 40 seconds
 Severe Weather-Oklahoma – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
 New York-Building Explosion – 4 minutes
 FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
 Yemen Conflict – 2 minutes, 25 seconds
 Texas-Bridge Collapse – 1 minute, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Germanwings Plane Crash; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Alabama-Obama Economy Speech; Wall Street.
CBS: Germanwings Plane Crash; House-Budget Legislation; GOP-Obama Foreign Policy; DEA Misconduct Report; Pennsylvania-Faculty Restroom Dispute; Wall Street.
FOX: Germanwings Plane Crash; House-Budget Legislation; Alabama-Obama Economy Speech; California-Missing Woman Case; NCAA Basketball Tournament Results; Yemen Conflict; New York-Building Explosion; Idaho-Monsanto Fined.
NPR: Germanwings Plane Crash; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; Yemen Conflict; Pay Day Loan Regulations; Ebola Study; Iranian Nuclear Talks; New York-Building Explosion.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Unavailable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will be in Wilmington, Delaware. There are no public events scheduled.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: No votes are expected in the House.

Other: UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA — March 23 – 27. The United

Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea will visit the United States of America (23-27 March) to hear firsthand testimonies from Eritrean refugees and migrants there. During its visit, the Commission will be based in Washington D.C. For media requests, please contact the Secretariat of the Commission of Inquiry by email: coieritrea@ohchr.org. Contacts: coieritrea@ohchr.org. On the Net: <http://www.ohchr.org/COIEritrea>.

AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – BELL — Breakfast speaker: Robert Bell: "Senior Civilian Representative in Europe of the Secretary of Defense: "EPAA and ballistic Missile Defense in Europe. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/corporate/huessybreakfastseries>. Location: Capitol Hill Club. Contacts: Peter Huessy phuessy@afa.org. Notes: Invitation only.

MARINE CORPS MUSEUM — Museum Groundbreaking: 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Timothy T. Day Overlook Dedication: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Onsite media interviews can be arranged with advance request beginning at 9:30 a.m. Speakers include: Gen. James F. Amos, USMC (Ret), 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps; Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr., USMC (Ret), President & CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; Lin Ezell, Director, National Museum of the Marine Corps; Timothy T. Day, Chairman and CEO, Bar-S Foods, Co. Media contact Dan Gregory at 202.414.0785 or dgregory@susandavis.com. Location: National Museum of the Marine Corps, 18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Triangle, VA 22172.

BPC – ELECTION ADMINISTRATION — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. White House Counsel W. Neil Eggleston will discuss election administration during a Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) event marking one year since the release of recommendations by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA). Eggleston and PCEA co-chairs Bob Bauer and Ben Ginsberg will make remarks and take questions during the event's opening session. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 'Eye' Street, NW, Suite 1000, 10th Floor. Contacts: Jordan LaPier, jlapiere@bipartisanpolicy.org, 202-379-1630.

PPRI – MILLENNIALS SURVEY — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) will release the 2015 Millennials, Sexuality, and Reproductive Health Survey. Speakers: Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO of Public Religion Research Institute; Tina Hoff, Senior Vice President for the Kaiser Family Foundation and Director of the Foundations Health Communication and Media Partnerships Program; Dr. Krishna Upadhy, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; Elizabeth Dawes Gay, MPH, Founder of Black Women For. <http://publicreligion.org/newsroom/events/2015/03/release-of-the-2015-survey-of-millennials-sexuality-and-reproductive-health/>. Location: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundations Barbara Jordan Conference Center, 1330 G ST NW.

USIP – STATE OF FRAGILITY — 10:30 a.m. States of Fragility: Post-2015 Ambitions – OECD Releases Annual Report on Fragility. Speakers: Nancy Lindborg, Opening Remarks President, US Institute of Peace; Melissa Brown, Director, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, USAID; Alexandre Marc, Chief Technical Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence-Cross Cutting Solutions Area, World Bank Group; Brenda Killen, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; Jolanda Profos, Peace and Conflict Adviser, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; Sarah Hearn, Associate Director and Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation; Andrew Blum, Moderator, Vice President of Program Management and Evaluation, US Institute of Peace. <http://www.usip.org/events/states-of-fragility-post-2015-ambitions>. Location: US Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave. NW.

CATO – FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING — 12 p.m. Capitol Hill briefing New Incentives from Federal Transportation Funding. Speakers: Randal O'Toole, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; Baruch Feigenbaum, Transportation Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation; and Marc Scribner, Research Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute; moderated by Peter Russo, Director, Congressional Affairs, Cato Institute. Webcast at: www.cato.org/live. Location: B-369 Rayburn. Contacts: Cato Media Relations pr@cato.org (202-789-5200)

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH REFORM – MEDICARE 101 — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Medicare 101: What You Need to Know. <http://www.allhealth.org/briefthankyou.asp?registered=1&briefid=350&nam=AP%20Washington%20Daybook>. Location: Rooms B338 and B339 Rayburn. Contacts: Medicare101 (info@allhealth.org). Monica Laufer m Laufer@allhealth.org ((202)789-2300).

NPC – FDA COMMISSIONER HAMBURG — 12:30 p.m. Dr. Margaret Hamburg, the outgoing commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration, will speak at a National Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon. <http://www.press.org/events/npc-luncheon-dr-margaret-hamburg-commissioner-us-food-and-drug-administration>. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Stephanie Yao stephanie.yao@fda.hhs.gov (301-796-0394). Notes: This is a ticketed event. For more information, please contact Doris Margolis, dorismargolis@editorialassociates.com.

CSIS – US-JAPAN SECURITY SEMINAR 2015 — 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Speakers include: Masahiko Komura, Member, House of Representatives, Vice President, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; David B. Shear Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs; others. <http://csis.org/event/us-japan-security-seminar-2015-0>. Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Second Floor Conference Center, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

CARNEGIE – US – INDIA RELATIONS — 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. “Strategic Plus: Taking US-India Relations to a New Level. In his first visit to Washington since taking over as the US ambassador to India, Ambassador Richard Verma will discuss how the bilateral strategic partnership has moved into a new “strategic plus phase,” and what must be done to sustain the momentum that is transforming and deepening the two countries’ ties. <http://camegieendowment.org/2015/03/27/strategic-plus-taking-US-india-relations-to-new-level/i4mf>. Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

WILSON CENTER – NEW ALLIANCES FOR ASIA? — 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. New Alliances for Asia? Prospects for Relations Between Japan, India, and the United States. Speakers: James Clad, Senior advisor for Asia, CNA Corporation and former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia; Richard McGregor, Public Policy Fellow, Former Beijing and Washington Bureau Chief, Financial Times; Dhruva Jaishankar, Transatlantic fellow, German Marshall Fund. <http://wilsoncenter.org/event/new-alliances-for-asia-prospects-for-relations-between-japan-india-and-the-united-states>. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 4th floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “Republican candidate Ted Cruz said recently that in the 36 hours after he announced that he’s running for president, he raised over one million dollars. And Hillary Clinton closed her checkbook and said, ‘Happy to help.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “That’s right, Ted Cruz raised over one million dollars after announcing he’s running for president, which is why today Radio Shack announced it is also running for president.”

Jimmy Fallon: “I read that since President Obama was elected, representatives from Google have visited the White House over 200 times. You know you’re the most powerful man in the world when you Google something and they show up at your door.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Yesterday, Jeb Bush criticized President Obama’s foreign policy and said that his Administration uses ‘schoolyard antics.’ When he heard that, Obama was like ‘Is this about Biden’s swing set? Because we can always take that down. It makes him happy.’”

Seth Meyers: “You know, there was a lot of talk last week, a couple weeks ago about Hillary Clinton and her email account. Well the Associated Press says that Jeb Bush used his second secret personal email address during his time as Florida governor and there is, you guys, there is some pretty embarrassing stuff in there. For example, it was a Hotmail address. Can you trust someone with a Hotmail address to lead this nation?”

Seth Meyers: “Mayor Rahm Emanuel is reportedly considering renaming one of Chicago’s airports after Barack Obama. And he’s going to name the baggage area after Joe Biden.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 17, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 6:59 AM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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- + Bill Introduced To Reopen Permitting Process Of CEMEX Mine.
- + BLM Criticized For Missing Opportunity On Bullwacker-Cow Creek Access.

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- + Fourth Graders Offered Free Access To National Parks.
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- + Yellowstone National Park Begins Trapping And Slaughter Of Bison.
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- + Officials Plan To Shoot Utah Mountain Goats.
- + Water Begins Flowing To Eastern Everglades National Park.
- + NPS Supports Plan By Lowell To Light Up Canals.
- + Trail At Saguaro National Park To Be Made Wheelchair Accessible.
- + Superdome Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- + Weir Farm Superintendent To Receive National Park Service's Cultural Resource Stewardship Award.
- + Silent-Movie Film Studio Seeks Recognition As A Historic Landmark.
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DOI in the News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that President Obama has used the Antiquities Act “much more ambitiously in his second term, designating last Friday the 1.6-million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument.” With the designations, “he’s closing in on Clinton, who used the act 22 times to preserve 5.7 million acres.” According to the article, “Obama would surpass Clinton if he heeds calls by conservationists to designate the 2.5-million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands in southeast Oregon, an area the size of Yellowstone National Park that’s full of stark river gorges and rolling sagebrush hills.” But “that proposal is bitterly opposed by many local ranchers and elected officials and could be a tough political sell as communities heal from the 40-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.”

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), Jim Bagley criticizes “President Barack Obama’s use of executive authority to create national monuments in the California desert with the Antiquities Act.” According to Bagley, “the issue is the essential American value of fairness and open governmental process.” He argues that “any decisions on the long term use of these American treasures should involve an open public hearing process for the determination of the highest and best use for those lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/17, 98K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) and [AlterNet](#) (2/16, 91K).

Focus Turns To Owyhee Canyonlands. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “the occupation that ended last week touched raw nerves over the federal government’s vast landholdings in Oregon and the restrictions it imposes on grazing, mining and logging.” According to the article, “while Harney County residents largely opposed Ammon Bundy’s decision to seize the bird sanctuary south of Burns, they sympathized with his critique of federal environmental restrictions – and some vented about the monument proposal, which is located in neighboring Malheur County along the Idaho border.”

Meanwhile, the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (2/16, 19K) reports that “ballots for a county-wide referendum on the possible designation of a national monument in Malheur County will be going out this week.” According to the article “county voters are being asked to weigh in on whether 2.5 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands in Malheur County be designated as a national monument.”

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Opposes Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (2/16) reports that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation opposes the designation of the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The believes “the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state of Arizona already manage the lands in question for multiple uses with wildlife and natural resource conservation as top priorities.” They are also concerned the Grand Canyon Watershed and Kaibab National Forest “could be shut down for hunting and recreational shooting without public comment, usurping state management authority.”

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department announced that “a wealthy investor with a history of supporting the National Park Service has donated \$18.5 million to a congressionally chartered charity that will help restore the Lincoln Memorial.” The donation by David Rubenstein “to the National Park Foundation is part of a broader effort during the NPS centennial year to raise \$350 million from wealthy donors and corporations to protect and restore prized national treasures like the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., which honors the nation’s 16th president.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “David Rubenstein’s generous donation will promote and protect one of the Nation’s most hallowed symbols and comes at a critical time as our national parks usher in a new century of service. This donation will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials but will preserve Lincoln’s legacy for future generations to appreciate.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (2/16, Pearson, 3.96M), the [Daily Caller](#) (2/16, Birr, 443K), [NBC News](#) (2/16, 3.58M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/16, 1.1M), the [Bethesda-Chevy Chase \(MD\) Patch](#) (2/16), [Townhall](#) (2/16, 132K), [PopHerald](#) (2/17), and [WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (2/16, 154K).

CLIVEN BUNDY DENIED BAIL IN 2014 STANDOFF CASE. [CNN](#) (2/16, Martinez, 3.96M) reports Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was denied Bail Tuesday by a judge in an Oregon federal court, saying that Bundy was a flight risk. Bundy was charged with six counts last week relating to this 2014 armed showdown against federal

land managers on the open range where his cattle grazed illegally. He was arrested last week in Portland, "where he flew in support of his sons Ammon and Ryan," who are among 16 people indicted for participating in another, more recent armed standoff against federal authorities at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Federal prosecutors argued that Bundy was "a danger to the community" and he "does not recognize federal courts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, Duara, 4.1M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/16, Sottile, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/16, 853K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/16, Dubois, Ritter, Press, 1.99M), [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/17, 4.92M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois, Press, 881K), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois Ken Ritter |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Dubois, Ritter, 285K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/16, 442K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/16, 2K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Berger, 3.71M).

Ammon Bundy's Bodyguard Also Denied Bail. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that a federal magistrate ordered Wesley Kjar, a Salt Lake City resident, to be sent to Oregon to face prosecution for participating in the armed takeover at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Magistrate Judge Dustin Pead ruled Kjar is a flight risk and a danger to the community. The Tribune says Kjar "encouraged others to join in the standoff and described himself as the right-hand man of occupation leader Ammon Bundy," according to prosecutor Alicia Cook. She said Kjar served as Bundy's bodyguard and cited an article claiming Kjar "said he would not hesitate to stand between Bundy and a bullet."

BLM In No Hurry To Return To Gold Butte Area. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/16, 479K) reports the Bureau of Land Management will take their time returning to Gold Butte following the arrest of Cliven Bundy and his two sons this week. Southern Nevada BLM field manager Gayle Marrs-Smith informed the Legislative Public Lands Committee the situation remains "fluid" and said no timeline has been established for federal officials to "resume a presence on those public lands where a tense standoff occurred in 2014."

FBI Discovers Human Feces At Cultural Site Near Oregon Refuge. [Reuters](#) (2/17) reports the FBI said it discovered human feces in a trench at an outdoor camping area near a sensitive cultural site with artifacts at the Oregon wildlife refuge that was the site of a recent armed standoff with federal authorities. The filing came after the FBI said it was helping the Burns Paiute Tribe identify damage to the tribe's artifacts and sacred burial grounds at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. It will take evidence teams about three weeks to process the crime scenes at the refuge, according to the document submitted in Oregon federal court on Tuesday.

NEXT SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILL HAVE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that "with speculation over the next Supreme Court nominee running rampant, potential nominees' records on environmental issues and other hot-button topics are drawing scrutiny." According to the article, "whoever replaces the late Justice Antonin Scalia stands to play a major role in legal battles over high-stakes environmental regulations including U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Rule and tightened air restrictions on ozone." Also, "several potentially casting decisive votes on President Obama's environmental legacy in the short-term, the new justice is certain to influence environmental law for decades to come."

GROUP SEEKS "MINERAL WITHDRAWAL" TO STOP POSSIBLE COPPER MINE. The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (2/16, 60K) reports that "a group that formed to fight a possible copper mine in Mazama announced Sunday that it will ask the Secretary of the Interior to prevent all industrial-scale mining on 340,000 acres of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for the next 20 years." According to the article, "ninety Methow Valley business owners signed the Sunday letter to Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to withdraw the national forest lands north and west of Mazama and Winthrop from the establishment of new mineral claims."

PHOTOS DEPICT LIVES DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Murano, 8.98M) "In Sight" photography blog displays a series of restored black and white pictures taken by Roy K. Stryker and his team of photographers in the 1930s for the Farm Security Administration, formerly known as the Resettlement Administration (RA), to "document the hardships and conditions around the country, particularly across the Midwestern states and into California." The RA was created by a 1935 executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt "to help struggling farmers and sharecroppers by providing loans, purchasing depleted farmland and resettling destitute families into government-designed communities." The Post says that Stryker's team produced over 175,000 black and white negatives, 1,610 color transparencies, and several films.

WSJOURNAL: HOUSE MUST HOLD EPA ACCOUNTABLE FOR MINE DISASTER. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn't giving the full story regarding the agency's litany of failures that culminated in

the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn't tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Signal](#) (2/16).

PETERMAN: SPENDING TIME IN NATIONAL PARKS PROVIDES TRANQUILITY. Environmental activist Audrey Peterman writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) blog about her confusion why "large numbers of people and huge sections of our infrastructure," including national parks, "will be affected by rising seas within the next 15 years," but Congressional leaders and several presidential candidates "slough off responsibility by professing that they 'do not believe' in climate change." To quell this anxiety, Peterman says she routinely visits national parks, especially Yosemite, to restore her "sunny perspective." She concludes by stating that it is "time for each of us to decide what action we will take to confront the great challenges that face us today," such as climate change and "protecting our public lands system from those who want to degrade it."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE NEARS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SHABBONA BINGO PLAN. The [DeKalb \(IL\) Daily Chronicle](#) (2/16, 24K) reports that "time is running out for residents to voice their opinions to the federal government about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's plan to bring a 24-hour bingo hall to the area." The BIA is "in the process of crafting an environmental impact study and an impact statement on the tribe's plans to bring Class II gaming to the area."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO HOST PANEL DISCUSSION ON SELF DETERMINATION. [St. Croix Source](#) (2/16) reports that Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will "host a panel discussion in Washington, D.C., on self determination in U.S. territories, including the Virgin Islands." According to the article, "the hearing will focus on the V.I., Guam and American Samoa, which are listed on the United Nations List of Non-Self-Governing Territories." It is scheduled to be held Feb. 23 in the nation's capital.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (2/16) and the [Pacific News Center](#) (2/16).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

\$2M FUNNELED TO EASTERN NEW MEXICO PIPELINE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the federal government is funneling another \$2 million toward a pipeline project aimed at bringing billions of gallons of water a year to parts of eastern New Mexico." According to the article, "members of the state's congressional delegation announced the funding from the Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday." The article notes that "the price has ballooned to more than \$550 million, and the Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged it could end up costing \$750 million."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clovis \(NM\) News Journal](#) (2/16, 21K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (2/16, 952K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), and [KOAT-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/16, 120K).

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT ADDS FEE FOR SPOTTED FROG LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the Tumalo Irrigation District has added an additional fee for patrons in anticipation of mounting legal costs associated with recently filed lawsuits over Oregon spotted frog habitat." The district imposed "a \$175 fee this year for each water right account holder to help pay for litigation as well as for public relations during the court case." The BOR, "Tumalo and other irrigation districts are being sued by the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, Shorack, 285K), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/16, Bulletin, 84K), and the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/16, 98K).

AGENCIES FOCUS ON SAVING WINTER-RUN SALMON. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/16, 65K) reports that "members of the Winnemem Wintu tribe believe their lives are intertwined with the salmon — particularly the winter-run chinook salmon." But "fish die-offs in the Sacramento River over the past two years

have many people worried about the winter-run going extinct." The article notes that "federal and state fisheries officials are so concerned with the die off that for the past two years they have taken the unprecedented step of closing the Sacramento River in Redding to fishing from April to August when the salmon are spawning."

OPINION: SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM REQUIRED TO MEET CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS. In response to a Jan. 26 [article](#) titled, "Council takes hard line on SDS talks," local property owner Dwain Maxwell writes in the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/16, 87K) that the Southern Delivery System should be shut down unless it meets all of its contractual agreements stated in the 1041. Maxwell points out that, for property owners, the 1041 "states that eminent domain can only be taken when proof of need is proven." He believes that the SDS' recent actions trying to obtain property via an eminent domain court shows their "greed" is "just too much to swallow."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SCIENTISTS TRYING TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/16, 312K) reports that "scientists are working on harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., where the ocean flows with more power than all of the world's rivers combined." According to the BOEM, "Gulf Stream currents might have more potential than offshore wind. Ocean currents move more slowly than wind but are about 800 times more dense."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON METHANE EMISSIONS. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that "the city of Farmington will hold one of only four public hearings across the country for a proposal aimed at updating 30-year-old regulations on methane and natural gas releases from public and tribal lands."

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/16, 31K) reports that "nearly 800 people flooded the San Juan College's Henderson Fine Arts Center auditorium Tuesday to weigh in on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed set of regulations aimed at reducing methane leaks on public and tribal lands." According to the article, "the public comments, which came after a 45 minute BLM briefing about the proposed changes, came from two camps: those seeking to protect the environment and eliminate waste and those worried about the impact of the regulations on oil and gas industry jobs and the regional economy." During the meeting, "frustrations bubbled up and some of those who objected to the proposed rules started booing, shouting and noisily yawning during testimonials." The article notes that "when the Farmington mayor asked those in the crowd opposed to the BLM's proposed regulations to stand up, most attendees rose to their feet."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/16, 44K)

New Mexico Leaders Support Methane Rule. The [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/16, 4K) reports that "a proposed rule from the U.S. Department of the Interior to reduce the venting, leaking and flaring of methane and other natural gases from oil and gas drilling operations on public lands has strong support among New Mexico leaders." According to the article, "more than 40 current and former elected officials from San Juan County in New Mexico recently submitted a letter to the Bureau of Land Management in support of its proposed rules on flaring."

WYOMING DEQ DEFENDS COAL MINING DEAL. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports Wyoming regulators defended their oversight of Alpha Natural Resources' and Arch Coal's bonding after they filed for bankruptcy. In a letter to federal regulators, Kyle Wendtland, who oversees mining regulation at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, wrote that the US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has "no basis for second guessing DEQ's judgment." Wyoming officials have faced scrutiny after agreeing last year to make the state a "priority creditor to receive \$61 million out of \$411 million in required bonding for Alpha's mines." State officials argued that the agreement did not free Alpha from its reclamation obligations, and that it requires the coal mining company to emerge from bankruptcy to fully cover its bond obligations.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/16, 337K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), [WyoFile](#) (2/16), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\) Billings, MT](#) (2/16, 2K).

Wyoming House Committee Allocates \$241M In Federal Funds For Highways, DEQ. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K) reports the Wyoming House Appropriations Committee advanced a bill Tuesday morning that allocates \$162.3 million of federal mine land reclamation money to the state Highway Fund and \$79.6 million to the state Department of Environmental Quality "for ongoing operations of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and the Air Quality and the Solid Waste Management divisions." Congress passed a large spending bill in December that gave Wyoming \$241.9 million from the federal Office of Surface Mining. The Star-Tribune mentions that Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, "two bankrupt coal companies," have unsecured reclamation obligations in the state worth a combined \$900 million.

SIERRA CLUB FILES CHALLENGE AGAINST OIL, GAS ACTIVITIES IN OKLAHOMA. [Politico Pro](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the Sierra Club has "filed a court challenge against three oil and gas companies active in Oklahoma over their wastewater injection practices, alleging a connection between drillers' underground disposal habits and a recent surge in earthquake activity in the state." The petition filed in Oklahoma federal court "seeks relief under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and follows a 5.1 earthquake that hit the state on Saturday." The group asked that the companies Devon, Chesapeake, and New Dominion "reduce immediately and substantially the amounts of Production Wastes [sic] they are injecting into the ground to levels that seismologists believe will not cause or contribute to increased earthquake frequency and severity."

CLIMATE ACTIVIST BIDS FOR OIL, GAS LAND IN UTAH. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, Roth, 98K) reports that two dozen bidders attended a meeting in Salt Lake City on Tuesday to purchase leases of over 22,000 acres of public land auctioned off by the Bureau of Land Management. Nearly 100 climate activists protesting the auction were seated in the back of the room, but one protester, Terry Tempest Williams, had registered as a bidder. Following the auction, Williams bid \$1.50 per acre for the right to explore 800 acres of unwanted land "with the explicit goal of keeping the land out of the hands of the fossil-fuel industry." She plans to also bid on two more parcels totaling 871 acres near Arches National Park in eastern Utah and in the Book Cliffs mountain range.

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/17, Roth, 5.45M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/16, 975K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/16, 404K).

BLM SET TO AUCTION SIX OIL AND GAS PARCELS IN MAY. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that "the first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management's quarterly oil and gas lease sale." According to the article, "since 2001, Forest Service officials have worked on an Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis to protect resources and manage oil and gas development. It was completed in 2013." The article notes that "six land parcels, four of which are in the San Juan National Forest, will be up for competitive bid on May 12."

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSING FOR TRAPPER, COLOWYO MINES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (2/16, 10K) reports that "the public comment period for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's environmental assessments for two Northwest Colorado mines is coming to a close this week." According to the article, "Trapper is still undergoing a court-ordered redo on part of its federal coal leases while Colowyo is taking the next step in its Collom Expansion, which has been under assessment for several years."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (2/16, 30K).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON THREE POTENTIAL FALL RIVER OIL LEASE SITES. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (2/16, 117K) reports that the BLM is "seeking public comments on potential oil and gas leases on three parcels of private land west of Edgemont, but within the boundaries of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands." Russ Pigors, a physical scientist with the Belle Fourche BLM office, said that "a lease sale will be held for these three Fall River County parcels on July 12 this year, and BLM wants comments from the public for perspective on what sort of environmental impact permitting oil and gas exploration on these leases might have."

BULLISH ANALYST CHANGES STANCE ON COAL MARKETS. The [Seattle Times](#) (2/17, Mapes, Bernton, 1.12M) reports that Andy Roberts, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, who "less than three years ago" was lauding the long-term prospects of two export terminals proposed for Washington "once considered vital are now irrelevant" due to the decline in Asian coal markets. Roberts indicated in his Feb. 10 report that "rapid changes in coal's fortunes show what a miscalculation the investment in the ports was." Combined with "stiff opposition from tribal nations and community and conservation groups," Roberts said that the "economic wind has fallen out of the projects' sails." Additionally, "Asian demand has weakened to the point that coal from the Powder River Basin won't be competitive in the market until well after 2020." According to Roberts, non-coal alternatives

are gaining momentum, aided by policy and regulation.

Offshore Energy Development:

TWO STATES ASK COURT TO REVERSE INTERIOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE. [Law360](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that "Louisiana and Alabama pushed a D.C. federal judge to reverse a Department of the Interior rule change on splitting offshore oil drilling revenue Tuesday, arguing the agency favored some Gulf states over others with the new rule." The two states asked U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton to "bind the agency to a 25-year-old interpretation of a rule for divvying up offshore oil lease revenue where states' borders meet."

COURT BLOCKS USE OF BP RESTORATION FUNDS FOR GULF STATE PARK CONFERENCE CENTER. [Alabama Live](#) (2/17, 627K) reports that "a federal judge has blocked the use of certain BP restoration funds stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from being used to rebuild a beachfront lodge and conference center on the Alabama coast." U.S. District Judge Charles Butler "wrote in his decision that the Trustees who were in charge of allocating the funds 'acted arbitrarily and capriciously by failing to conduct a proper alternatives analysis,' as required by the Oil Pollution Act." Butler wrote, "The Court can, and will, enjoin the use of those funds pending further review by the Trustees. However, based on the administrative record before it, and the narrow issue presented by the pleadings, the Court cannot enjoin the Commissioner or the State from building the lodge/conference center with funds other than early restoration funds."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gulf Coast \(FL\) News Today](#) (2/16, 33K).

US REP. BUDDY CARTER CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/16, 207K) reports US. Rep Buddy Carter (R-GA) reiterated his support for oil exploration and offshore drilling for Georgia "even as local communities from Savannah to Brunswick oppose it." In a telephone interview, Carter said, "American has an abundance of natural resources, and we should be utilizing all of them to assure our energy independence." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released its draft plan last year to lease ocean land for oil and gas development off the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Georgia. An expected update of the plan, set to be released soon, could omit some states. The availability of oil and gas leasing as proposed in the Department of the Interior's 2017-2022 plan "has not happened in more than 30 years." Before drilling would begin, "exploration would take place with seismic testing, a controversial practice that maps possible oil and gas deposits under the sea floor."

WOODEN SURFBOARD CONTAINS SIGNATURES OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC. Pete Stauffer, environmental director for Surfrider Foundation, writes in [Clean Energy](#) (2/16) about a wooden surfboard that "journeyed through seven states and visited countless communities on its way to Washington DC." The surfboard, which contains dozens of signatures from "restaurants, surf shops, art galleries, hotels, and other coastal businesses," is a symbol of the recreation industry's opposition to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. US Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) said they will add their signatures before it is presented to White House officials on Feb. 16 "along with letters signed by over a thousand businesses asking our nation's leaders to cancel plans for oil drilling in the Atlantic."

CSA OCEAN TO RECEIVE NOPP DEEPWATER CANYONS AWARD. [Hydro International](#) (2/16, 28K) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey announced that the National Oceanographic Partnership Program will present the 2015 Excellence in Partnering Award to a team managed by CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. that participated in the "Atlantic Canyons: Pathways to the Abyss" project. The ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 23 to coincide with Ocean Sciences 2016 in New Orleans. During its work, the CSA study team "discovered new shipwrecks, deep, cold-water corals and unexpectedly, extensive methane seeps with exotic biological assemblages" in the Baltimore and Norfolk deepwater canyons.

JURY SELECTED FOR TRIAL OF EX-BP RIG SUPERVISOR. The [AP](#) (2/16) the jury has been selected in the trial of former BP rig supervisor Robert Kaluza who is facing a misdemeanor pollution charge for his alleged role in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Kaluza had faced manslaughter counts connected to the deaths of 11 workers, but federal prosecutors backed off those charges in December.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT BLM ADOPTION PROPOSAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that a BLM "plan to transfer wild horses and burros to other government agencies to be used as work animals lacks safeguards to ensure they are not mistreated, wild horse advocates said." The bureau "last week asked Congress to pass legislation that would allow it to swiftly transfer excess animals that have been removed from public lands to other federal, state and local government agencies, such as the Marine Corps or the U.S. Border Patrol." The proposal, "which requires congressional approval, aims to alleviate BLM's fiscal burden as it feeds and cares for roughly 47,000 excess animals in off-range holding facilities." The Cloud Foundation, "a Colorado-based wild horse advocacy group, said the proposal has some merit, because trained wild horses would live a higher quality of life working with humans than being kept in short-term holding corrals."

IDAHO LAND BOARD APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH BLM INVOLVING LAND SWAP. The [AP](#) (2/16, Ridler, Press, 1.99M) reports that the Idaho Land Board on Tuesday "voted 5-0 to update an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management involving a land swap involving about 50 square miles of state land in southwest Idaho." The article notes that "the board in the same vote approved deferring leasing of mineral development of those state lands until Dec. 31, 2017, to avoid activity in areas considered key sage grouse habitat."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/16, 198K).

BILL INTRODUCED TO REOPEN PERMITTING PROCESS OF CEMEX MINE. [KHTS-AM](#) Santa Clarita, CA (2/16, 2K) reports that Assemblyman Scott Wilk "introduced Assembly Bill 1986 on Tuesday that would reopen the permitting process of CEMEX's proposed mine in Soledad Canyon." Wilk said, "CEMEX's mine would wreak havoc on our environment and quality of life. Our children and seniors won't be able to breath, our roads will be choked daily with an additional 1,200 18-wheelers and the mine will soak up our most precious resource, water. I'm committed to killing this project."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (2/17, 23K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR MISSING OPPORTUNITY ON BULLWACKER-COW CREEK ACCESS. In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/16, 131K), Mike Penfold, a former BLM director for Montana, writes that the BLM has "decided not to go forward with the controversial land exchange of BLM's Durfee Hills for the Anchor Ranch located inside the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument." He argues that "acquiring better access and consolidation of public land into usable tracts for the public is a good thing." Furthermore, "opportunities often come only once and must be taken quickly if they are in the public interest." Penfold says that "the Anchor Ranch could have been a very significant addition to this amazing Montana landscape," and he is "sorry to see this opportunity pass without full public analysis."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA'S BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDES \$1.6B FOR FWS. The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (2/16, 97K) reports that President Barack Obama has "requested \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in his 2017 fiscal year budget, an increase of \$54.5 million from fiscal year 2016." Obama's "budget includes \$137.6 million for refuge land acquisition, including \$58.7 million in current funding and \$79 million in proposed permanent funding, an increase of \$69.1 million above the 2016 enacted level."

FWS GRANT HELPS JOINS TWO HALVES OF NEGWEGON STATE PARK. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/16, 617K) reports that the two halves of Negwegon State Park will "finally become one" this year. Negwegon, "a remote park on the shore of Lake Huron's Thunder Bay, will become contiguous property with help from a \$900,000 federal grant to buy 391 acres of land between the park halves the state has long hoped join the park with." The federal grant money comes from a FWS coastal wetlands conservation program.

GROUP MOVES TO BLOCK IMPORT OF ELEPHANTS TO ZOOS. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "an animal rights group has sued to stop zoos in Kansas, Nebraska and Texas from bringing in new elephants from Africa." The Friends of Animals filed a lawsuit last week in federal court against the FWS. Last month, the FWS "issued permits allowing the importation of 18 African elephants from Swaziland." The lawsuit argues the FWS "did not take into account how the transfer would negatively hurt the social, mental and physical well-being of the 18 elephants."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (2/16, 1.24M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Nasa, 929K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K).

FWS CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF NATIONAL BISON RANGE TO TRIBES. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/16, 15K) reports that "in a dramatic change of course from its historic management goals, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered the first stage of negotiations to cede control of the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes." The discussions between the FWS and CSKT "came to light in emails distributed Feb. 5 by Fish and Wildlife Service administrators, who informed agency employees of the decision, citing the inability to reach an annual funding agreement with CSKT that would allow the tribes to jointly manage the Bison Range." According to the article, "the agency-wide messages, sent by both FWS Refuge Chief Cynthia Martinez and Mountain Prairie Regional Director Noreen Walsh, explain that talks have begun about drafting legislation that would transfer the lands comprising the National Bison Range in Montana to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the CSKT."

STUDENTS CREATE CAMPUS WILDLIFE AREA ON PEREGRINE SCHOOL CAMPUS. The [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that "parts of the Peregrine School campus in South Davis are now wildlife areas with native plants, thanks to some elbow grease from students with assistance and advice from Karlleen Vollherbst, school habitat program coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." According to the article, "the project that culminated with last Friday's planting project began many months ago, with the preparation of a 75-page grant application detailing the proposed wildlife area." Vollherbst said the goal of the project is to "attract different pollinators and birds to a space just outside the classroom building, where students can learn from the habitat, and play, and observe wildlife over time."

FIRE AT GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 50% CONTAINED. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports that FWS officials say "they're planning to resume air operations and clear debris from a wildfire that began near a wildlife refuge in Mississippi and crossed into Alabama marshland." According to spokeswoman Candice Stevenson, "authorities plan to fly over the burned area Tuesday after severe storms on Monday grounded air operations." Officials say "a fire at the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge has burned roughly 4,400 acres and is about 50 percent contained."

PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD ON MANATEE RECLASSIFICATION. The [Orlando \(FL\) Weekly](#) (2/16, 115K) reports that the FWS will hold a public meeting about the reclassification of Florida manatees from a status of "endangered" to "threatened" on Saturday, Feb. 20 in Orlando.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CONSERVATION GROUPS TO SUE FWS OVER NEW BAT RULE. Additional coverage that conservation groups said they intend to sue the FWS over a new bat rule was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/17).

National Park Service:

FOURTH GRADERS OFFERED FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS. [Fox News](#) (2/12, 9.42M) reports that families with fourth-graders can celebrate the National Parks Centennial this year with the Every Kid in a Park initiative, "which gives free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and more through Aug. 31."

Additional coverage of the NPS Centennial and the Every Kid in a Park initiative was provided by the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/15, Freeman, 84K) the [Tucson \(AZ\) Local Media](#) (2/16).

NPS DESIGNATED 34 NEW COMMUNITIES AS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN 2015. The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/16) reports that the NPS "designated 34 communities from across the United States as Certified Local Governments in 2015." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "We are proud that last year 34 new communities spanning the country from Florida to Washington joined us in our commitment to historic preservation and protecting what makes their cities and towns special. These Certified Local Governments now have access to unique resources to preserve the heritage of their communities and promote local economic growth through tourism to their historical areas."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marblehead \(MA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 157).

NPS BEGINS SELLING PASSES ONLINE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that as the NPS "prepares to enter its second century, the agency is taking its first steps into e-commerce." They

announced "it has launched a pilot program to sell entrance passes online for a handful of selected parks, a move Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) has pushed since last year." King said in a statement, "With the launch of this pilot program at Acadia, the National Park System is entering a new era of accessibility. Electronic park passes will not only make it easier for the American people to visit and enjoy our most treasured places, but they'll also help the Park Service maximize sales and generate new revenues. I applaud the Park Service for embracing the power of this technology and am delighted that Acadia is leading the nation in piloting it."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) and [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (2/16, 333).

REPORT RECOMMENDS EXPANDING SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has "released a plan that recommends adding more than 265 square miles of land around Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area." According to the article, "the final plan, released Tuesday, would more than double the existing wilderness area in one of the nation's most densely populated regions." The proposal would "add portions of the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel Mountains foothills, scenic areas, historic and archaeological sites, wildlife corridors and miles of hiking trails in a sprawling area that's home to millions." The article notes that "the final plan differs from last year's draft proposal by eliminating some industrialized or urbanized areas in favor of more pristine properties."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, 32K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (2/16, 301K), the [Santa Monica \(CA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 3K), and [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/16).

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BEGINS TRAPPING AND SLAUGHTER OF BISON.

[USA Today](#) (2/16, Hafner, 5.45M) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials "started trapping bison Monday as part of an annual effort to kill hundreds of the area's iconic animals through hunting or shipment to slaughterhouses." According to the article, "government agencies aim to drive down the bison population by as many as 900 this year to reduce the mammals' centuries-old migration beyond the park's boundaries and into Montana." A plan "calls for eventually culling bison in the park from about 5,000 down to 3,000."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Oregonian](#) (2/16, 864K), the [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (2/16, 1.13M), and [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (2/16, 385K).

THEFTS PROMPT CLOSURES AT MINING SITES IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/15, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that "two areas of Joshua Tree National Park noted for their mining artifacts have been closed indefinitely because of looting, according to the park's superintendent." Carey's Castle and El Sid Mine will "be closed 'at least for a month' until cultural artifact teams can inventory and record the areas, and while the park devises an enforcement and surveillance strategy, park Supt. David Smith said Monday." He said, "We had some looting at El Sid that started a few months ago. We actually bought some artifacts to replace the original ones and they got stolen, too."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (2/16, 302K), and [Time Out](#) (2/16, 66K).

OFFICIALS PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that to the NPS, "mountain goats are a potentially invasive species and unwanted itinerants in several Western parks, including Dinosaur National Monument." NPS officials are looking to shoot goats "wandering in from artificially established herds in Utah damage resources and disturb Dinosaur's resident bighorn sheep." According to the article, "under a draft plan released Feb. 8, the park intends to shoot any wild goats that roam into its boundaries, which straddle the Utah-Colorado line."

WATER BEGINS FLOWING TO EASTERN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (2/16, Gillis, 190K) reports the South Water Management District began moving water Monday night from water storage areas south of Lake Okeechobee to the eastern side of Everglades National Park. As a result, water that usually flows to the west and into the western section of the park will now head east, "to Shark Valley Slough — where alligators have died in recent years due to a lack of water." Water has not flowed regularly in this manner since the Tamiami Trail opened in 1928, which has served as a dam that holds back water "that historically spread to Florida Bay." District spokesperson Randy Smith said sending water to the park will improve wildlife conditions in the water storage areas between the lake and the park.

NPS SUPPORTS PLAN BY LOWELL TO LIGHT UP CANALS. The [Boston Globe](#) (2/16, Siefer, 1.05M)

reports that "starting Friday evening as part of a weekend-long Winterfest, a stretch of one canal will be bathed in shifting colors, and the area flanking the canal, Lucy Larcom Park, will feature fire artists, music, and food." According to the article, "it's a first phase in what project boosters hope could lead to the illumination —and enlivening — of much of city's the 5.6-mile network of canals." Although "one might also expect some friction between canal boosters and the National Park Service, which imposes strict design standards throughout the historic park, "park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo "expressed enthusiasm for the lighting project, noting that \$51 million in federal, state, and city funds had already been invested in canal improvements, such as paths, landscaping, and historical markers."

TRAIL AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TO BE MADE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the Mica View Trail at Saguaro National Park will "undergo changes to make it wheelchair accessible." The trail will be "upgraded and given a hardened surface to make it suitable for visitors who use a wheelchair or other equipment to assist with mobility." It will be "closed from Feb. 22 through May while work is under way, but once it's reopened, it will meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act for recreation trails."

SUPERDOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/16, 625K) reports that the Superdome has been named to the National Register of Historic Places "despite an objection by the state, which owns the stadium and is concerned the designation might slow down future projects." Superdome officials said Monday that "they were unaware that the federal government had approved the listing and had not been notified."

WEIR FARM SUPERINTENDENT TO RECEIVE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AWARD. The [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (2/16, Carr, 28K) reports Linda Cook, the superintendent of Weir Farm National Historic Site, will be awarded the National Park Service's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Stewardship at a ceremony in Washington, DC on Feb. 23. Cook spearheaded a "decade-long project to meticulously restore" the home and studio of Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir to its original condition.

SILENT-MOVIE FILM STUDIO SEEKS RECOGNITION AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Goodykoontz, 5.45M) reports Norman Studios, one of the last silent-movie film studios, is already on the National Register of Historic Places but is "angling for recognition as a historic landmark by the National Park Service." The Jacksonville, Florida-based studio is known for making "race films" in the 1920s that featured African-Americans and produced "almost exclusively" for African-American audiences. A nonprofit group is currently "working to restore the studio complex and turn it into a learning center for aspiring film professionals."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP GRANTS. Additional coverage of the field trip grants awarded by the National Park Foundation was provided by the [Alexander City \(AL\) Outlook](#) (2/13, 12K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE" FILM. Additional coverage of "National Parks Adventure" was provided by the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (2/16, 489K) and [Skift](#) (2/16).

NPS URGED TO SIDE WITH POINT REYES RANCHERS. The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (2/17, 165K) criticizes "a lawsuit seeking to drive peaceful ranchers out of Point Reyes National Seashore." It notes that "some of the ranches have been there since the 1860s, and many ranchers joined with neighbors and conservation groups to lobby for creation of the park when pressure built for residential development of Marin County's scenic coastal bluffs in the late 1950s and early 1960s." According to the paper, "the 15 family ranches were promised 20-year lease extensions in 2012 by then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar as proof that the long-scheduled removal of an oyster farm in Drakes Bay wasn't the first step in clearing in-holdings from the park." It hopes the NPS will "keep Salazar's promise."

Additional coverage that a group of environmentalists is suing to stop grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (2/16, 22K) and [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K).

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD: MAINE OFFICIALS SHOULDN'T SHUT DOWN DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) editorializes that the negative response by Maine Gov. LePage and the state's congressional delegation to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis' letter concerning a proposed national park is unwarranted and needlessly hostile. LePage has "predictability overacted" to the letter regarding the donation of private property belonging to Elliotsville Plantation Inc. to the federal government for the park by seizing the land "to build roads that Maine doesn't need to spoil

the organization's plans." The Press Herald says that a federally run park comprised of donated land "could be a gift for the state to treasure, not a theft to be prevented." Maine officials should be "actively engaging the Park Service" about their concerns instead of "shutting down dialogue."

WEISER: MCCLINTOCK MISINTERPRETS MUIR'S SUPPORT FOR REFORMING YOSEMITE. Matt Weiser writes in the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/17, Weiser, 569K) that it required a "certain arrogance" for US Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) to claim at a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands that John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club "and savior of Yosemite," would oppose the National Park Service removing "resort-like" amenities like ice-skating rinks, swimming pools and convenience stores from the park. McClintock said Muir "wanted people to come to our public lands knowing they would go away with fond memories, happy experiences." At the Oct. 28 hearing, McClintock called on a series of "hand-picked witnesses" to support his claim that federal agencies are responsible for Yosemite's declining attendance because it lacks amenities and concessionaires lack free rein in the parks. This move supports McClintock's goal of giving away national forest lands to local and state governments. John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, said McClintock "abuses the facts to somehow portray this dark, sinister threat that he is the champion of protecting the public from."

Top National News:

OBAMA CONFIDENT TRUMP WON'T BE ELECTED PRESIDENT. In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, lead story, 0:40, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported President Obama on Tuesday "weighed in on the political phenomenon that is Donald Trump. President Obama was answering a question at a news conference today, and he did not mince words." The President was shown saying, "I continue to believe Mr. Trump will not be president. And the reason is because I have a lot of faith in the American people, and I think they recognize that being president is a serious job. It's not hosting a talk show or a reality show. It's not promotion. It's not marketing. It's hard."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Boyer, 285K) reports Obama, speaking at a press conference in California, "lashed out at... Trump and the rest of the" GOP White House hopefuls, "calling them unserious candidates who are 'troubling' the rest of the world with careless rhetoric and a poor grasp of basic facts." Along with his direct comments on Trump, the President – without mentioning him by name – also chided Sen. Marco Rubio "for abandoning the immigration reform bill he once supported." Said Obama, "You've got a candidate who sponsored a bill that I supported to finally solve the immigration problem, and he's running away from it as fast as he can."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Keane, 289K) reports that Obama, who "has repeatedly shown frustration with the tone and tenor of the" GOP race, said, "Foreign observers are troubled by some of the rhetoric that has taken place in some of these Republican primaries and Republican debates." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Obama "said Mr. Trump 'says in more interesting ways what the other candidates are saying as well.' 'He may up the ante in anti-Muslim sentiment,' Mr. Obama said, 'but if you look at what the other candidates have said, that's pretty troubling, too.'"

[Vox](#) (2/16, Stein, 758K) reports that after his remarks on Trump, Obama described "the magnitude of the challenges that face the president. 'Whoever's standing where I'm standing right now has the nuclear codes with them, and can order 21-year-olds into a firefight and [has] to make sure that the banking system doesn't collapse – and is often responsible for not just the United States of America, but 20 other countries that are having big problems,' Obama said."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Parsons, Memoli, 4.1M) reports that the remarks "represented Obama's most energetic criticism of the Republicans running to replace him." The President "has mostly kept a studied distance from the fray and resisted invitations to engage in political analysis. But GOP candidates are promising to dismantle Obama's entire legacy if they win the Oval Office, and polls show Trump dramatically in the lead in South Carolina going into its Saturday primary." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M) also reported on Obama's remarks.

Firing Back, Trump Says He Would Have Defeated Obama In 2012. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Johnson, 8.98M) reports that Trump, asked about the President's remarks during a campaign event in South Carolina, said, "He has done such a lousy job as president. You look at our budgets, you look at our spending, we can't beat ISIS, Obamacare is terrible – we're going to terminate it, we're absolutely going to terminate it. And you look at everything, our borders are like Swiss cheese, this man has done such a bad job, he has set us back so far, and for him to say that is actually a great compliment." Of Obama, Trump added, "You're lucky I didn't run

last time, when [Mitt] Romney ran, because you would have been a one-term president.”

Poll: Trump Leads Cruz By 16 Points In South Carolina. [ABC World News](#) (2/16, story 3, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported new poll numbers show Donald Trump leading Sen. Ted Cruz by 16 points in South Carolina. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump “is crushing the competition” according to the CNN-ORC poll released on Tuesday. The survey shows Trump has 38% support compared with Cruz’s 22%, followed Sen. Marco Rubio 14%, Jeb Bush 10%, Ben Carson 6%, and Gov. John Kasich 4%. The poll shows, according to The Hill, that “a majority of Republicans surveyed – 53 percent – say Trump gives the GOP its best chance of winning the general election.”

LATimes Analysis: Trump Holds Lead In South Carolina Despite “Crude Rhetoric.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Bierman, Mascaró, 4.1M) reports Trump “is maintaining his wide lead” in South Carolina “despite criticism of his crude rhetoric.” The Times says while the state “has long prided itself on Southern manners and propriety, it is changing rapidly as outsiders increasingly move” there and “Trump Nation may be immune to, and in some cases, even more forgiving of his brash behavior.” In a quote that is used in the article’s headline, the Times reports, a South Carolina voter said, “We’re voting with our middle finger.”

WPost: “Middle-Of-Road” Republicans Leave Trump Event “More Terrified Than Ever.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Terris, 8.98M) reports the “madness” surrounding Trump “has not been lost on the middle-of-the-road Republicans” in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. The Post highlights attendees at a Trump town-hall who left the event “more terrified than ever” and “comparing the Republican front-runner to President Obama, comparing him to Vladimir Putin, calling him a bully, saying he denigrates women and the disabled.”

Tea Party Of America Co-Founder “Abandoned” Trump. The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, Miller, 285K) reports Tea Party of America co-founder Ken Crow “abandoned” Trump on Tuesday and “threw his backing to Jeb Bush in a striking move that suggests some softening in the GOP front-runner’s support among conservatives as the campaign shifts to South Carolina.” Crow told the Times “he’s become repulsed by [Trump’s] volatile personality and crude antics on the stump.” Crow said, “I was on the Trump train, but enough is enough,” adding, “When is Trump going to act like a president? The answer is he’s not.”

CBS: Haley Will Not Endorse Trump Before Primary. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 2, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley not only said “she will not endorse Trump” before the South Carolina primary, but “said Trump is everything a governor does not want in a president.”

The Hill Analysis: Trump’s “Blunt Message” Defies Predictions. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump “was supposed to be dead and buried by now” as “the political class and pundits have been predicting [his] political demise” since he announced his candidacy. However, according to The Hill, “Trump’s blunt message of American exceptionalism and his distance from the political establishment continue to strike a chord with grassroots conservatives, who are fed up with the status quo in Washington.” The Hill provides seven instances in which “the political class leaped to write the Trump campaign’s obituary, only to be proven wrong.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump’s Style Makes Him “Almost Comic-Proof.” The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Poniewozik, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Trump “works in the mode and rhythms of a stand-up. He riffs. He goads. He works blue.” That style, according to the Times, “has rendered him, weirdly, almost comic-proof.” The Times explains that “election parodies traditionally exaggerate candidates,” but Trump “exaggerates himself – he’s the frilled lizard of politics, inflating his self-presentation to appear ever larger.” The Times says “satire exposes candidates’ contradictions and absurdities,” but “Trump blows past those, while his supporters cheer.”

Milbank: George W. Bush Is Reminder Of When “Conservative Politics Wasn’t So Beastly.” In his [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says former President George W. Bush’s recent campaigning for Jeb Bush “served as a reminder that, not too long ago, conservative politics wasn’t so beastly.” Milbank says while Bush “did his share to coarsen political discourse ... even Karl Rove’s underhandedness seems almost quaint compared with today’s brutality.” Milbank adds the GOP “isn’t necessarily more conservative; Trump is less a conservative than a purveyor of insults, nationalism and conspiracy theories.” Milbank concludes the former President’s “reemergence offered Republicans a chance to reflect on how Bush’s party of conservatism so quickly became Trump’s party of rage.”

SOUTH CAROLINA POLL: CLINTON LEADS SANDERS 56%-38%. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Byrnes, 862K) reported that CNN/ORC survey of 280 South Carolina likely Democratic primary voters, taken Feb. 10-15, shows Hillary Clinton leading Sen. Bernie Sanders 56%-38%. Among African-American voters, Clinton leads 65%-28%, and

among women voters, she leads 60%-33%, according to the poll. Sanders leads among white voters 54%-40%, and he leads among men voters 49%-45%, according to the poll.

Media Analyses: Clinton, Sanders South Carolina Battle Comes Down To Black Vote. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Tucker, Wagner, 8.98M) reports that as Clinton and Sanders battle for support in South Carolina, "the fight is largely among African Americans, who are expected to make up at least half of the state's electorate and who maintain a large degree of fondness for the Clintons." Sanders is attempting "to cut into Clinton's sizable lead by appealing to younger African Americans," who find appeal in "his message of economic justice and feel that many of the crime policies that began under President Bill Clinton have done long-term harm to their communities."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Nancy Cordes reported that Sanders on Tuesday "met with black ministers in Columbia, South Carolina," while Clinton "sat down with civil rights leaders in Harlem." In her Harlem speech, Clinton "proposed a \$2 billion plan to reform school discipline policies that she says are failing black students." Sanders, meanwhile, "focused on black incarceration rates." Cordes added that Clinton leads "among South Carolina African Americans by nearly 40 points. She sought to cement that advantage today by implying Sanders is new to the fight for racial equality." However, Sanders "argued the civil right movement inspired his fight against Wall Street greed."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, story 2, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M), Kasie Hunt reported that in the Democratic race, "African-American voters [were] are the focus" on Tuesday, with "Clinton courting black leaders, hoping for an endorsement from reverend Al Sharpton," and Sanders meeting with "faith leaders" in South Carolina, where he "campaigning with Erica Garner, whose father died after a New York city police officer put him in a chokehold." Erica Garner was shown saying of Sanders, "He marched with Martin Luther King. He stood with Jesse Jackson, so basically he's stood with black people when it wasn't popular."

The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Chozick, Alcindor, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, "The black vote is likely to make up roughly half the Democratic electorate in the party's Feb. 27 primary in South Carolina, and the two candidates highlighted similar themes in their appeals: the disproportionate economic barriers that young black men, in particular, face and the need to overhaul a criminal justice system that incarcerates young black men at high rates and to work with police forces to prevent officers from shooting black men or singling out African-Americans for arrest. Mr. Sanders, speaking to students at a town-hall-style meeting at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, said he was tired of seeing 'videos of unarmed people being killed by police officers.'"

Clinton Woos African-Americans During Harlem Speech, Meeting With Civil Rights Leaders. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Przybyla, 5.45M) reported that a Harlem speech yesterday, Hillary Clinton, "citing a lingering 'reality of systemic racism' in America, called for a comprehensive approach to battling racial inequality...that goes beyond changes to the criminal justice system." Clinton detailed "a multi-pronged approach, including new job investments, equal pay for women of color and ending what is, for many young black men, a school-to-prison pipeline."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Allen) reports that Clinton, wooing the crucial African-American vote, also met with civil rights leaders at the National Urban League's New York headquarters, including the Rev. Al Sharpton. Reuters adds that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and ex-US Attorney General joined Clinton onstage for her speech in Harlem.

Bill Clinton Stumps For Hillary In South Carolina. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/16, Morrill, 610K) reports that former President Bill Clinton, addressing "350 people at the West End Community Development Center" on Tuesday in Greenville, SC, portrayed his wife Hillary "as a pragmatic 'change agent.'" While Clinton didn't mention Sanders by name, "he said [Hillary's] policies are more pragmatic."

Under the headline "Bill Clinton Makes Nice With S.C. Blacks Who Ditched Hillary For Obama In 2008," the [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, 285K) reports that the former President attempted to link "Clinton to his own eight years in office, to President Obama's tenure and even to the anger that's forced Mrs. Clinton into a tougher primary race than she had hoped." Targeting "the young voters drawn to Mr. Sanders' promise of free public college," the former President said, "A lot of these young millennials are mad, and I think they are making a mistake, but they're supporting her opponent, because he's promising free college. Why? Because they can't move out of their parents' homes because they can't afford to pay their debt."

Sanders Dismisses Bill Clinton's Tea Party Comparison As "Silly." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Brody, 289K)

reported that one day after Bill Clinton made remarks "widely interpreted as a criticism directly aimed at Bernie Sanders," the Vermont lawmaker on Tuesday fired back. Campaigning for his wife on Monday in Florida, Clinton – while not mentioning Sanders by name – "said the Tea Party succeeded at the ballot box by deciding to 'just tell people what they want to hear,' before quickly adding that Democrats have also began 'rewarding people who tell us things we know they can't do because it pushes our hot button.'" Asked by Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin about Clinton's comments, Sanders said that "we should not be making silly remarks." Asked, "Is there a comparison" between Sanders and the Tea Party, Sanders replied, "There's no comparison."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"Hillary Clinton Should Just Say Yes To A \$15 Minimum Wage."* A [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton "has eloquently defined workers' rights as human rights," and argues that she "could assert both more forcefully by championing a stronger federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour." Clinton's fight for a \$12 wage, the Times says, "stance misses the big picture, which is that the risk in keeping the minimum too low is bigger than the risk of raising it too high."

"A Tale Of Horror At The United Nations." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the UN is "failing some of the most vulnerable children it is supposed to protect," noting accusations of sexual abuse by peacekeepers in the Central African Republic. The Times says that while countries that contribute troops to peacekeeping missions "bear the primary responsibility for crimes committed by their forces," the UN "urgently needs to intensify its oversight," and welcomes the appointment last week of Jane Holl Lute as a special coordinator. Lastly, the Times argues that "despite the difficulties in recruiting enough troops for peacekeeping duties, it is time to exclude countries that do not impose the necessary discipline to make zero tolerance possible."

WASHINGTON POST. *"Mr. Obama's Defense Budget Reflects A New Age Of Military Deterrence."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) calls the President's budget "recognition that Russia has evolved from hoped-for partner to serious threat is welcome." The Post argues Western allies "must continue the fight against the Islamic State and other forces of instability," but they "also must recognize that, through no choice of their own, a new age of deterrence has dawned," and the US must "make clear to Russia that further aggression would impose an unacceptable cost."

"Virginia, Don't Revive The Electric Chair." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes against a bill by Virginia Del. Jackson H. Miller (R-Manassas) to bring back the electric chair for capital punishment. The Post says electrocution is "barbaric," and Virginia should either wait to procure drugs needed for lethal injections or "recognize the future and scrap capital punishment altogether."

"DC Fire System Needs To Change Because Lives Are At Stake." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes that with the persistent "incompetence" of emergency medical care, the DC fire system needs to change. The system's failures were highlighted last week when Juliette Saussy, the medical director hired seven months ago to help reform the department, quit "with a withering critique of the organization and its leadership." Because Chief Gregory Dean has been in the department for less than a year, the Post says he "should be given more time." However, with lives at stake, the "clock should be ticking" on his efforts towards improvement.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Regulating Education For Profit."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) criticizes Tony Miller, the second highest-ranking official in the Education Department from 2009 to 2013, because of the fact that Miller will soon become chairman of the for-profit Apollo Education once Apollo is bought by the private-equity firm Vistria Group. The Journal says that Miller led a federal department bent on destroying the value of Apollo, then left the government and bought Apollo at a fraction of the price with the hopes that a new Administration will be more lenient towards for-profit education.

"Africa's Terror Crescent." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the US, UN, African Union, and European powers have failed to uproot Islamist terrorists from Africa, with several attacks last weekend highlighting jihad's reach on the continent. This terrorism endangers some of Africa's most promising regions that span from the Horn of Africa to the Mediterranean coast and south to Nigeria. The Journal concludes that as the situation in Syria shows, jihad will continue to spread unless it is crushed.

“The New Schumer Precedent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that Sen. Charles Schumer appears ham-fisted in his efforts to explain comments he made in 2007 that the Senate should reject any hypothetical Supreme Court nominees during the last 18 months of President Bush’s term.

“An Animas River Accounting.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn’t giving the full story regarding the agency’s litany of failures that culminated in the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn’t tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Their Unifying Principal](#)

[Obama Won't Shy From A Court Fight](#)

[Grim Sleeper Trial Finally Begins](#)

[Pope Makes A Stand At The Front Line Of Mexico's Drug War](#)

[Lautner Home Marks A Sweet Sport For LACMA](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Saudi, Russia, Qatar, Venezuela Agree To Freeze Oil Output](#)

[Obama Plans To Make Court Pick In Next Few Weeks](#)

[Iran "Foreign Legion" Leads Battle In Syria's North](#)

[South Carolina GOP Voters Feel The Benefits Of Free Trade—But Also The Scars](#)

New York Times:

[President Raises Stakes In Supreme Court Nominee Battle](#)

[Supreme Court Path Is Littered With Pitfalls, For President And GOP](#)

[Hillary Clinton's Candidacy Reveals Generational Schism Among Women](#)

[Virtual Reality Companies Look To Science Fiction For Their Next Play](#)

[New York Schools Wonder: How White Is Too White?](#)

[Young Saudis See Cushy Jobs Vanish Along With Nation's Oil Wealth](#)

Washington Post:

[DC Cabbies Are On Prolific Ticket-Writing Officer's Radar](#)

[Shutdown Was Cruz's Defining Moment](#)

[Europe Flails At Migrant Crisis](#)

[Obama Pledges Qualified Nominee](#)

[Sanders And Clinton See Black Votes As Key In SC](#)

Financial Times:

[Saudi And Russia Agree Oil Freeze](#)

[China Bank Lending Hits Record In January](#)

Washington Times:

[Angry Tea Partyer Abandons Trump In S. Carolina](#)

[GOP Starts To Yield On Voting To Fill Scalia's Seat](#)

[Clinton Welcomed In South Carolina Despite Caustic Campaigning In 2008](#)

[Leftist Takes Advantage Of A Weakened Venezuela](#)

[Some Planned Parenthood Supporters Say Constitution Protects Investigators](#)

[Ugandan Voters To Test Another African Leader's Grip On Power](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Heartburn Medication Debate; Eagles Of Death Concert; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; California Earthquake.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; El Nino-Global Effects; Lesotho Drought-El Nino; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Pope John Paul II-Lifelong Friendship; US Railroad Inspection Standards; Westminster Dog Show.
NBC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; Student Loan Arrest; US Prescription Drug Prices; Former UN Secretary General Death; US-Cuba Commercial Flights; Angola-Record Diamond; Westminster Dog Show.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 16 minutes, 00 seconds
 Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
 Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 6 minutes, 00 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

CBS: San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show Winner.

NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Oregon Protester Leaders-Comments; China-Woody Island Missiles Deployed; Hanoi-War Commemoration; Baltimore-Organized Crime Leader Story; Westminster Dog Show.

FOX: 2016 Politics-Republican Campaigns; 2016 Politics- Donald Trump; Supreme Court Nomination Debate.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No scheduled public events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits New Orleans, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee to participate in events commemorating the 7th anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 7:30 AM FCW Unified Security event, "Strengthening the Cyber Ecosystem." – An event that will "provide federal IT leaders with insights into how to build a cyber ecosystem that reduces their vulnerabilities and strengthens their capacity to respond to the rising tide of cyber threats." Speakers include NPPD Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) Cybersecurity Assurance Branch Chief Martin Stanley, who is scheduled to deliver remarks at 10:50 a.m. Location: Willard InterContinental Hotel 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW <https://fcw.com/cybersecurity2016>

3:00 PM U.S. Justice Action Network to Release New Poll Revealing Voter Attitudes Toward Criminal Justice Reform – The U.S. Justice Action Network will unveil new polling that highlights voter sentiment toward federal criminal justice reforms currently being considered by the U.S. Senate. The poll results will highlight voter attitudes toward federal reform in six states, all of which are considered crucial in the 2016 election cycle, including Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Ed Goetas, president and CEO of conservative polling firm The Tarrance Group will present the polling results as well as highlight other insights generated by the survey. The U.S. Justice Action Network's conservative and progressive partners will also be on hand to give their take on the findings, and what it means for the larger effort to advance reforms. Location: 444 North Capitol, Room 337 www.justiceactionnetwork.org

7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit. Day two speakers include National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Frank Klotz, Russia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sergey Kislyak, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, GeoStrategic Analysis President Peter Huessy, and Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>

12:30 PM GOP Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' on helping America's entrepreneurs – House Committee on Small Business Chairman Republican Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' at the NPC on 'how Congress can help America's entrepreneurs', as part of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation 2016 State of Entrepreneurship Address Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, during his speech at the rally, George W. Bush said his brother Jeb is the guy who can fix the problems that inflame our country's frustrations. Or in other words, Jeb is America's 'Preparation H.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the latest national poll, Hillary Clinton's lead over Bernie Sanders has narrowed to ten points. Also narrowed, Hillary Clinton's eyes."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 31 percent of Donald Trump supporters in South Carolina would support a ban on homosexuals immigrating to the US. Oh, yeah, because that's what all cool, gay Europeans dream of...South Carolina."

Seth Meyers: "CNN has released an article comparing the Republican candidates to used cars, which likened John Kasich to a family-friendly minivan. And here are some of the other candidates. Ben Carson is a Prius. You can hardly hear it running."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, February 16, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA DESIGNATES THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. The White House announced on Friday that President Obama designated three new national monuments in the California desert. According to an information sheet, the White House says the new monuments will encompass "nearly 1.8 million acres of America's public lands," and will "nearly double the number of acres of public lands previously protected as national monuments by President Obama – demonstrating the Administration's strong commitment to aggressive action to protect the environment for future generations." The new monuments will "link already protected lands, including Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and fifteen congressionally-designated Wilderness areas, permanently protecting key wildlife corridors and providing plants and animals with the space and elevation range that they will need in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change." The new monuments are Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Eilperin, 8.98M) reported the monuments create "the world's second-largest desert preserve" and nearly double "the amount of land [Obama] has unilaterally protected while in office," giving rise to opposition to Obama's use of executive powers. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) called it "presidential bullying." On the other side, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," adding, "they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions."

The [AP](#) (2/16, Rogers) pointed out the "Mojave Trails National Monument, at 1.6 million acres, is by far the largest of the three new ones." The article described the lands. [US News & World Report](#) (2/12, 853K) also carried the AP report. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Cama, 862K) cited Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) support for the monument designations. The BLM, the NPS, and the Forest Service will manage the lands, which were "already owned by the federal government."

[McClatchy](#) (2/15, Doyle, 22K) quotes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's statement that "the California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of Southern California." Jewell also said "valid existing" uses of the affected lands will continue, including those of the US military. [Reuters](#) (2/12, Bernstein) reported similarly, and its report was also carried by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 822K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 6.31M).

[Greenwire](#) (2/12, Jacobs, Subscription Publication) explained the monument designation "shields the land from any new mining and other industrial activities, including solar and wind farms." Jewell reportedly "applauded the designations in San Bernardino and Riverside counties." Jewell said in a statement, "Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/15) carries the press release from the Interior Department. Additional coverage was provided by [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/12, Sklar), [Tech Times](#) (2/14, Pascual, 173K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/12, Milman, 3.71M).

Western Lawmakers Concerned By "Federal Overreach" In Obama's National Monument Strategy. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/13, Jonsson, 442K) discussed how President Obama's Friday decision to establish three new national monuments, the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains, in California "smacks of federal overreach" to critics. The article said "the reaction to Obama's use of executive powers to protect these natural resources highlights the shifts in thinking around public lands and the impact of federal policy on Americans who live and work in the West."

JEWELL DISCUSSES NATIONAL MONUMENTS AT ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE EVENT. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (2/15, Connelly, 663K) reports that US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was "honored Saturday night by the Alaska Wilderness League" following the creation of three new national monuments, but that the group proceeded to pitch "designation of a new national monument on land in Alaska's Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge that is coveted by Big Oil." Jewell "joked" in responding, "Everybody is coming to me with their wish list." Jewell added, "The fact is you do not see the land of man," but also said "There's a lot of oil under there." The article describes how in recent months, Jewell "has lately been at work on everything from monuments to the role of indigenous people in protecting lands, to a global anti-poaching initiative which has taken her to Africa and Southeast Asia." At the event Jewell said of Obama, "He does not have the outdoor affinity that I do except for Hawaii. He is a creature of the beach."

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The AP (2/15, Barakat) reports that on Monday the NPS announced philanthropist billionaire David Rubenstein donated \$18.5 million to refurbish the Lincoln Memorial and other icons, with the money slated to "be used to fix the memorial's roof, clean Lincoln's statue, repair marble panels and improve accessibility by adding a second elevator." The NPS "also plans to create 15,000 square feet of visitor space in the cavernous space below the memorial for education." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said the memorial is "pretty stout, and...has held up quite well for a structure of its age," but added, "you can't build a 100-year roof." The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Barakat, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, Barakat, 8.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/15, Barakat, 442K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/15, Barakat, 1.99M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Services, 2.17M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, Barakat, 822K), also carry this story.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Ruane, 8.98M) says the planned repairs will likely be "the biggest overhaul of the building since the structure was dedicated in 1922," according to officials. Rubenstein said in an interview last week, "the idea was to take the basic Lincoln Memorial and reshape it a bit, make it more modern, scrub it up a bit," and to add an education center about Lincoln. National Mall and Memorial Parks superintendent Gay Vietzke said the memorial "has become symbolic of so much more." Jarvis said last week, "When we build the new exhibit and visitor-use space, it will...give the public an opportunity to actually see underneath the memorial," adding that he "feel[s] great" about the renovations.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/15, Merda, 764K) quotes US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell's statement: "His act of 'patriotic philanthropy' will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials for future generations, but will also help preserve Lincoln's legacy to this country." UPI (2/15, Ware) further quotes Jewell as saying, "This generous donation by David Rubenstein, his fourth to benefit national parks, comes at a perfect time as our national parks usher in a new century of service to this nation."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Mcdermott, 285K) cites Rubenstein saying his donation aims to "help people better understand Lincoln's leadership during a trying time." The article adds that the NPS "is expected to spend about \$6 million of its own money" toward the project, and paraphrases Jewell as saying the NPS "is in desperate need of donation." Jewell said "From my office I've watched the roof of the Jefferson Memorial get browner and browner."

[Reuters](#) (2/16) reports similarly, and is also carried by [Yahoo! News](#) (2/16, 6.31M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, 822K), and the website of [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M). [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/18, 255K) and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/15, 1.25M) provide photographic coverage online. [TIME](#) (2/15, Reilly, 18.01M) also covers this story.

IN FASTEST-EVER SPECIES RECOVERY, FWS RECOMMENDS DELISTING CALIFORNIA FOXES. The AP (2/12) reported in its "The Latest" brief that on Friday the FWS said "years of work to monitor" the population of three island fox subspecies native to California's Channel Islands, to vaccinate them against diseases and to "relocate non-native predators have resulted in the historic recovery" of the subspecies that "were once on the brink of extinction." The FWS also recommended foxes on Santa Catalina Island "be reclassified from endangered to threatened, saying the potential for disease outbreak is a remaining threat" to that subspecies. The FWS "says it's the fastest successful recovery of any mammal listed" under the ESA. This report was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

In lengthier coverage, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Sahagun, 4.1M) said a "remarkably successful recovery effort" by the FWS led to the delisting recommendation for subspecies. The Times explained the population of Santa Catalina Island foxes "crashed to roughly 100 in 1999 because of a canine distemper epidemic." The San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Island foxes "were classified as endangered in 2004 after suffering catastrophic declines primarily because of predation by Golden eagles." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The speed at which these subspecies have recovered points to the strength of the endangered species act in focusing conservation attention and catalyzing recovery actions, and demonstrates what we can achieve together."

[National Parks Traveler](#) (2/14, 989) paraphrased the FWS press release as stating the “best available scientific data now suggests that populations of these island fox subspecies have recovered to self-sustaining levels.” Ashe is further quoted as saying, “The remarkable recovery efforts of land managers and conservation partners over the past two decades on behalf of the Channel Island fox is the reason for this historic recovery success.” Ashe added, “We look forward to continuing our collaborations with land managers and conservation partners on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Catalina Islands. ... Together, we will continue to monitor island fox populations to ensure their long-term survival in the wild.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (2/12, Hiar, Subscription Publication, 705) added that “the only species that have recovered faster or as fast as Eggert’s sunflowers, with an eight-year recovery, and Lake Erie water snakes, which took 12 years.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Noozhawk](#) (2/15, Potthoff, 210), [Nature World News](#) (2/14) and [Solo News \(ITA\)](#) (2/15).

THREATENED BAT SPECIES UNLIKELY TO DISRUPT CASINO CONSTRUCTION IN INDIANA. The [AP](#) (2/14) reported “a less restrictive rule taking effect this month” will allow the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians to construct an 18-story casino in South Bend, IN despite a rule proposed by the FWS in April that would’ve prohibited development on potential northern long-eared bat habitat. The threatened species now only receives protection “on sites known to contain roosting trees.” The AP paraphrased FWS field supervisor Scott Pruitt’s statement to the [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (2/5, Parrott, 184K) that “the database for Indiana contains no records of roosting trees on the 165-acre site in South Bend where the tribe wants to build its development.”

The AP story is also carried by the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/14, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, 1.99M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, 285K).

Groups To Sue FWS Over Possible Bat Habitat Destruction. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Skibell, Subscription Publication) reported four environmental groups said on Friday they plan to sue the FWS for permitting “logging and habitat destruction” for the northern long-eared bats. Despite disease causing the bat’s decline, the groups claimed “habitat loss is also a contributing factor...because the animals require large, uninterrupted swaths of forest for foraging, migrating and roosting.” The FWS’ new rule would allow “logging, coal mining, pesticide use, oil and gas projects, and pipeline construction in the areas where the bats live.”

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PERMITTED TO INTERVENE IN SAGE GROUSE LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/14, Sonner) reported that late last month US District Judge Miranda Du permitted three national conservation groups to intervene in Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter’s (R) lawsuit against the Obama Administration that contends “land use planning amendments impose unnecessary restrictions on activities in or near grouse habitat.” Neither the Governor nor the Administration objected to the intervention, but other parties opposed the introduction of new elements “in an already complicated case expected to drag well into the summer in Reno.” Du decided the conservation groups should be allowed to intervene “because of their more narrowed focus (on) environmental protections in contrast to the agencies’ broader land management interests.”

This story was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, Sonner, 1.99M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/14, 881K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, Sonner, 285K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/15, 22K), [Montana Kaimin](#) (2/15, 11K), and on the website of [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\) Las Vegas](#) (2/15, 27K).

IMAX FILM “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” RECEIVES POSITIVE REVIEWS. The [AP](#) (2/14, Harpaz) continued coverage of the new IMAX movie, “National Parks Adventure,” which debuted Friday, celebrating “the beauty and thrills of America’s parks.” The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (2/13, 94K) and the [Paducah \(KY\) Sun](#) (2/13, 61K) also carried the AP story. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication) quoted MacGillivray Freeman Films Director Greg MacGillivray as praising the 3-D movie medium, saying, “When something spectacular happens in an Imax film, audiences remember it like it’s a firsthand experience.” The movie “follows three adventurers led by elite climber Conrad Anker through some of the country’s most famous landscapes.” MacGillivray said the film “fills you with a reverence for what nature can do.”

[Skift](#) (2/14) said the movie, narrated by Robert Redford, stars “geysers, red rock canyons, mountaintops and redwood forests.” According to Skift, “the emphasis on adventure and not just beauty and history is a way of furthering the National Park Service’s efforts to attract millennials.” The article quoted NPS Director Jon Jarvis’ statement that the service aims to “connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, King, 4.1M) highlighted the “eye-popping footage” in its review of the movie. MacGillivray expressed gratitude for the production team’s “incredible access to the parks,” saying “the people in Washington, D.C., were able to help us a lot as far as navigating and working with each park to get the best

possible shots.”

In its review of the film, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/15, Granfield, 803K) calls the soundtrack “superb,” as it “adds to the upbeat momentum of rushing waterfalls, towering canyons and other sweeping scenes.” The Herald also praises the NPS’ use of the IMAX medium. However, in assessing content the Herald concludes, “Though the film highlights threats that happened before the National Park’s formation, such as the near extinction of redwoods for lumber, it falls short of engaging the audience with ongoing threats and controversial practices within and around the parks.” NPS Ranger Gary Bremen said, “The centennial is a great opportunity for people to get out and experience the beauty of national parks. ... No matter what your interest is, there’ll be something for you.”

Additional coverage is provided by the website of [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/14, 165K) and the [Uniontown \(PA\) Herald-Standard](#) (2/15, 44K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE TO OFFER NPS ARTIFACTS IN ONLINE MUSEUM. [Indian Republic](#) (2/15, Nehru) reports Secretary Jewell “was in Tuskegee Thursday to make a big announcement involving a public-private partnership with Google.” The Google Cultural Institute will be putting many artifacts from the National Park Service in its online museum.

BIA, FBI INVESTIGATING STABBING DEATH ON UTE MOUNTAIN UTE RESERVATION. The [Denver Post](#) (2/16, 881K) reports on the investigation into the stabbing death of Keisha Meya Colorow at the Ute Mountain Ute reservation on Monday. The US Attorney’s spokesman Jeff Dorschner said that “no arrests have been made,” but that both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and FBI “are investigating.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT URGED TO SUPPORT TWIN TUNNELS. Derrick Seaver of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and Josué García of the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council write in an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (2/15, Seaver, García, 648K) that the Santa Clara Valley Water District should support the California Water Fix. “It is absolutely vital to ensure reliable, secure water for our region and to protect the health of the failing Delta.” They note that Bay Area water districts supply “Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Oracle, AT&T, and many biotech and medical research firms.”

BUDGET WOULD BOOST FUNDS FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION, IMPOSE FEE ON HARDROCK MINING. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/12, Graham, 31K) reports the Administration’s budget “would invest hundreds of millions of dollars in environmental causes to the benefit of Colorado and other Western states.” That includes funding for “land and water conservation...water sustainability efforts and...fees on hardrock mining.” It would spend \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It would also impose a fee on hardrock mining, the revenue to be used for “remediating abandoned mine sites.” It would also include “\$98.6 million for WaterSMART programs, with \$61.5 million for water sustainability efforts through (the Bureau of) Reclamation.”

JUDGE REJECTS EFFORT TO FORCE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO RELEASE WATER TO IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/15, Jenkins, 113K) reports U.S. District Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson ruled against the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association in its effort to secure “water to irrigate 14,000 acres in Eastern Washington.” The group sued “to push the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation toward providing” the water, but Judge Peterson “said she wasn’t going to second-guess” the agency.

SUIT SEEKS CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT OF DESCHUTES RIVER. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/15, 98K) reports on management of the Deschutes River as the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon are seeking a preliminary injunction to force “the Bureau of Reclamation and five irrigation districts in Central Oregon [to] manage the river’s water differently.” The groups are seeking to change water management in order to ensure water for “the Oregon spotted frog and other river animals.” The Deschutes Basin Board of Control objects that any change ordered by the court may result in “abrupt and severe restrictions” on water usage. The frog is listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

COMPROMISE SOUGHT ON WATER USAGE AROUND QUIVIRA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The

AP (2/12) reports on the effort to come to an agreement on "competing water needs of south-central Kansas irrigators" and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, "which has senior rights to water that has long been used by hundreds of surrounding irrigators with junior rights." The US Fish and Wildlife Service has requested Kansas "to address the issue, but the state has so far refused." A report last year from the Kansas Division of Water Resources found that "the refuge had been denied more than 3,000 acre-feet in 18 of the 34 years reviewed," and that "a solution would likely include 'long term cuts in groundwater pumping.'" Refuge manager Mike Oldham said the refuge needs water "to maintain the 7,000 acres of internationally recognized wetlands." The various authorities and interests are "working to devise a compromise."

FLORIDA RELEASING WATER FROM OKEECHOBEE TO EVERGLADES. [USA Today](#) (2/15, Gillis, 5.56M) reports that Florida is "releasing water from Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park" to reduce flooding. The release is attributed to Gov. Rick Scott's insistence, and "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District and others agreed to speed up a project aimed at restoring historic flows." In addition, affected area landowners agreed not to sue, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, facing flooding, also agreed.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FORMER EPA OFFICIAL CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE. Former EPA Assistant Administrator J. Winston Porter, in a letter to the editor of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), takes issues with Fred Krupp's op-ed on methane leaks. While Porter agrees that methane leakage should be reduced, he argues Krupp doesn't credit the progress the industry is already occurring in this area. Porter disagrees with Krupp's call for additional regulation and instead calls for investment in natural-gas production and infrastructure.

Methane Leaks Said To Undermine Clean Power Plan Targets. Elena Krieger at PSE Healthy Energy and Zeke Hausfather at UC Berkeley write for [The Hill](#) (2/16, Krieger, Hausfather, 862K) that "according to a study by PSE Healthy Energy released in January, methane leakage from natural gas wells and pipelines could severely undermine the climate objectives of the Clean Power Plan." As a result of methane's "outsized impact on near-term climate change," the "real climate benefit of natural gas is much lower than the EPA suggests," they write. If methane leaks are not addressed, they could "severely undermine the EPA's aim to slash greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, especially if states shift from coal to natural gas, rather than to renewable energy."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/15, 290K), the [Oklahoman](#) (2/15, Moss, 421K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K), a separate article in the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/13, Graham, 31K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/15, Romeo, 4K), and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (2/15, 67K).

CLEAN POWER PLAN IN LIMBO WITH JUSTICE SCALIA'S DEATH. [NPR](#) (2/14, Elving, 1.81M) reports that following the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, "any case in which his vote would have been decisive will be left in stalemate, and the last ruling by a lower court will remain in force." President Obama has vowed to submit a nominee to replace Justice Scalia, but key Senate Republicans have said that a nominee should be chosen by the next president. NPR says, "Scalia's vote to freeze enforcement of President Obama's orders reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, announced on Feb. 9, will stand because that 5-4 order had already been issued." However, a "short-handed court in the months ahead could elevate the importance of the decision on that issue by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is expected to rule before summer."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/14, Redden, 3.71M) says that such a scenario would favor the Administration as "the DC panel is made up of mostly Democratic appointees, and is likely to dismiss the states' argument that the clean power plan is illegal and represents federal government overreach." Were that to occur, the Supreme Court "would still have to overturn its stay – which would be problematic if Scalia's seat remains empty." The stay has left the EPA "unable to enforce any part of the bill until the litigation is over – marking a significant victory for opponents of regulation to restrict greenhouse gas emissions."

In a column for [The Atlantic](#) (2/14, 2.95M), Robinson Meyer speculates that "the opening of a new slot on the

Supreme Court makes the Clean Power Plan's survival much likelier – if a Democrat wins the White House in November," while "the Plan might also enter force if a Court with a vacant seat hears its case."

Wisconsin Gov. Walker Orders Agencies Not To Prepare For Clean Power Plan. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/15, 743K) reports that citing last week's decision by the US Supreme Court to stay the Clean Power Plan, "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Monday ordered state agencies not to do any work to prepare for federal climate change regulations." Walker in a statement said, "The stay granted last week by the Supreme Court validates our concerns about this rule. The Executive Order we issued today protects our taxpayers from an unnecessary cost of up to \$13 billion as we continue to act in the best interests of Wisconsin citizens."

McCarthy: Court Stay Slows But Does Not Stop Carbon Cutting. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that despite a Supreme Court ruling putting the Clean Power Plan on hold, state officials "signaled interest" in continuing planning for power-sector carbon reductions when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy spoke before the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), National Association of State Energy Officials and National Association of Clean Air Agencies. McCarthy said EPA "remains fully confident in the legal merits of this rule," adding, "One decision to stay doesn't mean that the CPP isn't alive or isn't going to survive."

GEOENGINEERING SEEN AS TOO RISKY TO REDUCE GLOBAL EMISSIONS. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Hirtenstein, 2.92M) reports that Phil Williamson, a scientist at Britain's University of East Anglia, "examined the ecological effect of a number of proposed methods known as geoengineering and concluded in a paper that none would work at a large scale without huge risks for the planet." Williamson said in a phone interview, "We could cool the world in all sorts of weird and wacky ways that seem like they could be technically possible, but whether they will actually work on a large scale is a big question, and what kind of disruptions they would cause is another."

NEVADA COMMISSION UPHOLDS RATE INCREASE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR CUSTOMER. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/15, Whaley, Corey, 479K) reports that on Friday the Nevada Public Utilities Commission voted to keep a Jan 1 2016 phased in rate increase to rooftop-solar customers in effect and rejected proposals to grandfather in existing customers under original net metering rates. The Commission also reduced the credits to solar-users for their excess energy back to the grid. "I think this proposal creates a seamless transition to cost-based rates," Commission Chairman Paul Thomsen said. The Review-Journal says "Gov. Brian Sandoval expressed disappointment at the decision, saying it did not go far enough to protect existing rooftop-solar customers." Hundreds of protesters gathered outside of the Las Vegas PUC offices in support of solar customers.

Additional coverage of this story was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/16) which reports that all three members of Nevada's Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to keep the increased rates.

In its "Ballot Box" blog [The Hill](#) (2/13, Neidig, 862K) reports that on Saturday at a campaign stop in Reno Nevada, Bernie Sanders called on Warren Buffett to hear from Nevada constituents on the solar decision, saying "this is a terrible decision" and "the ruling went exactly the wrong way."

Nevada Public Utilities Union Denies Request To Resume Energy Efficiency Programs. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (2/12, Rothberg, 196K) reports that on Friday, Nevada's Public Utilities Union denied NV Energy's request "to bring back two popular energy efficiency programs in Southern Nevada." One program "lowered the cost of residential LED lights and another helped cover the cost of energy-efficient pool pumps." NV Energy claimed that "it would be able to reinstate the programs under the budget the commission approved in December for the utility's energy efficiency programs." However, "The commission denied NV Energy's argument on the foundation that NV Energy had not met its burden for an appeal before the quasi-judicial panel," and also said that the utility "did not submit any new information to warrant a change."

NEW YORK RANKS FOURTH IN US FOR SOLAR ENERGY JOBS. The [AP](#) (2/15) reports a census by the Solar Foundation "shows New York ranks fourth in the nation in solar technology jobs." The nonprofit group "reports in its 2015 census that 208,859 Americans now work in the solar energy sector, including 8,250 in New York." The Solar Foundation "says it's the third consecutive year that solar jobs nationwide have grown by 20 percent or more."

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWMAKERS PUSH CONGRESS TO CUT EU SODA ASH TAX. *E&E Daily* (2/12, Brown, Subscription Publication) reported Wyoming's congressional delegation asserted in a letter, "U.S. trade negotiators shouldn't come home from trans-Atlantic trade negotiations until they've persuaded the European Union to drop its tax on soda ash," as part of a push for "Congress to reduce soda ash royalty rates at home to offset the impacts of what they see as foreign subsidies." The article cited the Interior Department as indicating "Wyoming and California are home to many of the 78 soda ash mining leases on 99,000 acres of public lands, while Oregon's Port of Portland is a major shipping point."

NATIONAL GRID POISED TO SHIFT COSTS TO CUSTOMERS. *Newsday* (NY) (2/15, Harrington, 1.23M) reports, "National Grid is proposing to shift its \$356,000 annual electricity bill onto its gas customers following LIPA's decision to end its longtime practice of providing electricity to the company for free." *Newsday* says, "Most of the free electric service went to support National Grid's operation of the LIPA electric grid, company spokeswoman Wendy Ladd said." However, "That changed in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy, and in 2014 LIPA handed the contract to operate the electric system to PSEG Long Island" and "National Grid was forced to split off the gas and electric parts of its business." Ladd said that National Grid "is now responsible for electric charges for the portion of these facilities supporting the gas business."

NORTH DAKOTA PSC HAD HUNDREDS OF CONSUMER CONTACTS LAST YEAR. The *AP* (2/15) reports the Public Service Commission in North Dakota "says it received hundreds of consumer contacts in the last year that included complaints against regulated entities." The commission "says it received a total of 905 consumer contacts in 2015" but the commission "says more than a third of them called for increased crude oil conditioning, which didn't fall under the agency's jurisdiction." The PSC "regulates coal mining, land reclamation, pipelines, electric and gas utilities, grain elevators, telecommunications and auctioneers."

COUNCIL SAYS NORTHWEST'S POWER NEEDS CAN BE MET WITH CONSERVATION. The *AP* (2/15, Geranios) reports the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is predicting that "the electricity needs of Northwest states can be met in the next 20 years mostly through conservation efforts, with little need to construct new power plants." The NPCC "recently issued its 20-year plan for meeting the energy needs of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana." In a statement last week Council Chairman Henry Lorenzen said, "By investing in energy efficiency at the levels recommended in the plan, we'll be able to grow without initiating an aggressive program to build new generating resources, and we'll keep Northwest electricity rates low."

CONNECTICUT TO CLOSE LAST COAL-POWERED PLANT. The *Hartford* (CT) *Courant* (2/11, Hladky, 518K) reports that officials from PSEG have announced they will close down Connecticut's last coal-fired power plant, Bridgeport Harbor Station, by 2021 and replace it with a natural-gas-powered plant to begin operating in 2019. The *Courant* reports that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim "praised the announcement as a major step toward reducing pollution and retaining employment within the community."

NYTIMES CRITICIZES MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL. The *New York Times* (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, denounces "mountaintop removal" mining for "leaving behind...a grossly disfigured landscape." It cites a report from Duke University researchers on the effects of the practice, and points out that the Interior Department is "working on a stronger Stream Protection Rule." The *Times* concludes by quoting Chief Judge Charles Haden II of United States District Court, "No effect on related environmental values is more adverse than obliteration."

FRACKING BECOMES FLASH POINT IN PENNSYLVANIA'S DEMOCRATIC SENATE PRIMARY. The *AP* (2/13, Levy) reports that in recent days, a divide over fracking has emerged in the Democratic primary battle to challenge Republican Sen. Pat Toomey in November as "two of the three candidates declared their support for a halt to hydraulic fracturing on both public and private lands." Mayor John Fetterman and former Congressman Joe Sestak "both support a halt to fracking, at least until there is stronger regulation," while a third candidate, Katie McGinty, "a former top-level environmental adviser in Washington and Harrisburg, also supports stronger regulation, but not a broad moratorium." G. Terry Madonna, a pollster at Franklin and Marshall College, "said it's not clear that the stance will help Fetterman or Sestak," but "it is likely to be part of their campaign to highlight where McGinty may not be as liberal and help Sestak and Fetterman even the playing field with a candidate who has considerable support from the party establishment."

Pennsylvania Democrats "Squabbling" Over State's Fracking Future. *E&E Publishing* (2/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reported that Pennsylvania Democrats vying in an April 26 primary are "squabbling" over fracking's future in the state as well as "taking aim at each other over campaign contributions tied to the energy industry." Former White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairwoman Katie McGinty "has called fracking the state's 'secret sauce' for job growth," while former Rep. Joe Sestak "has long supported a

moratorium on drilling the oil-and-gas-rich Marcellus Shale." Meanwhile, Braddock Mayor John Fetterman is "in the middle" and "has endorsed significantly stricter environmental regulations on the process and endorsed taxing natural gas drilling."

The [AP](#) (2/13, Levy) reported that Fetterman and Sestak both support a "halt to fracking" while McGinty supports stronger regulation, "but not a broad moratorium." Fetterman's campaign attacked McGinty on the issue, sending out an online video that accused McGinty of taking campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry, while McGinty's supporters deny the charge.

LENDING LIMIT REVIEW COULD CAUSE SHAKEOUT IN OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCERS. USA

[Today](#) (2/14, Loveless, 5.56M) reports Standard & Poor's Rating Services predicts that 45 speculative-grade US oil and natural gas producers will have their "borrowing bases" drop "by an average 20%-30% when banks take a fresh look" at credit lines in April, "making it difficult for some companies to stay in business." S&P lowered its credit ratings for 25 of the producers; previously the company "lowered credit ratings and outlooks for 13 large, investment-grade producers, including Chevron."

OIL DOWNTURN COULD HIT PIPELINE COMPANIES. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/16, Grattan, 1.99M) reported that US pipeline companies that move and process crude oil are likely to be impacted by an impending wave of oil company bankruptcies. Smaller pipeline companies face the most pressing fallout as their customers can be fewer and riskier. Williams Cos. and Energy Transfer Equity, which are in the process of merging, recently saw their stocks take a hit on rumors that major Williams' customer Chesapeake Energy was considering bankruptcy.

Jakab: Investors Should Cautious On MLPs. In his "Heard on the Street" column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Spencer Jakab wrote that while the energy MLP sector appears to offer good performance, he advises investors to be cautious. Jakab says that MLP's customers are struggling, with some filing for bankruptcy, and long-term contracts between MLPs and producers could be thrown out, meaning uncertain cashflow and spooked investors.

SPECULATORS BETTING ON OIL PRICE REBOUND. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Shenk, 2.92M) reports speculators are betting oil prices will rebound, with long positions in West Texas Intermediate crude up "to the highest since June as oil sank toward a 12-year low, according to U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data." Bloomberg notes Chevron Corp and other companies "have said they will reduce outlays to maintain cash." Meanwhile, Phil Flynn, senior market analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago, said, "There's a growing realization after all the announcements of cuts in capital expenditures that we're going to see a drop in production."

Offshore Energy Development:

FIRST STUDY OF OFFSHORE HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IS UNDERWAY. The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (2/13, Mazza, 301K) reports on "the first federal study of offshore hydraulic fracturing," due to a suit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The suit alleged that "the environmental and human health dangers that could arise from fracking" had not been sufficiently studied as required by the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

SCIENTISTS EXAMINE WAYS TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/15, Hampton, 312K) reports on research into "harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C.," which may offer "more potential than offshore wind." That's because the ocean current offers energy that is "about 800 times more dense" than wind. The Gulf Stream current is "about 60 miles wide and 3,000 feet deep in places," moving more water "than all the world's rivers put together."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF KEEP IT IN THE GROUND ACT. In continuing coverage, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (2/13, Lochhead, 3.37M) reported on the Keep It in the Ground Act, which seeks "to halt new fossil fuel development on all federally controlled public lands, which is where most of the nation's coal, oil and natural gas is found." Besides blocking "leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands on public land," there would be a moratorium on new leases for offshore drilling and leases not producing fuel would be ended. Furthermore offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Atlantic seaboard would be banned. This is "an aggressive escalation by the Democratic left on the issue." The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (2/12, Halstead, 251K) and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/13, Pfister, 131K) also covered this story.

SHELL COMPLETES BG TAKEOVER, BECOMING WORLD'S TOP LNG COMPANY. [Reuters](#) (2/15, Bousso) reports that Royal Dutch Shell's \$53 billion takeover of BG Group became effective Monday, creating the world's top liquefied natural gas company. Said Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, "We will now be able to shape a simpler, leaner, more competitive company, focusing on our core expertise in deep water and LNG." The deal will define van Beurden's legacy, reports Reuters, as he seeks to transform the company. According to Shell's statement, BG shareholders opted largely for shares as opposed to cash in the deal. BG will now be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell headed by Huibert Vigevano.

[USA Today](#) (2/15, Bomey, 5.56M) added that after completing the acquisition, Shell is now the world's second largest energy company behind Exxon Mobil. "This is an important moment for Shell," van Beurden said. "It significantly boosts our reserves and production and will bring a large injection to our cash flow." [KPRC-TV Houston](#) (2/15, 5:07 p.m. CST, 87K) broadcast that "with the improvement, Shell is expecting to improve their revenue by \$3.5 billion," while [International Business Times](#) (2/15, McHugh, 693K) reported that "the transition will be a difficult one, according to industry experts, because of an ongoing oil glut."

Merger To Boost Shell's Position In Brazil. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Valle, 2.92M) reported that following the merger, Shell "has made Brazil one of its top three countries" and "sees the South American nation's deep-water fields remaining competitive for years to come." [Reuters](#) (2/16, Blount, Nogueira) reports separately that speaking in Brazil, van Beurden said, "We believe in the strong fundamentals of Brazil and the fundamentals of its geology. ... We will be looking at a substantial part of our production from Brazil." According to van Beurden, Shell is hoping to quadruple oil and gas output in Brazil by 2020. Brazil will be key for Shell as the company focuses on LNG and deepwater oil production, thanks in part to BG's portfolio of Brazilian assets and Shell's 2013 purchase of 20% of the Libra offshore project.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Connors, Kent, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reported that by speaking from Brazil, van Beurden highlighted the importance of Brazil's oil and gas market. While the acquisition makes Shell the largest foreign oil company in Brazil, Brazil's political climate and the scandal surrounding Petr leo Brasileiro SA will create challenges. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/15, 1.99M) reported in a brief that van Beurden said Monday that Brazil "will remain a key destination country for us for investment dollars for at least another decade."

[Reuters](#) (2/15, Schaps) reported in a third article that van Beurden said on Monday that oil price volatility could stabilize later in 2016, with prices possibly rebounding after that, with the [Financial Times](#) (2/15, Leahy, Adams, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) adding that van Beurden predicts prices will rebound to levels in 2016 that will allow production in Brazil's pre-salt deepwater fields to break even. [Equilibrio Informativo \(VEN\)](#) (2/15, Ojeda) likewise reported that while van Beurden "said there are 'a lot of challenges' in Brazil, he expects oil prices to 're-balance' this year and for the region to remain competitive."

Shell CEO: Merger "Creates A Company Of Extraordinary Strengths." [The Times \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Van Beurden, Subscription Publication, 3K) carried an op-ed by Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, who wrote that the "joining together of Shell and BG creates a company of extraordinary strengths – a combination greater than the sum of our parts." Over time, van Beurden "expect[s] the fundamentals of energy supply and demand to reassert themselves and the strategic and economic benefits of the deal to fully deliver for shareholders." He praises assets Shell is inheriting in the North Sea, Brazil, Australia, the Caribbean and Asia, and names "other clear benefits" including "BG's strong position in trading and shipping, which will bolster Shell's capabilities, volumes and relationships in these core areas for the future development of the global gas market." Mr. van Beurden concludes that with the merger, "we have truly changed course and are going full speed ahead."

Analysts: Following Merger, Shell Will Struggle To Spin-Off Assets At Prices It Expected. The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (2/13, Ambrose, 898K) reported that as Shell completes its takeover of BG Group, the company faces "a fresh battle to dispose of \$30bn of assets in the next three years" as low oil prices continue to weigh on the market. Analysts "say Shell will struggle to spin-off assets at the price it once expected to" as low oil prices cut value across the energy sector. Once a "key prize of the merger," BG Group's deepwater Brazilian gasfields "now raise investor concerns after allegations of corruption against project partner Petrobras emerged last year."

Additional Coverage. The story is also covered by the [Express and Star \(UK\)](#) (2/15), the [Norfolk \(UK\) Eastern Daily Press](#) (2/15, Woods, 218), and the trade publications of [Offshore Energy Today](#) (2/15), [Offshore Post](#) (2/15), [Offshore Technology](#) (2/15), [Argus Media](#) (2/15), [LNG World News](#) (2/15), [Maritime Executive](#) (2/15, 21), [Energy Voice \(UK\)](#) (2/15), [Natural Gas Europe](#) (2/15) and [LNG Industry \(UK\)](#) (2/15).

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR ASKS OBAMA TO HALT ATTEMPT TO REPEAL OFFSHORE REVENUE-

SHARING. The [AP](#) (2/12) reported that Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards has asked President Obama to drop an attempt in his 2017 budget proposal to repeal a 2006 budget provision establishing a revenue-sharing formula for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Edwards in a Friday letter to Obama "said the budget proposal would strip Louisiana of the only consistent source of federal funds the state has for coastal restoration projects."

TEXAS-BASED PARAGON OFFSHORE DRILLING COMPANY FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Houston-based oil drilling company Paragon Offshore filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Sunday, becoming roughly the 60th company in the sector to file for bankruptcy in the last 16 months. Paragon completed a prepackaged bankruptcy agreement last week that cut its \$2.7 billion of debt "by about \$1.1 billion" so it can keep operating. The Times says the swift drop in oil prices could lead "to a series of drawn-out and messy bankruptcies," and analysts say as much as a third of the US oil and gas industry "could be consolidated as a result of the downturn."

[USA Today](#) (2/15, Bomey, 5.56M) reported that the bankruptcy "reflects what analysts say is the latest in a string of energy bankruptcies," with drillers "particularly susceptible as oil companies cut back considerably on production" with a worldwide oversupply. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/14, Brickley, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reported that the low oil prices are taking their toll as companies compete for increasingly scarce business, with Paragon's big customers Petróleos Mexicanos and Petróleo Brasileiro SA both moving to cut back contracts.

LITTLE OPTIMISM FOR INDUSTRY AT INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM WEEK CONFERENCE.

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/12, Hoffman, Smith, Blas, Rascoet, 2.92M) reports that attendees at last week's International Petroleum Week conference had seemed to repeat the same underlying message: "There are few reasons for optimism. The world is awash with oil. The market is overwhelmingly bearish." Bloomberg says, "Prices will stay low for up to a decade as Chinese economic growth slows and the U.S. shale industry acts as a cap on any rally, according to Ian Taylor, chief executive officer of Vitol Group." Jeff Currie, head of commodities research at Goldman Sachs, echoed that sentiment, saying, "I wouldn't be surprised if this market goes into the teens." Land-based oil storage is running out, "and the contango is getting so steep that it's becoming profitable to hire supertankers, fill them with crude and anchor them offshore."

TRUMP DISCUSSES OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/16, Smith, 803K) reported on comments by Donald Trump on Cuba, oil drilling and opposing candidate Marco Rubio. When asked about current Congressional proposals that would expand offshore drilling and allow it closer to Florida's coast, Trump said, "They've already got plenty in the Gulf. ... It would be a little bit of a shame [to expand drilling closer to Florida], because there's so much fracking and there's so much oil that we have now that we never thought possible. That's an issue I'd absolutely study and do the right thing."

Despite Price Rally, Oil Demand Set To Decline With Winter's End. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Smith, 2.92M) reported "one reason to withhold faith in oil's recovery" is that despite oil prices' recent rally, once winter ends fuel demand will decline until summer. David Hufton with PVM Group said, "Given the seasonality of oil demand, traditionally there is a supply surplus in the first half of the year," with unconsumed oil now "coming on top of the mountain of oil that built up in 2014 and 2015."

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

FBI ENDED OCCUPATION AT WILDLIFE REFUGE PEACEFULLY WITH HELP. In a 2,250-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sullivan, Berman, 8.98M) chronicled the final days of the occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. The Post described the "key" roles Nevada Assemblywoman Michele Fiore and the Rev. Franklin Graham played in convincing the four holdouts "to surrender" peacefully. In another article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sullivan, Berman, 8.98M) reported that Graham and Fiore – "a celebrity among anti-government activists" – kept the occupiers calm by assuring them that the FBI would allow them to meet Graham and Fiore after they turned themselves in.

WPost: FBI Deserves Credit For Approach To Oregon Occupation. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 8.98M) gave "credit to federal law enforcement authorities" for negotiating a "peaceful denouement" to the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The Post praised the FBI for having "showed

restraint in sitting out the armed activists" and for refusing to "waver on the need to bring to account those who so willfully and flagrantly broke the law." According to the Post, the FBI "clearly had learned lessons from the bloody sieges" of the 1990s and its "patient approach in letting the Oregon siege play out and burn out proved far more effective than a SWAT team assault."

FBI: No Booby Traps Found At Wildlife Refuge. The AP (2/12, Boone, Dubois) reported that the FBI said Friday that investigators had not found any booby traps or rigged explosives at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. FBI Portland Assistant Special Agent in Charge Larry Karl said agents were concluding their safety sweep of the refuge and were hoping to begin processing evidence soon. According to Karl, some hazardous materials were stored at the refuge prior to the takeover, and the FBI had information that the armed occupiers may have brought additional materials with them. Karl, the AP (2/13, Boone) reported, said that collecting evidence from the wildlife refuge could take several weeks. "Then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be tasked with cleaning up the site, including garbage or debris left by the people who occupied the refuge during the standoff," the AP added.

Oregon Authorities Look To Feds, Occupiers To Cover Occupation Costs. Reuters (2/16, Urquhart) reports that Oregon officials have indicated that they hope to have the federal government – and the militants themselves – pay the bulk of the expenses caused by the wildlife refuge occupation. Oregon Governor Kate Brown is seeking up to \$1 million from state lawmakers to offset the costs to cities and towns. She will seek to reimburse the state from federal funds. Harney County judge and county commissioner Steven Grasty said the county plans to seek reimbursement directly from the armed occupiers, and is prepared to take them to court. Federal prosecutors, a source said, are looking into whether the US will join the county in pursuing reimbursement from the occupiers. Though the exact cost of the occupation is unknown, it is estimated in the millions of dollars, Reuters says. The New York Times (2/13, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) also reports Reuters' coverage on its website.

Twenty-Three Charged So Far In Occupation. The Guardian (UK) (2/15, Levin, 3.71M) reports that 23 people allegedly involved with the occupation all face a single federal charge of conspiring to impede federal officials via "force, intimidation and threats." The suspects "hail from 10 states across the US and have a wide range of prior involvement in conservative activism and criminal activity," The Guardian said. Despite the long list of individuals charged, the newspaper says, some observers have noted that many involved with the occupation have so far, avoided arrest and prosecution. "Notably, many of the most high-profile women of the militia...are...not listed in the charges," the Guardian says.

Experts: Cliven Bundy Case Is Complex. The AP (2/15, Ritter) reports that according to experts the case against Cliven Bundy in the 2014 armed standoff with federal authorities in Nevada will be a complex one. Bundy was arrested Wednesday and charged with "conspiracy, assault on a federal officer, obstruction, weapon use and possession, extortion to interfere with commerce, and aiding and abetting" in the 2014 case, the AP says. "They've probably been working up to this by talking to a lot of people who showed up as followers, and making deals and trying to get cooperating witnesses," said former US Attorney Richard Pocker said. "It's really hard to get folks in these movements to cooperate with a grand jury."

The Los Angeles Times (2/12, Pearce, 4.1M), the Washington Post (2/12, 8.98M), and the Oregonian (2/15, Brosseau, 864K) also report on the aftermath of the Oregon occupation.

BLM PROPOSES RULE TO UPDATE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS. The Oil and Gas Journal (2/15, Snow, 1K) reports BLM has "proposed a rule aimed at improving its resource management process" as part of its Planning 2.0 initiative. The proposal "will make changes to regulations that are guided by the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act" including the creation of "several new opportunities for early public involvement during the planning process" and requiring the "development of a planning assessment before work could begin on putting together a land use plan."

Politico Pro (2/12) quoted BLM's announcement that the reforms support the agency's "shift to science-based, landscape-scale approaches to resource management while increasing opportunities for early engagement by state and local government, tribes, partner agencies, stakeholders, and the public." Politico explained the plans entail the overhaul of Resource Management Plans, which are "the systems that the Interior Department unit uses to coordinate collective priorities for public lands, from fossil-fuel development to recreation to wildlife protection."

TEXAS CITIES ASK BLM TO HALT PLANS FOR GAS DRILLING LEASES BELOW LEWISVILLE LAKE.

The AP (2/13) reported that some North Texas cities as well as environmental groups have asked the Bureau of

Land Management to halt plans to allow gas drilling below Lewisville Lake, where as many as 259 acres are up for auction for leases. The lake is "a drinking water source for millions and has a dam cited by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as being in hazardous condition," and "nearby residents fear possible drinking water contamination and earthquakes that could further threaten stability." This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/13, 285K) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/13).

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/12, Mosier, 1.24M) added that Dallas and Highland Village are among those opposing the drilling. Additional coverage is provided by [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (2/15, 28K), the [Cross Timbers \(TX\) Gazette](#) (2/15, Pry, 429) and on the website of [WFAA-TV Dallas](#) (2/15, 367K).

BLM, UTAH AGENCY SETTLE SUIT OVER WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT. [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/15, O'Donoghue, 404K) reports on its website that a lawsuit against BLM brought by the Utah Schools and Institutional Trust Lands Administration "alleging mismanagement of wild horse and burro populations on school trust lands in Utah was dismissed after the parties reached a cooperative agreement this month." The agreement calls for "identification of priority removal areas, population surveys and enhanced monitoring of rangeland conditions." The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Maffly, 388K) reports that "in a news release announcing the settlement last week, BLM vowed to do the things the agency...has long claimed it already does, namely collaborate with local stakeholders and protect resources."

BLM TO HOLD FARMINGTON, NM PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED RULE CHANGE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/14, Fenton, 44K) reports that BLM will hold a public forum at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico on Tuesday "to hear comment on the agency's proposed rule on oil and gas industry venting and flaring." The proposed rule "targets the escape of methane gas from venting and flaring, processes used in oil and gas production, and from gas leaks during drilling operations and from well sites. The proposed update to a current rule is designed to cut in half the industry's methane emissions from operations on federal land."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE FEATURE ON DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK CITES BLM. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/15, Williams, 2.17M) has a feature on Death Valley National Park, writing that "it is astonishing that the land in Death Valley remains as pristine as it is, with its history of mining. In 1994, Congress expanded the area's protection beyond its status as a national monument to that of a national park." The Tribune piece highlights "the Trona Pinnacles, jagged peaks formed underwater up to 100,000 years ago in the now dry Searles Lake, according to the Bureau of Land Management."

LAND PARCELS IN SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST TO BE UP FOR LEASE IN BLM SALE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports, "The first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management's quarterly oil and gas lease sale." Four parcels in the forest are among six that will be up for competitive bid on May 12.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DOMINION PROPOSES NEW ACP ROUTE. The [AP](#) (2/12, Szkotak) reported that Dominion proposed a new route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) in response to a previous permit rejection from the US Forest Service, which "cited a 1994 conservation agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service aimed at shielding the salamander from actions that would place it under the Endangered Species Act." The new proposal would have a 30 percent smaller footprint in the Monongahela and George Washington national forests, but adds 30 miles to the project, involving an additional 249 landowners.

This story was also carried by the [Daily Mail](#) (2/12, 4.92M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, Szkotak), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, Szkotak, 1.99M), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Szkotak, 822K).

Residents Ask County Board To Oppose ACP. The [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/15, Banks, 148K) reports that several residents spoke to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners on Monday, asking them to oppose the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that they believe will devalue their property and bring fracked gas to their community. "I'm pleading with the county commissioners to not approve. We can't afford to fight them, personally, because we don't have the money to fight them," said Fayetteville resident Rodney Simmons. Dominion senior policy advisor Bruce McKay was scheduled to address the Board, but did not attend and "his absence came as a surprise to the commissioners."

Letter: Pipeline Resistance Overdone. In a letter to the editor of the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M),

Woodbridge resident Jeff Hazle rejects the premise of a previous letter from Lewis Freeman of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, arguing that resistance to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline “seems oversold and more consistent with a generalized opposition to hydrocarbons than any genuinely significant risks.” He questions how the project could result in damage to the water supply.

MILITARY BASES RECEIVE \$17.5M IN CONSERVATION GRANTS. The AP (2/12, Bynum) reported that on Friday Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced “\$17.5 million in conservation funding to protect longleaf pine forests used for training troops while assisting the recovery of threatened species.” The awards to bases in Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina were among 84 grants totaling \$720 million. FWS Fort Stewart branch chief Tim Beatty said, “Fortunately the Army is pretty good at starting fires. ... If we have an urban development at the edge of Fort Stewart, it would be awfully tough to continue to do burning the way we do now.” This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, Bynum, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, Bynum, 1.99M).

WHALE BONES FOUND IN LUGGAGE AT BALTIMORE AIRPORT. The AP (2/12) reported that on Friday the US CBP said agents found possible whale bones while inspecting baggage from Iceland at BWI Airport on Feb. 7. The traveler carrying the luggage also “claimed they were whale bones,” but “Customs officials kept the bones to determine their origin.” Border agents said the FWS regulates whale bones. This story was also carried by the [Washington Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (2/12, 712K), and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSES TRANSFERRING BISON RANGE TO SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/15, Devlin, 78K) reports on a “surprise” proposal by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support legislation to transfer the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The proposal would “place the refuge’s 18,766 acres in trust for the tribes, and leave it to them to manage and operate” with no continuing role for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the range would no longer be part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. There are some remaining questions regarding the “costs of managing and maintaining the Bison Range.” [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/15, 48K) reports the tribes “have worked to become more involved with management of the bison range since the 1994 Self Governance Act made that a possibility.”

Missoulian Favors Plan. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/15, 78K) in an editorial says the Fish and Wildlife Service “showed signs it is finally coming to its senses” in making the proposal. The paper says the tribes ought to hold “the bison range in trust for the people of the United States – including its original inhabitants.”

USDA AGENCY SPECIALIZES IN KILLING PREDATORS. Rachael Bale writes in [National Geographic](#) (2/15, Bale, 30.99M) about Wildlife Services, an agency under the US Department of Agriculture that “specializes in killing wild animals that threaten livestock,” though it also provides “bird control nationwide at airports to prevent crashes and feral pig control in the South.” Bale cites an article by Christopher Ketcham in Harper’s Magazine titled “The Rogue Agency: A USDA program that tortures dogs and kills endangered species.” The article describes Ketcham’s indictment of the agency.

National Park Service:

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT VALENTINE’S VIDEO DISTRIBUTED. [EHS Today](#) (2/15, 3K) reports the Interior Department “created a video showcasing couples who committed to one another while celebrating their love of planet Earth.” The agency said, “America’s public lands are wonderful places to love and be in love.” On its website, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/14, 803K) hosted the Interior Department’s video that celebrates the thousands who get engaged and married in national parks ever year.

Spending Valentine’s Day In A National Park Recommended. On its website, [CNN](#) (2/14, 3.96M) summarized ways to spend Valentine’s Day, describing how lovers could “celebrate nature and the centennial of the National Park Service by visiting Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks or one of the nation’s park sites in your state.” CNN wrote that lovers “can be awed by the same beauty and power that inspired President Abraham Lincoln (who protected Yosemite in the middle of the Civil War), Sierra Club founder John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt.”

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON HISTORICAL SITE CONVERSATION BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/12, Kessler, Subscription Publication) reported on testimony before the House Natural Resources subcommittee regarding “four bills aimed at promoting the conservation of historical

sites." A bill "from Rep. Marsha Blackburn, H.R. 87, would modify the boundaries of Shiloh National Military Park in southern Tennessee" to permit the NPS "to preserve more than 21,000 additional acres to include Fallen Timber Battlefield, Russell House Battlefield and Davis Bridge Battlefield." Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA) rebutted an economic argument for the historical preservation of the sites.

INTERIOR, GOOGLE LAUNCH ONLINE EXHIBIT OF PARKS' HISTORY. [National Parks Traveler](#) (2/15, 989) reports the Department of the Interior said it "is partnering with the Google Cultural Institute to photograph and share historically important material with global audiences and digitally preserve them for future generations." The institute's Centennial One Object Exhibit contains "more than 3,800 works of art, artifacts, and records [that] can be viewed as part of an online exhibition just launched to honor the National Park Service's centennial." Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement last week, "This marriage of technology and history means that anyone, anywhere can see artifacts and sites that provide a taste of the rich and diverse story of America," adding, "Our hope is that this partnership will not only illustrate and elevate our nation's history and culture, but inspire more people to visit the wonderfully diverse places that the National Park Service protects and preserves for current and future generations."

NPS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON BISON QUARANTINE PLAN. The [AP](#) (2/15) reports that the National Park Service "has extended the public comment period" two weeks to February 29 on its plan to "quarantine some Yellowstone National Park bison on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana."

YELLOWSTONE BISON CULL CRITICIZED. Christopher Ketcham, a fellow at M.I.T.'s Knight Science Journalism Program, writes in the [New York Times](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) on the bison cull at Yellowstone National Park, which "is done largely outside of public view" in order to protect "the safety of the public and staff" according to the park service, though Ketcham says it is because "the brutality of the cull would be revealed." Ketcham says the cull has been justified by fears that cattle could be infected with brucellosis from the bison, but "not a single instance of transmission has ever been documented." He argues that instead of the cull, the bison should be allowed to roam, like other wild animals and controlled "with seasonal hunting." Ketcham praises Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's proposal to allow the "Yellowstone bison to roam in certain areas beyond the park's boundaries throughout the year," but laments "the park service...helping to slaughter a native animal so iconic that it is emblazoned on the park service's own logo."

DEATH VALLEY PARK RANGER HOPES FOR "SUPER BLOOM" THIS YEAR. The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Starrs, 8.98M) reports on Death Valley, where National Park Service Park Ranger Alan Van Valkenburg said that he hopes there will be a "super bloom" this year. He explains that such events "are quite rare, maybe once a decade or so," the last one having been in 2005. But, he also points out that they "are near-impossible to predict and very short-lived." There is a bloom at present that is "beginning to spread beyond the southeastern part of the park."

PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON YELLOWSTONE ROAD PROPOSAL UNTIL MARCH 15. The [AP](#) (2/14) report the National Park Service is accepting public comments until March 15 on its proposal for a "road repair project on the east side of Yellowstone National Park." The proposal includes reconstructing "a segment of the East Entrance Road from Fishing Bridge to Indian Pond."

MAINE GOVERNOR OPPOSES PROPOSAL FOR NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [AP](#) (2/14) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage opposes the proposal for a new national park in Maine, "especially when there's a \$12 billion backlog of maintenance." The idea comes from "Burt's Bees founder and conservationist Roxanne Quimby [who] proposed donating land east of Baxter State Park for a new national park in 2011." LePage says the idea "defies logic" given the maintenance backlog.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION PRESIDENT URGES SUPPORT FOR CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN. Will Shafroth, President of the National Park Foundation, writes at [Huffington Post](#) (2/15, Shafroth, 518K) on the centennial of the National Park Service. He writes that the "national parks and their future are dependent on vibrant and robust public-private partnerships." That's because "federal appropriations only sustain basic operations," and there are "\$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance projects." That means the parks "rely on other sources of funding," namely, the National Park Foundation. The foundation is conducting "the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign in its history, the Centennial Campaign for America's National Parks" with a goal of \$350 million.

MONTANA EXPECTED TO SEE MORE NATIONAL PARK VISITS THIS YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/14) reports Norma Nickerson, director of the Institution for Tourism and Recreation Research, is projecting "another big year for national park visitation and ski resorts" in Montana, due "to the National Park Service's centennial and an

increase in advertising.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ASKED TO DO MORE TO PROTECT GRAND CANYON

EMPLOYEES. [CBS5 Arizona](#) (2/15) continued coverage in reporting on its website “Arizona’s congressional delegation says the National Park Service must do more to protect Grand Canyon employees who participate on the agency’s river rafting trips.” The article notes that “a report released last month by a federal watchdog found that Park Service workers have preyed on their female colleagues, demanding sex and retaliating against women who refused.” The NPS “banned alcohol on the trips and required pre-trip briefings while the Interior Department’s Office of the Inspector General looked into allegations of sexual harassment,” but “Arizona’s congressional delegation says those reforms are insufficient.”

US Geological Survey:

BUDGET PROPOSES \$8 MILLION FOR “SHAKEALERT” SYSTEM. [McClatchy](#) (2/15, Hotakainen, 22K) reports the President’s budget proposes \$8 million for “an early earthquake warning system,” known as the “ShakeAlert” system, that would include “a network of sensors on the ocean floor” over the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The system is being developed with the assistance of the University of Washington, the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Oregon, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Secretary Jewell has also urged support for the system.

APP TO USE CELLPHONES TO HELP DETECT EARTHQUAKES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Xia, Lin, 4.1M) reports on an app to test an idea to use “cellphones to detect earthquakes as soon as they start.” The app “uses smartphone sensors to detect movement caused by an earthquake,” and sends that data “to a central server.” The app works on the idea that if 300 phones in an area are “sending warnings” that means there is an earthquake. It may also be used to support a system to “provide early warnings before the worst shaking from an earthquake arrives,” which is based on “the U.S. Geological Survey’s ShakeAlert prototype.” The phone app could not be a replacement because the phone sensors are not “as effective as hundreds of sophisticated earthquake sensor stations installed underground,” but it might provide an alternative where there are few or no earthquake sensors.

USGS: OKLAHOMA HIT BY STATE’S THIRD-STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE EVER. [Reuters](#) (2/16) reports that according to the US Geological Survey, Oklahoma this weekend was hit by the third-strongest quake to ever be recorded in the state, a magnitude 5.1 quake that struck at around 11 am Saturday morning. Seismologists say Oklahoma’s frequent earthquakes could be linked to the oil and gas industry’s injection disposal wells. [CBS News](#) (2/16, Villarreal, 3.97M) reports on its website that the quake hit near Fairview, which “is quickly gaining a big reputation for large quakes.”

This story was also covered by the [Daily Mail](#) (2/15, 4.92M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/13, 8.98M), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/15, 3.7M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/13, Miller, Press, 1.99M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/13, 822K), and the website of [ABC News](#) (2/15, 4M).

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE COULD ANNOUNCE HIGH COURT NOMINEE NEXT WEEK. The coming battle over the successor to late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia received 19 minutes of coverage between the three broadcast networks, with CBS and NBC opening with the story. The White House is indicating that President Obama may offer a nominee as soon as next week, but most of the television coverage deals with the difficulty any nominee will have in advancing, and on the role the vacancy will play in the presidential race. Those political considerations are also part of the print and online coverage, but these sources also look at prospective candidates, with Attorney General Lynch and District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sri Srinivasan mentioned as top contenders.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, lead story, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the “quiet memorial” to Scalia outside the Supreme Court is “in sharp contrast to the coming political battle over his successor.” CBS (Crawford) added, “When the justices return to the bench next week, it will be the first time for all eight to serve without Justice Scalia. ... They will have a term of controversial case, regulation of abortion clinics, another challenge to Obamacare, affirmative action and college admissions and presidential power on immigration.” Without Scalia, it will be “a court on pause. Many of those cases will end up in a 4-4 tie, keeping the lower court rulings in place and setting no nationwide precedents.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/15, lead story, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) opened by saying, "In an election year already fraught with improbable plot twists and drama, now this: The ideological balance of the US Supreme Court suddenly in limbo...as lines are drawn for an epic battle between Democrats and Senate Republicans who are determined to leave the choice up to the next president. Tonight, the current president is suggesting Republicans are full of bluster." On [ABC World News](#) (2/15, story 5, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported, "The flag is at half staff today at a snowy and peaceful Supreme Court, but the epic political battle is just beginning. ... Within an hour" of Scalia's death, Senate Majority Leader McConnell "drew the battle lines, declaring, 'This vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.'" Then, President Obama weighed in, paying tribute to Scalia, but making it clear, he's ready to fight to replace him."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House said the President had started discussions with his advisers about selecting a nominee. [USA Today](#) (2/15, Korte, 5.56M) reports deputy press secretary Eric Schultz said a nominee could come "as soon as next week." Schultz said, "As soon as the Senate returns, the President was very clear that he is going to fulfill his constitutional responsibility to nominate a successor to Justice Scalia. ... There are no caveats. The Constitution does not include exemptions for election years, or for the president's last term in office. There's no exemption for when a nomination would tip the balance of the court."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Boyer, 285K) says the Senate "is in the middle of a 10-day recess until Monday, giving Mr. Obama a chance to bypass Congress and install a successor quickly" via recess appointment. But [The Hill](#) (2/15, Balluck, 862K) and the [NPR](#) (2/15, 1.81M) website report that Obama has ruled that out.

In a 2,100-word assessment, Tom Goldstein of [SCOTUSblog](#) (2/15, 2K) writes that Obama "has two priorities. First, fill the Scalia seat by getting a nominee confirmed," and "second, gain as much political benefit as possible and exact as heavy a political toll as possible on Republicans, particularly in the presidential election." Goldstein says a nominee "may in fact receive a vote" in the Senate, and "if Republicans can come up with even a slender substantive thread on which to base an objection to the nominee, they will seize on it and vote the nominee down on the merits." Politically, the best candidate "would probably be Hispanic," but Obama "personally will be very tempted to appoint a black Justice." California Attorney General Kamala Harris would be the best choice, Goldstein writes, but as "the prohibitive favorite" in the California Senate race, she probably does not want it. So Lynch "is a very serious possibility." [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M) and [Mediaite](#) (2/15, Griswold, 277K) also report on Goldstein's assessment.

However, Edward-Isaac Dove of [Politico](#) (2/15, 1.07M) writes that while Lynch is "suddenly lighting up chatter as a potential dark horse," Srinivasan is Obama's "likeliest Supreme Court choice." He would be "a historic first" as an immigrant from India and won unanimous Senate approval to the appeals bench. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 2, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Margaret Brennan said Obama "could choose a candidate who has already won Senate approval," such as Srinivasan, "or he could make a bold choice" like Lynch, "who had to wait more than 160 days before she was confirmed for her current position."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that whomever Obama nominates, the candidate will face a polarized Senate Judiciary Committee. Chairman Charles Grassley, who has said he supports McConnell's plan to block any Obama nominee, would be presiding over his first Supreme Court confirmation hearings. Karen Tumulty of the [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) says the "rancorous debate...reflects in many ways a growing public skepticism toward the US Supreme Court itself, as its image has evolved from impartial arbiter of the laws to yet another politicized institution."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) editorializes, "This one shouldn't be complicated. The fourth year of President Obama's four-year term has just begun. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and all of them have at least 11 months still to serve." Scalia's death "has created a vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court. The Constitution tells the president to nominate justices and senators to confirm or reject those nominees." Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) column that the Senate should "force Obama's nominee to prove that he, or she, is in the mainstream. But unless the Senate wants to return to antebellum divisions, don't deny that nominee consideration."

But the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that it is liberals who have politicized the Court, so it is reasonable that Republicans would prefer to wait for a new president before confirming a nominee. In a second editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Sen. Charles Schumer from a 2007 speech, 18 months before President Bush left office, saying that should a vacancy arise, he would recommend to his colleagues "that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances." The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 3, 2:05,

Pelley, 5.08M) also included Schumer's 2007 remarks in a report.

Four Republican Senators In Tight Races Backing McConnell. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Shear, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that several Republican senators facing tough re-election races this year are now saying they will back McConnell in blocking a nominee. New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, "who faces a primary threat from the right wing of her party, said over the weekend that she supported" McConnell. In addition, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman said Monday, "It is common practice for the Senate to stop acting on lifetime appointments during the last year of a presidential term, and it's been nearly 80 years since any president was permitted to immediately fill a vacancy that arose in a presidential election year." [Politico](#) (2/15, Everett, 1.07M) reports that Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey and Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson are also backing McConnell.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Mufson, Eilperin, 8.98M) writes that "one consideration that may force Republicans to recalibrate their strategy is the prospect of political damage" to some of these incumbents. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/15, Pearson, 2.17M) reports that Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, "perhaps the most vulnerable of Republican senators seeking re-election this year," is "offering no clue on whether he will side with" McConnell.

The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Savage, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "the clash is less a new front against the White House than an escalation of a battle that had begun at the appeals court level." Since Republicans gained the Senate majority 13 months ago, "the process that would enable Mr. Obama to fill vacancies on the 12 regional federal courts of appeal has essentially been halted."

Cruz, Trump Make Issue Of Vacancy. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/15, Kapur, 289K) reports that "within hours" of Scalia's death, Republican presidential candidates "began using the battle to tear each other apart" ahead of Saturday's pivotal South Carolina primary. Sen. Ted Cruz is airing an ad "attacking Republican front-runner Donald Trump as untrustworthy when it comes to picking justices," while Trump is blasting Cruz for supporting the 2005 nomination of John Roberts as chief justice. [Politico](#) (2/15, Glueck, 1.07M) reports that Cruz also criticized Trump for suggesting last year that his sister Maryanne Trump Barry, a federal appeals court judge, would be his pick. Trump said he was joking, but on Monday, Cruz called Barry "a Bill Clinton-appointed federal appellate judge who's a radical pro-abortion extremist."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/15, story 2, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "No matter who it is the President picks, the Republican leader in the Senate and many of the leading GOP candidates say no one should get a vote and the seat should remain empty until the next president nominates a successor. That could leave this battle raging for well over a year." The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "the unexpected vacancy...immediately made the Supreme Court a dominant issue in the presidential campaign. The court, usually cast in the role of deciding issues that elections cannot, now may be the issue that decides the election."

Scalia Left Suggestions On Successor In Passage From 2015 Dissent. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that "we know more than you might think" about what sort of successor Scalia might have preferred. In a "largely overlooked passage in his dissent from the court's decision in June establishing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, he left detailed suggestions," such as finding "someone who did not go to law school at Harvard or Yale," or "a candidate from the Southwest" or an evangelical Christian. He "was criticizing the lack of diversity of the court he sat on, and he did not exclude himself." [ABC World News](#) (2/15, story 6, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 11, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) both broadcast remembrances of Scalia's life and career.

Scalia's Death Sparks Conspiracy Theories. The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Sun, Horwitz, 8.98M) reports on the "conspiracy theories" arising in the wake of Scalia's sudden death, particularly since no autopsy was ordered. The [AP](#) (2/15, Hananel, Warren) reports that Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara, "who decided no autopsy was needed," said she spoke to Scalia's doctor on the day he was found dead and was told that Scalia "had a history of heart trouble, high blood pressure and was considered too weak to undergo surgery for a recent shoulder injury."

Writer Wonders If Obama Could Sue Senate Over Obstruction. Writing at the [Huffington Post](#) (2/15, 518K), television writer Michael Russnow asks, "Why can't Obama sue the Senate?" Last September, "a court determined that the House of Representatives could sue the Executive Branch over funding of the Affordable Care Act." He argues that "a Senate led by an obstructionist" may be overstepping constitutional boundaries.

SURGEON GENERAL SAYS "TRUSTED VOICES" NEED TO GET INVOLVED IN FLINT. The [Detroit Free](#)

[Press](#) (2/15, Allen, 989K) reports Surgeon General Murthy said in Flint, Michigan on Monday night that “most Flint kids exposed to toxic lead in the city’s tap water should be OK, but ‘trusted voices’ need to impart critical nutrition and education.” Murthy said, “The problem is, we don’t know which kids are going to develop complications going forward. And that’s why what we have to do is make sure that we are providing as much support to these kids and their families as possible.”

HOUSE FETAL TISSUE INVESTIGATION SUBPOENAS MORE THAN 30 GROUPS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, DeBonis, 8.98M) reports the special House committee formed amid the Planned Parenthood fetal tissue controversy “has begun a broad investigation of the matter, issuing document requests to more than 30 agencies and organizations, including a closely scrutinized abortion clinic and some of the nation’s most prominent research institutions.” Subpoenas were sent to “StemExpress, a California firm that prepares human specimens for researchers; Southwestern Women’s Options, an Albuquerque abortion clinic; and the University of New Mexico, whose Health Sciences Center conducts medical research using fetal tissue.” Critics have expressed concern about “the privacy implications of the wide-ranging requests.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A College Education For Prisoners.” The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, says “the most effective way to keep people out of prison once they leave is to give them jobs skills,” and that “means restarting prison education programs.” The Times says that those inmates “who attend privately financed college classes” have much lower recidivism rates, with a Bard College program showing a “recidivism rate of 4 percent” for participants and “2.5 percent” for graduates. The Times urges New York to provide public funding for college education for prison inmates.

“The Chirp Heard Across The Universe.” A [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial

“How The Coal Industry Flattened The Mountains Of Appalachia.” The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, denounces “mountaintop removal” mining for “leaving behind...a grossly disfigured landscape.” It cites a report from Duke University researchers on the effects of the practice, and points out that the Interior Department is “working on a stronger Stream Protection Rule.” The Times concludes by quoting Chief Judge Charles Haden II of United States District Court, “No effect on related environmental values is more adverse than obliteration.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Ukraine Should Heed Its Economy Minister’s Warning On Corruption.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) in an editorial says that Ukraine must “build a strong and prosperous nation” if it is going to remain independent of Russia, but has so far “remained mired in a system in which billionaires gobble up state assets and siphon off the revenue streams.” The Post says the problem goes “all the way to the top” of Ukraine’s government, and that if Ukraine is to “survive” it must be rid of this system.

“Senators, Do Your Job And Vote On The Next Supreme Court Nominee.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) editorializes, “This one shouldn’t be complicated. The fourth year of President Obama’s four-year term has just begun. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and all of them have at least 11 months still to serve.” Scalia’s death “has created a vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court. The Constitution tells the president to nominate justices and senators to confirm or reject those nominees.”

“Gun Safety Advocates Are Wrong To Rebuff Gov. McAuliffe’s Gun Control Victory.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) says it’s a “shame” that gun safety advocates have “vilified” Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe for scrapping the state’s attorney general’s order ending recognition of concealed-carry permits from 25 states “with lax standards” in return for “a concession from the pro-gun lobby” that will allow the state to criminalize gun possession of almost 5,000 domestic abusers hit with protective orders annually. While the deal “isn’t perfect,” a “cold-eyed assessment suggests that Mr. McAuliffe got the better bargain.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “The Supreme Court After Scalia.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that it is liberals who have politicized the Court, so it is reasonable that Republicans would prefer to wait for a new president before confirming a nominee.

“The Schumer Precedent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Sen. Charles Schumer from a 2007 speech, 18 months before President Bush left office, saying that should a vacancy arise, he would recommend to his colleagues “that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the

Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances.”

“Donald Trump’s MoveOn.org Moment.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) blasts Donald Trump’s claim during Saturday’s GOP debate that the Administration of President George W. Bush deliberately “lied” about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, noting that there is no evidence to support the claim. The Journal says touting false conspiracy theories should disqualify a presidential candidate because it undermines public trust in democracy and argues Trump’s willingness to entertain the theory demonstrates the risk the GOP would be taking by making him the party’s presidential nominee.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Scalia’s Death Sets Up Collision](#)
[Millennial Wave Unsettles Presidential Race](#)
[Senate Girds For A Pivotal Battle On Court Nominee](#)
[Stocks Rise As Banking Shares Rally](#)

New York Times:

[Before Scalia’s Death, A Clash Between GOP And Obama Over Appellate Judges](#)
[What Would Scalia Want In His Successor? A Dissent Offers Clues](#)
[South Carolina Church Bridges Racial Gap, But Not Political Divide](#)
[Bush Brothers Swipe At Donald Trump](#)
[Tasked With Combating Opium, Afghan Officials Profit From It](#)
[Cornell’s Plan To Merge Hotel School Gets An Icy Reception](#)
[Kendrick Lamar Sweeps Rap Field At Grammys; Taylor Swift Wins Best Album](#)

Washington Post:

[In Nev, Sanders Is Challenging Clinton’s “Firewall”](#)
[“My Demons Won Today”: Ohio Activist’s Suicide Spotlights Depression Among Black Lives Matter Leaders](#)
[Court Fight Hits Senate Races](#)
[Venezuela Lacks Tools To Battle Zika Virus](#)
[In A Fearful Europe, Racial Profiling Becomes More Common](#)

Financial Times:

[Russia-Turkey Tensions In Syria Hit Peak](#)
[Criminals’ “Currency Of Choice” For Chop](#)

Washington Times:

[Special Forces Face Challenges As Integration Of Women Loom](#)
[Lawmakers Hope To Stop Pressure On Child Brides In Virginia](#)
[Ex-President Makes Return To Campaign For Jeb Bush](#)
[Obama Starts With Cautious Approach To Fill Scalia’s Seat](#)
[Kiosk Carnage Raises Questions On Moscow’s Business Climate](#)
[Palestinians Admit To Working With Israel To Foil Local Attacks](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Virgin Atlantic Flight-Laser Scare; Heartburn Medication Warning; Peyton Manning-University Of Tennessee Allegations; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show.
 CBS: Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Nomination Process; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Central America-Migration Crisis; Severe Weather; Alaska Flight-Smoke; Lincoln Memorial Restoration; Justice Scalia-Record.
 NBC: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Nomination Process; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Heartburn Medication-Warning; Virgin Atlantic Flight-Laser Scare; 2015 Airline Safety; Jimmy Carter-Grammy.

Network TV At A Glance:

Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 19 minutes, 05 seconds
 2016 Politics – 12 minutes, 50 seconds
 Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
 Syria-Hospital Bombed – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
 Pope Francis-Mexico Visit – 0 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Severe Weather-Snow Storms; 2016 Politics-Republican Campaign Trail; Financial Markets.

CBS: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush Campaign; Severe Weather-Damages; Grammy Awards; Oregon Legislation-Coal Reduction; Gas Price Decrease.

NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush Campaign; 2016 Politics-Republicans; US-ASEAN Summit; Severe Weather-Damage; Indian University-Student Protests; Bahrain-US Journalists Detained.

FOX: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Syria Hospital Bombed-France Condemnation; US-ASEAN Summit; Severe Weather Damage.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts day two of the US-ASEAN Summit in California.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public scheduled events.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 9:30 AM Public Citizen Goes to Court Seeking to Uncover Misconduct by Immigration Judges – Public Citizen will argue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that the government should be required to disclose information about immigration judges who have been accused of misconduct. In 2013, Public Citizen and the American Immigration Council, acting as counsel for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), sued the U.S. Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) under the Freedom of Information Act. The lawsuit challenged EOIR's refusal to disclose complaints against immigration judges and to make public records that would reveal agency investigations of and resolutions to those complaints. After filing the lawsuit, EOIR released nearly 16,000 pages of complaint and complaint resolution documents. However, key sections of many documents were blacked out. And none of the documents contained the names of the immigration judges who had been the subject of complaints, even though these judges are high-ranking public officials who make life-or-death decisions for the immigrant Location: Courtroom 31, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, 333 Constitution Ave., NW <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=2281> https://twitter.com/public_citizen

8:30 AM National Academies workshop on the Zika virus – National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine convene workshop – at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services – to identify basic research priorities that could be implemented in real time to help minimize the likelihood of local Zika virus transmission in the U.S. and inform public health responses. Experts and stakeholders discuss topics including clinical management, public health resources, and guidance that may be needed to inform prevention, mitigation, detection, and treatment efforts; current research efforts to better understand the virus and research gaps; specific risk factors for the babies of pregnant women who have been infected with the Zika virus and periods of particularly increased risk during pregnancy; burdens associated with microcephaly and other neurological disorders in babies and the resources need to care for them and other affected individuals; and risk factors for developing Guillain-Barre syndrome after Zika infection and appropriate medical care Location: NAS, 2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences> #ZikaResearch

10:00 AM GOP Rep. Luke Messer speaks at NPC – House Republican Policy Chair Luke Messer discusses governing in the 2016 election year via NPC Newsmaker news conference Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

10:00 AM Deputy Secretary of State Blinken in conversation at Brookings – 'New frameworks for countering terrorism and violent extremism: A conversation with Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken' hosted by Brookings Institution Foreign Policy program, on U.S. civilian-led initiatives to counter the spread of the Islamic State group and other violent extremist groups. He charts the path forward and outlines the challenges that lie

ahead Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #CVE

1:00 PM Washington FPC briefed on new U.S. assistance for the Syrian crisis – Washington Foreign Press Center On-The-Record Briefing on 'New U.S. Assistance to Respond to Syria Crisis', featuring Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Richard, and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Thomas Staal Location: National Press Bldg, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.fpc.state.gov <https://twitter.com/ForeignPressCtr>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "In addition to the [Los Angeles] marathon, I also saw that President Obama just visited LA. Or as Donald Trump put it, 'The state is being taken over by Kenyans.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, while he was in Los Angeles last week, President Obama met privately with Will Smith. Not to be outdone, Joe Biden spent the day learning how to do the Carlton."

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's the latest on the election. Donald Trump just promised that he will no longer use foul language on the campaign trail. Now, when people ask him his policy on ISIS, he just says, 'I'm gonna bomb the shy diddly doodles out of them.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And during a recent rally in Louisiana, Donald Trump actually autographed someone's baby. Even crazier, when he handed the baby back to the parents, he said, 'Congratulations, your baby is worth three times as much now.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Ted Cruz's campaign pulled a recent attack ad after it came out that one of the actresses in the ad had also appeared in some softcore porn films. I feel so bad for that actress who now has to explain to her parents what she was doing in a Ted Cruz ad."

Seth Meyers: "Republicans and Democrats are fighting over whether President Obama should be able to appoint Justice Scalia's successor. Democrats say that he should, whereas the Constitution says that he shall."

Seth Meyers: "The Ted Cruz campaign has pulled a new ad after it was revealed that the actress in it has appeared in softcore porn. And now Jeb has hired her to teach him how to act like he's enjoying something."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump spent his President's Day getting ready by photoshopping his head onto a million-dollar bill."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, in a very different kind of race in LA: the LA marathon, the 31st annual marathon. Between the marathon and Obama's visit, it was a big week for Kenyans screwing up LA traffic."

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

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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

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

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DOI in the News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Empowering Native American Communities:

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

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

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

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

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

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

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

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

Onshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Offshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Park Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Top National News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial Wrap-Up:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

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

New York Times:

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

Washington Post:

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

Financial Times:

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

Washington Times:

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

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

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

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

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

Network TV At A Glance:

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

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Air Traffic Controller Report.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Wall Street; Oregon Standoff Ends.

FOX: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; Oregon Standoff Ends; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; Wall Street; Congress-Trans-Pacific Partnership; Myspace Sold.

NPR: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; North Korea Rocket Launch-South Korea Response; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; California-Methane Gas Leak Stopped; West Virginia Chemical Spill-Mining Executive Sentenced; Uber Settles Class-Action Lawsuit.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

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

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 10:30 AM 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' Congressional briefing – 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' briefing, on the state of the nation's working class and what can be done to address a rising level of family and economic instability, sponsored by bipartisan Sens. Tim Scott and Bob Casey and co-hosted by The American Academy of Political and Social Science and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Social policy experts Johns Hopkins University Professor of Public Policy Andrew Cherlin, Brookings Institution Center on Children and Families co-director Ron Haskins, Princeton University Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs Sara McLanahan, and Harvard University Professor of Public Policy Robert Putnam present evidence on the current state of American families, marriage, mobility, and child well-being, and examine what has been called 'the fall of the working class'. Location: Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.aapss.org> <https://twitter.com/TheAAPSS>. Contacts: AAPSS 1 215 746 6500.

US House: 8:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Air Force FY'17 budget – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Air Force 2017 Budget Request and Readiness', with testimony from US Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Gen. John Raymond, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection Lt. Gen. John Cooper. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

9:00 AM House expected to debate Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 2017, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015' * Administration has said it opposes the bill, saying it would 'undercut the objective of providing clear, consistent calorie information to consumers'. Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>. Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating biological threats – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Outbreaks, Attacks, and Accidents: Combating Biological Threats', with testimony from Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense members Donna Shalala and James Greenwood; In-Q-Tel Senior Fellow and Executive Vice President Tara O'Toole; and Texas A&M University Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing Associate Vice President for Public Health Preparedness and Response Dr. Gerald Parker. Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>. Contacts: House Energy and Commerce Committee 1 202 225 2927.

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA IG budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Office of the Inspector General', with testimony from USDA Inspector General Phyllis Fong, Assistant Inspector General for Audits Gil Harden, and Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Ann Coffey. Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Afghan national security forces – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the Development of Afghanistan National Security Forces', with testimony from Defense Intelligence Agency Senior Defense Analyst – Afghanistan Kent Breedlove; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia Christine Abizaid; Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Pakistan Afghanistan and Transregional Threats Coordination Cell Deputy Director Col. Stephen Michael; Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko; and Department of Defense Deputy Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations Michael Child.

Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

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

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

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

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

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

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Confidential



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 10, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO CELEBRATE RECOVERY OF LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR ON THURSDAY.

[KSLA-TV Shreveport, LA \(3/9, 63K\)](#) reports that on Thursday, March 10, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "travel to Tensas National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate a successful conservation partnership to protect and recover the Louisiana Black bear from the brink of extinction." Jewell will "highlight meaningful recovery efforts among federal, state, and local landowners for more than 20 years that have led to significant success for the bear – the inspiration for the iconic teddy bear." She will be joined by FWS Director Dan Ashe, Interior's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Michael Bean and U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Ann Mills.

The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star \(3/9, 121K\)](#) praises the recovery of the Teddy bear. It says that "conservation efforts of the people of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and other organizations brought this woodland creature back from the risk of extinction."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet \(3/9, 46K\)](#), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch \(3/10, 337K\)](#), [KATC-TV Lafayette \(LA\) Lafayette, LA \(3/10, 54K\)](#), and [WVUE-TV New Orleans \(3/10, 44K\)](#).

MALHEUR REFUGE OCCUPIERS HIT WITH NEW CHARGES. [Reuters \(3/9, Johnson\)](#) reports that several participants in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge standoff have been indicted on new charges, including damaging government property and the carrying guns in a federal facility. The indictment, which was unsealed Wednesday, supersedes an earlier indictment in the case. The indictment lists 26 defendants, including occupation leader Ammon Bundy. As in the last indictment, each defendant is charged with conspiring to impede a federal agent, though not all were charged with the new counts.

The [AP \(3/9, Dubois\)](#) reports that Wednesday, Bundy and his co-defendants all pleaded not guilty to the new charges against them. Bundy "and eight others, including his brother Ryan, were charged with carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, which has a maximum penalty of life in prison," the AP says.

The [Guardian \(UK\) \(3/9, Levin, 3.71M\)](#), [Oregon Public Broadcasting \(3/9, 2K\)](#), [Oregon Public Broadcasting \(3/10, 2K\)](#), the [Oregonian \(3/10, 864K\)](#), and the website of [CBS News \(3/9, 3.97M\)](#) also report on this story.

BIA Pledges Support To Burns Paiute Tribe In Aftermath Of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge's

Occupation. The [Indian Country Today Media Network \(3/9, Keeler, 48K\)](#) reports that last Monday, March 1, members of the Burns Paiute Tribe were "finally allowed to visit" the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge contains "their ancient wintering grounds and...culturally-sensitive sites and even burial grounds." The cleanup of the refuge will include the removal of "a road the occupiers constructed, as well as three different trenches they dug where they dumped trash and human feces." Bureau of Indian Affairs regional director Stanley Speaks has "assured" tribal members that the agency "would offer assistance for expenses the tribe had incurred for extra law enforcement patrols and for the aftermath."

Finicum Widow Has Not Said Whether She Will Settle With BLM. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune \(3/9, Piper, 388K\)](#) reports on Jeanette Finicum, the widow of LaVoy Finicum, 54, who had been "the spokesman for the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." She did not "say whether she plans to settle up with the Bureau of Land Management" regarding grazing fees for cattle on land in Arizona. She has said that her husband was "assassinated."

Santilli Says Federal Case Against Him Based On What He Said. [WBUR-FM Boston \(3/9, 126K\)](#) carries an audio report on its website about Pete Santilli, who "broadcast hundreds of hours from the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge" and from "the 2014 standoff in Nevada between ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management." Santilli has argued that the federal charges against him are based on "things he's said." The report says that is "raising questions about Santilli's First Amendment rights."

Additional Coverage Of Investigation Of Shots Fired During Arrests Of Oregon Occupiers. Additional coverage that "FBI agents who were at the scene of the shooting death of a key figure of the occupation of an Oregon national wildlife refuge are under federal investigation for not disclosing they fired two shots that missed Robert 'LaVoy' Finicum" was provided by the [Arizona Republic \(3/9, 975K\)](#), the [Christian Science Monitor \(3/9, 442K\)](#), [US News & World Report \(3/9, 853K\)](#), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\) Washington \(3/9, 30K\)](#), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\) Indianapolis \(3/9, 85K\)](#), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit \(3/9, 177K\)](#).

Secretary Jewell Criticized For Lack Of Leadership During Malheur Occupation. In an op-ed for the [High](#)

[Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/10, 74K), Matt Jenkins criticizes the lack of leadership by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Jenkins argues that "Jewell ought to be the first person to stand up for these treasures when they come under attack," but "instead, we got complete silence." He also points out that Jewell was also "a no-show" during "the showdown on Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada, in 2014."

MAJORITY OF MALHEUR COUNTY VOTERS OPPOSE OWYHEE MONUMENT. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (3/9, 19K) reports that "about 54 percent of eligible voters in Malheur County registered their opposition to a proposed Owyhee Canyonlands national monument in Tuesday's advisory referendum." The article notes that "of the votes cast, 90 percent were in opposition to a monument designation." It adds that "there were 5,666 votes opposed, with 633 votes in support of a monument, according to complete and unofficial results from the Malheur County Clerk's office." Also, "the turnout for the election was 54.25 percent of registered voters, with 6,301 ballots cast."

Additional coverage was provided by [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).

Interior Officials Meet Oregon Officials On Land Management Issues. [My Columbia Basin \(WA\)](#) (3/9) reports that Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens, commenting on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with meetings with legislators and lobbyists, said that "federal officials are listening to questions about natural resource and federal land management." Givens said "during his time on Capitol Hill, he had a meeting with National Parks Director John Jarvis." Meanwhile, Harney County Judge Steve Grasty met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

INTERIOR FILM FROM 1939 SHOWS ORIGINS OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS. SCV-TV Santa Clarita, CA (3/9) shows an Interior Department film from 1939 which "examines the origins of the Civilian Conservation Corps and profiles various accomplishments of the group in helping to build our nation's parks."

SEN. MURKOWSKI, FOREST SERVICE CHIEF TIDWELL CLASH OVER TONGASS LOGGING PLAN. [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "a Forest Service draft plan to end old-growth logging at Alaska's Tongass National Forest sparked several tense exchanges yesterday between the agency's head and Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski." Murkowski, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, asked Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell "to hold off on advancing the plan to move from old-growth to new-growth logging in Tongass until completing a detailed inventory to ensure there is actually enough young-growth timber to sustain the industry." Murkowski told Tidwell "she was particularly concerned that the Forest Service's \$4.9 billion fiscal 2017 budget request did not include funding to pay for such an inventory." However, "Tidwell told Murkowski that the Forest Service intends to move forward with the plan, even if the inventory is not complete, as part of an ongoing effort to amend the Tongass National Forest's land-use plan to identify which areas should be available for timber harvest."

RESEARCHER DEVELOPS SAGE GROUSE MAP. The [Mountain Mail](#) (3/9, 17K) reports that "a Colorado State University researcher has developed an interactive online map to better target invasive species that are damaging sage grouse habitat and associated rangeland." In 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture "launched a conservation effort called the Sage Grouse Initiative, which will use the new map."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rocky Mountain Collegian \(CO\)](#) (3/9, 201).

WESTERN LAND MANAGERS RELEASE REPORT ON BATTLING INVASIVE WEEDS. The AP (3/9, Ridler, 285K) reports that "public lands managers have released an outline for creating a decades-long strategy to combat wildfire-prone invasive weeds considered a main threat to Great Basin sagebrush ecosystems." According to the report released Monday by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, "piecemeal efforts must be replaced by landscape-wide strategies stretching across Western states." The article notes that "the report is part of a much larger effort following Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's order in January 2015 calling for a 'science-based' strategy that safeguards the greater sage grouse while contending with wildfires that have grown larger over the years and have been especially destructive in the Great Basin region."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/9, 198K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/9, 337K), and the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (3/9, 73K).

UTAH LEGISLATURE SETS ASIDE FUNDS FOR LAWSUIT TO DEMAND CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that "Utah budget leaders on Wednesday approved setting aside \$4.5 million as the first payment toward a lawsuit aimed at asserting state ownership of tens of

millions of acres of federal land within Utah's borders." According to the article, "the lawsuit money is being set aside in case Attorney General Sean Reyes decides to file the public-lands lawsuit that has been years in the making." Also, "another \$250,000 was earmarked to go toward a group created by rural county commissioners that could bolster the legal defense of San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/10, 388K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER GAINS LEADER. Additional coverage that the Interior Department has named Jeff Klein Executive Director Of the Natural Resource Investment Center was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (3/9).

NEWEST CALIFORNIA MONUMENTS PRAISED. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/9, 98K), Pastor Frank Ruiz writes that "Latinos in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are thrilled that President Obama recently designated our nation's three newest national monuments – Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains – in the California desert." Ruiz expresses gratitude "to President Obama and Senator Feinstein, along with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for their leadership in assuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the desert."

SUPPORT URGED FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT PROJECT. In an editorial, the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (3/9, 87K) notes that Sen. Cory Gardner recently questioned Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor about "their commitment to the Arkansas Valley Conduit project." Gardner said, "They pledged continued support for the conduit and my legislation that helps to finally get construction of the project underway." The paper hopes "Gardner can get all the needed support in Washington, D.C., for his measure so that building the much-needed pipeline moves along as quickly as possible."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NAVAJO NATION OFFICIALS MEET WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. The [Flagstaff \(AZ\) Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) (3/9, 43K) reports that "last week, members from the Navajo Nation Council attended several meetings with federal officials and programs to discuss educational issues, repatriation of sacred items and proposed technical amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act. Council." Delegate Jonathan Hale "along with staff from the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and members of the Navajo Nation Board of Education, met with officials from the U.S. Department of Education, Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to discuss the Navajo Nation Alternative Accountability Workbook."

SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBE PLANNING BID FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (3/10) reports that "the Schaghticoke Indian Tribe of Kent is preparing to make a bid for federal recognition, according to a Bureau of Indian Affairs official and a tribal consultant." William Buchanan, "a business consultant for the tribe, said the tribe plans to file a petition for recognition in about 60 days."

OKLAHOMA BILL CHANGES DEFINITION OF WHO CAN SELL "INDIAN ART". The [Miami \(OK\) News Record](#) (3/9, 14K) reports that "the Oklahoma House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of H.B. 2261 a measure, authored by State Representative Chuck Hoskin (D-Vinita) that changes the definition of who can sell 'Indian art' under the American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974." The proposed measure, "which passed the House 90-0 on Monday, defines 'American Indian tribe' as any Indian tribe federally recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and further, defines 'American Indian' as a citizen or enrolled member of an American Indian tribe." Also, "the bill adds performing arts and literature to the list of authentic arts and crafts."

HISTORY OF LITTLETON 12 RECOUNTED. Jennifer K. Falcon, an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux tribe and a progressive political organizer in San Antonio, Texas, writes at the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/9, 48K), regarding "the 44th Anniversary of an important part of the Indian Civil Rights Movement, when 12 Indian employees at the Bureau of Indians Affairs' Plant Management Engineering Center filed a formal complaint against the bureau stating discriminatory practices in training, hiring and promotions, and misusing government funds meant for Indians." The complainants, labeled the Littleton Twelve, "would spark a movement in Denver that utilized direct action and non-violent civil disobedience to secure Indian hiring preference at the BIA."

Office of Insular Affairs:

NMI RECEIVES \$382.2K FOR CUC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/9) reports that "the commonwealth government received an authorization to proceed or ATP with the amount of \$382,225 from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s engineering and environmental management company, or EEMC." According to the article, "the next authorization to proceed that the commonwealth expects to receive from Interior is in the amount of \$730,614 for the cleanup, inspection and repair of Tank 103."

NPS COMMENDS CNMI HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/9) reports that the NPS has "removed the high-risk status of the CNMI Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for purposes of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program." According to the article, "last week, HPO's Mertie Kani shared that despite staff shortages and funding difficulties, the Historic Preservation Office has been able to achieve significant preservation goals within the past year." In her email to Mertie Kani, Federal Grants Program Analyst, Paula Falk Creech wrote, "The National Park Service hereby rescinds the high risk status for the Historic Preservation Fund grant program. The lifting of this high-risk status is because of the improvements in grant, program, and project management. We appreciate your efforts to establish procedures to submit grant applications, project notifications, final project reports, end-of-year reports, and other grant products and documents to the NPS in a timely, complete, and accurate manner."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CLAIM GOLD KING EMAILS SHOW INTERIOR AVOIDED INVESTIGATING EPA'S FAULT. [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that House Republicans claim that internal emails reveal the Interior Department "intentionally avoided investigating alleged U.S. EPA negligence in the Gold King mine spill." The House Natural Resources Committee "obtained the email chain in response to subpoenas served to Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers on Feb. 17 concerning the spill." Committee staff said much of the email correspondence was previously redacted at the request of Interior, which cited important "executive branch confidentiality interest." In the first email dated Oct. 13, 2015, Thomas Luebke, director of the BOR's Technical Service Center, sent the final draft of the "Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident" to Army Corps peer reviewer Richard Olsen for his signature. On Oct. 16, Olsen responded with "serious reservations" about the report. He "agreed with the conclusions about the spill's technical causes but said 'the actual cause of failure' was some combinations of poor decisionmaking and communication breakdown."

BOR COMMITS TO WORKING ON GLENDIVE INTAKE DIVERSION DAM. The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (3/9, 10K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester has "secured a commitment from the Bureau of Reclamation that it will work with eastern Montana irrigators to ensure access to water from the Glendive Intake Diversion Dam this growing season." Tester said "he pressed the agencies involved to ensure that irrigators have access to water this planting season during an Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee last week." BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez assured Tester, "We're going to do everything that we can to make sure that farmers get some help."

BOR INCREASES RELEASES FROM FOLSOM DAM. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/9, 569K) reports that "the American River is running higher than it has in years from Folsom to Sacramento, resulting in closed access points and encroachment on beaches." The BOR "increased water releases from Folsom Dam to 15,000 cubic feet per second this week to make room for rain expected to begin on Thursday and continue through the weekend."

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT TO PAY FINE IN SETTLEMENT WITH SEC. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/9, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that "a sprawling Central Valley water district run by some of the state's wealthiest growers papered over its drought-related financial struggles and misled investors, federal regulators said Wednesday." The Westlands Water District "shifted about \$8.3 million in expenses and other obligations to the revenue side of its ledgers, solely to be able to represent that it had enough revenue to cover debt payments on \$77 million in bonds without having to raise rates, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission." The district's general manager, Thomas W. Birmingham, "agreed to pay a \$50,000 penalty, and the district paid \$125,000 to settle the case."

Additional coverage was provided by [McClatchy](#) (3/10, 22K).

BOR URGED TO INCREASE DELTA WATER EXPORTS. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/9, 279K) editorializes that the BOR's "decision Wednesday to export less water south from the Delta than is legally allowed defies common sense." While the paper acknowledges the decision's impact on the Delta smelt, it says that the BOR

"must also consider the economic impact of its decisions on Valley farmers." The editorial argues that "in this specific case, its decision to pump less than is allowed under the biological opinion is a blow to our region's agriculture-powered economy."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM ISSUES FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WYOMING WIND FARM. The [Denver Business Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday issued an environmental assessment of the specific sites for 500 of the 1,000 turbines that will be part of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project in southern Wyoming. The draft finds "no new significant impacts" from the construction and installation of the wind turbines.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Gruver, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, Gruver, 881K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (3/9, 336K), and [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\) Cheyenne, WY](#) (3/9, 519).

BOEM ACCEPTS LEASE REQUEST FOR HAWAII OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT. [North American Windpower](#) (3/9, 43K) reports that "following the receipt of another unsolicited lease request for a floating offshore wind project offshore Oahu, Hawaii," the BOEM is "publishing a call for information and nominations in order to initiate a competitive planning and leasing process." In all, the bureau says "it has received three unsolicited lease requests from two developers: two requests – submitted in March 2015 – from AW Hawaii Wind LLC for the AWH Oahu Northwest Project and the AWH Oahu South Project and, now, one from Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind Inc. for the Progression South Coast of Oahu Project."

Additional coverage was provided by [reNews](#) (3/9).

UMASS RESEARCHERS DEVELOP IMPROVED WIND TURBINE ANCHORING SYSTEM. The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (3/9, Lederman, 312K) reports University of Massachusetts researchers are "developing a new mooring system for floating offshore wind turbines that uses an integrated network of anchors and lines to hold dozens of turbines in place in the ocean." The NSF-funded research aims to "hasten the progress toward the goal of generating 20 percent of U.S. energy needs from wind power by potentially reducing the cost of building offshore wind farms by a significant margin."

Onshore Energy Development:

DEMOCRATS ASK GAO TO REVIEW SELF-BONDING. [Politico Pro](#) (3/9) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell and Dick Durbin on Tuesday called on the Government Accountability Office "to open two different inquiries into the practice of self-bonding, under which coal producers set aside money to reclaim old coal mines in the event of bankruptcy." They said that "it's time for Interior and Congress to 'revisit' self-bonding authorization, and ask GAO to author a comparison of self-bonding across federal programs, and to audit self-bonding under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Insurance Journal](#) (3/9, 57K) and [Business Insurance](#) (3/9, 126K).

ENVIRONMENTALIST SEEK INJUNCTION AGAINST FRACKING NEAR CHACO CANYON. The [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (3/9, 69K) reports that "environmental groups have once again asked a judge to order the US Bureau of Land Management to stop issuing permits for hydraulic fracturing near Chaco Canyon." The Western Environmental Law Center "made oral arguments in the case to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on Tuesday." According to the article, "the argument contends it's unlawful for the BLM to issue permits without analyzing their cumulative impacts while continuing to rely on a resource management plan that didn't consider drilling on this scale in this location viable." The suit "calls for a preliminary injunction to suspend additional development while the BLM does a baseline analysis of the area."

OBAMA, TRUDEAU EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE METHANE EMISSIONS RESTRICTIONS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports the Obama Administration is expected to announce methane emissions restrictions today when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits the White House. The EPA will start devising regulations for existing wells with the intention of releasing April draft

requirements.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM REJECTS ROYALTY-RATE CUT FOR IDLED ELK CREEK MINE.

Additional coverage that the BLM “has decided against issuing a royalty rate reduction to Oxbow Mining’s idled Elk Creek Mine” was provided by the [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (3/10, 17K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/9, 73K) and [Raw Story](#) (3/8, 1.24M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DOZENS PROTEST IN RENO AGAINST BLM AUCTION OF OIL, GAS LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND.

Additional coverage of the “Keep It In The Ground” protest in Nevada was provided by the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/9, 22K) and [KOLO-TV Reno, NV](#) (3/8, 41K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: STATES, GAS INDUSTRY SAY BLM CLAIMING OVERLY BROAD AUTHORITY OVER FRACKING.

Additional coverage that “several western states and industry groups are hammering away at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hydraulic fracturing (fracking) rule to prevent the federal agency from governing leasehold activity on public and tribal lands” was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/10, Subscription Publication).

TAXPAYER ADVOCATE URGES BLM NOT TO DELAY NEW RULE TO REDUCE WASTED GAS.

Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, writes at [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K) in support of a new rule proposed by the Bureau of Land Management “to reduce wasted gas,” stating that it “is both overdue and makes sense.” The rule would “require operators to reduce the gas being wasted by using more current drilling technology, paying closer attention to possible leaks and fixing the ones they find, and submitting waste minimization plans along with their application for a permit to drill new wells.” Alexander reports that at a public hearing for the rule in North Dakota, opponents all requested that the BLM “extend the period of time before the rule become final.” He argues against this, saying that “time is money,” and that “oil and gas operators are wasting taxpayer assets by literally releasing them into the air without paying for them.”

Physician Urges Greater Focus On Health. Dr. Barbara Bentz, MD, a Sanford Health pediatrician, writes at the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (3/9, 97K) on the proposed rule with a focus on the health effects of methane, pointing that it is “an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas,” and can “cause suffocation” leading to “headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, rapid breathing, loss of coordination, loss of consciousness and possible death.” Bentz recommends including “an experienced federal public health agency such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry as a partner to determine the most effective way to continuously measure methane levels in the environment before it is sold or transported.”

Offshore Energy Development:

COASTAL ADVOCATES URGE PRESIDENT OBAMA TO SCRAP PROPOSAL TO REDIRECT OIL MONEY.

The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (3/8, 99K) reports that “several hundred Louisiana governmental agencies, environmental groups and coastal entities cosigned a letter requesting President Barack Obama to back off on a proposal that would redirect oil and gas royalties earmarked for coastal restoration.” At issue is the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act, or GOMESA, “which is expected to send about \$176 million to Louisiana next year, with \$30 million for coastal parishes such as Lafourche and Terrebonne, a majority of which is constitutionally dedicated to coastal restoration projects.” In its latest budget proposal, the White House “calls for repealing the payments, saying they are ‘unnecessary and costly’ while benefiting only a ‘handful of states.’” According to the article, “in the letter signed by 330 groups, the authors, who acknowledge the White House’s efforts in helping the state recover from various disasters, criticize Obama’s efforts to redirect the money.”

DRAFT REVIEW FINDS OFFSHORE WELL STIMULATION TREATMENTS NOT EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EFFECT SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL.

The [Santa Maria \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/10, Swanston, 55K) reports on a draft environmental review conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management found that “offshore well stimulation treatments, including acidizing and hydraulic fracturing (fracking), do not significantly impact environments in the Santa Barbara Channel’s federal waters.” In response, the Environmental Defense Center said the review “falls short in several fundamental respects,” and EDC senior attorney Brian Segee said the finding “defies common sense,” adding that the conclusion “is simply not credible.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

LAS VEGAS PROTEST PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF CLIVEN BUNDY. The [AP](#) (3/10, 853K) reports that “backers of a Nevada rancher at the center of a fight over control of public lands in the West are promising a show of support outside a U.S. courthouse where he’s facing charges that he led an armed standoff against federal agents two years ago.” According to the article, “Cliven Bundy’s wife and other family members and friends said this week the planned demonstration before Bundy’s court appearance on Thursday will show they’re keeping up their fight against the federal government.” The article says that “Nevada allows open-carrying of guns, and Las Vegas police and U.S. marshals said they expect some protesters will be armed, but will remain peaceful.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/10, Ritter, 881K).

Nevada Rancher Bundy Sold 1,300 Cattle Over Past Five Years. [Greenwire](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy “sold close to 1,300 cattle over the past five years and found business in a handful of states even as the federal government sought to purge his herd from public lands, according to state records.” Bundy “sold or transferred cattle to nearly two dozen recipients in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Kansas, according to branding records kept by Nevada’s Department of Agriculture.” According to the records, “nearly half the cattle were trucked about 100 miles northeast from Bundy’s Bunkerville ranch to an auction yard in Cedar City, Utah, and 165 cattle were shipped west to a sale yard near Bakersfield, Calif. Most cattle, about 800, ended up in Utah.”

Judge Denies Bail For New Hampshire Man In Nevada Standoff. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Siefer) reports that U.S. District Court Judge Andrea Johnstone has denied bail for Jerry DeLemus, who is accused of being a mid-level organizer in the 2014 Nevada ranch standoff.

UTAH BILL TARGETS PUBLIC-LAND LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that “a bill seeking to resolve conflicts between local, county and federal law enforcement agencies on who has the right to police public lands awaits the signature of Gov. Gary Herbert after it passed in the Senate.” Sen. David Hinkins, the Senate sponsor, “explained on the floor how law-enforcement agencies would interact under the bill.” He said, “HB391 sets up a procedure for a county sheriff to seek legal relief if ... duties are violated by the [Bureau of Land Management] or Forest Service.” According to the article, “local sheriffs would work with the Utah attorney general’s office in preparing a letter to the federal agencies stating demands and deciding on legal action if those demands are not sufficiently met.”

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY SOLD 1,300 CATTLE OVER PAST FIVE YEARS. [Greenwire](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy “sold close to 1,300 cattle over the past five years and found business in a handful of states even as the federal government sought to purge his herd from public lands, according to state records.” Bundy “sold or transferred cattle to nearly two dozen recipients in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Kansas, according to branding records kept by Nevada’s Department of Agriculture.” According to the records, “nearly half the cattle were trucked about 100 miles northeast from Bundy’s Bunkerville ranch to an auction yard in Cedar City, Utah, and 165 cattle were shipped west to a sale yard near Bakersfield, Calif. Most cattle, about 800, ended up in Utah.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TWIN METALS MINE DEALT ANOTHER SETBACK. Additional coverage of the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/9, Henry, 862K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/9, 1.25M), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/9, 1.25M), the [MinnPost \(MN\)](#) (3/9, 8K), the [Cook-Orr \(MN\) Timberjay](#) (3/9, 142), and [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (3/9, 456)..

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LAWMAKERS WANT TO TAKE AWAY GUNS FROM FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. Additional coverage that “Utah’s representatives in Congress are calling for federal land managers with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to give up their law enforcement authority” was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/9, 48K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (3/9, 404K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WESTERN GOVERNORS SCRUTINIZE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. [The Hill](#) (3/9, Cama, 862K) report that “a coalition of western state governors is considering formally backing legislation to shift power away from the federal government for endangered species protections.” At a forum Wednesday in Denver, Wyoming Gov.

Matt Mead said "it'd be premature to say whether the Western Governors Association will ask for changes to the 1973 Endangered Species Act." However, "the governors see the species law as ineffective, and want to see more species' protections handled like the sage grouse, which avoided formal protections last year in favor of state-led efforts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, Finley, 881K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/9, 290K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/9, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Elliott, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, 881K), [The East Oregonian](#) (3/9, 24K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/9, 31K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, 4.92M).

CONSERVATIONISTS PRESS FWS TO CONTINUE WOLF TRACKING. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that five conservation groups on Wednesday pressed the FWS "to continue monitoring gray wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains." The service has "been tracking changes in the wolves' abundance and distribution and threats to the population segment ever since Congress removed it from the endangered species list in a spending bill policy rider nearly five years ago." However, "the agency's post-delisting monitoring program is set to end in May." The conservationists, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, say FWS rules require continued monitoring.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Ridler, 285K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/9, 78K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).

FWS REJECTS TRAILS FOR LUXURY HOMES. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/9, 73K) reports that "a key amenity proposed for the Canyon Estates luxury home project involving hiking trails through American Canyon's eastern hillside has been nixed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service." The "trails ran afoul with federal biologists over their potential impacts on native species, one of which is considered 'threatened.'"

AUCTION HOUSE HEAD PLEADS GUILTY IN SMUGGLING CASE. The [Famagusta Gazette \(CYP\)](#) (3/9) reports that "a gallery and auction house official in Beverly Hills, California pleaded guilty to smuggling carvings and other items made from protected wildlife with an estimated worth of 1 million U.S. dollars." Joseph Chait, "a senior auction administrator of the I.M. Chait gallery and auction house, pleaded guilty to smuggling elephant ivory, rhinoceros horn and coral in a New York federal court, prosecutors said on Wednesday." Chait "could face up to 10 years in prison under two related charges."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS DISTRIBUTES \$1.1 BILLION TO STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES. Additional coverage that the FWS is distributing \$1.1 billion to state wildlife agencies under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts was provided by the [OutdoorHub](#) (3/9, 67K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES UPDATE TO MITIGATION POLICY. Additional coverage that the FWS has proposed an update to its mitigation policy was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) and [JD Supra](#) (3/9, 5K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES TO LIFT GRIZZLY PROTECTION IN YELLOWSTONE AREA. Additional coverage that "a new proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could lead to the delisting of grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" was provided by the [Teton Valley \(ID\) News](#) (3/9, 7K), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (3/9, 33K), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (3/9, 1K), and [Care2](#) (3/9, 156K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ELEPHANTS FROM SWAZILAND BEING TRANSPORTED TO US ZOOS. Additional coverage that elephants from Swaziland are being transported to U.S. zoos in Omaha, Wichita and Dallas was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/9, Brulliard, 8.98M), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/10, 1.24M), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/9, Milman, 3.71M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REWARD OFFERED AFTER BALD EAGLE KILLED IN KENTUCKY. Additional coverage that the FWS is "offering a \$2,500 reward for information about the shooting of a bald eagle in western Kentucky" was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, 285K) and the [Northern Kentucky Tribune](#) (3/9).

National Park Service:

NPS FACES DIVERSITY CHALLENGE. [NPR](#) (3/9, 1.81M) reports that the NPS has “a diversity problem.” The park service “doesn't track the demographics of its visitors, but the most recent survey commissioned by the Park Service to see how different population groups related to the parks found” that “collectively, minorities made up just over 20 percent of the visitors to national parks, despite the fact that they made up nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis has “made increasing diversity at the national parks a top priority as the Park Service approaches its centennial.” His Call to Action plan — a vision for the organization's future — states: “In our second century, we will fully represent our nation's ethnically and culturally diverse communities.”

YELLOWSTONE BISON SENT TO SLAUGHTER AS PARK TRIMS HERD. The [AP](#) (3/9, Brown, Press, 1.99M) reports that Yellowstone National Park “started shipping many of its famous wild bison to slaughter Wednesday to drive down the size of the park's herds and respond to concerns by the livestock industry over a disease carried by the animals.” According to the article, “thirty animals have been shipped to slaughterhouses, and officials plan to send an additional 63 in the next few days.” The AP says that “the park's actions are driven by an agreement in 2000 with Montana officials that requires it to control its bison herds.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (3/9, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, 4.92M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/9, 352K).

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AWARDS 2016 ACTIVE TRAILS GRANTS. The [Fayette \(WV\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 37) reports that New River Gorge National River is “one of 25 national parks selected to receive a 2016 Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks.” According to the article, “through a unique partnership with Active Southern West Virginia, this grant will bring a multitude of wellness programming to Camp Brookside, an emerging environmental education center located in Summers County.” The money will “be used to both purchase equipment and train community volunteers to teach free public programs at Camp Brookside, including outdoor yoga, tai chi, stand up paddleboarding, fly fishing, archery and various guided hikes, including owl prowls, bird watches and plant identification hikes, in addition to wellness-focused and heritage-style cooking classes.”

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITTEN IN HONOR OF NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, Dailymail.com, 4.92M) reports that “the daughter of former President George W. Bush teamed up with her mother Laura to write their new children's book *Our great Big Backyard*.” Their book will be available in May in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the National Park Service.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO HOLD “MEET AND GREET” EVENT. The [Middlesboro \(KY\) Daily News](#) (3/9, 433) reports that Cumberland Gap National Historical Park will hold a Meet and Greet on March 11. According to the article, “as 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, school children and visitors will be able to connect with staff from other national parks – a mountain climbing ranger from Yosemite National Park, a river rafting ranger from Obed Wild and Scenic River, a musician ranger from New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, an architectural preservationist from the National Mall and Memorial Parks and archaeologists and scuba divers from the Submerged Resources Center – and learn how these trained professionals help protect these areas which Americans value.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE. Additional coverage of the Google Cultural Institute was provided by [WHSV-TV Harrisonburg, VA](#) (3/9, 25K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GRAND CANYON BISON HERD REDUCTION. Additional coverage that the NPS “released a plan Tuesday that calls for managing overpopulated bison herds within the Grand Canyon National Park” was provided by [AmmoLand](#) (3/9, 9K).

Top National News:

SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE INTERVIEWING FIVE POTENTIAL SUPREME COURT NOMINEES. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Edwards) reports the White House is interviewing five potential Supreme Court nominees according to a source familiar with the process. The individuals being considered are federal judges Sri Srinivasan, Jane Kelly, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Paul Watford, and Merrick Garland.

Obama Facing Pressure To Nominate Black Woman To Supreme Court. The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Markon, Horwitz, Debonis, 8.98M) reports black civil rights activists “are pressing” Obama to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court, “calling it an overdue historic first at a time of growing ethnic diversity and an

intense debate about racial justice issues." The Post says "the pressure had been building since Justice Antonin Scalia's sudden death." At a recent White House meeting, according to the Post, "a number of activists directly urged the president to nominate an African American woman, pointing out that they had supported him at the polls in overwhelming numbers."

Poll: Voters Disagree With GOP Blocking Any Potential Supreme Court Nominee. [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, Levy, 853K) reports a new Wall Street Journal poll found congressional Republicans' vow to block any Supreme Court nominee "shows the strategy may be backfiring." According to the survey, 55 percent of registered voters disagree with the refusal to conduct hearings on a potential nominee. More than four-out-of-five of that 55 percent said they "strongly disapproved."

Posner: Debate Shows Supreme Court Is "Politicized Court." In a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) op-ed, US Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner says the significance of Republicans vowing to block any Supreme Court nominee "lies in reminding us that the Supreme Court is not an ordinary court but a political court, or more precisely a politicized court, which is to say a court strongly influenced in making its decisions by the political beliefs of the judges."

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON EMERGES "UNSCATHED" FROM DEBATE WITH "REENERGIzed" SANDERS. Most media coverage does not cast Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders as the winner of their debate in Florida on Wednesday night, as reports cite positives in each of their performances. For example, while [Fortune](#) (3/9, Geier, 4.02M) said on its website Clinton "took a few hits" but "made her way through the event relatively unscathed," a front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, A1, Balz, 8.98M) says while the debate once appeared "as if it might be an anticlimax as Clinton rolled toward the nomination," Sanders "arrived reenergized and reinvigorated after his surprising victory in Michigan." Immigration issues are seen as the primary topic discussed in the forum, which is described as "contentious," and several reports note the candidates were critical of each other's record on immigration as they clashed over who is the better advocate for Latinos.

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Healy, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) describes the debate as "contentious," noting that Clinton and Sanders "clashed vividly over immigration reform and deportations" as they made "made aggressive appeals to Hispanic voters." The Times adds that they were "a study in contrasts as they made stark appeals to the demographic groups they have come to prize." The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (3/9, Bennett, Washington, 313K) says both "slammed" Donald Trump, with Sanders describing himself as "the strongest candidate to beat Donald Trump," and Clinton "boast[ing] that she criticized Trump early in his candidacy."

On its website, [Fortune](#) (3/9, Geier, 4.02M) said the debate was, "at times, more contentious than previous debates," adding that Clinton "held her ground," and "did a good job of standing up to Sanders when he directly attacked her record," while Sanders "continued to position himself as the true progressive in the race, forcing Clinton to defend her positions on healthcare, student debt, and her ties to Wall Street." [Politico](#) (3/9, Debenedetti, 1.07M) reported while Clinton wanted to debate Trump's "extreme immigration proposals," she was instead "locked in a sparring match" with Sanders, "as each litigated the other's record on immigration reform and bailouts and lit into one another's plans for healthcare reform and college tuition."

A [Politico](#) (3/9, Strauss, 1.07M) analysis, which listed the "six most interesting moments" from the debate, said the forum marked Clinton's "first opportunity to try and rebound" from her "surprising loss" in the Michigan primary. Similarly, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Fahrenthold, 8.98M) says Clinton, on the heels of her "stinging upset loss in the Michigan primary," launched "sharp attacks" on Sanders, "criticizing him as too far left at some points, but also seeking to cast him as an ally of far-right militiamen on the subject of immigration." The attacks, says the Post, were a sign Clinton "is not yet able to pivot toward a general-election matchup against Republicans" as she is "still trying to make a case against Sanders."

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/9, Mazzei, 803K) said Florida was the "target audience" Wednesday night as the candidates "were asked about Cuba." While both support the President's "reestablished diplomatic relations...and lifting the trade embargo," Clinton "used harsher language to describe Fidel and Raúl Castro" than Sanders, who "visited Cuba under the Castros several times." The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/9, Man, Mayo, Clary, Ballou, 605K) also said Clinton and Sanders "reiterat[ed] their support for President Barack Obama's decision to resume relations with Cuba."

[USA Today](#) (3/9, Gaudiano, 5.45M) reports immigration was "the centerpiece of the debate as Sanders and Clinton got into a tight back-and-forth over various past positions." [Reuters](#) (3/9, Oliphant, Lopez) notes the

candidates disagreed about who has the stronger commitment to immigration reform, and the AP New York (3/9, Benac, Lerer, 186K) says Clinton and Sanders “tangled repeatedly...over who’s a true advocate for Latinos and who has a track record of letting Hispanics down.” Clinton hit Sanders “for repeatedly voting against a 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill,” while Sanders hit Clinton “for opposing a 2007 effort to allow people who were in the country illegally to obtain driver’s licenses.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/9, Foley, 518K) noted that both “promised to not deport children or non-criminal undocumented immigrants, and criticized President Barack Obama for doing so.”

Former Obama Aides Debate Auto Bailout Attacks On Twitter. [Politico](#) (3/9, Gass, 1.07M) reported in its “Bernie v. Hillary” blog as Clinton and Sanders “debated the intricacies of the auto bailout, former aides to President Barack Obama clashed on Twitter over the subject.” Gene Sperling tweeted, “This is not disputable. Every penny that went to the auto bail out Bernie Sanders voted against. Not disputable.” Steve Rattner, who led the President’s auto industry task force in 2009, agreed, tweeting, “Clinton is right on auto bailout. If everyone had voted like Sanders, auto industry would have collapsed killing millions of jobs.” David Axelrod, took a different position, however, tweeting, “She did it again and I’ll say it again. It’s misleading to imply that TARP II was an auto bailout bill.”

TRUMP NEEDS 54% OF REMAINING DELEGATES TO GET TO 1,237. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/9, story 2, 2:45, Jackson, 7.86M) reported in “a sign those establishment attacks aren’t working, not yet at least,” Trump “is racking up more delegates.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/9, story 4, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) said Trump “is looking like the inevitable Republican nominee after winning three of four states last night,” and a [New York Times](#) (3/9, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says GOP leaders’ chance of denying Trump the nomination “was a bit remoter on Wednesday,” following his victories in Michigan, Mississippi, and Hawaii. Trump, who “captured most of the 150 delegates at stake Tuesday,” now needs “about 54 percent of outstanding delegates; his closest rival, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, needs 62 percent.” [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) reports that analysts say “winning the Florida and Ohio primaries on Tuesday would give Trump an almost insurmountable path to the nomination.” In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (3/9, lead story, 3:40, Muir, 5.84M) reported Trump is “vowing, if he wins Ohio and Florida next, he’ll go for, in his words, a knockout.” Trump: “I see probably getting the delegates. You know, it’s like the fighters. That’s the ultimate way of doing it. You knock them out. If you knock them out, nothing can happen.”

In a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Carson, 8.98M) op-ed, Ben Carson argues that as a Trump nomination appears more likely, the “GOP party faithful” can be expected to “pivot to the strategic interests of their down-ticket candidates this November.”

WTimes Analysis: Trump Will Be 74 Delegates Short Of Threshold For Nomination. In an analysis, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Hallow, 285K) says after “California and three other states count their votes from the last four primaries June 7,” Trump “will be 74 or so delegates short of the 1,237 majority needed for the nomination,” making it “increasingly unlikely that the Republican establishment...will carry through with plans to change the convention rules to wrest the nomination from Mr. Trump and hand it to an establishment-approved candidate.”

CNN/ORC, Quinnipiac Show Trump Leading In Florida And Ohio. A CNN/ORC poll released Wednesday shows Donald Trump leading Marco Rubio and John Kasich in their respective home states of Florida and Ohio ahead of next week primaries in those states. According to the poll, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Sherfinski, 285K) reports, Trump leads Rubio 40-24 in Florida, followed by Ted Cruz with 19%, and Kasich with 5%. In Ohio, Trump leads Kasich 41-35, with Cruz at 15% and Rubio at 7%. Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) says a Quinnipiac University survey “shows Trump leading Rubio 45-22%” in Florida.

Fox News Poll Shows Kasich Leading In Ohio. A Fox News poll, however, shows Kasich leading in Ohio with 34%, followed by Trump with 29%, Cruz with 19%, and Rubio with 7%, [The Hill](#) (3/9, Easley, 862K) reported in its “Ballot Box” blog.

Anti-Trump Groups Spending Millions On Ads In Florida, Illinois. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/9, Higgins, 289K) says a “torrent of cash” is being spent on political ads in Florida and Illinois ahead of their March 15 primaries. Kantar Media’s CMAG estimates that outside groups and campaigns “have committed \$9.2 million for ads in Florida for the seven-day period beginning March 8.” Conservative Solutions PAC, which backs Rubio, is responsible for \$4.3 million of that total, “underscor[ing] the do-or-die stakes for Rubio in Florida.” The group has “also committed \$1.4 million in Illinois.” Among other anti-Trump groups “spending heavily” are the American Future Fund, which has spent \$1.38 million on ads in Florida and \$765,000 in Illinois; Club for Growth, which is “slated to spend a total of \$2.4 million in Florida and Illinois”; and Our Principles PAC, which is “set to spend

\$1.4 million in commercials in the two states.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Peters, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Republican Party “is planning to make what could be its last stand” against Trump in Florida’s March 15 primary. The winner-take-all primary “figures to be a climactic moment,” as Trump’s candidacy “faces the biggest test yet of whether it is built to endure.” Meanwhile, Rubio “will have to decide whether he can stay in the race if he loses,” and Cruz “will see how far his efforts to chip away at the support of both rivals can go.” The Times says “much of the anti-establishment anger that [Rubio] rode to victory in the 2010 midterm elections is now working against him” as Trump and Cruz “are the anti-establishment now.”

Bush To Meet With Cruz, Rubio, Kasich This Week In Miami. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/9, Bender, 289K) reports a spokeswoman said Jeb Bush will meet with Rubio, Cruz, and Kasich in Miami this week. [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) says the meetings suggest Bush “may be ready to endorse one of Trump’s rivals in an effort to prevent the brash billionaire from capturing Florida and it’s coveted 99 delegates.”

O’Reilly Takes Issue With Portrayals Of Trump As Fascist. In his “Talking Points Memo” segment on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (3/9, 767K), Bill O’Reilly said “some in the media both left and right are portraying Mr. Trump as a 1930s-type fascist and his supporters as budding brown shirts,” and argued this is “a strategy with the intention of not only demeaning Trump but his supporters as well.” O’Reilly added, “The movement that Trump represents has nothing to do with fascism, everything to do with furious dissent. ... The cold truth is, charges of racism and fascism are easy smears designed to stop freedom of expression and stifle debate.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***“A Lesson In Hillary Clinton’s Loss In Michigan.”*** A [New York Times](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial said Hillary Clinton’s “surprising loss in Michigan...holds some lessons about how to approach future contests.” While her candidacy “speaks eloquently of embracing the people, values and thinking that make this nation a leader in the world,” her “campaign tactics, particularly in Michigan, did not live up to this vision.” Although Clinton “may be annoyed at the continued challenge posed by” Bernie Sanders, he “is likely to remain in the contest to the end.” If Clinton becomes the Democratic nominee, she “must win over and energize his supporters,” and the Michigan results “suggest she has a ways to go.”

“How To Reduce Medicare Drug Costs.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/10, A22, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ proposed tests for Part B prescription drugs are “a reasonable attempt to get a handle on rising medical costs. The tests, which would take place in different parts of the country over five years, should provide valuable evidence about how changing incentives affects spending on health care.”

WASHINGTON POST. ***“Mr. Sanders Peddles Fiction On Free Trade.”*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) says Bernie Sanders is “doubling down on protectionism,” adding that his position “is built on bogus numbers that defy the overwhelming consensus among economists, and his solutions would do much more harm than good.” While Sanders’ “populist rhetoric doesn’t stand up to scrutiny,” the Post argues, “politically, it appears to be working,” and Hillary Clinton “has surrendered the issue by failing to stand up for the TPP.” Noting that Sanders “has the protectionists’ vote,” the Post says Clinton “would be wise to offer a positive alternative.”

“Caixin Media’s Display Of Courage Against China’s Censors.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) applauds Chinese news organization Caixin Media for its “courage” in refusing to back down to government intimidation. The government had ordered Caixin to remove an article for containing “illegal content.” That article quoted Jiang Hong, who advises the government on economic policy, as saying that “people like himself should feel free to give their opinions to party leaders” on policy, cultural, and societal issues. Though it took the article down, Caixin republished it Tuesday on its English-language website, “revealing the censorship, accompanied by a photograph of a mouth that had been sealed with tape.”

“Finally, An Action Plan For Metro.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) says new Metro general manager Paul Wiedefeld’s recent “passenger-friendly” updates to the public on the status of improvements deserve credit, but his communication “will not undo...underlying problems, let alone reverse years of poor management.” While Wiedefeld’s proposals include “enhanced accountability and transparency,” the Metro’s “fundamental structural challenges persist,” and the Metro board is still “too large and unwieldy and too susceptible to political pressures.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Hillary's Michigan Droop."* An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says Hillary Clinton's loss in the Michigan primary demonstrates that she is a weak candidate.

"Clinton's Star Email Witness." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says now that former State Department computer tech Bryan Pagliano, who set up Hillary Clinton's private email server and who previously exercised his Fifth Amendment right not to testify, has been granted immunity, he should tell Congress what he knows about Clinton's server. The Journal argues the public has a right to the information if Clinton wants to be the next president.

"Iran's Moderates Go Ballistic." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that a country that cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons also cannot be expected to honor an agreement to eliminate its nuclear program. The Journal says the Iranian missile program is an indication that the nuclear deal has increased Tehran's military leverage.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Free Trade Loses Political Favor](#)
[Democrats Settle in for Long Presidential Contest](#)
[Tracking the Mortgage-Crisis Settlements](#)
[Twitter Bets on Payouts to Rein In Talent Flight](#)

New York Times:

[Clinton And Sanders Clash On Immigration At Debate](#)
[Clinton Giving Jobs And Trade New Emphasis](#)
[Vote In Florida Tests Fortunes Of 3 In GOP](#)
[After The Game, Women On Guard](#)
[Life-Saving Tweak For Many Kidney Transplants](#)
[Machine Masters Man In Complex Game Of Go](#)

Washington Post:

[Scrappy Debate Signals Long Grind](#)
[Rubio's Fateful Error: A Strategy That Backfired](#)
[Whitman Letter To Dying Soldier's Family Uncovered At Archives](#)
[Drug Defies A Rare Form Of Cancer — And Market Logic](#)
[As Borders Close, Some Migrants Pin Hopes On A Hostile Hungary](#)
[Clinton, Sanders Clash On Immigration](#)

Financial Times:

[Senior Bankers Warn ECB Over Perils Of Negative Interest Rests](#)
[Fears Rise Of New Oligarchy As Putin's Childhood Friend Eyes Aeroflot Stake](#)

Washington Times:

[Osama Bin Laden, Iran Shared Logistical Alliance, Intense Hatred Of US](#)
[Catholic Priest Demands US Recognize Genocide Against Christians In Iraq, Syria](#)
[Thousands Pay Tribute To Nancy Reagan At Presidential Library](#)
[Sanders Exposes Clinton's General Election Vulnerabilities In Michigan](#)
[Court Case Pits 'Motor-Voter' Laws Against Citizenship IDs](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Seattle-Gas Explosion; Missouri-Murder Suspect Arrested; US Airstrikes Against ISIL; Pennsylvania-Armed Robbery Foiled; Bill Cosby Case; United Airlines-Seat Changes; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service.

CBS: Severe Weather; ISIL-Chemical Weapons; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Republicans; DC-Idaho Fugitive Arrested; Audi Seat Failure Lawsuit; Zika Virus Outbreak; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service.

NBC: Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Seattle-Gas Explosion; DC-Idaho

Fugitive Arrested; Iraq-ISIL Chemical Engineer Captured; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service; IRS Scam; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Solar Eclipse Sighting.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 15 minutes, 10 minutes
 Severe Weather/Weather Forecast – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
 ISIL – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
 DC-Idaho Fugitive Arrested – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
 Seattle-Gas Explosion – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
 Nancy Reagan Memorial Service – 2 minutes, 50 seconds
 Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Fiorina Endorses Cruz; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; Congress-Heroin Epidemic Bill; Severe Weather-Louisiana.

CBS: Severe Weather-Louisiana; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Pop Warner-Concussions Lawsuit Settlement.

FOX: Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Severe Weather; Texas-Death Row Inmate Executed; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Boston Chipotle Reopens; Florida-Farmers Protest Wendy's Fast Food Chain; Wall Street.

NPR: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; NOAA-California Drought Report; New York-Alleged ISIL Recruit Arrested; Missouri-Religious Freedom Bill; North Korea To Liquidate South Assets.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama host Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau at the White House, for an Official Visit, including a State Dinner in their honor.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Joe Biden and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden travel from Jerusalem, Israel, to Amman, Jordan, where the Vice President meets and holds a bilateral working lunch with King Abdullah II, while Dr. Biden visits a refugee camp. Vice President Biden and King Abdullah then attend a demonstration at the Joint Training Center, before the couple both have dinner with King Abdullah and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on healthcare CO-OPs – Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on 'Review of the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance CO-OP Program', with testimony from University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Healthcare Management Department Chair Dr. Scott Harrington; and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt, and Deputy Administrator Kevin Counihan. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

10:00 AM Acting Education Secretary King testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for the US Department of Education', with testimony from Acting Secretary of Education John King. Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Elizabeth Drake, Jennifer Choe Groves, and Gary Stephen Katzmann to be US Court of International Trade Judges, and Clare Connors to be US District Judge for the District of Hawaii, as well as 'S. 247, Expatriate Terrorist Act', 'S. 2390, Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2015', 'S.2613, Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2016', and 'S.2614, Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016' * Postponed from 3 Mar. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224

7703.

10:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on commercial applications of drones – Hearing on 'Up in the Air: Examining the Commercial Applications of Unmanned Aircraft for Small Businesses', with testimony from Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne; Air Line Pilots Association International President Tim Canoll; Mercatus Center at George Mason University Technology Policy Program Director Eli Dourado; Physical Sciences Vice President for Disruptive Technologies Dr. Thomas Vaneck; and Pepperdine University Professor of Law / AirMap co-founder Dr. Gregory McNeal. Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on USSTRATCOM, USNORTHCOM, and USSOUTHCOM budgets – Hearing on 'United States Strategic Command, United States Northern Command, and United States Southern Command Programs and Budget', with testimony from US Strategic Command Commander Adm. Cecil Haney; US Northern Command Commander and North American Aerospace Defense Command Commander Adm. William Gortney; and US Southern Command Commander Adm. Kurt Tidd. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Armed Services Committee 1 202 224 3871.

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Catherine Ann Novelli to be Alternate US Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Karen Brevard Stewart to be Ambassador to the Marshall Islands; Amos Hochstein to be Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources; Robert Annan Riley III to be Ambassador to Micronesia; Matthew John Matthews for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as US Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum; and Marcela Escobari to be USAID Assistant Administrator, plus consideration of legislation including 'S. 1252, Global Food Security Act of 2015', 'S. Res 375, A resolution raising awareness of modern slavery', 'S. Res. 388, A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day', and 'S. Res. 383, A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation'. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651. Immediately followed by nominations hearing.

10:00 AM National Council of La Raza release results from survey of Latino community influencers – National Council of La Raza release results from a survey of Latino community influencers – conducted by Latino Decisions and sponsored by Telemundo – at a press forum on 'Voices from Latino Community Influencers: Taking the Pulse of the Latino Vote' held as part of its Latino Voter Summit. Forum features the survey results and a panel of community leaders, and is a joint effort between NCLR's #LatinosVote and Telemundo's #YoDecido campaigns. Speakers/participants include Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, Latino Decisions Senior Analyst and Evaluation Specialist Blanca Guillen-Woods, Hispanas Organizadas de Lake and Ashtabula (HOLA) Executive Director Veronica Dahlberg, Centro Hispano Executive Director Mike Toledo, and NCLR Deputy Vice President Clarissa Martinez-de-Castro. Location: Rm 188, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.nclr.org <https://twitter.com/NCLR>. Contacts: Julian Teixeira NCLR Communications Director jteixeira@nclr.org 1 202 776 1812. Media interested in attending the forum should RSVP to Gaby Gomez at ggomez@nclr.org or (202) 776-1732.

10:15 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Christine Ann Elder to be Ambassador to Liberia; R. David Harden to be USAID Assistant Administrator; Elizabeth Holzhall Richard to be Ambassador to Lebanon; Stephen Michael Schwartz to be Ambassador to Somalia; Adam Sterling to be Ambassador to Slovakia; Kelly Keiderling-Franz to be Ambassador to Uruguay; and Mark Sobel to be US Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651. Immediately follows earlier business meeting.

10:30 AM NASA Administrator Bolden testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the National Aeronautics and Space Agency', with testimony from NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

11:00 AM VA Secretary McDonald testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 and FY'18 budgets

– Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 budget request for the US Department of Veterans Affairs', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald; Veterans Health Administration Under Secretary David Shulkin; and Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Under Secretary Danny Pummill. Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>. Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

2:30 PM HUD Secretary Castro testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development', with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro; and HUD Inspector General David Montoya. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

US House: 11:30 AM House of Representatives meetings in pro forma session * House is on recess from 4 Mar – 14 Mar, Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/> Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945.

4:00 PM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi meets Canadian PM Trudeau – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi meets Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with a photo opportunity at the top. Location: H-207, US Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>. Contacts: Drew Hammill House Minority Leader press Democratic. Leader@mail.house.gov 1 202 226 7616. Cameras must be pre-set for a security sweep by 3:00 pm * Press must RSVP to ned.adriance@mail.house.gov.

Other: 8:00 AM New America / Arizona State University annual Future of War Conference – New America / Arizona State University annual Future of War Conference. Speakers include US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, US Army Training and Doctrine Command's Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, King's College London Emeritus Professor of War Studies Sir Lawrence Freedman, former Assistant Secretary of Defense Sharon Burke, former National Security Council Director for Iraq Douglas Ollivant, 'Newsweek' Middle East Editor Janine di Giovanni, Caerus Global Solutions founder and Chairman David Kilcullen, Foreign Policy Contributing Editor Tom Ricks, Yale University Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence Director Stathis Kalyvas, former EU Special Representative for Afghanistan's Deputy Director Michael Semple, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Special Advisor Nir Rosen, and New America President and CEO Anne-Marie Slaughter, Vice President Peter Bergen, and Strategist and Senior Fellow Peter Singer. Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/> <https://twitter.com/NatSecNAF> #FutureofWar. Contacts: New America 1 202 986 2700.

8:15 AM 'Washington Women Speak: Celebrating Women in Military' event – 'Washington Women Speak: Celebrating Women in Military' event, hosted by Grant Thornton and the Association of Government Accountants Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia Chapters. Panelists include Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Heidi Grant, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Education and Training Anne Davis, US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Adm. Cari Thomas, Office of the Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office Director Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, and IMF Deputy Project Director Carol Holland. Location: Women in Military Service for America Theater, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA www.grantthornton.com/events/public-sector/2016/03-10-washington-women-speak.aspx <https://twitter.com/GrantThornton>. Contacts: Betsy Holahan Great Point Strategies bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com.

8:30 AM NHTSA Administrator Rosekind holds final meeting to discuss 'spike in roadway deaths' – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration hosts national gathering of top transportation officials, academic leaders, public health and safety experts, and traffic safety professionals to tackle human behavioral issues that contribute to 94% of crashes, following a series of regional summits across the nation, in the wake of an NHTSA estimate of traffic deaths during the first nine months of 2015 that revealed 'a sharp increase after years of declines'. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Mark Rosekind also announces the agency's vision for improving traffic safety over the next 25 years. Location: Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC <http://www.dot.gov/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/usdot>. Contacts: Department of Transportation Public Affairs public.affairs@dot.gov 1 202 366 9550. Space is extremely limited.

10:00 AM Americans for Limited Government release poll on voter attitudes towards TPP – Americans for

Limited Government release new poll by Pat Caddell on voter attitudes toward international trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, via NPC news conference with Caddell, Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions and Americans for Limited Government President Rick Manning. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.GetLiberty.org <https://twitter.com/LimitGovt>. Contacts: Robert Romano Americans for Limited Government media@limitgov.org 703 383 0880 x 16.

10:30 AM Wilson Center discussion with Kazakhstani secretary of state – Wilson Center Director's Forum discussion on 'Looking Forward', with Kazakhstani Secretary of State and National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family and Demographics Policy Chairwoman Gulshara Abdykalikova and Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev. Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>. Contacts: Woodrow Wilson Center wwics@wilsoncenter.org 1 202 691 4000.

5:00 PM Korean Ambassador to the UN speaks at GW on sustainable development – Korean Ambassador to the UN Oh Joon delivers George Washington University School of Business' Korean Management Institute lecture on UN sustainable development goals. Location: Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>. Contacts: Jason Shevrin GWU jshevrin@gwu.edu 1 202 994 5631.

6:30 PM SCOTUS Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg receives Champions for Change Award for Vision – International Center for Research on Women 2016 Champions for Change Award Ceremony and Reception, honoring US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with the Champions for Change Award for Vision. Denmark Ambassador to the US Amb. Lars Gert Lose opens the ceremony. Location: Residence of the Danish Ambassador, 3200 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC www.icrw.org. Contacts: Erin Kelly ICRW press ekelly@icrw.org 1 571 265 1110.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to Donald Trump's Tuesday appearance at a press conference in Florida] "Trump was upset that Mitt Romney said a bunch of his business ventures failed, so he set these tables up on stage to showcase some of his many products. There's the water and the wine and the meat. Is this Fox News or QVC?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "Yeah, they're up on the stage next to him as he spoke. It's like he made a trip to Costco right before the speech. Boy did Chris Christie pick the wrong night to be on that stage, huh?"

Stephen Colbert: "President Obama just had a physical, and we found out this morning from White House doctors – this is absolutely true – in the past two years, President Obama has grown half an inch. He's 54 years old. That is very late for puberty to kick in. I'm not sure if that's a change I can actually believe in. ... Is Obama trying to make himself look bigger to intimidate Congress, like how a lizard puffs out its neck frill? Or maybe he's just fudging his height so he can ride the White House roller coaster."

Stephen Colbert: "Every two years, the President gets a physical. I guess the Vice President asks for it to make sure the President is still alive."

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Smith, Valerie <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 22, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- + Secretary Jewell, Deputy Secretary Connor Visit Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- + Secretary Jewell To Visit Virgin Islands.
- + President Obama Rolls Out Federal Drought Plan.
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- + OPM And NFFE Clash Over Temporary Employee Guidance.
- + Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Dedicates Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.
- + Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Visits Santa Cruz Island.
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EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

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- + Additional Coverage: Report Details Disrepair At Native American Schools.
- + Additional Coverage: Buy-back Offers Sent To Owners Of Fond Du Lac Land.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + Applicants Sought For Summer Internships At Office of Insular Affairs in DC.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

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- + BOR To Release Rio Grande Water This Week.
- + Comments Sought On Rio Grande Project.
- + Experts Discuss Options For Colorado River Basin.
- + California Official May Have Admitted To Collapsing Support For Delta Tunnels Plan.
- + Sonoran Institute's Dowdy Calls For Cooperation To Protect Lower Santa Cruz River.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + BOEM Evaluates 800-Megawatt California Wind Farm.
- + Rhode Island Celebrates Offshore Wind Farm, Long Island Looks To Follow.
- + New Developments May Make Wind Possibility For North Carolina.
- + Additional Coverage: US Opens Up New York Coast For Wind Development.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + DOJ, Green Groups Reach Tentative Deal Over Montana Oil Lease Emissions.
- + Illinois AG Madigan Demands Peabody Prove It Can Pay Future Cleanup Costs.
- + Powder River Basin Resource Council Files Complaint Over Peabody Energy Mining Status.

- + Cancellation Of Badger-Two Medicine Lease Welcomed.
- + Professor: Stopping Fracking Would Hurt Environmental, Economy.
- + Barrett: History Says Watch The DoI Coal Leasing Review.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + BOEM Proposes New Rules For Development Of Outer Continental Shelf.
- + BSEE Assists In Opening Oil Spill Response Test Burn Tank.
- + Environmental Groups Plan To Protest Gulf Of Mexico Lease Auction At Louisiana's Superdome.
- + Louisiana Could Partially Lose GOMESA Funds.
- + Additional Coverage: NASA To Advise BSEE On Offshore Drilling Risk Reduction.
- + Additional Coverage: BOEM Developing New Offshore Drilling Air Standards.
- + Additional Coverage Of Ocean Energy Portal.
- + WTimes: Decision To Scrap Atlantic Drilling "Knife To Backs Of Energy Producers."

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM Director Kornze To Testify Before Oversight Subcommittee.
- + Timber Payments To Oregon Counties Drop To Record Low.
- + RAMS Joins Gov. Dayton Critics Over Twin Metals Decision.
- + Two More Defendants Held Without Bail In Bunkerville Standoff.
- + BLM Granted Extension On Land Plans In Washington County.
- + Smith Mountain Fire Ruled Arson.
- + Additional Coverage Of Soda Fire Rehabilitation.
- + Meade: Government Actions In Wake Of Bundy Standoff "Oppressive."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Ceremony Held For Prime Hook Bridge.
- + Orphaned Bear Cub Now Has Foster Mother.
- + Two Baby Bald Eagles Born At The National Arboretum.
- + Additional Coverage: Death Of 5 Bald Eagles In Delaware Under Investigation.
- + Partnerships That Led To Louisiana Black Bear Recovery Praised.

National Park Service:

- + House Likely To Pass Three Parks Bills.
- + Transportation Secretary Foxx Pushes For Fixing US Bridges.
- + Cherry Blossoms Survive Cold Weekend.
- + Bill Would Designate Birmingham Civil Rights District As National Park.
- + New Logo In Support Of "Woods National Monument" Unveiled.
- + Trump Details Conversion Of DC Building Into Luxury Hotel.
- + Economic Impact Generated By Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Highlighted.
- + Crissy Field In San Francisco To Receive Improvements.
- + Worker Claims Retaliation By Yellowstone Concessionaire Over Asbestos Report.
- + Cumberland Gap To Celebrate NPS Centennial In April.
- + NPS Invites Fourth Graders To Participate In "Every Kid In A Park" Program.
- + Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area Invites Homeschooled Children To Outdoor Classroom.
- + Additional Coverage: Yosemite Fight Over Names Escalates as NPS Pushes to Cancel Trademarks.
- + Public Urged To Enjoy Spring Outdoors.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS And ESA To Share Satellite Data.
- + Study Finds "Substantial Probability" Of Monarch Extinction.
- + Profile Of Southern California's "Earthquake Lady" As She Leaves USGS.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Castro Pressed On Political Prisoners During Press Conference With Obama.
- + Bloomberg: Garland Nomination Not Swaying Republicans Or Motivating Obama Allies.
- + In AIPAC Speeches Clinton, Trump Offer Contrasting Views Of US Role In Middle East.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.

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

BIG PICTURE:

- + [Headlines From Today's Front Pages](#).

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

- + [Today's Events In Washington](#).

LAST LAUGHS:

- + [Late Night Political Humor](#).

DOI in the News:**SECRETARY JEWELL, DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR VISIT MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE**

REFUGE. [Politico Pro](#) (3/21) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor were scheduled to check in with staff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on Monday. Jewell will also "meet with tribal and local officials." She said, "As the community continues to recover from the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, I know that deepening the strong partnerships already in place will be important to the healing process."

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/21, 2K) reports that Jewell "visited Burns, Oregon, to meet with community members Monday in Harney County." She "stressed the importance of community collaboration to counter extremism."

The [Oregonian](#) (3/22, 864K) reports that Jewell "concluded a day of tours and meetings in the Burns area Monday by declaring she intends to help trumpet a success that got overshadowed by acts of the armed protesters who took over the reserve Jan. 2." Jewell highlighted a story that "involves environmentalists, government, ranchers and 'a disaster averted.'" According to Jewell, "they worked together under the brand of the High Desert Partnership to protect the greater sage grouse while avoiding crippling federal regulation that could have upended ranching and logging in a weak economic region."

Additional coverage was provided by [Greenwire](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication), [The Hill](#) (3/21, Cama, 862K), [Bloomberg Government](#) (3/21, 1K), the [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (3/22, 479K), [Reuters](#) (3/21), [Townhall](#) (3/21, 132K), the [Portland Patch](#) (3/21), [KBND-AM Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (3/21, 112), [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (3/21, 256K), [KFXO-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/21), and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/21, 32K).

26th Person Charged In Malheur Occupation. The [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K) reports that "a Montana man accused of disturbing a sacred Burns Paiute archaeological site by using heavy equipment to dig a giant latrine for protesters became the 26th person charged publicly in the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." According to the article, "a judge on Monday unsealed the name of Jake Ryan that had been concealed in an indictment filed March 8 in U.S. District Court in Oregon." Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Gabriel said that "Ryan and fellow occupier Travis Cox are the only two of the 26 defendants who haven't been arrested."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT VIRGIN ISLANDS. The [St. Thomas Source](#) (3/21, 873) reports that "at the end of March," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "make her first visit to the Virgin Islands since being sworn in as secretary...in April 2013." Jewell will "arrive on St. Thomas March 29 for a two and a half day visit" and is "expected to visit St. John, and to be the keynote speaker at Transfer Day ceremonies on St. Croix and to meet with Gov. Kenneth Mapp."

PRESIDENT OBAMA ROLLS OUT FEDERAL DROUGHT PLAN. [Greenwire](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication) reports that President Obama on Monday "used his executive powers to expand federal efforts to reduce the nation's vulnerability to drought." According to the article, "on the eve of the White House Water Summit, Obama's memorandum elevates attention to the crisis and makes official the National Drought Resilience Partnership, a major multi-agency program rolled out as part of the administration's climate change agenda."

[Politico Pro](#) (3/21) reports that the National Drought Resilience Partnership has "for the past three years been working to improve coordination, communication and data-sharing around drought." According to the article, "the group is made up of at least 13 agencies, from the Department of Defense to EPA, and will be led by two co-chairs, one of whom would always come from the Department of Agriculture, and the other of which will

rotate among the agencies.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/21, 442K) and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/21, 591K).

FOREST CHIEF TIDWELL TO DEFEND NEW PLAN TO FIGHT FIRES. [E&E Daily](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication) reports that the Forest Service will “try again this week to sell a congressional committee on a new approach to pay for fighting forest fires.” According to the article, “stretched by annual budget transfers that officials say are draining money from other needs,” Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell will ask the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands “to help boost discretionary funding for fire suppression.” The Obama Administration has said that wildland fires “should be treated like natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes, with a dedicated source of funds.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/21, Cama, 862K).

OPM AND NFFE CLASH OVER TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE GUIDANCE. [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (3/21, Ogrysko, 11K) reports the National Federation of Federal Employees says recent guidance from OPM undermines the legislative intent of the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act, passed last August, that aims to give temporary and seasonal federal workers the same job opportunities as permanent employees. OPM says that temporary works can only apply to merit based positions if they are not open to employees from other agencies, because the Act only applies to internal merit promotion procedures.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL DEDICATES BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was provided by the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/21, 73K), the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (3/21, 22K), and the [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (3/22, 22K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s visit to Santa Cruz Island was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (3/21, 119K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REP. CLAWSON SEEKS \$500 MILLION TO BUY LAND IN EVERGLADES. Additional coverage of Rep. Curt Clawson’s Everglades Land Acquisition Act was provided by the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 131K).

REP. ZELDIN PUSHES FOR SAFEGUARDING LONG ISLAND’S ENVIRONMENT. In an op-ed for the [Southold Local \(NY\)](#) (3/21), Rep. Lee Zeldin highlights “opportunities” for “protecting and preserving the abundance of our natural resources that are so important to our life, culture and economy.” These include “stopping the sale of Plum Island” (H.R. 1887), “protecting the Long Island Sound by passing the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act” (H.R. 2930), and “improving the management of our fisheries, by passing the EEZ Transit Zone Clarification Act” (H.R. 3070) and Fluke Fairness Bill (H.R. 1888).

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR HOSTS LISTENING SESSION ON LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Red Lake Nation News \(MN\)](#) (3/8) reports that “the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) hosted more than 500 tribal leaders and landowners at its third Listening Session on March 3, 2016, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.” Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor, Special Trustee for American Indians Vince Logan, and Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Roberts “heard directly from tribal communities about how the Program can best be implemented across Indian Country.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (3/21).

Land Buy-Back Program Has Paid More Than \$735 Million Since 2013. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/21, 48K) reports that according to Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor, since the land buy-back program began “making offers in December, 2013, the buy-back program has paid more than \$735 million to individual landowners, and restored the equivalent of 1.5 million acres to tribal governments.”

MCCAIN BILL WOULD PROVIDE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TO NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS. Jackie Mader writes at the [Education Week](#) (3/21, 125K) “Rural Education” blog that Sen. John

McCain (R-AZ) has proposed a bill that "would provide education savings accounts to Native American students who attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, which would allow students to pay for private school tuition, tutors, and educational materials." McCain's Native American Education Opportunity Act "would operate in Arizona, Mississippi, Florida, and Nevada, all states that currently have Education Savings Account (ESA) programs."

Additional coverage of the Native American Education Opportunity Act was provided by the [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (3/21, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT DETAILS DISREPAIR AT NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

Additional coverage of the report released by the Government Accountability Office detailing "health and safety threats" within the BIE system was provided by [KJZZ-FM Phoenix](#) (3/21, 8K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO OWNERS OF FOND DU LAC LAND.

Additional coverage that land buy-back offers have been made to 3,200 Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa landowners was provided by the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/15, 139K), the [Nation Sun News](#) (3/21), the [Pine \(MN\) Journal](#) (3/20, 15K), and the [Red Lake Nation News \(MN\)](#) (3/21).

Office of Insular Affairs:

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AT OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS IN DC. [St. Croix Source](#) (3/21) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has "announced internship opportunities for the summer of 2016 at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) in Washington, D.C." Kia'aina said, "It is important to provide avenues for young students to learn about how the federal government works, given the important role that it plays in the islands. Through our internship program, we aim to build capacity so that participants can consider working for the federal government or have some federal experience under their belt when they return to help their respective communities. Last year's program set the bar, and we look forward to welcoming a new cohort this summer."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN DESCHUTES RIVER SPOTTED FROG CASE. The AP (3/21, 285K) reports that "a federal judge will soon hear arguments on whether to order a change in water management to benefit the Oregon spotted frog." WaterWatch of Oregon has filed a lawsuit claiming the BOR and "state irrigation districts are creating a cycle of flooding and drying along the Deschutes River banks that hurts the frogs." WaterWatch has "asked for a preliminary injunction on that activity to protect the frog, which was listed as a threatened species in 2014." According to the article, "the judge is expected to hear arguments in Eugene Tuesday but isn't expected to make a decision that day."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K) and the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/21, 94K).

BOR TO RELEASE RIO GRANDE WATER THIS WEEK. The AP (3/21, 1.99M) reports that "federal officials will release Rio Grande water destined for irrigation in southern New Mexico months earlier than last year." The BOR will "release water from Elephant Butte and Caballo dams this week, two months earlier than the water was unleashed last year." Mary Carlson, spokeswoman for the Albuquerque office of the BOR, said, "That did not start until the end of May last year. They have a little more water to work with this year. I think that is pretty much the case up and down the river."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/21, 285K) and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\) Albuquerque, NM](#) (3/21, 88K).

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON RIO GRANDE PROJECT. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/21, 47K) reports that "a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the continued implementation of a 2008 operating agreement that guides water sharing between irrigation districts in Doña Ana County and El Paso County is available for public review and comment." According to the article, "the document was prepared to analyze the environmental effects of continuing to implement the operating agreement until 2050 in what's known as the Rio Grande Project."

EXPERTS DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN. The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/21, Loomis,

975K) reports water use in the Colorado River basin and on the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center conference, where experts discussed "a range of likely responses and challenges" relating to the Southwest's diminishing water supplies. Issues discussed include water recycling and drip irrigation.

CALIFORNIA OFFICIAL MAY HAVE ADMITTED TO COLLAPSING SUPPORT FOR DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (3/21, Bacher, 6K) reports that "it appears" California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird admitted that support for Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels Plan is collapsing, while speaking at a hearing in San Francisco by the Senate Select Committee on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta entitled, "Pending Delta Decisions and their Potential Economic and Other Impacts on San Francisco & the Bay Area." Laird said that if the project were to go forward, "urban users" would have to sign up and be willing to pay for it themselves.

SONORAN INSTITUTE'S DOWDY CALLS FOR COOPERATION TO PROTECT LOWER SANTA CRUZ RIVER. In an [Arizona Daily Star](#) (3/21, 244K) op-ed, Sonoran Institute director Ian Dowdy wrote on the failed Tres Rios del Norte environmental restoration plan for the lower Santa Cruz River, which has "suffered significant decline due to groundwater pumping, diversion, drought and other impacts." Dowdy says stakeholders must seek a regional solution for the Santa Cruz River "similar to the Tres Rios del Norte plan" to address challenges like Arizona's water laws, and win public support.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM EVALUATES 800-MEGAWATT CALIFORNIA WIND FARM. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/21, Eckhouse, 2.92M) reports that the US BOEM determined Monday that Trident Winds LLC is qualified to develop the first offshore wind farm in California and now looks to initiate the lease area's bidding process if other companies are also interested. The proposed 800-megawatt wind farm could be the twelfth commercial wind lease awarded by BOEM, joining the 11 other previously awarded leases along the Atlantic coast.

Additional coverage was provided by [North American Windpower](#) (3/21, 43K), [Recharge News](#) (3/22, 633), and [SeeNews](#) (3/22).

RHODE ISLAND CELEBRATES OFFSHORE WIND FARM, LONG ISLAND LOOKS TO FOLLOW. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (3/21, Harrington, 1.23M) reports that Rhode Island will become the state with the first US offshore wind farm with the five-turbine Block Island project, which will provide 90 percent of the state's power upon completion at the end of 2016. Block Island project developer Deepwater Wind and turbine supplier GE Renewable Energy have already built "five foundations in the seabed" near the Island. Rhode Island officials celebrated with a "pre-victory" event at the state's Port of Providence terminal Friday. Long Island's renewable energy advocates held a rally afterwards to urge Long Island to follow suit and approve a 90-megawatt offshore project.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS MAY MAKE WIND POSSIBILITY FOR NORTH CAROLINA. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/21, Peterson, 301K) reports on the American Wind Energy Association conference's in Camden this week and the possibility of inland wind farms to produce energy in North Carolina's coastal plains. Though offshore and inland winds in North Carolina have been considered insufficient for efficient energy production, "taller towers and bigger wind turbine blades are in development that could change the equation for both," the Post and Courier says. Coastal Conservation League energy and climate director Hamilton Davis said "With the improved wind technology that is now entering the marketplace, South Carolina could also be able to tap into this resource."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US OPENS UP NEW YORK COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BOEM has "identified a Wind Energy Area (WEA) offshore New York" was provided by [Marine Log](#) (3/21, 249).

Onshore Energy Development:

DOJ, GREEN GROUPS REACH TENTATIVE DEAL OVER MONTANA OIL LEASE EMISSIONS. The [AP](#) (3/21, Volz) reports that Department of Justice attorneys and environmental groups "reached a tentative agreement to end a dispute over greenhouse gas emissions from federal oil and gas leases in Montana," filing a

notice Friday that they have reached a settlement in principle over a lawsuit that "pushes the government to examine the effects on climate change when leasing public lands for energy drilling." The AP details the case and reports that the parties hope to finalize the deal within the month.

ILLINOIS AG MADIGAN DEMANDS PEABODY PROVE IT CAN PAY FUTURE CLEANUP COSTS. The AP (3/21) reports that Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan says she fears that Peabody Energy does not have sufficient bond funds to restore Illinois mining land if it is shut down. Madigan sent a letter to Peabody demanding the coal miner prove it has the \$92 million needed for potential mine reclamation.

Reuters (3/21) reports that in the case of bankruptcy, a judge would decide how to prioritize all of Peabody's liabilities that are not guaranteed by cash, bonds, or other securities.

POWDER RIVER BASIN RESOURCE COUNCIL FILES COMPLAINT OVER PEABODY ENERGY MINING STATUS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/21, 77K) reports that the Powder River Basin Resource Council filed "a complaint with state regulators Monday alleging Peabody Energy and its subsidiaries are in violation of mining laws." The action is "the latest move in the Sheridan-based group's growing campaign to reform the laws governing mine reclamation, which have allowed coal companies to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in bond payments by posting their assets as collateral on future reclamation costs."

CANCELLATION OF BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASE WELCOMED. In his column for the Missoulian (MT) (3/21, 78K), George Ochenski welcomes the decision to cancel the contested lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area. However, Ochenski warns that "while this is a huge victory for the Blackfeet Tribe, Montana and the nation, the battle is not yet over." He notes that "there remain 34,000 acres in 17 existing leases, mostly owned by Devon Energy Corp., and the agency recommended cancelling those as well."

Additional coverage of the cancellation was provided by the Fairfield (MT) Sun Times (3/21) and Bakken (3/21).

PROFESSOR: STOPPING FRACKING WOULD HURT ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMY. National Defense University professor Paul Sullivan writes in The Hill (3/21, Sullivan, 862K) that fracking is one of the main reasons for current low oil and natural gas prices. Sullivan says halting fracking would increase natural gas prices, making coal more attractive as a cheaper source of fuel to detrimental environmental effect. He also argues that stopping fracking would have a negative economic impact through the loss of jobs and investments.

BARRETT: HISTORY SAYS WATCH THE DOI COAL LEASING REVIEW. In a Montana Standard (3/22, Barrett, 35K) op-ed, Evan Barrett writes on the history of federal leasing in Montana, in which "hard-rock mining companies removed the mineral wealth of the state, but paid little or no taxes to the state and its people" and mining barons "avoided federal indictment for illegally stripping huge areas of federal timberlands" while underpaying for the timber they took. Barrett draws parallels to federal coal leasing in which companies make payments "far below market value" that shortchange taxpayers by tens of billions of dollars. Barrett calls for active participation on the recently-announced Department of Interior federal coal leasing review so that Montana doesn't end up with "a system that cheats the public."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. The Hill (3/21, Devaney, 862K) reports that the Interior Department is "proposing new rules for development of the outer continental shelf." The BOEM proposed Monday new rules for the use of "sand, gravel and shell resources for shore protection, beach restoration, or coastal wetlands restoration."

Additional coverage was provided by the Dredging News Online (3/22).

BSEE ASSISTS IN OPENING OIL SPILL RESPONSE TEST BURN TANK. The World Oil (3/21) reports that the BSEE "helped oversee and execute a series of test in situ burns in the newly opened burn tank at the Joint Maritime Test Detachment in Mobile, Ala., to evaluate burns and train teams to respond to open water oil spills." The BSEE "provided \$458,000, contributing an analysis to find gaps in current knowledge of in situ burn techniques and support for the renovation and refurbishment of the Joint Maritime Test Detachment burn tank located on Little Sand Island just off the coast of Mobile, Ala."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PLAN TO PROTEST GULF OF MEXICO LEASE AUCTION AT LOUISIANA'S SUPERDOME. Grist (3/21, 7K) reports that "federal regulators will be auctioning off 43 million

acres of offshore oil and gas leases in the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday” at Louisiana’s Superdome. According to the article, “several national environmental organizations, including the Rainforest Action Network and [350.org](#), community members, and indigenous rights groups plan a rally outside the site this Wednesday to oppose new leases for offshore drilling leases.”

LOUISIANA COULD PARTIALLY LOSE GOMESA FUNDS. The [Shreveport \(LA\) Times](#) (3/21, 124K) reports “Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Coast will lose a significant chunk of its federal conservation funding” if the Obama Administration’s FY2017 budget proposal passes, because it “redirects” funds from Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (GOMESA). The Times reports the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition sent a letter to the Obama Administration petitioning for a return of funds to protect wildlife habitat, coastal communities, and land in coastal Louisiana.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NASA TO ADVISE BSEE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING RISK REDUCTION. Additional coverage that the BSEE is partnering with NASA “to capitalize on best risk management approaches from the aeronautics industry to offshore worker and environmental safety” was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM DEVELOPING NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING AIR STANDARDS. Additional coverage that the BOEM is “proposing to update 36-year-old regulations to make sure that offshore oil and gas activities do not significantly harm the air quality of any state in the U.S.” was provided by [gCaptain](#) (3/21, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OCEAN ENERGY PORTAL. Additional coverage of the Ocean Energy Portal was provided by [Xconomy](#) (3/21, 3K).

WTIMES: DECISION TO SCRAP ATLANTIC DRILLING “KNIFE TO BACKS OF ENERGY PRODUCERS.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, 285K) editorializes that with the Interior Department’s decision to scrap a plan for drilling off the coast of the Atlantic seaboard, President Obama “has once more applied the knife to the backs of conventional energy producers.” The Times also criticizes Hillary Clinton for “leading the cheers” for Obama’s decision. The paper calls the decision “part of the Democratic strategy for tipping the playing field to lackluster green industry” and a “cruel thing to do” to those who will pay larger energy bills due to the oil reserves left in the ground.

Oceana VP Praises Retreat From Atlantic Offshore Drilling. Oceana Vice President Jacqueline Savitz in [The Hill](#) (3/21, Savitz, 862K) praises the Obama Administration’s decision to retreat from a plan to allow drilling off the US Atlantic coast. Savitz touts the decision as a move away from fossil fuel use, an environmental victory, and a “win for democracy” that “shows that speaking out against powerful interests is not a vain pursuit.”

Patience Urged On Offshore Drilling. In an editorial, the [Greensboro \(NC\) News & Record](#) (3/21, 155K) raises some points about the recent decision to withdraw the Atlantic Ocean from offshore drilling. It notes that the Obama Administration will “leave office in 10 months” and “the next president can reopen the issue.” Also, “any deposits of oil and natural gas off the North Carolina coast aren’t going anywhere” and “they can be extracted at a future time when conditions are right — and perhaps more safely than could be done today.”

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary was provided by the [Anson \(NC\) Record](#) (3/21).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE TO TESTIFY BEFORE OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE. The [E&E](#) (3/21) reports that House Republicans will put the BLM’s “oil and natural gas leasing policies in the crosshairs this week during an oversight hearing that will also touch on the recent federal coal leasing moratorium.” BLM Director Neil Kornze is scheduled to testify Wednesday before the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior, “the latest in a series of recent congressional hearings taking a critical look at Interior Department land management practices.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (3/21, Collins, 1.07M) and [Bloomberg BNA](#) (3/21, 5K).

TIMBER PAYMENTS TO OREGON COUNTIES DROP TO RECORD LOW. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#)

(3/21, 2K) reports that "for the first time, the BLM and Forest Service combined for less than \$100 million in payments to Oregon counties." Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley "welcomed the spending, but pointed out its tenuous future." Wyden said "he wants Congress to reauthorize what he calls 'vital aid.'" However, Merkley "added long-term solutions are needed for timber-dependent payment counties."

In an op-ed for the [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K), Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, Josephine County Commissioner Simon Hare and Douglas County Commissioner Tim Freeman write that the BLM "neither pays its fair share nor contributes to the economy in a significant way." They note that "Western Oregon counties are poised to sue the BLM for its ongoing failure to honor commitments etched in federal law, "but "rather than litigate, our counties strongly prefer to work with Congress to achieve a permanent, balanced and bipartisan solution. We thank members of Oregon's delegation for previous efforts to find such a solution." They argue that "sustainable timber harvest on O&C lands must be a part of the solution."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/22, 98K).

RAMS JOINS GOV. DAYTON CRITICS OVER TWIN METALS DECISION. The [Virginia \(MN\) Mesabi Daily Tribune](#) (3/22, Riebe, 60) reports the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools is criticizing Gov. Mark Dayton's denial of approval to Access Agreement to Twin Metals Minnesota for a copper/nickel/precious metals mining project. Dayton has said that he was concerned that the Twin Metals venture falls within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed, and called the Bureau of Land Management director to say Twin Metals' federal lease holdings should not be renewed. Dayton's decision was praised by environmental groups, and strongly criticized by state Republicans and some businesses.

West Central Tribune: Jewell Should Answer Save The Boundary Waters Request. The [West Central Tribune \(MN\)](#) (3/21, 49K) editorializes that Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell should respond to a Save the Boundary Waters request that she withdraw the minerals being targeted by Twin Metals from federal mining, and says the group "deserves an answer."

TWO MORE DEFENDANTS HELD WITHOUT BAIL IN BUNKERVILLE STANDOFF. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/21, 479K) reports that "two more defendants, including one of Cliven Bundy's sons, were ordered held without bail Monday as they await trial on felony charges stemming from the 2014 armed standoff with law enforcement near Bunkerville." According to the article, "Melvin Bundy, 41, of Nevada, and Gregory P. Bureson, 52, of Arizona, were kept in federal custody following hearings." The article says that "both pleaded not guilty but were declared a danger to the community."

BLM GRANTED EXTENSION ON LAND PLANS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/21, 402K) reports that the BLM has been "granted an extension by a federal judge to finalize its land use plans for Washington County so the two can try to reach a compromise over a contested northern corridor transportation route." The bureau "can miss the court-ordered June 30 deadline for its resource management plan and instead shoot for Dec. 31 in hopes the additional six months will result in the BLM implementing changes sought by the county." U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups "granted the extension last week after a congressional subcommittee convened a rare oversight hearing last January in St. George."

SMITH MOUNTAIN FIRE RULED ARSON. The AP (3/21) reports that "a wildfire last September in southeast Wyoming has been ruled an act of arson." The Smith Mountain Fire that "burned in Albany and Carbon counties was originally thought to have been a controlled burn that got out of control." The BLM said Monday that "evidence of multiple origins aroused suspicion, and an investigation determined a liquid was used to start the fire in multiple areas."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SODA FIRE REHABILITATION. Additional coverage of the Soda Fire rehabilitation effort was provided by [CounterPunch](#) (3/22, 16K).

MEADE: GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN WAKE OF BUNDY STANDOFF "OPPRESSIVE." In a [Laconia \(NH\) Daily Sun](#) (3/21, 29K) column, Bob Meade reviews the chain of events leading to the Cliven Bundy law enforcement standoff, when BLM personnel "went into the grazing area," and "began rounding up Bundy's cattle," and says that since the standoff, the government have been targeting Bundy supporters like USMC veteran DeLemus. Meade calls the government actions "oppressive" and accuses "well-connected" political insiders of profiting "at the expense of the citizenry."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CEREMONY HELD FOR PRIME HOOK BRIDGE. The [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (3/21, 355K) reports that "a ceremony was held Monday for a bridge in the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge." According to the article, "the crossing is part of a \$38 million plan to build storm and sea level rise resiliency at the 10,144-acre refuge carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The FWS and the Interior Department are "investing \$787 million in hundreds of Hurricane Sandy restoration and flood resilience projects."

ORPHANED BEAR CUB NOW HAS FOSTER MOTHER. The [AP](#) (3/21, 808K) reports that "an orphaned bear cub now has a feisty and loving foster mother." According to the article, "the head of Louisiana's large carnivore program said Sunday that she was able to leave the cub with a new family in the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge." Maria Davidson said, "I was happy to get the cub back out in a wild nest where he belongs."

TWO BABY BALD EAGLES BORN AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM. The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Hedgpeth, 8.98M) reports that "now that two baby bald eagles have been born at the U.S. National Arboretum in Northeast Washington, the process of naming them has begun." According to the article, "the two eaglets have been dubbed 'DC2' and 'DC3' by the American Eagle Foundation, the group behind the live-stream videos of the eaglets, which have gained huge popularity." Officials with the FWS are "expected to put leg bands on each of the eaglets and take blood."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DEATH OF 5 BALD EAGLES IN DELAWARE UNDER INVESTIGATION.

Additional coverage that "wildlife agents are investigating the deaths of five bald eagles" in Delaware was provided by [USA Today](#) (3/21, Fisher, 5.45M) and [RT](#) (3/21, 350K).

PARTNERSHIPS THAT LED TO LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR RECOVERY PRAISED. In an op-ed, the [Alexandria \(LA\) Town Talk](#) (3/21, 90K), Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, lauds the "hard work and partnership of many" that led to the delisting of the Louisiana black bear. According to Bean, "the rapid recovery of the Louisiana black bear is a testament to the power and importance of effective partnering and shows that states, federal agencies, and private landowners can make a difference for our nation's imperiled species, preserving our natural heritage for generations to come." He adds that "it's also a testament to the power of the ESA."

National Park Service:

HOUSE LIKELY TO PASS THREE PARKS BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication) reports that the House is "likely to pass three parks bills this week that appear to have attracted little opposition." The article notes that "the most significant of the measures is H.R. 482, which would expand the Ocmulgee National Monument by about 2,100 acres and study adding lands along the Ocmulgee River." H.R. 2857, from Rep. John Larson, would "revise a condition for establishing the Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, Conn., to require the state, city or private property owner to enter into a written agreement with the Department of the Interior to donate at least 10,000 square feet of space in the Colt Armory Complex." Finally, H.R. 4119, by Rep. Steven Palazzo, "seeks to convey to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5699 about 1 acre of real property located within the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Jackson County, Miss., in exchange for a parcel of 1.76 acres."

TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY FOXX PUSHES FOR FIXING US BRIDGES. [Today Show Online](#) (3/21, Rossen, Billington, 2.23M) reports that new government data found 58,495 "structurally deficient" bridges in the US. Joined by NPS officials Charles Borders, TODAY national investigative correspondent Jeff Rossen "visited the Arlington Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C., where concrete blocks also fall off and the main support beams are rotting so badly that Rossen could put his whole hand inside the holes." The Today Show reports that DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx admitted to the problem, saying it is "terrible, and it is getting worse by the year." Foxx added, "No one has argued more strenuously for fixing these issues than I have." Foxx argued, "Congress has to pass a package with enough resources to handle the problem."

CHERRY BLOSSOMS SURVIVE COLD WEEKEND. The [AP](#) (3/21, 1.99M) reports that a spokesman for the NPS says "the expected bloom dates for the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin in Washington were not affected by this weekend's cold weather." According to spokesman Mike Litterst, "the forecast snow never materialized at the Tidal Basin and temperatures stayed well above freezing." Litterst says "Monday night's forecast is for near-freezing temperatures, but the peak bloom period is still expected to begin on or about Wednesday."

Additional coverage of the cherry blossoms was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/21, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Staff, 8.98M), [ABC News](#) (3/21, 4M), [Reuters](#) (3/21), the [Albany \(OR\) Democrat-Herald](#) (3/21, 44K), the [Silver Spring \(MD\) Patch](#) (3/21, 771), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/21, 4.92M), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K).

BILL WOULD DESIGNATE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS DISTRICT AS NATIONAL PARK. [WBMA-TV](#) Birmingham, AL (3/21, 85K) reports that Rep. Terri Sewell is "introducing a bill to designate the Birmingham Civil Rights District as a National Park." The city says "a National Park designation could also open the door for gateway community funding, which means anything within a 60 mile radius from the park could be eligible for grants to improve the area leading into the park."

NEW LOGO IN SUPPORT OF "WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT" UNVEILED. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 173K) reports that "with a new focus to Lucas St. Clair's efforts to create a proposed North Woods national park comes a new campaign logo he debuted informally on social media this weekend, his spokesman said Monday." According to the article, "the new circular logo features drawings of a hiker in silhouette against a backdrop of an evergreen forest and Mount Katahdin with the slogan 'Maine Woods National Monument' wrapped around them." The article notes that "that's a departure from the rectangular logo featuring silhouetted drawings of people fishing, canoeing and snowmobiling and a moose over the words 'Katahdin Woods & Waters.'" According to St. Clair spokesman David Farmer, the change "naturally follows the progression of the campaign" and "it is not an indication that the effort to create a national park originally suggested in 2011 by entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby, St. Clair's mother, is over."

In a piece for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 173K), Jon Reisman, an associate professor of economics and public policy at the University of Maine at Machias, writes that "it seems a foregone conclusion that President Barack Obama will designate the Quimby holdings as a national monument sometime after the November election."

TRUMP DETAILS CONVERSION OF DC BUILDING INTO LUXURY HOTEL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Hendrix, 8.98M) reports presidential candidate Donald Trump "briefly reverted to Salesman Trump" Monday in order to "show off" the Old Post Office Pavilion in downtown Washington that he is converting into a \$200 million Trump International Hotel. "Super luxury, and it's going to be amazing," Trump told a group of reporters. He spent more than an hour "pointing out details of the Romanesque Revival edifice," and "seemed to equate his hotel with a national monument."

ECONOMIC IMPACT GENERATED BY ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR HIGHLIGHTED. [Niagara \(NY\) Frontier Publications](#) (3/21) reports that Rep. Brian Higgins joined Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board Chairman Thomas Blanchard "late last week to detail the economic benefits the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor has across the state and right here in Western New York." The article says that "according to a study conducted by Tripp Umbach, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor generates \$307.7 million in economic impact, supports 3,240 jobs and generates \$34.9 million in tax revenues." According to the article, "the federal designation, which was set to expire in 2015, has been renewed through 2021."

CRISSY FIELD IN SAN FRANCISCO TO RECEIVE IMPROVEMENTS. The [AP](#) (3/21, 1.99M) reports that Crissy Field in San Francisco is "getting a makeover." According to the article, "this fall, the trail, in the shadow of Golden Gate Bridge, will be repaved and widened in certain spots." The article notes that "a \$2.5 million National Park Service grant, in honor of the park service's centennial, and matching private donations will fund the upgrades."

WORKER CLAIMS RETALIATION BY YELLOWSTONE CONCESSIONAIRE OVER ASBESTOS REPORT. The [AP](#) (3/21, Gruver, Press, 1.99M) reports that "a maintenance worker in Yellowstone National Park said a park concession company retaliated against him after he reported that he and five other employees were exposed to asbestos at a more than century-old lodge." Jon Kline said that Xanterra Parks & Resorts "began giving him poor reviews and declined to renew his contract after he reported the incident last March." Kline said "he has filed an employee retaliation claim that is still pending."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/21, Gruver, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\)](#)

[Post](#) (3/21, Mead Gruver |, Ap, 8.98M), and [US News & World Report](#) (3/21, 853K).

CUMBERLAND GAP TO CELEBRATE NPS CENTENNIAL IN APRIL. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, 228K) reports that Cumberland Gap National Historical Park staff is "organizing a three-day extravaganza" to celebrate the NPS Centennial. The "An American Memoir" event will be held "9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 9-11 at the park's visitor center in Middlesboro, Ky., with almost 100 living historians on site." According to the article, "during the weekend event, visitors and students will interact with the diverse people — slaves, indentured servants, bankers, farmers, merchants and blacksmiths — who journeyed through the nation's first doorway to the West seeking freedom, land and wild game."

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by the [Merillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (3/21, 105K) and [KSMU-FM](#) Springfield, MO (3/21, 686).

NPS INVITES FOURTH GRADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN "EVERY KID IN A PARK" PROGRAM. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (3/21, 1K) reports that "in celebration of the National Park Service's Centennial year, the agency has created a program where every 4th grader is eligible to visit the park with their family, for free." According to the article, "fourth graders can print a paper pass from www.everykidinapark.gov, bring it to the visitor centers at Cottonwood, Joshua Tree or Oasis and exchange it for a pass card."

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA INVITES HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN TO OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. [SurfKy](#) (3/21, 1K) reports that "homeschooler families are invited to use Woodlands Nature Station as their outdoor classroom in April at Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area." The article notes that "fourth grade students can go to <https://everykidinapark.gov/>, get their free Every Kid in a Park pass, and get their family in for free."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YOSEMITE FIGHT OVER NAMES ESCALATES AS NPS PUSHES TO CANCEL TRADEMARKS. Additional coverage of the Yosemite trademark dispute was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/21, Press, 4.1M), [Fox News](#) (3/21, 9.42M), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/21, 15K), the [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (3/21, 12K), and [HotAir](#) (3/21, 87K).

PUBLIC URGED TO ENJOY SPRING OUTDOORS. In a piece for the [Anderson \(IN\) Herald Bulletin](#) (3/21, 53K), Carol Emmert, a founding director of Heart of the River Coalition, urges readers to enjoy the outdoors, now that "spring is here." She also notes that "if you have a fourth-grader this 2015-2016 school year, Indiana's state parks are accepting the passes from the 'Every Kid in a Park' program, as well."

US Geological Survey:

USGS AND ESA TO SHARE SATELLITE DATA. [ExecutiveGov](#) (3/21, 548) reports that "the European Space Agency has inked technical agreements with NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey to allow the three agencies access to European Sentinel satellite data." The ESA said that "the agreements will allow the three U.S. agencies to retrieve data collected by the Sentinel satellites from an ESA-operated international data hub." According to the ESA, "the U.S. agencies plan to integrate the data to their EarthExplorer, GloVIS and other access systems for dissemination to their users across the globe and serve as an 'interface' between U.S. and European data utilization programs."

Also, [FierceGovernmentIT](#) (3/21, Richman, 277) reports that the ESA established a new partnership with the USGS "last week in order to complement earth observing capabilities from the Landsat satellite series."

STUDY FINDS "SUBSTANTIAL PROBABILITY" OF MONARCH EXTINCTION. The [E&E](#) (3/21) reports that "there is 'substantial probability' that the eastern population of monarch butterflies could be wiped out in the near future," according to a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* "that could affect the insect's status under the Endangered Species Act." The analysis, conducted by researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, and the USGS, "estimated the probability of a 'quasi-extinction' event, where so few butterflies remain that recovery is impossible, at between 11 percent and 57 percent over the next two decades."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/21, 472K) and the [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 195K).

PROFILE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S "EARTHQUAKE LADY" AS SHE LEAVES USGS. The [Los](#)

[Angeles Times](#) (3/18, Xia, 4.1M) profiles U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Lucy Jones who is leaving the USGS after 33 years "to help officials develop science-based policies related to climate change, tsunamis and other kinds of natural disasters." The Times writes Jones is "authoritative yet nurturing, the 'earthquake lady' has a knack for making a complicated point so simple it seems obvious. Along the way, she has dramatically changed the way the Southland prepares for earthquakes. Buildings are safer, first responders are better equipped and millions of residents have learned that the worst thing to do in an earthquake is to run outside."

Top National News:

CASTRO PRESSED ON POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING PRESS CONFERENCE WITH OBAMA. Media coverage of the President's first full day in Cuba remains largely favorable toward the White House. Reports, including the lead segments on all three newscasts, praise Obama's performance during a [press conference](#) with Raul Castro, crediting him – and his détente with Cuba – with forcing the Cuban leader to answer questions about political repression before a global audience. Getting the most media attention is [CNN](#) reporter Jim Acosta's query to Castro about political prisoners, which reportedly made the Cuban leader visibly uncomfortable. [NPR](#) (3/21, Peralta, 1.81M), in fact, reported that Castro's "uneasiness was apparent as soon as journalists began asking questions," something that was not "supposed to" take place. A "last minute change," however, "made that possible," and Obama "called first on...Acosta, who is Cuban-American." It was, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Eilperin, Deyoung, 8.98M) this morning, "an extraordinary news conference," a "public exchange...virtually unprecedented in Cuba." In contrast to Castro, adds the Post, Obama "seemed to relish the opportunity to display his comfort in discussing both the things they agreed on, and those they did not."

As [Politico](#) (3/21, Dove, 1.07M) puts it, "In Cuba, just having a press conference is news." Obama himself made that point in an interview with [ABC World News](#) (3/21, lead story, 6:00, Muir, 5.84M), in which he said that during his meeting with Castro, he had indicated to him "that we can't force changes on Cuba, but what we can do and will continue to do is to stand up for the rights that we consider to be universal." The press conference that followed that meeting "may be the first time that Raul Castro ever stood in front of not just US press, but also Cuban press and answered questions. And that could not have happened unless we had changed this policy." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, lead story, 3:25, Holt, 7.86M) similarly said that Castro took questions from the press "after pressure" from Obama.

[The Hill](#) (3/21, Fabian, 862K) also indicated that "it was the first time Castro took questions from the American press, reportedly at White House officials' insistence, and the communist leader was clearly uncomfortable." The [AP](#) (3/21, Lederman) refers to a "stunning diplomatic display," and the [New York Times](#) (3/22, Davis, Cave, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "both men have ventured into diplomatic territory that had eluded their predecessors."

Pressed by Acosta on his treatment of political dissidents, the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, Castro actually denied that there are any political prisoners in Cuba, though "just yesterday the regime arrested more than two dozen protesters." [ABC World News](#) (3/21, story 2, 1:10, Muir, 5.84M) said it was a "tense moment," while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/21, Parsons, 4.1M) recounts that Castro "bristled," first pretending "his headphones with the translation weren't working," and then countering, "Show me a list. ... Tell me a name. ... If you can show me one, I'll release them tonight." The [Miami Herald](#) (3/22, Whitefield, 803K) notes that "within minutes" of Castro's reply, "human-rights groups were sending out lists of detainees, ranging from the dozens to the hundreds." To [Mother Jones](#) (3/21, Oh, 1.03M), the Cuban leader "appeared defensive," and [Politico](#) (3/21, Dove, 1.07M) says that while Castro answered the question, "Obama looked on with a smile."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/21, Dorning, 289K) reports that at the end of his response to Acosta, Castro criticized the US' record on human rights, focusing on "the US health and education systems as examples" of US abuses. Said Castro, "We find it inconceivable that a government does not defend and insure the right to health care, education, social security, food provision and development, equal pay and the rights of children. ... We oppose political manipulation and double standards in the approach to human rights." [People](#) (3/21, McAfee, 45.51M) noted that Obama replied, "President Castro has pointed out in his view that everybody gets decent education or healthcare are universal human rights as well. I personally don't disagree with him, but it doesn't detract" from other issues. [Politico](#) (3/21, Gass, 1.07M) quoted Obama as further stating, "President Castro has also addressed what he views as shortcomings in the United States," and "we welcome that constructive dialogue as well. Because we believe that when we share our deepest beliefs and ideas with an attitude of mutual respect, that we can both learn and make the lives of our people better." The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, Boyer, 285K) summarizes the exchange in a story headlined "Obama Lets Castro Criticize US Shortcomings."

[Reuters](#) (3/21, Trotta, Spetalnick) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) run similar reports on the press conference, noting that Castro strongly objected to the US presence in Guantanamo and to the decades-long trade embargo. [TIME](#) (3/21, Rhodan, 18.01M) noted on its website that Obama told reporters that “he’s confident the embargo will end, but, ‘When, I can’t be entirely sure.’” [Vox](#) (3/21, Beauchamp, 758K) reported, “Judging from some early Obama comments, it looks like he’s trying to debut something along the lines of the US approach to China,” where “the US certainly makes an issue of Chinese human rights violations, but...is unwilling to seriously threaten trade ties over domestic repression.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that also yesterday, in a “striking image,” Obama stood in Havana’s revolution square “with a giant outline of...Che Guevara looking down, a gesture to a troubled past on a day...Obama focused on the future.” Both leaders, says [USA Today](#) (3/21, Korte, 5.45M), “reviewed an honor guard at the Palace of the Revolution and listened to the national anthems of both countries.” In the evening, [USA Today](#) (3/21, Korte, 5.45M) reported on its website, the Obamas attended a state dinner given by Raul Castro. The event “was decidedly less formal than the black-tie state dinners hosted by the White House,” and the Obamas “were met with applause when they arrived at the Palace of the Revolution.”

In its coverage, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Deyoung, 8.98M) also remarks on the fact that Obama will not meet with Fidel Castro during his visit, and muses that “assuming Fidel...even wanted to meet with Obama, it would be bad optics for the administration,” as the White House “sees the visit as the pinnacle of Obama’s forward-looking policy of international engagement,” and Raúl Castro, “who grinned and gripped Obama’s hand when they met Monday, is the face for US normalization with Cuba.”

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, A1, Miroff, 8.98M) reports that earlier on Monday, Obama “hosted a business summit at a beer brewery,” and “it seemed to signal the beginning of a business comeback.” The President “was heartily cheered by Cuban small-business owners, American executives and others who support his stated goal of ending the embargo.” Reporting on that event, [USA Today](#) (3/21, Korte, Gomez, 5.45M) remarks that “it’s fair to say...Obama has learned at least one word of Cuban Spanish since normalizing relations with communist Cuba 15 months ago. Cuentapropista.” The term refers to “self-employed people” who “work outside state-sponsored business, either as sole proprietors or employees of small businesses, mostly in the service industries: cab drivers, restaurant owners, barbers, mechanics and even cigarette-lighter repairmen.” Obama told a group of entrepreneurs, “With help from services like AirBnB, more Americans are staying at your casas particulares and eating at your palandars, like my family did last night. ... The food was really good, even if my Spanish is not that great.”

[ABC World News](#) (3/21, story 10, 1:30, Muir, 5.84M) noted last night that both the Marriott and Starwood hotel companies received approval this week to run “several landmark Havana hotels.” The deals come amid a “surge in American tourism,” which has left Cuban hotels “near capacity” and has Airbnb offering “more than 4,000 rental properties across the island.” On that note, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Miroff, 8.98M) reports that “instead of blocking off the forces of American capitalism, the Obama administration now wants them to come flooding in – and leave it up to the Cuban government to deal with the consequences.” Critics, however, “say Cuban officials will know how to extract the financial benefits without ceding political control or allowing a Cuban middle class to develop that could demand greater freedoms.”

[Yahoo! Finance](#) (3/21, Jones-Cooper, 4.91M), meanwhile, noted that “according to research conducted by Hopper, flight prices from the US to Cuba could drop 50% if all travel restrictions are lifted between the two countries.” While “currently, the average price of a round-trip flight originating in the US to Cuba costs \$717,” Hopper “predicts that the average round-trip flight will drop to \$364, with nonstop flights from Miami to Cuba hovering around a projected \$275.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Robles, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), meanwhile, highlights the “tens of thousands of Cuban millennials” who have given up on Cuba and headed north, and notes “a surprising statistic”: “More than twice as many Cubans went to live in the United States last year than in 1959.” Cuba “is bleeding doctors, small-business owners, construction workers and waitresses.”

“Awkward High-Five-Hand-Shake-Limp-Wrist-Grab-Thing” Earns Media Mockery. A number of media reports highlight the final episode in yesterday’s historic press conference. [USA Today](#) (3/21, 5.45M) refers to “a historically awkward high-five-hand-shake-limp-wrist-grab-thing,” while [NPR](#) (3/21, Wagner, 1.81M) said that “what began as a regular handshake morphed into ... something else,” adding the “move most closely resembled a wrestling referee announcing the winner of a wrestling match. Only way more awkward.” The [Huffington Post](#)

(3/21, Ferguson, 518K) reported that "Castro ended up holding Obama's arm in the air for a few pain-inducing moments as they smiled for the cameras," and [The Hill](#) (3/21, Byrnes, 862K), among other news outlets, runs a similar account.

Ten Dissidents Arrested Sunday "Remain Unaccounted For." [Voice of America](#) (3/21, Macchi, 60K) reported that "while Cuban officials have released the majority of some 50 Ladies in White dissidents arrested at their weekly demonstration here Sunday afternoon, 10 remain unaccounted for," according to Berta Soler, the group's leader. Under the headline "Castros Welcome Obama To Cuba With A Slap In The Face," Marc A. Thiessen criticizes the Sunday arrests in his [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) column, and points out that Obama "had promised not to visit Cuba under such conditions." Thiessen indicates that "in 2014, Obama said he would visit Cuba only if 'I with confidence can say that we're seeing some progress in the liberty and freedom. ... I'm not interested in just validating the status quo.'" Along those lines, in an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) expresses hope that Obama's visit will lead to freedom in Cuba, but concludes that so far it has only boosted the regime's standing.

Also in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Hunt, Leonard, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Hayes Hunt and Tom Leonard, attorneys who represent Milagros Maria Suarez and the estates of Rafael Del Pino Jr. and Rafael Del Pino – all victims of Castro repression – implore US officials to tie any further loosening of economic pressure on Cuba to tangible political reforms. Eugene Robinson, in his [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) column, says Obama's visit will accomplish just that: It "will almost surely hasten the day when Cubans are free from the Castro government's suffocating repression." Asks Robinson, "Did you see the rapturous welcome the president and his family received in Havana? Cubans seem to have a much more clear-eyed – and hopeful – view than Obama's shortsighted critics."

Some Cuban-Americans In Miami Protest Obama Trip. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, story 2, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M), David Begnaud reported from Miami's little Havana, where a group of Cuban-Americans held protests against Obama's visit, calling his presence on the island "betrayal." However, Begnaud said that while little Havana was once the scene where demonstrations regarding Cuba drew tens of thousands, "in a sign of the time, today there were less than 30." However, says the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), "most Cuban-Americans" in Miami "welcomed Mr. Obama's journey to the island as the latest breakthrough in the stalemate between the two countries," taking a stance "that not long ago would have seemed as unimaginable as Monday's historic presidential meeting of the once-avowed Cold War enemies."

BLOOMBERG: GARLAND NOMINATION NOT SWAYING REPUBLICANS OR MOTIVATING OBAMA ALLIES. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/21, Dennis, 289K) reports by nominating Merrick Garland, a "63-year-old white man with a record moderate enough to win the praise of" Sen. Orrin Hatch, for the Supreme Court, the President "spurned" allies who "wanted him to name a minority who would make history, a younger outspoken progressive, or preferably both." As a result, the President's allies find themselves "selling the nomination process more than the man himself as they try to pressure Republican senators," and the President could "face an enthusiasm gap when it comes to trying to use Garland's nomination to motivate the party's base to turn out in November." Liberal groups "are launching campaigns to pressure Republicans," but they are not "rallying around Garland so much as they are rallying against Republicans for obstructing the president." Meanwhile, Garland's reputation as a moderate appears to be doing little "to sway Republicans to drop their blockade and grant him a hearing and a vote on the Senate floor."

The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the "bitter impasse" over Garland's nomination is raising the "once unthinkable possibility" that presidents "may no longer be confident of filling a Supreme Court vacancy unless their party controls the Senate," which would "mark a real departure from past practice" when senators have "been willing to back nominees offered by the opposition even if they had some qualms about them."

Garland Refused Review To Priests Seeking Relief From Contraceptive Mandate. The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, Richardson, 285K) says a circuit court ruling in which Garland joined a 6-3 majority "denying further review to religious, pro-life groups being forced to comply with the US Department of Health and Human Services' contraception mandate" will provide conservatives with "a window into...Garland's jurisprudence." In the case, the Archdiocese of Washington and Priests for Life argued "an accommodation to the contraceptive mandate still forced them to take steps to procure potentially abortion-inducing drugs for their employees," but the circuit court said they "were mistaken about how the law really works." The case is "one of seven that has been consolidated into *Zubik v. Burwell*, which will be heard before the Supreme Court on Wednesday."

Before Scalia's Death, Roberts Said Senate Should Leave Politics Out Of Nomination Process. The [New](#)

[York Times](#) (3/21, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) highlights "blunt remarks about the Supreme Court nomination process" delivered by Chief Justice John G. Roberts 10 days before the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. In the remarks, which the Times cast as "a stern, if abstract rebuke to the Republican senators" refusing to hold hearings on Garland, Roberts said the Senate "should ensure that nominees are qualified...and leave politics out of it." The Times adds that some hope Roberts "will speak out again, and more directly, addressing the actual nomination of an actual nominee."

Monmouth Poll: Majority Of Americans Say Senate Should Consider President's Nominee. [Politico](#) (3/21, Gass, 1.07M) reports a Monmouth University poll released Monday shows a majority of Americans believe the Senate should consider the Garland nomination "regardless of the fact that it comes at the end of [the President's] term." According to the poll, 53 percent of Americans "agreed with the concept that the president has the constitutional power to nominate Supreme Court justices and that the Senate should consider those nominations even if they occur at the end of his term," while "43 percent said that court vacancies should be put on hold until the end of the current president's term so that voters can have a say in deciding the next president." In addition, 69 percent of the Americans said the Senate should hold hearings on Garland, while 25 percent said it should not.

IN AIPAC SPEECHES CLINTON, TRUMP OFFER CONTRASTING VIEWS OF US ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST. All of the presidential candidates except Bernie Sanders addressed the annual AIPAC convention Monday, but media coverage focuses heavily on the speeches from Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Landler, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Clinton and Trump "presented sharply different views on how the United States should deal with the Middle East and its relationship with Israel" and casts the two candidates' speeches as previewing "for an influential pro-Israel audience a debate on foreign policy that could play out this fall if they face each other in the general election."

While [Reuters](#) (3/21) says Clinton told the group Iran continues to be a threat to Israel and must be watched, media coverage of her speech focuses almost exclusively on her criticism of Trump and his foreign policy positions. While she did not mention the GOP frontrunner by name, she delivered a "rock-ribbed speech" to the group in which, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Landler, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, she "previewed how she might confront Mr. Trump on foreign policy." Clinton pledged to "stand unyieldingly with Israel and warned that" Trump "would be an unreliable partner for one of America's closest allies." Clinton said, "We need steady hands, not a president who says he's neutral on Monday, pro-Israel on Tuesday, and who-knows-what on Wednesday." The Times calls Clinton's speech "a thunderous affirmation of American solidarity with Israel," and [Reuters](#) (3/21) says she argued US leaders need to show loyalty to Israel and "anyone who doesn't understand that has no business being our president."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) said Clinton "unleashe[d] a stinging attack on Trump over support for Israel," and Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, story 6, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Clinton "argued the Middle East is no place for Trump to practice 'the art of the deal,'" adding the comment "reflected her growing focus on the likely GOP nominee." However, "the latest CBS News/New York Times poll shows her national lead over [Bernie] Sanders has shrunk to its smallest margin yet, just five points."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, Sherfinski, 285K) says Clinton took "unnamed but direct swipes" at Trump, and [Roll Call](#) (3/21, Bowman, 126K) similarly reports Clinton "took aim" at Trump "without even saying his name," including "referencing violence at his rallies, his apparent hesitation to disavow an endorsement from a white supremacist, his push to deport illegal immigrants, and his call to temporarily bar all Muslims from entering the United States." Clinton said, "Now, in a democracy we're going to have differences. But what Americans are hearing on the campaign trail this year is something else entirely. ... America should be better than this and I believe it's our responsibility as citizens to say so. If you see bigotry, oppose it. If you see violence, condemn it. ... If you see a bully, stand up to him." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Clinton argued Trump's foreign policy positions could undermine US leadership around the world and damage important alliances.

In his speech, Trump vowed to "protect Israel from threats ranging from the Iran nuclear deal to the possibility that the United Nations would seek to impose some sort of settlement with the Palestinians," [USA Today](#) (3/21, Jackson, 5.45M) reports. Trump, who has "previously said he would be neutral between the Israelis and the Palestinians," described the Palestinians "as unwilling partners and said they will have to stop attacks on Israel before he would support any kind of agreement." Trump, who read prepared text from a teleprompter, told the group, "When I become President, the days of treating Israel like a second-class citizen will end on day one," and "pledged to move the US embassy in Israel to 'the eternal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem.'" On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), Katy Tur called the speech Trump's "chance to prove that

he has international credibility," adding that he outlined "a non-interventionist platform, even questioning the country's long-standing involvement in NATO." In another report, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, story 3, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M) said Trump was "looking to silence his skeptics" with the AIPAC speech.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"The Kurds' Push For Self-Rule In Syria."* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says an "important political outcome of the Syrian war could be a decision by Syrian Kurds to establish a semiautonomous region in the northern part of the country." While this involves risk, it could "offer a model for decentralized governance in a federated Syria." Noting that the Kurds have said they are seeking "a democratic region in which they, Arabs and other ethnic groups can live together," the Times says the idea may be "worth building on as part of a political solution to end the war and the slaughter of civilians."

"A Partisan Prescription For Paralysis." The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes against the US Senate Republicans' treatment of Obama's nominations, saying that their refusal to take up Judge Merrick Garland's nomination for the Supreme Court "is only the most glaring example." There are currently "143 people awaiting confirmation for nonjudicial federal jobs." It highlights the cases of Adam Szubin nominated to the post of under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence in the Treasury Department, Eric Fanning nominated to be secretary of the Army, Roberta Jacobson as ambassador to Mexico. The Times says Republicans are "driven by a desire to retaliate against the administration when they have lost policy debates."

"Elegant Bird Discovers Junk Food." The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes on the migration of white storks from Europe to Africa which apparently "is being disrupted by the birds' growing addiction to junk food in the garbage dumps below their flight path." As a result, more are staying in Spain and Portugal and not flying to Africa. The Times says that the storks' ability to adapt will be tested by the EU's new policy prohibiting open air garbage dumps.

WASHINGTON POST. *"We Met With Donald Trump. Electing Him Will Still Be A Radical Risk."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M), which has been critical of Donald Trump's candidacy, credits him for sitting down Monday with its editorial board, but says "his answers left little doubt how radical a risk the nation would be taking in entrusting the White House to him." The Post cites Trump's "breezy willingness to ignore facts and evidence," and "the chasm between his expansive goals and the absence of proposals to achieve them," and argues an "empty policy basket makes almost impossible the kind of substantive debate on which democracies depend." A full transcript of Trump's meeting with the Post editorial board can be seen [here](#).

"A Step Toward Making Campuses Safe From Guns." The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of a bill pushed by Maryland Democratic Senate President Thomas Mike Miller Jr. that would ban guns on public university and college campuses in the state and send violators to prison. Miller "is a gun owner who has long kept his distance from gun control legislation, but in this instance he is applying a common-sense standard," because the gun ban would make schools safer, particularly by limiting the risk of mishaps.

"An Important Step Forward For Self-Government In The District." The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) editorializes that DC Superior Court Judge Brian Holeman's decision Friday upholding the right of DC lawmakers to spend locally-raised tax funds without first receiving congressional approval is "an important step forward in the District's ongoing struggle to gain the fundamental rights enjoyed by other U.S. citizens." The Post says such autonomy will streamline the District's budget process and "removes any threat of the District getting caught up in potential federal shutdowns."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Obama's Havana Promenade."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) expresses hope that President Obama's visit will lead to freedom in Cuba, but concludes that so far it has only boosted the regime's standing before the world.

"Divesting Of Campus Outrage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the letter sent by 230 Columbia University faculty members to the school's trustees on Sunday offered a rebuke of the growing movement demanding that schools boycott, divest, and sanction Israel. A student group had gathered signatures from 70 faculty members in favor of such demands, but the Journal says the signees mostly teach in scholarly fields where the truth is not clearly defined. The Journal adds that those who signed Sunday's letter understand the divestment campaign is really an effort to smear the Jewish people.

“The Supreme Court’s Eight Gun Salute.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the Supreme Court’s unsigned but unanimous opinion Monday that stun guns are protected under the Second Amendment is a significant reminder that the High Court’s 2008 Heller precedent – which explicitly rebuked the idea that only weapons useful in warfare are protected – should be enforced rather than opposed.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[U.S. May Not Need Apple’s Phone-Hack Help After All](#)
[Obama And Raul Castro Spar Over Human Rights](#)
[Court Battle Spreads To Spring States](#)
[Trump Making It Harder For GOP To Expand Into O.C.](#)
[Scouting India](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[US Says ‘Outside Party’ Could Unlock Terrorist’s iPhone](#)
[Cruz’s Stealth Delegate Hunt](#)
[Obama, Castro Acknowledge ‘Serious Differences’ Amid Historic Visit](#)
[Pope Francis Forces Divisions Over Divorce Into The Open](#)

New York Times:

[Cuba Meeting Between Obama And Castro Exposes Old Grievances](#)
[US Says It May Not Need Apple’s Help To Unlock iPhone](#)
[Donald Trump Pushes Serious Image In The Capital](#)
[Most Republicans Feel Embarrassed By Campaign, Poll Says](#)
[John Roberts Criticized Supreme Court Confirmation Process, Before There Was A Vacancy](#)
[The Mideast Came To Idaho State. It Wasn’t The Best Fit.](#)

Washington Post:

[Beyond The Catchphrase](#)
[Trump Questions US Role In World](#)
[Obama And Castro Spar, Hail Historic Visit](#)
[Hot On President’s Heels, US Companies Rush In](#)
[Trump Worldview Is A Huge Break From GOP Line](#)

Financial Times:

[Japan Funeral Sector Awaits ‘Peak Death’](#)
[Valeant’s Chief Executive To Step Down](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama Lets Castro Criticize U.S.](#)
[Trump On Track To Win Delegates For Nomination](#)
[Immigrant Surge Linked To Gang Killings](#)
[Gay Rights Group Attacks Use Of Religious Freedom](#)
[Faith Charities Eye Justice Kennedy In Obamacare Fight](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: President Obama Interview-Cuba Visit; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-President Obama Comments; Paris Terror Suspect-Plans; Severe Weather; Apple-iPhone Release; Truck Drivers-Sleeping Risks; Baseball Player-Cuba Return; Cuba-US Hotels.

CBS: President Obama-Cuba Visit; US Cuban Relations-Opinions; Iraq Marine Death-President Obama Comments; Paris Terror Suspect-Plans; 2016 Politics; 2016 Politics-AIPAC; Native American Custody Battle; Jeep Recall-Accidents.

NBC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics; 2016 Politics-AIPAC; Paris Terror Suspect-Plans; Los Angeles Airport-Cocaine Bust; Severe Weather; Credit History Lending; Cuba-US Baseball Game.

Network TV At A Glance:

President Obama-Cuba Visit – 20 minutes, 50 seconds
 2016 Politics – 11 minutes, 55 seconds
 Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: President Obama-Castro Meeting; President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton Discussion; Apple-iPhone Release; Bill Cosby-Sexual Assault Lawsuit.

CBS: FBI Apple Security Debate-Third Party Hacker; President Obama-Cuba Visit; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Political Candidates-AIPAC Conference Remarks; Wall Street.

NPR: FBI Apple Security Debate-Third Party Hacker; President Obama-Cuba Visit; Cuba-US Businesses; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton Discussion; Marijuana Trafficking-Federal Court Disputes; Challenger Engineer Death; Japanese Airports-Airline Computer System Problems.

FOX: FBI Apple Security Debate-Third Party Hacker; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Politics-Primary Elections; 2016 Politics-AIPAC.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Continues his visit to Cuba, Delivers remarks to the Cuban people; meets with members of civil society; attends the Cuba vs. Tampa Bay Rays exhibition baseball game.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Participates in an event in Cincinnati for Senate candidate former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 18 Mar – 4 Apr

US House: 10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on healthcare choice – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Choice Consolidation: Leveraging Provider Networks to Increase Veteran Access', with testimony from Health Net Federal Services President Billy Maynard; TriWest Healthcare Alliance President and CEO David McIntyre, Jr.; and Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Community Care Baligh Yehia, and Deputy Chief Business Officer for Purchased Care Dr Gene Migliaccio + written submission from The American Legion Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on defense health budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Defense Health Program', with testimony from Defense Health Agency Director Vice Adm. Raquel Bono; U.S. Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Nadja West; U.S. Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Clinton Faison III; and U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger

Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:00 PM House begins debate on Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including beginning consideration of 'H.R. 2745 – Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015', as well as consideration of 'H.R. 4742 – Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act', 'H.R. 4755 – Inspiring the Next Space Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act', 'H.R. 482 – Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2016', 'H.R. 2857 – To facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 4119 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act of 2016', 'H.R. 4472 – Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act', and 'H.R. 4336 – Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inumment Restoration Act', as amended, under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 a.m. for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business

2:00 PM EPA Administrator McCarthy testifies to House Energy subcommittees joint hearing on FY'17 budget – Energy and Power Subcommittee and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2017 EPA Budget', with testimony from Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

9:00 AM EPA Administrator McCarthy testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Environmental Protection Agency', with testimony from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and Acting CFO David Bloom Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Lew testifies to House committee on the international finance system – Annual hearing on 'The State of the International Financial System', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on health insurance tax credit – Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'Lip Service but Little Else: Failure of the Small Business Health Insurance Tax Credit', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues James McTigue, Jr.; Buffalo Supply Executive Chairman Harold Jackson (on behalf of U.S. Chamber of Commerce); and NFIB Research Foundation Director of Research & Policy Analysis Holly Wade Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Moniz testifies to House committee hearing on FY'17 budget – Hearing on 'An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the Department of Energy for Fiscal Year 2017', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Social Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Social Security and Public Servants: Ensuring Equal Treatment' Location: Rm B-318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Oversight Committee hearing on the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic – Hearing on 'America's Heroin and Opioid Abuse Epidemic', with testimony from Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli; Drug Enforcement Administration Deputy Assistant Administrator for Diversion Control Lou Milione; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Acting Administrator Kana Enomoto; Baltimore City Health Department Commissioner Leana Wen; and Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Education Secretary King testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies 'Budget Hearing – Department of Education', with testimony from Secretary of Education John King Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on cyber insurance in risk management – Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee hearing on 'The Role of Cyber Insurance in Risk Management', with testimony from Marsh Finpro Senior Vice President for Network Security and Data Privacy Matthew McCabe; North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm; Health Information Trust Alliance CEO Daniel Nutkis; and Ark Network Security Solutions Chief Strategy Officer Tom Finan Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on USFS budget – Federal Lands Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal', with testimony from U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Strengthening Education Research and Privacy Protections to Better Serve Students' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM Defense Secretary Carter testifies to House Armed Services Committee on FY'17 budget – Hearing on 'The Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense',

with testimony from Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 4771, the HEALTH Act of 2016' and 'H.R. 4676, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2016' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on FCC oversight – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission', with testimony from FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and Commissioners Mignon Clyburn, Michael O'Rielly, Ajit Pai, and Jessica Rosenworcel Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:45 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on 'Women Fighting for Peace' – Hearing on 'Women Fighting for Peace: Lessons for Today's Conflicts', with testimony from World Bank Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict and Violence Betty Bigombe; Ulster University Transitional Justice Institute Professor of Women's Studies Monica McWilliams; National Defense University Regional and Analytical Studies Department Chair Dr Hassan Abbas; and Institute for Inclusive Security Director Jacqueline O'Neill Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACRepublicans>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

11:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on Indian Country budget – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'The President's Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Priorities and Impacts on Indian Country and Insular Areas', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Lawrence Roberts, and Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina; Department of the Interior Special Trustee for American Indians G. Logan; and Indian Health Service Principal Deputy Director Mary Smith Location: Rm 1334, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

11:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the SEC budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Securities and Exchange Commission', with testimony from SEC Chair Mary Jo White Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:15 AM Bipartisan Reps. Miller and Dingell welcome 'Original Rosies' to Washington, DC – Bipartisan Reps. Candice Miller and Debbie Dingell welcome an Honor Flight of original 'Rosie the Riveters' – women who worked the factories during World War II – to Washington, DC, as part of Women's History Month. Agenda includes group photo on the U.S. Capitol front steps (11:15 AM EDT), appreciation luncheon with Members of Congress at the Library of Congress (12:00 PM EDT), visit to the National WWII Memorial (1:45 PM EDT), visit to the Women in Military Memorial (2:50 PM EDT), and visit to Arlington National Cemetery (3:40 PM EDT) * Honor Flights sponsored by Ford Motor Company Location: Washington, DC debbiedingell.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/RepDebDingell>

12:30 PM CANCELED: Bipartisan Reps. Rick Nolan and Walter Jones announce effort to overturn Citizens United – CANCELED: Democratic Rep. Rick Nolan and Republican Rep. Walter Jones announce a joint bipartisan effort to overturn Citizens United through their 'We the People Amendment', and discuss the 'urgency of getting money out of politics and the damaging effect this money has on today's political climate'. Reps. Nolan and Jones are joined by Moved to Amend and other organizations Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://nolan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/usrepprickenolan>

1:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – National Guard and Reserve', with testimony from National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Frank Grass; Army National Guard Director Maj. Gen. Timothy Kadavy; Air National Guard Acting Director Maj. Gen. Brian Neal; and U.S. Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley Location: H-140, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on FWS, NOAA, USBR, and PMAs – Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining the Missions and Impacts of the

President's Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations', with testimony from FWS Deputy Director Jim Kurth; USBR Commissioner Estevan Lopez; Western Area Power Administration Administrator Mark Gabriel; Bonneville Power Administration COO Claudia Andrews; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Assistant Administrator Eileen Sobeck Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on Health IT – Information Technology Subcommittee and Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Advancing Health Information Technology', with testimony from U.S. National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Dr Karen DeSalvo; Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition Director Jessica Rich; Intel Healthcare and Life Sciences Federal Managing Director Matthew Quinn; Healthcare Leadership Council Executive Committee Member Neil DeCrescenzo; and National Partnership for Women & Families Director of Health IT Policy and Programs Mark Savage Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on budget priorities for South Asia – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on 'FY 2017 Budget Priorities for South Asia: Recovery, Development, and Engagement', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal; and USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia Jonathan Stivers Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Science and Technology subcommittee hearing on NSF budget – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Science Foundation for Fiscal Year 2017', with testimony from NSF Director France Cordova; and National Science Board Chairman Dr Dan Arvizu Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on housing in America – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Housing in America: Government Regulations and the High Cost of Housing', with testimony from Holland Partner Group Chairman and CEO Clyde Holland (on behalf of National Multifamily Housing Council, and National Apartment Association); American Homestar Corporation COO Jayar Daily (on behalf of Manufactured Housing Institute); New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Vicki Been; MacDonald Companies CEO Granger MacDonald (on behalf of National Association of Home Builders); and University of Texas at Austin School of Law Professor A. Mechele Dickerson Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on logistics and sealift force – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Logistics and Sealift Force Requirements', with testimony from Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Mobility/Combat Logistics Division Director F. Scott DiLisio; Maritime Administration Administrator Paul Jaenichen, Sr.; and U.S. Transportation Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Lyons Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on border security in Latin America and the Caribbean – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on 'Potential Terrorist Threats: Border Security Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Juan Gonzalez; Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for International Affairs and Department of Homeland Security Chief Diplomatic Officer Alan Bersin; and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Director for International Operations Lev Kubiak Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'A Victims-Centered Trafficking in Persons Report' – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Get It Right This Time: A Victims-Centered Trafficking in Persons Report', with testimony from Freedom House President Mark Lagon; Fortify Rights Executive Director Matthew Smith; and NKinUSA President Jinhye Jo Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Fundamental Tax Reform Proposals' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Hezbollah – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Hezbollah's Growing Threat Against U.S. National Security Interests in the Middle East', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Research Fellow Tony Badran; and Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service Security Studies Program Professor Dr Daniel Byman Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACRepublicans>

Tuesday, Mar. 22 3:30 PM Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture closed hearing on 'Ongoing Intelligence Activities' Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on IT and cyber programs – Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2017 Information Technology and Cyber Programs: Foundations for a Secure Warfighting Network', with testimony from Department of Defense CIO Terry Halvorsen, and Deputy Chief Management Officer Peter Levine Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRRepublicans>

Other: 7:00 AM Airport Minority Advisory Council annual Economic Opportunity and Policy Forum – Airport Minority Advisory Council 22nd Annual Economic Opportunity and Policy Forum, hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and themed 'Regional Growth through Collective Vision and Action'. Speakers include Deputy Secretary of Transportation Victor Mendez and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority President and CEO John Potter Location: Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel, Washington, DC <http://amac-org.com/> https://twitter.com/AMAC_ORG

10:30 AM Dem Rep. Terri Sewell introduces bill to designate Birmingham, AL's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park – Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell introduces bill to designate Birmingham, AL's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park via NPC news conference with Birmingham Mayor William Bell, National Trust for Historic Preservation Vice President of Government Relations and Policy Tom Cassidy, and National Parks Conservation Association President and CEO Theresa Pierno Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.birminghamal.gov

4:00 PM ITI 'Tech & the Global Economy' discussion with U.S., EU, and Japanese govt officials – Information Technology Industry Council hosts 'Tech & the Global Economy: Road to the #G20' panel discussion, with Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Holleyman, European Union Deputy Chief of Mission Caroline Vicini, and Embassy of Japan Economic Affairs Minister Kanji Yamanouchi discussing how G20 countries can use China's host year to provide global leadership on information and communications technology policy Location: ITI, 1101 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.itic.org/> https://twitter.com/iti_techtweets #ITIG20

8:00 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce Annual Aviation Summit – 15th Annual Aviation Summit, 'Fascination of Flight', presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Brings together a wide range of leaders and experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the aviation and space industries. Speakers include NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis Francis Taylor, former CIA Director / former National Security Agency Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden, Airlines for America (A4A) President and CEO Nick Calio, American Airlines Group Chairman and CEO W. Douglas Parker, Airbus Group Chairman and CEO Allan McArtor, JetBlue Airways President and CEO Robin Hayes, former The Boeing Company Chairman W. James McNerney, Jr., and USCC President and CEO Thomas Donohue and Of Counsel Carol Hallett Location: Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/aviation-summit> <https://twitter.com/uschamber>

8:00 AM American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference concludes – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference concludes – 'preeminent annual gathering of the pro-Israel community'. Speakers at today's morning session (8:00 AM EDT) include Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu and Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez * Speakers on previous days included Vice President Joe Biden, 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, along with numerous Members of Congress Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC www.policyconference.org <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #PC16

8:45 AM GOP Rep. Mike Pompeo speaks at Hudson Institute event on 'America's shale revolution' – Hudson Institute hosts 'A New Global Energy Order?: The Geopolitics of America's Shale Revolution', examining how U.S. oil and natural gas exports have reshaped the balance of global energy power. Speakers include Republican Rep. Mike Pompeo, Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow Mark Mills, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Arthur Herman and Research Fellow Hannah Thoburn, CSIS Energy and National Security Program Senior Fellow Edward Chow, Georgetown University Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies Adjunct Professor Brenda Shaffer, analytica President and Chief Analyst Nikos Tsafos, Institute for the Analysis of Global Security Co-Director Anne Korin, SAIS Center for Canadian Studies Senior Research Professor and Director Christopher Sands, and Scotiabank Financial Markets Economist Dov Zigler Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

2:00 PM Acting DEA Administrator Rosenberg testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Drug Enforcement Administration', with testimony from DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg Location: H-309, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, the big story is President Obama's historic visit to Cuba that's going on right now. I saw that after landing yesterday, Obama immediately tweeted out, 'What's up, Cuba?' And Cubans opened up a window and yelled, 'We don't have the Internet! It's like 1955 here!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Donald Trump tweeted that Raul Castro disrespected the President by not greeting him at the airport. Seriously? Our countries have been enemies for 60 years. I can't even get my best friend to pick me up at the airport."

Jimmy Fallon: "Mitt Romney announced on Facebook that he will vote for Ted Cruz over Donald Trump in tomorrow's Utah caucus because he doesn't believe John Kasich can actually win. And if there's one thing Romney's an expert on, it's not winning."

Jimmy Fallon: "A lot of people actually think John Kasich would make a good pick for vice president. But Kasich said in an interview yesterday that he will not be vice president under any circumstances. When he heard that, Joe Biden was like, 'Seriously? I did it for a \$20 gift card to GameStop.'"

Seth Meyers: "A new study shows Donald Trump speaks with the poorest grammar of any presidential candidate. Trump says, 'It's actually the poorest.'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump announced over the weekend that he will release a list of judges that he would consider appointing to the Supreme Court if he's elected president. Though, you can get a sneak peek at the list by checking out TV Guide."

Seth Meyers: "Democratic National Committee head Debbie Wasserman Schultz today denied accusations that she is taking sides in the primary election season, and said, quote, 'There is no shred of evidence to suggest I'm favoring Hillary Clinton over Bernie Socialist, I mean Bernie Sanders, my apologies.'"

Seth Meyers: "Bernie Sanders this weekend gave a speech at the Mexican border. Actually, he was in Vermont, but they could hear him at the Mexican border."

Seth Meyers: "Bernie Sanders' campaign has confirmed that he will not speak at a major pro-Israel lobbying group conference this week, making him the only presidential candidate to skip it. And if any candidate can get away with that, it's Bernie from Brooklyn. Look at him. If Israel were a person, that's what it would look like."

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Confidential



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

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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

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DOI in the News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Empowering Native American Communities:

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

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

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

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

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

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

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

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

Onshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Offshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Park Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Top National News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial Wrap-Up:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

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

New York Times:

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

Washington Post:

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

Financial Times:

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

Washington Times:

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

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

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

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

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

Network TV At A Glance:

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

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Air Traffic Controller Report.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Wall Street; Oregon Standoff Ends.

FOX: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; Oregon Standoff Ends; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; Wall Street; Congress-Trans-Pacific Partnership; Myspace Sold.

NPR: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; North Korea Rocket Launch-South Korea Response; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; California-Methane Gas Leak Stopped; West Virginia Chemical Spill-Mining Executive Sentenced; Uber Settles Class-Action Lawsuit.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

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

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 10:30 AM 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' Congressional briefing – 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' briefing, on the state of the nation's working class and what can be done to address a rising level of family and economic instability, sponsored by bipartisan Sens. Tim Scott and Bob Casey and co-hosted by The American Academy of Political and Social Science and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Social policy experts Johns Hopkins University Professor of Public Policy Andrew Cherlin, Brookings Institution Center on Children and Families co-director Ron Haskins, Princeton University Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs Sara McLanahan, and Harvard University Professor of Public Policy Robert Putnam present evidence on the current state of American families, marriage, mobility, and child well-being, and examine what has been called 'the fall of the working class'. Location: Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.aapss.org> <https://twitter.com/TheAAPSS>. Contacts: AAPSS 1 215 746 6500.

US House: 8:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Air Force FY'17 budget – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Air Force 2017 Budget Request and Readiness', with testimony from US Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Gen. John Raymond, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection Lt. Gen. John Cooper. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

9:00 AM House expected to debate Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 2017, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015' * Administration has said it opposes the bill, saying it would 'undercut the objective of providing clear, consistent calorie information to consumers'. Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>. Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating biological threats – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Outbreaks, Attacks, and Accidents: Combating Biological Threats', with testimony from Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense members Donna Shalala and James Greenwood; In-Q-Tel Senior Fellow and Executive Vice President Tara O'Toole; and Texas A&M University Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing Associate Vice President for Public Health Preparedness and Response Dr. Gerald Parker. Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>. Contacts: House Energy and Commerce Committee 1 202 225 2927.

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA IG budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Office of the Inspector General', with testimony from USDA Inspector General Phyllis Fong, Assistant Inspector General for Audits Gil Harden, and Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Ann Coffey. Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Afghan national security forces – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the Development of Afghanistan National Security Forces', with testimony from Defense Intelligence Agency Senior Defense Analyst – Afghanistan Kent Breedlove; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia Christine Abizaid; Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Pakistan Afghanistan and Transregional Threats Coordination Cell Deputy Director Col. Stephen Michael; Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko; and Department of Defense Deputy Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations Michael Child.

Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

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

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

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

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

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

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Confidential



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, February 16, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA DESIGNATES THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. The White House announced on Friday that President Obama designated three new national monuments in the California desert. According to an information sheet, the White House says the new monuments will encompass "nearly 1.8 million acres of America's public lands," and will "nearly double the number of acres of public lands previously protected as national monuments by President Obama – demonstrating the Administration's strong commitment to aggressive action to protect the environment for future generations." The new monuments will "link already protected lands, including Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and fifteen congressionally-designated Wilderness areas, permanently protecting key wildlife corridors and providing plants and animals with the space and elevation range that they will need in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change." The new monuments are Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Eilperin, 8.98M) reported the monuments create "the world's second-largest desert preserve" and nearly double "the amount of land [Obama] has unilaterally protected while in office," giving rise to opposition to Obama's use of executive powers. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) called it "presidential bullying." On the other side, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," adding, "they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions."

The [AP](#) (2/16, Rogers) pointed out the "Mojave Trails National Monument, at 1.6 million acres, is by far the largest of the three new ones." The article described the lands. [US News & World Report](#) (2/12, 853K) also carried the AP report. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Cama, 862K) cited Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) support for the monument designations. The BLM, the NPS, and the Forest Service will manage the lands, which were "already owned by the federal government."

[McClatchy](#) (2/15, Doyle, 22K) quotes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's statement that "the California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of Southern California." Jewell also said "valid existing" uses of the affected lands will continue, including those of the US military. [Reuters](#) (2/12, Bernstein) reported similarly, and its report was also carried by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 822K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 6.31M).

[Greenwire](#) (2/12, Jacobs, Subscription Publication) explained the monument designation "shields the land from any new mining and other industrial activities, including solar and wind farms." Jewell reportedly "applauded the designations in San Bernardino and Riverside counties." Jewell said in a statement, "Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/15) carries the press release from the Interior Department. Additional coverage was provided by [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/12, Sklar), [Tech Times](#) (2/14, Pascual, 173K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/12, Milman, 3.71M).

Western Lawmakers Concerned By "Federal Overreach" In Obama's National Monument Strategy. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/13, Jonsson, 442K) discussed how President Obama's Friday decision to establish three new national monuments, the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains, in California "smacks of federal overreach" to critics. The article said "the reaction to Obama's use of executive powers to protect these natural resources highlights the shifts in thinking around public lands and the impact of federal policy on Americans who live and work in the West."

JEWELL DISCUSSES NATIONAL MONUMENTS AT ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE EVENT. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (2/15, Connelly, 663K) reports that US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was "honored Saturday night by the Alaska Wilderness League" following the creation of three new national monuments, but that the group proceeded to pitch "designation of a new national monument on land in Alaska's Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge that is coveted by Big Oil." Jewell "joked" in responding, "Everybody is coming to me with their wish list." Jewell added, "The fact is you do not see the land of man," but also said "There's a lot of oil under there." The article describes how in recent months, Jewell "has lately been at work on everything from monuments to the role of indigenous people in protecting lands, to a global anti-poaching initiative which has taken her to Africa and Southeast Asia." At the event Jewell said of Obama, "He does not have the outdoor affinity that I do except for Hawaii. He is a creature of the beach."

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The AP (2/15, Barakat) reports that on Monday the NPS announced philanthropist billionaire David Rubenstein donated \$18.5 million to refurbish the Lincoln Memorial and other icons, with the money slated to "be used to fix the memorial's roof, clean Lincoln's statue, repair marble panels and improve accessibility by adding a second elevator." The NPS "also plans to create 15,000 square feet of visitor space in the cavernous space below the memorial for education." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said the memorial is "pretty stout, and...has held up quite well for a structure of its age," but added, "you can't build a 100-year roof." The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Barakat, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, Barakat, 8.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/15, Barakat, 442K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/15, Barakat, 1.99M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Services, 2.17M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, Barakat, 822K), also carry this story.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Ruane, 8.98M) says the planned repairs will likely be "the biggest overhaul of the building since the structure was dedicated in 1922," according to officials. Rubenstein said in an interview last week, "the idea was to take the basic Lincoln Memorial and reshape it a bit, make it more modern, scrub it up a bit," and to add an education center about Lincoln. National Mall and Memorial Parks superintendent Gay Vietzke said the memorial "has become symbolic of so much more." Jarvis said last week, "When we build the new exhibit and visitor-use space, it will...give the public an opportunity to actually see underneath the memorial," adding that he "feel[s] great" about the renovations.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/15, Merda, 764K) quotes US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell's statement: "His act of 'patriotic philanthropy' will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials for future generations, but will also help preserve Lincoln's legacy to this country." UPI (2/15, Ware) further quotes Jewell as saying, "This generous donation by David Rubenstein, his fourth to benefit national parks, comes at a perfect time as our national parks usher in a new century of service to this nation."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Mcdermott, 285K) cites Rubenstein saying his donation aims to "help people better understand Lincoln's leadership during a trying time." The article adds that the NPS "is expected to spend about \$6 million of its own money" toward the project, and paraphrases Jewell as saying the NPS "is in desperate need of donation." Jewell said "From my office I've watched the roof of the Jefferson Memorial get browner and browner."

[Reuters](#) (2/16) reports similarly, and is also carried by [Yahoo! News](#) (2/16, 6.31M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, 822K), and the website of [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M). [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/18, 255K) and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/15, 1.25M) provide photographic coverage online. [TIME](#) (2/15, Reilly, 18.01M) also covers this story.

IN FASTEST-EVER SPECIES RECOVERY, FWS RECOMMENDS DELISTING CALIFORNIA FOXES. The AP (2/12) reported in its "The Latest" brief that on Friday the FWS said "years of work to monitor" the population of three island fox subspecies native to California's Channel Islands, to vaccinate them against diseases and to "relocate non-native predators have resulted in the historic recovery" of the subspecies that "were once on the brink of extinction." The FWS also recommended foxes on Santa Catalina Island "be reclassified from endangered to threatened, saying the potential for disease outbreak is a remaining threat" to that subspecies. The FWS "says it's the fastest successful recovery of any mammal listed" under the ESA. This report was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

In lengthier coverage, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Sahagun, 4.1M) said a "remarkably successful recovery effort" by the FWS led to the delisting recommendation for subspecies. The Times explained the population of Santa Catalina Island foxes "crashed to roughly 100 in 1999 because of a canine distemper epidemic." The San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Island foxes "were classified as endangered in 2004 after suffering catastrophic declines primarily because of predation by Golden eagles." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The speed at which these subspecies have recovered points to the strength of the endangered species act in focusing conservation attention and catalyzing recovery actions, and demonstrates what we can achieve together."

[National Parks Traveler](#) (2/14, 989) paraphrased the FWS press release as stating the “best available scientific data now suggests that populations of these island fox subspecies have recovered to self-sustaining levels.” Ashe is further quoted as saying, “The remarkable recovery efforts of land managers and conservation partners over the past two decades on behalf of the Channel Island fox is the reason for this historic recovery success.” Ashe added, “We look forward to continuing our collaborations with land managers and conservation partners on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Catalina Islands. ... Together, we will continue to monitor island fox populations to ensure their long-term survival in the wild.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (2/12, Hiar, Subscription Publication, 705) added that “the only species that have recovered faster or as fast as Eggert’s sunflowers, with an eight-year recovery, and Lake Erie water snakes, which took 12 years.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Noozhawk](#) (2/15, Potthoff, 210), [Nature World News](#) (2/14) and [Solo News \(ITA\)](#) (2/15).

THREATENED BAT SPECIES UNLIKELY TO DISRUPT CASINO CONSTRUCTION IN INDIANA. The [AP](#) (2/14) reported “a less restrictive rule taking effect this month” will allow the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians to construct an 18-story casino in South Bend, IN despite a rule proposed by the FWS in April that would’ve prohibited development on potential northern long-eared bat habitat. The threatened species now only receives protection “on sites known to contain roosting trees.” The AP paraphrased FWS field supervisor Scott Pruitt’s statement to the [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (2/5, Parrott, 184K) that “the database for Indiana contains no records of roosting trees on the 165-acre site in South Bend where the tribe wants to build its development.”

The AP story is also carried by the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/14, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, 1.99M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, 285K).

Groups To Sue FWS Over Possible Bat Habitat Destruction. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Skibell, Subscription Publication) reported four environmental groups said on Friday they plan to sue the FWS for permitting “logging and habitat destruction” for the northern long-eared bats. Despite disease causing the bat’s decline, the groups claimed “habitat loss is also a contributing factor...because the animals require large, uninterrupted swaths of forest for foraging, migrating and roosting.” The FWS’ new rule would allow “logging, coal mining, pesticide use, oil and gas projects, and pipeline construction in the areas where the bats live.”

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PERMITTED TO INTERVENE IN SAGE GROUSE LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/14, Sonner) reported that late last month US District Judge Miranda Du permitted three national conservation groups to intervene in Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter’s (R) lawsuit against the Obama Administration that contends “land use planning amendments impose unnecessary restrictions on activities in or near grouse habitat.” Neither the Governor nor the Administration objected to the intervention, but other parties opposed the introduction of new elements “in an already complicated case expected to drag well into the summer in Reno.” Du decided the conservation groups should be allowed to intervene “because of their more narrowed focus (on) environmental protections in contrast to the agencies’ broader land management interests.”

This story was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, Sonner, 1.99M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/14, 881K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, Sonner, 285K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/15, 22K), [Montana Kaimin](#) (2/15, 11K), and on the website of [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\) Las Vegas](#) (2/15, 27K).

IMAX FILM “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” RECEIVES POSITIVE REVIEWS. The [AP](#) (2/14, Harpaz) continued coverage of the new IMAX movie, “National Parks Adventure,” which debuted Friday, celebrating “the beauty and thrills of America’s parks.” The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (2/13, 94K) and the [Paducah \(KY\) Sun](#) (2/13, 61K) also carried the AP story. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication) quoted MacGillivray Freeman Films Director Greg MacGillivray as praising the 3-D movie medium, saying, “When something spectacular happens in an Imax film, audiences remember it like it’s a firsthand experience.” The movie “follows three adventurers led by elite climber Conrad Anker through some of the country’s most famous landscapes.” MacGillivray said the film “fills you with a reverence for what nature can do.”

[Skift](#) (2/14) said the movie, narrated by Robert Redford, stars “geysers, red rock canyons, mountaintops and redwood forests.” According to Skift, “the emphasis on adventure and not just beauty and history is a way of furthering the National Park Service’s efforts to attract millennials.” The article quoted NPS Director Jon Jarvis’ statement that the service aims to “connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, King, 4.1M) highlighted the “eye-popping footage” in its review of the movie. MacGillivray expressed gratitude for the production team’s “incredible access to the parks,” saying “the people in Washington, D.C., were able to help us a lot as far as navigating and working with each park to get the best

possible shots.”

In its review of the film, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/15, Granfield, 803K) calls the soundtrack “superb,” as it “adds to the upbeat momentum of rushing waterfalls, towering canyons and other sweeping scenes.” The Herald also praises the NPS’ use of the IMAX medium. However, in assessing content the Herald concludes, “Though the film highlights threats that happened before the National Park’s formation, such as the near extinction of redwoods for lumber, it falls short of engaging the audience with ongoing threats and controversial practices within and around the parks.” NPS Ranger Gary Bremen said, “The centennial is a great opportunity for people to get out and experience the beauty of national parks. ... No matter what your interest is, there’ll be something for you.”

Additional coverage is provided by the website of [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/14, 165K) and the [Uniontown \(PA\) Herald-Standard](#) (2/15, 44K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE TO OFFER NPS ARTIFACTS IN ONLINE MUSEUM. [Indian Republic](#) (2/15, Nehru) reports Secretary Jewell “was in Tuskegee Thursday to make a big announcement involving a public-private partnership with Google.” The Google Cultural Institute will be putting many artifacts from the National Park Service in its online museum.

BIA, FBI INVESTIGATING STABBING DEATH ON UTE MOUNTAIN UTE RESERVATION. The [Denver Post](#) (2/16, 881K) reports on the investigation into the stabbing death of Keisha Meya Colorow at the Ute Mountain Ute reservation on Monday. The US Attorney’s spokesman Jeff Dorschner said that “no arrests have been made,” but that both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and FBI “are investigating.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT URGED TO SUPPORT TWIN TUNNELS. Derrick Seaver of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and Josué García of the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council write in an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (2/15, Seaver, García, 648K) that the Santa Clara Valley Water District should support the California Water Fix. “It is absolutely vital to ensure reliable, secure water for our region and to protect the health of the failing Delta.” They note that Bay Area water districts supply “Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Oracle, AT&T, and many biotech and medical research firms.”

BUDGET WOULD BOOST FUNDS FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION, IMPOSE FEE ON HARDROCK MINING. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/12, Graham, 31K) reports the Administration’s budget “would invest hundreds of millions of dollars in environmental causes to the benefit of Colorado and other Western states.” That includes funding for “land and water conservation...water sustainability efforts and...fees on hardrock mining.” It would spend \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It would also impose a fee on hardrock mining, the revenue to be used for “remediating abandoned mine sites.” It would also include “\$98.6 million for WaterSMART programs, with \$61.5 million for water sustainability efforts through (the Bureau of) Reclamation.”

JUDGE REJECTS EFFORT TO FORCE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO RELEASE WATER TO IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/15, Jenkins, 113K) reports U.S. District Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson ruled against the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association in its effort to secure “water to irrigate 14,000 acres in Eastern Washington.” The group sued “to push the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation toward providing” the water, but Judge Peterson “said she wasn’t going to second-guess” the agency.

SUIT SEEKS CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT OF DESCHUTES RIVER. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/15, 98K) reports on management of the Deschutes River as the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon are seeking a preliminary injunction to force “the Bureau of Reclamation and five irrigation districts in Central Oregon [to] manage the river’s water differently.” The groups are seeking to change water management in order to ensure water for “the Oregon spotted frog and other river animals.” The Deschutes Basin Board of Control objects that any change ordered by the court may result in “abrupt and severe restrictions” on water usage. The frog is listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

COMPROMISE SOUGHT ON WATER USAGE AROUND QUIVIRA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The

AP (2/12) reports on the effort to come to an agreement on "competing water needs of south-central Kansas irrigators" and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, "which has senior rights to water that has long been used by hundreds of surrounding irrigators with junior rights." The US Fish and Wildlife Service has requested Kansas "to address the issue, but the state has so far refused." A report last year from the Kansas Division of Water Resources found that "the refuge had been denied more than 3,000 acre-feet in 18 of the 34 years reviewed," and that "a solution would likely include 'long term cuts in groundwater pumping.'" Refuge manager Mike Oldham said the refuge needs water "to maintain the 7,000 acres of internationally recognized wetlands." The various authorities and interests are "working to devise a compromise."

FLORIDA RELEASING WATER FROM OKEECHOBEE TO EVERGLADES. [USA Today](#) (2/15, Gillis, 5.56M) reports that Florida is "releasing water from Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park" to reduce flooding. The release is attributed to Gov. Rick Scott's insistence, and "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District and others agreed to speed up a project aimed at restoring historic flows." In addition, affected area landowners agreed not to sue, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, facing flooding, also agreed.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FORMER EPA OFFICIAL CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE. Former EPA Assistant Administrator J. Winston Porter, in a letter to the editor of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), takes issues with Fred Krupp's op-ed on methane leaks. While Porter agrees that methane leakage should be reduced, he argues Krupp doesn't credit the progress the industry is already occurring in this area. Porter disagrees with Krupp's call for additional regulation and instead calls for investment in natural-gas production and infrastructure.

Methane Leaks Said To Undermine Clean Power Plan Targets. Elena Krieger at PSE Healthy Energy and Zeke Hausfather at UC Berkeley write for [The Hill](#) (2/16, Krieger, Hausfather, 862K) that "according to a study by PSE Healthy Energy released in January, methane leakage from natural gas wells and pipelines could severely undermine the climate objectives of the Clean Power Plan." As a result of methane's "outsized impact on near-term climate change," the "real climate benefit of natural gas is much lower than the EPA suggests," they write. If methane leaks are not addressed, they could "severely undermine the EPA's aim to slash greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, especially if states shift from coal to natural gas, rather than to renewable energy."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/15, 290K), the [Oklahoman](#) (2/15, Moss, 421K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K), a separate article in the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/13, Graham, 31K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/15, Romeo, 4K), and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (2/15, 67K).

CLEAN POWER PLAN IN LIMBO WITH JUSTICE SCALIA'S DEATH. [NPR](#) (2/14, Elving, 1.81M) reports that following the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, "any case in which his vote would have been decisive will be left in stalemate, and the last ruling by a lower court will remain in force." President Obama has vowed to submit a nominee to replace Justice Scalia, but key Senate Republicans have said that a nominee should be chosen by the next president. NPR says, "Scalia's vote to freeze enforcement of President Obama's orders reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, announced on Feb. 9, will stand because that 5-4 order had already been issued." However, a "short-handed court in the months ahead could elevate the importance of the decision on that issue by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is expected to rule before summer."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/14, Redden, 3.71M) says that such a scenario would favor the Administration as "the DC panel is made up of mostly Democratic appointees, and is likely to dismiss the states' argument that the clean power plan is illegal and represents federal government overreach." Were that to occur, the Supreme Court "would still have to overturn its stay – which would be problematic if Scalia's seat remains empty." The stay has left the EPA "unable to enforce any part of the bill until the litigation is over – marking a significant victory for opponents of regulation to restrict greenhouse gas emissions."

In a column for [The Atlantic](#) (2/14, 2.95M), Robinson Meyer speculates that "the opening of a new slot on the

Supreme Court makes the Clean Power Plan's survival much likelier – if a Democrat wins the White House in November," while "the Plan might also enter force if a Court with a vacant seat hears its case."

Wisconsin Gov. Walker Orders Agencies Not To Prepare For Clean Power Plan. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/15, 743K) reports that citing last week's decision by the US Supreme Court to stay the Clean Power Plan, "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Monday ordered state agencies not to do any work to prepare for federal climate change regulations." Walker in a statement said, "The stay granted last week by the Supreme Court validates our concerns about this rule. The Executive Order we issued today protects our taxpayers from an unnecessary cost of up to \$13 billion as we continue to act in the best interests of Wisconsin citizens."

McCarthy: Court Stay Slows But Does Not Stop Carbon Cutting. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that despite a Supreme Court ruling putting the Clean Power Plan on hold, state officials "signaled interest" in continuing planning for power-sector carbon reductions when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy spoke before the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), National Association of State Energy Officials and National Association of Clean Air Agencies. McCarthy said EPA "remains fully confident in the legal merits of this rule," adding, "One decision to stay doesn't mean that the CPP isn't alive or isn't going to survive."

GEOENGINEERING SEEN AS TOO RISKY TO REDUCE GLOBAL EMISSIONS. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Hirtenstein, 2.92M) reports that Phil Williamson, a scientist at Britain's University of East Anglia, "examined the ecological effect of a number of proposed methods known as geoengineering and concluded in a paper that none would work at a large scale without huge risks for the planet." Williamson said in a phone interview, "We could cool the world in all sorts of weird and wacky ways that seem like they could be technically possible, but whether they will actually work on a large scale is a big question, and what kind of disruptions they would cause is another."

NEVADA COMMISSION UPHOLDS RATE INCREASE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR CUSTOMER. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/15, Whaley, Corey, 479K) reports that on Friday the Nevada Public Utilities Commission voted to keep a Jan 1 2016 phased in rate increase to rooftop-solar customers in effect and rejected proposals to grandfather in existing customers under original net metering rates. The Commission also reduced the credits to solar-users for their excess energy back to the grid. "I think this proposal creates a seamless transition to cost-based rates," Commission Chairman Paul Thomsen said. The Review-Journal says "Gov. Brian Sandoval expressed disappointment at the decision, saying it did not go far enough to protect existing rooftop-solar customers." Hundreds of protesters gathered outside of the Las Vegas PUC offices in support of solar customers.

Additional coverage of this story was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/16) which reports that all three members of Nevada's Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to keep the increased rates.

In its "Ballot Box" blog [The Hill](#) (2/13, Neidig, 862K) reports that on Saturday at a campaign stop in Reno Nevada, Bernie Sanders called on Warren Buffett to hear from Nevada constituents on the solar decision, saying "this is a terrible decision" and "the ruling went exactly the wrong way."

Nevada Public Utilities Union Denies Request To Resume Energy Efficiency Programs. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (2/12, Rothberg, 196K) reports that on Friday, Nevada's Public Utilities Union denied NV Energy's request "to bring back two popular energy efficiency programs in Southern Nevada." One program "lowered the cost of residential LED lights and another helped cover the cost of energy-efficient pool pumps." NV Energy claimed that "it would be able to reinstate the programs under the budget the commission approved in December for the utility's energy efficiency programs." However, "The commission denied NV Energy's argument on the foundation that NV Energy had not met its burden for an appeal before the quasi-judicial panel," and also said that the utility "did not submit any new information to warrant a change."

NEW YORK RANKS FOURTH IN US FOR SOLAR ENERGY JOBS. The [AP](#) (2/15) reports a census by the Solar Foundation "shows New York ranks fourth in the nation in solar technology jobs." The nonprofit group "reports in its 2015 census that 208,859 Americans now work in the solar energy sector, including 8,250 in New York." The Solar Foundation "says it's the third consecutive year that solar jobs nationwide have grown by 20 percent or more."

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWMAKERS PUSH CONGRESS TO CUT EU SODA ASH TAX. [E&E Daily](#) (2/12, Brown, Subscription Publication) reported Wyoming's congressional delegation asserted in a letter, "U.S. trade negotiators shouldn't come home from trans-Atlantic trade negotiations until they've persuaded the European Union to drop its tax on soda ash," as part of a push for "Congress to reduce soda ash royalty rates at home to offset the impacts of what they see as foreign subsidies." The article cited the Interior Department as indicating "Wyoming and California are home to many of the 78 soda ash mining leases on 99,000 acres of public lands, while Oregon's Port of Portland is a major shipping point."

NATIONAL GRID POISED TO SHIFT COSTS TO CUSTOMERS. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/15, Harrington, 1.23M) reports, "National Grid is proposing to shift its \$356,000 annual electricity bill onto its gas customers following LIPA's decision to end its longtime practice of providing electricity to the company for free." [Newsday](#) says, "Most of the free electric service went to support National Grid's operation of the LIPA electric grid, company spokeswoman Wendy Ladd said." However, "That changed in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy, and in 2014 LIPA handed the contract to operate the electric system to PSEG Long Island" and "National Grid was forced to split off the gas and electric parts of its business." Ladd said that National Grid "is now responsible for electric charges for the portion of these facilities supporting the gas business."

NORTH DAKOTA PSC HAD HUNDREDS OF CONSUMER CONTACTS LAST YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/15) reports the Public Service Commission in North Dakota "says it received hundreds of consumer contacts in the last year that included complaints against regulated entities." The commission "says it received a total of 905 consumer contacts in 2015" but the commission "says more than a third of them called for increased crude oil conditioning, which didn't fall under the agency's jurisdiction." The PSC "regulates coal mining, land reclamation, pipelines, electric and gas utilities, grain elevators, telecommunications and auctioneers."

COUNCIL SAYS NORTHWEST'S POWER NEEDS CAN BE MET WITH CONSERVATION. The [AP](#) (2/15, Geranios) reports the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is predicting that "the electricity needs of Northwest states can be met in the next 20 years mostly through conservation efforts, with little need to construct new power plants." The NPCC "recently issued its 20-year plan for meeting the energy needs of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana." In a statement last week Council Chairman Henry Lorenzen said, "By investing in energy efficiency at the levels recommended in the plan, we'll be able to grow without initiating an aggressive program to build new generating resources, and we'll keep Northwest electricity rates low."

CONNECTICUT TO CLOSE LAST COAL-POWERED PLANT. The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (2/11, Hladky, 518K) reports that officials from PSEG have announced they will close down Connecticut's last coal-fired power plant, Bridgeport Harbor Station, by 2021 and replace it with a natural-gas-powered plant to begin operating in 2019. The [Courant](#) reports that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim "praised the announcement as a major step toward reducing pollution and retaining employment within the community."

NYTIMES CRITICIZES MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL. The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, denounces "mountaintop removal" mining for "leaving behind...a grossly disfigured landscape." It cites a report from Duke University researchers on the effects of the practice, and points out that the Interior Department is "working on a stronger Stream Protection Rule." The [Times](#) concludes by quoting Chief Judge Charles Haden II of United States District Court, "No effect on related environmental values is more adverse than obliteration."

FRACKING BECOMES FLASH POINT IN PENNSYLVANIA'S DEMOCRATIC SENATE PRIMARY. The [AP](#) (2/13, Levy) reports that in recent days, a divide over fracking has emerged in the Democratic primary battle to challenge Republican Sen. Pat Toomey in November as "two of the three candidates declared their support for a halt to hydraulic fracturing on both public and private lands." Mayor John Fetterman and former Congressman Joe Sestak "both support a halt to fracking, at least until there is stronger regulation," while a third candidate, Katie McGinty, "a former top-level environmental adviser in Washington and Harrisburg, also supports stronger regulation, but not a broad moratorium." G. Terry Madonna, a pollster at Franklin and Marshall College, "said it's not clear that the stance will help Fetterman or Sestak," but "it is likely to be part of their campaign to highlight where McGinty may not be as liberal and help Sestak and Fetterman even the playing field with a candidate who has considerable support from the party establishment."

Pennsylvania Democrats "Squabbling" Over State's Fracking Future. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reported that Pennsylvania Democrats vying in an April 26 primary are "squabbling" over fracking's future in the state as well as "taking aim at each other over campaign contributions tied to the energy industry." Former White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairwoman Katie McGinty "has called fracking the state's 'secret sauce' for job growth," while former Rep. Joe Sestak "has long supported a

moratorium on drilling the oil-and-gas-rich Marcellus Shale." Meanwhile, Braddock Mayor John Fetterman is "in the middle" and "has endorsed significantly stricter environmental regulations on the process and endorsed taxing natural gas drilling."

The [AP](#) (2/13, Levy) reported that Fetterman and Sestak both support a "halt to fracking" while McGinty supports stronger regulation, "but not a broad moratorium." Fetterman's campaign attacked McGinty on the issue, sending out an online video that accused McGinty of taking campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry, while McGinty's supporters deny the charge.

LENDING LIMIT REVIEW COULD CAUSE SHAKEOUT IN OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCERS. USA

[Today](#) (2/14, Loveless, 5.56M) reports Standard & Poor's Rating Services predicts that 45 speculative-grade US oil and natural gas producers will have their "borrowing bases" drop "by an average 20%-30% when banks take a fresh look" at credit lines in April, "making it difficult for some companies to stay in business." S&P lowered its credit ratings for 25 of the producers; previously the company "lowered credit ratings and outlooks for 13 large, investment-grade producers, including Chevron."

OIL DOWNTURN COULD HIT PIPELINE COMPANIES. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/16, Grattan, 1.99M) reported that US pipeline companies that move and process crude oil are likely to be impacted by an impending wave of oil company bankruptcies. Smaller pipeline companies face the most pressing fallout as their customers can be fewer and riskier. Williams Cos. and Energy Transfer Equity, which are in the process of merging, recently saw their stocks take a hit on rumors that major Williams' customer Chesapeake Energy was considering bankruptcy.

Jakab: Investors Should Cautious On MLPs. In his "Heard on the Street" column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Spencer Jakab wrote that while the energy MLP sector appears to offer good performance, he advises investors to be cautious. Jakab says that MLP's customers are struggling, with some filing for bankruptcy, and long-term contracts between MLPs and producers could be thrown out, meaning uncertain cashflow and spooked investors.

SPECULATORS BETTING ON OIL PRICE REBOUND. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Shenk, 2.92M) reports speculators are betting oil prices will rebound, with long positions in West Texas Intermediate crude up "to the highest since June as oil sank toward a 12-year low, according to U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data." Bloomberg notes Chevron Corp and other companies "have said they will reduce outlays to maintain cash." Meanwhile, Phil Flynn, senior market analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago, said, "There's a growing realization after all the announcements of cuts in capital expenditures that we're going to see a drop in production."

Offshore Energy Development:

FIRST STUDY OF OFFSHORE HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IS UNDERWAY. The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (2/13, Mazza, 301K) reports on "the first federal study of offshore hydraulic fracturing," due to a suit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The suit alleged that "the environmental and human health dangers that could arise from fracking" had not been sufficiently studied as required by the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

SCIENTISTS EXAMINE WAYS TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/15, Hampton, 312K) reports on research into "harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C.," which may offer "more potential than offshore wind." That's because the ocean current offers energy that is "about 800 times more dense" than wind. The Gulf Stream current is "about 60 miles wide and 3,000 feet deep in places," moving more water "than all the world's rivers put together."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF KEEP IT IN THE GROUND ACT. In continuing coverage, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (2/13, Lochhead, 3.37M) reported on the Keep It in the Ground Act, which seeks "to halt new fossil fuel development on all federally controlled public lands, which is where most of the nation's coal, oil and natural gas is found." Besides blocking "leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands on public land," there would be a moratorium on new leases for offshore drilling and leases not producing fuel would be ended. Furthermore offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Atlantic seaboard would be banned. This is "an aggressive escalation by the Democratic left on the issue." The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (2/12, Halstead, 251K) and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/13, Pfister, 131K) also covered this story.

SHELL COMPLETES BG TAKEOVER, BECOMING WORLD'S TOP LNG COMPANY. [Reuters](#) (2/15, Bousso) reports that Royal Dutch Shell's \$53 billion takeover of BG Group became effective Monday, creating the world's top liquefied natural gas company. Said Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, "We will now be able to shape a simpler, leaner, more competitive company, focusing on our core expertise in deep water and LNG." The deal will define van Beurden's legacy, reports Reuters, as he seeks to transform the company. According to Shell's statement, BG shareholders opted largely for shares as opposed to cash in the deal. BG will now be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell headed by Huibert Vigeveno.

[USA Today](#) (2/15, Bomey, 5.56M) added that after completing the acquisition, Shell is now the world's second largest energy company behind Exxon Mobil. "This is an important moment for Shell," van Beurden said. "It significantly boosts our reserves and production and will bring a large injection to our cash flow." [KPRC-TV Houston](#) (2/15, 5:07 p.m. CST, 87K) broadcast that "with the improvement, Shell is expecting to improve their revenue by \$3.5 billion," while [International Business Times](#) (2/15, McHugh, 693K) reported that "the transition will be a difficult one, according to industry experts, because of an ongoing oil glut."

Merger To Boost Shell's Position In Brazil. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Valle, 2.92M) reported that following the merger, Shell "has made Brazil one of its top three countries" and "sees the South American nation's deep-water fields remaining competitive for years to come." [Reuters](#) (2/16, Blount, Nogueira) reports separately that speaking in Brazil, van Beurden said, "We believe in the strong fundamentals of Brazil and the fundamentals of its geology. ... We will be looking at a substantial part of our production from Brazil." According to van Beurden, Shell is hoping to quadruple oil and gas output in Brazil by 2020. Brazil will be key for Shell as the company focuses on LNG and deepwater oil production, thanks in part to BG's portfolio of Brazilian assets and Shell's 2013 purchase of 20% of the Libra offshore project.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Connors, Kent, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reported that by speaking from Brazil, van Beurden highlighted the importance of Brazil's oil and gas market. While the acquisition makes Shell the largest foreign oil company in Brazil, Brazil's political climate and the scandal surrounding Petr leo Brasileiro SA will create challenges. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/15, 1.99M) reported in a brief that van Beurden said Monday that Brazil "will remain a key destination country for us for investment dollars for at least another decade."

[Reuters](#) (2/15, Schaps) reported in a third article that van Beurden said on Monday that oil price volatility could stabilize later in 2016, with prices possibly rebounding after that, with the [Financial Times](#) (2/15, Leahy, Adams, Subscription Publication, 1.36M) adding that van Beurden predicts prices will rebound to levels in 2016 that will allow production in Brazil's pre-salt deepwater fields to break even. [Equilibrio Informativo \(VEN\)](#) (2/15, Ojeda) likewise reported that while van Beurden "said there are 'a lot of challenges' in Brazil, he expects oil prices to 're-balance' this year and for the region to remain competitive."

Shell CEO: Merger "Creates A Company Of Extraordinary Strengths." [The Times \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Van Beurden, Subscription Publication, 3K) carried an op-ed by Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, who wrote that the "joining together of Shell and BG creates a company of extraordinary strengths – a combination greater than the sum of our parts." Over time, van Beurden "expect[s] the fundamentals of energy supply and demand to reassert themselves and the strategic and economic benefits of the deal to fully deliver for shareholders." He praises assets Shell is inheriting in the North Sea, Brazil, Australia, the Caribbean and Asia, and names "other clear benefits" including "BG's strong position in trading and shipping, which will bolster Shell's capabilities, volumes and relationships in these core areas for the future development of the global gas market." Mr. van Beurden concludes that with the merger, "we have truly changed course and are going full speed ahead."

Analysts: Following Merger, Shell Will Struggle To Spin-Off Assets At Prices It Expected. The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (2/13, Ambrose, 898K) reported that as Shell completes its takeover of BG Group, the company faces "a fresh battle to dispose of \$30bn of assets in the next three years" as low oil prices continue to weigh on the market. Analysts "say Shell will struggle to spin-off assets at the price it once expected to" as low oil prices cut value across the energy sector. Once a "key prize of the merger," BG Group's deepwater Brazilian gasfields "now raise investor concerns after allegations of corruption against project partner Petrobras emerged last year."

Additional Coverage. The story is also covered by the [Express and Star \(UK\)](#) (2/15), the [Norfolk \(UK\) Eastern Daily Press](#) (2/15, Woods, 218), and the trade publications of [Offshore Energy Today](#) (2/15), [Offshore Post](#) (2/15), [Offshore Technology](#) (2/15), [Argus Media](#) (2/15), [LNG World News](#) (2/15), [Maritime Executive](#) (2/15, 21), [Energy Voice \(UK\)](#) (2/15), [Natural Gas Europe](#) (2/15) and [LNG Industry \(UK\)](#) (2/15).

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR ASKS OBAMA TO HALT ATTEMPT TO REPEAL OFFSHORE REVENUE-

SHARING. The [AP](#) (2/12) reported that Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards has asked President Obama to drop an attempt in his 2017 budget proposal to repeal a 2006 budget provision establishing a revenue-sharing formula for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Edwards in a Friday letter to Obama "said the budget proposal would strip Louisiana of the only consistent source of federal funds the state has for coastal restoration projects."

TEXAS-BASED PARAGON OFFSHORE DRILLING COMPANY FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Houston-based oil drilling company Paragon Offshore filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Sunday, becoming roughly the 60th company in the sector to file for bankruptcy in the last 16 months. Paragon completed a prepackaged bankruptcy agreement last week that cut its \$2.7 billion of debt "by about \$1.1 billion" so it can keep operating. The Times says the swift drop in oil prices could lead "to a series of drawn-out and messy bankruptcies," and analysts say as much as a third of the US oil and gas industry "could be consolidated as a result of the downturn."

[USA Today](#) (2/15, Bomey, 5.56M) reported that the bankruptcy "reflects what analysts say is the latest in a string of energy bankruptcies," with drillers "particularly susceptible as oil companies cut back considerably on production" with a worldwide oversupply. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/14, Brickley, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reported that the low oil prices are taking their toll as companies compete for increasingly scarce business, with Paragon's big customers Petróleos Mexicanos and Petróleo Brasileiro SA both moving to cut back contracts.

LITTLE OPTIMISM FOR INDUSTRY AT INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM WEEK CONFERENCE.

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/12, Hoffman, Smith, Blas, Rascoet, 2.92M) reports that attendees at last week's International Petroleum Week conference had seemed to repeat the same underlying message: "There are few reasons for optimism. The world is awash with oil. The market is overwhelmingly bearish." Bloomberg says, "Prices will stay low for up to a decade as Chinese economic growth slows and the U.S. shale industry acts as a cap on any rally, according to Ian Taylor, chief executive officer of Vitol Group." Jeff Currie, head of commodities research at Goldman Sachs, echoed that sentiment, saying, "I wouldn't be surprised if this market goes into the teens." Land-based oil storage is running out, "and the contango is getting so steep that it's becoming profitable to hire supertankers, fill them with crude and anchor them offshore."

TRUMP DISCUSSES OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/16, Smith, 803K) reported on comments by Donald Trump on Cuba, oil drilling and opposing candidate Marco Rubio. When asked about current Congressional proposals that would expand offshore drilling and allow it closer to Florida's coast, Trump said, "They've already got plenty in the Gulf. ... It would be a little bit of a shame [to expand drilling closer to Florida], because there's so much fracking and there's so much oil that we have now that we never thought possible. That's an issue I'd absolutely study and do the right thing."

Despite Price Rally, Oil Demand Set To Decline With Winter's End. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Smith, 2.92M) reported "one reason to withhold faith in oil's recovery" is that despite oil prices' recent rally, once winter ends fuel demand will decline until summer. David Hufton with PVM Group said, "Given the seasonality of oil demand, traditionally there is a supply surplus in the first half of the year," with unconsumed oil now "coming on top of the mountain of oil that built up in 2014 and 2015."

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

FBI ENDED OCCUPATION AT WILDLIFE REFUGE PEACEFULLY WITH HELP. In a 2,250-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sullivan, Berman, 8.98M) chronicled the final days of the occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. The Post described the "key" roles Nevada Assemblywoman Michele Fiore and the Rev. Franklin Graham played in convincing the four holdouts "to surrender" peacefully. In another article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sullivan, Berman, 8.98M) reported that Graham and Fiore – "a celebrity among anti-government activists" – kept the occupiers calm by assuring them that the FBI would allow them to meet Graham and Fiore after they turned themselves in.

WPost: FBI Deserves Credit For Approach To Oregon Occupation. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 8.98M) gave "credit to federal law enforcement authorities" for negotiating a "peaceful denouement" to the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The Post praised the FBI for having "showed

restraint in sitting out the armed activists" and for refusing to "waver on the need to bring to account those who so willfully and flagrantly broke the law." According to the Post, the FBI "clearly had learned lessons from the bloody sieges" of the 1990s and its "patient approach in letting the Oregon siege play out and burn out proved far more effective than a SWAT team assault."

FBI: No Booby Traps Found At Wildlife Refuge. The AP (2/12, Boone, Dubois) reported that the FBI said Friday that investigators had not found any booby traps or rigged explosives at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. FBI Portland Assistant Special Agent in Charge Larry Karl said agents were concluding their safety sweep of the refuge and were hoping to begin processing evidence soon. According to Karl, some hazardous materials were stored at the refuge prior to the takeover, and the FBI had information that the armed occupiers may have brought additional materials with them. Karl, the AP (2/13, Boone) reported, said that collecting evidence from the wildlife refuge could take several weeks. "Then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be tasked with cleaning up the site, including garbage or debris left by the people who occupied the refuge during the standoff," the AP added.

Oregon Authorities Look To Feds, Occupiers To Cover Occupation Costs. Reuters (2/16, Urquhart) reports that Oregon officials have indicated that they hope to have the federal government – and the militants themselves – pay the bulk of the expenses caused by the wildlife refuge occupation. Oregon Governor Kate Brown is seeking up to \$1 million from state lawmakers to offset the costs to cities and towns. She will seek to reimburse the state from federal funds. Harney County judge and county commissioner Steven Grasty said the county plans to seek reimbursement directly from the armed occupiers, and is prepared to take them to court. Federal prosecutors, a source said, are looking into whether the US will join the county in pursuing reimbursement from the occupiers. Though the exact cost of the occupation is unknown, it is estimated in the millions of dollars, Reuters says. The New York Times (2/13, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) also reports Reuters' coverage on its website.

Twenty-Three Charged So Far In Occupation. The Guardian (UK) (2/15, Levin, 3.71M) reports that 23 people allegedly involved with the occupation all face a single federal charge of conspiring to impede federal officials via "force, intimidation and threats." The suspects "hail from 10 states across the US and have a wide range of prior involvement in conservative activism and criminal activity," The Guardian said. Despite the long list of individuals charged, the newspaper says, some observers have noted that many involved with the occupation have so far, avoided arrest and prosecution. "Notably, many of the most high-profile women of the militia...are...not listed in the charges," the Guardian says.

Experts: Cliven Bundy Case Is Complex. The AP (2/15, Ritter) reports that according to experts the case against Cliven Bundy in the 2014 armed standoff with federal authorities in Nevada will be a complex one. Bundy was arrested Wednesday and charged with "conspiracy, assault on a federal officer, obstruction, weapon use and possession, extortion to interfere with commerce, and aiding and abetting" in the 2014 case, the AP says. "They've probably been working up to this by talking to a lot of people who showed up as followers, and making deals and trying to get cooperating witnesses," said former US Attorney Richard Pocker said. "It's really hard to get folks in these movements to cooperate with a grand jury."

The Los Angeles Times (2/12, Pearce, 4.1M), the Washington Post (2/12, 8.98M), and the Oregonian (2/15, Brosseau, 864K) also report on the aftermath of the Oregon occupation.

BLM PROPOSES RULE TO UPDATE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS. The Oil and Gas Journal (2/15, Snow, 1K) reports BLM has "proposed a rule aimed at improving its resource management process" as part of its Planning 2.0 initiative. The proposal "will make changes to regulations that are guided by the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act" including the creation of "several new opportunities for early public involvement during the planning process" and requiring the "development of a planning assessment before work could begin on putting together a land use plan."

Politico Pro (2/12) quoted BLM's announcement that the reforms support the agency's "shift to science-based, landscape-scale approaches to resource management while increasing opportunities for early engagement by state and local government, tribes, partner agencies, stakeholders, and the public." Politico explained the plans entail the overhaul of Resource Management Plans, which are "the systems that the Interior Department unit uses to coordinate collective priorities for public lands, from fossil-fuel development to recreation to wildlife protection."

TEXAS CITIES ASK BLM TO HALT PLANS FOR GAS DRILLING LEASES BELOW LEWISVILLE LAKE. The AP (2/13) reported that some North Texas cities as well as environmental groups have asked the Bureau of

Land Management to halt plans to allow gas drilling below Lewisville Lake, where as many as 259 acres are up for auction for leases. The lake is "a drinking water source for millions and has a dam cited by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as being in hazardous condition," and "nearby residents fear possible drinking water contamination and earthquakes that could further threaten stability." This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/13, 285K) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/13).

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/12, Mosier, 1.24M) added that Dallas and Highland Village are among those opposing the drilling. Additional coverage is provided by [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (2/15, 28K), the [Cross Timbers \(TX\) Gazette](#) (2/15, Pry, 429) and on the website of [WFAA-TV Dallas](#) (2/15, 367K).

BLM, UTAH AGENCY SETTLE SUIT OVER WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT. [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/15, O'Donoghue, 404K) reports on its website that a lawsuit against BLM brought by the Utah Schools and Institutional Trust Lands Administration "alleging mismanagement of wild horse and burro populations on school trust lands in Utah was dismissed after the parties reached a cooperative agreement this month." The agreement calls for "identification of priority removal areas, population surveys and enhanced monitoring of rangeland conditions." The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Maffly, 388K) reports that "in a news release announcing the settlement last week, BLM vowed to do the things the agency...has long claimed it already does, namely collaborate with local stakeholders and protect resources."

BLM TO HOLD FARMINGTON, NM PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED RULE CHANGE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/14, Fenton, 44K) reports that BLM will hold a public forum at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico on Tuesday "to hear comment on the agency's proposed rule on oil and gas industry venting and flaring." The proposed rule "targets the escape of methane gas from venting and flaring, processes used in oil and gas production, and from gas leaks during drilling operations and from well sites. The proposed update to a current rule is designed to cut in half the industry's methane emissions from operations on federal land."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE FEATURE ON DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK CITES BLM. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/15, Williams, 2.17M) has a feature on Death Valley National Park, writing that "it is astonishing that the land in Death Valley remains as pristine as it is, with its history of mining. In 1994, Congress expanded the area's protection beyond its status as a national monument to that of a national park." The Tribune piece highlights "the Trona Pinnacles, jagged peaks formed underwater up to 100,000 years ago in the now dry Searles Lake, according to the Bureau of Land Management."

LAND PARCELS IN SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST TO BE UP FOR LEASE IN BLM SALE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports, "The first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management's quarterly oil and gas lease sale." Four parcels in the forest are among six that will be up for competitive bid on May 12.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DOMINION PROPOSES NEW ACP ROUTE. The [AP](#) (2/12, Szkotak) reported that Dominion proposed a new route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) in response to a previous permit rejection from the US Forest Service, which "cited a 1994 conservation agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service aimed at shielding the salamander from actions that would place it under the Endangered Species Act." The new proposal would have a 30 percent smaller footprint in the Monongahela and George Washington national forests, but adds 30 miles to the project, involving an additional 249 landowners.

This story was also carried by the [Daily Mail](#) (2/12, 4.92M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, Szkotak), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, Szkotak, 1.99M), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Szkotak, 822K).

Residents Ask County Board To Oppose ACP. The [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/15, Banks, 148K) reports that several residents spoke to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners on Monday, asking them to oppose the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that they believe will devalue their property and bring fracked gas to their community. "I'm pleading with the county commissioners to not approve. We can't afford to fight them, personally, because we don't have the money to fight them," said Fayetteville resident Rodney Simmons. Dominion senior policy advisor Bruce McKay was scheduled to address the Board, but did not attend and "his absence came as a surprise to the commissioners."

Letter: Pipeline Resistance Overdone. In a letter to the editor of the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M),

Woodbridge resident Jeff Hazle rejects the premise of a previous letter from Lewis Freeman of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, arguing that resistance to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline “seems oversold and more consistent with a generalized opposition to hydrocarbons than any genuinely significant risks.” He questions how the project could result in damage to the water supply.

MILITARY BASES RECEIVE \$17.5M IN CONSERVATION GRANTS. The AP (2/12, Bynum) reported that on Friday Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced “\$17.5 million in conservation funding to protect longleaf pine forests used for training troops while assisting the recovery of threatened species.” The awards to bases in Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina were among 84 grants totaling \$720 million. FWS Fort Stewart branch chief Tim Beatty said, “Fortunately the Army is pretty good at starting fires. ... If we have an urban development at the edge of Fort Stewart, it would be awfully tough to continue to do burning the way we do now.” This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, Bynum, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, Bynum, 1.99M).

WHALE BONES FOUND IN LUGGAGE AT BALTIMORE AIRPORT. The AP (2/12) reported that on Friday the US CBP said agents found possible whale bones while inspecting baggage from Iceland at BWI Airport on Feb. 7. The traveler carrying the luggage also “claimed they were whale bones,” but “Customs officials kept the bones to determine their origin.” Border agents said the FWS regulates whale bones. This story was also carried by the [Washington Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (2/12, 712K), and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSES TRANSFERRING BISON RANGE TO SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/15, Devlin, 78K) reports on a “surprise” proposal by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support legislation to transfer the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The proposal would “place the refuge’s 18,766 acres in trust for the tribes, and leave it to them to manage and operate” with no continuing role for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the range would no longer be part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. There are some remaining questions regarding the “costs of managing and maintaining the Bison Range.” [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/15, 48K) reports the tribes “have worked to become more involved with management of the bison range since the 1994 Self Governance Act made that a possibility.”

Missoulian Favors Plan. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/15, 78K) in an editorial says the Fish and Wildlife Service “showed signs it is finally coming to its senses” in making the proposal. The paper says the tribes ought to hold “the bison range in trust for the people of the United States – including its original inhabitants.”

USDA AGENCY SPECIALIZES IN KILLING PREDATORS. Rachael Bale writes in [National Geographic](#) (2/15, Bale, 30.99M) about Wildlife Services, an agency under the US Department of Agriculture that “specializes in killing wild animals that threaten livestock,” though it also provides “bird control nationwide at airports to prevent crashes and feral pig control in the South.” Bale cites an article by Christopher Ketcham in Harper’s Magazine titled “The Rogue Agency: A USDA program that tortures dogs and kills endangered species.” The article describes Ketcham’s indictment of the agency.

National Park Service:

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT VALENTINE’S VIDEO DISTRIBUTED. [EHS Today](#) (2/15, 3K) reports the Interior Department “created a video showcasing couples who committed to one another while celebrating their love of planet Earth.” The agency said, “America’s public lands are wonderful places to love and be in love.” On its website, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/14, 803K) hosted the Interior Department’s video that celebrates the thousands who get engaged and married in national parks ever year.

Spending Valentine’s Day In A National Park Recommended. On its website, [CNN](#) (2/14, 3.96M) summarized ways to spend Valentine’s Day, describing how lovers could “celebrate nature and the centennial of the National Park Service by visiting Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks or one of the nation’s park sites in your state.” CNN wrote that lovers “can be awed by the same beauty and power that inspired President Abraham Lincoln (who protected Yosemite in the middle of the Civil War), Sierra Club founder John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt.”

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON HISTORICAL SITE CONVERSATION BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/12, Kessler, Subscription Publication) reported on testimony before the House Natural Resources subcommittee regarding “four bills aimed at promoting the conservation of historical

sites." A bill "from Rep. Marsha Blackburn, H.R. 87, would modify the boundaries of Shiloh National Military Park in southern Tennessee" to permit the NPS "to preserve more than 21,000 additional acres to include Fallen Timber Battlefield, Russell House Battlefield and Davis Bridge Battlefield." Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA) rebutted an economic argument for the historical preservation of the sites.

INTERIOR, GOOGLE LAUNCH ONLINE EXHIBIT OF PARKS' HISTORY. [National Parks Traveler](#) (2/15, 989) reports the Department of the Interior said it "is partnering with the Google Cultural Institute to photograph and share historically important material with global audiences and digitally preserve them for future generations." The institute's Centennial One Object Exhibit contains "more than 3,800 works of art, artifacts, and records [that] can be viewed as part of an online exhibition just launched to honor the National Park Service's centennial." Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement last week, "This marriage of technology and history means that anyone, anywhere can see artifacts and sites that provide a taste of the rich and diverse story of America," adding, "Our hope is that this partnership will not only illustrate and elevate our nation's history and culture, but inspire more people to visit the wonderfully diverse places that the National Park Service protects and preserves for current and future generations."

NPS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON BISON QUARANTINE PLAN. The [AP](#) (2/15) reports that the National Park Service "has extended the public comment period" two weeks to February 29 on its plan to "quarantine some Yellowstone National Park bison on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana."

YELLOWSTONE BISON CULL CRITICIZED. Christopher Ketcham, a fellow at M.I.T.'s Knight Science Journalism Program, writes in the [New York Times](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) on the bison cull at Yellowstone National Park, which "is done largely outside of public view" in order to protect "the safety of the public and staff" according to the park service, though Ketcham says it is because "the brutality of the cull would be revealed." Ketcham says the cull has been justified by fears that cattle could be infected with brucellosis from the bison, but "not a single instance of transmission has ever been documented." He argues that instead of the cull, the bison should be allowed to roam, like other wild animals and controlled "with seasonal hunting." Ketcham praises Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's proposal to allow the "Yellowstone bison to roam in certain areas beyond the park's boundaries throughout the year," but laments "the park service...helping to slaughter a native animal so iconic that it is emblazoned on the park service's own logo."

DEATH VALLEY PARK RANGER HOPES FOR "SUPER BLOOM" THIS YEAR. The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Starrs, 8.98M) reports on Death Valley, where National Park Service Park Ranger Alan Van Valkenburg said that he hopes there will be a "super bloom" this year. He explains that such events "are quite rare, maybe once a decade or so," the last one having been in 2005. But, he also points out that they "are near-impossible to predict and very short-lived." There is a bloom at present that is "beginning to spread beyond the southeastern part of the park."

PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON YELLOWSTONE ROAD PROPOSAL UNTIL MARCH 15. The [AP](#) (2/14) report the National Park Service is accepting public comments until March 15 on its proposal for a "road repair project on the east side of Yellowstone National Park." The proposal includes reconstructing "a segment of the East Entrance Road from Fishing Bridge to Indian Pond."

MAINE GOVERNOR OPPOSES PROPOSAL FOR NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [AP](#) (2/14) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage opposes the proposal for a new national park in Maine, "especially when there's a \$12 billion backlog of maintenance." The idea comes from "Burt's Bees founder and conservationist Roxanne Quimby [who] proposed donating land east of Baxter State Park for a new national park in 2011." LePage says the idea "defies logic" given the maintenance backlog.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION PRESIDENT URGES SUPPORT FOR CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN. Will Shafroth, President of the National Park Foundation, writes at [Huffington Post](#) (2/15, Shafroth, 518K) on the centennial of the National Park Service. He writes that the "national parks and their future are dependent on vibrant and robust public-private partnerships." That's because "federal appropriations only sustain basic operations," and there are "\$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance projects." That means the parks "rely on other sources of funding," namely, the National Park Foundation. The foundation is conducting "the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign in its history, the Centennial Campaign for America's National Parks" with a goal of \$350 million.

MONTANA EXPECTED TO SEE MORE NATIONAL PARK VISITS THIS YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/14) reports Norma Nickerson, director of the Institution for Tourism and Recreation Research, is projecting "another big year for national park visitation and ski resorts" in Montana, due "to the National Park Service's centennial and an

increase in advertising.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ASKED TO DO MORE TO PROTECT GRAND CANYON

EMPLOYEES. [CBS5 Arizona](#) (2/15) continued coverage in reporting on its website “Arizona’s congressional delegation says the National Park Service must do more to protect Grand Canyon employees who participate on the agency’s river rafting trips.” The article notes that “a report released last month by a federal watchdog found that Park Service workers have preyed on their female colleagues, demanding sex and retaliating against women who refused.” The NPS “banned alcohol on the trips and required pre-trip briefings while the Interior Department’s Office of the Inspector General looked into allegations of sexual harassment,” but “Arizona’s congressional delegation says those reforms are insufficient.”

US Geological Survey:

BUDGET PROPOSES \$8 MILLION FOR “SHAKEALERT” SYSTEM. [McClatchy](#) (2/15, Hotakainen, 22K) reports the President’s budget proposes \$8 million for “an early earthquake warning system,” known as the “ShakeAlert” system, that would include “a network of sensors on the ocean floor” over the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The system is being developed with the assistance of the University of Washington, the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Oregon, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Secretary Jewell has also urged support for the system.

APP TO USE CELLPHONES TO HELP DETECT EARTHQUAKES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Xia, Lin, 4.1M) reports on an app to test an idea to use “cellphones to detect earthquakes as soon as they start.” The app “uses smartphone sensors to detect movement caused by an earthquake,” and sends that data “to a central server.” The app works on the idea that if 300 phones in an area are “sending warnings” that means there is an earthquake. It may also be used to support a system to “provide early warnings before the worst shaking from an earthquake arrives,” which is based on “the U.S. Geological Survey’s ShakeAlert prototype.” The phone app could not be a replacement because the phone sensors are not “as effective as hundreds of sophisticated earthquake sensor stations installed underground,” but it might provide an alternative where there are few or no earthquake sensors.

USGS: OKLAHOMA HIT BY STATE’S THIRD-STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE EVER. [Reuters](#) (2/16) reports that according to the US Geological Survey, Oklahoma this weekend was hit by the third-strongest quake to ever be recorded in the state, a magnitude 5.1 quake that struck at around 11 am Saturday morning. Seismologists say Oklahoma’s frequent earthquakes could be linked to the oil and gas industry’s injection disposal wells. [CBS News](#) (2/16, Villarreal, 3.97M) reports on its website that the quake hit near Fairview, which “is quickly gaining a big reputation for large quakes.”

This story was also covered by the [Daily Mail](#) (2/15, 4.92M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/13, 8.98M), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/15, 3.7M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/13, Miller, Press, 1.99M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/13, 822K), and the website of [ABC News](#) (2/15, 4M).

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE COULD ANNOUNCE HIGH COURT NOMINEE NEXT WEEK. The coming battle over the successor to late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia received 19 minutes of coverage between the three broadcast networks, with CBS and NBC opening with the story. The White House is indicating that President Obama may offer a nominee as soon as next week, but most of the television coverage deals with the difficulty any nominee will have in advancing, and on the role the vacancy will play in the presidential race. Those political considerations are also part of the print and online coverage, but these sources also look at prospective candidates, with Attorney General Lynch and District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sri Srinivasan mentioned as top contenders.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, lead story, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the “quiet memorial” to Scalia outside the Supreme Court is “in sharp contrast to the coming political battle over his successor.” CBS (Crawford) added, “When the justices return to the bench next week, it will be the first time for all eight to serve without Justice Scalia. ... They will have a term of controversial case, regulation of abortion clinics, another challenge to Obamacare, affirmative action and college admissions and presidential power on immigration.” Without Scalia, it will be “a court on pause. Many of those cases will end up in a 4-4 tie, keeping the lower court rulings in place and setting no nationwide precedents.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/15, lead story, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) opened by saying, "In an election year already fraught with improbable plot twists and drama, now this: The ideological balance of the US Supreme Court suddenly in limbo...as lines are drawn for an epic battle between Democrats and Senate Republicans who are determined to leave the choice up to the next president. Tonight, the current president is suggesting Republicans are full of bluster." On [ABC World News](#) (2/15, story 5, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported, "The flag is at half staff today at a snowy and peaceful Supreme Court, but the epic political battle is just beginning. ... Within an hour" of Scalia's death, Senate Majority Leader McConnell "drew the battle lines, declaring, 'This vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.'" Then, President Obama weighed in, paying tribute to Scalia, but making it clear, he's ready to fight to replace him."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House said the President had started discussions with his advisers about selecting a nominee. [USA Today](#) (2/15, Korte, 5.56M) reports deputy press secretary Eric Schultz said a nominee could come "as soon as next week." Schultz said, "As soon as the Senate returns, the President was very clear that he is going to fulfill his constitutional responsibility to nominate a successor to Justice Scalia. ... There are no caveats. The Constitution does not include exemptions for election years, or for the president's last term in office. There's no exemption for when a nomination would tip the balance of the court."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Boyer, 285K) says the Senate "is in the middle of a 10-day recess until Monday, giving Mr. Obama a chance to bypass Congress and install a successor quickly" via recess appointment. But [The Hill](#) (2/15, Balluck, 862K) and the [NPR](#) (2/15, 1.81M) website report that Obama has ruled that out.

In a 2,100-word assessment, Tom Goldstein of [SCOTUSblog](#) (2/15, 2K) writes that Obama "has two priorities. First, fill the Scalia seat by getting a nominee confirmed," and "second, gain as much political benefit as possible and exact as heavy a political toll as possible on Republicans, particularly in the presidential election." Goldstein says a nominee "may in fact receive a vote" in the Senate, and "if Republicans can come up with even a slender substantive thread on which to base an objection to the nominee, they will seize on it and vote the nominee down on the merits." Politically, the best candidate "would probably be Hispanic," but Obama "personally will be very tempted to appoint a black Justice." California Attorney General Kamala Harris would be the best choice, Goldstein writes, but as "the prohibitive favorite" in the California Senate race, she probably does not want it. So Lynch "is a very serious possibility." [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M) and [Mediaite](#) (2/15, Griswold, 277K) also report on Goldstein's assessment.

However, Edward-Isaac Dove of [Politico](#) (2/15, 1.07M) writes that while Lynch is "suddenly lighting up chatter as a potential dark horse," Srinivasan is Obama's "likeliest Supreme Court choice." He would be "a historic first" as an immigrant from India and won unanimous Senate approval to the appeals bench. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 2, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Margaret Brennan said Obama "could choose a candidate who has already won Senate approval," such as Srinivasan, "or he could make a bold choice" like Lynch, "who had to wait more than 160 days before she was confirmed for her current position."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that whomever Obama nominates, the candidate will face a polarized Senate Judiciary Committee. Chairman Charles Grassley, who has said he supports McConnell's plan to block any Obama nominee, would be presiding over his first Supreme Court confirmation hearings. Karen Tumulty of the [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) says the "rancorous debate...reflects in many ways a growing public skepticism toward the US Supreme Court itself, as its image has evolved from impartial arbiter of the laws to yet another politicized institution."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) editorializes, "This one shouldn't be complicated. The fourth year of President Obama's four-year term has just begun. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and all of them have at least 11 months still to serve." Scalia's death "has created a vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court. The Constitution tells the president to nominate justices and senators to confirm or reject those nominees." Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) column that the Senate should "force Obama's nominee to prove that he, or she, is in the mainstream. But unless the Senate wants to return to antebellum divisions, don't deny that nominee consideration."

But the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that it is liberals who have politicized the Court, so it is reasonable that Republicans would prefer to wait for a new president before confirming a nominee. In a second editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Sen. Charles Schumer from a 2007 speech, 18 months before President Bush left office, saying that should a vacancy arise, he would recommend to his colleagues "that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances." The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 3, 2:05,

Pelley, 5.08M) also included Schumer's 2007 remarks in a report.

Four Republican Senators In Tight Races Backing McConnell. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Shear, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that several Republican senators facing tough re-election races this year are now saying they will back McConnell in blocking a nominee. New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, "who faces a primary threat from the right wing of her party, said over the weekend that she supported" McConnell. In addition, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman said Monday, "It is common practice for the Senate to stop acting on lifetime appointments during the last year of a presidential term, and it's been nearly 80 years since any president was permitted to immediately fill a vacancy that arose in a presidential election year." [Politico](#) (2/15, Everett, 1.07M) reports that Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey and Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson are also backing McConnell.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Mufson, Eilperin, 8.98M) writes that "one consideration that may force Republicans to recalibrate their strategy is the prospect of political damage" to some of these incumbents. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/15, Pearson, 2.17M) reports that Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, "perhaps the most vulnerable of Republican senators seeking re-election this year," is "offering no clue on whether he will side with" McConnell.

The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Savage, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "the clash is less a new front against the White House than an escalation of a battle that had begun at the appeals court level." Since Republicans gained the Senate majority 13 months ago, "the process that would enable Mr. Obama to fill vacancies on the 12 regional federal courts of appeal has essentially been halted."

Cruz, Trump Make Issue Of Vacancy. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/15, Kapur, 289K) reports that "within hours" of Scalia's death, Republican presidential candidates "began using the battle to tear each other apart" ahead of Saturday's pivotal South Carolina primary. Sen. Ted Cruz is airing an ad "attacking Republican front-runner Donald Trump as untrustworthy when it comes to picking justices," while Trump is blasting Cruz for supporting the 2005 nomination of John Roberts as chief justice. [Politico](#) (2/15, Glueck, 1.07M) reports that Cruz also criticized Trump for suggesting last year that his sister Maryanne Trump Barry, a federal appeals court judge, would be his pick. Trump said he was joking, but on Monday, Cruz called Barry "a Bill Clinton-appointed federal appellate judge who's a radical pro-abortion extremist."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/15, story 2, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "No matter who it is the President picks, the Republican leader in the Senate and many of the leading GOP candidates say no one should get a vote and the seat should remain empty until the next president nominates a successor. That could leave this battle raging for well over a year." The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "the unexpected vacancy...immediately made the Supreme Court a dominant issue in the presidential campaign. The court, usually cast in the role of deciding issues that elections cannot, now may be the issue that decides the election."

Scalia Left Suggestions On Successor In Passage From 2015 Dissent. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that "we know more than you might think" about what sort of successor Scalia might have preferred. In a "largely overlooked passage in his dissent from the court's decision in June establishing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, he left detailed suggestions," such as finding "someone who did not go to law school at Harvard or Yale," or "a candidate from the Southwest" or an evangelical Christian. He "was criticizing the lack of diversity of the court he sat on, and he did not exclude himself." [ABC World News](#) (2/15, story 6, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 11, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) both broadcast remembrances of Scalia's life and career.

Scalia's Death Sparks Conspiracy Theories. The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Sun, Horwitz, 8.98M) reports on the "conspiracy theories" arising in the wake of Scalia's sudden death, particularly since no autopsy was ordered. The [AP](#) (2/15, Hananel, Warren) reports that Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara, "who decided no autopsy was needed," said she spoke to Scalia's doctor on the day he was found dead and was told that Scalia "had a history of heart trouble, high blood pressure and was considered too weak to undergo surgery for a recent shoulder injury."

Writer Wonders If Obama Could Sue Senate Over Obstruction. Writing at the [Huffington Post](#) (2/15, 518K), television writer Michael Russnow asks, "Why can't Obama sue the Senate?" Last September, "a court determined that the House of Representatives could sue the Executive Branch over funding of the Affordable Care Act." He argues that "a Senate led by an obstructionist" may be overstepping constitutional boundaries.

SURGEON GENERAL SAYS "TRUSTED VOICES" NEED TO GET INVOLVED IN FLINT. The [Detroit Free](#)

[Press](#) (2/15, Allen, 989K) reports Surgeon General Murthy said in Flint, Michigan on Monday night that "most Flint kids exposed to toxic lead in the city's tap water should be OK, but 'trusted voices' need to impart critical nutrition and education." Murthy said, "The problem is, we don't know which kids are going to develop complications going forward. And that's why what we have to do is make sure that we are providing as much support to these kids and their families as possible."

HOUSE FETAL TISSUE INVESTIGATION SUBPOENAS MORE THAN 30 GROUPS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, DeBonis, 8.98M) reports the special House committee formed amid the Planned Parenthood fetal tissue controversy "has begun a broad investigation of the matter, issuing document requests to more than 30 agencies and organizations, including a closely scrutinized abortion clinic and some of the nation's most prominent research institutions." Subpoenas were sent to "StemExpress, a California firm that prepares human specimens for researchers; Southwestern Women's Options, an Albuquerque abortion clinic; and the University of New Mexico, whose Health Sciences Center conducts medical research using fetal tissue." Critics have expressed concern about "the privacy implications of the wide-ranging requests."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "A College Education For Prisoners." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, says "the most effective way to keep people out of prison once they leave is to give them jobs skills," and that "means restarting prison education programs." The Times says that those inmates "who attend privately financed college classes" have much lower recidivism rates, with a Bard College program showing a "recidivism rate of 4 percent" for participants and "2.5 percent" for graduates. The Times urges New York to provide public funding for college education for prison inmates.

"The Chirp Heard Across The Universe." A [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial

"How The Coal Industry Flattened The Mountains Of Appalachia." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, denounces "mountaintop removal" mining for "leaving behind...a grossly disfigured landscape." It cites a report from Duke University researchers on the effects of the practice, and points out that the Interior Department is "working on a stronger Stream Protection Rule." The Times concludes by quoting Chief Judge Charles Haden II of United States District Court, "No effect on related environmental values is more adverse than obliteration."

WASHINGTON POST. "Ukraine Should Heed Its Economy Minister's Warning On Corruption." The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) in an editorial says that Ukraine must "build a strong and prosperous nation" if it is going to remain independent of Russia, but has so far "remained mired in a system in which billionaires gobble up state assets and siphon off the revenue streams." The Post says the problem goes "all the way to the top" of Ukraine's government, and that if Ukraine is to "survive" it must be rid of this system.

"Senators, Do Your Job And Vote On The Next Supreme Court Nominee." The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) editorializes, "This one shouldn't be complicated. The fourth year of President Obama's four-year term has just begun. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and all of them have at least 11 months still to serve." Scalia's death "has created a vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court. The Constitution tells the president to nominate justices and senators to confirm or reject those nominees."

"Gun Safety Advocates Are Wrong To Rebuff Gov. McAuliffe's Gun Control Victory." The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) says it's a "shame" that gun safety advocates have "vilified" Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe for scrapping the state's attorney general's order ending recognition of concealed-carry permits from 25 states "with lax standards" in return for "a concession from the pro-gun lobby" that will allow the state to criminalize gun possession of almost 5,000 domestic abusers hit with protective orders annually. While the deal "isn't perfect," a "cold-eyed assessment suggests that Mr. McAuliffe got the better bargain."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Supreme Court After Scalia." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that it is liberals who have politicized the Court, so it is reasonable that Republicans would prefer to wait for a new president before confirming a nominee.

"The Schumer Precedent." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Sen. Charles Schumer from a 2007 speech, 18 months before President Bush left office, saying that should a vacancy arise, he would recommend to his colleagues "that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the

Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances.”

“Donald Trump’s MoveOn.org Moment.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) blasts Donald Trump’s claim during Saturday’s GOP debate that the Administration of President George W. Bush deliberately “lied” about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, noting that there is no evidence to support the claim. The Journal says touting false conspiracy theories should disqualify a presidential candidate because it undermines public trust in democracy and argues Trump’s willingness to entertain the theory demonstrates the risk the GOP would be taking by making him the party’s presidential nominee.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Scalia’s Death Sets Up Collision](#)
[Millennial Wave Unsettles Presidential Race](#)
[Senate Girds For A Pivotal Battle On Court Nominee](#)
[Stocks Rise As Banking Shares Rally](#)

New York Times:

[Before Scalia’s Death, A Clash Between GOP And Obama Over Appellate Judges](#)
[What Would Scalia Want In His Successor? A Dissent Offers Clues](#)
[South Carolina Church Bridges Racial Gap, But Not Political Divide](#)
[Bush Brothers Swipe At Donald Trump](#)
[Tasked With Combating Opium, Afghan Officials Profit From It](#)
[Cornell’s Plan To Merge Hotel School Gets An Icy Reception](#)
[Kendrick Lamar Sweeps Rap Field At Grammys; Taylor Swift Wins Best Album](#)

Washington Post:

[In Nev, Sanders Is Challenging Clinton’s “Firewall”](#)
[“My Demons Won Today”: Ohio Activist’s Suicide Spotlights Depression Among Black Lives Matter Leaders](#)
[Court Fight Hits Senate Races](#)
[Venezuela Lacks Tools To Battle Zika Virus](#)
[In A Fearful Europe, Racial Profiling Becomes More Common](#)

Financial Times:

[Russia-Turkey Tensions In Syria Hit Peak](#)
[Criminals’ “Currency Of Choice” For Chop](#)

Washington Times:

[Special Forces Face Challenges As Integration Of Women Loom](#)
[Lawmakers Hope To Stop Pressure On Child Brides In Virginia](#)
[Ex-President Makes Return To Campaign For Jeb Bush](#)
[Obama Starts With Cautious Approach To Fill Scalia’s Seat](#)
[Kiosk Carnage Raises Questions On Moscow’s Business Climate](#)
[Palestinians Admit To Working With Israel To Foil Local Attacks](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Virgin Atlantic Flight-Laser Scare; Heartburn Medication Warning; Peyton Manning-University Of Tennessee Allegations; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show.
 CBS: Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Nomination Process; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Central America-Migration Crisis; Severe Weather; Alaska Flight-Smoke; Lincoln Memorial Restoration; Justice Scalia-Record.
 NBC: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Nomination Process; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Heartburn Medication-Warning; Virgin Atlantic Flight-Laser Scare; 2015 Airline Safety; Jimmy Carter-Grammy.

Network TV At A Glance:

Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 19 minutes, 05 seconds
 2016 Politics – 12 minutes, 50 seconds
 Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
 Syria-Hospital Bombed – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
 Pope Francis-Mexico Visit – 0 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Severe Weather-Snow Storms; 2016 Politics-Republican Campaign Trail; Financial Markets.

CBS: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush Campaign; Severe Weather-Damages; Grammy Awards; Oregon Legislation-Coal Reduction; Gas Price Decrease.

NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush Campaign; 2016 Politics-Republicans; US-ASEAN Summit; Severe Weather-Damage; Indian University-Student Protests; Bahrain-US Journalists Detained.

FOX: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Syria Hospital Bombed-France Condemnation; US-ASEAN Summit; Severe Weather Damage.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts day two of the US-ASEAN Summit in California.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public scheduled events.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 9:30 AM Public Citizen Goes to Court Seeking to Uncover Misconduct by Immigration Judges – Public Citizen will argue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that the government should be required to disclose information about immigration judges who have been accused of misconduct. In 2013, Public Citizen and the American Immigration Council, acting as counsel for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), sued the U.S. Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) under the Freedom of Information Act. The lawsuit challenged EOIR's refusal to disclose complaints against immigration judges and to make public records that would reveal agency investigations of and resolutions to those complaints. After filing the lawsuit, EOIR released nearly 16,000 pages of complaint and complaint resolution documents. However, key sections of many documents were blacked out. And none of the documents contained the names of the immigration judges who had been the subject of complaints, even though these judges are high-ranking public officials who make life-or-death decisions for the immigrant Location: Courtroom 31, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, 333 Constitution Ave., NW <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=2281> https://twitter.com/public_citizen

8:30 AM National Academies workshop on the Zika virus – National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine convene workshop – at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services – to identify basic research priorities that could be implemented in real time to help minimize the likelihood of local Zika virus transmission in the U.S. and inform public health responses. Experts and stakeholders discuss topics including clinical management, public health resources, and guidance that may be needed to inform prevention, mitigation, detection, and treatment efforts; current research efforts to better understand the virus and research gaps; specific risk factors for the babies of pregnant women who have been infected with the Zika virus and periods of particularly increased risk during pregnancy; burdens associated with microcephaly and other neurological disorders in babies and the resources need to care for them and other affected individuals; and risk factors for developing Guillain-Barre syndrome after Zika infection and appropriate medical care Location: NAS, 2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences> #ZikaResearch

10:00 AM GOP Rep. Luke Messer speaks at NPC – House Republican Policy Chair Luke Messer discusses governing in the 2016 election year via NPC Newsmaker news conference Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

10:00 AM Deputy Secretary of State Blinken in conversation at Brookings – 'New frameworks for countering terrorism and violent extremism: A conversation with Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken' hosted by Brookings Institution Foreign Policy program, on U.S. civilian-led initiatives to counter the spread of the Islamic State group and other violent extremist groups. He charts the path forward and outlines the challenges that lie

ahead Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #CVE

1:00 PM Washington FPC briefed on new U.S. assistance for the Syrian crisis – Washington Foreign Press Center On-The-Record Briefing on 'New U.S. Assistance to Respond to Syria Crisis', featuring Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Richard, and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Thomas Staal Location: National Press Bldg, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.fpc.state.gov <https://twitter.com/ForeignPressCtr>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "In addition to the [Los Angeles] marathon, I also saw that President Obama just visited LA. Or as Donald Trump put it, 'The state is being taken over by Kenyans.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, while he was in Los Angeles last week, President Obama met privately with Will Smith. Not to be outdone, Joe Biden spent the day learning how to do the Carlton."

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's the latest on the election. Donald Trump just promised that he will no longer use foul language on the campaign trail. Now, when people ask him his policy on ISIS, he just says, 'I'm gonna bomb the shy diddly doodles out of them.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And during a recent rally in Louisiana, Donald Trump actually autographed someone's baby. Even crazier, when he handed the baby back to the parents, he said, 'Congratulations, your baby is worth three times as much now.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Ted Cruz's campaign pulled a recent attack ad after it came out that one of the actresses in the ad had also appeared in some softcore porn films. I feel so bad for that actress who now has to explain to her parents what she was doing in a Ted Cruz ad."

Seth Meyers: "Republicans and Democrats are fighting over whether President Obama should be able to appoint Justice Scalia's successor. Democrats say that he should, whereas the Constitution says that he shall."

Seth Meyers: "The Ted Cruz campaign has pulled a new ad after it was revealed that the actress in it has appeared in softcore porn. And now Jeb has hired her to teach him how to act like he's enjoying something."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump spent his President's Day getting ready by photoshopping his head onto a million-dollar bill."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, in a very different kind of race in LA: the LA marathon, the 31st annual marathon. Between the marathon and Obama's visit, it was a big week for Kenyans screwing up LA traffic."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, February 22, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 7:04 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISES PEACEFUL END TO OREGON STANDOFF. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/21, 388K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Saturday that "the lack of local support for the armed takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge helped curtail a more dangerous outcome and the spread of another 'Sagebrush Rebellion.'" Jewell also "praised a strong relationship between the federal government and local leaders for helping to tamp down what could have been a more explosive incident." At the National Governors Association conference in Washington, Jewell said, "We did get a peaceful end to that, which could have gone very, very differently."

Oregon Occupier Granted Conditional Pretrial Release From Jail. [Reuters](#) (2/22) reports Sandra Anderson, one of the final four militants arrested in the armed occupation at the Oregon wildlife refuge, was granted a pretrial release from jail on Friday. Under the terms of her release, Anderson must avoid contact with co-defendants, including her husband, and must maintain full-time employment or schooling. She also is prohibited from possessing firearms or traveling outside of Oregon or her home state of Idaho without prior approval.

Arrested Refuge Occupier Insists He Was There As Journalist. In an 1,894-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Sottile, 8.98M) reports that despite Pete Santilli's insistence that he was at the Oregon wildlife refuge as a journalist, a judge has kept him in jail after hearing clips from his right-wing YouTube show, in which he "discusses burying illegal guns, dying a free man and shooting federal agents if they came through his door uninvited." His attorney says those comments shouldn't be taken seriously, and that he never encouraged violence when at the refuge. His case has attracted the interest of the ACLU of Oregon.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/19, Pearce, 4.1M) reports on the controversy over Santilli's arrest and a separate indictment against for voicing his support of the refuge occupiers as well as those involved with an armed standoff against federal agents outside Las Vegas in 2014. Santilli and his supporters say the government is punishing him for his constitutionally protected viewpoints. The Times writes that Santilli is among a "new wave of activist-journalists" who use the tools of journalism but don't abide by the "the traditional restrictions of journalism, and who have courted danger as a result."

Grand Jury Indicts Bundys, Associates For Nevada Standoff. The [Greenwire](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication) reports that a federal grand jury last week "indicted Cliven Bundy and four others on 16 felony charges for their roles in Bundy's armed standoff with the Bureau of Land Management at his Bunkerville, Nev., ranch in April 2014." According to the article, "the other four – Ammon Bundy, 40, of Idaho; Ryan Bundy, 43, of Nevada; Ryan

Payne, 32, of Montana; and Pete Santilli, 50, of Ohio – are all behind bars in Portland, Ore., and already face a felony charge for their roles in the 40-day Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation that ended last week.” BLM Director Neil Komze said, “Today marks a tremendous step toward ending more than 20 years of law breaking. The nation’s public lands belong to all Americans.”

Papers Show BLM Made Tactical Errors In 2014 Bunkerville Showdown. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/21, 479K) reports that “court documents charging the defiant rancher, two of his sons and others in the April 12, 2014, armed showdown near the family’s ranch show that the BLM erred by putting its rangers in a ‘dangerously exposed’ tactical position.” According to the article, “the federal forces made what military tacticians consider classic mistakes in the annals of armed conflict: They gave up the high ground to the opposition while underestimating the strength of Bundy’s 200-strong force.”

SECRETARY JEWELL CO-HOSTS WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR INSULAR AREAS. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (2/21, 61K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jerry Abramson are co-hosting this year’s White House conference for insular areas. The conference is “meant to provide leaders of the U.S. territories a forum to discuss issues that are important to their island and region.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (2/21, 171).

SUBPOENAS ISSUED OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL REVIEW. [Politico Pro](#) (2/19) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop has “subpoenaed the Interior Department and the Army Corps of Engineers for documents related to Interior’s technical review of the Gold King mine spill caused last year by EPA employees. Republicans have long criticized the scope of the Interior report, and say Interior has tamped down concerns about the report by the Corps.” Bishop said, “The Department of the Interior has been actively working to withhold information from the Committee that members on both sides of the aisle are seeking.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (2/19, Paul, 881K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/18, 31K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (2/21, 803K), and the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (2/21, 44K).

INTERIOR RELEASES PLAN TO STOP SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES. The [Greenwire](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department released a nationwide plan last week “to stop the spread of invasive species, calling on federal agencies to better coordinate their response to a growing threat in a changing climate.” The framework “recommends that federal agencies do more planning.” Kristen Sarri, Interior’s principal deputy assistant secretary, said that “early detection and rapid response are key to battling invasive species, which are notoriously hard to control.”

BLACK CHURCH LEADERS TARGET REP. PORTMAN OVER ANTIQUITIES ACT. [Politico Pro](#) (2/19) reports that “fifty-eight black church leaders in Ohio are targeting Sen. Rob Portman over his support for restrictions on the president’s ability to designate national monuments, citing his vote for an unsuccessful energy bill amendment.” In a letter, they wrote, “Our responsibility to care for Creation is coupled with our duty to preserve and honor the story of all Americans, and ensure all of our children have equitable access to healthy recreation and the opportunity to find their own story in our park system.” According to the article, “they highlight two national monuments in Ohio honoring African American labor and national park leaders are reasons to back the Antiquities Act, which provides presidential authority to designate such monuments.”

Senate’s Blocking Of Proposed Amendment To Antiquities Act Welcomed. Pueblo of Zuni councilman Carleton R. Bowekaty writes in [The Hill](#) (2/22, Bowekaty, 862K) “Congress Blog” blog that Sen. Mike Lee’s proposed amendment to the Antiquities Act would remove federal protection from public lands and jeopardize places like Bears Ears National Monument, Native American religious and cultural sites, and National Parks. Lee’s proposal was defeated by a Senate majority, ensuring the continued protection of public lands, wildlife, places for outdoor recreation, and historic, cultural and natural sites.

PROPOSAL WOULD PROTECT LWCF. The [Danbury \(CT\) News Times](#) (2/18, 138K) reports that “for the first time in decades,” the Land and Water Conservation Fund “could be shielded from Congressional diversions, possibly translating to more money for preservation in Connecticut.” The state “received \$112 million from the fund over the last five decades for projects and preservation efforts.”

In an editorial, the [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (2/22, 385K) welcomes the recent budget agreement that reauthorized the LWCF.

IDAHO HOUSE URGES CONGRESS TO BLOCK SAGE GROUSE RULES. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (2/21, 73K) reports that “the Idaho House unanimously passed a joint memorial Wednesday calling on Congress to let states implement their own sage grouse conservation plans and block funding for the federal plan.” Idaho is “suing the federal government over sage grouse conservation plans the Department of the Interior announced in September, saying it would rather go with the one the state devised.”

UTAH LAWMAKER PUSHES LEGISLATION TO PREPARE WAYS TO MANAGE FEDERAL LANDS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/21, 402K) reports that “critics say Utah’s efforts to gain ownership of 30 million acres of federal land within its borders are an ill-conceived folly, but proponents want to be prepared if or when their efforts prove successful.” To that end, Rep. Mike Noel is “sponsoring the Utah Public Lands Management Act, HB276, which would kick in when at least 100,000 acres of federal lands are transferred to the state.” The measure, “which passed the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee on Friday on a 9-1 vote, sets up the state Division of Land Management, a director to lead the agency and an 11-member advisory board.”

In an op-ed for the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (2/21, 105K), attorney E. Kent Winward criticizes the effort.

Utah Ranchers, Farm Officials Criticize BLM Policies. The [AP](#) (2/19, 285K) reports that “Utah ranchers and farm bureau officials say the federal government’s heavy hand on public land policies is hurting the ranching business in the West.” Utah Farm Bureau Federation CEO Randy Parker says “public lands livestock ranchers face a number of uncertainties, largely because of a fickle administration of federal land policies.”

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AN ISSUE FOR WESTERN STATES IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/18, 22K) editorializes that “in the next few days Nevadans will add their voices to the presidential nomination mix.” The paper runs through remaining candidates’ positions on federal land issues.

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the [Financial Times](#) (2/22, Jopson, Subscription Publication, 1.36M), the [Idaho Falls \(ID\) Post Register](#) (2/20), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/21, 290K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/20, Riccardi, Thomas, Press, 1.99M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (2/21, 803K), [US News & World Report](#) (2/19, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/20, Lerer Ken Thomas |, Ap, 8.98M), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/21, 4.92M).

Cruz Ad On Public Lands Targets Trump. [Politico Pro](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Ted Cruz’s campaign on Thursday released an ad aimed at front-runner Donald Trump in Nevada, drawing a plain contrast between the Texas senator and the billionaire on a potent topic in the Mountain West: federal land use.” In an ad titled “Nevada Land,” Cruz says, “Eighty-five percent of Nevada is owned and regulated by the federal government, and Donald Trump wants to keep big government in charge. That’s ridiculous.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication), the [Daily Caller](#) (2/19, White, 443K), [Huffington Post](#) (2/20, 518K), and [Think Progress](#) (2/19, 329K).

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA PRAISED. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (2/19, Reichert, Contributor, 862K), Joshua Reichert, who leads the environmental work at the Pew Charitable Trusts, writes that President Obama “took a critical step toward buttressing” California’s “legacy of environmental protection and resilience by designating three new national monuments in the California desert, adding to a corridor of protected land that now stretches north from Joshua Tree National Park to the edge of Death Valley National Park.” According to Reichert, “these new monuments are an important part of a broader approach by federal, state and local agencies to integrate land and wildlife conservation with the development of renewable energy sources in the California desert.” He also says that “the monuments will complement the administration’s Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which identifies lands for potential renewable energy development and conservation.”

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (2/19, Duncan, Dunwoody, Trafzer, 862K), Glen Duncan, president of California Historic Route 66 Association, Steve Dunwoody, California director for Vet Voice Foundation, and Cliff Trafzer, the Rupert Costo chair of American Indian Affairs and a professor of history at the University of California, Riverside, gives much of the credit to Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s “tireless work to conserve and protect these lands.” They “commend Obama for his commitment to protecting the historic California desert” and “thank Sen. Feinstein for her years of leadership in California desert conservation.” They also extend their “gratitude to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for their support of these national monuments.”

CONGRESS URGED TO TREAT WILDFIRES AS DISASTERS. In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/18, Feinstein, Pimlott, 4.1M), Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and Ken Pimlott, the director of Cal Fire and California's state forester, write that the U.S. Forest Service "must be allowed to pay for fighting extraordinary wildfires similarly to how FEMA and other agencies pay for disaster responses." They argue that the Forest Service's "firefighting costs should not come at the expense of routine brush clearance and maintenance that help prevent future wildfires." They conclude that "wildfires are deadly disasters, and Congress needs to treat them as such."

The [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (2/21, 38K) editorializes that "it's critical government learn from the wildfire disaster of 2015." It notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell supports wildfires being "funded as disasters."

INTERIOR PRAISED FOR SUPPORT OF ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT. In a piece for the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (2/22, 47K), Carrie Hamblen, the executive director of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, is thankful for the "support and recognition from the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and a host of other agencies in Washington DC for the activities surrounding" the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT OPPOSED. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (2/21, 37K), Glenn Hamer, the president and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, writes that the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument proposal is "one that should be permanently shelved, and we in the West must send that message to the administration." He argues that "federalizing land doesn't necessarily preserve an area's flora and fauna." Hamer concludes that "bureaucrats in Washington already hold sway over 70 percent of the land in Arizona" and "they don't need any more."

IDAHO LEGISLATURE CRITICIZED FOR EYEING FEDERAL LANDS. In her column for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/21, 77K), Joan Barron writes that "some members of the Wyoming Legislature continue to cling to the idea of sagebrush rebellion, round two, where the state would take over management of the federal lands within its borders." According to Barron, "give the dismal state of commodity prices, the idea seems almost quaint at this juncture with the Legislature scrambling to find a way to plug big holes in the budget." She asks: "How is the state going to pay to manage the vast acres of federal lands when —as former legislator Frank Prevedel of Rock Springs pointed out recently —it cannot find enough dollars to maintain the state parks properly?"

OP-ED: INTERIOR'S CONSERVATIONIST LIST SKEWED. In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (2/21, 73K) Natural Resources Group president Greg Walcher criticizes the Interior Department for its list of "Eight presidents who shaped America's public lands," stating that the list only mentioned three Republicans "who served over a century ago," and ignored Richard Nixon altogether, even though he "signed into law more environmental laws than any other president: the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Ocean Dumping Act, and others — all of which earned bipartisan support in a Democratic Congress." Instead, the Interior Department focused on Democratic presidents responsible for changing the bipartisan approach to the issue of public land conservation into a "bitterly divisive" one.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INUPIAT WOMAN CAMPAIGNS TO STOP BEING IDENTIFIED AS AN ESKIMO. The [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (2/21, 6K) reports that Blossom Twitchell, an Inupiat woman from Kotzebue, is campaigning to have the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) remove the term, "Eskimo," from its official paperwork because it fails to properly identify her. Twitchell said "we're coming to a point where we're getting tired of being generalized and it's important to own up to our cultural ties because we're losing our languages and our identity and it's a great time to anchor ourselves in the truth." Therefore, she started "I am not an Eskimo," a petition on [change.org](#), saying the time has come for people to realize that Alaska is diverse in land, culture, and people. However, some Alaskan natives believe the issue unimportant in light of larger problems.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (2/21, 4K).

BIA'S HESITANCE ON INTERVENING ON TRIBAL LEADERSHIP CAUSES COURT HEADACHES. [Law360](#) (2/17, 22K) reports that the BIA's "reluctance to get involved in tribal leadership disputes may allow those conflicts to fester, leaving federal judges to figure out how best to apply the government's limited and confusing guidance in their attempts to resolve related court battles." According to the article, "both federal courts and the BIA tend to avoid wading into tribal leadership tussles, which frequently center on a tribe's efforts

to pursue gambling or other businesses, out of a recognition that tribes have the right to govern themselves.”

PLAINS TRIBES THWART BIE REORGANIZATION. The [Lakota Country \(SD\) Times](#) (2/18) reports that “a recent effort by the federal government to centralize the Bureau of Indian Education and closure of several reservation based tribal education offices has been thwarted by a coalition of Lakota stakeholders.”

REPORT ON BARSTOW CASINO AIR EMISSIONS RELEASED. The [Barstow \(CA\) Desert Dispatch](#) (2/19, 279) reports that “a proposed \$160 million casino and resort off Lenwood Road near Interstate 15 would require the acquisition of costly emission credits, according to a draft reported released Friday by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.” According to a BIA notice, “the draft Conformity Determination was prepared for the proposed fee-to-trust acquisition of 23 acres of land on which the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians propose to construct a gaming facility, hotel, parking areas and other facilities.”

OP-ED: HUFFMAN TRIBE BILL HIDES SPECIAL INTEREST. In an op-ed for the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (2/21, 165K) co-directors of Citizens for Windsor Eric Wee and Michael Robison write that Rep. Jared Huffman’s bill HR 2538 does not protect the town of Windsor and Sonoma County. According to Wee and Robison, the bill allows the building of “a 200,000 case-a-year mega-winery, a 200-room resort hotel and more than 360 luxury homes” that “would destroy forever the quiet bucolic setting of western Windsor by creating a sovereign nation one-third the size of Windsor.” Wee and Robison dispute Huffman’s claim that the BIA would move land for the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians into a federal trust, stating the BIA is precluded from doing so under a 2009 US Supreme Court Carceri decision barring “land from going into trust for tribes not under federal jurisdiction in 1934.” They also write that Huffman’s bill cannot confer rights onto the Lytton tribe, which operates under Indian Gaming Regulatory Act prohibitions against gaming on lands not acquired prior to 1988.

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA TO HOST SELF-DETERMINATION CONFERENCE. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (2/21, 61K) reports that “education officials from Guam and other U.S. territories will meet in the nation’s capital, where they will participate as panelists in a self-determination conference on Tuesday.” Assistant Secretary Esther Kia’aina, “who will host the event, says both federal officials and the public need to be updated on self-determination policy.” She said, “I believe it is important to provide an updated context for federal policymakers and a new generation to learn about the status of self-determination in the respective territories as well as to understand what their rights are to self-determination under federal and international law.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (2/18, 171).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

INTERIOR ASSESSES CALIFORNIA WATER. In an interview with [California Ag Today](#) (2/21), Tom Iseman, deputy assistant secretary for water and science at the U.S. Department of the Interior, “assessed how California is faring given the drought.” He said: “First of all, I think California is obviously on the leading edge for a lot of reasons, but the state is in the midst of an extended drought. So it is really forcing us to be smarter about how we address these water scarcity challenges. I have been very impressed with the way we have been able to really work together—the Bureau of Reclamation working with the state, the water users and the conservation groups—to think about how we can stretch our limited water supplies to meet these different purposes.”

WATER EXPERTS DISCUSS COLORADO RIVER ISSUES AT CONFERENCE.. The [Western Farm Press](#) (2/21, 2K) reports that Terry Fulp, director of the BOR’s Lower Colorado Region, “discussed Colorado River water issues during a panel discussion at the Yuma County Agriculture Water Conference held in Yuma, Ariz. in January.” According to the article, “Fulp shares an overall upbeat message on how the reservoir system on the Colorado River is working at lakes Mead and Powell (both storage reservoirs).”

NATRONA COUNTY TO CONTINUE MANAGING RESERVOIR RECREATION AREAS. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/21, 77K) reports that Natrona County will “manage the recreation areas at Alcova, Pathfinder and Grey Reef reservoirs for another 25 years, under a new agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.” According to the article, “while there was little question the arrangement would be renewed, the agreement locks in a grandfather clause allowing privately owned trailers and cabins at two sites managed by the county.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (2/21, 576).

BOR CONSIDERS INITIAL CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER ALLOCATION FOR FARMS, CITIES.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/21, 113K) reports that BOR officials are "still formulating data to determine their initial allocation of Central Valley Project water for 2016." Louis Moore, deputy public affairs officer in the BOR's Mid-Pacific Region office in Sacramento, and "others say it could be one to two weeks before the formulations are complete, at which point they'll determine whether many Central Valley farms will get federal water for the first time in three years."

BOR REJECTS LATEST BIDS FOR BERRYESSA RESORT REJUVENATION.

The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (2/21, 73K) reports that the BOR announced Friday that "it received three bids from California companies" to "rebuild and operate five of the seven Lake Berryessa resorts." However, "the agency deemed each bid failed to comply with at least one of the bid requirements concerning price, quality and other topics."

KACHESS HOMEOWNERS CRITICIZE STATE'S APPRAISAL ESTIMATES.

The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (2/21, 91K) reports that if the BOR "moves forward with plans to pump more water out of the Kachess Reservoir during drought years, area homeowners could see property values decline 5 to 10 percent, according to a new study." The article says that "homeowners who oppose the project — part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan for improved water management in the region — criticized the study, saying that it doesn't account for how a further draw down of the lake could dry up private wells, limit recreational access, and raise fire risks."

WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION HITS HOME.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (2/21, Cowan, 37K) reports the Department of Water Resources notified Fort Valley residents that it completed a hydrographic study of the Hopi Tribe's water claims and has calculated how much water, in acre feet, the tribe is to have to "support everything from agriculture to resource extraction to recreation." Those involved in the decades long adjudication process will be affected in different ways, depending on whether they use surface or ground water. Affecting the process will be tribal water claims. According to Arizona State University Kyl Center for Water Policy director Sarah Porter, the only certainty is "a resolution will likely mean some parties won't have enough water to support future development and growth plans without augmenting their supplies, while other users may be told they don't have the right to water they thought they had been using legally for years."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL AGENTS RAID NEVADA OFFICE, HOME OF BOR OFFICIAL.

Additional coverage that "dozens of federal agents led by the FBI executed search warrants in Boulder City and in the Las Vegas Valley on Thursday in an investigation of corruption in the award of a \$1 million government contract for a financial audit of Hoover Dam" was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/21, 479K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF CHOKECHERRY SIERRA MADRE WIND

FARM. [reNews](#) (2/21) reports that "federal regulators expect to issue key rulings by March for the 3GW Chokecherry Sierra Madre (CCSM) wind farm in Wyoming." The Power Company of Wyoming "proposes to build the \$5bn, 1000-turbine project on a mix of private and public land in Carbon County, including federal land administered" by the BLM. The bureau said "it expects to complete an environmental assessment and issue a decision on a 500-turbine first phase in the first quarter of this year."

TRIBE IN MINNESOTA BEGINS SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/21, Brooks, 1.25M) reports that the Red Lake Band of Chippewa in northern Minnesota last week launched a solar energy initiative to install between \$10 million and \$30 million in solar panels on "some of the largest structures in the reservation." The Star Tribune also says that the tribe plans to begin constructing a solar energy farm by the end of the year, and eventually build a solar energy plant and solar panel production facility.

Onshore Energy Development:

WYOMING GOV. MEAD LOOKING TO FIGHT COAL MORATORIUM.

[Politico Pro](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said that "he is looking at a possible 'legal avenue' to fight the pause on new coal leases on federal lands that President Barack Obama rolled out last month." Mead said that "his administration 'started looking at [a potential court challenge] the day we learned' about the leasing halt

that Interior Department unveiled days after the president made a surprise reference to management of federal fossil-fuel resources during his State of the Union address.”

In an op-ed for the [Aurora \(CO\) Sentinel](#) (2/21, 64K), José González, founder of Latino Outdoors, writes that “the Obama Administration’s recent decision to suspend new coal leasing on public lands while it undertakes a top-to-bottom review of the program is a right move for our communities.” He argues that “public lands need to be managed through a balanced approach, not solely for resource and energy extraction—they need to be available as playgrounds for our kids, accessible to all our communities, and as a space that provides for clean air, water, healthy wildlife, and in turn, healthy lifestyles.”

Additional coverage of the federal coal leasing moratorium was provided by [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/21, 2K), [Ashland \(OR\) Jefferson Public Radio](#) (2/21), and [Investor’s Business Daily](#) (2/21, 717K).

FIGHT BOILS OVER CANCELLATION OF DRILLING LEASE IN MONTANA. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the issue of whether the government can “cancel an oil and gas lease when the driller has done nothing wrong” has “fueled a protracted legal squabble in Montana, where the Department of the Interior has signaled it may cancel a long-disputed lease near tribal land, citing inadequate environmental review.” The driller’s claim that “federal officials don’t have the power.” But “Interior lawyers counter that the secretary has the final say, and the agency must always consider environmental impacts and prioritize the public interest.”

BLM TO HOLD SALE OF OIL, GAS LEASES IN SOUTH DAKOTA. The [AP](#) (2/21, 285K) reports that “oil and gas leases are set to go up for sale on three parcels of private land in southwestern South Dakota.” According to Russ Pigors, a physical scientist with the Belle Fourche BLM office, “a lease sale will be held July 12 for the parcels west of Edgemont in Fall River County.” The BLM is “asking for public comment on what sort of environmental impact there might be in allowing oil and gas exploration on the parcels.”

CONOCOPHILLIPS SEES PROMISING RESULTS IN NPR-A. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (2/21, 211K) reports that “in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, ConocoPhillips is enjoying better-than-expected success with a small field that recently began producing the reserve’s first commercial oil.” According to the article, “CD5, as it’s called, is a stepping stone to larger prospects the company wants to develop in the NPR-A.” However, “the promise of a huge oil discovery in the reserve, one that could reverse long sagging oil production and begin to refill the trans-Alaska pipeline, seems unlikely, experts say.”

STATES DIRECTED TO DECIDE ON PEABODY SELF BONDING. [Reuters](#) (2/22) reports the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement says that Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Illinois, and Indiana regulators must decide within days whether Peabody Energy Corp can continue self bonding its mine clean up in those states. If the company is dropped from the program, it may need to find private financing to underwrite about \$1.38 billion in liabilities.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/21, 131K).

GROSSMAN: EPA’S DRAFT METHANE RULES “MISS THE MARK.” Dan Grossman of the Environmental Defense Fund writes in the [Denver Post](#) (2/22, 881K) that in recent weeks Pennsylvania and California have both launched efforts similar to Colorado’s to regulate oil and gas methane emissions. Both states are “requiring companies to find and fix methane leaks at the thousands of oil and gas wells and other equipment that are already up and running, not just facilities that will be deployed in the future.” Grossman writes that the EPA’s draft rules however “misses the mark on the greenhouse gas reductions” because they exclude existing facilities. He urges the EPA to follow the example set by Colorado.

OP-ED: TIPTON OPPOSES CONSTITUENTS OVER THOMPSON DIVIDE. In an op-ed for the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (2/21, 32K) Carbondale town trustee, Wilderness Workshop board member and Roaring Fork Valley native Allyn Harvey criticizes Congressman Scott Tipton for being on the opposite side of his constituents over cancelling leases and protecting the Thompson Divide. According to Harvey, Tipton is motivated by the desire to win votes and placate campaign contributors, even when 55,000 comments were submitted in support of the Bureau of Land Management’s cancellation of “illegal natural gas leases.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM SCHEDULES TWO SALES FOR MARCH. [Politico Pro](#) (2/19) reports that “about 45 million acres of

drillable ocean floor will go up for auction in March, according to a statement from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management." Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, "As an important component of the U.S. energy portfolio, the Gulf of Mexico holds vast energy resources that can continue to spur economic opportunities for Gulf producing states as well as further reduce the Nation's dependence on foreign oil."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/19, 198K), [Rigzone](#) (2/21, 8K), [PennEnergy](#) (2/21, 128), the [Oil & Gas Financial Journal](#) (2/21, 425), the [Natural Gas Daily](#) (2/21), the [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication), [Sputnik News](#) (2/20, 46K), and [UPI](#) (2/19).

Despite Low Oil Prices, EIA Expects Gulf Of Mexico To See Record Production. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (2/19, Blum, 28K) reported that despite current low oil prices, the US Energy Information Administration is projecting that Gulf of Mexico crude production will hit record levels in 2017. Due to the time and cost investments required by deep water projects, many of the expensive projects were authorized before oil prices began to fall, and "in general, Gulf production is less sensitive to short-term crude pricing movement than onshore shale production." Royal Dutch Shell's Perdido and Mars B projects are among those already in operation, while Shell's Stones project, which will use the Gulf's first floating production, storage, and offload vessel, has yet to come online.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/19, Larino, 625K) reported that despite historic production in the Gulf, Louisiana continues to lose jobs. The EIA "said the downturn has prompted many oil and gas companies to pull back future spending in the Gulf of Mexico." The changes have "added uncertainty to the timeline of many Gulf of Mexico projects," according to the report.

RESTORATION PLAN FOR GULF OF MEXICO FINALIZED. The [Greenwire](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication) reports that "federal officials finalized a restoration plan for the Gulf of Mexico today, laying out a framework for repairing the damage done in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill." According to the article, "the settlement dictates that BP will pay nearly \$20 billion, of which \$8.1 billion will go to ecosystem restoration projects." The final plan "recommends that restoration focus on five goals: Restore and conserve habitat; restore water quality; replenish and protect living resources; enhance recreational opportunities; and provide monitoring of the restoration efforts."

OFFSHORE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE AIMS TO ATTRACT STUDENTS TO STEM. [Rigzone](#) (2/21, 8K) reports that "groups of high school students will tackle offshore challenges during the High School Offshore Science and Technology Stars Challenge, a daylong competition created to draw in future STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) professionals." The competition, which will be held March 4 at the University of Houston's (UH) TDECU Stadium, is sponsored by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI). BSEE Director Brian Salerno said that the challenge "is an important part of BSEE's overall efforts to promote STEM programs as part of Secretary [Sally] Jewell's youth engagement initiative."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cypress Creek \(TX\) Mirror](#) (2/21, 243) and the [Tomball \(TX\) Potpourri](#) (2/21, 121K).

BSEE UPDATES ARCTIC SPILL RESPONSE DATABASE PROJECT. [Offshore Engineer](#) (2/21) reports that BSEE "staff recently participated in the Alaska Regional Response Team (RRT) meeting to update attendees on BSEE's Arctic spill response database project." According to the article, "the RRT members and public attendees received an overview of the project, including requirements, development, discussion on Arctic Nation involvement, and timeline."

Additional coverage was provided by [Offshore Magazine](#) (2/21, 129K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COUNCIL. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (2/21, 73K) reports that the BLM has "announced new appointments or re-appointments of members to Idaho's Twin Falls District citizen-based Resource Advisory Council." Tim Murphy, Idaho State Director said, "By working with federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as leaders from industry and the conservation community, the Resource Advisory Councils exemplify the BLM's collaborative approach to public land issues. I want to welcome our newly appointed RAC members and salute them for their commitment

to public service.”

BLM CONCLUDES EAGLE-CALIENTE COMPLEX EMERGENCY WILD HORSE GATHER. The [Ely \(NV\) Daily Times](#) (2/19, 776) reports that the BLM Ely District has “concluded the Eagle-Caliente Complex Emergency Wild Horse Gather.” The bureau “gathered 122 wild horses from public and private lands adjacent to U.S. Highway 93 and State Route 322 in and outside the Caliente Herd Areas (HA) Complex, and Eagle and Silver King Herd Management Areas (HMA) in eastern Nevada.” It “removed 120 wild horses” and “two wild horses were euthanized due to pre-existing conditions with a hopeless prognosis for recovery.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: COMPANY SEEKS PERMITS TO DRILL IN GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST. Additional coverage that Ascot Resources is “seeking permits for exploratory drilling in Gifford Pinchot National Forest” was provided by the [Sunnyside \(WA\) Daily Sun-News](#) (2/19).

OP-ED: BURNING MAN REAPS BENEFITS OF HIGH PRICED TICKETS. In an op-ed for [Nevada Appeal](#) (2/21, 86K) critic Guy W. Farmer examines the Burning Man festival, which raised attendance fees and stands to earn over \$40 million and criticizes the BLM for sharing in the profits of “an x-rated event featuring drugs and widespread nudity” attended by sex offenders and parents to bring along their kids. Farmer also criticizes BLM officials who “wanted the Burners to build them a separate compound with amenities like flush toilets, washers and dryers, and 24-hour ice cream service.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FEDERAL AGENCIES UPDATE POLICY ON STATE ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING ESA. [Bloomberg Research](#) (2/21, 2.92M) reports that the FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service have “updated a long-standing policy on the role of state fish and wildlife agencies in implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA).” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “State fish and wildlife agencies are essential partners in implementing the Endangered Species Act to protect our most at-risk species across the country. We look forward to continuing our work together on conservation successes that all Americans can be proud of.”

FWS PROPOSES TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR GREAT THICKET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Boston Globe](#) (2/19, Conti, 1.05M) reports that “a new federal wildlife refuge is being proposed in Massachusetts that could include acquisition of 2,000 acres of unprotected land in Plymouth and Mashpee.” The proposal from the FWS “involves six states — a first in the Northeast — and would encompass about 300,000 acres in 10 areas in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island.” The FWS “wants to acquire 15,000 acres of unprotected land for the proposed Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge, including 500 acres in Plymouth and 1,500 in Mashpee.”

In an editorial, the [Foster's Daily Democrat \(NH\)](#) (2/19, 5K) supports the proposal because “it will only involve willing landowners and because a healthy mix of land uses is in all of our interests.”

FWS TO ASSESS IMPACTS OF TWO COMMON HERBICIDES. The [Greenwire](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS will “study the effects of two common weed killers on endangered species, as part of a legal settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity.” The FWS “must complete the review by December 2022, and the study is likely to lead to restrictions on the chemicals’ use, the CBD said.” According to the article, “at issue are glyphosate, sold under the brand name Roundup, and atrazine, among the most frequently used herbicides in large-scale agriculture.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ENews Park Forest](#) (2/19, 2K) and [Common Dreams](#) (2/19, 10K).

FWS ESTABLISHES CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND CONSERVATION AREA. According to a press release distributed by the [PRNewswire](#) (2/21), “more than 5,300 acres of critical ranch, farming, wildlife habitat, flood protection area and water storage lands have been added to the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area south of Orlando, thanks to several recent conservation partnerships formed by Florida ranchers, sportsmen, state and federal agencies and non-profits.” Using \$12.5 million in LWCF dollars, the FWS has “secured 4,214.99 acres in conservation easements and acquired 1,502.26 acres.” Bill Miller, Project Leader for the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex, said, “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is deeply committed to partnering in a collaborative effort to deliver conservation of rural working lands that promotes environmental connectivity, species protection, and increases opportunities to deliver appropriate and compatible public uses.”

FWS MULLS RED WOLF STATUS. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (2/19, 301K) reports that “the number of known red wolves in the wild has dropped to 45 while federal managers delay a decision on what to do about the controversial, barely successful program reintroducing the species to the wild.” The FWS is “on track to have the decision by summer, said spokesman Tom MacKenzie.” He said, “The actual number of wolves has always been difficult to ascertain.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Examiner](#) (2/21, 825K).

PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON MANATEES’ STATUS. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (2/21, 824K) reports that “a dispute more than a decade in the making over whether Florida’s manatees should still be considered ‘endangered’ continued Saturday in a hotel ballroom in Orlando.” The FWS “sponsored its one and only public hearing on changing their status from endangered to threatened after 49 years, drawing more than 100 people, of whom 53 rose to speak.” According to the article, “by a wide margin, the crowd opposed the change.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (2/21, 824K).

PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON PROPOSAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (2/21, 15K) reports that “a proposed wildlife management rule puts the federal Fish and Wildlife Service’s ecosystem conservation priorities in conflict with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s game management priorities,” according to “several speakers at a hearing of the rule on Tuesday at the Kenai Wildlife Refuge visitor center.” The rules proposed by the FWS would “prohibit certain methods of predator hunting on refuge land, as well as changing conditions for game closures.”

DELAWARE SNOW GEESE CHANGE MIGRATION PATTERN. The [AP](#) (2/20, Murray) examines the reasons why snow geese, known for wintering in Delaware for over 30 years, failed to migrate in October as usual, and finally arrived in much smaller numbers at the end of January. Northeast Region FWS migratory game bird biologist Chris Dwyer said it was one of those cases where “the pendulum swings from the rare to the abundant,” adding that “their strategy seems to be to wait out the bad weather,” since the controlling factor in bird migrations is availability of food and the amount of energy required for accessing the food. The birds are likely somewhere in New York or Pennsylvania.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lebanon \(PA\) Daily News](#) (2/19, 30K).

WATER WEED TAKES ROOT IN COLORADO RIVER. The [Havasup \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (2/21, 27K) reports that “the salvinia molesta, also known as Kariba weed, has already taken root in the Colorado River near Yuma.” According to FWS Southwest Region external affairs representative Craig Springer, “the weed hasn’t yet been reported north of Blythe, California – and prevention of the weed’s spread is necessary to keep it that way.”

FWS INVESTIGATING DEATHS OF 13 BALD EAGLES. The [AP](#) (2/22) reports that “federal officials are investigating the death of 13 bald eagles.” According to the article, “investigators were called to a farm in Federalsburg Saturday afternoon after a man discovered some of the birds.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES INVESTING MORE THAN \$40M TO RESTORE FORESTS. The [AP](#) (2/20, 1.99M) reports that “the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service have announced an investment of over \$40 million for restoration of forests to reduce wildfire threats, protect water supplies, improve wildlife habitat and support rural economies.” According to the article, “more than 40 partners are contributing to the project, including the NRCS, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arkansas Association of Conservation District, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.”

STUDENTS PERFORM EXPERIMENTS ON CAMPOUT AT NECHES RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Gilmer \(TX\) Mirror](#) (2/21, 12K) reports that “students from the Vertebrate Natural History class at the University of Texas at Tyler recently performed environmental science experiments on a campout at the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge in Cherokee County.”

DESOTO WILDLIFE REFUGE TO OPEN FOR ARCHERY TURKEY HUNTING. The [AP](#) (2/20, 1.99M) reports that “the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge will open to the public for archery turkey hunting later this year.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL OFFICIALS DEFEND MEXICAN GRAY WOLF PLAN AFTER POPULATION DECLINES. Additional coverage that that an annual survey showed at least 97 Mexican gray

wolves in the American Southwest was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (2/22, 518K) and [KRQE-TV Albuquerque, NM](#) (2/18, 69K). Also providing coverage of Mexican gray wolves is the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (2/21, 37K).

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR VISITS COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. The [Xenia \(OH\) Daily Gazette](#) (2/21, 243) reports that NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis "visited Cox Elementary School Thursday afternoon." Jarvis' "visit coincided with Black History Month and the park service turning 100 years old." He also said "his visit was commissioned by President Obama, who created the Every Kid in a Park Pass."

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (2/21, 910K).

Commentary: Make National Parks A Priority. In a commentary for the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/20, 157K) Robert Manning calls for "Congress and the federal government simply must make investing in the national parks _ which writer and conservationist Wallace Stegner famously called "America's best idea" – a priority," stating that lack of funding "places too high a burden" on Park Service rangers and other personnel.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/22, 148K), the [West Hawaii Today](#) (2/21, 25K) and the [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal](#) (2/21, 99K).

GROUP: MAINTAIN CURRENT NATIONAL PARKS INSTEAD OF CREATING NEW ONES. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/21, O'Donoghue, 402K) reports the Property and Environmental Research Center issued a report called "Breaking the Backlog," which shows the national park system needs repairs that will cost five times the National Park Service's budget. The group recommends the Land and Water Conservation Fund be put to use maintaining current parks rather than adding public lands which will make the problem worse. However, if the federal government insists on creating new parks, the group states "Congress should implement a franchising system in which the parks could be established without requiring full federal management or funding."

History Shows Shortsightedness Of Angst Over New National Parks. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/21, O'Donoghue, 402K) reports policy director for the Center for Western Priorities Greg Zimmerman said "as history has proven time and again, our newest national monuments will be good for California's economy, good for local communities and good for future generations," following President Obama's establishment of three new national monuments in California and in support of establishing new national monuments in Utah and Arizona. Rep. Rob Bishop, sees the move as usurping local authority. The News reports historical opposition to the creation of some of the nation's most valued national parks.

RESIDENTS PURSUE NATIONAL PARK STATUS TO SAVE IDAHO TOWN. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/21, Ramseth, 131K) reports the declining economy of Arco has prompted residents to pursue changing the name of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve to Craters of the Moon National Park in an effort to revitalize a dying community by attracting tourists and other visitors.

NPS TO CONDUCT HISTORIC LANDMARK STUDY ON MEDGAR EVERS. [WDBD-TV Jackson, MS](#) (2/21, 143K) reports that Sens. Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker announced that the NPS will "conduct a special resource study on the home of slain civil rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers to determine its potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark." The study will "evaluate the national significance of the Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Evers House in Jackson and determine the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a National Historic Landmark."

LAWSUIT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT CATTLE RANCHING ON FEDERAL LAND. The [AP](#) (2/21, 1.99M) reports that a "lawsuit filed this month by three environmental groups says that the roughly 20 private dairy and beef operations in the federally run Point Reyes National Seashore are receiving priority treatment from the government at the expense of a treasured landscape." The suit filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco by the Resource Renewal Institute, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Western Watersheds Project claims the NPS is "violating the law by renewing ranching leases without first looking out for the park's preservation." The lawsuit calls for the NPS "to stop renewing ranch leases and void recent extensions, at least until the impacts of beef and dairy businesses are addressed."

In an op-ed for the [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (2/20, 68K), rancher Dominic Grossi defends ranchers. He claims that "ranchers do the maintenance," ranchers "ensure water quality and protect the environment," and

"ranchers in the park have many limitations placed on them, such as the number of animals, types of farm implements, and other customary farm practices in use outside of the park."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/21, 285K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (2/21, 3.37M), and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (2/21, 591K).

WASHINGTON MONUMENT CLOSED FOR ELEVATOR CONTROL BOX REPAIR. The [AP](#) (2/19, 285K) reports that the NPS says the Washington Monument will be "closed until next week to repair an elevator control box." The agency "says in an email Friday that the control box was inadvertently damage by a contractor working in the structure on an unrelated issue." According to the article "the reopening date will be determined as repairs are made over the weekend."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/19, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/19, Martin, 8.98M), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/21, 337K), the [Constitution Daily](#) (2/10), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/22, Staff, 6.31M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/21, 352K).

FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS ARRIVE AT SCENE OF HAWAII HELICOPTER CRASH. In continuing coverage of the crash of a Bell 206B helicopter in Pearl Harbor on Thursday, [ABC World News](#) (2/19, story 4, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) broadcast on the "rescue" that followed, showing "new images of the desperate effort to save passengers trapped after that helicopter crash." The sightseeing helicopter crashed in water that was "just 10 feet deep, but murky," and nearby witnesses immediately jumped in the water to help recover passengers, including a teenage boy, who "was entangled in his seat belt" and required "bystanders using a knife and taking turns" to cut him loose. NTSB is leading the Federal investigation.

The [AP](#) (2/20, Kelleher, McAvoy) reports that "All five people on board made it out, but one passenger — a 16-year-old boy who was trapped underwater and had to be cut free from his seat, according to witnesses — was hospitalized in critical condition." According to the story, the craft is registered with Jeffrey Gebhard of Kailua, Hawaii, while the Navy says the helicopter was in the service of Genesis Aviation, the tour company. FAA and NTSB investigators arrived on Friday at the crash site, which has become "the second major crash this year involving helicopters on Oahu," following the death of 12 marines in a midair collision of two military helicopters.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (2/20, Nakaso, Kakesako, 340K) reports that a local company hauled the helicopter out of the harbor on Thursday and took it "to a Genesis Aviation hangar at the airport where the National Transportation Safety Board will conduct an investigation."

[WALA-TV Mobile, AL](#) (2/20, 32K) also reports.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDINGS NOMINATED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE. The [Great Lakes \(MI\) Echo](#) (2/21, 441) reports that "ten of the most significant buildings designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, including four in Illinois and Wisconsin, have a chance to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site this summer." According to Joel Hoglund, communication and events manager for the Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy in Chicago, "the buildings were on the list for seven years until the National Park Service submitted a 426- page nomination to the World Heritage Centre in early 2015." He said that "they are now being considered for designation — technically known as inscription — by the World Heritage Committee."

ROGUE BISON POSE CHALLENGE FOR GRAND CANYON. [USA Today](#) (2/20, 5.45M) reports on "the challenge facing federal and state agencies in northwestern Arizona, where a herd of bison on the northern side of Grand Canyon National Park has become a problem." According to the article, "the bison, which are probably not native to the canyon and have been crossbred with cattle, trample local water sources and vegetation and can also damage archaeological sites." The article says that "nobody can agree on how to solve the problem — trapping and moving them, culling the herd or a combination of both."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/19, 975K).

NPS ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAMS, NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR D.C. Public Boathouses On Potomac. The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Weil, 8.98M) reports that "all three of the popular public boathouses on the Potomac River in the District will come under a single management this year, the National Park Service announced last week." According to the article, "under the new 10-year arrangement, the Park Service said, visitors will be able to rent equipment, including boats, and apparently bikes, at any boathouse and drop it off at any of the others." Also, "a principal aim of the new contract is to provide recreational services in an 'environmentally responsible manner,' the Park Service said."

NPS APPROVES PERMIT FOR NC 12 PROJECT IN BUXTON. The [AP Greenville, NC](#) (2/22, 64K) reports that "a project to pump sand along an area of eroding beach on Hatteras Island is one permit closer to being a reality." The NPS says "it has approved a special use permit to Dare County for the project in Buxton to protect N.C. Highway 12 from flooding."

ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED FOR NEW TULE SPRINGS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/21, 479K) reports that "a diverse group of residents and stakeholders, including two paleontologists, has been appointed to guide the development of Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument." The NPS announced Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's "selections to the 10-member advisory council Friday." Monument superintendent Jon Burpee said he is "thrilled to get to work with such a talented group of people."

FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES RECEIVES \$21,500 FOR EDUCATION, BACKCOUNTRY SHELTERS. The [Knoxville \(TN\) Focus](#) (2/21) reports that Friends of the Smokies has "received a \$21,500 grant from the Richard Haiman National Parks Foundation to support the Parks As Classrooms program and to resupply backcountry shelters in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP)." As part of the NPS' "100th anniversary in 2016, Every Kid in a Park and the A Class Act are two key Centennial initiatives to get all children to visit a national park and develop an understanding the relevance of parks in their lives." GSMNP will "utilize its Parks As Classrooms program as the primary vehicle for implementing these Centennial initiatives."

CALUMET HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP TO STUDY PROPOSED HERITAGE AREA. The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/18, 283K) reports that "a leader in the effort to create a Calumet National Heritage Area told board members of the Northwestern Indiana Planning Commission on Thursday that 2016 could be a big year for the effort." According to Mark Bouman, Chicago region program director for The Field Museum, the Calumet Heritage Partnership is "continuing work on a feasibility study for a heritage area, which must be designated by the U.S. Congress." The article notes that "the area would be anchored by the Pullman National Monument on the west and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on the east."

NPS SEEKS INPUT ON LONG-TERM EFFIGY MOUNDS PLAN. The [Cedar Rapids \(IA\) Gazette](#) (2/21, 147K) reports that the NPS will "begin seeking public comments next week on a long-term plan for the care and preservation of Effigy Mounds National Monument."

12 ILLINOIS SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [AP](#) (2/19, 1.99M) reports that the Thompson Brothers Rock Art site is "among 12 sites in Illinois that have been added to the National Register of Historic Places over the past year." The article notes that "other sites added include the Jackson County Courthouse and Belleville's Blair Historic District."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RECORD ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the record attendance at national parks in 2015 was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/19, Forgiore, 4.1M), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/21, 78K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/22, 881K), the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (2/21, 228K), and the [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (2/21, 74K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MAINTENANCE BACKLOG AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the maintenance backlog at national parks was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/19, 975K), the [Staunton \(VA\) News Leader](#) (2/21, 2K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/22, 337K), the [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (2/22, 252K), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/19, 98K), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/19, 98K), and [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/21, 1.23M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SS BADGER FERRY DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. Additional coverage that the S.S. Badger car ferry has been designated a National Historic Landmark was provided by [MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/18, Kloosterman, 617K), [Maritime Executive](#) (2/21, 21), [WILX-TV Lansing \(MI\)](#) Lansing, MI (2/21, 52K), and [WXMI-TV Grand Rapids \(MI\)](#) Grand Rapids, MI (2/19, 32K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NPS AND GOOGLE. Additional coverage of the partnership between the NPS and Google on the Google Cultural Institute was provided by the [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (2/20, 168K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ACADIA PART OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR DIGITAL PASSES. Additional coverage that Acadia National Park has "become the first of five national parks to participate in the 'Your Pass Now' website initiative" was provided by the [Mainebiz](#) (2/17, 34K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION'S FIELD TRIP GRANTS. Additional coverage of the field trip grants awarded by the National Park Foundation was provided by the [Artesia \(NM\) News](#) (2/21, 10K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MONITORING THREE-LEGGED BOBCAT IN LOS ANGELES. Additional coverage that the NPS is monitoring a Three-Legged Bobcat in Los Angeles was provided by [Breitbart](#) (2/21, 2.1M), [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/19), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/21, 352K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DEATH VALLEY EXPECTED TO BE COVERED IN "SUPER BLOOM" OF WILDFLOWERS. Additional coverage of the "Super Bloom" of flowers at Death Valley was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/20, Samoy, 5.45M) and the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/21, 1.1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YOSEMITE "FIREFALL" FALLS PHENOMENON. Additional coverage of the "firefall" phenomenon at Yosemite was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/19, Durando, 5.45M), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/21, 518K), and the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/19, Staff, Reports, 4.1M).

US Geological Survey:

USGS DEMONSTRATES HOW IT MEASURES STREAM FLOW. The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (2/20, 100K) reports that the USGS "gave a behind-the-scenes public tour on Saturday of how it measures stream flow in the San Lorenzo River, which is a major drinking water source for Santa Cruz and home to a number of struggling species." Anthony Guerriero, field office chief for the USGS in Santa Cruz, and "his team demonstrated how they calculate the water flow using both trusty technology from the 1930s and modern equipment."

Top National News:

KERRY ANNOUNCES "PROVISIONAL" TRUCE IN SYRIA AS BOMBS ROCK HOMS, DAMASCUS. Secretary of State Kerry's announcement Sunday during a trip to Jordan that he and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had reached a "provisional agreement in principle" for a temporary truce in Syria is being met with some skepticism. Media reports highlight the lack of specifics revealed by the Secretary and note he made a similar announcement earlier this month only to see the violence continue. The announcement – which was not covered by any of the networks last night – also came on the same day as a series of bombings in Syria, casting further doubt on whether a ceasefire would take hold.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Morello, 8.98M) reports Kerry said he and Lavrov had reached a "provisional agreement in principle" for a temporary truce that could start within days. Kerry, who spoke Sunday to Lavrov "for the second day in a row," said the final details will be discussed during a phone call between President Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin. While he "did not elaborate on the parameters of a cease-fire," Kerry said he believes it "could begin in the coming days." According to the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 5, 1:45, Glor, 5.08M), the President and Putin are expected to speak "in the coming days to try and hammer out details of some kind of pause in this war."

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Sunday's declaration marked "the second time in 10 days that Mr. Kerry had announced a 'cessation of hostilities' that would go into effect in days – a phrase that was carefully chosen to avoid all the connotations of a full cease-fire." In what the Times says was a possible sign of caution, Kerry "was vague about the timing" of the latest truce, saying only that it "could begin in the coming days." [Al Jazeera America](#) (2/21, 209K), however, reports on its website that the Russian Foreign Ministry "seemed to stop short of Kerry's announcement," saying only that Lavrov and Kerry discussed "the modality and conditions" for a ceasefire. [Voice of America](#) (2/21, 60K) too says Russia issued a "more reserved statement."

The [AP](#) (2/21, Mroue, Riechmann) says Kerry "acknowledged that it's not finalized and all parties might not automatically comply." Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, meanwhile, told Spain's [El Pais](#) newspaper in remarks published Sunday that Syria is "ready" to take part in a truce "as long as it is not used by militants to reinforce their positions." Kerry, [Reuters](#) (2/21, Zengerle, Davison) reports, on Sunday also reiterated the Administration's position that Assad must step down, saying, "With Assad there, this war cannot and will not end." The [Jordan Times](#) (2/21, Malkawi, 153) reports Kerry said the path to peace is "isolating, degrading and destroying Daesh, 'giving the people of Syria a real choice to their future is actually right in front of us now.'"

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (2/21, Wilner, 27K), meanwhile, reports State Department officials say the Administration is

seeking "a cease-fire that is long enough to engage in a serious negotiation toward a political transition in the country – ideally away from Assad."

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/21, Syeed, 2.92M) says Kerry's announcement "drew skeptical reactions" from those who "questioned the parties' commitment to a pause in fighting," especially with Assad's forces making progress in the north. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/21, Bulos, 4.1M) says a "wave of suicide bombings" on Sunday that killed dozens in Damascus and Homs also cast doubt on Kerry's claim that "the parties were closer to a ceasefire than ever before." Also noting Sunday's bombings, [AFP](#) (2/21, Al-Mounes, Revise) reports Kerry announced a provisional deal had been reached on a truce "only for the bloodshed to intensify on the ground."

ISIL has claimed responsibility for the bombings in both cities, which killed nearly 130 people, [USA Today](#) (2/21, Zoroya, 5.45M) reports. At least 83 people were killed and "more than 170 others were wounded" in blasts in a Damascus suburb, while an earlier double-car bombing in Homs killed "at least 46 people and wounded dozens." According to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/21, Bulos, 4.1M), "pro-government outlets" and online activists "said the bombings occurred in a coordinated fashion," and the [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Naylor, 8.98M) says ISIL "appears to be shifting its tactics and targeting areas controlled by Assad's government, raising speculation that it is responding to the loss of ground in both Syria and Iraq to US-backed Arab and Kurdish opponents."

The [AP](#) (2/21, Mroue, Riechmann) says the blasts "may strengthen the government's argument that it should press ahead with a major offensive in the north," where its troops, backed by Russian airstrikes, "are close to sealing off Aleppo."

Rouhani: Crisis Can Only Be Resolved Through Political Negotiations. [AFP](#) (2/21) reports Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on Sunday made a surprise visit to Tehran "with the conflict in Syria high on his agenda," Iranian state media reported. Shoigu met President Hassan Rouhani to deliver a "special message" from Russian President Vladimir Putin. After the meeting, Rouhani said, "Resolving the crisis in Syria can only be achieved through political negotiations and respect for the rights of the Syrian people who must ultimately decide their country's future."

Experts Warn US-Backed Rebels Suffering Under Russian Airstrikes, Kurdish Attacks. [The Hill](#) (2/21, Wong, 862K) reports military experts are warning the Administration is "allowing moderate Syrian rebels, which the Pentagon spent hundreds of millions training, to be slowly destroyed" by Russian airstrikes and attacks from the Kurdish militia known as the YPG "that's also backed by the US." According to [The Hill](#), the attacks "have led to criticism that the administration is standing by while its allies are killed."

Russia Accused Of Dropping "Dumb" Bombs. The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Scarborough, 285K) reports the US military is accusing Russia of dropping "mostly gravity 'dumb' bombs" in Syria, "indiscriminately killing rebels and civilians alike around strategic cities such as Aleppo." Russian media, however, "contend that gravity bombs, guided by computerized systems, can be just as accurate as those directed by a GPS system," but the US military and human rights groups "scoff at the assertion."

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON MOMENTUM GROWS AFTER NEVADA CAUCUSES. [ABC World News](#) (2/21, story 3, 2:10, Llamas, 5.84M) reported that Hillary Clinton's victory in Nevada "was a slim one, but included big support from African-American voters." ABC added that with "momentum back on her side, her campaign is confident they see a clear path to the nomination." However, ABC said that Sen. Bernie Sanders had "a strong second finish." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, story 4, 2:40, Snow, 7.86M) reported that Clinton's victory "puts her in a stronger position going into the Democratic primary in South Carolina next Saturday," especially among African-American voters, who supported her "by a whopping 76% to 22% after she aggressively engaged them." However, NBC added that "Latinos chose Sanders by single digits and younger voters picked the Vermont senator by 72%." The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 3, 2:30, Glor, 5.08M) reported that Clinton won Nevada's "most populous county by ten points." CBS said that while African-Americans, women, and older voters were critical to Clinton's win, "younger voters once again went overwhelmingly for Sanders."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/21, Talev, 289K) reports that Clinton's victory in Nevada "came with cautionary signs about the difficulty of putting away Bernie Sanders for good." Despite being "expected to have run the tables" and having better organization and better recognition in the state, "for a few hours on Saturday it looked just as nip-and-tuck as Iowa." [Bloomberg Politics](#) says Clinton has had difficulty in overcoming the "durable appeal" of Sanders' economic message, although it adds that Sanders must "prove he has appeal in more ethnically and geographically diverse states" in upcoming contests.

Clinton Developing Stronger Lead In Delegate Count. The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Healy, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Clinton's 502 delegates to Sanders' 70 following the Nevada contest shows Sanders is "slipping significantly behind" Clinton, "and the odds against him overtaking her growing increasingly remote." The Times says Clinton will probably benefit significantly among predominantly minority districts on Super Tuesday, as well as from districts with more delegates. The Times also examines Clinton's positioning "to create the sort of mathematical quandary for Mr. Sanders that she faced in 2008," in which she could develop an insurmountable lead.

WPost Analysis: Sanders Likely To Draw Out Campaign. The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Tumulty, 8.98M) reports in depth on Sanders' probability of winning the Democratic nomination, highlighting that despite Clinton's victory in Nevada, "Sanders has the ability to remain in the race for the distance, thanks to his fundraising abilities" and due to the Democrats' delegate allocation system. The Post examines the likelihood of a Sanders victory in five Super Tuesday states that he said he has a "good shot" of winning; while the caucus system in Minnesota and Colorado could favor Clinton, who has been campaigning in the states since last fall, the Post says Oklahoma, Massachusetts, and Vermont could favor Sanders given the "liberal leanings" of Democrats there.

[The Hill](#) (2/21, Balluck, 862K) reports that Sanders said Sunday that he has a "good shot" of winning primaries in Colorado, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. Speaking on NBC's "Meet The Press," Sanders also said his campaign is "looking pretty good in Oklahoma," and that the most recent poll in Vermont "had us at 80 percent, so I think we've got a shot to win there." Sanders told Chuck Todd that he will stay in the race "to the convention," and said "we have come a very, very long way. I think the first time I was on your show, we were probably at 5 percent in the polls."

Slate Columnist: Clinton Victory All But Guaranteed. Writing for [Slate](#) (2/21, 1.48M), Janelle Bouie says that Clinton's victory in Nevada "proves its theory of the race," that Sanders' performances in Iowa and New Hampshire are reflections of those states' demographics rather than "any pro-Bernie tide in the Democratic Party." Bouie argues that Clinton still maintains an advantage with the broader electorate and "barring a catastrophic decline with black voters she'll march steadily to the nomination."

Clinton Details Strategy To Fix Standing Among Independent Voters. On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/21, Tapper, 420K), Clinton also detailed her strategy for connecting more with independent voters. Clinton said, "I'm going to do what I have always done. I'm going to keep, you know, reaching out to voters. I understand that voters have questions. I'm going to do my very best to answer those questions. I think there's an underlying question that maybe is really in the back of people's minds. And that is, you know, is she in it for us or is she in it for herself? I think that's, you know, a question that people are trying to sort through and I'm going to demonstrate that I have always been the same person, fighting for the same values, fighting to make a real difference in people's lives long before I was ever in elected office, even before my husband was in the presidency."

Ralston Portrays Reid As Central To Clinton's Victory. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (2/21, 5.45M), Nevada political journalist Jon Ralston discusses Senate Minority Leader Reid's role in helping Clinton secure a victory in Nevada. Ralston describes "a remarkable bit of backroom maneuvering" between Reid and D. Taylor, the head of a local chapter of the Culinary Union in Las Vegas, in which Reid convinced Taylor and other casino executives to ensure that "workers would be allowed time off from work to caucus," ensuring that Clinton won Hispanic and African-American votes in Clark County. Ultimately Ralston portrays Reid as "a man Machiavelli would have bowed to, a man who with one eye who still sees the field better and is still more dangerous, effective and cunning than any pol the state (the country?) has ever seen."

NYTimes Welcomes Increased Turnout By Younger Voters. The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes on the participation of young voters in the 2016 election cycle, calling it "one of the more pleasant surprises" of this year's contests. With voter turnout for those aged 18 to 29 for both parties nearing 2008 levels, the Times points out that the youth vote was the only group not won by Donald Trump in South Carolina, and that the youth vote has been critical for Sanders' success so far. Pointing out the importance of the youth vote for Democrats, the Times says that the turnout among younger voters "suggest growing engagement by the nation's newest voters," which is always good but is "particularly welcome now."

Democratic Primary Race Spurs "Passionate Debate" On Facebook. [The Hill](#) (2/21, McCabe, 862K) reports on the "passionate debate" between supporters of Clinton and Sanders on Facebook, with data indicating "Sanders may have a home-field advantage over Clinton on Facebook." According to [The Hill](#), Facebook said recently that Sanders "has about three times the number of 'likes' as Clinton" on the network, although the

company's data also indicates "the primary fight is heating up online." The Hill illustrates that comments and messages about both candidates "has at times turned ugly," with "aggressive" tactics by Sanders supporters especially prevalent.

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUMP UNDISPUTED GOP FRONTRUNNER, WITH RUBIO EMERGING AS MAIN RIVAL. With Donald Trump following his big win in New Hampshire earlier this month with another easy win in South Carolina on Saturday, there is a growing media consensus that Trump is the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination. Though Sen. Marco Rubio bested Sen. Ted Cruz by less than 1,100 out of more than 730,000 votes cast to run second, media analysts say that gives him momentum and sets back Cruz, who had hoped to do well in the socially conservative state. But while Rubio is seen as the emerging chief rival to Trump – especially with Jeb Bush out of the race – Cruz is expected to remain in the running. In addition, Gov. John Kasich's likely presence in the race through at least mid-March is seen as a potential complication for Rubio

[ABC World News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:40, Llamas, 5.84M) reported that "the fight for second place came down to just over 1,000 votes," with Rubio "edging out" Cruz. ABC's Jonathan Karl said, "Donald Trump is now unmistakably on top. ... With Jeb Bush calling it quits, now to become the Trump alternative it's the two Cuban-American freshman senators against each other." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, lead story, 3:10, Snow, 7.86M) reported that with Trump "still riding high off a big victory" in South Carolina and Bush "out of the race, the question tonight: Does Trump have the Republican nomination locked up or can he, will he be stopped? ... Since 1980, no Republican presidential candidate has won both the New Hampshire and South Carolina primaries...gone on to lose the nomination." The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 2, 2:50, Glor, 5.08M) reported that Trump's South Carolina victory "gives him a commanding lead in the early delegate count, but with more than 1,200 delegates need for the Republican nomination, there is a long way to go."

[USA Today](#) (2/21, Jackson, 5.45M) writes that "depending on which campaign is talking, the Republican presidential race is either a three-person, two-person, or one-person affair." Rubio, riding his "razor-thin margin over Cruz, pronounced it a 'three-person race,'" while Cruz "noted he is the only candidate to have beaten Trump" and "said he is the only 'consistent conservative' who can prevail down the line." Still, the [New York Times](#) (2/21, Rappeport, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Trump's rivals are "struggling to gain momentum" as Trump continues to win primaries.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Rucker, Costa, 8.98M) says that "in a clear admission of Trump's dominant standing," Rubio and Cruz "are not even pretending they can best the billionaire mogul on March 1, or 'Super Tuesday,' when 11 states hold primaries or caucuses." Cruz hopes for a win in Texas, but Rubio and the other remaining candidates "are charting strategies to accrue convention delegates by surgically targeting slivers of the states."

[McClatchy](#) (2/21, Lightman, 22K) writes that "the biggest hope for stopping Trump is for a single strong challenger to emerge, and so far that hasn't happened." A CNN/ORC poll in Nevada, which holds its GOP caucuses on Tuesday, "showed Trump with a huge lead" of 45% to Rubio's 19% and Cruz's 17% – and that survey was conducted before South Carolina. The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Dinan, McLaughlin, 285K) says a Nevada win would give Trump "the prospect of entering the big March contests with momentum and a massive lead over his opponents in delegates." The [AP](#) (2/21, Bykowicz, Gillum) reports Trump has a robust and broad campaign operation beyond the early states, and "has vowed to spend 'whatever it takes.'"

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/21, Feldmann, 442K) writes, "Three contests into primary season, a simple truth is self-evident: Donald Trump is on track to become the Republican Party's 2016 presidential nominee." But Rubio "has momentum" and Cruz "has money and organization, and can still do well in the Southern states that will vote on Super Tuesday." Kasich hopes to hold out until Ohio and other large Midwestern states vote on March 15, while Ben Carson "is building his personal brand as he campaigns" but seems to have no likely wins in sight.

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Confessore, Cohen, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Trump and Cruz "appear to be in the best position financially" going into the March contests. Cruz began February with \$13.6 million in cash on hand, while Trump "has raised millions of dollars from small donors and lent himself millions more."

Chris Cillizza of the [Washington Post](#) (2/21, 8.98M) writes, "Substitute any other Republican in the race into Trump's current position. There is a 100 percent chance that that person would be touted as the prohibitive favorite or the odds-on nominee." Trump is not "getting the credit and coverage he deserves" because "there is

still a belief within the party establishment and the ranks of the media that he will somehow implode or that voters will 'wise up' or 'get real' – or something." On [ABC World News](#) (2/21, story 2, 0:40, Llamas, 5.84M), political analyst Matt Dowd said, "I think Donald Trump had a better insight into the GOP this year than the dynastic Bush family. Now he needs to keep winning, because winning begets winning, and momentum at this point is more important than anything else."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that Trump is now the favorite for the nomination, and he can only be defeated if non-Trump voters consolidate behind one other candidate. That is unlikely, the Journal says, and even if it happens, it would not necessarily ensure Trump's defeat. Gerald Seib writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) that so far, there has been no sign of consolidation behind one alternative, with five candidates expected to remain in the race at least through the March 1 states.

Trump Says He Is Not Unstoppable. [AFP](#) (2/21, Couronne) reports Trump "made the rounds of the Sunday political talk shows," where he said "he could be the consensus candidate" and could be competitive in traditionally Democratic states like New York in the general election. But Trump said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/21, Tapper, 420K), that he is not unstoppable, saying Cruz is "very talented and certainly he could beat me and so could Marco and so could the other ones."

Trump Clarifies Comments On ACA Mandate. Trump, appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#) (2/21, Wallace), clarified his stance on the Affordable Care Act mandate. Trump said that he doesn't "want mandates for anything," despite his comments on CNN's Anderson Cooper. Trump said, "I want people to be covered that cannot afford to be covered. I don't want people dying in the streets and that's not mandate. That's me. That's having a heart. I don't want people dying in the streets."

Trump Camp Tried To Hire Americans For Prosperity Staffers. [BuzzFeed](#) (2/21, Parti, 8.95M) reports that in late 2015, Trump's campaign "aggressively courted top current and former staffers" from the "Koch-backed" Americans For Prosperity. Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski is the former New Hampshire state director of the group. While "in some states, Lewandowski was successful," in "many key states...his recruitment efforts failed. At least half a dozen current Koch network staffers in states with upcoming primaries turned down offers."

Marlene Ricketts Funding Anti-Trump Super PAC. Fredreka Schouten writes in [USA Today](#) (2/21, Schouten, 5.45M) that "new campaign-finance reports show that Marlene Ricketts, the wife of billionaire T.D. Ameritrade founder J. Joe Ricketts, contributed \$3 million to Our Principles PAC, a super PAC that blistered Trump with negative ads, voter guides and mailers" in Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. Former Romney campaign official Katie Packer runs the PAC.

Will: Trump's Tax Records Should Be Scrutinized. George Will writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/21, 8.98M) column that Trump's tax returns "might illuminate unsavory business practices and exaggerations of his wealth. He thrives by determining the campaign's conversation. It is time to talk about his tax records."

WPost's Allen Urges GOP And Even Democrats To Bolster Rubio. [Washington Post](#) (2/21, 8.98M) contributing columnist Danielle Allen, a political theorist at Harvard, writes that Trump "is rising by taking advantage of a divided country. The truth is that the vast majority of voting Americans think that Trump is unacceptable as a presidential candidate, but we are split by strong partisan ideologies and cannot coordinate a solution to stop him." She calls on the candidates other than Rubio to leave the race, for all ex-candidates to endorse Rubio, and for Democrats to change their party registration and vote for Rubio in their state's primaries.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Clinton Hits A Pothole In Money Race](#)

[Gas Leak Is Sealed; Now What?](#)

[Murder And Torture: Not Her El Chapo](#)

[Showing Their Hands In Nevada](#)

[More Nations Killing By Remote Control](#)

Wall Street Journal:

Toys 'R' Us Poses A Test For Junk-Bond Markets
 Trump, Clinton Seize Leads
 US Fights Encryption—And Also Helps Develop It
 London Mayor Splits With Cameron Over EU Exit

New York Times:

Delegate Count Leaving Bernie Sanders With Steep Climb
 Donald Trump's Victory Spurs Renewed Scrambling Among Republicans
 US Scrambles To Contain Growing ISIS Threat In Libya
 Pivotal Nursing Home Suit Raises A Simple Question: Who Signed the Contract?
 Reporting On Life, Death And Corruption In Southeast Asia

Washington Post:

As GOP Race Goes National, Candidates Hit Different Trails
 Two Last Names — Bush And Trump — Led To Jeb's Demise
 Zika's Scary New Turn
 Driver For Uber Held In 6 Deaths
 Convicted Of CIA Leak, But He's Not Losing Hope

Financial Times:

Republican Race On Verge Of Narrowing
 Business Backs Cameron Bid To Halt Brexit

Washington Times:

Clinton, Sanders Claim Hispanic Vote
 So Far, No Spat's Too Big For Trump To Fail
 Lawmakers Hear 76 Pleas To Make Assisted Suicide Legal
 US Slams Russia's "Dumb" Bombs
 Thais Get Russian Military Sales Pitch As US Steps Away
 Critics Say City's Spring Break Crackdown Has Racial Undertone

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-South Carolina Primary; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Nevada Caucuses; Michigan Shooting Spree; Fiji Cyclone; Pope Francis-Death Penalty Suspension Request.

CBS: Michigan Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics- Republicans; 2016 Politics- Democrats; Fiji Cyclone; Syria-Civilians Bombed; Dalai Lama-Health; Catholic Church-Girl Scout Troops; Beyonce Half Time Performance-Police Forces; Gun Shot Wound Technology.

NBC: 2016 Politics-South Carolina Primary; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Michigan Shooting Spree; Bill Cosby-Deposition Postpone Request; Fiji-Cyclone; US Drug Epidemic; International Space Station Photos.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 20 minutes, 20 seconds
 Michigan Shooting Spree – 8 minutes, 50 seconds
 Fiji Cyclone – 1 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Michigan Shooting Spree-Suspect Detained; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton Victory; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Dalai Lama-Health.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Republican Primaries; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton Victory; Michigan Shooting Spree; Gas Prices Decrease; Daytona 500 Results.

NPR: Michigan Shooting Spree-Suspect Detained; 2016 Politics-Republican Primaries; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio Campaign; 2016 Politics-Democratic Primaries; Fiji-Cyclone Damage; London Mayor-British European Union Exit; US Air Force-Ballistic Missile Test; Box Office.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.**

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Attends the National Governors Association Winter Meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled public events.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate holds procedural vote on FDA commissioner nominee – Senate convenes, with agenda including reading of Washington's Farewell Address in the Senate, followed by an executive session to consider the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf to be Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, including a roll call vote on a motion to invoke cloture Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Dem Sen. Bob Casey honors former Philadelphia mayor at Black History Month tribute – Democratic Sen. Bob Casey annual Black History Month tribute on Capitol Hill, honoring former Philadelphia Mayor Rev. Dr W. Wilson Goode. Includes remarks on the Senate floor (4:00 PM EST), press availability, Russell Rotunda (4:45 PM EST), and Symposium with Cozen O'Connor Real Estate Practice Group Co-Chair Bernard Lee, Howard University Minister and Professor of Applied Theology Harold Dean Trulear, America's Promise Alliance President and CEO Josh Gomperts, and Stefan Johnson – a 24-year-old mentee of Dr Goode, Rm 325, Russell Senate Office Bldg (5:00 PM EST) Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://casey.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenBobCasey>

Congress returns from Presidents Day recess – Congress returns after Presidents Day District Work Period (aka State Work Period), including a reading of Washington's Farewell Address in the Senate * No votes in the House of Representatives today Location: Washington, DC

US House: 10:00 AM House Small Business Committee field hearing on creating manufacturing opportunities in New York – Field hearing on 'The Empire (State) Strikes Back: Creating 21st Century Manufacturing Opportunities in New York City'. Witnesses include Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Republican Rep. Steve Chabot, Linda Tool Owner Michael DiMarino, Pratt Center for Community Development Director Adam Friedman, Early Bird Foods & Co. Founder and Owner Nekisia Davis, and IceStone USA President Jana Milcikova Location: City Hall, New York, NY New York City <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

2:00 PM Agriculture, Energy and Trade Subcommittee field hearing on 'Overcoming Challenges to Exporting for Small Businesses'

Location: Bramson Ort College, 69-30 Austin St, Forest Hills, NY <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

Congress returns from Presidents Day recess – Congress returns after Presidents Day District Work Period (aka State Work Period), including a reading of Washington's Farewell Address in the Senate * No votes in the House of Representatives today Location: Washington, DC

Other: 7:30 AM National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session – National Congress of American Indians 2016 Executive Council Winter Session (aka Tribal Nations Legislative Summit). Speakers include Secretary of Veteran Affairs Robert McDonald, Acting Secretary of Education John King, Small Business Administration Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education Executive Director William Mendoza, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Mary Wakefield, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lawrence Roberts, President's Special Assistant Karen Diver, bipartisan Sens. Al Franken, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, and James Lankford, and bipartisan Reps. Dan Kildee, Jon Tester, Norma Torres, Betty McCollum, Mike Honda, Gwen Moore, Mark Pocan, Don Young, Lisa Murkowski, and Mike Crapo Location: Capital Hilton, Washington, DC <http://www.ncai.org/>
<https://twitter.com/NCAI1944>

7:30 AM National Association of Counties Legislative Conference continues – National Association of Counties Legislative Conference. Day three speakers include Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli, National Science Foundation Director Dr France Cordova, USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, Utah Governor Gary Herbert, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, HHS Administration for Children and Families Office of Refugee Resettlement Director Bob Carey, and 'Fox News Sunday' host Chris Wallace Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC
www.naco.org <https://twitter.com/NACoTweets>

2:00 PM DHS Secretary Johnson hosts 'Leadership in Times of Crisis' panel discussion – Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson hosts panel discussion on 'Leadership in Times of Crisis', bringing together

current and former state and city chief executives to discuss the challenges of leading during incidents that range from terrorist attacks to natural disasters. Participants include Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, while topics include decision making, lessons learned from governing, and communication strategies during times of crisis Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.dhs.gov <https://twitter.com/DHSGov>

3:00 PM EESI briefing series on the Clean Power Plan begins – Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing on 'Environmental Justice in the Clean Power Plan' – the first in a series on the topic – featuring Environmental Protection Agency Administrator's Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice Mustafa Ali, GreenLatinos President Mark Magana, and Skeo Solutions Senior Associate Vernice Miller-Travis * Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay against the Plan Location: Rm 2168, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.eesi.org <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, tomorrow is the South Carolina primary, and this week Donald Trump has been telling supporters that if he wins South Carolina he thinks he could, quote, 'Run the table.' And if he doesn't win, he'll flip over the table like an angry New Jersey housewife."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 17, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 6:59 AM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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- + Jury Selected For Trial Of Ex-BP Rig Supervisor.

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- + Wild Horse Advocates Raise Concerns About BLM Adoption Proposal.
- + Idaho Land Board Approves Agreement With BLM Involving Land Swap.
- + Bill Introduced To Reopen Permitting Process Of CEMEX Mine.
- + BLM Criticized For Missing Opportunity On Bullwacker-Cow Creek Access.

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- + Obama's Budget Request Includes \$1.6B For FWS.
- + FWS Grant Helps Joins Two Halves Of Negwegon State Park.
- + Group Moves To Block Import Of Elephants To Zoos.
- + FWS Considering Transfer Of National Bison Range To Tribes.
- + Students Create Campus Wildlife Area On Peregrine School Campus.
- + Fire At Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge 50% Contained.
- + Public Meeting To Be Held On Manatee Reclassification.
- + Additional Coverage: Conservation Groups To Sue FWS Over New Bat Rule.

National Park Service:

- + Fourth Graders Offered Free Access To National Parks.
- + NPS Designated 34 New Communities As Certified Local Governments In 2015.
- + NPS Begins Selling Passes Online.
- + Report Recommends Expanding Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
- + Yellowstone National Park Begins Trapping And Slaughter Of Bison.
- + Thefts Prompt Closures At Mining Sites In Joshua Tree National Park.
- + Officials Plan To Shoot Utah Mountain Goats.
- + Water Begins Flowing To Eastern Everglades National Park.
- + NPS Supports Plan By Lowell To Light Up Canals.
- + Trail At Saguaro National Park To Be Made Wheelchair Accessible.
- + Superdome Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- + Weir Farm Superintendent To Receive National Park Service's Cultural Resource Stewardship Award.
- + Silent-Movie Film Studio Seeks Recognition As A Historic Landmark.
- + Additional Coverage Of National Park Foundation Field Trip Grants.
- + Additional Coverage Of "National Parks Adventure" Film.
- + NPS Urged To Side With Point Reyes Ranchers.
- + Portland Press Herald: Maine Officials Shouldn't Shut Down Dialogue With National Park Service.
- + Weiser: McClintock Misinterprets Muir's Support For Reforming Yosemite.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

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- + South Carolina Poll: Clinton Leads Sanders 56%-38%.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

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DOI in the News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that President Obama has used the Antiquities Act “much more ambitiously in his second term, designating last Friday the 1.6-million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument.” With the designations, “he’s closing in on Clinton, who used the act 22 times to preserve 5.7 million acres.” According to the article, “Obama would surpass Clinton if he heeds calls by conservationists to designate the 2.5-million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands in southeast Oregon, an area the size of Yellowstone National Park that’s full of stark river gorges and rolling sagebrush hills.” But “that proposal is bitterly opposed by many local ranchers and elected officials and could be a tough political sell as communities heal from the 40-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.”

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), Jim Bagley criticizes “President Barack Obama’s use of executive authority to create national monuments in the California desert with the Antiquities Act.” According to Bagley, “the issue is the essential American value of fairness and open governmental process.” He argues that “any decisions on the long term use of these American treasures should involve an open public hearing process for the determination of the highest and best use for those lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/17, 98K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) and [AlterNet](#) (2/16, 91K).

Focus Turns To Owyhee Canyonlands. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “the occupation that ended last week touched raw nerves over the federal government’s vast landholdings in Oregon and the restrictions it imposes on grazing, mining and logging.” According to the article, “while Harney County residents largely opposed Ammon Bundy’s decision to seize the bird sanctuary south of Burns, they sympathized with his critique of federal environmental restrictions – and some vented about the monument proposal, which is located in neighboring Malheur County along the Idaho border.”

Meanwhile, the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (2/16, 19K) reports that “ballots for a county-wide referendum on the possible designation of a national monument in Malheur County will be going out this week.” According to the article “county voters are being asked to weigh in on whether 2.5 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands in Malheur County be designated as a national monument.”

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Opposes Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (2/16) reports that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation opposes the designation of the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The believes “the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state of Arizona already manage the lands in question for multiple uses with wildlife and natural resource conservation as top priorities.” They are also concerned the Grand Canyon Watershed and Kaibab National Forest “could be shut down for hunting and recreational shooting without public comment, usurping state management authority.”

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department announced that “a wealthy investor with a history of supporting the National Park Service has donated \$18.5 million to a congressionally chartered charity that will help restore the Lincoln Memorial.” The donation by David Rubenstein “to the National Park Foundation is part of a broader effort during the NPS centennial year to raise \$350 million from wealthy donors and corporations to protect and restore prized national treasures like the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., which honors the nation’s 16th president.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “David Rubenstein’s generous donation will promote and protect one of the Nation’s most hallowed symbols and comes at a critical time as our national parks usher in a new century of service. This donation will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials but will preserve Lincoln’s legacy for future generations to appreciate.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (2/16, Pearson, 3.96M), the [Daily Caller](#) (2/16, Birr, 443K), [NBC News](#) (2/16, 3.58M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/16, 1.1M), the [Bethesda-Chevy Chase \(MD\) Patch](#) (2/16), [Townhall](#) (2/16, 132K), [PopHerald](#) (2/17), and [WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (2/16, 154K).

CLIVEN BUNDY DENIED BAIL IN 2014 STANDOFF CASE. [CNN](#) (2/16, Martinez, 3.96M) reports Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was denied Bail Tuesday by a judge in an Oregon federal court, saying that Bundy was a flight risk. Bundy was charged with six counts last week relating to this 2014 armed showdown against federal

land managers on the open range where his cattle grazed illegally. He was arrested last week in Portland, "where he flew in support of his sons Ammon and Ryan," who are among 16 people indicted for participating in another, more recent armed standoff against federal authorities at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Federal prosecutors argued that Bundy was "a danger to the community" and he "does not recognize federal courts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, Duara, 4.1M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/16, Sottile, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/16, 853K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/16, Dubois, Ritter, Press, 1.99M), [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/17, 4.92M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois, Press, 881K), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois Ken Ritter |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Dubois, Ritter, 285K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/16, 442K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/16, 2K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Berger, 3.71M).

Ammon Bundy's Bodyguard Also Denied Bail. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that a federal magistrate ordered Wesley Kjar, a Salt Lake City resident, to be sent to Oregon to face prosecution for participating in the armed takeover at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Magistrate Judge Dustin Peard ruled Kjar is a flight risk and a danger to the community. The Tribune says Kjar "encouraged others to join in the standoff and described himself as the right-hand man of occupation leader Ammon Bundy," according to prosecutor Alicia Cook. She said Kjar served as Bundy's bodyguard and cited an article claiming Kjar "said he would not hesitate to stand between Bundy and a bullet."

BLM In No Hurry To Return To Gold Butte Area. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/16, 479K) reports the Bureau of Land Management will take their time returning to Gold Butte following the arrest of Cliven Bundy and his two sons this week. Southern Nevada BLM field manager Gayle Marrs-Smith informed the Legislative Public Lands Committee the situation remains "fluid" and said no timeline has been established for federal officials to "resume a presence on those public lands where a tense standoff occurred in 2014."

FBI Discovers Human Feces At Cultural Site Near Oregon Refuge. [Reuters](#) (2/17) reports the FBI said it discovered human feces in a trench at an outdoor camping area near a sensitive cultural site with artifacts at the Oregon wildlife refuge that was the site of a recent armed standoff with federal authorities. The filing came after the FBI said it was helping the Burns Paiute Tribe identify damage to the tribe's artifacts and sacred burial grounds at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. It will take evidence teams about three weeks to process the crime scenes at the refuge, according to the document submitted in Oregon federal court on Tuesday.

NEXT SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILL HAVE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that "with speculation over the next Supreme Court nominee running rampant, potential nominees' records on environmental issues and other hot-button topics are drawing scrutiny." According to the article, "whoever replaces the late Justice Antonin Scalia stands to play a major role in legal battles over high-stakes environmental regulations including U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Rule and tightened air restrictions on ozone." Also, "several potentially casting decisive votes on President Obama's environmental legacy in the short-term, the new justice is certain to influence environmental law for decades to come."

GROUP SEEKS "MINERAL WITHDRAWAL" TO STOP POSSIBLE COPPER MINE. The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (2/16, 60K) reports that "a group that formed to fight a possible copper mine in Mazama announced Sunday that it will ask the Secretary of the Interior to prevent all industrial-scale mining on 340,000 acres of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for the next 20 years." According to the article, "ninety Methow Valley business owners signed the Sunday letter to Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to withdraw the national forest lands north and west of Mazama and Winthrop from the establishment of new mineral claims."

PHOTOS DEPICT LIVES DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Murano, 8.98M) "In Sight" photography blog displays a series of restored black and white pictures taken by Roy K. Stryker and his team of photographers in the 1930s for the Farm Security Administration, formerly known as the Resettlement Administration (RA), to "document the hardships and conditions around the country, particularly across the Midwestern states and into California." The RA was created by a 1935 executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt "to help struggling farmers and sharecroppers by providing loans, purchasing depleted farmland and resettling destitute families into government-designed communities." The Post says that Stryker's team produced over 175,000 black and white negatives, 1,610 color transparencies, and several films.

WSJOURNAL: HOUSE MUST HOLD EPA ACCOUNTABLE FOR MINE DISASTER. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn't giving the full story regarding the agency's litany of failures that culminated in

the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn't tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Signal](#) (2/16).

PETERMAN: SPENDING TIME IN NATIONAL PARKS PROVIDES TRANQUILITY. Environmental activist Audrey Peterman writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) blog about her confusion why "large numbers of people and huge sections of our infrastructure," including national parks, "will be affected by rising seas within the next 15 years," but Congressional leaders and several presidential candidates "slough off responsibility by professing that they 'do not believe' in climate change." To quell this anxiety, Peterman says she routinely visits national parks, especially Yosemite, to restore her "sunny perspective." She concludes by stating that it is "time for each of us to decide what action we will take to confront the great challenges that face us today," such as climate change and "protecting our public lands system from those who want to degrade it."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE NEARS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SHABBONA BINGO PLAN. The [DeKalb \(IL\) Daily Chronicle](#) (2/16, 24K) reports that "time is running out for residents to voice their opinions to the federal government about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's plan to bring a 24-hour bingo hall to the area." The BIA is "in the process of crafting an environmental impact study and an impact statement on the tribe's plans to bring Class II gaming to the area."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO HOST PANEL DISCUSSION ON SELF DETERMINATION. [St. Croix Source](#) (2/16) reports that Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will "host a panel discussion in Washington, D.C., on self determination in U.S. territories, including the Virgin Islands." According to the article, "the hearing will focus on the V.I., Guam and American Samoa, which are listed on the United Nations List of Non-Self-Governing Territories." It is scheduled to be held Feb. 23 in the nation's capital.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (2/16) and the [Pacific News Center](#) (2/16).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

\$2M FUNNELED TO EASTERN NEW MEXICO PIPELINE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the federal government is funneling another \$2 million toward a pipeline project aimed at bringing billions of gallons of water a year to parts of eastern New Mexico." According to the article, "members of the state's congressional delegation announced the funding from the Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday." The article notes that "the price has ballooned to more than \$550 million, and the Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged it could end up costing \$750 million."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clovis \(NM\) News Journal](#) (2/16, 21K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (2/16, 952K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), and [KOAT-TV Albuquerque \(NM\) Albuquerque, NM](#) (2/16, 120K).

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT ADDS FEE FOR SPOTTED FROG LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the Tumalo Irrigation District has added an additional fee for patrons in anticipation of mounting legal costs associated with recently filed lawsuits over Oregon spotted frog habitat." The district imposed "a \$175 fee this year for each water right account holder to help pay for litigation as well as for public relations during the court case." The BOR, "Tumalo and other irrigation districts are being sued by the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, Shorack, 285K), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/16, Bulletin, 84K), and the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/16, 98K).

AGENCIES FOCUS ON SAVING WINTER-RUN SALMON. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/16, 65K) reports that "members of the Winnemem Wintu tribe believe their lives are intertwined with the salmon — particularly the winter-run chinook salmon." But "fish die-offs in the Sacramento River over the past two years

have many people worried about the winter-run going extinct." The article notes that "federal and state fisheries officials are so concerned with the die off that for the past two years they have taken the unprecedented step of closing the Sacramento River in Redding to fishing from April to August when the salmon are spawning."

OPINION: SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM REQUIRED TO MEET CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS. In response to a Jan. 26 [article](#) titled, "Council takes hard line on SDS talks," local property owner Dwain Maxwell writes in the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/16, 87K) that the Southern Delivery System should be shut down unless it meets all of its contractual agreements stated in the 1041. Maxwell points out that, for property owners, the 1041 "states that eminent domain can only be taken when proof of need is proven." He believes that the SDS' recent actions trying to obtain property via an eminent domain court shows their "greed" is "just too much to swallow."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SCIENTISTS TRYING TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/16, 312K) reports that "scientists are working on harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., where the ocean flows with more power than all of the world's rivers combined." According to the BOEM, "Gulf Stream currents might have more potential than offshore wind. Ocean currents move more slowly than wind but are about 800 times more dense."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON METHANE EMISSIONS. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that "the city of Farmington will hold one of only four public hearings across the country for a proposal aimed at updating 30-year-old regulations on methane and natural gas releases from public and tribal lands."

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/16, 31K) reports that "nearly 800 people flooded the San Juan College's Henderson Fine Arts Center auditorium Tuesday to weigh in on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed set of regulations aimed at reducing methane leaks on public and tribal lands." According to the article, "the public comments, which came after a 45 minute BLM briefing about the proposed changes, came from two camps: those seeking to protect the environment and eliminate waste and those worried about the impact of the regulations on oil and gas industry jobs and the regional economy." During the meeting, "frustrations bubbled up and some of those who objected to the proposed rules started booing, shouting and noisily yawning during testimonials." The article notes that "when the Farmington mayor asked those in the crowd opposed to the BLM's proposed regulations to stand up, most attendees rose to their feet."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/16, 44K)

New Mexico Leaders Support Methane Rule. The [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/16, 4K) reports that "a proposed rule from the U.S. Department of the Interior to reduce the venting, leaking and flaring of methane and other natural gases from oil and gas drilling operations on public lands has strong support among New Mexico leaders." According to the article, "more than 40 current and former elected officials from San Juan County in New Mexico recently submitted a letter to the Bureau of Land Management in support of its proposed rules on flaring."

WYOMING DEQ DEFENDS COAL MINING DEAL. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports Wyoming regulators defended their oversight of Alpha Natural Resources' and Arch Coal's bonding after they filed for bankruptcy. In a letter to federal regulators, Kyle Wendtland, who oversees mining regulation at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, wrote that the US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has "no basis for second guessing DEQ's judgment." Wyoming officials have faced scrutiny after agreeing last year to make the state a "priority creditor to receive \$61 million out of \$411 million in required bonding for Alpha's mines." State officials argued that the agreement did not free Alpha from its reclamation obligations, and that it requires the coal mining company to emerge from bankruptcy to fully cover its bond obligations.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/16, 337K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), [WyoFile](#) (2/16), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\) Billings, MT](#) (2/16, 2K).

Wyoming House Committee Allocates \$241M In Federal Funds For Highways, DEQ. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K) reports the Wyoming House Appropriations Committee advanced a bill Tuesday morning that allocates \$162.3 million of federal mine land reclamation money to the state Highway Fund and \$79.6 million to the state Department of Environmental Quality “for ongoing operations of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and the Air Quality and the Solid Waste Management divisions.” Congress passed a large spending bill in December that gave Wyoming \$241.9 million from the federal Office of Surface Mining. The Star-Tribune mentions that Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, “two bankrupt coal companies,” have unsecured reclamation obligations in the state worth a combined \$900 million.

SIERRA CLUB FILES CHALLENGE AGAINST OIL, GAS ACTIVITIES IN OKLAHOMA. [Politico Pro](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the Sierra Club has “filed a court challenge against three oil and gas companies active in Oklahoma over their wastewater injection practices, alleging a connection between drillers’ underground disposal habits and a recent surge in earthquake activity in the state.” The petition filed in Oklahoma federal court “seeks relief under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and follows a 5.1 earthquake that hit the state on Saturday.” The group asked that the companies Devon, Chesapeake, and New Dominion “reduce immediately and substantially the amounts of Production Wastes [sic] they are injecting into the ground to levels that seismologists believe will not cause or contribute to increased earthquake frequency and severity.”

CLIMATE ACTIVIST BIDS FOR OIL, GAS LAND IN UTAH. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, Roth, 98K) reports that two dozen bidders attended a meeting in Salt Lake City on Tuesday to purchase leases of over 22,000 acres of public land auctioned off by the Bureau of Land Management. Nearly 100 climate activists protesting the auction were seated in the back of the room, but one protester, Terry Tempest Williams, had registered as a bidder. Following the auction, Williams bid \$1.50 per acre for the right to explore 800 acres of unwanted land “with the explicit goal of keeping the land out of the hands of the fossil-fuel industry.” She plans to also bid on two more parcels totaling 871 acres near Arches National Park in eastern Utah and in the Book Cliffs mountain range.

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/17, Roth, 5.45M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/16, 975K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/16, 404K).

BLM SET TO AUCTION SIX OIL AND GAS PARCELS IN MAY. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that “the first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management’s quarterly oil and gas lease sale.” According to the article, “since 2001, Forest Service officials have worked on an Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis to protect resources and manage oil and gas development. It was completed in 2013.” The article notes that “six land parcels, four of which are in the San Juan National Forest, will be up for competitive bid on May 12.”

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSING FOR TRAPPER, COLOWYO MINES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (2/16, 10K) reports that “the public comment period for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s environmental assessments for two Northwest Colorado mines is coming to a close this week.” According to the article, “Trapper is still undergoing a court-ordered redo on part of its federal coal leases while Colowyo is taking the next step in its Collom Expansion, which has been under assessment for several years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (2/16, 30K).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON THREE POTENTIAL FALL RIVER OIL LEASE SITES. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (2/16, 117K) reports that the BLM is “seeking public comments on potential oil and gas leases on three parcels of private land west of Edgemont, but within the boundaries of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.” Russ Pigors, a physical scientist with the Belle Fourche BLM office, said that “a lease sale will be held for these three Fall River County parcels on July 12 this year, and BLM wants comments from the public for perspective on what sort of environmental impact permitting oil and gas exploration on these leases might have.”

BULLISH ANALYST CHANGES STANCE ON COAL MARKETS. The [Seattle Times](#) (2/17, Mapes, Bernton, 1.12M) reports that Andy Roberts, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, who “less than three years ago” was lauding the long-term prospects of two export terminals proposed for Washington “once considered vital are now irrelevant” due to the decline in Asian coal markets. Roberts indicated in his Feb. 10 report that “rapid changes in coal’s fortunes show what a miscalculation the investment in the ports was.” Combined with “stiff opposition from tribal nations and community and conservation groups,” Roberts said that the “economic wind has fallen out of the projects’ sails.” Additionally, “Asian demand has weakened to the point that coal from the Powder River Basin won’t be competitive in the market until well after 2020.” According to Roberts, non-coal alternatives

are gaining momentum, aided by policy and regulation.

Offshore Energy Development:

TWO STATES ASK COURT TO REVERSE INTERIOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE. [Law360](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that "Louisiana and Alabama pushed a D.C. federal judge to reverse a Department of the Interior rule change on splitting offshore oil drilling revenue Tuesday, arguing the agency favored some Gulf states over others with the new rule." The two states asked U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton to "bind the agency to a 25-year-old interpretation of a rule for divvying up offshore oil lease revenue where states' borders meet."

COURT BLOCKS USE OF BP RESTORATION FUNDS FOR GULF STATE PARK CONFERENCE CENTER. [Alabama Live](#) (2/17, 627K) reports that "a federal judge has blocked the use of certain BP restoration funds stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from being used to rebuild a beachfront lodge and conference center on the Alabama coast." U.S. District Judge Charles Butler "wrote in his decision that the Trustees who were in charge of allocating the funds 'acted arbitrarily and capriciously by failing to conduct a proper alternatives analysis,' as required by the Oil Pollution Act." Butler wrote, "The Court can, and will, enjoin the use of those funds pending further review by the Trustees. However, based on the administrative record before it, and the narrow issue presented by the pleadings, the Court cannot enjoin the Commissioner or the State from building the lodge/conference center with funds other than early restoration funds."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gulf Coast \(FL\) News Today](#) (2/16, 33K).

US REP. BUDDY CARTER CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/16, 207K) reports US. Rep Buddy Carter (R-GA) reiterated his support for oil exploration and offshore drilling for Georgia "even as local communities from Savannah to Brunswick oppose it." In a telephone interview, Carter said, "American has an abundance of natural resources, and we should be utilizing all of them to assure our energy independence." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released its draft plan last year to lease ocean land for oil and gas development off the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Georgia. An expected update of the plan, set to be released soon, could omit some states. The availability of oil and gas leasing as proposed in the Department of the Interior's 2017-2022 plan "has not happened in more than 30 years." Before drilling would begin, "exploration would take place with seismic testing, a controversial practice that maps possible oil and gas deposits under the sea floor."

WOODEN SURFBOARD CONTAINS SIGNATURES OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC. Pete Stauffer, environmental director for Surfrider Foundation, writes in [Clean Energy](#) (2/16) about a wooden surfboard that "journeyed through seven states and visited countless communities on its way to Washington DC." The surfboard, which contains dozens of signatures from "restaurants, surf shops, art galleries, hotels, and other coastal businesses," is a symbol of the recreation industry's opposition to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. US Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) said they will add their signatures before it is presented to White House officials on Feb. 16 "along with letters signed by over a thousand businesses asking our nation's leaders to cancel plans for oil drilling in the Atlantic."

CSA OCEAN TO RECEIVE NOPP DEEPWATER CANYONS AWARD. [Hydro International](#) (2/16, 28K) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey announced that the National Oceanographic Partnership Program will present the 2015 Excellence in Partnering Award to a team managed by CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. that participated in the "Atlantic Canyons: Pathways to the Abyss" project. The ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 23 to coincide with Ocean Sciences 2016 in New Orleans. During its work, the CSA study team "discovered new shipwrecks, deep, cold-water corals and unexpectedly, extensive methane seeps with exotic biological assemblages" in the Baltimore and Norfolk deepwater canyons.

JURY SELECTED FOR TRIAL OF EX-BP RIG SUPERVISOR. The [AP](#) (2/16) the jury has been selected in the trial of former BP rig supervisor Robert Kaluza who is facing a misdemeanor pollution charge for his alleged role in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Kaluza had faced manslaughter counts connected to the deaths of 11 workers, but federal prosecutors backed off those charges in December.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT BLM ADOPTION PROPOSAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that a BLM "plan to transfer wild horses and burros to other government agencies to be used as work animals lacks safeguards to ensure they are not mistreated, wild horse advocates said." The bureau "last week asked Congress to pass legislation that would allow it to swiftly transfer excess animals that have been removed from public lands to other federal, state and local government agencies, such as the Marine Corps or the U.S. Border Patrol." The proposal, "which requires congressional approval, aims to alleviate BLM's fiscal burden as it feeds and cares for roughly 47,000 excess animals in off-range holding facilities." The Cloud Foundation, "a Colorado-based wild horse advocacy group, said the proposal has some merit, because trained wild horses would live a higher quality of life working with humans than being kept in short-term holding corrals."

IDAHO LAND BOARD APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH BLM INVOLVING LAND SWAP. The [AP](#) (2/16, Ridler, Press, 1.99M) reports that the Idaho Land Board on Tuesday "voted 5-0 to update an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management involving a land swap involving about 50 square miles of state land in southwest Idaho." The article notes that "the board in the same vote approved deferring leasing of mineral development of those state lands until Dec. 31, 2017, to avoid activity in areas considered key sage grouse habitat."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/16, 198K).

BILL INTRODUCED TO REOPEN PERMITTING PROCESS OF CEMEX MINE. [KHTS-AM](#) Santa Clarita, CA (2/16, 2K) reports that Assemblyman Scott Wilk "introduced Assembly Bill 1986 on Tuesday that would reopen the permitting process of CEMEX's proposed mine in Soledad Canyon." Wilk said, "CEMEX's mine would wreak havoc on our environment and quality of life. Our children and seniors won't be able to breath, our roads will be choked daily with an additional 1,200 18-wheelers and the mine will soak up our most precious resource, water. I'm committed to killing this project."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (2/17, 23K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR MISSING OPPORTUNITY ON BULLWACKER-COW CREEK ACCESS. In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/16, 131K), Mike Penfold, a former BLM director for Montana, writes that the BLM has "decided not to go forward with the controversial land exchange of BLM's Durfee Hills for the Anchor Ranch located inside the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument." He argues that "acquiring better access and consolidation of public land into usable tracts for the public is a good thing." Furthermore, "opportunities often come only once and must be taken quickly if they are in the public interest." Penfold says that "the Anchor Ranch could have been a very significant addition to this amazing Montana landscape," and he is "sorry to see this opportunity pass without full public analysis."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA'S BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDES \$1.6B FOR FWS. The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (2/16, 97K) reports that President Barack Obama has "requested \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in his 2017 fiscal year budget, an increase of \$54.5 million from fiscal year 2016." Obama's "budget includes \$137.6 million for refuge land acquisition, including \$58.7 million in current funding and \$79 million in proposed permanent funding, an increase of \$69.1 million above the 2016 enacted level."

FWS GRANT HELPS JOINS TWO HALVES OF NEGWEGON STATE PARK. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/16, 617K) reports that the two halves of Negwegon State Park will "finally become one" this year. Negwegon, "a remote park on the shore of Lake Huron's Thunder Bay, will become contiguous property with help from a \$900,000 federal grant to buy 391 acres of land between the park halves the state has long hoped join the park with." The federal grant money comes from a FWS coastal wetlands conservation program.

GROUP MOVES TO BLOCK IMPORT OF ELEPHANTS TO ZOOS. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "an animal rights group has sued to stop zoos in Kansas, Nebraska and Texas from bringing in new elephants from Africa." The Friends of Animals filed a lawsuit last week in federal court against the FWS. Last month, the FWS "issued permits allowing the importation of 18 African elephants from Swaziland." The lawsuit argues the FWS "did not take into account how the transfer would negatively hurt the social, mental and physical well-being of the 18 elephants."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (2/16, 1.24M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Nasa, 929K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K).

FWS CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF NATIONAL BISON RANGE TO TRIBES. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/16, 15K) reports that "in a dramatic change of course from its historic management goals, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered the first stage of negotiations to cede control of the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes." The discussions between the FWS and CSKT "came to light in emails distributed Feb. 5 by Fish and Wildlife Service administrators, who informed agency employees of the decision, citing the inability to reach an annual funding agreement with CSKT that would allow the tribes to jointly manage the Bison Range." According to the article, "the agency-wide messages, sent by both FWS Refuge Chief Cynthia Martinez and Mountain Prairie Regional Director Noreen Walsh, explain that talks have begun about drafting legislation that would transfer the lands comprising the National Bison Range in Montana to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the CSKT."

STUDENTS CREATE CAMPUS WILDLIFE AREA ON PEREGRINE SCHOOL CAMPUS. The [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that "parts of the Peregrine School campus in South Davis are now wildlife areas with native plants, thanks to some elbow grease from students with assistance and advice from Karlleen Vollherbst, school habitat program coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." According to the article, "the project that culminated with last Friday's planting project began many months ago, with the preparation of a 75-page grant application detailing the proposed wildlife area." Vollherbst said the goal of the project is to "attract different pollinators and birds to a space just outside the classroom building, where students can learn from the habitat, and play, and observe wildlife over time."

FIRE AT GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 50% CONTAINED. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports that FWS officials say "they're planning to resume air operations and clear debris from a wildfire that began near a wildlife refuge in Mississippi and crossed into Alabama marshland." According to spokeswoman Candice Stevenson, "authorities plan to fly over the burned area Tuesday after severe storms on Monday grounded air operations." Officials say "a fire at the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge has burned roughly 4,400 acres and is about 50 percent contained."

PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD ON MANATEE RECLASSIFICATION. The [Orlando \(FL\) Weekly](#) (2/16, 115K) reports that the FWS will hold a public meeting about the reclassification of Florida manatees from a status of "endangered" to "threatened" on Saturday, Feb. 20 in Orlando.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CONSERVATION GROUPS TO SUE FWS OVER NEW BAT RULE. Additional coverage that conservation groups said they intend to sue the FWS over a new bat rule was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/17).

National Park Service:

FOURTH GRADERS OFFERED FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS. [Fox News](#) (2/12, 9.42M) reports that families with fourth-graders can celebrate the National Parks Centennial this year with the Every Kid in a Park initiative, "which gives free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and more through Aug. 31."

Additional coverage of the NPS Centennial and the Every Kid in a Park initiative was provided by the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/15, Freeman, 84K) the [Tucson \(AZ\) Local Media](#) (2/16).

NPS DESIGNATED 34 NEW COMMUNITIES AS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN 2015. The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/16) reports that the NPS "designated 34 communities from across the United States as Certified Local Governments in 2015." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "We are proud that last year 34 new communities spanning the country from Florida to Washington joined us in our commitment to historic preservation and protecting what makes their cities and towns special. These Certified Local Governments now have access to unique resources to preserve the heritage of their communities and promote local economic growth through tourism to their historical areas."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marblehead \(MA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 157).

NPS BEGINS SELLING PASSES ONLINE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that as the NPS "prepares to enter its second century, the agency is taking its first steps into e-commerce." They

announced "it has launched a pilot program to sell entrance passes online for a handful of selected parks, a move Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) has pushed since last year." King said in a statement, "With the launch of this pilot program at Acadia, the National Park System is entering a new era of accessibility. Electronic park passes will not only make it easier for the American people to visit and enjoy our most treasured places, but they'll also help the Park Service maximize sales and generate new revenues. I applaud the Park Service for embracing the power of this technology and am delighted that Acadia is leading the nation in piloting it."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) and [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (2/16, 333).

REPORT RECOMMENDS EXPANDING SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has "released a plan that recommends adding more than 265 square miles of land around Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area." According to the article, "the final plan, released Tuesday, would more than double the existing wilderness area in one of the nation's most densely populated regions." The proposal would "add portions of the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel Mountains foothills, scenic areas, historic and archaeological sites, wildlife corridors and miles of hiking trails in a sprawling area that's home to millions." The article notes that "the final plan differs from last year's draft proposal by eliminating some industrialized or urbanized areas in favor of more pristine properties."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, 32K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (2/16, 301K), the [Santa Monica \(CA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 3K), and [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/16).

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BEGINS TRAPPING AND SLAUGHTER OF BISON.

[USA Today](#) (2/16, Hafner, 5.45M) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials "started trapping bison Monday as part of an annual effort to kill hundreds of the area's iconic animals through hunting or shipment to slaughterhouses." According to the article, "government agencies aim to drive down the bison population by as many as 900 this year to reduce the mammals' centuries-old migration beyond the park's boundaries and into Montana." A plan "calls for eventually culling bison in the park from about 5,000 down to 3,000."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Oregonian](#) (2/16, 864K), the [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (2/16, 1.13M), and [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (2/16, 385K).

THEFTS PROMPT CLOSURES AT MINING SITES IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/15, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that "two areas of Joshua Tree National Park noted for their mining artifacts have been closed indefinitely because of looting, according to the park's superintendent." Carey's Castle and El Sid Mine will "be closed 'at least for a month' until cultural artifact teams can inventory and record the areas, and while the park devises an enforcement and surveillance strategy, park Supt. David Smith said Monday." He said, "We had some looting at El Sid that started a few months ago. We actually bought some artifacts to replace the original ones and they got stolen, too."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (2/16, 302K), and [Time Out](#) (2/16, 66K).

OFFICIALS PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH MOUNTAIN GOATS.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that to the NPS, "mountain goats are a potentially invasive species and unwanted itinerants in several Western parks, including Dinosaur National Monument." NPS officials are looking to shoot goats "wandering in from artificially established herds in Utah damage resources and disturb Dinosaur's resident bighorn sheep." According to the article, "under a draft plan released Feb. 8, the park intends to shoot any wild goats that roam into its boundaries, which straddle the Utah-Colorado line."

WATER BEGINS FLOWING TO EASTERN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (2/16, Gillis, 190K) reports the South Water Management District began moving water Monday night from water storage areas south of Lake Okeechobee to the eastern side of Everglades National Park. As a result, water that usually flows to the west and into the western section of the park will now head east, "to Shark Valley Slough — where alligators have died in recent years due to a lack of water." Water has not flowed regularly in this manner since the Tamiami Trail opened in 1928, which has served as a dam that holds back water "that historically spread to Florida Bay." District spokesperson Randy Smith said sending water to the park will improve wildlife conditions in the water storage areas between the lake and the park.

NPS SUPPORTS PLAN BY LOWELL TO LIGHT UP CANALS.

The [Boston Globe](#) (2/16, Siefer, 1.05M)

reports that "starting Friday evening as part of a weekend-long Winterfest, a stretch of one canal will be bathed in shifting colors, and the area flanking the canal, Lucy Larcom Park, will feature fire artists, music, and food." According to the article, "it's a first phase in what project boosters hope could lead to the illumination —and enlivening — of much of city's the 5.6-mile network of canals." Although "one might also expect some friction between canal boosters and the National Park Service, which imposes strict design standards throughout the historic park, "park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo "expressed enthusiasm for the lighting project, noting that \$51 million in federal, state, and city funds had already been invested in canal improvements, such as paths, landscaping, and historical markers."

TRAIL AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TO BE MADE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the Mica View Trail at Saguaro National Park will "undergo changes to make it wheelchair accessible." The trail will be "upgraded and given a hardened surface to make it suitable for visitors who use a wheelchair or other equipment to assist with mobility." It will be "closed from Feb. 22 through May while work is under way, but once it's reopened, it will meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act for recreation trails."

SUPERDOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/16, 625K) reports that the Superdome has been named to the National Register of Historic Places "despite an objection by the state, which owns the stadium and is concerned the designation might slow down future projects." Superdome officials said Monday that "they were unaware that the federal government had approved the listing and had not been notified."

WEIR FARM SUPERINTENDENT TO RECEIVE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AWARD. The [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (2/16, Carr, 28K) reports Linda Cook, the superintendent of Weir Farm National Historic Site, will be awarded the National Park Service's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Stewardship at a ceremony in Washington, DC on Feb. 23. Cook spearheaded a "decade-long project to meticulously restore" the home and studio of Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir to its original condition.

SILENT-MOVIE FILM STUDIO SEEKS RECOGNITION AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Goodykoontz, 5.45M) reports Norman Studios, one of the last silent-movie film studios, is already on the National Register of Historic Places but is "angling for recognition as a historic landmark by the National Park Service." The Jacksonville, Florida-based studio is known for making "race films" in the 1920s that featured African-Americans and produced "almost exclusively" for African-American audiences. A nonprofit group is currently "working to restore the studio complex and turn it into a learning center for aspiring film professionals."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP GRANTS. Additional coverage of the field trip grants awarded by the National Park Foundation was provided by the [Alexander City \(AL\) Outlook](#) (2/13, 12K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE" FILM. Additional coverage of "National Parks Adventure" was provided by the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (2/16, 489K) and [Skift](#) (2/16).

NPS URGED TO SIDE WITH POINT REYES RANCHERS. The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (2/17, 165K) criticizes "a lawsuit seeking to drive peaceful ranchers out of Point Reyes National Seashore." It notes that "some of the ranches have been there since the 1860s, and many ranchers joined with neighbors and conservation groups to lobby for creation of the park when pressure built for residential development of Marin County's scenic coastal bluffs in the late 1950s and early 1960s." According to the paper, "the 15 family ranches were promised 20-year lease extensions in 2012 by then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar as proof that the long-scheduled removal of an oyster farm in Drakes Bay wasn't the first step in clearing in-holdings from the park." It hopes the NPS will "keep Salazar's promise."

Additional coverage that a group of environmentalists is suing to stop grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (2/16, 22K) and [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K).

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD: MAINE OFFICIALS SHOULDN'T SHUT DOWN DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) editorializes that the negative response by Maine Gov. LePage and the state's congressional delegation to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis' letter concerning a proposed national park is unwarranted and needlessly hostile. LePage has "predictability overacted" to the letter regarding the donation of private property belonging to Elliotsville Plantation Inc. to the federal government for the park by seizing the land "to build roads that Maine doesn't need to spoil

the organization's plans." The Press Herald says that a federally run park comprised of donated land "could be a gift for the state to treasure, not a theft to be prevented." Maine officials should be "actively engaging the Park Service" about their concerns instead of "shutting down dialogue."

WEISER: MCCLINTOCK MISINTERPRETS MUIR'S SUPPORT FOR REFORMING YOSEMITE. Matt Weiser writes in the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/17, Weiser, 569K) that it required a "certain arrogance" for US Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) to claim at a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands that John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club "and savior of Yosemite," would oppose the National Park Service removing "resort-like" amenities like ice-skating rinks, swimming pools and convenience stores from the park. McClintock said Muir "wanted people to come to our public lands knowing they would go away with fond memories, happy experiences." At the Oct. 28 hearing, McClintock called on a series of "hand-picked witnesses" to support his claim that federal agencies are responsible for Yosemite's declining attendance because it lacks amenities and concessionaires lack free rein in the parks. This move supports McClintock's goal of giving away national forest lands to local and state governments. John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, said McClintock "abuses the facts to somehow portray this dark, sinister threat that he is the champion of protecting the public from."

Top National News:

OBAMA CONFIDENT TRUMP WON'T BE ELECTED PRESIDENT. In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, lead story, 0:40, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported President Obama on Tuesday "weighed in on the political phenomenon that is Donald Trump. President Obama was answering a question at a news conference today, and he did not mince words." The President was shown saying, "I continue to believe Mr. Trump will not be president. And the reason is because I have a lot of faith in the American people, and I think they recognize that being president is a serious job. It's not hosting a talk show or a reality show. It's not promotion. It's not marketing. It's hard."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Boyer, 285K) reports Obama, speaking at a press conference in California, "lashed out at... Trump and the rest of the" GOP White House hopefuls, "calling them unserious candidates who are 'troubling' the rest of the world with careless rhetoric and a poor grasp of basic facts." Along with his direct comments on Trump, the President – without mentioning him by name – also chided Sen. Marco Rubio "for abandoning the immigration reform bill he once supported." Said Obama, "You've got a candidate who sponsored a bill that I supported to finally solve the immigration problem, and he's running away from it as fast as he can."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Keane, 289K) reports that Obama, who "has repeatedly shown frustration with the tone and tenor of the" GOP race, said, "Foreign observers are troubled by some of the rhetoric that has taken place in some of these Republican primaries and Republican debates." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Obama "said Mr. Trump 'says in more interesting ways what the other candidates are saying as well.' 'He may up the ante in anti-Muslim sentiment,' Mr. Obama said, 'but if you look at what the other candidates have said, that's pretty troubling, too.'"

[Vox](#) (2/16, Stein, 758K) reports that after his remarks on Trump, Obama described "the magnitude of the challenges that face the president. 'Whoever's standing where I'm standing right now has the nuclear codes with them, and can order 21-year-olds into a firefight and [has] to make sure that the banking system doesn't collapse – and is often responsible for not just the United States of America, but 20 other countries that are having big problems,' Obama said."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Parsons, Memoli, 4.1M) reports that the remarks "represented Obama's most energetic criticism of the Republicans running to replace him." The President "has mostly kept a studied distance from the fray and resisted invitations to engage in political analysis. But GOP candidates are promising to dismantle Obama's entire legacy if they win the Oval Office, and polls show Trump dramatically in the lead in South Carolina going into its Saturday primary." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M) also reported on Obama's remarks.

Firing Back, Trump Says He Would Have Defeated Obama In 2012. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Johnson, 8.98M) reports that Trump, asked about the President's remarks during a campaign event in South Carolina, said, "He has done such a lousy job as president. You look at our budgets, you look at our spending, we can't beat ISIS, Obamacare is terrible – we're going to terminate it, we're absolutely going to terminate it. And you look at everything, our borders are like Swiss cheese, this man has done such a bad job, he has set us back so far, and for him to say that is actually a great compliment." Of Obama, Trump added, "You're lucky I didn't run

last time, when [Mitt] Romney ran, because you would have been a one-term president.”

Poll: Trump Leads Cruz By 16 Points In South Carolina. [ABC World News](#) (2/16, story 3, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported new poll numbers show Donald Trump leading Sen. Ted Cruz by 16 points in South Carolina. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump “is crushing the competition” according to the CNN-ORC poll released on Tuesday. The survey shows Trump has 38% support compared with Cruz’s 22%, followed Sen. Marco Rubio 14%, Jeb Bush 10%, Ben Carson 6%, and Gov. John Kasich 4%. The poll shows, according to The Hill, that “a majority of Republicans surveyed – 53 percent – say Trump gives the GOP its best chance of winning the general election.”

LATimes Analysis: Trump Holds Lead In South Carolina Despite “Crude Rhetoric.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Bierman, Mascaró, 4.1M) reports Trump “is maintaining his wide lead” in South Carolina “despite criticism of his crude rhetoric.” The Times says while the state “has long prided itself on Southern manners and propriety, it is changing rapidly as outsiders increasingly move” there and “Trump Nation may be immune to, and in some cases, even more forgiving of his brash behavior.” In a quote that is used in the article’s headline, the Times reports, a South Carolina voter said, “We’re voting with our middle finger.”

WPost: “Middle-Of-Road” Republicans Leave Trump Event “More Terrified Than Ever.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Terris, 8.98M) reports the “madness” surrounding Trump “has not been lost on the middle-of-the-road Republicans” in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. The Post highlights attendees at a Trump town-hall who left the event “more terrified than ever” and “comparing the Republican front-runner to President Obama, comparing him to Vladimir Putin, calling him a bully, saying he denigrates women and the disabled.”

Tea Party Of America Co-Founder “Abandoned” Trump. The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, Miller, 285K) reports Tea Party of America co-founder Ken Crow “abandoned” Trump on Tuesday and “threw his backing to Jeb Bush in a striking move that suggests some softening in the GOP front-runner’s support among conservatives as the campaign shifts to South Carolina.” Crow told the Times “he’s become repulsed by [Trump’s] volatile personality and crude antics on the stump.” Crow said, “I was on the Trump train, but enough is enough,” adding, “When is Trump going to act like a president? The answer is he’s not.”

CBS: Haley Will Not Endorse Trump Before Primary. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 2, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley not only said “she will not endorse Trump” before the South Carolina primary, but “said Trump is everything a governor does not want in a president.”

The Hill Analysis: Trump’s “Blunt Message” Defies Predictions. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump “was supposed to be dead and buried by now” as “the political class and pundits have been predicting [his] political demise” since he announced his candidacy. However, according to The Hill, “Trump’s blunt message of American exceptionalism and his distance from the political establishment continue to strike a chord with grassroots conservatives, who are fed up with the status quo in Washington.” The Hill provides seven instances in which “the political class leaped to write the Trump campaign’s obituary, only to be proven wrong.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump’s Style Makes Him “Almost Comic-Proof.” The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Poniewozik, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Trump “works in the mode and rhythms of a stand-up. He riffs. He goads. He works blue.” That style, according to the Times, “has rendered him, weirdly, almost comic-proof.” The Times explains that “election parodies traditionally exaggerate candidates,” but Trump “exaggerates himself – he’s the frilled lizard of politics, inflating his self-presentation to appear ever larger.” The Times says “satire exposes candidates’ contradictions and absurdities,” but “Trump blows past those, while his supporters cheer.”

Milbank: George W. Bush Is Reminder Of When “Conservative Politics Wasn’t So Beastly.” In his [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says former President George W. Bush’s recent campaigning for Jeb Bush “served as a reminder that, not too long ago, conservative politics wasn’t so beastly.” Milbank says while Bush “did his share to coarsen political discourse ... even Karl Rove’s underhandedness seems almost quaint compared with today’s brutality.” Milbank adds the GOP “isn’t necessarily more conservative; Trump is less a conservative than a purveyor of insults, nationalism and conspiracy theories.” Milbank concludes the former President’s “reemergence offered Republicans a chance to reflect on how Bush’s party of conservatism so quickly became Trump’s party of rage.”

SOUTH CAROLINA POLL: CLINTON LEADS SANDERS 56%-38%. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Byrnes, 862K) reported that CNN/ORC survey of 280 South Carolina likely Democratic primary voters, taken Feb. 10-15, shows Hillary Clinton leading Sen. Bernie Sanders 56%-38%. Among African-American voters, Clinton leads 65%-28%, and

among women voters, she leads 60%-33%, according to the poll. Sanders leads among white voters 54%-40%, and he leads among men voters 49%-45%, according to the poll.

Media Analyses: Clinton, Sanders South Carolina Battle Comes Down To Black Vote. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Tucker, Wagner, 8.98M) reports that as Clinton and Sanders battle for support in South Carolina, "the fight is largely among African Americans, who are expected to make up at least half of the state's electorate and who maintain a large degree of fondness for the Clintons." Sanders is attempting "to cut into Clinton's sizable lead by appealing to younger African Americans," who find appeal in "his message of economic justice and feel that many of the crime policies that began under President Bill Clinton have done long-term harm to their communities."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Nancy Cordes reported that Sanders on Tuesday "met with black ministers in Columbia, South Carolina," while Clinton "sat down with civil rights leaders in Harlem." In her Harlem speech, Clinton "proposed a \$2 billion plan to reform school discipline policies that she says are failing black students." Sanders, meanwhile, "focused on black incarceration rates." Cordes added that Clinton leads "among South Carolina African Americans by nearly 40 points. She sought to cement that advantage today by implying Sanders is new to the fight for racial equality." However, Sanders "argued the civil right movement inspired his fight against Wall Street greed."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, story 2, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M), Kasie Hunt reported that in the Democratic race, "African-American voters [were] are the focus" on Tuesday, with "Clinton courting black leaders, hoping for an endorsement from reverend Al Sharpton," and Sanders meeting with "faith leaders" in South Carolina, where he "campaigns with Erica Garner, whose father died after a New York city police officer put him in a chokehold." Erica Garner was shown saying of Sanders, "He marched with Martin Luther King. He stood with Jesse Jackson, so basically he's stood with black people when it wasn't popular."

The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Chozick, Alcindor, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, "The black vote is likely to make up roughly half the Democratic electorate in the party's Feb. 27 primary in South Carolina, and the two candidates highlighted similar themes in their appeals: the disproportionate economic barriers that young black men, in particular, face and the need to overhaul a criminal justice system that incarcerates young black men at high rates and to work with police forces to prevent officers from shooting black men or singling out African-Americans for arrest. Mr. Sanders, speaking to students at a town-hall-style meeting at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, said he was tired of seeing 'videos of unarmed people being killed by police officers.'"

Clinton Woos African-Americans During Harlem Speech, Meeting With Civil Rights Leaders. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Przybyla, 5.45M) reported that a Harlem speech yesterday, Hillary Clinton, "citing a lingering 'reality of systemic racism' in America, called for a comprehensive approach to battling racial inequality...that goes beyond changes to the criminal justice system." Clinton detailed "a multi-pronged approach, including new job investments, equal pay for women of color and ending what is, for many young black men, a school-to-prison pipeline."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Allen) reports that Clinton, wooing the crucial African-American vote, also met with civil rights leaders at the National Urban League's New York headquarters, including the Rev. Al Sharpton. Reuters adds that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and ex-US Attorney General joined Clinton onstage for her speech in Harlem.

Bill Clinton Stumps For Hillary In South Carolina. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/16, Morrill, 610K) reports that former President Bill Clinton, addressing "350 people at the West End Community Development Center" on Tuesday in Greenville, SC, portrayed his wife Hillary "as a pragmatic 'change agent.'" While Clinton didn't mention Sanders by name, "he said [Hillary's] policies are more pragmatic."

Under the headline "Bill Clinton Makes Nice With S.C. Blacks Who Ditched Hillary For Obama In 2008," the [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, 285K) reports that the former President attempted to link "Clinton to his own eight years in office, to President Obama's tenure and even to the anger that's forced Mrs. Clinton into a tougher primary race than she had hoped." Targeting "the young voters drawn to Mr. Sanders' promise of free public college," the former President said, "A lot of these young millennials are mad, and I think they are making a mistake, but they're supporting her opponent, because he's promising free college. Why? Because they can't move out of their parents' homes because they can't afford to pay their debt."

Sanders Dismisses Bill Clinton's Tea Party Comparison As "Silly." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Brody, 289K)

reported that one day after Bill Clinton made remarks "widely interpreted as a criticism directly aimed at Bernie Sanders," the Vermont lawmaker on Tuesday fired back. Campaigning for his wife on Monday in Florida, Clinton – while not mentioning Sanders by name – "said the Tea Party succeeded at the ballot box by deciding to 'just tell people what they want to hear,' before quickly adding that Democrats have also began 'rewarding people who tell us things we know they can't do because it pushes our hot button.'" Asked by Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin about Clinton's comments, Sanders said that "we should not be making silly remarks." Asked, "Is there a comparison" between Sanders and the Tea Party, Sanders replied, "There's no comparison."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"Hillary Clinton Should Just Say Yes To A \$15 Minimum Wage."* A [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton "has eloquently defined workers' rights as human rights," and argues that she "could assert both more forcefully by championing a stronger federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour." Clinton's fight for a \$12 wage, the Times says, "stance misses the big picture, which is that the risk in keeping the minimum too low is bigger than the risk of raising it too high."

"A Tale Of Horror At The United Nations." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the UN is "failing some of the most vulnerable children it is supposed to protect," noting accusations of sexual abuse by peacekeepers in the Central African Republic. The Times says that while countries that contribute troops to peacekeeping missions "bear the primary responsibility for crimes committed by their forces," the UN "urgently needs to intensify its oversight," and welcomes the appointment last week of Jane Holl Lute as a special coordinator. Lastly, the Times argues that "despite the difficulties in recruiting enough troops for peacekeeping duties, it is time to exclude countries that do not impose the necessary discipline to make zero tolerance possible."

WASHINGTON POST. *"Mr. Obama's Defense Budget Reflects A New Age Of Military Deterrence."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) calls the President's budget "recognition that Russia has evolved from hoped-for partner to serious threat is welcome." The Post argues Western allies "must continue the fight against the Islamic State and other forces of instability," but they "also must recognize that, through no choice of their own, a new age of deterrence has dawned," and the US must "make clear to Russia that further aggression would impose an unacceptable cost."

"Virginia, Don't Revive The Electric Chair." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes against a bill by Virginia Del. Jackson H. Miller (R-Manassas) to bring back the electric chair for capital punishment. The Post says electrocution is "barbaric," and Virginia should either wait to procure drugs needed for lethal injections or "recognize the future and scrap capital punishment altogether."

"DC Fire System Needs To Change Because Lives Are At Stake." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes that with the persistent "incompetence" of emergency medical care, the DC fire system needs to change. The system's failures were highlighted last week when Juliette Saussy, the medical director hired seven months ago to help reform the department, quit "with a withering critique of the organization and its leadership." Because Chief Gregory Dean has been in the department for less than a year, the Post says he "should be given more time." However, with lives at stake, the "clock should be ticking" on his efforts towards improvement.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Regulating Education For Profit."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) criticizes Tony Miller, the second highest-ranking official in the Education Department from 2009 to 2013, because of the fact that Miller will soon become chairman of the for-profit Apollo Education once Apollo is bought by the private-equity firm Vistria Group. The Journal says that Miller led a federal department bent on destroying the value of Apollo, then left the government and bought Apollo at a fraction of the price with the hopes that a new Administration will be more lenient towards for-profit education.

"Africa's Terror Crescent." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the US, UN, African Union, and European powers have failed to uproot Islamist terrorists from Africa, with several attacks last weekend highlighting jihad's reach on the continent. This terrorism endangers some of Africa's most promising regions that span from the Horn of Africa to the Mediterranean coast and south to Nigeria. The Journal concludes that as the situation in Syria shows, jihad will continue to spread unless it is crushed.

“The New Schumer Precedent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that Sen. Charles Schumer appears ham-fisted in his efforts to explain comments he made in 2007 that the Senate should reject any hypothetical Supreme Court nominees during the last 18 months of President Bush’s term.

“An Animas River Accounting.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn’t giving the full story regarding the agency’s litany of failures that culminated in the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn’t tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Their Unifying Principal](#)

[Obama Won't Shy From A Court Fight](#)

[Grim Sleeper Trial Finally Begins](#)

[Pope Makes A Stand At The Front Line Of Mexico's Drug War](#)

[Lautner Home Marks A Sweet Sport For LACMA](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Saudi, Russia, Qatar, Venezuela Agree To Freeze Oil Output](#)

[Obama Plans To Make Court Pick In Next Few Weeks](#)

[Iran "Foreign Legion" Leads Battle In Syria's North](#)

[South Carolina GOP Voters Feel The Benefits Of Free Trade—But Also The Scars](#)

New York Times:

[President Raises Stakes In Supreme Court Nominee Battle](#)

[Supreme Court Path Is Littered With Pitfalls, For President And GOP](#)

[Hillary Clinton's Candidacy Reveals Generational Schism Among Women](#)

[Virtual Reality Companies Look To Science Fiction For Their Next Play](#)

[New York Schools Wonder: How White Is Too White?](#)

[Young Saudis See Cushy Jobs Vanish Along With Nation's Oil Wealth](#)

Washington Post:

[DC Cabbies Are On Prolific Ticket-Writing Officer's Radar](#)

[Shutdown Was Cruz's Defining Moment](#)

[Europe Flails At Migrant Crisis](#)

[Obama Pledges Qualified Nominee](#)

[Sanders And Clinton See Black Votes As Key In SC](#)

Financial Times:

[Saudi And Russia Agree Oil Freeze](#)

[China Bank Lending Hits Record In January](#)

Washington Times:

[Angry Tea Partier Abandons Trump In S. Carolina](#)

[GOP Starts To Yield On Voting To Fill Scalia's Seat](#)

[Clinton Welcomed In South Carolina Despite Caustic Campaigning In 2008](#)

[Leftist Takes Advantage Of A Weakened Venezuela](#)

[Some Planned Parenthood Supporters Say Constitution Protects Investigators](#)

[Ugandan Voters To Test Another African Leader's Grip On Power](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Heartburn Medication Debate; Eagles Of Death Concert; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; California Earthquake.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; El Nino-Global Effects; Lesotho Drought-El Nino; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Pope John Paul II-Lifelong Friendship; US Railroad Inspection Standards; Westminster Dog Show.
NBC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; Student Loan Arrest; US Prescription Drug Prices; Former UN Secretary General Death; US-Cuba Commercial Flights; Angola-Record Diamond; Westminster Dog Show.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 16 minutes, 00 seconds
 Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
 Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 6 minutes, 00 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

CBS: San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show Winner.

NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Oregon Protester Leaders-Comments; China-Woody Island Missiles Deployed; Hanoi-War Commemoration; Baltimore-Organized Crime Leader Story; Westminster Dog Show.

FOX: 2016 Politics-Republican Campaigns; 2016 Politics- Donald Trump; Supreme Court Nomination Debate.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No scheduled public events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits New Orleans, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee to participate in events commemorating the 7th anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 7:30 AM FCW Unified Security event, "Strengthening the Cyber Ecosystem." – An event that will "provide federal IT leaders with insights into how to build a cyber ecosystem that reduces their vulnerabilities and strengthens their capacity to respond to the rising tide of cyber threats." Speakers include NPPD Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) Cybersecurity Assurance Branch Chief Martin Stanley, who is scheduled to deliver remarks at 10:50 a.m. Location: Willard InterContinental Hotel 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW <https://fcw.com/cybersecurity2016>

3:00 PM U.S. Justice Action Network to Release New Poll Revealing Voter Attitudes Toward Criminal Justice Reform – The U.S. Justice Action Network will unveil new polling that highlights voter sentiment toward federal criminal justice reforms currently being considered by the U.S. Senate. The poll results will highlight voter attitudes toward federal reform in six states, all of which are considered crucial in the 2016 election cycle, including Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Ed Goetas, president and CEO of conservative polling firm The Tarrance Group will present the polling results as well as highlight other insights generated by the survey. The U.S. Justice Action Network's conservative and progressive partners will also be on hand to give their take on the findings, and what it means for the larger effort to advance reforms. Location: 444 North Capitol, Room 337 www.justiceactionnetwork.org

7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit. Day two speakers include National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Frank Klotz, Russia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sergey Kislyak, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, GeoStrategic Analysis President Peter Huessy, and Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>

12:30 PM GOP Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' on helping America's entrepreneurs – House Committee on Small Business Chairman Republican Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' at the NPC on 'how Congress can help America's entrepreneurs', as part of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation 2016 State of Entrepreneurship Address Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, during his speech at the rally, George W. Bush said his brother Jeb is the guy who can fix the problems that inflame our country's frustrations. Or in other words, Jeb is America's 'Preparation H.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the latest national poll, Hillary Clinton's lead over Bernie Sanders has narrowed to ten points. Also narrowed, Hillary Clinton's eyes."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 31 percent of Donald Trump supporters in South Carolina would support a ban on homosexuals immigrating to the US. Oh, yeah, because that's what all cool, gay Europeans dream of...South Carolina."

Seth Meyers: "CNN has released an article comparing the Republican candidates to used cars, which likened John Kasich to a family-friendly minivan. And here are some of the other candidates. Ben Carson is a Prius. You can hardly hear it running."

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Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: FLOTUS Centennial Video

2 messages

Fullerton, Tim <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 4:19 PM

To: Timothy Bergling <Timothy_Bergling@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

The WH is looking for some b-roll/photos for a FLOTUS video around Find Your Park. Can you all pull together some pics/video that I can send them as they requested below?

Thanks,

Tim

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

From: **Tim Fullerton** <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 5:41 PM

Subject: Re: FLOTUS Centennial Video

To: "Redding, Sean" (b) (6)

Cc: "Kelly, Katherine" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Tuss, Taryn L." (b) (6)

Definitely helpful. We will see what we can pull tomorrow.

Thanks,

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 23, 2015, at 5:21 PM, Redding, Sean (b) (6) wrote:

Hey Tim,

Haven't heard back on if folks have specific park preferences, but here are a few broader thoughts:

-If there's anything with kids in the park, that would help drive home the EKIP/Centennial connection

-Having a few options from the most well-known parks would be great (Grand Canyon, Mount Rushmore, Yosemite, etc. Think we're set on Yellowstone though, as it sounds like ODS has some footage of the First Family there).

-If we have any monuments the President has designated recently – Pullman, Honouliuli, Stornetta, Organ Mountains, etc – or throughout his entire time in office, sounds like folks would like that.

-Now that I realize all the suggested ones here are in the Midwest or West, maybe something from the eastern half of the country to have some geographic diversity to choose from.

Does that help? I can get people to be more specific if that's more useful.

Thanks!

From: Fullerton, Tim [mailto:tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 3:26 PM
To: Kelly, Katherine
Cc: Redding, Sean; Tuss, Taryn L.
Subject: Re: FLOTUS Centennial Video

Hi everyone,

Are there particular areas/national parks that you would like for b-roll/pics? We have a lot of stuff from across the country, so if you could let us know, we'll start pulling ASAP.

Thanks,

Tim

On Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:11 PM, Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I'm sure we can. Looping Tim Fullerton, our digital director, who has access to some great photos/videos.

On Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:05 PM, Redding, Sean (b) (6) wrote:

Hey Kate,

Taryn's out until Thursday, so I'm trying to run down some of the things ODS needs to finish the FLOTUS video.

They're looking to see what kind of b-roll and photos they have of the First Family in various parks, but are hoping you and NPS could pull together some videos and photos of parks that would be good to use in the video.

Would that be possible? Let me know what other info you'd need!

Thanks!

Sean

--

Kate Kelly
Senior Advisor
Department of the Interior
(202) 208 2409
kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov

--

Tim Fullerton
Director of Digital Strategy
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-6416
>www.twitter.com/Interior<

--

Tim Fullerton
Director of Digital Strategy
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-6416
www.twitter.com/Interior

Matulka, Rebecca <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 5:13 PM

To: "Fullerton, Tim" <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Timothy Bergling <Timothy_Bergling@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

So we don't have to send a bunch of attachments, here are some links to flickr photos.

Junior Rangers (kids in national parks): <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalparkservice/sets/72157626586158342/>

Browns Canyon: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mypubliclands/sets/72157649572079605>

Organ Mountains: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mypubliclands/sets/72157634991730081>

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Rebecca Matulka
Senior Digital Media Strategist
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5337

Confidential



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Pullman National Monument Photos

3 messages

Desantiago, Melissa <melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 4:52 PM

To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Tami,

I shared with Dr. Hughes the link to the pictures you provided to me, but was wondering if there was anything that could be conjured based on the information she provided below? I greatly appreciate you taking the time to help me with this!

Sincerely,

Melissa

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

From: **Dr. Lyn Hughes** <drhughes@appullmanportermuseum.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 3:05 PM

Subject: RE: Pullman National Monument Photos

To: "Desantiago, Melissa" <melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Melissa, Thank you so much for your diligence and for keeping your work. To me that means more than anything. The phot was taken at the designation site at the school. The photographer was an older man who was with Secretary Jewel if that helps.

Thank you

From: Desantiago, Melissa [mailto:melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov]**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:27 PM**To:** drhughes@appullmanportermuseum.org**Subject:** Pullman National Monument Photos

Good Afternoon Dr. Hughes,

I hope all is well. I am reaching out to you in regards to the inquiry you made a few weeks ago about obtaining a copy of the picture you took with Secretary Jewell. I have inquired and the Secretary's photographer reached out to me and informed me that she's not very sure who could have taken the picture, as DOI staff sometimes will take a picture with the person's camera/phone and give the camera back. However, she did provide to me a link to view the photos that were taken and she asked for me to share with you with hopes to locate the photo you are looking for. I hope the photo is within the link below and if not please let me know and I will continue with my search! I hope you have a great day!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://doiphotodog.smuqmug.com/02-19-15-SOI-J-NPS-Pullman/n-MQL8Pt>

Sincerely,

Melissa

--

Melissa DeSantiago
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
(W) 202-208-4928
melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov

--

Melissa DeSantiago
CHCI/BP STEM Public Policy Fellow
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
(W) 202-208-4928
melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Desantiago, Melissa" <melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 6:19 PM

I will follow up with her. Although I'm a little confused about her wording of designation site of a school?

[Quoted text hidden]

Desantiago, Melissa <melissa_desantiago@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 10:58 AM

Thank you Tami! I appreciate your help!

Melissa
[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain, CA, Waco Mammoth, TX, Basin and Range, NV as national monuments,

1 message

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 8:22 AM

To: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

photos from reception are on DOI flickr

Confidential



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Day Pictures

3 messages

Jason Hagerup <JasonH@wacotx.gov>

Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 10:31 AM

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

Hi Tami,

It was nice meeting you and shooting with you on Monday. I wanted to pass these links along to you so you can see and access the images I made at the event. If you want to show or share your photos here in Waco I'd be happy to forward a web address to my supervisor for distribution.

Here are links to access the City of Waco's images from the Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Day.

Download images for print and web here:

Print - <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByJT0NdXnZMjvUcxTkIwRy1NaTQ&usp=sharing>

Web - <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByJT0NdXnZMjZ0p3bnBLYnZKU1k&usp=sharing>

Please feel free to print and share online as much as you like.

Thanks,

Jason

Jason Hagerup

City of Waco Graphics Dept.

Phone: (254) 750-5723

Fax: (254) 750-5724

[NEW Graphics Print Order Form](#) – City of Waco employees click here to use it!

Peggy McCart <PeggyM@wacotx.gov>

Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 12:30 PM

To: "russ whitlock@nps.gov" <russ whitlock@nps.gov>, "sarae leuckel@nps.gov" <sarae leuckel@nps.gov>, **gvlacy - (b) (6)** <**gvlacy - (b) (6)**>, **gyoung3025 - (b) (6)** <**gyoung3025 - (b) (6)**>, "wacomayor@waco-texas.com" <wacomayor@waco-texas.com>, "alice_starr@baylor.edu" <alice_starr@baylor.edu>, "Tommye Lou Davis@baylor.edu" <Tommye Lou Davis@baylor.edu>, "Caston, Ellie" <Ellie_Caston@baylor.edu>, **Kay Olson - (b) (6)** <**Kay Olson - (b) (6)**>, "Charles_Walter@baylor.edu" <Charles_Walter@baylor.edu>, "tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Suzanne Dixon <sdixon@npca.org>, "Borsellino, Romen" <romen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov>, "chickey@ogwb.org" <chickey@ogwb.org>, "Anita_Benedict@baylor.edu" <Anita_Benedict@baylor.edu>, "Tom_Haddad@baylor.edu" <Tom_Haddad@baylor.edu>, "McDonald, Greg" <greg_mcdonald@nps.gov>, "D'Arcy, Michele" <michele_darcy@nps.gov>, "Ross, Molly" <molly_ross@nps.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "SUE_MASICA@NPS.GOV" <SUE_MASICA@nps.gov>, Erika Pelletier <epelletier@npca.org>

Our Municipal Information Office sent the links below for the pictures that were taking during the Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Day events.

PeggyM

Peggy McCart

City of Waco

Parks & Recreation

Ext: (254) 750-8096

Fax: (254) 750-8087

www.waco-texas.com

Download images for print and web here:

Print - <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByJT0NdXnZMjVUcxTkIwRy1NaTQ&usp=sharing>

Web - <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByJT0NdXnZMjZ0p3bnBLYnZKU1k&usp=sharing>

Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 3:18 PM

To: OS_OCO <os_oco@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Romen Borsellino <romen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov>, Clarence Fluker <clarence_fluker@nps.gov>

Hey team,

Some of you may have already seen, but the City of Waco just passed along some great photos and videos of Monday's event.

Take a look if you're interested!

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

From: **Peggy McCart** <PeggyM@wacotx.gov>

Date: Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 3:13 PM

Subject: FW: Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Day Pictures

To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Emily,

I thought you might like these. Municipal Information Office sent the links below for the pictures that were taking during the Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Day events along with the videos. One of the videos is a short version with voice over and the other is a video of the whole ceremony. (The videos take a while to download.) Awesome day!

PeggyM

Peggy McCart

City of Waco

Parks & Recreation

Ext: (254) 750-8096

Fax: (254) 750-8087

www.waco-texas.com

Download images for print and web here:

Print - <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByJT0NdXnZMjvUcxTklwRy1NaTQ&usp=sharing>

Web - <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByJT0NdXnZMjZ0p3bnBLYnZKU1k&usp=sharing>

Watch "U.S. Government Officials in Waco to Celebrate Mammoth National Monument" by WCCC.TV - City of Waco: <https://vimeo.com/141470544>

Watch "Mammoth Ceremony Presentation" by WCCC.TV - City of Waco: <https://vimeo.com/141574119>

--

Emily Beyer

Deputy Press Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168

emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

Confidential



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Photos

2 messages

Haddad, Tom <Tom_Haddad@baylor.edu>

Sat, Oct 10, 2015 at 4:12 PM

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

Hi!

I am emailing to request the link to the photos that were taken during the Waco Mammoth National Monument tour and dedication.

Thanks for all your persistence in getting the shots.

Tom

Tom Haddad

Assistant Director of Facilities and Collections

Jeanes Discovery Center

Mayborn Museum Complex

Baylor University

One Bear Place #97154

Waco, Texas 76798

(254) 710-7671

Tom_Haddad@baylor.edu*engage...explore...enjoy!*

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 9:04 AM

To: "Haddad, Tom" <Tom_Haddad@baylor.edu>

Cc: "taheilemann@ios.doi.gov" <taheilemann@ios.doi.gov>

The link below are photos for your viewing, feel free to share.

To view the photos click on the link and use the password to access the photos.

<https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-n8Q4d9>

Password (b) (5)

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

Confidential



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

EKIP Boys and Girls

4 messages

Liggett, Diane <diane_liggett@nps.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 12:06 PM

Hi Tami.

I have been perusing the available EKIP images for one last high-res photo to complete the pop-up banner designs. I am looking for a bright, sharp horizontal with both boys and girls, diversity, possibly holding passes, but not all with Buddy Bison shirts.

I have seen most of them out there, I think, but I am not sure if I have missed some event collections. Any ideas? Thanks much.

Diane Liggett
HFC Writer-Editor
National Park Service
928-635-6757 (AZ)

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Liggett, Diane" <diane_liggett@nps.gov>

Thu, Oct 22, 2015 at 2:08 PM

Hi Diane,
Have you seen photos from these events?
Red Rock,
School in Alex Va.
Waco/Mammoth

[Quoted text hidden]

Liggett, Diane <diane_liggett@nps.gov>
To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Oct 22, 2015 at 2:16 PM

I have seen Red Rock and Waco. Not sure about Alexandria? Something weird. When the links I have bookmarked in Flickr aren't used for a while, they aren't active with photos anymore when I revisit them. Maybe its my own settings. Anyway, we need more photos with both boys and girls, and a few kids mixed in that don't look so deliberately "diverse." On the other hand, you have been cranking out a wealth of very, very good images, so thank you, Tami.

However, for now, I have settled on this pair of images, so I think I am okay to go.



Diane Liggett
 HFC Writer-Editor
 National Park Service
 928-635-6757 (AZ)

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
 To: "Liggett, Diane" <diane_liggett@nps.gov>

Thu, Oct 22, 2015 at 2:49 PM

Looks nice,
 The image on the left is from Alex school. Which I just resent the link.
 I don't have much more then what you have.

On Oct 22, 2015, at 2:16 PM, Liggett, Diane <diane_liggett@nps.gov> wrote:

I have seen Red Rock and Waco. Not sure about Alexandria? Something weird. When the links I have bookmarked in Flickr aren't used for a while, they aren't active with photos anymore when I revisit them. Maybe its my own settings. Anyway, we need more photos with both boys and girls, and a few kids mixed in that don't look so deliberately "diverse." On the other hand, you have been cranking out a wealth of very, very good images, so thank you, Tami.

However, for now, I have settled on this pair of images, so I think I am okay to go.

<image.png>

Diane Liggett
 HFC Writer-Editor
 National Park Service
 928-635-6757 (AZ)

On Thu, Oct 22, 2015 at 11:08 AM, Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Diane,
 Have you seen photos from these events?

Red Rock,
School in Alex Va.
Waco/Mammoth

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 12:06 PM, Liggett, Diane <diane_liggett@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Tami.

I have been perusing the available EKIP images for one last high-res photo to complete the pop-up banner designs. I am looking for a bright, sharp horizontal with both boys and girls, diversity, possibly holding passes, but not all with Buddy Bison shirts.

I have seen most of them out there, I think, but I am not sure if I have missed some event collections. Any ideas? Thanks much.

Diane Liggett
HFC Writer-Editor
National Park Service
928-635-6757 (AZ)



image.png
443K



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:03 PM

To: Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Just making sure everyone saw this. Thanks! jb

From: White House Press Office [mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:02 AM

To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Subject: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2015

FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our Nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, today he will launch an "Every Kid in a Park" initiative that will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. He will also announce the creation of three new National Monuments across the country.

The President will make the announcements near the site of the historic Pullman town in Chicago, a location iconic for its history of labor unrest and civil rights advances, which will be the City's first National Park Service (NPS) unit. He also will announce that he will designate Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, the site of an internment camp where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II, and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, an historic site of extraordinary beauty with world-class recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the globe. Together, these monuments will help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Every Kid in a Park

In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President's [Every Kid in a Park](#) initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outside. A 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that young people now devote an average of more than seven hours a day to electronic media use, or about 53 hours a week – more than a full time job.

America's public lands and waters offer space to get outside and get active, and are living classrooms that

provide opportunities to build critical skills through hands-on activities. To inspire the next generation to discover all that America's public lands and waters have to offer, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. The initiative will also:

- ***Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips:*** The Administration will distribute information and resources to make it easy for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands and waters and to find programs that support youth outings.

- ***Provide transportation support to schools with the most need:*** As an integral part of this effort, the National Park Foundation (NPF) – the congressionally chartered foundation of the National Park Service – is expanding and re-launching its Ticket to Ride program as Every Kid in a Park, which will award transportation grants for kids to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools that have the most need.

- ***Provide educational materials:*** The initiative will build on a wide range of educational programs and tools that the federal land management agencies already use. For example, NPS has re-launched a website with over 1,000 materials developed for K-12 teachers, including science labs, lesson plans, and field trip guides. And a number of federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Education, and NPS participate in Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms and agency resources that connects students, teachers, families, and volunteers with public lands and waterways.

To further support this effort, the President's 2016 Budget includes a total increased investment of \$45 million for youth engagement programs throughout the Department of the Interior, with \$20 million specifically provided to the National Park Service for youth activities, including bringing 1 million fourth-grade children from low-income areas to national parks. This increase will also fund dedicated youth coordinators to help enrich children and family learning experiences at parks and online.

Pullman National Monument in Illinois:

This monument will preserve and highlight America's first planned industrial town, and a site that tells important stories about the social dynamics of the industrial revolution, of American opportunity and discrimination, and of the rise of labor unions and the struggle for civil rights and economic opportunity for African Americans and other minorities. The 203-acre site includes factories and buildings associated with the Pullman Palace Car Company, which was founded in 1867 and employed thousands of workers to construct and provide service on railroad cars. While the Pullman Company employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture railroad passenger cars, it also recruited the first porters, waiters and maids from the population of former slaves to serve on its luxury cars. Though lower-paying, these service jobs held prestige in the African-American community and played a major role in the rise of the African-American middle class and, through an historic labor agreement, the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th Century. The historic labor movement organized by A. Philip Randolph in the 1930s to win rights for these porters, waiters and maids ultimately created the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first labor union led by African Americans to receive a charter in the American Federation.

The National Park Foundation today announced that nearly \$8 million dollars has already been raised to support the monument, which will be Chicago's first National Park Service unit and will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado:

This monument will protect a stunning section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley. Located in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, the 21,586-acre monument features rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings, and mountain vistas that are home to a diversity of plants and wildlife, including bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Members of Congress, local elected officials, conservation advocates, and community members have worked for more than a decade to protect the area, which hosts world-class recreational opportunities that

attract visitors from around the globe for hiking, whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing. In addition to supporting this vibrant outdoor recreation economy, the designation will protect the critical watershed and honor existing water rights and uses, such as grazing and hunting. The monument will be cooperatively managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and USDA's National Forest Service.

Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii:

This monument permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Located on the island of Oahu, the monument will help tell the difficult story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the fragility of civil rights during times of conflict. Honouliuli Internment Camp, located in a steep canyon not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March, 1943 and was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. The camp was largely forgotten until uncovered in 2002, and the President's designation will ensure its stories are told for generations. The monument will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Background on Antiquities Act Designations

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

###

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

FW: FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

To: Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Va <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

FYI, Jb

Also, let's make sure to include the external statements in this story. Thanks! jb

From: Kershaw, Jessica [mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 8:58 AM

To: Kelly, Katherine

Cc: Buffa, Nicole; Tommy Beaudreau; John Blair; Sarah Neimeyer; Jeremy Bratt; Kristen (Kris) Sarri

Subject: Re: FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

There was this WaPo story too that just popped this AM:

Wash Post: Obama launches 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative

By Juliet Ellperin February 19 at 7:58 AM



An elk appears in Grand Canyon National Park. (Photo by Michael Quinn/National Park Service)

Obama is launching an “[Every Kid in a Park](#)” initiative Thursday, White House officials said, an effort that aims to get every fourth-grader

The new campaign, which will offer all fourth-grade students and their families with free admission to national parks and other federal land that the president is designatethree new national monuments in Illinois, Colorado and Hawaii.

In concert with the National Park Service’s centennial in 2016, the administration is seeking to expand young people’s participation in the spending time indoors on their electronic devices: a 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that they now devote an average of more week, to electronic media use. Social research suggests that exposing children to nature when they are roughly 9 years old establishes a co

adulthood.

Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation, praised the idea in a statement.

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children."

Not only will all fourth-graders and their families get free national park admission starting in the 2015-16 school year, but the National Pa foundation of the National Park Service – will award transportation grants for children to visit parks, public lands and waters. The progra will focus on schools that have the most need.

The administration will distribute information and resources to make it easier for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands an youth outings; Obama has asked for \$45 million for the Interior Department's youth engagement programs as part of his 2016 budget, wt youth activities such as bringing 1 million fourth-grade children from low-income areas to national parks.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/?postshare=235>

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 8:03 AM, Kelly, Katherine <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Adding Kris, so she sees how USAToday characterized the funding piece

The cost of the free passes for fourth graders will come out of a \$20 million National Park Service budget for youth engagement programs. With the help of the National Park transportation for schools that need it, and educational materials for teachers.

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:52 AM, Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
We're rocking and rolling. Very exciting!

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Yeah.

I'm in the Minneapolis airport, and cnn just ran a piece on every kid as well.
TPB

On Feb 19, 2015, at 6:42 AM, Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
The story is out too. I'm not sure the last paragraph is entirely accurate:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/>

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

From: **Bauserman, Trent** (b) (6)
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015
Subject: FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments
To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Todd Batta@osec.usda.gov" <Todd.Batta@osec.usda.gov>, "Melinda.Cep@osec.usda.gov" <Melinda.Cep@osec.usda.gov>, "David.Howard@osec.usda.gov" <David.Howard@osec.usda.gov>, "Leslie.Jones@moira.l.kelley.civ@mail.mil" <moira.l.kelley.civ@mail.mil>, "amanda.hallberg@noaa.gov" <amanda.hallberg@noaa.gov>, "Robert.Moller@noaa.gov" <Robert.Moller@noaa.gov>, "d (jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Anderson, Amanda D." (b) (6), "Degnan, Michael" (b) (6)

Good morning, the Fact Sheet is out. Can you please share with those you notified yesterday?

Thanks!

From: White House Press Office [mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:02 AM
To: Bauserman, Trent
Subject: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2015

FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our Nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, today he will launch the Every Kid in a Park initiative, which will provide fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. He will also announce the creation of three new National Monuments.

The President will make the announcements near the site of the historic Pullman town in Chicago, a location iconic for its history of labor unrest and civil rights advances, which will be the site of the new Pullman National Monument in Illinois. He will also announce that he will designate Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, the site of an internment camp where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Finally, he will announce the designation of Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, an historic site of extraordinary beauty with world-class recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the globe. Together, these designations will protect iconic American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Every Kid in a Park

In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President's Every Kid in a Park initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's public lands and waters. Many American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outdoors. Young people now devote an average of more than seven hours a day to electronic media use, or about 53 hours a week – more than a full time job.

America's public lands and waters offer space to get outside and get active, and are living classrooms that provide opportunities to build critical skills through hands-on activities. To ensure that all children have access to these opportunities, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters. The initiative will also:

Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips: The Administration will distribute information and resources to make it easy for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands and waters for youth outings.

Provide transportation support to schools with the most need: As an integral part of this effort, the National Park Foundation (NPF) – the congressionally chartered foundation for the National Park Service – will launch its Ticket to Ride program as Every Kid in a Park, which will award transportation grants for kids to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools that have the most need.

Provide educational materials: The initiative will build on a wide range of educational programs and tools that the federal land management agencies already use. For example, the NPS has developed materials for K-12 teachers, including science labs, lesson plans, and field trip guides. And a number of federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Education, and NPS participate in Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms and agency resources that connect children to public lands and waterways.

To further support this effort, the President's 2016 Budget includes a total increased investment of \$45 million for youth engagement programs throughout the Department of the Interior. This increase will also fund dedicated youth coordinators to help schools and families plan trips to public lands and waters.

Pullman National Monument in Illinois

This monument will preserve and highlight America's first planned industrial town, and a site that tells important stories about the social dynamics of the industrial revolution, of American unions and the struggle for civil rights and economic opportunity for African Americans and other minorities. The 203-acre site includes factories and buildings associated with the Pullman Company, which employed thousands of workers to construct and provide service on railroad cars. While the Pullman Company employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture railroad passenger cars, the population of former slaves to serve on its luxury cars. Though lower-paying, these service jobs held prestige in the African-American community and played a major role in the historic labor agreement, the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th Century. The historic labor movement organized by A. Philip Randolph in the 1930s to win rights for African Americans to work on Pullman cars, the first labor union led by African Americans to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor.

The National Park Foundation today announced that nearly \$8 million dollars has already been raised to support the monument, which will be Chicago's first National Park Service unit. The National Park Service will manage the monument.

Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado

This monument will protect a stunning section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley. Located in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, the 21,586-acre monument features mountain vistas that are home to a diversity of plants and wildlife, including bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Members of Congress, local elected officials, conservation advocates, and the public have long advocated for the area, which hosts world-class recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the globe for hiking, whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing. In addition to supporting recreation, the monument will protect the critical watershed and honor existing water rights and uses, such as grazing and hunting. The monument will be cooperatively managed by the Department of the Interior and the State of Colorado.

Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii

This monument permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Located on the island of Oahu, the monument protects the site of the Honouliuli Internment Camp, located in a steep canyon not far from the site of the longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. The President's designation will ensure its stories are told for generations. The monument will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

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With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

###

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Confidential



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

What a Day! In the Park with the President

1 message

Audrey Peterman <earthws@aol.com>

Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 11:58 AM

Reply-To: earthws@aol.com

To: vicki_s_dixon@ios.doi.gov

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What a Day! In the Park with the President



"Thank you for all the new monuments, Mr. President, especially Pullman," I said to our beloved leader.

It's an hour's drive on the highway from our boat to Everglades National Park, and the entire way I was filled with contentment and anticipation. I love driving with Frank and today we were not only get to feel the beauty of Everglades but also get to see and hear our President. From the moment the invitation came a day earlier, I felt like I was living in another dimension.

Arriving at the transfer point to get on buses for the event, I spotted a bunch of people we know from working on the everglades - Jonathan Ullman and Frank Jackalone from the Sierra Club; Eric Draper from Audubon, Supt. Carlstrom from Biscayne and Billy Causey of the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary. We hopped on the luxury transport bus alongside DEL speaker Irela Bague, and proceeded to the park entrance where agents looked under the vehicles and had drivers open the hood.



Had a chance to converse with the wonderful Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Colley Billey, and besides discussing the River of Grass he noticed my Navajo-made earrings, which made me happy that I'm carrying part of their story on my ears.

The feelings of old home week persisted as we immediately ran into one of the Everglades' leading advocates Mary Barley, whose foundation is a leading voice for restoring the ecosystem. The Elder Statesman of the Everglades Nat Reid was holding court with reporters, distilling a lifetime of wisdom. Beloved Ranger Sabrina Diaz and environmental educator were among those doing duty on the security screening line.

The parking lot was full of media trucks. Staff guided us to a place behind the administration buildings that I'd never seen before, though I've been to this park too many times to count. It faced directly out onto an expanse of the 'Glades, and the President's podium with its Presidential Steam was poised squarely in the middle of the view. I snagged a seat directly in front of the President and three rows back, and waited with the most delicious anticipation.



I can't tell who's more proud and happy - Superintendent Pedro Ramos or his beautiful young daughter.

I was most excited because I couldn't see our friend Ranger Alan Scott anywhere, which meant he was likely leading the President's tour. As Chief of Resource Protection and Interpretation, it's Ranger Scott's job to explain the history, ecology and future of the park whether to the President or a fourth grader. Ranger Scott has been the park's representative on the South Florida Community Partners program and has been working alongside us for 15 years to connect the parks and local

communities. I knew the President would be having the time of his life.



Young Christopher Ramos is on a mission to Save the Everglades and has already raised more than \$3000 through his Go FundMe Campaign. See his blog [here](#) and we had a moment together with Bill Nye the Science Guy.

Rain threatened several times, and we all held our breath lest we be rained out. But the sun kept shining and around 3 p.m. a huge Secret Service agent stepped up and took his position near the podium. Then our beloved Ranger Scott came out and I ran to him. He said yes, he'd been on the Anhinga Trail with the President. Bill Nye the Science Guy came out next and I introduced him to my new young famous friend, Christopher Ramos (no relation to Everglades Supt. Pedro Ramos) who's raised more than \$3000 for the park. Ever the geek, Bill Nye took my impaired phone and got us this selfie. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis came next and while I was snapping a photo of him and Frank, the President's music started up.



Frank and NPS Director Jon Jarvis catching up.

He came strolling around the side of the building, loping across the grass and stepped up to the podium. To our whoops and cheers and screams of course.. I couldn't believe the President was standing there a stone's throw away from me.

He spoke about his pleasure at being in the 'Glades, being on the trail and meeting fourth graders.

"They were very excited," he said. "Not to see me, to see the alligators!" he quipped.



President Obama and fourth graders from the Dante Fascell Elementary school high five each other on the Anhinga Trail. The President announced that all fourth graders in the country will be given passes to the national parks that also covers entry for family members.

He talked about the threats of climate change and said that climate change is real, it is here and now. He mentioned the health impacts that doctors are already seeing, and the threat to our national security from increasing disruption due to weather. He said it is urgent for us to address climate change and make preparations.

'When there's a storm coming you don't stick your head in the sand, you prepare.'

He said that a far larger proportion of our energy comes from clean sources than in 2008, and that we must continue to increase renewable energy. "When you put on the brakes in your car it doesn't come to an immediate stop," he said, illustrating that the process takes time.

A beautiful bright yellow butterfly fluttered behind the President as he announced the creation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas National Monument which will add the home of the Mother of the Everglades to the National Park System. He said that national parks are an incredible boost for our economy as every dollar

invested by the federal government in the parks provides a \$10 return.

"I am not a big investor, but I think those are very good returns," the President said.



Our newest Park Ranger Bryan Palacio is convinced that he's got the best job in the world - and no doubt Director Jarvis thinks that as well.

When he stepped down off the podium to greet the 75-or so people eagerly waiting to meet him, I was beside myself. Miraculously I was in the front row, and I said to the Secret Service agent beside the President, "I've got to get a picture with the President and shake his hand." "OK, why don't you give your camera to the young lady behind you and ask her to take your picture?" Duh.

When the President approached me, eyes gleaming, teeth

sparkling, the most beautiful strong gentle presence, I was agape.

"Hello," he said, "How are you?"

"Wonderful, Mr. President," "Thank you for creating all the new monuments and Pullman in particular."

His smile widened and he continued to Frank who was standing next to me. "Hello, sir," the President said respectfully. Frank says he can't remember what he said because he was so emotional, thinking how his dad would have given anything to meet a black President.



How appropriate that an Anhinga, among the oldest species of birds, should be flying overhead as President Obama strolls the Anhinga Trail flanked by Supt. Ramos and Director Jarvis.

When the meeting broke up we resolved that we'd never wash our hands again that had touched the President. Of course that couldn't last very long. But the President's youthfulness and warmth, his childlike exuberance and his gentle warmth and respectfulness for every person he touched will cause this experience to live in my heart and my feelings forever. What a perfect day on Earth!



*We're never washing these hands, me and Ranger Sabrina Diaz
VOW.*



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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Lessons from our National Park System for Baltimore, Ferguson

1 message

Audrey Peterman <earthws@aol.com>

Wed, May 6, 2015 at 4:39 PM

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Lessons from our National Park System for Baltimore, Ferguson

For 20 years that we've been traipsing through the national parks, I looked forward to the day when we'd encounter black and brown Americans in such numbers among the visitors that their presence on the trail in Grand Canyon would be unremarkable. Their faces would be radiant with joy as we met among the giant sequoias in Giant Grove, Sequoia National Park. They'd move easily among the other guests at Yellowstone Lodge after a day watching bison and grizzlies in the park. I'd run into them at meetings in Washington DC to determine the future of Rock Creek National Park, and they'd be eager contributors to the cause of preservation with their dollars and their political clout.



My dream to see diversity on the trails in Grand Canyon National Park came through last year, but I could never have imagined the oppression going on in places such as Baltimore and Ferguson.

So I can hardly express the shock and revulsion I experienced as a result of learning the cumulative stories of the inhuman conditions that our black American citizens have been living under in places such as Baltimore, Ferguson, New York City among many others, purely because of their race. The veneer of civility and equality has been lifted off to reveal a veritable apartheid South Africa. Incoherent sobs burst out of me. Where I'd thought I was so knowledgeable and involved, I suddenly came up on a reality of systematic and ingrained oppression against fellow citizens that I could never have conceived of.

"He or she is a better citizen who has traveled the national parks, with a keener appreciation of the benefits of living here," to paraphrase Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service.

I never had the benefit of knowing Stephen Mather, and I wish I did. Because he had the foresight and drive in the early 1900s to provide what the system needed - more land, comfortable accommodations that would attract wealthy and influential

supporters who could get more lands protected.



By 2006. my dreams were beginning to come true, for example with this diverse group enjoying Yellowstone National Park.

Today's leadership is called upon to make the parks relevant to the country and the growing demographic groups, and frankly is failing miserably. The new "Find your park" public relations campaign on the eve of the service's 100th anniversary is a mere shadow of the comprehensive program envisioned and laid out [point by point](#) since the 1990s by the National Park Service Advisory Board led by the venerable Dr. John Hope Franklin, and multiple other commissions since. This iteration of the agency leadership is clearly more at ease contemplating the problem than acting upon it.

Which is a tremendous disservice to our country. And you would have no idea unless, like me, you've spent years exploring the system and understand that many of them offer a cautionary tale against the excesses of greed and the lust for power that our society is grappling with TODAY!



What can this young man possibly think of his country and his place in it? A view from Baltimore posted by our friend Tanya Morgan Dixon.

Looking at the terrified faces of young and old on the streets of Baltimore, learning that they're vulnerable to being killed just by looking two seconds too long in the face of the police reminded me of the lessons from the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Colorado. Here, we massacred hundreds of Plains Indians - men, women and children - in 1864, then paraded their bodies through the streets of Denver. If this site teaches us anything, it is the danger of unchecked power, now being revealed as rampant for decades in the government-sanctioned police brutality [systematically](#) employed against citizens of color in places like Baltimore and Ferguson.

Manzanar National Historic Site in California is supposed to be a reminder of how fast our society can slip over into tyranny, as we did when we incarcerated millions of Japanese people just because they were Japanese. Now we're incarcerating millions of black and brown people on admittedly trumped up charges just because of their race, and we're building new [prisons](#) based upon the number of children in third grade - who we've coincidentally deprived of a good education, recreation, amenities and even

food.

The new Pullman National Monument is supposed to show that there are ways to build a middle class and it's important to do so, unlike Baltimore and other cities that we now know are held in the carnivorous jaws of exploitative economic and political forces that allow the richest [0.1](#) percent of the American population to control more wealth than the bottom 90 percent.

Confidential



The Hon. Frederick Douglass was born into the institution of slavery in Maryland, and rose to become an advisor to President Lincoln, insisting on an end to the unholy institution. Can you imagine how many young Frederick Douglasses have had their potential stunted in today's Baltimore, and how great the loss is to our country?

Ironically, two units of the park system commemorate the legacy of Africans born into enslavement in Maryland, who changed the course of American history. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument on the Eastern Shores of Maryland and the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, DC both invite us to celebrate the legacy of these freedom fighters. But would they recognize the society they fought for in today's Baltimore?

And let us not forget the greatest riots of all, when a fed-up American public revolted under the tyrannical rule of Britain in the Boston Tea Party of 1773, commemorated at Boston National Historical Park. Throwing off the shackles of oppression in that event ultimately took us to become a sovereign nation, and the first man killed was the black patriot Crispus Attucks.

Is the National Park System a living record of our failures and accomplishments that provide us a mirror into our past, a guide stone into our future? Or is it a collection of static, desiccated ideas rooted in the fallacy of white American exceptionalism? Those questions need to be answered and actions taken accordingly if they are to help preserve our democracy.

At a conference in DC last February, the leader of a major foundation actually told us, "The door is closing on our democracy..." She said developments such as Citizens United and the corrosive influence of unlimited sums of money inserted into the political process are rapidly compromising us to a place we might never recover. But then she added that many of the largest foundations are heavily invested in the very industries that create environmental and other problems, "and then we give you a few dollars and tell you to solve them...."

I couldn't believe my ears. The cynicism in that statement was so deep. I mention it because it is utter cynicism bereft of human decency for people to have created the situation that exists in Baltimore today - no pools, no playgrounds, no libraries, no jobs and citizens in jeopardy of their lives if they look at the police two seconds too long. It did not happen by accident. Just as the economic "crash" that resulted in all our wealth moving upwards

to 0.1 percent of the population, this situation has been created and multiplied across the country and is cannibalizing our democracy.



It is the birthright of young Americans in Baltimore and Ferguson to have experiences like this at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in Washington DC where the lotus blooms will be overpoweringly beautiful in month or two, but for some it's as far away as the moon.

So the parks need to come out of hiding and do the job they're chartered to do, "inspire and educate" the American people about our past so as to inform our future. If the current leadership is not up to that job - and I'd say we already know that since few people that I meet on a daily basis even know what I'm talking about when I say 'national parks' - we need to place a demand upon them for the kind of Service we expect. Granted leaders frequently don't even respond to direct contact which emphasizes how removed they feel from accountability to the public.

Because my ancestors worked and served and died for the cause of liberty, freedom and equality in America, I plan never to stop

working toward that goal. I ask you to allow your heart to over-ride the programming that keeps us distanced from the suffering of our fellow citizens. I am sending this out with a heartfelt prayer that you will see, and feel and hear how we can each change things positively by acting in our sphere of influence. There, but for the grace of God, go I.



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, January 25, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL TO LIMIT METHANE EMISSIONS. The Interior Department on Friday announced proposed regulations to reduce methane emissions, drawing praise from environmental groups but condemnation from Republicans and the industry. Media reporting – which included little depth – placed the proposal in the greater context of President Obama's efforts to combat climate change and highlights it comes one week after the Obama Administration announced a moratorium on coal leases on Federal land.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/22, Warrick, 7.78M) reports the Obama Administration "took a step Friday toward plugging thousands of small methane leaks from oil and gas operations around the country, saying the escaping gas is contributing to climate change." The Interior Department announced proposed regulations "that would require energy companies to reduce methane leaks in order to drill anywhere on land owned" by the Federal government or Native American tribes – about 100,000 oil wells that supply 10 percent of the country's natural gas. The [AP](#) (1/22, Daly) reports the measures "would require oil and gas producers to limit the rate of flaring at oil wells," conduct regular inspections for leaks, and "replace outdated equipment that vents large quantities of gas into the air."

[Vice](#) (1/22, Ankrom, 1.88M) reports Interior Secretary Jewell said in a statement, "I think most people would agree that we should be using our nation's natural gas to power our economy – not wasting it by venting and flaring it into the atmosphere." Jewell added, "We need to modernize decades-old standards to reflect existing technologies so that we can cut down on harmful methane emissions and use this captured natural gas to generate power and provide a return to taxpayers, tribes, and states for this public resource." [Newsweek](#) (1/22, 164K) reports on its website that the Bureau Of Land Management estimates the new rules will "prevent the loss of up to 56 billion cubic feet of gas a year...which could supply around 760,000 households annually." The BLM also said it will "avoid methane emissions that would be equivalent to up to 4.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year."

The [New York Times](#) (1/22, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says the move is the "latest step by President Obama to use his executive authority to clamp down on the fossil fuel emissions that contribute to climate change, and make it more expensive for oil, gas and coal companies to mine and drill on public land." [Bloomberg News](#) (1/22, Dlouhy, 3.4M) reports the rules "are seen as a precursor for restrictions that could be imposed on existing oil and gas wells on private lands and come as the industry suffers through a contraction caused by plummeting crude prices." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/22, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports the rules are expected to be completed later this year following a public comment period and the implementation would be phased in over three years. According to the Interior Department, the measures are expected to cost the industry \$125 million to \$161 million per year.

The [Washington Times](#) (1/22, Boyer, 283K) reports Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider said the regulations are "commonsense and cost-effective" and stem "from several government studies and feedback from stakeholders and native American tribes." However, according to [The Hill](#) (1/22, Cama, 654K), "Republicans and the oil and gas industry dismissed the standards as an unnecessary attack on fossil fuels" only a week after the White House issued a three-year moratorium on new coal mining leases on Federal land.

House Speaker Ryan said, "This will stymie oil and natural gas development on federal lands, which is the president's real goal: to keep it in the ground." Ryan added, "As the markets drop, and America's saving and retirement portfolios suffer, it's astonishing that this president would seek to further cripple America's energy industry. The American people's welfare should not have to compete with the president's desire to cement his climate legacy."

The [Daily Caller](#) (1/22, Bastasch, 366K) reports the industry contends companies already have the necessary incentive to capture as much methane as possible, because letting product vent into the atmosphere means less is available to sell. According to the Caller, "Oil and gas operations are already cutting the amount of methane flared, vented or leaked despite huge increases in hydrocarbon production" and the EPA's latest data shows methane emissions dropped 13 percent between 2011 and 2014. [US News & World Report](#) (1/22, Neuhauser, 996K) reports on its website that some environmental groups "take the opposite view" and "argue that the industry's high level of compliance indicates the regulations could have been made even stricter."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNBC](#) (1/22, 2.08M), the [Financial Times](#) (1/22, Jopson, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), [PBS NewsHour](#) (1/24, 168K), [MarketWatch](#) (1/24, 758K), [Reuters](#) (1/22), [Reuters](#) (1/24), [Bloomberg Research](#) (1/24, 3.4M), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/24, 476K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/24, 263K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (1/24, 1.15M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/22, Daly, Press, 2.15M), the [Rutland \(VT\) Herald](#) (1/23, 38K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (1/22, 158K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (1/23, 87K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (1/23, 54K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (1/23, Dlouhy, 825K), the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (1/24, 32K), [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (1/24, 73K), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 270K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/22, 44K), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (1/24, 102K), the [Orange County \(CA\) Breeze](#) (1/23, 85), the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (1/24, 55K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/24, 81K), the [Barre Montpelier \(VT\) Times Argus](#) (1/23, 20K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (1/22, 4K), the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M), [La Repubblica \(ITA\)](#) (1/24, 1K), the [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (1/24), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (1/22, 2K), the [Montana Public Radio](#) (1/24), [Fortune](#) (1/22, 4.24M), [The Blaze](#) (1/22, 1.89M), [Think Progress](#) (1/22, 293K), [Rigzone](#) (1/24, 11K), [ENews Park Forest](#) (1/22, 2K), [Inside Climate News](#) (1/24), the [Scientific American](#) (1/24, 3M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Volcovici, 6.43M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Volcovici, 6.43M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Daly, Press, 6.43M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (1/24, 6.15M), [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\) Butte](#), MT (1/24), [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\) Jacksonville](#), FL (1/24, 74K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\) Washington](#) (1/24, 276K).

LOCAL OFFICIALS GROW IMPATIENT WITH OREGON STANDOFF. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that local and state officials are losing patience with Federal law enforcement officials as they allow the standoff at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to continue. The Journal says that residents of Harney County are concerned about a possible outbreak of violence. Meanwhile, Burns Paiute Tribal members expressed outrage after Finicum was shown rummaging through boxes of artifacts in a Facebook video. Finicum said that it was the Fish and Wildlife Service that had damaged artifacts. Meanwhile, Fish and Wildlife officials said the artifacts are supposed to be left untouched, and that the occupiers were inflicting damage. "Some of these are 8,000 to 9,000 years old," said Jason Holm, an agency spokesman, said of the artifacts. "If you are not trained in this world, which they are not, the opportunity to do damage is absolutely there."

New "Players" Demand End To Oregon Occupation. In a 1,700-word article, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/22, Jonsson, 496K) reports "the number of players" involved in the occupation of Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge "has unexpectedly enlarged," as "local residents, environmentalists, hikers, birders, and even a science-fiction legend have" begun calling for Ammon and Ryan Bundy's antigovernment militia to end their "tense standoff" with law enforcement. According to the article, while "many in the rural West actually appreciate Mr. Bundy's political message," many others believe the armed protesters "are putting on political theater that paints their fellow Westerners in a poor light and disregards – and even undermines – the approach favored by many who seek to reshape the West's future without a revolution."

Rancher Renounces Federal Grazing Contract At Bundy Event. The [AP](#) (1/24, Ridler, 2.15M) reports that "a rancher from New Mexico renounced his U.S. Forest Service grazing contract at an event held by an armed group occupying a national wildlife refuge in Oregon to protest federal land use policies." According to the article, "Adrian Sewell of Grant County, New Mexico, took the action at the event attended by about 120 people at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (1/24, Kamisar, 654K), the [Oregonian](#) (1/24, 769K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 7.78M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (1/24, 629K), and [US News & World](#)

[Report](#) (1/23, 996K).

Forum On Oregon Standoff Canceled Over Safety Concerns. The [AP](#) (1/24, 2.15M) reports that “a judge who planned to host a community meeting Monday over the standoff at an Oregon wildlife refuge has canceled it due to safety concerns.” Hamey County Judge Steve Grasty said in a news release that “authorities had become aware of plans to protest the meeting and block the entrance to the county senior center, where it was to be held.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/24, 283K) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 7.78M).

Leader Of Militia Group Balks At FBI Talks Without Media. The [AP](#) (1/24, 629K) reports that Ammon Bundy, the leader of an armed group, “met briefly with a federal agent Friday, but left because the agent wouldn’t talk with him in front of the media.” According to the article, “Bundy wants face-to-face conversations in front of reporters.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (1/22, Ridler, 1M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/24, 263K), and the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (1/23, 2.33M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/24, Sonner), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 825K), [USA Today](#) (1/23, Anglen, 5.56M), the [Arizona Republic](#) (1/23, 960K), the [Oregonian](#) (1/24, 769K), the [Willamette \(OR\) Week](#) (1/23, 120K), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (1/24, 3.59M), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (1/24, 200K), [TIME](#) (1/24, 19.1M), [Esquire Magazine](#) (1/24, 3.88M), and the [Huffington Post](#) (1/22, 251K).

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITING AFRICA TO DISCUSS ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The [Oklahoman](#) (1/24, 470K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “on a visit to Africa including Gabon, Kenya, South Africa to discuss illegal trafficking of wild live with NGO ‘s and other government officials.”

[Modern Ghana](#) (1/24, 2K) reports that Jewell’s trip, “which begins Thursday, January 21, and runs through the following week, follows her recent participation at the 21st Conference of Parties(COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, where she met with senior officials from the countries of Gabon, Kenya and Namibiato discuss methods to combat wildlife trafficking in partnership with other consumer, transit and source countries.”

In an interview with the [East African \(KEN\)](#) (1/24, 287), Jewell explained her mission. She said: “African countries are often the source of elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolin and illegally taken wildlife destined for markets in Asia and the US. The Obama administration is particularly concerned about the rise in cases of wildlife trafficking from Africa to Asia, Europe and the US. ... In each of the three countries I will be visiting — Gabon, Kenya and South Africa — I will hold meetings with top government officials and nongovernmental organisations that are active in wildlife conservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Star Africa](#) (1/24), the [Blasting News \(CHE\)](#) (1/24),, and the [Standard \(ZWE\)](#) (1/24, 102K).

INTERIOR RAISES AWARENESS OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. [FedScoop](#) (1/24) reports that the Interior Department is “mixing in policy messages with its beautiful pictures on Instagram to spread awareness of conservation efforts.” The department has “almost 1.5 million followers between Instagram and Twitter alone — it also posts on Vine, Facebook, Tumblr and Snapchat — and by slipping in posts about policy and conservation, Rebecca Matulka, senior digital media strategist for Interior, said she is able to reach a much bigger audience than traditional mediums to spread awareness.” Matulka said, “It’s the photos that draw people to our accounts and allows us to share all the other great work the Department is doing. The result is our policy-related content reaches a much larger audience than most other federal government agencies.”

Meanwhile, [KSDK-TV St. Louis](#) (1/22, 281K) announced “a new content partnership” with the Interior Department. Starting January 22, the site will “begin posting amazing photographs taken of some of the most breathtaking places our nation has to offer.” It’s part of a federal project called Share The Experience, which is a federal Recreation Lands photo contest.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION-ENERGY INDUSTRY TENSIONS COULD HEAD HIGHER DURING OBAMA’S LAST YEAR. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (1/23, Kovski, 7K) reported that tensions between the energy

industry and the Obama Administration are high and could head higher during Obama's final year in office. Industry representatives "suggest the difficulties are not a matter of bureaucracies but rather of policies stemming from the White House, and the policies may be driven in 2016 by concerns about climate change and an activist campaign to keep fossil fuels in the ground."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SHIFTS STORAGE OF RECORDS OF BACKGROUND CHECKS. The [New York Times](#) (1/22, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that the Obama Administration on Friday said that the Defense Department would "take over the storage of records from federal background checks, part of an overhaul prompted by a colossal cybersecurity breach at the Office of Personnel Management." According to the article, "a major component of the overhaul will be the creation of a new agency that will process federal background checks." The agency, called the National Background Investigations Bureau, will be "part of the personnel office but will be led by a presidential appointee."

SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL CUTTING FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. The [Washington Post](#) (1/22, Davidson, 7.78M) reports Sens. Chuck Grassley, Ron Johnson, Tom Carper, and Jon Tester introduced the Administrative Leave Act of 2016. A statement by Grassley explained the legislation "is designed to 'cut down on excessive, abusive, expensive leave and protect whistle-blower employees who are put on leave in retaliation for their actions.'" The Post says the "Senior Executives Association, the Federal Managers Association and the National Border Patrol Council, which is part of the American Federation of Government Employees, have endorsed the legislation."

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE GRAND CANYON MONUMENT DESIGNATION. The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (1/24, 23K) reports that "the five-member Arizona Game and Fish Commission and 10 former commissioners have sent a letter to President Barack Obama, urging that he not designate 1.7 million acres in northern Arizona as a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument." Calling the proposed monument "a solution to a non-existing problem," the commissioners said "designating this large swath of land as a national monument could impose unnecessary rules and regulations, negatively impact outdoor recreation, and compromise the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to manage and conserve the public's wildlife." They "support the multiple-use concept on public land, as that approach provides the most wildlife-related recreational opportunities for the public and allows the commission and department to work closely with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on sustainable resource management."

POLL: UTAH RESIDENTS DIVIDED ON PUBLIC-LANDS LAW SUIT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/24, Maffly, 339K) reports that, according to a survey by the Salt Lake Tribune and the University of Utah, "Utahns are divided over whether the state should sue the federal government to gain title to 31 million acres of federal land." The Tribune says that "by a 13-point margin, Utah voters favor filing a suit, estimated to cost taxpayers \$14 million, aimed at transferring title of public lands." The report goes on to say that "support was strongest among Republicans and conservatives, 62 percent and 68 percent, respectively; men, 53 percent; and Mormons at 55 percent."

TRUMP WOULD NOT LET STATES TAKE OVER FEDERAL LANDS. [CBS News](#) (1/24, 4.1M) reports that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump "would not let states take control of federal lands, the Republican presidential candidate said in a recent interview." Trump said. "I don't like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don't know what the state is going to do."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Detroit Free Press](#) (1/22, 921K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: \$40 MILLION IN FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR NEVADA PROJECTS. Additional coverage of the \$40 million in funding announced for projects around Nevada was provided by the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (1/24).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ISLETA PUEBLO REGAINS ANCESTRAL LAND. Additional coverage of the 90,000 acres of ancestral land returned to the Isleta Pueblo was provided by [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (1/24, 10K).

WSJOURNAL: NEW LEASE MORATORIUM A SERIOUS THREAT TO COAL INDUSTRY. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/22, A12, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes the Interior Department's new three-year moratorium on issuing coal leases for mining on Federal lands may kill the industry in western states – particularly Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (1/22, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the

[Huffington Post](#) (1/24, 251K), the [Indiana \(PA\) Gazette](#) (1/24, 42K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (1/24, 44K), the [Sheridan \(WY\) Media](#) (1/24), the [Houston \(TX\) Community Newspapers](#) (1/25, 524K) and the [Bonham \(TX\) Journal](#) (1/23, 13K).

JAY EVENSEN: END FIGHTING OVER STATE PUBLIC LANDS. In an opinion for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/25, 476K) Jay Evensen states the compromise by Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz “to end all the fighting over public lands in the state” means “we are now certain public lands issues never will be solved.”

GUY W. FARMER: WESTERN STATES CLASH WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER FEDERALLY OWNED LANDS. In an opinion in the [Nevada Appeal](#) (1/24, 51K) Guy W. Farmer stated that in a Republic, states should not “accept federal control of state lands in perpetuity.” However, states should not clash with the federal government over land and water issues. Rather states should negotiate turnovers of federal lands by recovering unproductive federal lands.

GOVERNOR OTTER BECOMES A RELUCTANT COLLABORATOR. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (1/24, 218K) reported that “Idaho Gov. Butch Otter has enthusiastically embraced the collaborative process” after being “intransigent.” Otter was tasked with developing a plan for Idaho to protect sage grouse without need for invoking the Endangered Species Act. However, the Bureau of Land Management added “new Sagebrush Focal Areas, which set up a process to withdraw 12 million acres across 11 Western states from mineral and oil and gas development.” This was done in lieu of listing sage grouse as a threatened species. Otter sued Interior Secretary Sally Jewell only after his plan was not adopted.

“NOTIONAL STOCKS” RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT INACCURATE SUPPLY, DEMAND OIL DATA. A 1,406-word [Reuters](#) (1/22, Kemp) analysis examines the problems associated with generating statistical data and forecasting about oil production, consumption and reserves, highlighting how the ability to do this has improved in the US since the oil crisis of the 1970s. However, Reuters also points out how data on international markets is far less comprehensive and accurate, particularly in emerging markets. The article explores some of the issues with missing barrels of oil, or notional stocks, which it claims is a problem now with the current situation of global oversupply given that not all of these barrels of oil are visible.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR BOARD TOSSES APPEAL OF CALIFORNIA TRIBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. [Law360](#) (1/24, 30K) reports that the Interior Department’s Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Thursday “tossed four consolidated appeals filed in opposition to a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision recognizing an interim tribal council for the purposes of negotiating a contract with a California Native American tribe.” The IBIA “rejected the challenges to the BIA’s pacific regional director’s 2014 decision to recognize the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians’ 2010 council over other tribal factions in order to negotiate an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contract.”

BILL WOULD FUND MONEY FOR SAFE HOUSES. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (1/24) reports that “for victims of violent crime on the Wind River Indian Reservation, finding help and safety after an attack can be hard. A lack of funding means there are very few services for crime victims there.” According to the article, “recently, the only safe house for victims of sexual assault on Wind River closed down when its funding went dry, forcing victims to risk traveling to nearby towns to shelters off the reservation.” However “a new bill recently introduced in Congress would make it easier for tribes to get money to run their own safe house.” Sen. John Barrasso, chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, recently introduced the SURVIVE Act or the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act.

FAMILY OF MISSING MAN CRITICIZES BIA’S HANDLING OF CASE. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (1/24, 171K) reports that “the family of a 24-year-old former Kyle man missing for 12 weeks says Bureau of Indian Affairs agents have been indifferent to his disappearance amid rumors that he was murdered and buried somewhere on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.” Alex “Tank” Gay, also known as Alejandro “Tank” Vazquez, was last seen Oct. 29 near Kyle. His cousin Misty Hernandez said, “It’s been more than two months and still not a word from him or help from anyone. We’ve been asking for help, and no one seems to care.”

NIGA CHAIRMAN TO ADDRESS NAVAJO LAWMAKERS. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/24, 44K) reports that “the chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association is set to address the Navajo Nation Council prior to Monday’s start of the winter session.” Ernie Stevens Jr. will “talk to tribal lawmakers about the benefits of Indian gaming and the role it plays in strengthening tribal sovereignty.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/24, 283K), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (1/24, 270K), [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (1/24, 78K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (1/24, 464K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR RELEASES \$6.2M IN COMPACT FUNDS TO FSM. The [Marianas Variety](#) (1/24) reports that "in Dec. 2015, the Federated States of Micronesia Department of Finance received Compact grant assistance payments from the United States government totaling \$6.2 million." According to the article, "Compact grant payments included funding for an after-school sports pilot project being implemented at ten elementary schools across Pohnpei to encourage physical activity and create healthy lifestyle interests in elementary school students."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA WORKING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (1/24, 41) reported on Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell's "trip to the nation's capital this week." Caldwell said that Esther Kia'aina, who heads the Office of Insular Affairs, "is working on creating a strategic group of leaders to ensure better housing opportunities for families who travel to Hawaii from Micronesia."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR: CALIFORNIA RESERVOIRS ONLY HALF FULL AFTER RECENT STORMS. The AP (1/22, 174K) reports that "the recent onslaught of El Nino storms only slightly increased the levels of California reservoirs that now stand at half of historic depths for this time of year, federal officials said Friday while releasing an initial water outlook for 2016." The BOR said that "the federally operated reservoirs that supply farms and cities throughout the agriculture-rich Central Valley are now 49 percent full, compared with 47 percent on Oct. 1." BOR spokesman Shane Hunt said that "much of the heavy rainfall in recent weeks has soaked into the landscape left parched by four years of drought, and the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada has grown but hasn't started to melt off and replenish the critically low reservoirs."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/22, 2.15M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/22, Press, 1.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/22, Scott Smith |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, Smith, 283K), [Fox News](#) (1/22, 9.42M), [CNBC](#) (1/22, 2.08M), the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (1/24, 73K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (1/23, 113K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (1/22, Xia, Lin, 3.6M), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 270K), the [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (1/24, 17K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 515K), the [Log Cabin \(AR\) Democrat. The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/22, 3.48M), the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Smith, 6.43M), [KTXL-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (1/22, 89K), [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (1/22, 89K), [KXJZ-FM Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (1/22, 6K), and [KFSN-TV Fresno \(CA\)](#) Fresno, CA (1/24, 114K).

LAWMAKERS WANT TO PUT DELTA TUNNELS PLAN BEFORE VOTERS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/22, Mason, 3.6M) reports that "lawmakers representing the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, the heart of California's water system, have introduced a bill that would make Gov. Jerry Brown's controversial twin tunnels project subject to statewide voter approval." The article notes that "the tunnels already face one challenge at the ballot box: an initiative slated for November 2016 would require voter approval for many public works projects, including the delta plan." Now, "delta-area lawmakers of both parties want to explicitly single out the tunnels project for a statewide vote."

CALIFORNIA FISH SPECIES PLUMMET TO RECORD LOW LEVELS. [EcoWatch](#) (1/22, 23K) reports that "fish species ranging from endangered Delta Smelt to Striped Bass continued to plummet to record low population levels in 2015 in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, according to the annual fall survey report released on Dec. 18, 2015 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife." Meanwhile, "as fish populations continue to collapse, the California Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation are going forward with permit petitions to the State Water Resources Control Board to change the point of diversion on the Sacramento River to implement Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta Tunnels Plan."

BOR OUTLINES WATER YEAR 2016 CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (1/24, 1K) reports that "in preparation for the initial 2016 water supply allocation announcement later this winter, the Bureau of Reclamation is providing an update on water supply conditions for the federal Central Valley Project (CVP)." Mid-Pacific Regional Director David Murillo said, "On December 30,

the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) held their first manual snow survey of the year and found the water content to be 16.3 inches, or 136 percent of the January 1 average. With this promising news and El Niño storms beginning to materialize, we are feeling encouraged. However, storage in our reservoirs remains low, and we must be prudent as we develop initial operation plans and allocations for CVP water contractors.”

BOR SEEKS INPUT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR DAM AT BOX BUTTE STATE RECREATION AREA.

The [North Platte \(NE\) Telegraph](#) (1/24, 30K) reports that the BOR is “seeking comment regarding an environmental assessment document for the dam at Box Butte State Recreation Area north of Hemingford.” According to the article, “engineers have identified problems with sedimentation through the dam’s toe drain — a perforated pipe that runs along the base of the earthen dam to collect water from the reservoir’s seepage and move it to the downstream side of the embankment.”

DAMS AND RESERVOIRS ALLOW YUMA TO THRIVE. The [Yuma \(AZ\) Sun](#) (1/24, Lobeck, 70K) reported how the Boulder Canyon Act of 1928, authorizing construction of several dams, including the Hoover Dam, is now preventing flooding of Yuma while simultaneously storing reservoir water that is still providing water to farmland and cities after 16 years of drought.

GOVERNMENT FAILED THE KLAMATH. Jason Atkinson wrote in the [Huffington Post](#) (1/22, 251K) blog that the Government failed the Klamath by not endorsing a settlement that “took 46 groups 15 years to craft.” According to Atkinson, the “tribes start the year fighting each other for money under the concept of ‘tribal parity,’” and “settlement parties are back to their corners with new people...whose incentives are to start over and try to get a better deal.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND PROJECT PLEADS GUILTY TO BIRD DEATHS. The [AP](#) (1/22) reports that wind power generation plant AES Laurel Mountain “has pleaded guilty to two federal misdemeanors in the deaths of hundreds of migratory birds at its Barbour County facility.” The birds had been confused by the lighting of the complex. The filing cites noncompliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE TELLS INTERIOR TO REEXAMINE CLOUD PEAK ENERGY’S SPRING CREEK COAL MINE. The [AP](#) (1/22, Brown, Press, 2.15M) reports that “federal officials must re-examine a 117 million-ton expansion of an eastern Montana coal mine after a judge sided with environmentalists who sued over the project’s potential to make climate change worse and cause other environmental damage.” U.S. District Judge Susan Watters gave the Interior Department nine months to reexamine “the proposal for the Cloud Peak Energy’s Spring Creek mine near Decker, Montana, along the Wyoming border.” Watters wrote Thursday that “in its prior review, the agency ‘failed to take a hard look’ at the expansion.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, Brown, 283K), the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (1/24, 19K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (1/24, 356K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/22, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 7.78M), [ABC News](#) (1/24, 3.35M), [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Brown, 6.43M), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (1/24, NBCMontana, 1K).

OSMRE QUESTIONS WYOMING REGULATORS ABOUT COAL MINE BOND DECISIONS. The [AP](#) (1/22, Gruver, Press, 2.15M) reports that “federal regulators have told Wyoming to provide more justification for allowing less than full bonding for four coal mines while the mine owners go through bankruptcy reorganization.” According to the article, “bonding for the mines owned by Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources is insufficient under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, groups including the Powder River Basin Resource Council told the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality last year.” The article says that “citing the groups’ complaints,” the OSMRE “on Thursday gave the state agency 10 days to further justify why it’s not seeking full bonding from the companies.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (1/24, Rucker), the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (1/24, 19K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (1/24, 620K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, Gruver, 283K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/24, 81K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Gruver, Press, 6.43M).

COAL COMPANY BANKRUPTCIES JEOPARDIZE RECLAMATION. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/25, 74K) reports that “instead of setting aside cash or getting a financial institution to guarantee that land will be reclaimed...several of the biggest coal companies, including Peabody, took advantage of a provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 that allows them to self-bond.” However, “recently, after decades as industry stalwarts, some of those companies, including Peabody, have seen their finances nosedive, and fears about whether they will be able to meet their growing financial obligations to restore the land have reached a crescendo.” According to the article, “if those self-bonded companies go bankrupt without adequate assets to back their reclamation liability, state and federal taxpayers could find themselves responsible for filling in those massive pits, reseeding grasslands and trying to restore damaged streams, springs and aquifers.”

INTERIOR TAKES ISSUE WITH BANKRUPT SWIFT ENERGY'S \$49M SALE. [Law360](#) (1/24, 30K) reports that “the U.S. government took issue Friday with bankrupt Swift Energy’s proposed \$49 million sale of some of its Louisiana oil and gas assets, arguing that it could wind up transferring federal contract rights without first seeking Uncle Sam’s consent.” In a motion before the Delaware bankruptcy court, the BLM and ONRR “contended that the proposed sale was not filed with enough lead time for the government to investigate what interests it has in the assets.”

COMMUNITY MEETING TO HELD TO DISCUSS TRAPPER, COLOWYO MINES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (1/22, 10K) reports that “a community meeting on coal will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Moffat County High School’s auditorium.” According to the article, “at the meeting, representatives of local government, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Trapper Mining Inc. will discuss the ongoing environmental assessments for operations at Trapper and Colowyo mines.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (1/24) and [SweetwaterNOW \(WY\)](#) (1/24).

BLM AGREES TO REMOVE LAND FROM OIL, GAS LEASE SALE. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/24, 81K) reports that the BLM has “granted the City of Casper’s request that two parcels of land be removed from an oil and gas lease sale in the Cole Creek Road area.” The City Council “last week sent a letter to the BLM asking for the withdrawal of two of 12 parcels in the sale scheduled for Feb. 2.” In a notice Thursday, the BLM said it “will defer lands within the annexation area from leasing until the City of Casper makes its final decision on the application for annexation, or it is determined that an application for annexation is no longer anticipated.”

LOW COAL PRODUCTION IMPACTS RESOURCES FOR ABANDONED MINE CLEAN-UP. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (1/24) reported on Pennsylvania’s abandoned mine lands which include waste coal piles, abandoned highwall mines, underground fires and mines that leach acid drainage into rivers and streams. Out of all that states, Pennsylvania has the most abandoned mine project sites. According to Eric Cavazza, director of the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), many sites are not being cleaned up due to lack of funds and a shrinking budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION TO SUE OVER FOUR CORNERS PLANT, NAVAJO MINE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/24, 44K) reports that “last month, a coalition of environmental groups gave legal notice of plans to oppose several federal agencies’ approval of operations at Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine.” According to the article, “the groups on Dec. 21 filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies for approving the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project last summer.” The coalition “includes the environmental groups Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Amigos Bravos, Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club.”

FATE OF CONTESTED WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST LEASES LIKELY TO BE DECIDED BY COURTS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (1/24, 73K) editorializes that until the BLM “issues a record of decision on 65 contested oil and gas leases in the White River National Forest, the future of energy development in the Thompson Divide remains the object of a semantic war.” Rep. Scott Tipton, Mesa County commissioners and “energy industry representatives view any attempts to cancel leases as an ‘illegal taking’ — a violation of contractual law and private-property rights.” However, “conservation and citizen groups that want to preserve the divide from oil and gas development say the leases were issued illegally and that the BLM is well within the law to take corrective action.” Although the paper agrees with “Tipton that canceling any leases is tantamount to a taking, we don’t think he should be drawing additional lines in the sand.” It says that “the courts will determine the takings question and the congressman shouldn’t complicate the possibility of a compromise

— especially one that has strong and diverse grassroots support among his constituents.”

WYOMING’S POWER RIVER BASIN REPORTS DECLINING COAL PRODUCTION. The AP (1/24) reports that coal production in Wyoming’s Powder River Basin declined by 4.8 percent in 2015, representing “a drop of nearly one-fifth in eight years.” The AP notes, “the coal industry is being hurt by increased federal regulation and restrictions as well as low prices for competing natural gas.”

FISH HABITAT FILES SUIT AGAINST FOUR ENERGY COMPANIES FOR FISH DEATHS. Drawing on coverage from the Durango Herald, the AP (1/25) reported that the Little Fishes Wildlife Habitat has filed a lawsuit against four oil and gas companies it “blames for a 2014 fish die off.” The fish habitat “says contaminated runoff from nearby well pads seeped into ponds and killed the rainbow trout,” and named Catamount Energy Partners, ConocoPhillips Company, Williams Four Corners and SG Interests in the suit.

EARTHQUAKE BILLS AMONG 3,400 MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED BY OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS. The AP (1/23, Murphy) reported that Oklahoma lawmakers will “have more than 3,400 measures to consider when the 2016 session begins on Feb. 1.” Several bills “have been introduced to address the growing number of earthquakes that have been rattling Oklahoma and been linked to the disposal of wastewater from oil and natural gas production.” House Speaker Jeff Hickman “said he believes the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has all of the statutory authority it needs to regulate wastewater disposal.” However, Hickman also “said priorities for the Legislature will include ensuring a seismologist is hired by the Oklahoma Geological Survey and that the commission has funding to update its data collection for wastewater disposal wells.”

EXXONMOBIL DEVELOPS MAP OF NORTH TEXAS FAULT LINES. The Dallas Morning News (1/22, 1.26M) reported on a new map, developed by ExxonMobil Corp, which “provides new information about the existence of underground features that could be contributing to the earthquakes that have been jolting North Texas for the last several years.” While energy companies may see that the map “shows that at least some of the temblors are probably natural and unrelated to oil and gas activity,” for scientists studying the quakes “the map is merely a tantalizing glimpse of the kind of information they need to understand where earthquakes may strike and how strongly they could shake the ground.”

TEXAS SEISMIC MONITORING PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY. The Austin (TX) American Statesman (1/25, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 405K) reported that the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program, which is funded by \$4.5 million set aside by state lawmakers and overseen by the University of Texas, is “getting off the ground” after an increase in earthquakes in North Texas prompted lawmakers to further seismic studies in the state. The project’s findings “could have long-term consequences for the oil and gas industry.”

Offshore Energy Development:

VIRGINIA GOV. MCAULIFFE URGED TO OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (1/24, 374K) reports that “in a hotel conference room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, a delegation of more than a dozen business and environmental leaders tried this week to convince Gov. Terry McAuliffe to join them in opposing oil and gas drilling off Virginia’s coast.” According to the article, “they won a pledge that he’d take a hard look at their concerns – but no indication that the governor will switch from the pro-drilling side.” McAuliffe “reiterated in the meeting that his main reason for pursuing drilling was its potential to create jobs and stressed that he wants to protect the environment, said those who attended.”

Florida Officials Issue Notice To Permit Oil-related Testing. The Panama City (FL) News Herald (1/24, 93K) reports that “state officials plan to issue a permit for seismic testing for oil and gas on land in Gulf and Calhoun counties, according to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notice of intent.”

In an op-ed for the Carteret County (NC) News-Times (1/24, 28K), Donald R. van der Vaart, the secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, argues in support of seismic surveying.

In an o-ed for the Greenville (SC) News (1/25, 173K), David Holt, President of the Consumer Energy Alliance, supports offshore drilling. He asserts that “offshore energy producers must not only comply with a throng of requirements that Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called ‘the most aggressive and comprehensive offshore oil and gas regulatory reforms in the nation’s history,’ but they’ve also taken deep-pocketed voluntary measures to improve their operations.”

The [Island Gazette \(NC\)](#) (1/24, 23K) editorializes that “the important question now is, will officials in Washington listen to the 100 communities that oppose drilling in the Atlantic?”

NEW RULES WORRISOME TO OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY. The [Opelousas \(LA\) Daily World](#) (1/23, Stickney, 26K) reported that Dale Bradford, vice president, worldwide drilling and completions for Murphy Exploration & Productions, disagreed with proposed new federal regulations governing oil wells. According to Bradford, the rules are too broad and would prevent some wells from drilling. However, a spokesman for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement stated the rules were developed with full input the oil and gas industry.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

CONGRESSIONAL LANDS PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON SOUTHWEST UTAH BLM PLAN. The [AP](#) (1/22, 2.15M) reports that “members of a congressional subcommittee said Friday that federal land managers ignored concerns from locals that a southwestern Utah land management proposal will unfairly restrict grazing, water access and transportation.” The House Subcommittee on Federal Lands “took the unusual step of holding a hearing in St. George on Friday to air concerns about the plan.” According to the article, “state and local officials said the plan from the Bureau of Land Management violates terms negotiated under a 2009 law that established two conservation areas.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, 283K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/24, 476K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/24, 476K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (1/24, 464K).

BLM URGED TO ADDRESS THE OVERPOPULATION OF BURROS IN ARIZONA. The [AP](#) (1/24, 64K) reports that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has called on the BLM “to address the overpopulation of burros in the state.” The commission “passed a resolution Thursday recognizing that the Bureau of Land Management needs to address the burros.” According to BLM spokesman Jayson Barangan, “the bureau needs to conduct an environmental analysis before taking any action.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/22, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, 283K), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (1/22, 960K).

TWO BLM MASCOTS ANALYZED. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/25, 74K) reports on the BLM mascots Johnny Horizon and Seymour. According to the article, “forty years ago, then-BLM mascot Johnny Horizon was a fairly well-known presence; With his cowboy hat and rugged good looks, Johnny inspired a nationwide litter-cleanup campaign and all manner of consumer goods before quietly retiring in the late ‘70s.” Then, “Seymour emerged in 2008, when BLM New Mexico adopted him as a local mascot,” and “in 2010, the agency made the ungulate the face of its youth programs nationwide — the closest thing to a mascot that it now has.”

RESIDENTS FLOAT PLAN TO REOPEN SPRING CLOSED BY BLM. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (1/24, 403K) reports that “more than two years have passed since the Bureau of Land Management closed the popular, spring-fed pools at the Ash Springs Recreation Site amid concerns about visitor safety and environmental damage.” Now, “a group of area residents is floating a detailed plan — complete with 3-D renderings — to develop and reopen the site as public park and swimming area.” The Friends of Pahrangat Valley “met monthly for more than a year to develop their proposal, which includes four man-made soaking pools next to a fenced natural area where swimming would be prohibited to protect native plants and endangered fish 100 miles north of Las Vegas near the town of Alamo.”

COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN WISTERIA CASE. The [Florida Keys Citizen](#) (1/24, 33K) reports that “attorneys will return to federal court Wednesday to make arguments on who owns Wisteria Island.” F.E.B. Corp., “which had been trying to develop Wisteria Island off Key West for years, appealed a federal judge’s ruling in 2015 that dismissed the group’s lawsuit filed to establish ownership.” Judge Jose Martinez “did not rule on ownership of the roughly 22-acre island in Key West Harbor, but instead dismissed the case citing that the statute of limitations had run out in 1963 and the court no longer had jurisdiction in the case.” The holding meant that the BLM’s “2011 claim the federal government owns the land remains in place.”

BLM TWIN FALLS DISTRICT TO HOST OPEN HOUSE. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (1/24, 81K) reports that the Twin Falls District BLM is “hosting an open house from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday at its new office building, 2878 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls.” The article notes that “last fall, 60 BLM staff members from the Jarbidge

Field Office, Twin Falls Fire and Twin Falls District moved into the new building.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE SIGNS UPDATED NATIVE AMERICAN POLICY. [AmmoLand](#) (1/24, 7K) reports that Native American leaders and FWS officials “gathered on Wednesday, January 20th, to recognize new measures to strengthen the agency’s 20-year-old policy guiding government-to-government relations between tribes and the agency.” FWS Director Dan Ashe signed the updated Native American Policy (NAP) during a Washington, D.C., ceremony attended by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Michael Bean and numerous tribal representatives.” Ashe said, “To be good stewards of our planet and its remarkable natural history for future generations, we must work effectively across shared landscapes. We can only do that as a nation by working collaboratively with Native American Tribes. The Fish and Wildlife Service’s newly updated Native American Policy will foster and nurture relationships with Tribes and honor the mutual trust of guardianship we hold for decades to come.”

FWS TO END ULTRALIGHT-LED WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATION. The AP (1/24, 2.15M) reports that the FWS said “it will stop supporting the use of ultralight aircraft to help young whooping cranes migrate from Wisconsin to Florida each fall.” Officials announced Friday that “this season’s ultralight-guided flights to the birds’ winter home will be the last.” Pete Fasbender, a field office supervisor of the FWS, said, “The real short answer is that we felt that this was in the best interest of the birds.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 7.78M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (1/24, 1.15M), the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (1/24, 844K), the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (1/23, Bergquist, 691K), [ABC News](#) (1/24, 3.35M), [Fox News](#) (1/24, 9.42M), and the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M).

RECOVERY PLAN FOR MEXICAN WOLVES MARKED BY CONTROVERSY. The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (1/24, 35K) reports that “the purely scientific focus of the annual Mexican gray wolf count stands in contrast to the longstanding, constantly churning and politically charged debate about the effort to recover the species.” In recent months, the FWS has “restarted work on a recovery plan for the Mexican wolves that it expects to finish by the end of 2017.” The agency is “starting to hold workshops for scientists and representatives of local, state, federal and tribal agencies to restart work on a Mexican wolf recovery plan, but environmental groups have railed against what they say are the ‘closed door meetings.’”

Meanwhile, [KNAU-FM](#) Flagstaff, AZ (1/24, 1K) reports that “four endangered Mexican gray wolves were found dead last December in Arizona and New Mexico.”

In an op-ed for the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (1/24, 87K), Jonathan Proctor, the Rockies and Plains program director in Denver for Defenders of Wildlife, writes that “too much time has passed since any productive steps toward Mexican gray wolf recovery have been taken, and time is not on the Mexican gray wolf’s side.” He criticizes the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for opposing “any possible move by the federal government to introduce endangered Mexican gray wolves to the state.”

THREE ZOOS RECEIVE PERMISSION IMPORT NEW ELEPHANTS FROM AFRICA. The AP (1/22, 2.15M) reports that “zoos in Kansas, Nebraska and Texas have received federal approval to bring in new elephants from Africa.” According to the article, “the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas, the Dallas Zoo in Texas and the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha, Nebraska, were part of the joint application.”

The AP (1/23, 2.15M) reports that “legal challenges from animal rights groups could delay plans to bring elephants from southern Africa to the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium in Omaha.” Animal-rights groups claim “the exchange is a commercial transaction forbidden by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (1/24, 257K).

CRITICAL HABITAT IDENTIFIED FOR TWO ENDANGERED FLORIDA CACTI. The AP (1/25, 620K) reports that “federal officials have designated over 7,800 acres as critical habitat for two endangered Florida cacti.” Cindy Dohner of the FWS says “identifying critical habitat in six counties is essential to conserving the Florida semaphore cactus and the aboriginal prickly-apple.”

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TO SURVEY SPOTTED OWLS BEFORE CHOPPING DOWN

DISEASED OAKS. The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (1/24, 66K) reports that “as the Marin Municipal Water District looks to fell trees afflicted with sudden oak death, it will seek to protect federally-endangered northern spotted owls that dot its watershed.” According to the article, “a large die-off of native tanoak and live oak trees in water district lands has increased fire danger as the vegetation with the disease dies and dries.” The district “plans to remove diseased trees near the Bolinas Ridge, but it is mindful of the endangered avian neighbors that might be in the area.”

STUDY SHOWS CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS SNOWSHOE HARES. [Science Daily](#) (1/24, 59K) reports that “snowshoe hares that camouflage themselves by changing their coats from brown in summer to white in winter face serious threats from climate change, and it’s uncertain whether hare populations will be able to adapt in time, according to a North Carolina State University study.” According to the article, “based on field research with radio-collared snowshoe hares in Montana, mismatched snowshoe hares suffer a 7 percent drop in their weekly survival rate when snow comes late or leaves early and white hares stand out to predators like ‘light bulbs’ against their snowless backgrounds.”

FLORIDA WILDLIFE OFFICIALS URGE PUBLIC TO STAY AWAY FROM MIGRATING BIRDS. The [AP](#) (1/23, 2.15M) reports that “Florida wildlife officials are calling on boaters and pet owners to keep their distance from migratory birds roosting at Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge and other coastal areas.” The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said “boaters and others should stay at least 300 feet away from roosting birds, and should not anchor near them.”

WSJOURNAL: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WILLING TO BREAK ESA RULES TO FURTHER CLIMATE PROGRAM. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that the EPA and the Obama Administration seem willing to skirt the Endangers Species Act plan to close down two coal power plants that are the primary warm-water refuges for manatees without consulting the Fish & Wildlife or the National Marine Fisheries Service, which are required by the Endangers Species Act. The Journal says the Administration is willing to risk a legal rebuke on manatees on the assumption that the proper climate policies will be in place by the time a court can dismantle this move.

National Park Service:

NPS CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL THIS YEAR. [NBC News](#) (1/24, 3.32M) reports that the NPS’ “official birthday is Aug. 25, but the festivities already are underway in many of the nation’s 407 parks.” The article provides “a round-up of some events that may be worth building a vacation or side-trip around.”

The [Montgomery \(PA\) News](#) (1/24, 111K) reports that “America the Beautiful will take center stage at the Philadelphia Horticultural Society’s 2016 Philadelphia Flower Show, celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service with this year’s theme, ‘Explore America.’”

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (1/24) and [KDLG-AM](#) Dillingham, AK (1/24).

RESTORATION PLANS FOR PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT TO RAMP UP. The [AP](#) (1/23, 2.15M) reports that “officials say restoration plans will soon pick up speed at Chicago’s Pullman neighborhood, which is approaching the anniversary of its designation as a national monument.” The NPS and “several partners will gather in Pullman National Monument’s temporary visitor center to talk about its future Feb. 19, the monument’s anniversary.” For now, the NPS has “put its banner on the visitor center it shares with the Historic Pullman Foundation, and a cafe has opened in the historic district.” Lynn McClure, Midwest regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association, said, “The real action or change will start in the spring, and that change is happening over the next one to five years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/23, 283K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (1/24, 758K), and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/24, 1.15M).

NPS CLOSING NATIONAL MALL AHEAD OF BIG STORM. The [AP](#) (1/22, 2.15M) reports that the NPS says “the National Mall in Washington will be closed all weekend due to an approaching winter storm.” The NPS said in a statement that “the mall and related memorials will be closed from noon Friday at least through Sunday.” The NPS says “crews will work around the clock throughout the storm to clear roads, parking lots and walkways around the memorials, and sidewalks.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/22, Press, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, 283K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (1/24, 276K).

NPS SAYS S.S. BADGER HISTORIC DESIGNATION STILL PENDING. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (1/22, 921K) reports that "National Historic Landmark status is actually still under review for the S.S. Badger car ferry, the National Park Service said Friday." The NPS said "inaccurate information related to the S.S. Badger was mistakenly posted to the National Historic Landmarks Program Facebook page on Thursday."

Additional coverage was provided by the [MLive \(MI\)](#) (1/24, 698K).

PATERSON MAYOR DENIES REQUEST BY NPS TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS NEAR GREAT FALLS. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (1/24, 77K) reports that Paterson Mayor Joey Torres on Friday rejected a request by the NPS "to stop construction of the Vista condominium project overlooking the Great Falls, choosing to move forward with development of high-density housing that many fear will destroy of the view of the centerpiece of the national park." Torres said "he has neither the authority nor the desire to stop the project, given that housing has always surrounded the Great Falls and the city is starved for ratables." The NPS, "in a letter sent to Torres on Thursday, said the 156-unit condo project being built on a cliff overlooking the Great Falls poses a 'significant threat' to the national park and the surrounding historic district, but the mayor wasn't swayed."

OFFICIALS LOOK INTO CHINOOK BURIAL SITE DIG. The AP (1/22, 283K) reports that "Washington State and tribal officials are investigating after the Pacific County Public Utilities District dug in an area that is known as a Chinook Indian burial site." According to the article, "the utility district replaced two failing power poles inside Lewis and Clark National Historical Park." Park Superintendent Scott Tucker says "the utility district did not contact the Chinook Indian Nation or the National Park Service before doing the work."

FORMER SITKA PARK SUPERINTENDENT FILES DISCRIMINATION SUIT. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (1/24, 16K) reports that "Mary Miller, former superintendent of Sitka National Historical Park, filed a lawsuit last week in U.S. District Court, alleging gender and race discrimination in the federal government workplace." The lawsuit arrives "in the wake of Miller's termination by the National Park Service, effective Dec. 31, 2015, in accordance with a Sept. 2 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals." According to the article, "Miller was head of the park from 2008 until 2010 when the National Park Service reassigned her to a new position as Alaska Native Affairs Liaison in Anchorage." But "Miller refused to accept the new assignment and was fired."

OP-ED: MYSTIC SEAPORT IGNORES THE SABINO. In an op-ed for the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (1/24, 77K) Dick Lotz stated the needs of the Sabino, "the country's last and only wood, coal-fired certified passenger steamer in regular service," will be ignored and the ship will be docked. According to Lotz, this will be a great loss of what Steve White, Mystic Seaport president, called "a unique technological artifact of maritime history and culture."

NORTHBOUND LANES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKWAY CLOSED. The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Weil, 7.78M) reports that "the northbound lanes of the George Washington Parkway were closed from Spout Run to Interstate 495 in Virginia, the National Park Service said." The NPS said "the closures would last at least through noon."

MISSING HIKER FOUND DEAD IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The AP (1/22, 283K) reports that "searchers have found the body of a hiker who was reported overdue from a mountaineering trek in the area of Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park." According to park spokeswoman Kyle Patterson, "58-year-old Ronald Webber, of Maitland, Florida, was found dead at the bottom of a cliff Friday."

OPINION: THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRESERVE OUR PAST AND FUTURE. An opinion for the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (1/24) stated that the National Park Service is important because it "there to remind us of our past and future." According to the opinion, the National Park Service preserves "monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House."

OP-ED: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK RAISES CONCERN. An op-ed for the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (1/24, 89K) discussed a Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General report accusing "male employees at Grand Canyon National Park of sexual harassing female colleagues on river trips." Since 2013, "a dozen employees have been reprimanded or punished for sexual misconduct since 2003 — including one person who was terminated." According to the op-ed, the National Park

Service officially has a zero tolerance policy toward sexual misconduct, but unofficially, it is indifferent.

PROTECTING HISTORIC VIEWSHED ON WASHINGTON AVENUE MALL IS ESSENTIAL. The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (1/24, Gaske, 93K) reported that tree planting will “obstruct the public views of historic monuments and homes” of the Washington Avenue historic district in Fredericksburg which was added to the National Register of Historic places by the US Department of Interior and described as “a series of grassy medians” and memorials that are “sited to take advantage of sight lines and topography.”

YOSEMITE CONCESSIONAIRE CLAIMS TRADEMARKS. Len Boselovic writes at the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (1/25, 552K) that “Delaware North, the \$3 billion family-owned company that runs concessions at Yosemite National Park, wants to make one thing clear: it takes its stewardship of one of America’s most popular national parks very seriously. So seriously that it trademarked the phrase, ‘Yosemite National Park.’” Meanwhile, he says that the National Park Service “recently announced it was changing the names of five Yosemite facilities in order to prevent Aramark, the company that will succeed Delaware North as concessionaire on March 1, from being hit with potential trademark infringement lawsuits after it takes over.” Boselovic says that there is an ongoing legal dispute between Delaware North and NPS. He concludes by pointing out that “the park service seems to have learned one lesson,” because “its Jan. 4 filing indicates Aramark’s contract requires Yosemite’s new concessionaire to turn over all trademarks it acquired from Delaware North when the contract expires or is terminated.”

Top National News:

IN TV INTERVIEW, OBAMA REFLECTS ON PRESIDENCY. Media coverage of the President’s interview with CBS, which aired Sunday morning, is notably light. The three network news broadcasts did not cover the interview, and print and online coverage are limited. Most reports focus on quotes from the President and provide little characterization of his tone. One exception is the [New York Daily News](#) (1/24, Greene, 3.59M), which describes the President as “reflective.” A transcript of the interview is posted on the [CBS News](#) website.

The AP (1/24) reports the President said he “wouldn’t run for a third term even if he could,” adding the “presidency takes a toll on family life, and the office ‘should be continually renewed by new energy and new ideas.’” The President [said](#), “This is a big sacrifice and a great privilege but it takes a toll on family life. This is a process in which the office should be continually renewed by new energy and new ideas and new insights. And although I think I am as good of a president as I have ever been right now, I also think that there comes a point where you don’t have fresh legs. And, you know, that’s when you start making mistakes. Or that’s when you start thinking that you are what’s important as opposed to the mission being more important.”

The President “said he will be content with his tenure as president when he leaves office next year,” [The Hill](#) (1/24, Laing, 654K) reported, noting that he [told](#) CBS, “When I turn over the keys to the next occupant – one thing I’m confident about, and maybe why I don’t feel obliged to yearn for a third term, is I’m very confident I’ll be able to say that things are a lot better now than they were when I came into office. ... And, you know, that’s a pretty good eight years’ worth of work.” The President, [The Hill](#) added, “is not worried about Republicans undoing things he accomplished during his eight years in office if they win the White House later this year.” The President [said](#), “Well, you think about that. But...what you discover when you’re president is that the institutions and programs and things that you have put in place and built– if you’ve done a good job and you’ve done them sensibly– you know, in some cases may need tinkering with. Can be improved. But if they’re good things, they’re harder to undo than you think.”

Obama Touts Success Of Auto Industry Bailout. The [New York Daily News](#) (1/24, Greene, 3.59M) describes the President as “reflective,” as he “spoke to CBS in Detroit, on one of the first legs of a yearlong victory lap last week.” [CBS’ Sunday Morning](#) (1/24, 4.62M) reported the President “has been struggling to communicate his successes heading into his last year in office, and the US auto industry is one example” as both GM and Chrysler “had record sales last year, a resurgence Mr. Obama says was the result of the government bailout during the first year of his administration.” CBS added the bailout “wasn’t a popular idea. Critics thought the new president was over reaching, even cocky. But in hindsight, he says, that’s just what the economic crisis demanded.” Obama: “I might have benefited from being young and a little brash and not being as scared as I probably should have been. You know, there was probably some benefit to me thinking, we can fix this. And, you know, we’ll figure it out.”

Obama Laments “Continued Polarization” In Washington. [The Hill](#) (1/24, Laing, 654K) noted the President cited “his inability to reduce polarization between the political parties in Washington” as something that “gnaws’

on him as he settles into his final year in office.” The Hill quoted the President as [saying](#) (1/24, 4.62M), “The one thing that gnaws on me – is the degree of – continued polarization. ... It’s gotten worse – over the last several years. ... And I think that in those early months my expectation was is that – we could pull – the parties together a little more effectively.” [ABC News](#) (1/24, 3.35M) reported on its website the President [said](#) (1/24, 4.62M) “there ‘absolutely’ are days when he wonders why he ever ran for the presidency, saying there are times when he gets ‘tired’ and ‘frustrated,’” adding, “And yet, there has not been a day that I have not walked into the Oval Office and understood that at no point in my life will I ever have the chance to do as much good and make as much of a difference in the lives of people as I do right now.”

Obama Says His View Of Anti-Terror Fight Has Changed. The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (1/24, 740K) reports the President “acknowledges that his view of fighting terrorism has changed.” While as a candidate he criticized the Administration of President George W. Bush, he said “he sees things differently after serving as president,” [telling](#) (1/24, 4.62M) CBS, “There are a bunch of things that we do to fight terrorism that before I was president I might have questioned, that when I look at it really carefully I say, you know, ‘On balance this is – this is something that we need to do – to keep us safe.’”

Obama: Race Relations Better Now Than After Rodney King Verdict. The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (1/24, 740K) also says the President took issue with critics who say “race relations are worse now after seven years of his presidency.” The President [told](#) (1/24, 4.62M) CBS, “When I hear people say, for example, in the aftermath of Ferguson and some of the other cases, that race relations have deteriorated, they’re terrible, I have to say – well, maybe it’s just ‘cause I’m gettin’ older – but they’re not worse than they were after the Rodney King incident in L.A. ... They’re certainly not worse than they were back in the ‘50s or the ‘60s. But we forget.”

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: TOO SOON FOR NBER TO DECLARE US HEADING TO RECESSION. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Zumbun, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) analysis considers whether declines in industrial production, corporate profits, and the stock market are warning signs of a coming recession, as they were with every previous recession since World War II. The National Bureau of Economic Research will make the determination on whether the US has entered a recession, and the Journal says it is too soon for the Bureau to make a declaration. In his [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Samuelson, 7.78M) column, Robert Samuelson writes that despite the “severity” of the sell-off, “many economists doubt it heralds a recession,” adding, however, that there is “a less reassuring interpretation: The global stock sell-off may reflect gloomy prospects for ‘emerging-market’ economies,” which would mean “the worldwide sell-off of stocks represents a logical response to reduced economic prospects.”

Analysts Predict Lower Fourth-Quarter Adjusted Earnings. Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (1/24, Krantz, 5.56M) reports that with more than 130 companies on the S&P 500 set to report their fourth-quarter earnings this week, investors are bracing for “a disappointing quarter for profit.” According to S&P Capital IQ, analysts predict S&P 500 companies will report “5.9% lower fourth-quarter adjusted earnings,” which would mark “the second straight quarterly profit decline since adjusted profit fell 1.4% in the third quarter.” As stocks “are off to one of their worst starts in history,” this earnings season “will be one of the first chances for investors to get corporate data on whether the recent stock market woes are rooted in earnings and revenue problems, or if it’s just speculators causing noise.”

A separate [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Eisen, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) analysis says that while there are signs the bull market for US stocks is coming to an end, some investors believe this is the time to buy stocks impacted by the recent sell off and some portfolio managers believe the rebound from lows Wednesday were the bottom of the current round of losses. That said, few anticipate the Dow and S&P 500 will soon return to the records set in May, even if the US and global economies do not fall into recession. [USA Today](#) (1/24, Shell, 5.56M) says the rally at the end of last week was “welcomed and much-needed,” it “wasn’t enough for still-shaken bulls to go out on a limb and send a definitive all-clear signal.” Professional investors “expressed relief that the bloodletting had finally stopped,” but “cautious optimism was the message of the market at the upbeat end to another volatile week on Wall Street.”

HOUSE POSTPONES VOTES DUE TO SNOWSTORM. The AP (1/24) reports that in the wake of the snowstorm that has “socked in the nation’s capital,” the House has postponed votes this week, “including one on overriding President Barack Obama’s health care veto.” According to Majority Leader McCarthy’s office, the House “won’t be holding votes on Tuesday or Wednesday because of the storm and how it’s affected travel.” The override vote of the President’s veto on the GOP-backed ACA Repeal legislation “is now expected during the week of Feb. 1.”

Climatologist: Extreme Weather Not Evidence Of Global Warming. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24,

Subscription Publication, 6.23M) op-ed, Patrick Michaels, a climatologist and director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, dismisses claims the East Coast blizzard, rising global temperatures, flooding in the desert Southwest, and California's drought are evidence of the effects of global warming. Michaels says 2015 posted the highest average surface temperature on record due to the large El Niño which emerged early in the year, causing releasing large amounts of heat and causing spikes in the surface temperature.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"Drug Deaths Reach White America."* The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) in an editorial says that "drug overdose deaths currently ravaging white populations in cities and towns across the country" have led political leaders to conclude addiction "can be best addressed with treatment," and that realization "is driving bipartisan support in Washington for saner, less punitive drug policies." The paper endorses the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which it calls "a rational approach to drug policy."

"Ending The Horror Of Myanmar's Abuse Of Muslims." The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), in an editorial says that Burma's president, Thein Sein, "oversaw the systematic persecution of the country's Rohingya Muslim minority," while Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has "remained stubbornly silent on the fate of the Rohingya." The Times says that "Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and her party must move swiftly to redress discrimination against Myanmar's Muslims and to end the Rohingya's terrible plight."

"New York City's Promising Step On Criminal Justice." The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes in favor of "a package of bills" to be considered by the New York City Council which it says "could be a step toward a fairer and smarter criminal justice system." One change would be to make "quality of life offenses" subject to "civil summonses, not criminal charges." Another would be "new public data-reporting requirements."

WASHINGTON POST. *"Immigration In Reverse."* A [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 7.78M) editorial says new surveys from the Pew Research Center and the Center for Migration Studies show that the number of illegal immigrants in the US has declined by nearly one million from 2014 to 2007. The latter organization estimates only 10.9 illegal immigrants remain, the lowest level since 2003. The Post says Republican rhetoric "consumed by alarmist rhetoric about border security" has not yet "caught up to those numbers, nor to the reality that the U.S. economy, like other Western economies, cannot function without low-wage, low-skill labor, which Mexico has supplied."

"Iran's Appalling Treatment Of Journalists Has Not Ended." A [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 7.78M) editorial cautions that even after the nuclear deal, Iran "remains a world leader in the imprisonment and abuse of journalists," noting that "at least 19 other reporters, cartoonists and editors are still being held." The Post argues, "We'll know that Iran has really begun to change when the brave journalists still in prison are freed."

"Traffic Hypocrisy In Richmond." The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 7.78M) reports the Northern Virginia lawmakers would be ill-advised to eliminate tolls on I-66 because it would "deprive the state of tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in projected revenue" to pay for building more lanes inside and outside the beltway, while also killing funding "for an array of other transit improvements designed to divert traffic by enhancing commuters' options."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"The Bloomberg View."* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says in an editorial that Michael Bloomberg decided against independent bids in both 2008 and 2012 after deciding he could not win, so he would not be exploring the race if he did not see a chance at victory. The Journal says that in this most unpredictable political year, his candidacy could gain traction, though it is not clear if he could win 270 electoral votes.

"Obama vs. Manatees." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that the EPA and the Obama Administration plan to close down two coal power plants that are the primary warm-water refuges for manatees without consulting the Fish & Wildlife or the National Marine Fisheries Service, a requirement of the Endangered Species Act. The Journal says the Administration is willing to risk a legal rebuke on manatees on the assumption that the proper climate policies will be in place by the time a court can dismantle this move.

"West Virginia's Right To Work." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes

that the West Virginia state House is likely to pass a right-to-work law, and though Democratic Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin may veto the bill, the veto can be overridden by a simple majority of both houses. Republicans got help on Friday when the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals ruled that the GOP could fill a vacant seat in the closely-contested Senate. The Journal says that with the Administration's attempts to kill the coal industry, right-to-work would help the desperate state.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Flood Of GOP Money Wasted On Ads
3 Still On Run After OC Jail Escape
All Is Not Well
A Place Stranger Than Crime Fiction
India Reins In Surrogacy Services For Foreigners

Wall Street Journal:

Johnson Controls In Advanced Talks To Combine With Tyco
Behind Donald Trump's Attack Strategy
Time To Say Goodbye To Long Bull Market?
Russian Oil: Output Grows As Prospects Shrink

New York Times:

Hillary Clinton And Bernie Sanders Battle For Party's Future
Italy Divided Over Effort To Legalize Civil Unions For Gays
East Coast Blizzard Ends But A Long Cleanup Begins
Donald Trump Means Business In Iowa: Night In Motel, And A Day In Church
Massachusetts Chief's Tack In Drug War: Steer Addicts To Rehab, Not Jail
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Snowzilla Is Done With Us, But Now The Shoveling Begins

Washington Times:

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Social Conservatives Warn Against Kasich

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas-Travel; Winter Storm Jonas-Driving; Winter Storm Jonas-Flooding; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Poll Numbers; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; Professional Fraud Victim Profile; Alaska Earthquake; NFL-AFC Championship Game.

CBS: Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas-Snow Totals; Winter Storm Jonas-Flooding; 2016 Politics; 2016 Politics-Poll Numbers; Canada-Public Shooting; Alaska Earthquake; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; Airline Pricing.

NBC: Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas-Flooding; Winter Storm Jonas-Travel; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Iowa Caucus; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; Sweden-Cash Free Goals; Alaska Earthquake.

Network TV At A Glance:

Winter Storm Jonas – 23 minutes, 00 seconds
2016 Politics – 9 minutes, 20 seconds
California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Alaska Earthquake – 1 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Winter Storm Jonas-Cleanup; Winter Storm Jonas-Air Travel; NFL Playoffs-Conference Results; HPV-Cancer Rates; International Markets.

CBS: Winter Storm Jonas-Cleanup; Winter Storm Jonas-Snow Totals; 2016 Politics-Poll Numbers; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; NFL Playoffs-Conference Results; Asian Financial Markets.

NPR: Winter Storm Jonas-Air Travel; Winter Storm Jonas-Power Outages; Alaska Earthquake-Gas Explosion; Asian Stocks; Greek Islands-Syrian Refugees; Oil Prices; NFL Playoffs-Conference Results.

FOX: NFL Playoff-NFC Championships Game; Winter Storm Jonas-DC Mayor; Winter Storm Jonas-Deaths; American Airlines Flight-Severe Turbulence; 2016 Politics-Potential Bloomberg Run.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Visits Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and wounded service members being treated at the facility.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled public events.

US Senate: 10:30 AM POSTPONED: Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing on opioid abuse among older Americans – POSTPONED: Field hearing on 'Fighting Against a Growing Epidemic: Opioid Misuse and Abuse Among Older Americans', with witnesses including Attorney General of Virginia Mark Herring, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Family Medicine and Population Health Assistant Professor Katherine Neuhausen, Virginia Change Addiction Now Acting State Director Lisa Wilkins, National Safety Counsel Director of Jane Terry, and Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Office of Substance Abuse Services Director Mellie Randall Location: 21170 Ashby Ponds Blvd., Ashburn, VA <http://aging.senate.gov/>

3:30 PM Pew Charitable Trust / C-TAC Congressional briefing on end-of-life care – Pew Charitable Trusts / Coalition to Transform Advanced Care Congressional briefing on 'Improving Serious Illness and End-of-Life Care: Opportunities for Congressional Action', with speakers including Democratic Sen. Mark Warner, Republican Rep. Phil Roe, AARP President-elect Eric Schneiderman, Priority Health Managed Benefits Chief Medical Officer Jay LaBine, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Chief Medical Officer Joe Rotella, Pew Charitable Trusts Senior Director of Health Programs Allan Coukell and Improving End-of-Life Care Project Director Lee Goldberg, Marian Grant (University of Maryland Medical Center Palliative Care Service), and Tom Koutsoumpas (C-TAC) Location: Rm 485 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.pewtrusts.org <https://twitter.com/pewtrusts>

US House: :00 PM House meets for pro forma session – House of Representatives meets for pro forma session, with no votes expected due to inclement weather * First votes of the week are expected tomorrow as the House returns after Martin Luther King Day District Work Period Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM POSTPONED: House Commerce Committee holds roundtable on concussions – POSTPONED: House Energy and Commerce Committee commences its review of the causes, effects, and treatments of concussions and other head trauma with a roundtable discussion, bringing together experts from the medical, military, athletic, and research communities Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

POSTPONED: Hearing on 'H.R. 3442, the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2015' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:00 AM WGR Congressional Breakfast Series event with Senate Leadership Energy and Environment Staff – Women in Government Relations (WGR) Energy, Environment & Agriculture Task Force Congressional Breakfast Series event with Policy Advisor for Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, Neil Chatterjee and Senior Policy Advisor for Democratic Sen. Harry Reid Location: Office of the American Gas Association, 400 N Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC <http://www.wgr.org> <https://twitter.com/WGRDC>

9:00 AM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee State of the Net 2016 conference – Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee State of the Net 2016 conference. Speakers include Attorney General

Loretta Lynch, Democratic Sen. Al Franken, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Director Michelle Lee, Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu, Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Terrell McSweeney, House Committee on the Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information Larry Strickling, Engine Advocacy's Julie Samuels, Access Now's Amie Stepanovich, Cisco Systems' Alissa Cooper, Georgetown University Center on Privacy & Technology's Alvaro Bedoya, Internet Jurisdiction Project Bertrand de la Chappelle, Etsy CEO Chad Dickerson, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation's Jeffrey Farrah, Fusion's Kashmir Hill, Freedom House's Sanja Kelly, and ICANN's Greg Shatan Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.stateofthenet.org
<https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC>

9:30 AM USAID Administrator hosts discussion on the 'The Future and Potential of African Energy and Power' – U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Gayle Smith hosts a discussion on 'The Future and Potential of African Energy and Power Africa Road Map Launch', with United States National Security Advisor Ambassador Susan Rice, Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina and Power Africa Coordinator Andrew Herscowitz Location: White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.usaid.gov> <https://twitter.com/USAID>

11:00 AM EESI briefing series on the Clean Power Plan begins – Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing on 'Environmental Justice in the Clean Power Plan' – the first in a series on the topic – featuring Environmental Protection Agency Administrator's Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice Mustafa Ali, GreenLatinos President Mark Magana, and Skeo Solutions Senior Associate Vemice Miller-Travis Location: Rm 2168, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.eesi.org <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

2:00 PM NSF Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences lecture series continues – National Science Foundation Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences 2015-2016 distinguished lecture series continues with University of Michigan's Susan Murphy discussing 'Sequential Decision Making and Personalized Interventions: The Future is Now' * Lecture co-sponsored by NSF Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering and NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Location: NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://www.nsf.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NSF>

3:00 PM U.S. Chamber CCMC co-hosts 'Capitalism in the 21st Century' event – 'Capitalism in the 21st Century' event, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, K&L Gates and The Washington Times Insights Club, featuring panels on the emerging role of corporate officers and directors as well as financial regulatory reforms. Speakers include Republican Rep. Bill Huizenga, CCMC Senior Vice President Tom Quaadman, CCMC Director Andres Gil; Dimont President and CEO Denis Brosnan, and Better Markets President and CEO Dennis Kelleher Location: K&L Gates, 1601 K St. NW, Washington, DC
www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Lindsey Graham criticized Donald Trump and Ted Cruz and said choosing between them is like having to choose between being shot or poisoned. Graham is supporting Jeb Bush, which he said is like choosing to be slowly suffocated by an expensive pillow."

Jimmy Fallon: "Someone found lyrics to a song written about Donald Trump's father, and Donald was like, 'Big deal. Pink Floyd did an entire album about me called "The Wall," and I made them pay for it.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In a People magazine profile, Bernie Sanders revealed he proposed to his wife in a Friendly's parking lot. A lot of the other candidates have come up with interesting stories about how they got engaged as well. Donald Trump said, 'I got down on one knee and told Melania, "You're hot, I'm rich. Let's do this.'"

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Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

Confidential



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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, February 19, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Feb 19, 2016 at 7:01 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

HOUSE PANEL ISSUES SUBPOENAS ON GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The AP (2/18, Daly, Press, 1.99M) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, has issued subpoenas to the Obama Administration “seeking documents related to a review of 3-million-gallon wastewater spill from a Colorado mine last summer.” Bishop is “seeking documents from the Interior Department and the Army Corps of Engineers related to the Army Corps’ peer review of Interior’s investigation into the spill.” Bishop claimed “Interior has interfered with the committee’s review of the spill and blocked release of important information.” Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said “the agency has been responsive to the committee’s requests, including testimony by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, briefings for committee staff and release of thousands of pages of documents.” Kershaw said Thursday, “Interior is willing to continue to work to accommodate the committee’s oversight interest but given our level of cooperation to date, we believe that a subpoena is premature.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/19, Paul, 881K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/18, 31K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/18, 388K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (2/18, 663K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/18, Matthew Daly |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Daly, 285K), [Utah Policy](#) (2/18), [Inside Bay Area \(CA\)](#) (2/18, 243K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/18, 4.92M), [Law360](#) (2/18, 22K), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/19, Daly, 6.31M), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (2/18, 78K).

GRAND JURY INDICTS BUNDYS, ASSOCIATES FOR NEVADA STANDOFF. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/18, Taylor, Subscription Publication, 705) reports a federal grand jury indicted Cliven Bundy and four others Wednesday on 16 felony charges for their participation in Bundy’s armed standoff with the BLM at his Bunkerville, Nevada ranch in April 2014. The four others, which include Bundy’s sons Ammon and Ryan, “already face a felony charge for their roles in the 40-day Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation that ended last week.” The indictment could keep all five men in prison for decades and force Cliven Bundy to “forfeit his hundreds of illegally roaming cows.” According to the Department of Justice, the defendants recruited, organized and led hundreds in support of armed rebellion against the federal government.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Press, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), [PBS NewsHour](#) (2/18, 154K), the [Bonham \(TX\) Journal](#) (2/18, 13K), [Newser](#) (2/18, 234K), the [Business Insider](#) (2/18, 2.64M), the [Inquisitr](#) (2/18, 193K), [The Blaze](#) (2/18, 1.68M), and [WTIC-TV Hartford \(CT\)](#) Hartford, CT (2/18, 62K).

Federal Prosecutors Say Cliven Bundy’s “Bizarre” Ranching Practices Include Neglecting Cattle. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/18, Duara, 4.1M) reports that Cliven Bundy “has been called many things since he emerged victorious in a monthlong standoff with armed federal agents in the Nevada desert,” but “never was he called a bad rancher. Until now. “His ranching operation – to the extent it can be called that – is unconventional if not bizarre,” Assistant U.S. Atty. Charles Gorder wrote of Bundy in a government memo seeking to deny bail to the rancher, now jailed in Oregon.” The memo, “and arguments in federal court in Portland, Ore., on Tuesday, seemed to convince Magistrate Judge Janice Stewart, who ordered Bundy to be kept behind bars until he goes to trial on six felony counts stemming from his 2014 armed standoff with federal agents over grazing fees he refused to pay to the Bureau of Land Management.”

Connection Drawn Between Oregon, Nevada Standoffs. The AP (2/18) explains the connections between the recent armed standoff in Oregon and the 2014 showdown in Nevada. Both incidents involved the Bundy family and originate from when BLM agents attempted to corral Bundy’s cattle that were illegally grazing on government land in Las Vegas before they were a “picket line of Bundy supporters took over a freeway 15 bridge, pointing military-style weapons down at them.” Federal officials “are widely viewed as having backed down from Bundy” in this standoff, “emboldening this year’s occupation of the Oregon refuge.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/18, 290K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/18, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/18, Press, 8.98M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Press, 285K).

Oregon Occupier Files \$666 Billion Countersuit Against US Government. The NPR (2/18, Chappell, 1.81M) “Two-Way” blog reports Shawna Cox, one of the last people to be arrested for occupying an Oregon wildlife refuge last month, filed a countersuit against the US government for “damages from the works of the devil in

excess of 666,666,666,66.66." She said she plans to ask a jury to deliver "civil and criminal penalties" against a variety of people, including judges, prosecutors, Oregon officials, FBI agents, and more, for subverting the constitutional government and imposing "socialism, communism and imperialism types of government onto the people of the United States of America."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Daily News](#) (2/18, Silverstein, 3.7M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/18, Ingraham, 8.98M), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (2/18, 479K), [Newsmax](#) (2/18, 580K), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/18, 3.7M), and [NYSE Post](#) (2/18).

PLAN TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL MONUMENT ON 1.7 MILLION ACRES OF LAND NEAR GRAND CANYON GAINS SUPPORT. The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (2/19, Weber, 37K) reports supporters of a bill that would establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument on 1.7 million acres of federal land near Grand Canyon boasted of a new telephone survey that found 80 percent respondents that they "somewhat supported or strongly supported" monument. Critics of the measure "were not impressed," pointing out the poll comes a week after President Obama "used his authority under the Antiquities Act to make national monuments out of \$1.8 million acres of federal land in California." US Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) said the bill would protect the land from uranium mining and preserve sacred tribal lands.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/19, 975K).

REMOVING DAM ON YELLOWSTONE RIVER TO FREE TRAPPED, PRIMEVAL FISH COULD BE COSTLY. The AP (2/18, Brown, Press, 1.99M) reports that "a proposal to remove a rock weir from Montana's Yellowstone River so an endangered, primeval fish species can reach its spawning grounds could cost far more than government plans to construct a new dam and fish bypass at the site for \$59 million." Environmentalists who support "the no-dam proposal say it would be worth the added expense to ensure the recovery of a small population of endangered pallid sturgeon on the lower Yellowstone." Federal officials on Thursday said "they would review the proposal in coming months to determine if it's feasible."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (2/18, 803K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Brown, 285K), and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/18, 131K).

INTERIOR RELEASE REPORTS ON INVASIVE SPECIES. [WaterOnline](#) (2/19) reports that "in response to the harmful impacts invasive species have on the Nation's natural and cultural resources, recently the Department of the Interior released an interdepartmental report, Safeguarding America's Lands and Waters from Invasive Species: A National Framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response." The report "proposes to stop their spread through early detection and rapid response (EDRR) actions—a coordinated set of actions to find and eradicate potential invasive species before they spread and cause harm." Interior Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kristen J. Sarri said, "Invasive species pose one of the most significant ecological threats to America's lands and waters. Early detection and rapid response actions can reduce the long-term costs, economic burden, and ecological harm that they have on communities. Strong partnerships and a shared commitment to preventing the spread of invasive species can lay the foundation for more effective and cost-efficient strategies to stop their spread."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL TO MEET WITH HAWAII GOV. IGE. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will meet with Hawaii Gov. David Ige "regarding the International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Conservation Congress, which Hawaii will be hosting in September," was provided by the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (2/18, 340K).

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA PRAISED. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (2/19, Reichert, Contributor, 862K), Joshua Reichert, who leads the environmental work at the Pew Charitable Trusts, writes that President Obama "took a critical step toward buttressing" California's "legacy of environmental protection and resilience by designating three new national monuments in the California desert, adding to a corridor of protected land that now stretches north from Joshua Tree National Park to the edge of Death Valley National Park." According to Reichert, "these new monuments are an important part of a broader approach by federal, state and local agencies to integrate land and wildlife conservation with the development of renewable energy sources in the California desert." He also says that "the monuments will complement the administration's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which identifies lands for potential renewable energy development and conservation."

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (2/19, Duncan, Dunwoody, Trafzer, 862K), Glen Duncan, president of California Historic Route 66 Association, Steve Dunwoody, California director for Vet Voice Foundation, and Cliff Trafzer, the Rupert Costo chair of American Indian Affairs and a professor of history at the University of California, Riverside, gives much of the credit to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's "tireless work to conserve and protect these lands." They "commend Obama for his commitment to protecting the historic California desert" and "thank Sen. Feinstein for her years of leadership in California desert conservation." They also extend their "gratitude to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for their support of these national monuments."

Additional coverage was provided by [Southern Utah News](#) (2/18), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/18, 48K), and the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (2/18, 173K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PRESSES COURT TO REJECT ONEIDA TRUST LAND SUITS. [Law360](#) (2/18, 22K) reports that the Interior Department "continued Wednesday to push the Second Circuit to shoot down two cases challenging its decision to take land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation of New York's casino, saying the appeals failed in their attempt to narrow the government's broad authority." The Interior Department "pressed the circuit court to affirm a New York federal judge's ruling that the department acted reasonably in reaching its decision to take more than 13,000 acres of land in central New York."

Office of Insular Affairs:

US SHOULD RENEW COMPACT WITH THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA. Lieutenant Colonel Tom Matelski, a US Army War College Fellow at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, writes [Diplomat](#) (2/19) that the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia passed a resolution in December "signifying the intent to end the Compact of Free Association with the United States of America in 2018." There is some concern that if Washington "fails to renew the sometimes troubled Compact relationship," it will spur the Micronesians to align with China "and simultaneously leave a gaping hole in" America's strategic access to the Pacific region. Matelski mentions Department of the Interior manages the Compact relationship through the mechanisms of the Joint Economic Management Committee.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FEDERAL AGENTS RAID NEVADA OFFICE, HOME OF US RECLAMATION BUREAU OFFICIAL. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports from Las Vegas that federal investigators "raided a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation office, an accounting firm and the home of a regional finance chief for the water management agency on Thursday in what officials called a public corruption probe." A reclamation office in Boulder City, NV "was among the locations where search warrants were served, bureau spokeswoman Rose Davis said," adding that the agency "is cooperating in the investigation." Federal agents "also searched the Henderson home of Rick Leavitt, a bureau official for more than 20 years who became regional financial management director in 2010, and the southwest Las Vegas offices of the accounting firm LL Bradford & Co."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, 285K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (2/18, 479K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (2/18, 196K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/18, 22K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/18), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, 285K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (2/18, 479K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (2/18, 160K), [KVVU-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (2/18, 104K), [KDWN-AM Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (2/18), [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (2/18, 27K), [KXNT-AM Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (2/18, 10K), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (2/19, 12K).

BOR PREDICTS SHRINKING LAKE MEAD'S WATER LEVELS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/18, 479K) reports that the BOR's "latest forecast calls for Lake Mead to continue to shrink in fits and starts over the next two years, with new record lows projected for May and June of this year and April, May and June of next year." According to the article, "despite the overall decline, bureau forecasters still expect the water level in Lake Mead to stay just above the line at just the right time in 2017 and 2018 to avoid a first-ever federal shortage declaration and force Nevada and Arizona to cut back on how much water they pull from the Colorado."

WORKERS SPREAD GRAVEL IN SACRAMENTO RIVER TO AID SALMON. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/18, 65K) reports that "within a couple of weeks, workers hope to have about 8,500 cubic yards of

gravel spread halfway across” the Sacramento River and “downstream about 1,200 feet,” said Harmony Gugino, a project manager for the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. BOR officials “regularly dump a large pile of gravel into the Sacramento River just below Keswick Dam.” The article notes that “the thousands of tons of gravel that wash downstream from the dam to Redding and areas farther south is used by salmon for spawning.” According to John Hannan, a fisheries biologist for the bureau, “the gravel project is just one of several planned in the Sacramento River this winter and spring to aid the winter-run salmon.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

COURT HEARS LEGAL CHALLENGES AGAINST CAPE WIND PROJECT. The [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (2/18, Bravender) reports a panel of judges on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit today “heard oral arguments in the latest legal challenges” over the Cape Wind project, the “long-stalled offshore wind project planned for the coastal waters off Massachusetts.” The court heard arguments on the project’s impact on wildlife and how it will affect navigational safety. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and other groups contend that the Fish and Wildlife Services failed to consider the “best scientific and commercial data available” when considering how to minimize the project’s impact on migratory birds.

Onshore Energy Development:

ANALYSIS: BLM HAS SLOWED NEW ENERGY LEASE SALES. A [TIME](#) (2/18, Worland, 18.01M) analysis found that the Bureau of Land Management has recently “postponed or canceled a series of lease sales that would have opened additional public territory to oil and gas drilling.” While official explanations for the delays “have ranged from needing to find a larger venue for the sales to finishing a consultation process with tribes,” environmental protesters believe their efforts have had an effect. The BLM “says the lease postponements are routine and unconnected from politic,” but the “energy industry is skeptical.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP FILES COMPLAINT WITH OSMRE AGAINST PEABODY ENERGY. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (2/18, 10K) reports that an environmental group has “filed a complaint with regulators alleging Peabody Energy is not following federal laws at its mines in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming, including Twentymile Mine in Routt County.” In its complaint filed with the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, WildEarth Guardians “contends Peabody is violating the U.S. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, or SMCRA.” According to the article, “the complaint was prompted by Peabody’s grim financial performance.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (2/18, 30K) and the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/18, 388K).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON COLOWYO EXPANSION CLOSES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (2/18, 10K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s “final public comment period on its environmental assessment of Colowyo Mine’s Collom Area Development Project drew to a close on Thursday.” After reviewing the comments, the federal agency will “issue a recommendation on whether or not the mining operations should be approved.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (2/18, 30K).

BLM HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED METHANE RULES IN OKLAHOMA CITY. The [Oklahoman](#) (2/19, 421K) reports that “too much natural gas is wasted during production on federal and tribal lands, representatives of the federal Bureau of Land Management said Thursday in Oklahoma City as the agency held a public meeting on proposed methane reduction rules.” The bureau “wants to reduce flaring, venting and leaks from production, and said doing so would increase royalties from mineral leasing on federal and tribal lands.” Tim Spisak, a senior adviser for conventional energy at BLM, said, “A lot of gas is being lost, and it’s a wasted resource and a loss of royalty revenue. For some of the environmental impacts, we’re trying to bring in modern technologies and practices that have developed over the last three or four decades. I think it’s clear our existing regulations need to be updated.”

LAND WITHDRAWN FROM BLM AUCTION. The [Flower Mound \(TX\) Leader Star](#) (2/18, 14K) reports that the U.S. Forest Service on Thursday “withdrew 31,169 acres of national forest lands in Texas from a Bureau of

Land Management fossil fuel auction slated for April 20 in Santa Fe, N.M." The action "responds to concerns raised by environmental groups and local governments about fracking impacts, and comes one day before the Friday public protest deadline on the lease-sale plan."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM LAUNCHES PLAN TO CLEAN UP LEGACY WELLS. Additional coverage of the \$50 million effort clean up wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (2/18, 211K).

COAL REFORMS CALLED GOOD FOR COLORADO'S OUTDOOR ECONOMY. In the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (2/19, 122K), Lester Binegar, general manager of University Bicycles in Boulder, applauds Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and President Obama for announcing reforms for the federal coal program. The reforms, according to Binegar, indicate that the White House "is responding to calls from Colorado communities, landowners, taxpayer advocates, government watchdogs, and outdoor recreation advocates." A pause in new mines will "have almost no impact on jobs, coal production, energy prices, or grid reliability." Over 60 percent of western voters, per a recent Colorado College poll, "want to encourage the use of solar and wind energy." Binegar says that "reform is long overdue" and believes it is "time to address coal's environmental costs."

COLUMN QUESTIONS WHY TEXAS IS NOT RESPONDING TO EARTHQUAKES LIKE OKLAHOMA. In a piece for the [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/18, 1.24M), staff writer Jim Mitchell asks why the Texas Railroad Commission is considering the connections between injection wells and earthquakes in Texas "are tenuous at best" when in neighboring Oklahoma regulators are mounting a response. Mitchell praises Oklahoma for acting on the earthquakes and says while he'd "like to think that Texas would be as proactive and do the same...history tells me that is unlikely."

FEDERAL COAL LEASING MORATORIUM CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/18, Young, 131K), Dr. Courtney Young, the department head and professor of metallurgical and materials engineering at Montana Tech in Butte, argues that "President Obama's energy policies make no economic or political sense." Young criticizes the "plans to temporarily suspend all new coal leases on federal public lands." According to Young, "it will have devastating consequences for jobs throughout the coal supply chain."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM ANNOUNCES GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (2/18, 28K) reports that "close to 45 million acres of oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico will go up for sale next month, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced Thursday." The article notes that "almost of those leases will be in the Central Gulf, as little as three miles off the coasts of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, with depths ranging from nine feet to more than 11,000 feet. Also up for auction are almost 600,000 acres in the Eastern Gulf, which the government has only allowed limited development in so far." According to a bureau spokesman, "all the leases, which will be up for auction in New Orleans March 23, have been put up for sale in the past."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/18, 279K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (2/18, 803K), the [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication), the [New Orleans \(LA\) CityBusiness](#) (2/18, 28K), the [Maritime Executive](#) (2/18, 21), the [Sputnik News](#) (2/18, 46K), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (2/18, 4.91M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/19, Kennedy, 6.31M).

DECISION NEARS ON OFFSHORE DRILLING IN ATLANTIC. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (2/18, 301K) reports that "federal regulators are expected to announce in March whether they will propose leasing more offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling in the Atlantic, including off South Carolina, say environmental attorneys who are monitoring the decision." According to the article, "the "'best information' given to Southern Environmental Law Center attorneys is to expect a decision between March 14 and March 18, said center spokesman Mike Mather late Thursday."

RIG SUPERVISORS TESTIFY AT BP OIL SPILL TRIAL. The AP (2/18) reported that on Thursday at the trial of Robert Kaluza, the day supervisor on BP's Deepwater Horizon during the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the night supervisor, Donald Vidrine testified "about a test meant to show whether drilling mud below the ocean floor was heavy enough to stand up to the pressure of oil and gas farther down." Vidrine "said Kaluza never told him several specific pieces of information about the test." Vidrine "pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge on which Kaluza is being tried: violating the Clean Water Act."

MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON, FINE AFTER PLEADING GUILTY IN BP FRAUD CASE. Drawing

coverage from the Times-Picayune, the [AP](#) (2/18) reported that 44-year-old Hardell Mack was sentenced Wednesday to one year and one day in prison “after pleading guilty to conspiracy to defraud BP following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.” Mack was also “ordered to pay \$65,300 in restitution.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

TENSION BETWEEN RANCHERS, FEDERAL OFFICIALS RUNNING HIGH. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/19, Maffly, 388K) reports on the strain between federal officials and Western livestock ranchers, especially in Utah, about the “fickle administration of federal land policies.” The Malheur Wildlife Refuge occupation “brought many long-simmering tensions to the surface over the way grazing allotments are managed.” BLM and Forest Service supervisors were “pulled” from speaking at grazing conference at the Utah Fam Bureau Federation because of the current tension. Ranchers claim that federal “overreach” is putting them out of business. Nevertheless, Tony Rampton, assistant attorney general and section chief of public lands, “cautioned ranchers to stay on the correct side of the law.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES SEEK COMMENTS ON VOLCANO AREA MINERALS EXPLORATION. The [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (2/18, 72K) reports that “the federal government is seeking public comment on a revised plan to do exploratory drilling for copper and other minerals north of Mount St. Helens.” The article notes that “this is the second time that Ascot USA has attempted to get federal approval for exploratory drilling on 900 acres in the Goat Mountain area, which is at the northern boundary of the 110,000-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.” The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service announced Thursday “they will decide whether to issue an exploratory permit in part based on public comment they get on an environmental assessment submitted by Ascot.”

CRAIG RANCH DONATED TO BLM. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/18, 279K) reports that the Save the Redwoods League and Sequoia Riverlands Trust announced “the donation of the 66-acre Craig Ranch to the Bureau of Land Management for conservation and recreational use.” According to the article, “the Craig Ranch land will improve visitor access to the Case Mountain giant sequoia grove about 7.5 miles southeast of Three Rivers.” The property is “adjacent to the 18,530-acre Kaweah Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and the Bureau of Land Management will add them to the Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area, which will get better parking and trailhead access.”

JEEP PULLS UTAH ARCH SWINGING SHOT FROM AD AFTER COMPLAINTS. The [AP](#) (2/18, 285K) reports that “Jeep officials are removing a shot in one of their advertisements that showed people swinging from ropes at one of Utah’s iconic arches.” The commercial, “which premiered during the Super Bowl, features a montage of Jeep vehicles mixed with video clips of people engaging in outdoor activities, including swinging from Corona Arch, which is banned.” The BLM “instituted a two-year ban on rope activities at Corona Arch in May and officials are considering making the ban permanent.” According to the article, “viewers complained to Jeep that the company was promoting illegal activities.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FEDERAL OFFICIALS DEFEND MEXICAN GRAY WOLF PLAN AFTER POPULATION DECLINES. The [AP](#) (2/18, Bryan, Press, 1.99M) reports that “federal wildlife officials on Thursday defended their strategy for reintroducing Mexican gray wolves to the American Southwest despite recording the first decline in the population in four years.” The annual survey released Thursday by the FWS “shows at least 97 wolves are spread among forested lands in southwestern New Mexico and southeast Arizona.” The article notes that “the population had been on the upswing since 2010, with 2014 marking a banner year when the predators topped 110 after seeing an increase of nearly a third in their numbers.” According to the article, “federal officials conceded that the latest ground and aerial surveys show more work needs to be done to stabilize the long-struggling population.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/19, Zuckerman), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/18, 31K), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (2/18, 47K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Bryan, 285K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/18, 975K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/18, 290K), and [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/18, 69K).

FWS DOWNGRADES STATUS OF SANTA CRUZ CYPRESS. *The Hill* (2/19, Devaney, 862K) reports that the FWS is “loosening the protections for certain plants found in California.” The Santa Cruz cypress will be “listed as a threatened species, down from its current status as an endangered species.”

FWS CONTINUES INVESTIGATION OF WALRUS DEATHS ON ALASKA SHORE. The AP (2/18, 51K) reports that a spokeswoman for the FWS says “the agency continues to investigate the deaths of 25 Pacific walrus found dead five months ago in northwest Alaska.” According to Andrea Medeiros, “the investigation is ongoing and the agency’s law enforcement officials may have information to share in the next couple of months.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/18, Joling, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Joling, 285K), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (2/18).

REWARD OFFERED IN KILLING OF THREE WOLVES IN MINNESOTA. The AP (2/18, 1.99M) reports that “federal authorities are offering a \$2,500 reward for information on the killing of three wolves in northeastern Minnesota.” The FWS says “the frozen carcasses were discovered Jan. 22 in a ditch along Minnesota Highway 8 near Floodwood, about 45 miles west of Duluth.” According to the article, “officials think the wolves were killed elsewhere, then dumped the night before they were found.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/18, 1.25M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, 285K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/18, 1.25M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/18, 1.25M), [Bring Me The News \(MN\)](#) (2/18), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (2/18, 3K), [KSJR-FM Collegeville \(MN\)](#) Collegeville, MN (2/18, 45K), and [KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (2/18, 135K).

BATS CHANGE LINCOLN BREWERY’S CAVE PLANS. The AP (2/18, 285K) reports that “owners of a brewery that’s being built around a cave in Lincoln have altered plans after finding federally protected bats in the tunnels.” Blue Blood Brewing still plans “to offer tours and hold events inside Robbers Cave, but that a section will be off-limits because of the northern long-eared bat’s presence.” Bob Harms, a biologist with the FWS, said that “it’s hard to estimate how many of the bats are in the cave, but that one is enough of a concern to the agency.”

EFFORT TO RESTORE THE SALTON SEA MOVING FORWARD. [KESQ-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (2/19, 15K) reports that “an effort to renovate a small corner of the Salton Sea is moving forward near Calipatria at the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.” The Red Hill Bay project was “started in November, a cooperative effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, along with the state Department of Water Resources, Imperial County and state and local agencies.” According to the article, “if successful, this 420 acre wetlands restoration project at the Salton Sea may lead to more similar projects at California’s largest and most troubled body of water.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSY OVER ZOOS’ IMPORT OF ELEPHANTS FROM AFRICA. Additional coverage of the controversy surrounding the FWS’ approval of “a permit allowing three U.S. zoos to import 18 wild elephants from Swaziland” was provided by [National Geographic](#) (2/18, 30.99M).

ARIZONA GOP “HOSTILE” TO WOLF RESTORATION. Columnist Linda Valdez writes in the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/18, 975K) reports that the annual population count released Thursday by the Fish and Wildlife Services shows there are 97 wolves in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2015, down from 110 at the end of 2014. The decrease is “significant because wolf numbers had been on the increase for years.” Wildlife advocates want the US Fish and Wildlife Service to help save wolves from extinction, but proposed Arizona Senate bill “requires the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to approve any wolf release, restricts where wolves can be released and requires a full DNA profile of each released wolf.” The state’s lawmakers have been “hostile” to the wolf recovery program despite public support. Valdez says “species restoration is in the interest of biodiversity” and opposes the bill.

REDUCING FLORIDA MANATEE’S PROTECTION STATUS TO THREATENED SHOULD TAKE AMPLE TIME. The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (2/18, 131K) editorializes that there is no rush to enact the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s proposal to lower the West Indian manatee’s protection status from endangered to threatened. The decision to change the status “dates to a 2007 five-year review of the federal agency of the manatee population.” While the federal review is underway, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission “is updating rules adopted in 2007 to create manatee protection zones to ensure the sea cow’s long-term survival.” The Daily News understands the reasons why these organizations want lower the manatee’s status, but

recommends moving “as slowly as we can when it comes to reducing any protections for Florida’s beloved sea cow.”

ALASKA WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST PRAISES FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF “CONTROVERSIAL” PREDATOR CONTROL. In the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (2/18, 211K), wildlife biologist Vic Van Ballenberghe applauds the US Fish and Wildlife Service for proposing a rule “restricting certain controversial predator control measures on federal wildlife refuges, measures promoted by state wildlife managers.” Ballenberghe recalls his past experience participating in the “regulation-making process that guided wildlife management in the state.” During his time, the “carefully crafted protective measures were designed that wolves and bears remained” viable components of the state’s environment. In the past 12 years, “there has been an incremental effort” in favor of wolf and bear hunting. Ballenberghe dismisses critics’ concerns about “federal overreach,” going as far as calling state efforts to “apply extreme predator reduction measures” as “state overreach.”

National Park Service:

HISTORIANS SUGGEST POSSIBLE HISTORIC RECONSTRUCTION SITES. [USA Today](#) (2/18, Toppo, 5.45M) asked historians which places they would like to see preserved when the National Park Service announces “what could be a lengthy list of historic Reconstruction sites” this spring. Highlighted sites include the Sea Islands of Georgia; Shockoe Bottom in Richmond, Virginia; The Penn Center in St. Helena Island, South Carolina; North Carolina’s Piedmont region; as well as the cities of Memphis; New Orleans; Washington, DC; Beaufort, South Carolina; Natchez, Mississippi, and Colfax, Louisiana.

[USA Today](#) (2/18, Toppo, 5.45M) provides further detail about the NPS’ plans to commemorate Reconstruction, “which currently has not a single site devoted to it.” Last year, NPS commissioned a “wide-ranging study to identify key places in the story of Reconstruction, an era” that historians say is “almost entirely absent from the record of important places.” The park service and others “are hoping to help Americans understand that the often-derided period actually gave us important rights and privileges.” NPS’ effort is led by two historians: Northwestern University history professor Kate Masur and historian Gregory Downs.

Organization Documents Locations Of Buried Slaves Sites. [USA Today](#) (2/18, Roberts, 5.45M) reports on the Periwinkle Initiative, an organization that maintains a database of burial grounds of slaves throughout the country. Led by founding director Sarah Arnold, the organization “finds burial grounds, documents their history and advocates to protect the sites.” Those who discover burial artifacts can “go to their state’s historic preservation service, then to the National Park Services for help,” according to Turkiya Lowe, chief historian for the park service.

Black Professional Group To Hold Scholarship Luncheon. [Atomic City Underground](#) (2/18) reports that the Oak Ridge chapter of Blacks In Government will hold its annual scholarship luncheon on February 25. Will Minter, a retired manager at UT-Battelle and former vice mayor of Oak Ridge, will be the keynote speaker. According to the article, “the event will use the theme of Black History Month — ‘Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African-American Memories’ — to bring attention to the Centennial celebration of the National Park Service and sites where African Americans made history.”

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (2/18, 228K) also reports.

SS BADGER FERRY DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. The AP (2/18, 1.25M) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday announced the designation for the SS Badger as a national historic landmark. NPS Director Jonathan Jarvin “says the Badger is ‘a unique example of American ingenuity in transportation’ that helped fuel 20th century economic growth.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, 285K), the [Detroit \(MI\) Free Press](#) (2/18, 989K), the [Eau Claire \(WI\) Leader-Telegram](#) (2/18, 71K), the [MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/18, Kloosterman, 617K), the [Escanaba \(MI\) Daily Press](#) (2/18, 357), the [Manitowoc \(WI\) Herald Times Reporter](#) (2/18, 31K), the [Shoreline Media Group \(MI\)](#) (2/18), the [Holland \(MI\) Sentinel](#) (2/18, 57K), [WITI-TV Milwaukee \(WI\)](#) Milwaukee (2/18, 232K), and [WILX-TV Lansing \(MI\)](#) Lansing, MI (2/18, 52K).

GRAND CANYON OFFICIALS FACE DISCIPLINE AFTER REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT. The AP (2/18, 4M) reports that “the top two officials at Grand Canyon National Park are among those facing disciplinary action following a federal report that found they violated policies on reporting and investigating allegations of sexual harassment in the park’s river district.” The NPS’ Intermountain Region director, Sue

Masica, “declined Thursday to say what specific actions would be taken against Superintendent Dave Uberuaga, and his deputy Diane Chalfant.” She said, “You kind of have to match the severity of the action by the individual with the previous records to what’s appropriate for the particular circumstance. I’ll be looking at all of that.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (2/18, 9.42M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/18, 442K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (2/18), the [Pekin \(IL\) Daily Times](#) (2/18, 31K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/18, 290K), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (2/18, 625K), the [Imperial \(CA\) Valley Press](#) (2/18, 46K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (2/18, 196K), the [Daily Caller](#) (2/18, White, 443K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/18, 975K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/19, Press, 881K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/18, Fonseca, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Fonseca, 285K), [Outside](#) (2/19, 126K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/19, Hinckley, 6.31M).

NPS TO COMMEMORATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/18, Briscoe, 2.17M) reports that the NPS and “several of its partners will gather Friday in the visitors center of the Pullman National Monument to commemorate the monument’s first anniversary and elaborate on what’s next for the site.” According to the article, “as Chicago nears the first anniversary of Pullman’s designation as the city’s first national monument, officials say restoration plans will start picking up speed soon.”

INITIAL STEPS UNDERWAY FOR PERMANENT FLIGHT 93 CRASH SITE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CENTER. The [Johnstown \(PA\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (2/19, Bal) reports that “plans are in motion” to create a permanent volunteer support center near the Flight 93 crash site. In the past 14 years, volunteers and National Park Service staff have been operating out of temporary headquarters. National Parks of Western Pennsylvania Superintendent Steve Clark said Thursday, “We’re looking at a structure with space for volunteers, partners of Flight 93 and National Park staff.” The project is in its initial phase, and it would require final approval from the park service before plans for funding can start. Clark said it would likely be five years before construction begins.

NPS RELEASES VIDEO OF THREE-LEGGED BOBCAT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/18, Rocha, 4.1M) reports on a three-legged bobcat known as B-337 that was caught by National Park Service biologist in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The article includes a new video taking by the park service that shows B-337 “gracefully” move through the brush in the Santa Monica Mountains. When she was caught, B-337 was “collared, and will be tracked and studied along with 336 other bobcats in the area.”

NPS ASKS DC METRO DRIVERS TO USE CAUTION ON PARKWAYS. [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (2/18, 255K) reports the National Park Service is asking drivers in the Washington metro area to slow down or take public transportation to “lighten the burden on the scenic roadway system.” Spokeswoman Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles said, “We’re out in force filling potholes and patching potholes.” She calls the potholes “pretty treacherous right now” and says there is an “increased risk for drivers” traveling at high speeds that they will “hit a pothole and damage their vehicle or get hurt themselves.” NPS will eventually begin a three-year overhaul of the George Washington Parkway and Beach Drive.

PHOTOGRAPHERS TRY TO CAPTURE YOSEMITE “FIREFALL” FALLS PHENOMENON. [TIME](#) (2/18, McCluskey, 18.01M) reports that every February, photographers from around the globe rush to Yosemite Valley in hopes of capturing a picture of the national park’s “firefall” phenomenon. It is the “result of the setting sun shining on Horsetail Fall in such a way” during two weeks in February “that the waterfall appears to be aflame.”

CARLSBAD CAVERNS’ MAINTENANCE BACKLOG TOPS \$44M. The [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “officials at Carlsbad Caverns National Park say the southern New Mexico tourist attraction has a maintenance backlog of more than \$44 million and about half of that is related to elevator renovations.” Carlsbad Superintendent Doug Neighbor said Wednesday that “funding provided by Congress for this fiscal year will help with the work.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK IS THIRD-MOST VISITED PARK. The [AP](#) (2/18, 1.99M) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park has “become the third-most visited national park in the country after topping 4 million visitors for the first time in 2015.” According to the article, “the park was the fifth-most visited national park for 2014, but it jumped to the third-place spot after surpassing Yellowstone and Yosemite national parks last year.”

HELICOPTER SINKS NEAR PEARL HARBOR VISITOR CENTER. The [AP](#) (2/19, Kelleher, Press, 881K) reports that a helicopter “sank near the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center Thursday morning, U.S. Navy spokeswoman

Agnes Tauyan said.” The NPS said that “partial operations at the visitor center will resume Friday.” Meanwhile, “the theater and boat trips to the Arizona Memorial were suspended.”

TIME PUBLISHING “AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARKS—A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.” [TIME](#) (2/18, 18.01M) notes that the NPS “celebrates its 100th birthday in 2016,” and says it is “marking the milestone by publishing America’s National Parks—A Centennial Celebration.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NPS AND GOOGLE. Additional coverage of the partnership between the NPS and Google on the Google Cultural Institute was provided by [Tap Into New Jersey](#) (2/18).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NPS’ FIND YOUR PARKS CENTENNIAL PROJECT CONTEST. Additional coverage of the NPS’ Find Your Parks Centennial Project contest was provided by [WSB-TV Atlanta](#) (2/18, 585K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DEATH VALLEY EXPECTED TO BE COVERED IN “SUPER BLOOM” OF WILDFLOWERS. Additional coverage of the “Super Bloom” of flowers at Death Valley was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/18, 975K) and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (2/18, Fritz, 929K).

CONTINUING DIALOGUE NECESSARY TO DEBATE OVER PROPOSED NATIONAL STATE PARK IN MAINE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/18, 173K) editorializes that “despite polls showing broad public support” in favor of creation a national monument near Baxter State Park, three members of Maine’s congressional delegation “continue to emphasize opposition to the plan in their communications with federal officials.” According to the Daily News, the recent statement from NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis that encourages an “open dialogue about how best to protect important resources within your communities, while recognizing the economic needs in the region” offers a “sensible way forward.” The paper advocates for Maine’s elected officials, including Gov. LePage, “to engage with the issue seriously.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS, NPS, WEST BRANCH PLAN \$73K FLOODING MODEL. The [West Branch \(IA\) Times](#) (2/18) reports that the NPS and “the city of West Branch prepare to take a major step forward in their partnership by contracting with the U.S. Geologic Survey to create a ‘flood inundation model’ for stormwater moving through the city’s watershed.”

USGS: ROAD SALT IS CONTAMINATING WATERWAYS. [WRTV-TV Indianapolis](#) (2/18, 85K) reports that the USGS says “road salt is contaminating drinking water.” The agency says “their data shows Fall Creek, Eagle Creek, Little Eagle Creek and even the White River all have elevated levels of chloride.” According to the article, “that’s what is found in road salt and those are some of the waterways drinking water is pulled from. “

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS HE WILL PRESS CUBA ON HUMAN RIGHTS DURING VISIT NEXT MONTH. The White House on Thursday announced President Obama will visit Havana in late March as part of efforts to advance the rapprochement process and press Cuba to move forward with human rights reforms. Media coverage highlighted the historic nature of the trip and statements from Obama and Administration officials that explain the reasoning behind the visit.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Eilperin, DeYoung, 8.98M) reports Obama “will make a historic trip to Cuba” on March 21-22, becoming the first sitting US president in 88 years to visit the country. [Roll Call](#) (2/18, Bennett, 126K) reports Obama’s two-day visit will include a meeting with Cuban President Raul Castro, but he is not expected to meet with Fidel Castro. Roll Call says the White House “intends to take along some unspecified members of Congress.” [The Hill](#) (2/18, Fabian, 862K) reports the White House said in a statement that Obama will also “engage members of civil society, entrepreneurs and Cubans from different walks of life.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Lee, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Obama’s trip is intended to demonstrate progress in his strategy of engaging the country’s adversaries at a time of increasing tensions throughout the world. The Journal says both the White House and critics are not satisfied with the pace of political, economic, and human rights change in Cuba. According to the Journal, the President’s two days in Havana are designed with the hope that Obama can use the visit to persuade the Cuban government to

implement specific changes, including increasing commercial ties with the US. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said, according to the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the Administration “believe[s] the best way to try to push this forward is for the president to go.” Rhodes said, “The way to carry this policy forward is to keep leaning forward,” adding, “It’s not a quid pro quo, but we would like the trip to show concrete progress in normalization, so it’s an opportunity to demonstrate results.” The [Miami Herald](#) (2/18, Whitefield, 803K) reports the head of the US section in Cuba’s Foreign Relations Ministry, Josefina Vidal, said Obama will be welcomed “with our traditional hospitality.” Vidal added, “This visit will be one more step toward an improvement in relations between Cuba and the United States.”

[McClatchy](#) (2/18, Ordoñez, 22K) says the Administration is “resigned to the fact that the embargo against trade with Cuba will not be lifted” before Obama leaves office and is seeking to “make it impossible for a future president to reverse warming relations.” Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alex Lee said, “The reality is we’re very much stuck with the embargo.” Lee added, “The embargo has required us to be involved in this regulatory change process. It’s almost like a Rubik’s Cube to figure out what we can do that meets the president’s goals.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Eilperin, Miroff, 8.98M) quotes Rhodes as making a similar statement, saying the Administration’s “objective here is to do as much as we can with the time we have remaining to make this an irreversible policy.” Rhodes added, “We want links between Cubans and Americans and the links between our businesses and the engagement between our countries to gain such momentum that there’s an inevitability to the opening that is taking place.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Mufson, 8.98M) reports US business leaders “are still waiting for a breakthrough on the economic front.” The Post says “sealing deals in Cuba has proven difficult for American businesses” due to US “trade and financial restrictions” and the Cuban government’s apparent “ambivalen[ce] about the wave of investment poised to crash onto its shores – and how that might affect its tightly controlled political system there.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/18, Memoli, 4.1M) reports Obama will use the visit to “press Castro on human rights and meet with other Cubans as well.” [Reuters](#) (2/18, Rampton, Acosta) reports Obama wrote on [Twitter](#), “Next month, I’ll travel to Cuba to advance our progress and efforts that can improve the lives of the Cuban people.” [USA Today](#) (2/18, Korte, Gomez, 5.45M) says Obama added, “We still have differences with the Cuban government that I will raise directly. America will always stand for human rights around the world.”

[ABC World News](#) (2/18, story 7, 0:45, Muir, 5.84M) showed a previous interview with President Obama in which he said he did not have plans to visit Cuba, but was not ruling out the possibility. However, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/18, Grier, 442K) says the trip “is a logical extension of Mr. Obama’s Cuban outreach.” [Voice of America](#) (2/18, Pande, 60K), on its website, quotes Rhodes as saying the US “will be in a better position to support human rights and to support a better life for the Cuban people by engaging them and raising these issues directly.” [Yahoo! Politics](#) (2/18, Knox, 791K) reports Rhodes said Obama will meet with dissidents and the White House had already informed the Cuban government the interactions will take place. Rhodes said, “That doesn’t mean that we’re seeking to overthrow the Cuban government,” adding, “It means that we’re seeking to support basic universal values that we would care about in any country.”

However, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/18, Jenkins, 289K) reports “even some supporters” of Obama’s Cuba policy “are questioning the timing” of the visit “after arrests of dissidents by Raul Castro’s government reached a five-year high.” Ric Herrero, who heads the #CubaNow advocacy group that seeks an end to the embargo, said “it would have been ideal” for Obama to make the visit later but voiced confidence in his ability to advocate for human rights on the trip.” The head of Cuban affairs toward the US, Josefina Vidal, said her country “is open to talks with the US government on any issue, including human rights, which, of course, we have different views on, as there are different ideas and views on other issues such as democracy, political models and international relations.”

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Obama “spoke passionately” about “the importance of term limits” when he visited Africa, but “has been more muted on this issue in Latin America.” The Times says the President “will have an opportunity to make that point closer to home” during his Cuba visit. The Times argues that because Obama “is wildly popular in Cuba, his message about democratic traditions, leadership and power stands to resonate powerfully.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/18, Weissenstein, Rodriguez, 285K) reports Cubans “hailed” the visit, “saying that just like the American leader, they want the historic visit to spur faster change in their lives.” However, the [AP](#) (2/18, Lederman, Freking) reports while the announcement of the trip “drew hopeful cheers in Havana on Thursday,” it received “equally emphatic condemnation from many US lawmakers and Republican presidential

candidates." The critics accused Obama of rewarding the Cuban dictatorship.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/18, Boyer, 285K) quotes Sen. Robert Menendez as saying, "The President is – again – prioritizing short-term economic interests over long-term and enduring American values." Menendez added, "He will rue this decision, just as he will ultimately rue giving a lifeline to the ayatollah [in Iran]." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/18, story 4, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) reported Ted Cruz "said he would never visit [Cuba] as long as Castro is in power." [The Hill](#) (2/18, Carney, 862K) reports Sen. Marco Rubio is urging Obama to cancel the trip. Rubio said in a letter to Obama, "I urge you to reconsider visiting Cuba and instead insist that the Castro regime finally make some serious concessions that have so far not been prioritized in negotiations." Rubio added, "A presidential visit to Cuba absent of any concessions from its government is a dangerous idea."

Rhodes: Guantanamo Bay Not On Agenda. [USA Today](#) (2/18, Korte, 5.45M) reports the issue of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base is not on Obama's agenda for the trip. Rhodes said, "That's not a part of this trip." However, [USA Today](#) says, while "the issue is far down the list of US priorities...it ranks closer to the top for Cuba." Rhodes said, "I'm sure that will be part of the discussion," adding, "I know that, because I've had that discussion many times with my Cuban counterparts. You know, they are insistent, obviously, that our presence there is not legitimate and that the facility be returned to them."

BIDEN SAYS OBAMA SEEKING SCOTUS NOMINEE WITH PAST GOP SUPPORT. For the first time since the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia last weekend, the election year fight over the court vacancy was not covered by any of the broadcast network newscasts. The White House signaled Thursday that President Obama plans to act promptly, and [in an interview](#) with Minnesota Public Radio, Vice President Biden said Obama is looking for a nominee who can be confirmed, and not a liberal ideologue whose nomination would fail.

The [AP](#) (2/18, Lederman) reports Biden said that the President "is looking for a Supreme Court nominee with past Republican support." Biden said, "In order to get this done, the President is not going to be able to go out – nor would it be his instinct, anyway – to pick the most liberal jurist in the nation and put them on the court. There are plenty of judges [who] are on high courts already who have had unanimous support of the Republicans."

[Reuters](#) (2/18, Rascoe) highlights Biden's remark that Obama cannot choose the most liberal contender, while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Lee, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says Biden's remarks were a signal from the White House about Obama's intentions. [Politico](#) (2/18, Gass, 1.07M) says that "one judge thought to be on the administration's short list" who would meet Biden's description is Sri Srinivasan, who was confirmed by the Senate 97-0 for a seat on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals in 2013.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/18, Richardson, 285K) reports that "top online oddsmaker" BookMaker.eu lists Srinivasan as the most likely nominee. [The Hill](#) (2/18, Fabian, 862K) also reports on Biden's comments. Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (2/18, Heavey, Mason) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said during his regular briefing, "The President certainly wants to move promptly so that the United States Senate can do the same."

Obama Appointee Could Usher In Biggest Court Shift Since 1991. The [New York Times](#) (2/18, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that "there is a reason Republican senators are so adamant in their refusal" to accept an Obama appointment, since it would bring about "the most consequential ideological shift on the court since 1991, creating a liberal majority that would almost certainly reshape American law and American life." The confirmation of Clarence Thomas as Thurgood Marshall's successor that year shifted the court to a narrow conservative majority that has endured for 25 years.

Following on other reports about the impact of Scalia's death on particular issues, the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, DePillis, 8.98M) reports Scalia's successor will have a major impact on gay rights, while [Reuters](#) (2/18, Davies) reports that Puerto Rico's bid to reinstate the Recovery Act as part of its debt restructuring program may face better odds in the Supreme Court with Scalia absent.

Polls Show Sharp National Divide Over Whether Obama Should Make Pick. [Politico](#) (2/18, Everett, 1.07M) reports that "a pair of national polls from CBS and NBC showed Americans are sharply divided" over how to fill the seat, "with roughly half" saying the President should do so, "and the other half backing [Senate] Majority Leader McConnell's plans to punt for a year." The "split decision in each poll offers an early validation of McConnell's decision to quickly kill off a potential nomination, rather than stringing out the process with hearings and debate, only to reach the same outcome." The [New York Times](#) (2/18, Russonello, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that in the CBS poll, 47% says the President should make the pick, while 46% say he should

not.

James Downie writes in the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Downie, 8.98M) "Post Partisan" blog that "the debate over whether Republicans can delay the nomination for a year obscures how the Scalia fight could change the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches," since setting that precedent may invite the party controlling the Senate to delay nominations indefinitely.

McConnell And Grassley Say Voters Should Get To Weigh In. In a [Washington Post](#) (2/18, 8.98M) op-ed, McConnell and Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley write, "Rarely does a Supreme Court vacancy occur in the final year of a presidential term, and the Senate has not confirmed a nominee to fill a vacancy arising in such circumstances for the better part of a century. So the American people have a particular opportunity now to make their voice heard in the selection of Scalia's successor as they participate in the process to select their next president."

LePage Says Obama Should Make Selection. [Politico](#) (2/18, Gass, 1.07M) reports Maine Republican Gov. Paul LePage, elected as a Tea Party candidate, said "in a break from Republicans running for the White House" that Obama should make the pick. He said, "I'm a big constitutionalist. If it's in the Constitution, I think it means something."

Conservative Group Airing Ads To Keep Pressure On GOP Senators. The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Viebeck, 8.98M) reports that the Judicial Crisis Network, "a conservative legal group," has "announced a seven-figure advertising campaign aimed at pressuring McConnell" and six other targeted senators "to hold off on any aspect of considering a replacement for Scalia until after President Obama leaves office."

Senators Parse Each Others' Past Remarks. The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, DeBonis, 8.98M) reports senators have been using each others' past remarks on judicial appointments to make their cases, with a 2007 speech by Sen. Charles Schumer making the case against Senate action on a hypothetical George W. Bush Supreme Court nominee with 18 months left in Bush's term getting a lot of attention.

White House Responds To Criticism Over Obama's Decision Not To Attend Scalia Funeral. The [New York Times](#) (2/18, Harris, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports the White House tried Thursday "to fend off criticism of President Obama's decision not to attend" Scalia's funeral, "but even some administration allies lamented the move as a missed opportunity to ease the partisan warfare that has followed the justice's death." The Times says Administration officials "were stung by what they saw as an unfair attack on what they viewed as Mr. Obama's dignified and respectful reaction to Justice Scalia's death, a reaction they thought contrasted sharply with that of others in Washington who quickly politicized the loss."

[The Hill](#) (2/18, Fabian, 862K) reports Earnest said "it makes sense to send Vice President Biden to the funeral instead because his 'security footprint is a little bit lighter' and he has a longtime relationship with Scalia's family." [Politico](#) (2/18, McCaskill, 1.07M) says the President's decision "to skip the funeral puzzled both allies and critics," though "people close to the Scalia family said Obama was making the right choice and that the Friday ceremony at the Supreme Court was the better place for Obama to pay his respects."

Some Support 18-Year Limit On SCOTUS Tenure. The [AP](#) (2/18, Sherman) reports that Scalia's death "and the potential impasse over replacing him is giving new impetus to an old idea: Limiting the service of Supreme Court justices. ... The most talked-about idea," a "single 18-year-term," has "support among both liberals and conservatives."

WPost Wonkblog: Obama Has Appointed Few "White Dudes" To Federal Bench. Max Ehrenfreund writes in the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, 8.98M) "Wonkblog" that "the number of white dudes becoming federal judges has plummeted under Obama." He adds, "Until the Democrats lost control of the Senate, Obama was able to give unprecedented numbers of women and people of color seats on the federal bench."

Scalia's Son Calls Conspiracy Theories A "Hurtful Distraction." The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Bever, 8.98M) reports Scalia's son Eugene told radio host Laura Ingraham Wednesday that conspiracy theories about his father's death are "a hurtful distraction for a family that's mourning." He also said, "I think it's a distraction from a great man and his legacy."

FIRST-TIME JOBLESS CLAIMS REACH THREE-MONTH LOW. The Labor Department reported Thursday that initial jobless claims fell 7,000 to 262,000 last week, the lowest level in three months. Economists had expected about 275,000 new claims, [Bloomberg News](#) (2/18, Stilwell, 2.92M) reports. The four week moving

average, which eliminates some volatility, fell 8,000 to 273,250. The number of people receiving unemployment benefits rose from 2.25 million to 2.26 million. Bloomberg News adds the reports signals “stability in the labor market,” which has “exhibited persistent strength despite softer foreign sales, a sign domestic demand is helping the US weather a global slowdown.” The AP (2/18, Rugaber) says the unemployment report is “evidence that stock market turmoil and slow growth overseas haven’t caused US businesses to cut jobs.” Dow Jones Newswires (2/18, Morath) says the four week moving average was the lowest this year. Reuters (2/18) also reports the story.

Leading Economic Indicators Down For Second Month. The Conference Board’s index of leading economic indicators fell for the second consecutive month in January, down 0.2% to 123.2, in line with economists’ expectations, Bloomberg News (2/18, Darie, 2.92M) reports. Conference Board economist Ataman Ozyildirim said, “The US LEI fell slightly in January, driven primarily by large declines in stock prices and further weakness in initial claims for unemployment insurance. Despite back-to-back monthly declines, the index doesn’t signal a significant increase in the risk of recession, and its six-month growth rate remains consistent with a modest economic expansion through early 2016.” CNBC (2/18, Balakrishnan, 2.3M) said in spite “of the decline in LEI, the economy is still on pace for moderate expansion, Ozyildirim said.”

WSJournal A1: IPO Market Slipping Amid Investor Anxiety. The Wall Street Journal (2/18, A1, Driebusch, Gage, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says the IPO market is sinking amid investor anxiety. The US saw no IPOs in January and there have been only four so far this month. Jill Ford, who runs the group at Credit Suisse that oversees trading in US stock offerings, said, “There are a lot of private companies who might have thought they were going public in the next six months, but now that will likely be several months later. ... Everyone’s timeline has likely been pushed back a bit.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “An American President In Cuba.” In an editorial, the New York Times (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Obama “spoke passionately” about “the importance of term limits” when he visited Africa, but “has been more muted on this issue in Latin America.” The Times says the President “will have an opportunity to make that point closer to home” during his Cuba visit. The Times argues that because Obama “is wildly popular in Cuba, his message about democratic traditions, leadership and power stands to resonate powerfully.”

“Why Apple Is Right To Challenge An Order To Help The FBI.” A New York Times (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial argues Apple “is doing the right thing in challenging the federal court ruling” requiring it to help the FBI access the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters. Citing a 1977 case in which the Supreme Court said “the government could not compel a third party that is not involved in a crime to assist law enforcement if doing so would place ‘unreasonable burdens’ on it,” the Times says the court’s order “places just such a burden on the company.” The Times also opposes requiring tech firms to maintain a “back door” to encrypted data, arguing, “criminals and domestic and foreign intelligence agencies could exploit such features to conduct mass surveillance and steal national and trade secrets.”

“When States Fight To Overturn Good Local Labor Laws.” A New York Times (2/19, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says lawmakers in a number of states have launched efforts to block “an increasing number of pro-labor laws passed by cities and counties.” The Times argues that the “real needs of real people are driving pro-labor legislation on the local level,” and the “question in some states is whether those needs and those people will prevail over the interests of low-wage employers and the lawmakers who do their bidding.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Pope Francis’s Ill-Advised Remarks About Trump Offers A Moment Of Clarity.” The Washington Post (2/18, 8.98M) says in an editorial that the Pope “should have been savvier...than to be drawn into the mud of a presidential election,” but if his “unusually frank assessment of [Donald] Trump’s policy was ill-advised, it also provided a moment of clarity.” It is “easy to lose sight of the underlying issue – the moral obligation to treat migrants humanely.”

“Apple Should Not Be Forced By The Government To Decrypt Users’ Data.” In an editorial on the federal court ruling requiring Apple to help the FBI access an iPhone used by one the San Bernardino shooters, the Washington Post (2/18, 8.98M) says the FBI “is attempting to explore and establish the limits of its legal powers to combat terrorism...in the absence of action by Congress and the White House,” which is “the wrong call.” Arguing that the “more government-ordered hacking techniques are developed and used, the more likely they

eventually will fall into the hands of malicious actors,” the Post expresses hope that “Apple will fight as hard to safeguard its users’ privacy from authoritarian abuse.”

“Victims Of Forced Sterilization Deserve A Gesture Of Justice From Virginia.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/18, 8.98M) editorializes that North Carolina “set a bold example of justice in 2013 by establishing a \$10 million fund to locate and compensate surviving victims of the state’s barbaric, decades-long program of forced sterilization,” and now Virginia, “which ran a similarly aggressive campaign to deprive as many as 8,000 mentally ill, epileptic or otherwise ‘feebleminded’ citizens of the ability to conceive children, has an opportunity to follow suit. It should.” The Post argues that the “financial stakes are modest – no more than a couple hundred of the state’s victims are likely still alive – but the principle is not.” Contending that “compensation can’t make up for the deprivation of the right to reproduce, perhaps the most fundamental human right of all, with no due process or informed consent,” the Post adds that “as a symbolic gesture, it is the right thing to do.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “The FBI v. Apple.” In an editorial on the federal court ruling requiring Apple to help the FBI access an iPhone used by one the San Bernardino shooters, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) faults the Administration for allowing the situation to get this far, arguing it should have been resolved quietly before it reached this point, but the Administration never gave Congress statutory language concerning backdoors.

“The Pope And Donald Trump.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) criticizes the Pope for questioning Donald Trump’s personal faith, and said it belies Francis’ reputation as a man who does not judge.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Pope And Trump Spar Over Immigration And Candidate’s Faith](#)
[Lengthy Hospice Care Boosts Medicare Bills](#)
[IPO Market Dries Up As Investors Retreat](#)
[US Clash With Apple Was Months In The Making](#)

New York Times:

[Court Nominee Could Reshape American Life](#)
[Trump Fires Back At Sharp Rebuke By Pope Francis](#)
[For Apple’s CEO, A Journey To Bulwark For Digital Privacy](#)
[Nollywood Is Letting Africans Put Themselves In The Picture](#)
[Line In The Sand Over iPhones Was Over A Year In The Making](#)
[In The South Bronx, A Police Precinct Where Murder Persists](#)

Washington Post:

[Resisting Reform, Cuba Still Gets Visit](#)
[Culling Time In GOP Race](#)
[Pope: Contraceptives Could Be Permissible To Avoid Zika](#)
[Francis Joins A Global Chorus, Taking A Jab At Trump’s Faith](#)

Financial Times:

[Draghi Wins Backing For Tougher Action Amid OECD Growth Alert](#)
[Walesa Was Paid Spy For Communist Authorities Say Polish Investigators](#)

Washington Times:

[Antonin Scalia’s Candor, Humor Recalled Ahead Of Justice’s Funeral](#)
[Conservatives Defend Vulnerable Senators Vowing To Block Obama Supreme Court Nominee](#)
[Marco Rubio Hampered By Immigration Stance Even As GOP Becomes More Lenient](#)
[Turkey Blames Obama’s Muddled Syria Policy For Fueling Its Security Crisis](#)
[Man Undressing In Women’s Locker Room Fuels Drive To Upend Wash Transgender Rule](#)
[Government Eyes Crackdown On ‘Troublesome Problem’ Of Malt Liquor](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Hawaii-Helicopter Crash; Pope Francis Comments; Pope Francis Comments-Republicans Respond; 2016 Politics-Democrats; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Hollywood Medical Center-Ransomware Case; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Trip; Bridges Report; Zika Virus-Pope Francis; California-Methane Gas Leak Ends; Bill Cosby Case.

CBS: Pope Francis Comments-Trump Responds; 2016 Politics-John Kasich; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Hollywood Medical Center-Ransomware Case; Hillary Clinton Interview; California-Methane Gas Leak Capped; Zika Virus; Hawaii-Helicopter Crash; Hillary Clinton Interview.

NBC: Pope Francis Comments-Trump Responds; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Zika Virus-Pope Francis; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Hollywood Medical Center-Ransomware Case; California-Methane Gas Leak Capped; High Cholesterol-Stress; Hawaii-Helicopter Crash.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 11 minutes, 5 seconds

Pope Francis Comments – 10 minutes, 20 seconds

Hollywood Medical Center-Ransomware Case – 5 minutes, 40 seconds

Zika Virus – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute – 3 minutes, 45 seconds

Hawaii-Helicopter Crash – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Obama-Upcoming Cuba Trip – 1 minute, 10 seconds

California-Methane Gas Leak Capped – 1 minute, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; North Korea-US Sanctions; Zika Virus Travel Alert Expands; Wall Street.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Democrats; Pope Francis Comments-Trump Responds; Zika Virus-Pope Francis; Justice Scalia Funeral; Scalia Replacement Debate; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Wall Street.

FOX: Pope Francis Comments-Trump Responds; 2016 Politics-GOP Poll; 2016 Politics-Democrats; North Korea-US Sanctions; Washington DC-Military Veteran Attacked; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; California-Methane Gas Leak Capped; Chicago Blackhawks-White House Appearance.

NPR: Hillary Clinton-Congressman Clyburn Endorsement; Pope Francis Comments-Trump Responds; Zika Virus-Pope Francis; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Wall Street; Texas-Bland Wrongful Death Suit; California-Methane Gas Leak Capped; Justice Scalia Funeral.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama travel to the Court to pay their respects to Associate Justice Antonin Scalia; attends the Democratic Governors Association Meeting, pool spray at the top.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President attends the Democratic Governors Association Meeting, pool spray at the top.

US Senate: Senate on recess from Feb. 12 – Feb. 22.

US House: 11:30 AM 'Ask Me About DC' tourism and hospitality event on Capitol Hill – 'Ask Me About DC' – 6th annual trade show-style event that familiarizes legislative assistants with the tours, hotels, restaurants, museums, attractions, sports teams, and business improvement districts in Washington, DC, hosted by Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton in partnership with Destination DC and this year themed 'DC Cool'. Over 50 hospitality industry businesses participate, with special guests including representatives from Air China, DC United, and Richard Sandoval Restaurants. Location: Rm 345, Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.washington.org. Contacts: Kate Gibbs Destination DC kate.gibbs@destinationdc.com 1 202 297 2431.

House of Representatives on recess from Feb. 12 – Feb. 22.

Other: Friday, Feb. 19 – Monday, Feb. 22 10:00 AM National Governors Association Winter Meeting – National Governors Association Winter Meeting. Today's agenda includes a NGA Executive Committee and Center for Best Practices board meeting and a reception honoring the nation's governors at the British Embassy. Location: JW Marriott, Washington, DC <http://www.nga.org> <https://twitter.com/NatIGovsAssoc>. Contacts: Elena Waskey NGA ewaskey@nga.org 1 202 624 7787.

7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues. Day four speakers include former US Strategic Command Former Commander Air Force Gen. (Ret.) Robert Kehler and US Navy Vice Adm. (Ret.) Robert Monroe. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>. Contacts: ExchangeMonitor Forum Services forums@exchangemonitor.com 1 877 303 7367 x 109.

8:00 AM Premier of Quebec speaks at US Chamber of Commerce / Wilson Center event – Quebec's Premier Philippe Couillard delivers keynote and participates in conversation on 'Quebec and the United States: A Long Standing Partnership for Prosperity', hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Wilson Center Canada Institute, as part of his first official visit to Washington, DC, since his 2014 election. Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>. Contacts: Chris Hoyler US Chamber of Commerce choyler@uschamber.com.

8:00 AM FDA Medical Devices Advisory Committee Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Devices Panel meeting. Location: Hilton Washington, DC/North, 620 Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg, MD Gaithersburg federalregister.gov/a/2015-29768 https://twitter.com/US_FDA. Contacts: James Swink FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health James, Swink@fda.hhs.gov 1 301 796 6313.

8:30 AM Briefing on state health initiatives at NPC – Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson discusses his experience with the state's program to move newly-eligible Medicaid beneficiaries to qualified health plans, and his intentions for future changes, at the National Press Club. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.allhealth.org <https://twitter.com/AllHealthReform>. Contacts: Samantha Feller Alliance for Health Reform sfeller@allhealth.org 1 202 789 2300.

11:00 AM OAS Permanent Council meetings – Organization of American States Permanent Council meetings: special meeting to receive Dominican Foreign Affairs Minister Andres Navarro Garcia, who presents the theme of the upcoming (13-15 Jun) 46th regular session of the OAS General Assembly, with OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro and Permanent Council Chair Amb. Sir Ronald Sanders also delivering remarks (11:00 AM EST) * Regular meeting with agenda including presentation on the Zika virus by the Pan American Health Organization, and presentation of the verbal report on the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Guatemala by Mission Chief Juan Pablo Corlazzoli (2:00 PM EST) * Ahead of the first meeting, Minister Garcia and Secretary General Almagro sign agreement that signals the final phase of preparations for the Assembly. Location: OAS, 17th St and Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.oas.org> https://twitter.com/OAS_official. Contacts: Mónica Reyes OAS media MReyes@oas.org.

11:00 AM 'Climate and Clean Energy' discussion at CAP – Center for American Progress Action Fund and NextGen Climate discussion on 'Climate and Clean Energy: Why Young Americans Are Taking Notice and Taking Action', featuring Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, NextGen Climate Founder Tom Steyer, and EDF New Climate Partnerships Campaign Manager Lucia Oliva Hennelly. Location: 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>. Contacts: Marlene Cooper Cooper Vasilic CAP Action Fund events@americanprogressaction.org 1 202 682 1611.

11:00 AM Vermont Gov. Shumlin speaks on opioid and heroin addiction crisis – Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin speaks at Pew Charitable Trusts on 'Confronting America's Opioid and Heroin Addiction Crisis', discussing Vermont's plan to prevent and treat opioid and heroin addiction. Location: Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E St., Washington, DC www.pewtrusts.org <https://twitter.com/pewtrusts> #StopOpioidAbuse. Contacts: Christina Nyquist Pew Charitable Trusts cnyquist@pewtrusts.org 1 202 552 2069.

11:45 AM POLITICO State Solutions Conference – POLITICO Fourth Annual State Solutions Conference, featuring conversations with governors from across the nation. Speakers include Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Delaware Governor Jack Markell, Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. Location: Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center, 901 K St NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents> #POLGovs. Contacts: Alexis Williams POLITICO Events awilliams@politico.com 1 703 341 4620.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "In South Carolina, things are looking up for Ted Cruz. Ted Cruz, for the first time, is ahead of Donald Trump in a national poll. Of course, Trump is suing the poll, so we'll see how that goes."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Pope is in Mexico. On his way home, he was asked about Donald Trump – which is funny on its own, really – and the Pope said, 'A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not a Christian.' Which, of course, is nonsense. Donald Trump made it very clear that his favorite book is the Bible, so he's definitely a Christian."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Last night Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Ben Carson got a chance to make an impression on the South Carolina voters. The primary there is on Saturday. Anderson Cooper asked personal questions. ... He asked [Sen. Marco Rubio] what kind of music he liked. He said he liked electronic dance music – EDM. Why do we need to know this? Are we electing a President or an Uber driver?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "Rubio also said he's a big fan of '90s West Coast hip-hop, which I think probably means he liked the 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air' theme song."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton revealed that her favorite type of music is whatever type of music you like."

Jimmy Kimmel: "During the town hall, Ben Carson touted his experience as a surgeon. He said he's had to take more 2:00 am phone calls than anybody else in the race, which must be why he looks like he's falling asleep all the time."

Stephen Colbert: "Shocking news tonight. I got to get straight to the big celebrity feud everyone is talking about: Donald Trump versus the Pope. ... As America's foremost Catholic, let me explain what happened. The Pope is in Mexico right now, where he was asked about Donald Trump's plan to build a border wall. And his Holiness said, quote, 'A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not of building bridges, is not Christian. This man is not Christian, if he has said things like that.' Then Trump is okay because he has not said things like that. He has said exactly that, okay."

Stephen Colbert: "I want to try to broker a peace. Mr. Trump, Mr. Pope – is it possible that you guys are fighting because you have so much in common? After all, you both think you're infallible. You both sit on golden thrones and you both wear very silly things on your heads."

James Corden: "While visiting Mexico yesterday, Pope Francis stated that he did not think that Donald Trump is a true Christian because of Trump's belief on immigration. I know you're thinking, 'There goes the Pope's chances on being the next season of 'Celebrity Apprentice.'"

James Corden: "Do you know how wrong you have to be for a Pope to dislike you. I mean, the Pope's entire thing is literally forgiveness. Pope John Paul hung out with the guy who tried to assassinate him, and now Pope Francis is like, 'I can't with this Trump guy. I can't.'"

James Corden: "Trump fired back saying the Pope will wish Donald Trump were president if the Vatican is ever attacked. I have to say, the only time I think people will wish Trump was president is if Ted Cruz is president."

James Corden: "In a historic move, he also suggested that it might be acceptable to use contraception in order to prevent the spread of the Zika virus. And that's not surprising to me because once you start debating with Donald Trump, birth control starts to seem like a pretty good idea."

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of the Pope, when asked about Donald Trump, Pope Francis said that people who build walls are not Christians. And Donald said, 'Of course I'm a Christian. Do you know how many carpenters named Jesus I have working for me?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Over on the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders is getting support of students at Hillary Clinton's alma mater, Wellesley College. Yeah. So now Hillary Clinton is trying to get the support of Bernie's alma mater, Jurassic Park."

Seth Meyers: "During last night's Republican town hall, Ted Cruz confirmed that he sometimes calls his wife and sings to her, to which his wife always replies, 'Oh, no, I'm entering a tunnel.'"

Seth Meyers: "Ben Carson said during last night's town hall that he shoots pool to relax. Oh, he shoots pool. Because based on his energy level, I would have guessed heroin."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump responded to criticism from Pope Francis today and said the pontiff will wish Trump was president if, and when, the Vatican is attacked by ISIS. Though I think what he meant to say was, 'It's a nice Vatican you got there. Be a shame if something was to happen to it.'"

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

FW: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:03 PM

To: Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Just making sure everyone saw this. Thanks! jb

From: White House Press Office [<mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:02 AM

To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Subject: FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2015

FACT SHEET: Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments

As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our Nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, today he will launch an "Every Kid in a Park" initiative that will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. He will also announce the creation of three new National Monuments across the country.

The President will make the announcements near the site of the historic Pullman town in Chicago, a location iconic for its history of labor unrest and civil rights advances, which will be the City's first National Park Service (NPS) unit. He also will announce that he will designate Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, the site of an internment camp where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II, and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, an historic site of extraordinary beauty with world-class recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the globe. Together, these monuments will help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Every Kid in a Park

In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President's [Every Kid in a Park](#) initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outside. A 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that young people now devote an average of more than seven hours a day to electronic media use, or about 53 hours a week – more than a full time job.

America's public lands and waters offer space to get outside and get active, and are living classrooms that

provide opportunities to build critical skills through hands-on activities. To inspire the next generation to discover all that America's public lands and waters have to offer, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. The initiative will also:

- ***Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips:*** The Administration will distribute information and resources to make it easy for teachers and families to identify nearby public lands and waters and to find programs that support youth outings.

- ***Provide transportation support to schools with the most need:*** As an integral part of this effort, the National Park Foundation (NPF) – the congressionally chartered foundation of the National Park Service – is expanding and re-launching its Ticket to Ride program as Every Kid in a Park, which will award transportation grants for kids to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools that have the most need.

- ***Provide educational materials:*** The initiative will build on a wide range of educational programs and tools that the federal land management agencies already use. For example, NPS has re-launched a website with over 1,000 materials developed for K-12 teachers, including science labs, lesson plans, and field trip guides. And a number of federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Education, and NPS participate in Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms and agency resources that connects students, teachers, families, and volunteers with public lands and waterways.

To further support this effort, the President's 2016 Budget includes a total increased investment of \$45 million for youth engagement programs throughout the Department of the Interior, with \$20 million specifically provided to the National Park Service for youth activities, including bringing 1 million fourth-grade children from low-income areas to national parks. This increase will also fund dedicated youth coordinators to help enrich children and family learning experiences at parks and online.

Pullman National Monument in Illinois:

This monument will preserve and highlight America's first planned industrial town, and a site that tells important stories about the social dynamics of the industrial revolution, of American opportunity and discrimination, and of the rise of labor unions and the struggle for civil rights and economic opportunity for African Americans and other minorities. The 203-acre site includes factories and buildings associated with the Pullman Palace Car Company, which was founded in 1867 and employed thousands of workers to construct and provide service on railroad cars. While the Pullman Company employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture railroad passenger cars, it also recruited the first porters, waiters and maids from the population of former slaves to serve on its luxury cars. Though lower-paying, these service jobs held prestige in the African-American community and played a major role in the rise of the African-American middle class and, through an historic labor agreement, the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th Century. The historic labor movement organized by A. Philip Randolph in the 1930s to win rights for these porters, waiters and maids ultimately created the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first labor union led by African Americans to receive a charter in the American Federation.

The National Park Foundation today announced that nearly \$8 million dollars has already been raised to support the monument, which will be Chicago's first National Park Service unit and will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado:

This monument will protect a stunning section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley. Located in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, the 21,586-acre monument features rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings, and mountain vistas that are home to a diversity of plants and wildlife, including bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Members of Congress, local elected officials, conservation advocates, and community members have worked for more than a decade to protect the area, which hosts world-class recreational opportunities that

attract visitors from around the globe for hiking, whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing. In addition to supporting this vibrant outdoor recreation economy, the designation will protect the critical watershed and honor existing water rights and uses, such as grazing and hunting. The monument will be cooperatively managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and USDA's National Forest Service.

Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii:

This monument permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Located on the island of Oahu, the monument will help tell the difficult story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the fragility of civil rights during times of conflict. Honouliuli Internment Camp, located in a steep canyon not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March, 1943 and was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. The camp was largely forgotten until uncovered in 2002, and the President's designation will ensure its stories are told for generations. The monument will be managed by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Background on Antiquities Act Designations

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

###

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Jason Aul <JAul@thebrandusa.com>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 2:43 PM

To: "Dixon, Vicki" <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Good afternoon Vicki,

I was curious if there is any art/photos we can have access to related to this announcement? We'd use for social and digital posts.

Many thanks!

Jason Aul

Manager, Public Policy Communications|Brand USA| 1725 Eye St NW, Wash DC 20006

(tel) 202-888-2372

(cel) 314-479-6074

Email | jaul@thebrandusa.com



DiscoverAmerica.com

From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Date: July 10, 2015 at 3:26:34 AM PDT

To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

Friends: we want to share the exciting news that later today President Obama will designate three new national monuments – Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, and Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas.

Below you'll find Secretary Sally Jewell's statements in support of President Obama's actions to permanently protect these American treasures.

Please share any statements or press releases that your office might put out regarding today's actions. You can either reply to this email or send it directly to oiea@ios.doi.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great day!

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 775-861-6629

Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Designation of Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada

*President's Action Preserves Sweeping Landscapes & Ancient Rock Art,
Protects Existing Ranching & Military Uses*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined members of Congress, state elected officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the Basin and Range National Monument on public lands in southeastern Nevada. This national monument – located in one of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state – exemplifies the rich cultural history, varied wildlife and vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known.

The Basin and Range National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama today that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

“This area is a spectacular expanse of rugged public lands that tell the proud story of the West, from the ancient rock art of our First Americans to the early homesteaders looking for opportunity on the open range,” said Secretary Jewell. “Today's action builds on local efforts to preserve and protect this special place, while also allowing traditional ranching practices, recreational opportunities, future scientific study and national security exercises. The President's action ensures that this area will remain a beloved resource for generations to come.”

Basin and Range National Monument, located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas, spans approximately 704,000 acres of rugged mountains and sweeping valleys. The monument tells the story of the area's native peoples as well as the history of more recent settlers and mining communities. The designation also preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching

practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations.

In February, Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze visited Las Vegas at the request of Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in southern Nevada. Legislation to withdraw the Basin and Range area from mining and other uses had been introduced by Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus. Nevada businesses have also supported protection of the area, including MGM Resorts International, the state's largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

The national monument, comprised of existing federal lands, will continue to be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is the newest addition to the **National Conservation Lands**, a system managed by the BLM that contains some of the West's most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas. The national monument includes Garden Valley and Coal Valley; the Worthington Mountains, the Golden Gate Range, the Seaman Mountains, and the Mount Irish Range; the Hiko Narrows and the White River Narrows; and the Shooting Gallery rock art site.

The proclamation allows for continued historic uses of the area, including hunting and fishing, which will continue to be managed under existing rules and regulations. Both Garden Valley and Coal Valley have long traditions of responsible ranching operations and careful stewardship of the land. The proclamation will not affect grazing operations in the monument, including use of motorized vehicles, construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, and construction of fences and other range improvements relating to grazing operations. Additionally, the designation does not affect U.S. military uses of the airspace and allows continued military access for emergency response and training activities.

The Basin and Range area has been threatened by various proposed development projects over many decades, including various railroad lines, solar energy development, oil and gas development, and major electrical transmission lines. Interest in mineral development within the area has been minor in recent years, with more attractive prospects to the north and east of the area while the BLM's Western Solar Plan established areas for focused solar energy development elsewhere in southeastern Nevada.

The Basin and Range National Monument contains a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, cultural, and historical resources and is an important area for studies of paleoecology, seismology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology. The area's vast unbroken expanses on the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sage brush steppe of the Great Basin region makes it home to a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and a host of bat, lizard, and snake species.

The national monument designation will protect outstanding opportunities to recreate such as hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

Located on private lands within the monument boundary is the landscape sculpture City

by Michael Heizer. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape.

Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art currently holds a conservation easement that ensures public access once the artwork is completed, no later than five years from now, and ensures the protection of City. The Museum intends to donate the conservation easement to the United States. Upon acquisition by the United States, the easement will be managed by the BLM as part of the monument.

“The Basin and Range National Monument is quintessential Nevada,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “The monument honors and supports the proud traditions of the ranchers and sheepherders who have taken care of this land for generations while also providing a backdrop to spectacular ancient rock art and an important contemporary artwork. Its designation is a great win for Nevada.”

The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

“Collaborative management of this area is a key priority for the BLM in Nevada,” said BLM Acting Nevada State Director John Ruhs. “This designation represents an opportunity for new businesses in the communities of Lincoln and Nye counties while also supporting the traditional ranching economy. We look forward to working closely with local partners on this effort.”

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features on public lands in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as Cèsar E. Chàvez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

[Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California](#)



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Re: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>
To: Jason Aul <JAul@thebrandusa.com>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:04 PM

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Vicki

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Manager, Public Policy Communications|Brand USA| 1725 Eye St NW, Wash DC 20006

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Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
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Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California

-
Vicki Dixon

Vicki Dixon
Office of the Secretary - Intergovernmental and External Affairs
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vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Confidential



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:06 PM

To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

Jessica and/or Rebecca

See Jason Aul's email inquiring if we photos of the monument designations that BRAND USA could use.

Thank you.

Vicki

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

From: Jason Aul <JAul@thebrandusa.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 2:43 PM

Subject: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

To: "Dixon, Vicki" <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Good afternoon Vicki,

I was curious if there is any art/photos we can have access to related to this announcement? We'd use for social and digital posts.

Many thanks!

Jason Aul

Manager, Public Policy Communications|Brand USA| 1725 Eye St NW, Wash DC 20006

(tel) 202-888-2372

(cel) 314-479-6074

Email | jaul@thebrandusa.com



DiscoverAmerica.com

From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Date: July 10, 2015 at 3:26:34 AM PDT

To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

Friends: we want to share the exciting news that later today President Obama will designate three new national monuments – Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, and Waco Mammoth

National Monument in Texas.

Below you'll find Secretary Sally Jewell's statements in support of President Obama's actions to permanently protect these American treasures.

Please share any statements or press releases that your office might put out regarding today's actions. You can either reply to this email or send it directly to oiea@ios.doi.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great day!

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 775-861-6629

Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Designation of Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada

*President's Action Preserves Sweeping Landscapes & Ancient Rock Art,
Protects Existing Ranching & Military Uses*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined members of Congress, state elected officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the Basin and Range National Monument on public lands in southeastern Nevada. This national monument – located in one of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state – exemplifies the rich cultural history, varied wildlife and vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known.

The Basin and Range National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama today that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

“This area is a spectacular expanse of rugged public lands that tell the proud story of the West, from the ancient rock art of our First Americans to the early homesteaders looking for opportunity on the open range,” said Secretary Jewell. “Today’s action builds on local efforts to preserve and protect this special place, while also allowing traditional ranching practices, recreational opportunities, future scientific study and national security exercises. The President’s action ensures that this area will remain a beloved resource for generations to come.”

Basin and Range National Monument, located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas, spans approximately 704,000 acres of rugged mountains and sweeping valleys. The monument tells the story of the area’s native peoples as well as the history of more recent settlers and mining communities. The designation also preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations.

In February, Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze visited Las Vegas at the request of Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in southern Nevada. Legislation to withdraw the Basin and Range area from mining and other uses had been introduced by Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus. Nevada businesses have also supported protection of the area, including MGM Resorts International, the state’s largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

The national monument, comprised of existing federal lands, will continue to be managed by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is the newest addition to the **National Conservation Lands**, a system managed by the BLM that contains some of the West’s most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas. The national monument includes Garden Valley and Coal Valley; the Worthington Mountains, the Golden Gate Range, the Seaman Mountains, and the Mount Irish Range; the Hiko Narrows and the White River Narrows; and the Shooting Gallery rock art site.

The proclamation allows for continued historic uses of the area, including hunting and fishing, which will continue to be managed under existing rules and regulations. Both Garden Valley and Coal Valley have long traditions of responsible ranching operations and careful stewardship of the land. The proclamation will not affect grazing operations in the monument, including use of motorized vehicles, construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, and construction of fences and other range improvements relating to grazing operations. Additionally, the designation does not affect U.S. military uses of the airspace and allows continued military access for emergency response and training activities.

The Basin and Range area has been threatened by various proposed development projects over many decades, including various railroad lines, solar energy development, oil and gas development, and major electrical transmission lines. Interest in mineral development within the area has been minor in recent years, with more attractive prospects to the north and east of the area while the BLM’s Western Solar Plan established areas for focused solar energy development elsewhere in southeastern Nevada.

The Basin and Range National Monument contains a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, cultural, and historical resources and is an important area for studies of paleoecology, seismology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology. The area's vast unbroken expanses on the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sage brush steppe of the Great Basin region makes it home to a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and a host of bat, lizard, and snake species.

The national monument designation will protect outstanding opportunities to recreate such as hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

Located on private lands within the monument boundary is the landscape sculpture City by Michael Heizer. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape.

Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art currently holds a conservation easement that ensures public access once the artwork is completed, no later than five years from now, and ensures the protection of City. The Museum intends to donate the conservation easement to the United States. Upon acquisition by the United States, the easement will be managed by the BLM as part of the monument.

“The Basin and Range National Monument is quintessential Nevada,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “The monument honors and supports the proud traditions of the ranchers and shepherders who have taken care of this land for generations while also providing a backdrop to spectacular ancient rock art and an important contemporary artwork. Its designation is a great win for Nevada.”

The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

“Collaborative management of this area is a key priority for the BLM in Nevada,” said BLM Acting Nevada State Director John Ruhs. “This designation represents an opportunity for new businesses in the communities of Lincoln and Nye counties while also supporting the traditional ranching economy. We look forward to working closely with local partners on this effort.”

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features on public lands in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as Cèsar E. Chàvez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California

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Vicki Dixon

Vicki Dixon

Office of the Secretary - Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Department of the Interior

202.208.7461 - Office

202.208.1821 - Fax

vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Re: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Matulka, Rebecca <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Dixon, Vicki" <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:51 PM

Hi Jason,

Here is a link for Berryessa photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/sets/72157647564528873>.

Attached is an NPS photo of Waco Mammoth.

For Basin and Range, pictures are available on the protectbasinandrange.org site. Short links:

Photo links:

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6p> (camping)

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6q> (student journaling)

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6s> (landscape w/mountains)

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6t> (person looking out on to valley)

These 4 and the others you see on the site can be credited to Tyler Roemer and are public use courtesy of Conservation Lands Foundation.

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[Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada](#)



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Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California

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Vicki Dixon

Vicki Dixon
Office of the Secretary - Intergovernmental and External Affairs
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Rebecca Matulka
Senior Digital Media Strategist
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202.208.5337



WacoTX3.jpg
3056K

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 5, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 6:59 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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

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

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

JEWELL, JARVIS TO ATTEND DEDICATION OF WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KWTX-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, 85K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will be at the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday. They will also "meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative." The site has the "largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event" at 25. They were apparently "caught in a flash flood" about 68,000 years ago. Similar coverage appears at [KXXV-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, Garcia, 30K). The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/4, Smith, 111K) reports that in addition to Jewell and Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr., and Waco Mammoth Foundation founder Gloria Young will all be there.

KBTX-TV Waco, TX (10/2, 81K) carried an Associated Press report, which also appeared at [KXAS-TV Dallas](#) (10/2, 363K), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (10/2, 64K), [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/2, 199K), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/5, 259K), [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) and [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K).

JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARTHON. [E&E](#) (10/1, Brown) reports in continuing coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Thursday, at “Shinnecok Indian Nation on the eastern end of Long Island,” launched the “GRID Alternatives’ Tribal Solarthon,” which will “provide photovoltaic cells and solar job training” to American Indian tribes in Arizona, California, New York, and South Dakota. Jewell said, “This partnership shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid.”

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/2, 32K) reports on Secretary Jewell’s week, noting that she “managed to meet the Pope,” to “pay a visit to the Shinnecock Nation,” and “announced a partnership with The North Face.” Regarding the Shinnecock Nation visit, it quotes Jewell saying that the Tribal Solarthon “shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid.”

CONGRESS CRITICIZED FOR ALLOWING LWCF TO LAPSE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, 2.28M) carried an Associated Press story about the benefits to Wyoming of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was allowed to lapse by Congress. The AP also notes that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) said that it can continue to “operate on about \$20 billion in its reserves.”

Joel Connelly writes at the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/1, Connelly, 560K) lists several of the purchases made in the area by the fund and quotes a number of people praising the fund and criticizing the Congress.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (10/3, Smith, 564K) writes that “conservation, hunting and environmental groups voiced strong displeasure” with the failure to reauthorize the fund.

Ron Pitz, executive director of KNOX Inc., writes at the [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (10/2, 606K), “Overnight, the nation lost funding for our parks and the future protection of our land.”

David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited, at the [Denver Post](#) (10/4, 787K) writes that the fund’s “future is now under a cloud.”

REACTION TO SAGE GROUSE DECISION. [Outdoor Life Magazine](#) (10/5, Stemler, 41K) reports in its “Open Country” blog, on hunting “on Bureau of Land Management land in northwest Colorado to see if we could find sage grouse,” describing it as “beautiful sagebrush country,” that was “clearly well managed to benefit sage grouse—and the hundreds of other species that depend on sagebrush systems.” The author also describes hearing Secretary Jewell speak at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge regarding the greater sage grouse and describes “seeing friends posting pictures from their own sage grouse hunts in other states” as evidence that Secretary Jewell was right in saying that conservation efforts have been successful.

Phil Rostad, a board member of the Montana Land Reliance, writes at the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/2, Rostad, 39K) that “Montana’s private landowners can breathe a sigh of relief” because the sage grouse is not being listed. And the reason is that “Montana stepped up to the plate and wrote a plan to manage the bird that showed the feds we could do it without them.” The story quotes Secretary Jewell saying, “Montana Governor Bullock has been critical in our efforts to demonstrate that the Endangered Species Act can be a vital catalyst for conservation.”

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (10/5, Johnson, 19K) in an editorial says that the decision “not to list the greater sage grouse” is “an example of the federal government recognizing the efforts taken on the state level.”

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/5, 94K) said that the decision “was a substantial victory,” but also says that some other decisions “could add up to a de facto listing.” The paper cites Secretary Jewell’s announcement as containing “plans to establish official buffer zones around mating areas.” The paper says that depending on what that means in practice, it “could be just like listing the bird as endangered.”

CONNOR PRAISES PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AT ANTIETAM. The [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (10/2, Anderson, 78K) reports, “Last Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and members of the Civil War Trust met at Antietam National Battlefield to celebrate the Trust’s successful preservation of 44

acres” as well as launching “a new fundraising push to preserve another 49 acres.” Connor said, “The preservation of this tract at the center of the Antietam Battlefield is just an incredible accomplishment in the history of conservation,” adding, “This land will become part of an outdoor classroom. It’ll teach old and young alike ... about the momentous events that occurred, and that is invaluable.” He also said, “These public/private partnerships are critical to our protection efforts.”

JEWELL DOES NOT HAVE REGULAR PERSONAL AIDE. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/2, 705) reports on the “body men” who work as top aides to official’s in order to keep them on schedule. It reports that according to Interior Department spokeswoman Emily Beyer, Secretary Jewell “always travels with members of her U.S. Park Police security detail and usually with a communications staff member,” but does not “have a dedicated personal aide who travels with her to events in town and on the road.”

AUTHOR WARNS SHUTDOWN COULD HARM ARIZONA. Christopher Fox Graham writes at [Journal Arizona](#) (10/1, Graham), criticizing Congress for the possibility that the government could be “shut down” noting that such an event would close the Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle national monuments as well as Grand Canyon National Park. He reminds readers that in 2013, Secretary Jewell and then-Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer “negotiated a deal to temporarily reopen Grand Canyon National Park using state money.”

KENDALL MAY FACE “ACRIMONIOUS CONFIRMATION FIGHT.” [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Bogardus, Subscription Publication) reports on Mary Kendall’s nomination as Interior Department inspector general, saying it “could be an acrimonious confirmation fight.” A hearing has been scheduled by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for October 20.

GROWTH OF NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL NOTED. Cheryl Kimball writes in the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (10/3, Kimball, 131K) about the New England cottontail, noting its decline since the 1960s which she attributes to the reforestation of New England farmlands. The population of the rabbit “has rebounded to a noticeable degree” apparently due to work by conservationists in providing more habitat. Kimball also points out that Secretary Jewell in September “was going to be in Dover to release specimens raised in captivity on private land with the appropriate habitat.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

ED GIVES CIRCLE OF NATIONS SCHOOL GRANT. The [Wahpeton \(ND\) Daily News](#) (10/2, Stanko, 9K) reports that ED is giving a \$440,000 grant to Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton, North Dakota, noting that Superintendent Leroy Chief said “the grant will go toward young peoples’ education through an improved high school and college preparation program, with the exploration of future careers.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

USGS, SIOUX FALLS PARTNER ON GROUNDWATER SURVEY. [KDLT-TV Sioux Falls, SD](#) (10/4, 1K) reports in an Associated Press story that the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey this week “will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey.” The AP story also appears at the [Yankton \(SD\) Press & Dakotan](#) (10/5, 25K), [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/3, 126K), and [Washington Times](#) (10/5, 344K).

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/5, 27K) reports, “Lake Havasu City has received a \$70,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to help fund a water conservation rebate program” until March 31. The money will be used to support “low flush volume (1.6 gallon or less) toilets” as well as “swimming pool covers,” “hot water recirculation pumps,” and “smart irrigation controllers with rain or moisture sensor.”

NEW MANAGER OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION’S SNAKE RIVER OFFICE NAMED. The [Idaho Business Review](#) (10/2, 35K) reports, “Roland Springer will serve as the new area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Snake River Area office,” and will start October 19.

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT WORKS WITH BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ON PIPING PROJECT. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/3, Shorack, 94K) reports on a piping project being carried out by the Tumalo Irrigation District in partnership with the “Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the city of Bend and the Deschutes River Conservancy.”

Securing America's Energy Future:***Renewable Energy:***

DEMOCRATS ON HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SEEK HEARING ON CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ON PUBLIC LANDS. *E&E Daily* (10/2, Bush, Subscription Publication) reports that Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee "are demanding" a hearing on "clean energy production on public lands" to be held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals. It has not held a hearing on the topic since 2011. All 17 Democratic members of the committee signed a letter requesting a hearing. The letter also points out that the BLM "has approved more than 10,000 megawatts of clean energy" since the 2011 hearing.

PROGRESS ON DEEPWATER WIND OFFSHORE WIND FARM "A SIGN OF HOPE." *ClimateWire* (10/2, von Kaenel, Subscription Publication) reports that supporters of offshore wind energy are pointing to progress with Deepwater Wind's offshore wind farm that has begun construction of the coast of Rhode Island as "a sign of hope." Jeff Grybowski, CEO of Deepwater Wind, said, "With other states, when they see pictures of an actual vessel putting it in the water in the U.S., the light goes off – we can do this, it is possible." The story also reports there are "new collaborative efforts" launched by the federal government, adding that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "continues to auction off new leases."

BOEM To Study Effects Of Wind Farm Construction Off Rhode Island. *WRNI-FM Providence, RI* (10/2, Espinoza) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will carry out a study of "real-time data on sounds and seafloor vibrations, among other disturbances, caused by the wind farm's construction." Rodney Cluck, BOEM's chief of the Environmental Sciences Division, said, "When you're pounding in the monopoles that go into the ground for the wind turbines, they have to use big hammers to pound them into the ground, that creates noise," adding, "you need to know the decibel levels and you need to know that physics before you can know the impacts on a whale for example."

BOEM TO HOLD MEETING ON POSSIBLE OFF SHORE WIND FARMS. The *Wilmington (NC) Star News* (10/4, Bellamy, 111K) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Wednesday will hold a meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina to "discuss plans to open two areas off Brunswick and south New Hanover counties to leasing by wind energy companies."

ELIAS: SOLAR FACILITIES CAUSE ENERGY POVERTY. Columnist Thomas Elias writes for the *Los Angeles Daily News* (10/2, Elias, 288K) that the expense of large solar facilities – of which several were built with federal grants but produce for private utilities like Southern California Edison – is causing an increase in California energy prices. Elias writes that "the cost of that energy comes to about \$84 per megawatt hour, compared to the average \$46 per megawatt hour wholesale cost of electricity," helping to drive "energy poverty" when the price of electricity exceed 10 percent of household income. He calls for a greater focus on rooftop solar and a move away from utility-scale projects.

The column was also carried by the *Marysville (CA) Appeal-Democrat* (10/3, Elias, 69K) and the *Inland Valley (CA) Daily Bulletin* (10/2, Elias, 111K).

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR'S LEITER EXPLAINS ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION TO CUT IN SODA ASH ROYALTY RATE. *E&E Daily* (10/2, Quiñones, Subscription Publication) reports that the Administration is "strongly opposing" bills that would "reduce the royalty rate for mining soda ash on public lands." The bills, S. 2031 and H.R. 1992, would cut the rate from 6 percent to 2 percent. Amanda Leiter, Interior Department assistant secretary for lands and minerals management, is quoted saying the bills would lead to a "substantial loss of royalty revenue." Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) defended his bill, saying, "America's soda ash producers continue to battle unfair trade practices imposed by other nations."

BLM ISSUES DRAFT RULE ON MEASURING NATURAL GAS PRODUCED ON FEDERAL AND TRIBAL LANDS. *E&E Publishing* (10/2, Taylor, 705) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has released "a draft rule updating standards for how companies measure natural gas produced on federal and tribal lands," in response to "concerns raised by the Government Accountability Office and the Interior Department inspector general."

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/4, 3K) reports on the announcement, quoting BLM Director Neil Kornze saying, "It's been almost 30 years since the standards in Onshore Order 4 have been revised," adding, "The industry has taken major strides in recent decades and this update reflects those changes in addition to making our regulations more adaptable for the future."

Leland Gould, Chairman, New Mexico Oil And Gas Association, writes in the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/5, Gould, 259K), that "new Bureau of Land Management regulations are not needed." He argues that the new rules will overburden BLM employees, and may "lead to the closure of marginally economical wells and the state will lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue."

CONTINENTAL RESOURCES DEMANDS FRIENDS OF THE EARTH RETRACT CLAIMS ABOUT ITS FLARING. [Greenwire](#) (10/2, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reports that Continental Resources Inc., "is demanding" that Friends of the Earth "retract" a claim that Continental was "flaring more gas than all other companies combined." The company's counsel wrote that in the absence of an apology, it would "pursue appropriate actions against all responsible parties." The report "A Flaring Shame," was released on Wednesday, and claims that Continental flared "nearly eight times as much gas as the next highest company."

BLM PROCESS RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH PARK, COLORADO. The [Denver Post](#) (10/5, Handy, 787K) reports that South Park, Colorado is "on the radar of the Bureau of Land Management" for its potential energy development, but some worry that energy development could be "a serious economic threat," because it may spoil "one of the state's unparalleled playgrounds." The Post also notes that "Denver, Aurora and Centennial get water from South Park's rivers, streams and reservoirs." BLM spokeswoman Vanessa Lacayo said that to date, "South Park has seen minimal drilling." She added that "the BLM triggered the process without active interest in energy development" in the area. The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Handy) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the area is known for the "South Platte River and for its native elk herds." The AP story also appears at the [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, Handy, 2.28M).

GROUPS WANT END TO FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION ON PUBLIC LANDS. [Public Radio International](#) (10/4, 3K) reports, "A coalition of 400 groups...is demanding President Barack Obama end fossil fuel leasing on public lands." They also maintain that he could end the practice himself.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TAKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PHOENIX, ROSSI MINES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/1, 22K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking "public comment" on Newmont Mining Corp.'s proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project, under which it would "expand and continue to operate the mine." In other news, the BLM has also had "two public meetings this week concerning a possible expansion of the Rossi Mine."

BLM PLANS LEAD TO CONFUSION IN UTAH. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/3, 3K) reports that in response to "fear and confusion" regarding the BLM's "proposed resource management plans for the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas," the St. George Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management is "trying to clear up some of what they call big misunderstandings among county residents and officials." Field Office Manager Brian Tritle said that the environmental impact statement "and any proposed restrictions apply mostly to the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas." He also said that the plans are subject to revision.

The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/4, 46K) reports that one result of the plans may be "to reduce livestock grazing within parts of Washington County's designated conservation areas." At present the BLM "is taking public comments" on the plans.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

USF&W REVIEWING 5TH CIRCUIT'S RULING ON MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT. The [AP](#) (10/4, Schmall, 2.28M) reports that the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals has found that the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires that the killing of a bird must be "intentional" in order to be a violation of the act. The US Fish and

Wildlife Service “has maintained that no intent is required to violate the law.” Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Laury Parramore said that the service and the US Justice Department are reviewing the decision. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Schmall, 6.76M), [Boston Herald](#) (10/5, Schmall, 548K), [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, Schmall, 2.28M), [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Schmall, 344K), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/5, Schmall).

USF&W SAYS WALRUS DEATHS CAUSED BY HUMANS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the US Fish and Wildlife Service says that “the death of some of the walruses at a haul-out site in northwest Alaska were caused by humans,” and it “believes it has identified those responsible.” The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, 6.76M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/2, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K).

WARNING ISSUED ABOUT ALGAE IN DEER FLAT’S LAKE LOWELL. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that a health warning has been issued regarding “Canyon County’s Lake Lowell,” which is “part of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services.” The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

USF&W GRANT TO FUND REPLANTING WITH NATIVE SPECIES. The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (10/4, Turner, 10K) reports that \$297,000 grant U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Cooperative Recovery Initiative is helping to fund the removal of alien species and their replacement with native species in the plantings around the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge where Manager Kathy Granillo said, “We’re sure they’ll be pleased with the results.”

National Park Service:

JARVIS TO PROMOTE PARKS IN VISIT TO LOUISIANA. [KNOE-TV](#) Monroe, LA (10/5, 1K) reports that National Parks Service Director Jonathan Jarvis “is set to visit ULM and make appearances at several events on Tuesday, leading up to the National Parks centennial anniversary in 2016.” Jarvis will “promote the importance of the park system in our country to ULM students.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REACHES 125. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that on Thursday, about 1,500 people were in attendance at Yosemite National Park’s 125th anniversary. The AP story also appears at [KHSL-TV](#) Chico, CA (10/5, 3K), the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K), [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Press, 6.76M), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/2, 1.06M).

RADIO SHOW TAKES UP QUESTION OF CLOSING OFF PART OF NATIONAL PARK FOR “PAYING CUSTOMERS ONLY.” The [Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) (10/1) took up the question of whether it was “right to cordon off part of a national park for paying customers only” in the wake of a music festival on the National Mall, for which “people paid upwards of \$100.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that “Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent Vaughn Baker has retired after 42 years,” and will “stay in nearby Estes Park.” He was at the park for 13 years, having started at the National Park Service in 1984. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K). The [Estes Park \(CO\) News](#) (10/2) also reports the retirement.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RELEASE OF PREDATORY BEETLE. The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (10/4, 280) reports that officials at the Shenandoah National Park “are seeking public opinion on a plan to release a predatory beetle” to combat “hemlock woolly adelgid,” which is “an invasive insect that has devastated hemlock forests throughout the eastern United States.” The park, so far, has seen “positive effects” with “subsurface soil injections of systemic insecticides.” The hope is that the beetle could be effective with much less labor. The beetle is from the same area of Japan as the adelgid, and is its “primary predator.” The beetle has been released in a number of other parks including Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The [Washington Post](#) carries an Associated Press story on the beetle proposal, citing the [Northern Virginia Daily](#) (10/5, Green, 48K).

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON MOCCASIN BEND PROPOSALS. The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (10/4, Cobb, 179K) reports that the National Park Service is seeking public comment on “four proposed Moccasin Bend management concepts” through November 13.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK REMOVING BOULDERS FROM RIVER CHANNEL. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/3, 41K) reports that the National Park Service has contracted with Sealaska Constructors to remove boulders from the Elwha River channel in Olympic National Park in order to “ease fish passage.”

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, APPALACHIAN TRAIL OFFICIALS MEET IN MAINE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH HIKERS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that “officials with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service say they will work to address bad behavior by long-distance hikers” with respect to Baxter State Park in Maine. The officials met on Friday in Maine. The AP story also appeared at the [Denver Post](#) (10/5, 787K), [Washington Post](#) (10/3, 6.76M), [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/3, 5.59M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

CALIFORNIA MAN INDICTED ON 21 COUNTS OF LOOTING NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS FROM PUBLIC LANDS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/4, Sahagun, 4.07M) reports that Jonathan Bourne, 59, “has been indicted on 21 felony counts related to the alleged looting of Native American artifacts from tribal and public lands including Death Valley National Park.” He could be imprisoned for up to 98 years on the charges.

MISSISSIPPI DEDICATES SHILOH PARK, TURNS IT OVER TO NPS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/4, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting on the dedication of Shiloh National Military Park in Corinth, Mississippi on Saturday. Mississippi dedicated the park and then “turn[ed] it over to the National Park Service.” The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, 344K).

PLAYWRIGHT WORKING ON STORY OF HOMESTEAD MOVEMENT. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, Bohling, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story about the Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska, where Michael Cansfield, artist in residence, is writing a play, titled “The Awakening Land: Stories of National Expansion and the Homestead Movement.” The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Bohling, 344K).

NPS SAYS LOGAN PASS CLOSED FOR WINTER. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the National Park Service announced that Sunday was “the last day to access Logan Pass by vehicle from the east side of Glacier National Park.” The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

VISITOR TO GRAND CANYON INFECTED WITH TICK BORNE FEVER. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that a person who visited the North Rim of the Grand Canyon was diagnosed with “a rare tick-borne bacterial infection” according to National Park Service and Coconino County officials. They are investigating the case. The patient was successfully treated with antibiotics. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M).

FORMER NEVADA STATE PRISON LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/3, Whaley, 378K) reports that the closed Nevada State Prison “was listed Friday on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service.” It opened in 1862. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/2, 179K) also reports on the listing.

SHREVEPORT’S BOOKER T WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON NATIONAL REGISTER. The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K) carries an Associated Press story reporting that Booker T. Washington High School in Shreveport, Louisiana has now been approved to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

DEARBORN NEIGHBORHOOD ON NATIONAL REGISTER. WDIV-TV Detroit (10/5, 348K) reports the Springwells Park neighborhood is “the first neighborhood in Dearborn to be included in the National Register of Historic Places.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS, USF&W STUDY ST. FRANCIS RIVER CRAYFISH. The [Farmington \(MO\) Daily Journal](#) (10/3, Black, 1K) reports on the conclusion of a USGS “summer-long study of St. Francis River crayfish,” citing the USGS’ Ann Allert saying, “It’s a very special crayfish. It’s only found here in this one particular part of the world.” The study was a joint effort of the USGS, US Fish and Wildlife, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The study was in response to mining in the area and was focused on the amount of metal in the crayfish.

USGS HOPED TO USE JOAQUIN TO TEST NETWORK. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/2, 1.3M) reports on the US Geological Survey's Surge, Wave and Tide Hydrodynamic Network that will "provide real-time information about water conditions" during storms. Joaquin was supposed to offer an occasion to test the system.

USGS CONDUCTING LOW FLOW SURVEY IN WESTERN STATES. The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/3, Cauvel, 31K) reports on the USGS Western U.S. Low Flow Survey, which is measuring streamflow over time, in order to "better prepare communities throughout the region for drought." The study covers California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Top National News:

US OFFICIALS HOPEFUL TPP DEAL IS NEAR AS TRADE TALKS CONTINUE. Media reports of continuing trade talks in Atlanta cast US officials as hopeful and indicate that a deal may be announced soon. The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), for example, says negotiators from the US "and 11 other Pacific Rim nations neared agreement on Sunday night on the largest regional trade accord in history, a potentially precedent-setting model for global commerce." According to the Times, announcement of a deal was delayed Sunday due to "final haggling over the arcane details of opening dairy markets," but US officials "said they were confident that a deal was imminent."

[Reuters](#) (10/5, Hughes) reports Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb too said the deal was "largely completed," and Japanese Economy Minister Akira Amari said he had called Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to inform him that a deal was within sight. The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) similarly says on its front page that US officials "said they were confident that meetings late Sunday and early Monday would produce a final agreement," and other nations "also expressed optimism that a deal would be reached." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A1, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), [Politico](#) (10/4, Palmer, 942K), and the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Boyer, 344K) also report that a deal is near.

DESPITE VETO THREAT, SENATE TO TAKE UP DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL THIS WEEK. In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (10/4, Camey, 471K) predicted a "veto showdown" between the President and Republicans over the National Defense Authorization Act, noting that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "has teed up the Senate to turn to the" measure this week "despite a looming veto threat from the White House." While White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the bill "an 'irresponsible way to fund our national defense priorities,'" reiterating that "if the president got this bill he'd veto it," Senate Republicans "appear poised to try to either call the president's bluff [sic] or force him to issue his fifth veto on legislation that they argue is vital for helping troops and protecting national security."

OBAMA HONORS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS. The President addressed the 34th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD on Sunday, where he praised the "'courage, fortitude, and strength' of firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in order to save people they have never met," [USA Today](#) (10/5, Jackson, 5.23M) reports. The President offered "prayers and condolences to the families of 87 firefighters who have died in recent months," and "said the profession of firefighting holds a 'special place' in the imaginations of Americans because of the risks involved."

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (10/5, Fitch, 10K) notes that during the service, which recognized "84 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2014 and three others who died in previous years," the President told those gathered "that they were honoring 'extraordinary Americans,'" adding, "We can never repay them fully for their sacrifices."

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (10/4, Richardson, 471K) reported that the President also "called for action to prevent wildfires before they start," saying, "So far this year, nearly 50,000 wildfires have burned more than 9 million acres – an area larger than the entire state of Maryland. ... At the season's peak, 32,000 firefighters were battling blazes from California to North Carolina. Thirteen have lost their lives. And today, we honor them as well."

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/4, Parker, 834K) says that during his 12-minute address, the President "asked the nation to renew its commitment to preventing fires and making sure to supply firefighters with 'equipment and the support that they need to get the job done and to come home safe. That's what we owe every one of you.'" The Sun adds that the President "remained for more than an hour" after his speech, "greeting each of the late firefighters' families before returning to a motorcade where he was joined by Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Maryland

Democrat." The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (10/4, Reed, 59K) notes that the ceremony was attended by "scores of fire personnel from all over the country."

The [AP](#) (10/4) notes that among the firefighters honored in the ceremony were Hartford, CT firefighter Kevin Bell and New Britain, CT Deputy Chief David Fiori. Bell "was killed in a house blaze and Fiori suffered a heart attack while on duty" last year. [WFSB-TV New Haven, CT](#) (10/4, Jain, Polansky, 269K) also reported on the two fallen Connecticut firefighters on its website.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*The Biggest Questions Awaiting The Supreme Court.*" A [New York Times](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says the Supreme Court's new term "will jump right back into high-profile constitutional battles," and says its decisions last term "showed a court willing to take into account the effects of the law on individual lives. This term, the justices have many opportunities to show that same type of awareness."

"Rein In Online Fantasy Sports Gambling." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says online sport gambling sites "have grown rapidly" because the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, "which prevented payment processors from working with gambling websites, included an exemption for fantasy sports." The Times says "giving people more ways to bet on the outcomes of sports is sure to threaten the integrity of sports and create more gambling addicts, especially among young people who are already more likely to engage in risky behaviors."

WASHINGTON POST. "*The Price We Pay.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M) lists the names of those killed in mass shootings in recent years.

"Jeb Bush's Energy Plan." The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M) says in an editorial that Jeb Bush's energy plan is "breathtakingly irresponsible" as it is "silent" on climate change. The Post approves of his call to push back "against the excesses of environmental activists," lift the crude export ban, and approve Keystone XL, but condemns his call for repealing the Administration's greenhouse gas regulations.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*Trust Busting Higher Ed.*" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) hails an effort by Sens. Marco Rubio and Michael Bennett for pushing legislation that would limit the ability of existing colleges and universities, operating under various agencies chartered by the Education Department, to block the emergence of alternative low-cost competitors by denying them access to federal aid.

"The Taliban And The Hospital." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues that while the bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz was a mistake, the Taliban, which has been trying to take Kunduz by force, is responsible for the lives lost.

"Supreme Court Plaintiff's Play." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) highlights a challenge to arbitration agreements in class-action suits that the Supreme Court will hear. The Journal argues that if the justices weaken the 1925 Federal Arbitration Act, it would be a payday for trial lawyers.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[US Is Accused Of War Crime](#)

[State's Job Outlook: Sunny](#)

[HP Still A Tough Debate For Fiorina](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Activist Firm Trian Makes A Big Bet On GE](#)

[VW Emissions Probe Zeroes In On Two Engineers](#)

[Caution Hampered Pentagon's Syria Plans](#)

[Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal Within Reach](#)

New York Times:

US Aims To Put More Pressure On ISIS In Syria
Taliban's New Leader Strengthens His Hold With Intrigue And Battlefield Victory
Doctors Without Borders Says It Is Leaving Kunduz After Strike On Hospital
Valeant's Drug Price Strategy Enriches It, But Infuriates Patients And Lawmakers
A Conundrum For Jeb Bush: How To Use George W.
Campuses Debate Rising Demands For "Comfort Animals"

Washington Post:

"Till Martyrdom Do Us Part"
High Court's Divisive Docket
A Problem In Fiorina's Senate Bid: Money
Youth Sports Are Down, And Parental Pressure Is Up
US On Verge Of 12-Nation Pacific Rim Trade Pact

Financial Times:

World Bank Head Opens Case Over Capital
Nuclear Plants In 'Denial' On Hacking Risk

Washington Times:

Chaffetz To Challenge McCarthy As Speaker
Kurds Need Weapons To Pierce Stolen US Armor
Clinton Campaign Calls Bill Into Service On Trail
Political Eyes On Roberts As High Court Begins Term
US, Partners Zeroing In On Massive Asia Trade Deal
Putin's Power: Russian President Keeps Tumultuous World Guessing

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather-Storm; Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Oregon Shooting-Student Hero; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; 2016 Politics-Campaign; Pope Francis-Kim Davis Meeting; NASA-Space Probe; University Of Louisville-Scandal.
CBS: Severe Weather-Storm; US Cargo Ship Stranded; Guatemala-Mudslide; French Riviera-Flooding; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden Campaign Speculation; House Speaker Vote; Oregon College Shooting; Chicago-Drug Overdose Increase; Credit Card Security Update.
NBC: Severe Weather-Storm; Severe Weather-South Carolina; Weather Forecast; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; California Shooting Plot; Oregon Shooting; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Supreme Court Docket-Abortion; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 13 minutes, 40 seconds
Oregon College Shooting – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
US Cargo Ship Stranded – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Supreme Court Docket-Obamacare; Daytona Florida-Shark Attack.
CBS: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Afghanistan Hospital Bombing-US Investigation; North Korea-US Prisoner Released; House Speaker Vote-Challenger; Asian Markets.
NPR: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Stranded; House Speaker Vote-Challenger; Guatemala-Landslide Deaths; Portugal-General Elections; Palestinian Attacks-Israel Measures.
FOX: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Stranded; North Korea-US Prisoner Released.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Unavailable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate debates U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California nominee – Senate convenes, with agenda including executive session to consider the nomination of Dale Drozd to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: No scheduled events.

Other: 11:30 AM DoD official speaks at 'Innovation and the Defense Industrial Base' Heritage Foundation event – 'Innovation and the Defense Industrial Base – A #DefenseReform Event' at Heritage Foundation, featuring Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics Principal Deputy Director of Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy Dr Jerry McGinn, followed by a panel discussion with Abundance Partners Venture Partner Stephen Rodriguez, Covington & Burling partner Peter Lichtenbaum, and Airbus Group Director of Strategy & Development Sam Zega * Marks first of a series of public events on defense reform Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage> #DefenseReform

1:30 PM DHS Secretary Johnson thanks employees for successful papal visit and U.N. General Assembly – Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and U.S. Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy 'recognize and thank the men and women from across the Department of Homeland Security for their work in the development, implementation, and execution of security plans for the visit of Pope Francis to Washington, DC, New York and Philadelphia, and the 70th United Nations General Assembly' via joint media availability Location: U.S. Secret Service, 950 H St NW, Washington, DC www.dhs.gov <https://twitter.com/DHSGov>

4:00 PM Sister seeds to lettuce grown on the International Space Station planted at the USDA People's Garden – Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden and NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman join Washington, DC, area FFA and 4-H members to plant sister seeds to lettuce grown on the International Space Station at an event in the People's Garden at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with Deputy Secretary Harden and Deputy Administrator Newman also signing a new interagency agreement expanding commitment to promoting careers in science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math to young people. After the signing, they hold a brief press availability Location: USDA People's Garden, corner of Jefferson Dr and 12th St SW, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation annual corporate citizenship conference – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation annual corporate citizenship conference 'Connect the Dots: How Businesses Solve Global Challenges Locally', with private sector leaders showcasing successful business examples to highlight 'how businesses build engagements that align local impact to global strategy'. Speakers include Soledad O'Brien (Starfish Media Group), Daymond John (FUBU), JJ Ramberg (MSNBC), Lori Hamick (Microsoft), Blair Taylor (Starbucks), Geoff Bastow (UPS), Shannon Schuyler (PwC), Patrick Gaston (Western Union Foundation), Richard Leach (World Food Program USA), Hugh Welsh (DSM North America), Hugh Evans (Global Poverty Project), Connie Yowell (MacArthur Foundation), Elliot Kotek (Not Impossible), and Suzanne Clark (USCC) Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://bclc.uschamber.com/> <https://twitter.com/usccfoundation>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that Donald Trump's hotel chain may have experienced a data breach that may have exposed people's debit and credit card information to hackers for more than a year. When asked how he planned on fixing the situation, Trump was like, 'I'm going to build a huge firewall.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "More of Hillary Clinton's emails were just released, and one shows that she had made a list of talking points for a trip to LA in case she ran into Ellen DeGeneres. Which is ironic, because Bill [Clinton] does the same thing in case he runs into Hillary."

Stephen Colbert: "It's a bit of a drizzly day here in New York, where the United Nations General Assembly is wrapping up their annual session and free parking festival."

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Secretary Jewell to Celebrate Designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas

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Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 9:01 AM



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**U.S. Department
 of the Interior**

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Media Advisory

Date: October 2, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
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Secretary Jewell to Celebrate Designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas

WACO, TEXAS – On Monday, October 5, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will attend a celebration in Waco, Texas to commemorate the recent designation of [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#). Secretary Jewell and others will tour the site before the dedication ceremony.

In July, President Obama [designated Waco Mammoth as one of three new national monuments](#), including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Basin and Range in Nevada. Waco Mammoth permanently protects the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and remains of other Ice Age animals have been found. The National Park Service works in partnership with the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to manage the Waco Mammoth National Monument.

The site provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

Secretary Jewell and Director Jarvis will also meet with local fourth grade students in support of President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative to distribute free passes to America's federal lands and waters. The Every Kid in a Park program seeks to connect young people with the great outdoors. As of September 1, the program allows fourth graders nationwide to go to www.everykidinapark.gov and obtain a pass for free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year.

Bone Site Tour:

WHO: Ceremony participants and confirmed members of the media

WHAT: Waco Mammoth National Monument bone site tour and opportunity for b-roll

WHEN: Monday, October 5, 2015
8:20 a.m. CDT – Media check-in
8:30 a.m. CDT – Bone site tour begins
9:20 a.m. CDT – Bone site tour ends

WHERE: Waco Mammoth National Monument
6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive
Waco, TX 76708

MEDIA: Credentialed members of the media [MUST RSVP here](#) by **6 PM EDT today, October 2, 2015.**

Dedication Ceremony:

WHO: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Russ Whitlock, Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
Larry Groth, Former Waco City Manager, City of Waco
Gloria Young, Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc.
Malcolm Duncan, Mayor, City of Waco
Ken Starr, President and Chancellor, Baylor University

WHAT: Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration

WHEN: Monday, October 5, 2015
9:45 a.m. CDT – Media check-in
10:00 a.m. CDT – Dedication ceremony
10:45 a.m. CDT – Media availability
11:00 a.m. CDT – Distribution of Every Kid in a Park passes

WHERE: Waco Mammoth National Monument
6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive
Waco, TX 76708

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

MEDIA: Credentialed members of the media **MUST RSVP here** by 6 PM EDT today, October 2, 2015.

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

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Dec 4, 2015 at 7:05 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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

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DOI in the News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUANCE GRANTED IN LEASING DISPUTE OVER BLACKFOOT TRIBAL LAND. The [AP](#) (12/4) reports that on Thursday a federal court granted the request of the Interior Department and Louisiana energy company Solenex to pause court proceedings until January 8 in a dispute over a lease near Montana’s Glacier

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

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

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

Empowering Native American Communities:

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

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

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

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

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

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

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

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

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

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

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Onshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Offshore Energy Development:

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

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

DEMOCRATS SUPPORT DESIGNATING ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AS WILDERNESS.

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

STUDY EXAMINES CONNECTION BETWEEN CATTLE GRAZING, SAGE GROUSE. **Boise (ID) State**

Public Radio (12/4, Bamhill) reports that University of Idaho professor Karen Launchbaugh is “two years into a 10-year study that’s trying to figure out how grazing of perennial grasses affects spring nesting for sage grouse.” BSPR explains that “by the end of the study, she hopes to have results that can help create a sustainable way to keep cattle on the land, while also protecting the sage grouse.” Launchbaugh recent briefed the Idaho Cattle Association, which is helping pay for the study, on her work.

BALD EAGLE COUNT INCREASES AT LAKE COEUR D’ALENE. The **Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review**

(12/3, Landers, 174K) reports that “bald eagles continue to pour into the Wolf Lodge Bay area of Lake Coeur d’Alene for their annual November-January gathering to feast on spawning kokanee.” According to Camie Hugo, BLM wildlife biologist, who conducts a weekly eagle survey during the kokanee spawning period, “There were 69 adult eagles (white heads) and 10 juveniles. Last year there were 34 eagles on the Week 3 count.”

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

BLM MOAB FIELD OFFICE MOVES GROUP CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS ONLINE. **Lake Powell Life**

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

INTEREST HIGH IN MONTANA ELK SHOULDER SEASON HUNTS. The **Great Falls (MT) Tribune** (12/3,

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

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVISTS CLAIM FOSSIL FUEL DRILLING AGREEMENTS, LAND AUCTIONS

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FWS CRITICIZED FOR OFFERING EAGLE TAKE PERMITS TO WIND ENERGY COMPANIES. HEADLINE: COURT CANCELS 30-YEAR FEDERAL PERMITS LETTING WIND COMPANIES KILL EAGLES. A report in [Mongabay](#) (12/4, DiGirolamo, 6K) criticizes the FWS for exempting wind energy companies from laws making it illegal to kill Bald and Golden Eagles, citing the FWS’ efforts to change the duration of eagle take permits from 5-years to 30-years. Conceding the benefits of wind energy, the report suggests exploration of bladeless wind technology as a possible solution.

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

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

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

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

National Park Service:

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

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

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

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

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

US Geological Survey:

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

Top National News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial Wrap-Up:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

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

New York Times:

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

Washington Post:

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

Financial Times:

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

Washington Times:

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

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

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

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

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

Network TV At A Glance:

San Bernardino Shooting – 47 minutes, 20 seconds

2016 Politics-San Bernardino Shooting – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Mass Shootings – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Oscar Pistorius-Murder Verdict – 40 seconds

Defense Secretary-Women In Combat – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

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

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

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

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

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

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

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

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

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

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

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

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

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell to Join Nevada Celebration Commemorating Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Reply-To: interior_news@updates.interior.gov
To: vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 11:31 AM



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

Media Advisory

Date: October 16, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 916-978-4616

Secretary Jewell to Join Nevada Celebration Commemorating Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

SOUTHERN NEVADA – On Saturday, October 17, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze will join a Nevada celebration to commemorate the recent designation of Basin and Range National Monument.

In July, President Obama [designated Basin and Range as one of three new national monuments](#), including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Waco Mammoth in Texas. The Basin and Range National Monument – located in one of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state – exemplifies the rich cultural history, varied wildlife and vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known.

The monument tells the story of the area's native peoples as well as the history of more recent settlers and mining communities. The designation also preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations.

The Basin and Range National Monument, comprised of existing federal lands, is the newest addition to the National Conservation Lands, managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

WHO: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Harry Reid, U.S. Senator, Nevada
Dina Titus, U.S. Congresswoman (NV-1)
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Jenna Morton, Board Member, Las Vegas Springs Preserve

Erin Wright, Director of Artist Initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director, Conservation Lands Foundation

WHAT: Basin and Range National Monument celebration

WHEN: Saturday, October 17, 2015
4:45 p.m. CDT – Media check-in
5:00 p.m. CDT – Dedication ceremony

WHERE: Las Vegas Springs Preserve
333 S Valley View Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89107

MEDIA: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP here](#).

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell Joins Nevadans to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
 Reply-To: interior_news@updates.interior.gov
 To: vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Sat, Oct 17, 2015 at 8:01 PM



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

U.S. Department
of the Interior

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: October 17, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
 Stephen Clutter (BLM), (775) 861-6629

Secretary Jewell Joins Nevadans to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

Designation preserves stunning landscapes, ancient rock art; protects existing ranching, military and recreation uses

SOUTHERN NEVADA – As part of President Obama’s commitment to protect the nation’s significant outdoor spaces for the benefit of future generations, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Director of the Bureau of Land Management Neil Kornze joined U.S. Senator Harry Reid and U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (NV-1) to celebrate the recent designation of Basin and Range National Monument in southeastern Nevada. The site, an unbroken expanse of 704,000 acres of rugged mountains and sweeping valleys, highlights the proud history of the West, from its earliest native peoples to more recent settlers and mining communities.

“This spectacular expanse of rugged public lands helps tell the story of Nevada, its people, its rich history and the stunning, open landscapes for which the state is known,” said Secretary Jewell. “By protecting this area, the President has ensured that one of the most treasured landscapes of the American West will be available for all future generations to discover and explore.”

“The Basin and Range National Monument is the perfect example of the West’s rugged, stark beauty. It is the same land where ancient people took shelter and carved their history into incredible rock panels that can still be seen today. It is still the land of desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope. This area is truly a time capsule of our western history, from Native Americans and early explorers, to the mining and ranching that still exists today. And with President Obama’s designation of this area as a national monument, the land will remain that way,” Senator Reid said.

“Thanks to President Obama, future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty of this Nevada landscape for many years to come. I cannot express how grateful I am to President Obama and Secretary Jewell for their incredible efforts in making this monument a reality. I look forward to continuing our work together and helping to preserve even more of our country’s beautiful landscapes.”

On July 10, President Obama designated the Basin and Range area as a national monument. This followed efforts by Sen. Reid and Rep. Dina Titus to pass legislation through Congress that would have protected the area. It is now one of the three newest national monuments, including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Waco Mammoth in Texas. The President’s designation protects outstanding recreational opportunities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

“Reflecting the best in public space and public art, the Basin and Range National Monument will preserve and protect the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources of central Nevada for generations to come,” Rep. Titus said.

Nevada businesses, including MGM Resorts International, the state’s largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, have also supported protection of the area. Additional support also came from a broad array of community groups, including private landowners, elected officials, art institutions, conservation and recreation organizations, and representatives from businesses in the state.

From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago to the miners and ranchers of the past century, the monument’s cultural sites offer exemplary opportunities to further study and understand this unique landscape and its history.

The area’s location, on the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sage brush steppe of the Great Basin region, makes it home to a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and a host of bat, lizard, and snake species.

The Basin and Range National Monument is located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas. It preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations. It also contains a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, cultural, and historical resources – including Native American rock art dating back 4,000 years – and is an important area for studies of paleoecology, seismology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology.

In addition, the landscape sculpture *City* by artist Michael Heizer is situated on private land within the monument. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape. Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Comprised of existing federal lands, the monument will continue to be managed by Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Basin and Range is the newest addition to the [National Conservation Lands](#), a special system of protected areas managed by the BLM that contains some of the West’s most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas.

“Important uses like ranching, hiking and riding will all continue to be welcome in the Basin and

Range National Monument,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “We are committed to working with the people of Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties to ensure that this protected area continues to serve the needs of those communities.”

The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

Also participating in the event were Jenna Morton, a member of the board of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve; Erin Wright, director of artist initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Brian O’Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation.

For more information on the Basin and Range National Monument, including maps and unique visitor experiences, go to www.blm.gov/conservationlands.

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

DTS Assignment--Comments on Berryessa Snow Mountain designation as national monument; Joint Resolution Number 4

1 message

DTS@fws.gov <DTS@fws.gov>

Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:43 PM

To: francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, steven_avila@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov, vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Hello and welcome to the DTS automated email alert!

Your office (OIEA) has a task assigned.

Please log on to the Data Tracking System at the following URL Address: <https://dts.fws.gov> and review Document Control Number (DCN)** ESO-00061300.

To move the document to the next office in the routing process, enter the task completed date in your office's routing in the routing screen and save the record. Then, add the next office, task assigned date, and task, and save the record.

Document Subject: Comments on Berryessa Snow Mountain designation as national monument; Joint Resolution Number 4

Action Required: 15-For Your Information

Assigned By Office: OES-Cannuscio/202-208-2443 User: Lisa Cannuscio

Thank you.



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Jason Aul <JAul@thebrandusa.com>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 2:43 PM

To: "Dixon, Vicki" <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Good afternoon Vicki,

I was curious if there is any art/photos we can have access to related to this announcement? We'd use for social and digital posts.

Many thanks!

Jason Aul

Manager, Public Policy Communications|Brand USA| 1725 Eye St NW, Wash DC 20006

(tel) 202-888-2372

(cel) 314-479-6074

Email | jaul@thebrandusa.com



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From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Date: July 10, 2015 at 3:26:34 AM PDT

To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

Friends: we want to share the exciting news that later today President Obama will designate three new national monuments – Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, and Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas.

Below you'll find Secretary Sally Jewell's statements in support of President Obama's actions to permanently protect these American treasures.

Please share any statements or press releases that your office might put out regarding today's actions. You can either reply to this email or send it directly to oiea@ios.doi.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great day!

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 775-861-6629

Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Designation of Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada

*President's Action Preserves Sweeping Landscapes & Ancient Rock Art,
Protects Existing Ranching & Military Uses*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined members of Congress, state elected officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the Basin and Range National Monument on public lands in southeastern Nevada. This national monument – located in one of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state – exemplifies the rich cultural history, varied wildlife and vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known.

The Basin and Range National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama today that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

“This area is a spectacular expanse of rugged public lands that tell the proud story of the West, from the ancient rock art of our First Americans to the early homesteaders looking for opportunity on the open range,” said Secretary Jewell. “Today's action builds on local efforts to preserve and protect this special place, while also allowing traditional ranching practices, recreational opportunities, future scientific study and national security exercises. The President's action ensures that this area will remain a beloved resource for generations to come.”

Basin and Range National Monument, located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas, spans approximately 704,000 acres of rugged mountains and sweeping valleys. The monument tells the story of the area's native peoples as well as the history of more recent settlers and mining communities. The designation also preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching

practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations.

In February, Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze visited Las Vegas at the request of Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in southern Nevada. Legislation to withdraw the Basin and Range area from mining and other uses had been introduced by Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus. Nevada businesses have also supported protection of the area, including MGM Resorts International, the state's largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

The national monument, comprised of existing federal lands, will continue to be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is the newest addition to the **National Conservation Lands**, a system managed by the BLM that contains some of the West's most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas. The national monument includes Garden Valley and Coal Valley; the Worthington Mountains, the Golden Gate Range, the Seaman Mountains, and the Mount Irish Range; the Hiko Narrows and the White River Narrows; and the Shooting Gallery rock art site.

The proclamation allows for continued historic uses of the area, including hunting and fishing, which will continue to be managed under existing rules and regulations. Both Garden Valley and Coal Valley have long traditions of responsible ranching operations and careful stewardship of the land. The proclamation will not affect grazing operations in the monument, including use of motorized vehicles, construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, and construction of fences and other range improvements relating to grazing operations. Additionally, the designation does not affect U.S. military uses of the airspace and allows continued military access for emergency response and training activities.

The Basin and Range area has been threatened by various proposed development projects over many decades, including various railroad lines, solar energy development, oil and gas development, and major electrical transmission lines. Interest in mineral development within the area has been minor in recent years, with more attractive prospects to the north and east of the area while the BLM's Western Solar Plan established areas for focused solar energy development elsewhere in southeastern Nevada.

The Basin and Range National Monument contains a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, cultural, and historical resources and is an important area for studies of paleoecology, seismology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology. The area's vast unbroken expanses on the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sage brush steppe of the Great Basin region makes it home to a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and a host of bat, lizard, and snake species.

The national monument designation will protect outstanding opportunities to recreate such as hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

Located on private lands within the monument boundary is the landscape sculpture City

by Michael Heizer. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape.

Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art currently holds a conservation easement that ensures public access once the artwork is completed, no later than five years from now, and ensures the protection of City. The Museum intends to donate the conservation easement to the United States. Upon acquisition by the United States, the easement will be managed by the BLM as part of the monument.

“The Basin and Range National Monument is quintessential Nevada,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “The monument honors and supports the proud traditions of the ranchers and sheepherders who have taken care of this land for generations while also providing a backdrop to spectacular ancient rock art and an important contemporary artwork. Its designation is a great win for Nevada.”

The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

“Collaborative management of this area is a key priority for the BLM in Nevada,” said BLM Acting Nevada State Director John Ruhs. “This designation represents an opportunity for new businesses in the communities of Lincoln and Nye counties while also supporting the traditional ranching economy. We look forward to working closely with local partners on this effort.”

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features on public lands in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as Cèsar E. Chàvez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

[Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California](#)



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Re: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>
To: Jason Aul <JAul@thebrandusa.com>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:04 PM

Jason,

I will check and get back with you?

Vicki

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Jason Aul

Manager, Public Policy Communications|Brand USA| 1725 Eye St NW, Wash DC 20006

(tel) 202-888-2372

(cel) 314-479-6074

Email | jaul@thebrandusa.com



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Date: July 10, 2015 at 3:26:34 AM PDT

To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

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Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

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News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 775-861-6629

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The Basin and Range National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama today that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

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traditional ranching practices, recreational opportunities, future scientific study and national security exercises. The President's action ensures that this area will remain a beloved resource for generations to come."

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"Collaborative management of this area is a key priority for the BLM in Nevada," said BLM Acting Nevada State Director John Ruhs. "This designation represents an opportunity for new businesses in the communities of Lincoln and Nye counties while also supporting the traditional ranching economy. We look forward to working closely with local partners on this effort."

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Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California

-
Vicki Dixon

Vicki Dixon
Office of the Secretary - Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Department of the Interior
202.208.7461 - Office
202.208.1821 - Fax
vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Confidential



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:06 PM

To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

Jessica and/or Rebecca

See Jason Aul's email inquiring if we photos of the monument designations that BRAND USA could use.

Thank you.

Vicki

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

From: Jason Aul <JAul@thebrandusa.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 2:43 PM

Subject: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

To: "Dixon, Vicki" <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

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I was curious if there is any art/photos we can have access to related to this announcement? We'd use for social and digital posts.

Many thanks!

Jason Aul

Manager, Public Policy Communications|Brand USA| 1725 Eye St NW, Wash DC 20006

(tel) 202-888-2372

(cel) 314-479-6074

Email | jaul@thebrandusa.com



DiscoverAmerica.com

From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Date: July 10, 2015 at 3:26:34 AM PDT

To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

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National Monument in Texas.

Below you'll find Secretary Sally Jewell's statements in support of President Obama's actions to permanently protect these American treasures.

Please share any statements or press releases that your office might put out regarding today's actions. You can either reply to this email or send it directly to oiea@ios.doi.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great day!

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 775-861-6629

Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Designation of Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada

*President's Action Preserves Sweeping Landscapes & Ancient Rock Art,
Protects Existing Ranching & Military Uses*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined members of Congress, state elected officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the Basin and Range National Monument on public lands in southeastern Nevada. This national monument – located in one of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state – exemplifies the rich cultural history, varied wildlife and vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known.

The Basin and Range National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama today that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.

“This area is a spectacular expanse of rugged public lands that tell the proud story of the West, from the ancient rock art of our First Americans to the early homesteaders looking for opportunity on the open range,” said Secretary Jewell. “Today’s action builds on local efforts to preserve and protect this special place, while also allowing traditional ranching practices, recreational opportunities, future scientific study and national security exercises. The President’s action ensures that this area will remain a beloved resource for generations to come.”

Basin and Range National Monument, located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas, spans approximately 704,000 acres of rugged mountains and sweeping valleys. The monument tells the story of the area’s native peoples as well as the history of more recent settlers and mining communities. The designation also preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations.

In February, Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze visited Las Vegas at the request of Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in southern Nevada. Legislation to withdraw the Basin and Range area from mining and other uses had been introduced by Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus. Nevada businesses have also supported protection of the area, including MGM Resorts International, the state’s largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

The national monument, comprised of existing federal lands, will continue to be managed by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is the newest addition to the **National Conservation Lands**, a system managed by the BLM that contains some of the West’s most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas. The national monument includes Garden Valley and Coal Valley; the Worthington Mountains, the Golden Gate Range, the Seaman Mountains, and the Mount Irish Range; the Hiko Narrows and the White River Narrows; and the Shooting Gallery rock art site.

The proclamation allows for continued historic uses of the area, including hunting and fishing, which will continue to be managed under existing rules and regulations. Both Garden Valley and Coal Valley have long traditions of responsible ranching operations and careful stewardship of the land. The proclamation will not affect grazing operations in the monument, including use of motorized vehicles, construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, and construction of fences and other range improvements relating to grazing operations. Additionally, the designation does not affect U.S. military uses of the airspace and allows continued military access for emergency response and training activities.

The Basin and Range area has been threatened by various proposed development projects over many decades, including various railroad lines, solar energy development, oil and gas development, and major electrical transmission lines. Interest in mineral development within the area has been minor in recent years, with more attractive prospects to the north and east of the area while the BLM’s Western Solar Plan established areas for focused solar energy development elsewhere in southeastern Nevada.

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Located on private lands within the monument boundary is the landscape sculpture City by Michael Heizer. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape.

Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art currently holds a conservation easement that ensures public access once the artwork is completed, no later than five years from now, and ensures the protection of City. The Museum intends to donate the conservation easement to the United States. Upon acquisition by the United States, the easement will be managed by the BLM as part of the monument.

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The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

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Vicki Dixon

Vicki Dixon

Office of the Secretary - Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Department of the Interior

202.208.7461 - Office

202.208.1821 - Fax

vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Re: FW: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Monument Designations

1 message

Matulka, Rebecca <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Dixon, Vicki" <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:51 PM

Hi Jason,

Here is a link for Berryessa photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/sets/72157647564528873>.

Attached is an NPS photo of Waco Mammoth.

For Basin and Range, pictures are available on the protectbasinandrange.org site. Short links:

Photo links:

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6p> (camping)

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6q> (student journaling)

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6s> (landscape w/mountains)

<http://wp.me/a5xw9E-6t> (person looking out on to valley)

These 4 and the others you see on the site can be credited to Tyler Roemer and are public use courtesy of Conservation Lands Foundation.

On Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 3:06 PM, Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Jessica and/or Rebecca

See Jason Aul's email inquiring if we photos of the monument designations that BRAND USA could use.

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[Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada](#)



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www.doi.gov
News Release

Date: July 10, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
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Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California

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Rebecca Matulka
Senior Digital Media Strategist
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5337



WacoTX3.jpg
3056K

Confidential



Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 21, 2016

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

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- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL, DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TO VISIT HARNEY COUNTY. KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (3/20, 32K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor will "travel to Harney County on Monday to meet with employees affected by the 41-day Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation, as well as community and tribal leaders, the agency announced Sunday." The announcement said Jewell will meet "with community and tribal leaders who are working collaboratively on thoughtful management of public and private lands in southeastern Oregon." Jewell said, "As the community continues to recover from the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, I know that deepening the strong partnerships already in place will be important to the healing process."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (3/21, 122K).

Lawmakers Seek Federal Funding To Reimburse Local Expenses For Malheur Occupation. The [E&E](#) (3/18) reports that "members of Oregon's congressional delegation are working to find federal dollars to help pay back local governments that responded to armed militants' takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge earlier this year." According to the article, "a top priority for Sen. Ron Wyden is getting 'compensation for the community, which basically blew through its budget as a result of this.'" Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley are "also seeking to tap the existing budgets of other law enforcement agencies or provide new dollars for state and local

agencies via the fiscal 2017 appropriations process.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the occupation was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (3/20, 864K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, 285K), [Reuters](#) (3/18, Johnson), the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/18, 975K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/20, 2K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DEDICATES BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “joined federal and state officials near the town of Williams on Saturday to mark the creation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.”

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (3/20, 165K) reports that Jewell was joined by Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Reps. Mike Thompson and John Garamendi. Thompson said, “After years of tireless work by countless numbers of people, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region finally has the permanent protection it deserves. It was an honor to join those who have been incredible partners and supporters in this effort at today’s dedication ceremony.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/19, 285K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 569K), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/20, 591K), the [Lake County \(CA\) News](#) (3/20, 530), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (3/20, 6K), [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (3/20, 6K), and [KRON-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (3/20, 124K).

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (3/20, 148K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited Santa Cruz Island last Friday. She was joined by Rep. Lois Capps and “dozens of Santa Paula fourth-graders.” According to the article, “the students’ trip was part of the Every Kid in a Park initiative launched last year by President Barack Obama to get children nationwide outdoors.” Jewell and Capps “handed out national park passes to fourth-graders from Thille School in Santa Paula.”

[KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (3/20, 1K) reports that “students were taken to the Channel Islands specifically to see the Channel Island Fox.” According to the article, “the animal has been brought back from the brink of extinction through conservation work.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (3/21, 1K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANCELS DISPUTED DRILLING LEASE ON SACRED SITE. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that last week, the Obama Administration canceled Solenex LLC’s undeveloped lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Lewis and Clark National Forest. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said “it was issued without proper environmental or cultural review.”

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, 48K) reports that Jewell said, “Today’s action honors Badger-Two Medicine’s rich cultural and natural resources and recognizes the irreparable impacts that oil and gas development would have on them.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (3/18, 308K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 388K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (3/20, 44K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication), and [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (3/20, 46K).

TRIBAL OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE RENAMING OF MT MCKINLEY TO DENALI. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/18, 2K) reports that the “renaming of North America’s highest peak from Mt. McKinley to Denali was recognized Wednesday by federal and tribal officials at the Tanana Chief’s Conference annual meeting in Fairbanks.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “took action last summer to formally re-name Mt. McKinley to its traditional Athabascan name Denali.” Jewell’s senior advisor for Alaska affairs Michael Johnson “pointed to the significance the name change in an address to Tanana Chiefs Conference delegates.” Johnson said, “This is a symbol, but it’s an important one ‘cause it’s about respect. And that’s, I think, first and foremost why the secretary was happy to do it.”

REP. CLAWSON SEEKS \$500 MILLION TO BUY LAND IN EVERGLADES. The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 131K) reports that “in what’s intended as a long-term solution to the damaging discharges of nutrient-laden waters from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers, U.S. Rep. Curt Clawson wants the Interior Department to buy land south of the lake for water storage.” Clawson introduced the Everglades Land Acquisition Act on Friday. If enacted, the measure would “set aside \$500 million for the Interior Department to

buy the land in the Everglades Agriculture Area in Palm Beach County after a study, also authorized in the bill, determined the right location.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (3/18, 190K).

NEW MEXICO STILL EYEING LAWSUIT AGAINST EPA OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL. [KUNM-FM](#) Albuquerque, NM (3/20, 4K) reports that the EPA is “acknowledging the concerns of officials in New Mexico and elsewhere that spring runoff could stir up contaminants left behind by the Gold King Mine spill in southern Colorado.” EPA Regional Administrator Ron Curry “wrote in a letter to the state’s congressional delegation that the federal agency is providing \$2 million for long-term monitoring and planning.” Curry also “confirmed the agency is reviewing the state’s most recent request to be reimbursed \$1.5 million for expenses related to the August 2015 spill.” However, “that will not dissuade state officials from pursuing a lawsuit against EPA.” Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn said “he wants to see a long-term monitoring program and that’s the biggest stumbling block right now.”

ALASKA LOSES BID FOR EASEMENTS ALONG HISTORIC TRAILS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/18, 2K) reports that “in court, the state of Alaska lost its bid for easements along historic trails across Native Allotments near Chicken, in Interior Alaska.” The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals held “in favor of the U.S. Department of Interior, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Native allotment owners Agnes and Anne Purdy.”

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PROJECTS. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/20, 37K) reports that “federal and state agencies recently announced available funding for enhancing sage grouse habitat in Montana.” The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service is “offering funding to private landowners for reducing the encroachment of conifers in sage grouse habitat.” The state of Montana is also “offering funding to conservation agencies and organizations for projects benefiting sage grouse through the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team.”

SEN. MURKOWSKI LOOKS TO ADDRESS PUERTO RICO’S ENERGY PROBLEMS. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Commerce Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski said “she was looking for ways to address the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico’s long-standing energy problems.” She said, “The fact of the matter is, their energy answer right now, it’s not sustainable for them as an island.” The article notes that “one major issue is the island’s heavy reliance on importing oil for electricity, which continues to be wildly expensive despite the recent drop in prices.”

REP. JONES MOVES TO BLOCK PORN ON FEDERAL COMPUTERS. In its “Floor Action” blog, [The Hill](#) (3/19, Hellmann, 862K) reports that Rep. Walter Jones is “leading a crusade to stop federal employees from watching and downloading porn on government equipment while at work.” Jones “sent a letter to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers asking that future appropriations bills include language ensuring that computer networks funded by the government block the viewing, downloading and exchanging of porn.” The article notes that “in an appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016, some federal agencies were blocked from watching porn, but not all.” According to Jones, “language in the bill requires that computer networks funded by the government block the viewing, downloading and exchanging of porn, but while it covers several divisions of government, it left out divisions that include the EPA, SEC and Department of Interior, agencies that have all seen issues with employees surfing porn at work.”

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES CALL FOR BREAKUP OF FEDERAL LAND. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, 1.99M) reports that “lost amid the shouting and relentless political attacks, the remaining Republican presidential candidates have found at least one area of agreement: the call for the federal government to relinquish its claim to the gigantic public wilderness of the West, a mostly contiguous patchwork nearly four times the size of Texas.”

STUDIES FIND PAY DROPS IN FIELDS WHERE FEMALES ENTER. The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Miller, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reported on a Cornell University study that finds the single largest cause of the gender pay gap is “the difference between the occupations and industries” in which men and women work, and on a University of Haifa study that found that pay declines when women enter a field due to gender bias that work by women is less valuable. The latter study found that when the field of park recreation went from predominantly male to female, median hourly wages declined 57 percentage points, but that the reverse was true when jobs went from female to male, as it did with computer programming.

AP ANALYSIS: ADMINISTRATION SETS RECORD FOR FAILURES TO FIND FILES. An [AP](#) (3/18, Bridis, Gillum) analysis of government data revealed the Administration “set a record for the number of times its federal

employees told disappointed citizens, journalists and others that despite searching they couldn't find a single page requested under the Freedom of Information Act." The AP claims "in more than one in six cases, or 129,825 times, government searchers said they came up empty-handed last year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS PALMER BAYOU BOARDWALK

DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication of the new Palmer Bayou Boardwalk in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [Cleveland \(TX\) Advocate](#) (3/18, 73K), the [Eastex \(TX\) Advocate](#) (3/20), and [AmmoLand](#) (3/20, 9K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR DELISTED. Additional coverage of the decision to delist the Louisiana black bear was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, McConnaughey, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, McConnaughey, 285K), and [KLFY-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (3/20, 39K).

INTERIOR URGED TO END COAL'S SELF-BONDING "SCAM". In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M) says that Sen. Maria Cantwell is asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "to protect taxpayers from a long-standing scam in federal legislation that lets coal companies avoid their duty to clean up the lucrative mess they have made." The paper urges the Obama Administration to "support a prohibition on any new self-bonds for coal-mining reclamation going forward." It concludes: "end this scam available to the coal industry."

In an op-ed for the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, 616K), Howard A. Leamer, executive director, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Chicago, writes that "the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is allowing Peabody Energy to potentially stick Indiana taxpayers with the company's \$163 million of mine reclamation costs." He argues Indiana officials to "heed the warning signals and act quickly to require Peabody to purchase surety bonds or otherwise provide necessary funds to provide for its mine reclamation responsibilities before it is too late."

UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL URGED TO LOOK AT LAWSUIT OVER FEDERAL LANDS RATIONALLY.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) editorializes that "the campaign to take control of federal land within Utah's borders is now in the province of Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, who is charged with deciding whether to proceed with an expensive lawsuit against the federal government to compel the transfer of more than 30 million acres." The paper says that "in approaching that decision, Reyes is duty-bound to act objectively, cautiously and sensibly to offer his client the best legal advice, regardless of which direction the political winds would tend to push him." According to the editorial, "from the start, the lands transfer campaign has been steeped in anti-federal sentiment, and whether it represents sound economic policy has been something of a secondary consideration." It concludes that "the primary consideration now is whether it reasonably can be accomplished through lengthy litigation, a question the attorney general needs to approach with the sober eye of a prudent lawyer."

OP-ED: EMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS OPPOSE PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE. In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K), artist and author Jonathan Bailey writes that "to rural Utah residents, Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative is seen as 'shortsighted.'" he claims that "the sentiment from Emery County residents is clear. Not only are they concerned about the impacts but they are overwhelmingly skeptical of any economic benefits."

DRABELLE REVIEWS "RIGHTFUL HERITAGE" BY DOUGLAS BRINKLEY. In a [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Drabelle, 8.98M) piece, Dennis Drabelle reviews the book "Rightful Heritage" by Douglas Brinkley on president Franklin D. Roosevelt, whom he calls "a tree-hugger from way back" who incorporated major landscapes of the early United States into its national park and wildlife systems. Drabelle says that Brinkley "is good at showing how strands of Roosevelt's life united to shape approaches to preservation that other presidents might have missed" and demonstrates the work and legacy of the former president as a conservationist.

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES HAVE GAINED ALMOST 400,000 ACRES UNDER OBAMA

ADMINISTRATION. The [AP](#) (3/20, Marcelo, Press, 1.99M) reports that "Native American tribes have been steadily gaining lands under President Barack Obama's administration." According to data from the BIA, "nearly 400,000 acres have been placed into trust for tribes since Obama took office in 2009." Obama has "pledged to place a total of 500,000 acres into trust for tribes before his tenure ends."

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (3/20, 4M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/20, Marcelo, 881K), the

[Olympian \(WA\)](#) (3/20, 76K), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (3/20, 534K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/20, Philip Marcelo |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, Marcelo, 285K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/20, 4.92M).

BILL TACKLES DAM MAINTENANCE BACKLOG IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that “dams are the latest outstanding infrastructure problem in Native American communities that Senate Indian Affairs Chairman John Barrasso wants to tackle.” Barrasso and Sen. John McCain introduced the “Dam Repairs and Improvements for Tribes (DRIFT) Act” last week “in hopes of fixing dams and improving flood prevention across Indian Country.” S. 2717 would “establish a revenue stream to clear more than \$500 million in deferred maintenance costs at tribal dams over the next 20 years.” The measure would also “create a tribal flood mitigation program within the Department of the Interior.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (3/20, 22K).

SEN. MCCAIN PUSHES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT. [Cronkite News](#) (3/18) reports that “tribal leaders were noncommittal Friday about a proposal that would divert Bureau of Indian Education funds into education savings accounts that individual Native American children could use to attend schools of their choosing.” Sen. John McCain said “he introduced the Native American Education Opportunity Act because BIE schools have ‘absolutely failed’ students, contributing to high unemployment and substance abuse – issues that have ‘plagued the Native American population.’” The measure would “create education savings accounts that could be used toward covering the cost of private schools, books, tutors and other educational needs for tribal youth.”

COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS OVER COWLITZ TRIBE’S CASINO. The [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (3/18, 72K) reports that “the Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s bid to build a \$510 million mega-casino will again be tested this week as their case heads to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C.” Last year, the Interior Department “placed 156 acres of property between Ridgefield and La Center into a ‘trust’ for the tribe, in effect creating a reservation.” According to the article, “observers say the outcome could have ripple effects across the nation, especially for tribes trying to establish a reservation or gain federal recognition.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Centralia \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, 903) and the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/18, 94K).

BIA SEEKS TO PREVENT OVERDOSES WITH NALOXENE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, 48K) reports that “cities and counties across the country now allow police and emergency rescue personnel to carry and administer naloxone, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs allows many of its officers to carry naloxone on patrol and many Indian Health Service pharmacies now dispense the drug.” On March 10, the Senate “passed a bill to combat opioid abuse.” The legislation will make naloxone more available.

QUINALT PRESIDENT TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS. The [Seattle Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M) reports that Quinalt Indian Nation President Fawn Sharp “told a congressional committee that the United States is falling short of meeting its treaty obligations and trust responsibilities, citing more than \$4 million the tribe is forced to come up with to supplement inadequate federal funding.” In testimony last Thursday before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Sharp “asked the government to support line-item requests by federal agencies supporting climate-change response and enforcement programs for tribes across the country totaling \$209.6 million as well as \$11.3 million to help support Quinalt Nation programs in salmon-habitat restoration programs and road construction and improvement.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (3/20, 1K).

PII PAASH UUMISH HOSTS “WATERS CONNECT US” ACTIVIST EVENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, Hand, 48K) reported on “The Waters Connect Us” event hosted by Pii Paash Uumish of the Gila River Indian Community in Phoenix, in which “poets, spoken-word artists, musicians, painters” and others paid homage to the late poet and activist John Trudell. Keynote speakers spoke on community empowerment, and attendees helped to strategize “the next steps for the Pii Paash water protection campaign.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO OWNERS OF FOND DU LAC LAND.

Additional coverage that land buy-back offers have been made to 3,200 Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa landowners was provided by the [Pine \(MN\) Journal](#) (3/20, 15K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR APPROVES \$1.8M IN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 641) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina “approved \$1.8 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to the Government of American Samoa from the Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP).” Kia’aina said, “This year’s funding reflects the priorities and needs of the people of American Samoa including self-determination, climate change adaptation, addressing threats to public health, and workforce development both in areas of health and public works. I am particularly pleased that we can support Governor Lolo Moliga, American Samoa’s leadership, and the community in their efforts to advance political status options and climate change adaptation and resiliency initiatives.”

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FOR ROTA MAYOR’S OFFICE PARKING LOT PAVING PROJECT. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/20) reports that “a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Rota Mayor’s Office parking lot paving project.” Funded by the Interior Department through the Office of Insular Affairs, “the project has been contracted to Pacific Cooperation in the amount of \$187,145 and is to be completed by 180 calendar days.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR, EPA, PARTNER WITH WESTERN WATER DISTRICTS ON INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. [WaterWorld](#) (3/20, 96) reports that “three of the West’s largest municipal water agencies have partnered with federal agencies to kick off the latest round of an expanded competitive grant program aimed at discovering the next generation of water-saving devices and technologies.” According to the article, “for the first time,” the EPA is participating with the BOR “as well as the Central Arizona Project, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Southern Nevada Water Authority in the Innovative Conservation Program.” BOR’s Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp said, “These kinds of successful programs with our partners are an important tool in Reclamation’s Colorado River water management responsibilities as we face the effects of years of drought and the influences of climate variability.”

BOR CATCHES RARE, WHITE STURGEON AT KLAMATH FALLS RESERVOIR. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the BOR caught a “massive white sturgeon” on “Monday morning at the mouth of the Link River where it empties into Lake Ewauna.” According to Jared Bottcher, fish biologist for the BOR, “sturgeon were planted in Upper Klamath Lake in the late 1950s.” The article says that “sturgeon have been found in Upper Klamath Lake and other places, but not in Lake Ewauna.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/18, 94K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, O’Brien, 285K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M), and [KOBI-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (3/20).

JUDGE TO HEAR CASE ABOUT WATER MANAGEMENT IN UPPER DESCHUTES. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/20, 2K) reports that “a federal judge in Eugene will hear a case Tuesday about water management in the Upper Deschutes River.” Jim McCarthy with WaterWatch of Oregon says his group “opted to file a lawsuit against the Bureau of Reclamation after eight years of trying to collaborate through a collaborative effort called the Habitat Conservation Plan Working Group.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/21, 98K).

UTAH URGES LOCAL OWNERSHIP OF SOME FEDERAL WATER PROJECTS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) reports that “Utah lawmakers are pushing the state’s congressional delegation to pursue the transfer of title on certain federal water projects already paid off by local users.” Rep. Mike McKell “ran and got passed HJR4 in the 2016 legislative session that ended this month, urging title transfer of several Bureau of Reclamation projects that have construction costs paid off by local users, including the canal portion of the Strawberry Valley project and the Moon Lake, Emery County, Sanpete County and Provo River projects.” McKell said, “There certainly is an appetite to see a transfer at this point, but it will take a lot of work and a lot of folks coming together to make sure all their interests are considered. This is not just a Utah issue. There are projects across the nation that have been repaid.”

BOR NAMES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR LOWER COLORADO REGION. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (3/20, 27K) reports that the BOR’s Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp “announced the selection of Jacklynn L. Gould as the region’s new deputy regional director.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. Continuing coverage of the drought in California was provided by [NPR](#) (3/18, 1.81M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/18, Stevens, 4.1M), and the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 279K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN STUDY RELEASED. Additional coverage of the release of the Republican River Basin Study was provided by the [McCook \(NE\) Daily Gazette](#) (3/20, 18K).

DELTA TUNNELS QUESTIONED. The [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (3/20, 35K) editorializes that “for years now, Gov. Jerry Brown has been telling us that he will save the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – the greatest freshwater estuary on this side of the continent – by taking water out of it.” It notes that “among the biggest and most enthusiastic backers is the largest irrigation district in the world, Westlands Water District, and the largest urban water supplier in the world, Metropolitan Water District.” The Securities and Exchange Commission “fined Westlands \$125,000 to settle the charges last week.” The paper asks: “How can we trust anything untruthful Westlands says? How do we keep faith in Westlands’ partners – Metropolitan and Brown?”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY TO HOST FORUM ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY. [Shore News Today](#) (NJ) (3/20) reports that Stockton University will “host a forum Tuesday, March 29 to discuss New Jersey’s potential to harbor an offshore wind energy industry.” Walter Cruickshank, deputy director of the BOEM, is the keynote speaker. At the end of 2015, the BOEM “sold two leases of nearly 344,000 acres for offshore wind energy development in New Jersey waters to RES America Developments Inc. and U.S. Wind Inc.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US OPENS UP NEW YORK COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BORM “took another step toward boosting ocean windpower by identifying an 8,130 acre wind area energy south of Long Island, New York” was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/18, 506), [Renewable Energy World](#) (3/20, 2K), [Windtech International](#) (3/20), and [Clean Technology Business Review](#) (3/20).

Onshore Energy Development:

CONSERVATIONISTS CHALLENGE BLM OVER FOSSIL FUEL PLANS. [Courthouse News](#) (3/18, 7K) reports that “the federal government has fast-tracked approval of a dramatic escalation of mining and drilling activity on 6.6 million acres of virgin land in Montana and Wyoming, conservationists claim in court.” According to the article, “in a complaint filed Tuesday in the Great Falls, Mont. Federal Court, the Western Organization of Resource Councils and others claim the Bureau of Land Management failed to exercise appropriate due diligence before approving resource management plans allowing for 18,000 new oil and gas well in the two states, as well as the mining of more than 100 billion tons of coal.” The plaintiffs contend that “by doing so that agency failed to adequately consider the affects of fossil fuel production on the environment.”

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE OPPOSES DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/19, 48K) reports that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is “trying to stop” the \$3.4 billion Dakota Access Pipeline. According to the article, “while the pipeline would not technically run directly through the Standing Rock Reservation, it would cross the Missouri River only a few hundred feet upstream from Standing Rock’s border, less than a mile from the community of Cannon Ball.” Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault has “already met with and garnered support from officials in Washington representing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.”

BANKS CUTTING FINANCING TO COAL INDUSTRY. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports JPMorgan Chase joined Bank of America, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley as big banks that are, “in one way or another, backing away from coal.” Some banks say its in order to address climate change, but bankers also reportedly say that lending to coal companies “is too risky and could ultimately prove unprofitable.” The Times adds that even “more daring investors like hedge funds and private equity firms, which are usually eager to pounce on industries in distress,” are distancing themselves from coal because of the industry’s uncertain future.

OIL DRILLING TO BEGIN IN “VAST, UNSPOILED SWEEP” OF NEVADA. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/21, Brean, 479K) reports that the US Bureau of Land Management approved Makoil Inc. to drill in “a vast, unspoiled sweep” of Nevada in the Basin and Range National Monument, recognizing existing, valid drilling rights. Nevada Minerals Division Deputy Administrator Mike Visser said “The area encompassed by the national monument has seen oil exploration in the past,” but only one of six wells reported oil and gas production and none are operating today. If Makoil does find oil, the company “will need to generate electricity on site to run its production operation,” given that the area’s protected status “prohibits new power lines from being built across the monument.”

OREGON FIRST STATE TO BAN COAL IN POWER SECTOR. [Newsweek](#) (3/20, 693K) reports that last Friday, “Oregon became the first state to ban coal outright, passing a bill that will phase out any electricity generated by coal by 2035.” The case of Oregon is a “unique one” and it is “far from clear” whether other states will follow suit. Dave Robertson of Portland General Electric said that, “utilities are really coming to grips with how they need to adapt to a changing climate” and no new coal plants are planned in the US.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: LOCAL PROTESTS AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS SEEK GLOBAL RESULTS. A 1237-word [New York Times](#) (3/19, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis reported on recent opposition by environmental activists against what the article calls “Keystone-ization,” or all “new oil, gas, and coal infrastructure projects.” As part of this, the article indicated that this activism “combines traditional not-in-my-backyard protests against fossil-fuel projects with an overarching concern about climate change.” Speaking to one protester, Colby Shultz, at the March 7 protest at a natural gas plant, he said, “There’s a climate emergency happening ... It’s a life-or-death struggle.” The article provided in depth coverage of some of these protests and protest tactics, and also mentioned that following a July “kayaktivist” blockade in Portland, Oregon to keep Shell’s Arctic drilling rigs from departing the port, the City Council “passed a resolution opposing the expansion of facilities for the storage and transportation of fossil fuels.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUP SAYS COAL COMPANIES RELY HEAVILY ON PUBLIC LANDS. Additional coverage that “the three biggest coal mining companies in the United States depend on federal coal for the vast majority of coal they mine each year,” according to Greenpeace, was provided by [CleanTechnica](#) (3/18, 18K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR RECLAIM ACT. In an op-ed for the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20), attorney Jack Kennedy commends Rep. Hal Rogers for introducing the RECLAIM Act. He argues that “we owe our miners and their families a heartfelt debt of gratitude for generations of their sacrifice and hard work.” Kennedy concludes: “By thinking creatively about how existing federal programs can be used, Rogers and his colleagues have proposed a ‘low-hanging fruit’ option that could immediately infuse the region with capital to address environmental concerns while rebuilding a diverse and sustainable economy complete with high-tech energy jobs of the 21st century.”

The piece also appears at the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, 337K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION’S COAL REGULATIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 917), Terry Jarrett, an energy attorney and consultant, and is a former commissioner of the Missouri Public Service Commission, criticizes the Obama Administration’s coal regulations. He notes that the Interior Department “recently proposed a complete overhaul of coal mining regulations, largely replacing environmental oversight by the states with a massive new set of federal rules so broad as to potentially render more than half of U.S. coal reserves off-limits.” Also, “even though states have demonstrated considerable success in policing their respective mining sectors, the ‘Stream Protection Rule’ (SPR) proposed by the Obama Administration has morphed into a staggering expansion of regulatory controls that, if fully implemented, could eliminate up to 280,000 jobs tied to the coal sector.” Jarrett warns that these “proposals would result in higher electricity costs.”

The piece also appears at the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/18, 472K).

FORMER BLM STATE DIRECTORS: BLM MUST ASSESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL. In a [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) op-ed, former BLM state directors Ann J. Morgan and Larry Hamilton wrote “BLM’s coal leasing program needs to change” because of both financial markets and concerns for climate change, citing statements by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell that the BLM has “an obligation to current and future generations” to ensure the federal coal program “takes into account its impacts on climate change.” Morgan and Hamilton call for the BLM to do “a comprehensive environmental analysis” that includes “the full

impact of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases associated with coal production on public land.”

EDITORIAL: COAL A PART OF ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY POLICY. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/20, 479K) editorializes in response to remarks by Hillary Clinton that her energy policy would harm coal firms and jobs, that coal “is a vital part of a clean, affordable and convenient energy mix.” Despite safety and environmental advances, “this era of environmental hysteria has seen the fossil fuel and nuclear power industries become unfair targets of propaganda, politics and misinformation.” The Review-Journal writes that “it’s time to dial down completely unnecessary regulations and get behind a truly all-of-the-above energy policy.”

CAMPION PRAISES ADMINISTRATION’S “BOLD ACTION” ON NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY. In a [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/18, 47K) op-ed, EnergyWorks CEO Douglas Campion wrote that “impacts of climate change and outdated natural resources policies” demand “a new way of thinking,” and said that President Obama’s energy policies are the “bold actions” needed to innovate the economy. Campion praised the planned review of the federal coal leasing program, natural gas reforms by the Department of Interior, and the establishment of new monuments as steps to preserve resources for future generations.

Offshore Energy Development:

NASA TO ADVISE BSEE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING RISK REDUCTION. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the BSEE and NASA are “embarking on a five-year partnership to improve offshore risk management.” Under the agreement, NASA will “share its probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) technique, technology evaluation processes, and failure and near-miss assessments. BSEE reached out to NASA because of the agency’s specialization in designing innovative technology for unconventional environments.” BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, “Both BSEE and NASA work in harsh and uncompromising environments, relying on cutting edge technology to go deeper and further than previously thought possible. This partnership brings together technical experts from BSEE and NASA to focus on the specific risks associated with offshore operations so that we can continue to find ways to improve safety for offshore workers and protect the environment.”

Additional coverage was provided by [World Oil](#) (3/20).

REP. HUDSON INTRODUCES BILL ALLOWING LEASING OFF NC COAST. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Yehle, Subscription Publication) reported that Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) last week introduced HR 4749, which would direct the Interior secretary to hold one lease sale off the coast of North Carolina every five years. While the bill is “unlikely to go far,” it “reflects Republican frustration with the administration’s surprise decision this week to take the Atlantic out of its five-year leasing plan.”

ALABAMA BEGINS WORK ON HOTEL USING BP MONEY FROM SEPARATE FUND. The AP (3/18, Reeves) reported that Alabama has begun construction on a multimillion-dollar hotel and conference center at Gulf State Park funded in part by money from the BP oil spill. Construction has begun “just weeks after a federal judge blocked the state from paying for the work with money from BP, the director of the project, Cooper Shattuck, said Thursday.” According to Shattuck, the project is legal because it is funded from a different source of BP money, not the one blocked by the judge. The Gulf Restoration Network, which sued over the project, “conceded that the funding mechanism is legal but called the move disappointing nonetheless.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. Additional coverage of the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 was provided by the [Coastal Point \(DE\)](#) (3/20), the [Sumter \(SC\) The Item](#) (3/20, 55K), the [Robesonian \(NC\)](#) (3/20, 41K), the [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (3/21, 148K), the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (3/20, 24K), the [Lynchburg \(VA\) News & Advance](#) (3/20, 92K), the [Ketchikan \(AK\) SitNews](#) (3/19), the [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (3/20, 236K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, 337K), the [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (3/20, 155K), the [Greenwood \(SC\) Index-Journal](#) (3/20, 35K), [Environment News Service](#) (3/17, 247), and [PoliticusUSA](#) (3/19, 34K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM DEVELOPING NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING AIR STANDARDS. Additional coverage of the “proposed updated air quality regulations that will more accurately account for emissions from offshore oil and gas activity” was provided by [World Oil](#) (3/20), [Rigzone](#) (3/20, 8K), and [Splash 24/7 \(SGP\)](#) (3/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NOBEL LAUREATES URGE ARCTIC COUNCIL TO CEASE DRILLING. Additional coverage that “six female Nobel laureates” have “urged Arctic countries to put a stop to drilling in the

region" was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/18, 211K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS IN CLEAN UP OF NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 211K) reports that "the federal government is fixing an environmental mess it left decades ago in the nation's largest oil reserve, removing rusting relics from an early era of exploration and providing a small counterweight of new jobs to the huge cutbacks on the North Slope oil patch." According to the article, "the progress was highlighted Tuesday with a ceremonial plugging of a decades-old well in the giant National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska." BLM Director Neil Komze "poured a bucket of cement mix into an 8-inch-wide pipe, helping plug a well drilled in 1951 near the frozen U.S. Arctic Ocean."

BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ADVISORY COUNCILS. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (3/20, 32K) reports that the BLM is "seeking public nominations for open positions on 34 resource advisory councils, which advise the BLM on public land issues." The bureau's Northwest and Southwest Colorado districts are "seeking public nominations for 10 open positions on their Resource Advisory Councils." BLM Director Neil Komze said, "The BLM resource advisory councils are an important forum for the community conversation that is a key component of public land management. With representatives with different land use perspectives, the RACs give community members an opportunity to dig into local issues and explore possible solutions."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/18, 47K), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (3/20, 1K), and [KMVT-TV Twin Falls \(ID\)](#) Twin Falls, ID (3/20, 1K).

"MR. SAGEBRUSH REBELLION" BANKROLLS PUSH TO SEIZE FEDERAL LAND. [Greenwire](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Bert Smith, who calls himself "Mr. Sagebrush Rebellion" has "quietly bankrolled a bevy of groups challenging the federal government's ownership of roughly 640 million acres of Western lands." According to the article, "the World War II veteran and ranch owner was a key leader in the 1970s push by ranchers and counties to defy Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land control." The article mentions that Smith calls jailed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy a "hero." The Ogden, Utah, resident

BLM RANGER JAILED UNDER QUESTIONABLE PRETENSES. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/21, 74K) reports that "in early December, a Bureau of Land Management ranger at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, in southern Utah, had a casual office conversation with a colleague about his frustration with how a holiday party was disrupting his day's work." Then, "two days later, he was in a Garfield County jail cell, purportedly for what he had said." The ranger, Jeff Ellison, was in his second year working with the bureau. According to the article, "whether Ellison's arrest was a form of intimidation or a simple misunderstanding is not yet clear."

DORENA GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER TRYING TO FIGHT PATHOGENS THAT KILLS SOME PINES AND CEDARS. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/21, 194K) reports that the Dorena Genetic Resource Center "collects the seeds and nurtures them into seedlings in the hopes of identifying those most resistant to disease, in particular two specific pathogens that have wreaked havoc among certain pines and a type of cedar." According to the article, "when the center periodically succeeds in cultivating disease-resistant seedlings, it gives them to U.S. Forest Service nurseries for eventual planting in the wild."

BLM SETS DATES FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTIONS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the BLM says "it will hold its wild horse and burro adoption events in May and September."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REP. CHAFFETZ SEEKS MORE INFORMATION ON BLM, FOREST SERVICE BONUSES. Additional coverage of the letter sent to the BLM seeking information on employee awards or bonuses was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/20, Davidson, 8.98M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM SEEKS TO REHABILITATE LAND AFTER SODA FIRE. Additional coverage of the rehabilitation efforts after the Soda Fire was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/19, Wiley, 285K) and the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/20, 51K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUNDY'S CATTLE POSES PROBLEM. Additional coverage of the quandary

posed by jailed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's cattle was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/21, 74K).

MINNESOTANS DISCUSS REGULATORY PROCESS FOR TWIN METALS COPPER-NICKEL MINE. In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/20, 1.25M) says the editorial board has "long held serious doubts that copper mining can be done responsibly at the Twin Metals site." However, just days after PolyMet, the state's first copper-nickel proposal, had its environmental-impact state called "adequate" following after a 10-year, state-driven review, moves made by Gov. Mark Dayton and the Bureau of Land Management to block the Twin Metals copper-nickel mine "raises serious questions about whether the mine review process is sufficiently insulated from politics." BLM could rule against automatically renewing Twin Metals' leases on thousands of acres of federal land, "a sign that officials may be weighing a protective zone on federal land around" Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Dayton also made a "personal call to the BLM's director to object to mining so close to the federally protected wilderness." The Star Tribune still opposes the Twin Metals mine, but hopes the "current science-based environmental-review process" should provide a sufficient, transparent ruling.

In the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune's](#) (3/20, 139K) "Reader's View" section, Becky Rom, national chairwoman for the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, praises the newspaper for "covering the threat of proposed sulfide-ore mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed." She also clarifies a point made in an March 17 editorial, saying the Department of Interior staff "has not been unresponsive to our request to withdraw federal minerals within the Boundary Waters watershed." The department has indicated it has received the request, and BLM "deserves credit for taking steps to ensure Twin Metals' expired leases receive a fair and full environmental review before any determination is made about whether they will be renewed." She is optimistic BLM will grant her request.

PUBLIC LAND GRAZING SAVES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$750 MILLION PER YEAR. In [The Hill's](#) (3/18, Richards, 862K) "Congress Blog," Brenda Richards, president of the Public Lands Council and an Idaho rancher, discusses the importance of public land ranching. Ranchers contribute to the nation's food supply and perform maintenance on the government land they lease. Richards writes that if you consider the costs of land maintenance, public land ranchers "ultimately save the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) more than \$750 million in taxpayer dollars each year." It costs the BLM \$5 per acre for necessary land maintenance on public lands, while it only costs the agency \$2 per acre "for land that's allotted for grazing since the ranger makes such a significant investment in maintaining the land for the government." Richards says public land ranchers "are able to turn an otherwise unusable natural resource into healthy, free-range, high-quality protein while reducing the land management burden and budget demands of our federal government."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS HANDS OUT BOATING GRANTS. [Trade Only](#) (3/20) reports that the FWS has "announced nearly \$14 million in grants to 32 states, commonwealths and territories for projects to support recreational boating through the service's Boating Infrastructure Grant program." FWS Director Dan Ashe said in a statement, "Our recreational boats and boat docks share the water with fish and wildlife species critical to our ecology and economy," service. "In the same way good hunting practices and land stewardship benefit terrestrial wildlife, boating facilities can benefit aquatic species by keeping waterways clean and driving revenues to state wildlife agencies through fishing that can be placed back into conservation. It's a cycle of success. Not only do these grants help to create safe and improved recreational boating facilities and provide improved access to boating and fishing opportunities — they put people to work."

HOUSE PANEL BLASTS FWS' REFUSAL TO USE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS AND REPORTING SYSTEM. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS "refuses to use a multimillion-dollar law enforcement records system that the Interior Department has spent more than a decade developing." The House Natural Resources Committee "highlighted the standoff at a hearing" last week of its Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. According to the article, "both Republicans and Democrats criticized Interior's handling of the database, which is meant to be a department wide repository for criminal investigations."

FWS PETITIONED TO PROTECT BLACK BEARS AS ENDANGERED SPECIES. [Greenwire](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "nearly 20 conservation groups and a half dozen scientists" last week called on the FWS to protect the Florida black bear under the Endangered Species Act. In a petition to agency, "the coalition argued that Florida's largest land mammal is at risk from habitat loss, vehicles and state-

sanctioned hunts." The groups want FWS "to add the species to the threatened or endangered species list and to set aside critical habitat, in which developments undertaken or permitted by the federal government should alleviate threats to bears."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (3/17, 712K).

RESTORATION ON TISHOMINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO BEGIN. The AP (3/20, 51K) reports that the FWS says "it will begin restoring the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge damaged by torrential rains last May and June." According to the article, "the heavy rains caused widespread flooding throughout Texas and Oklahoma, affecting nine national wildlife refuges and a national fish hatchery in both states." The Tishomingo refuge was hit with "the most extensive damage in Oklahoma, with about 85 percent of the refuge underwater for nearly three months."

WORK ON WEST FORK RIVER DAM REMOVAL PROJECT TO BEGIN MONDAY. The AP (3/18, 285K) reports that "the removal of the first of three Clarksburg Water Board dams on the West Fork River is set to start next week, officials said." According to FWS Coordinator Callie McMunigal, "a contractor will start moving in heavy equipment Monday at the West Milford Dam." McMunigal said "the dam's removal should take about three weeks, at which time workers will then proceed to remove the Two-Lick Dam, followed by the Highland Dam."

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SET TO START IN PRIME HOOK WILDLIFE REFUGE. The AP (3/21, Press, 8.98M) reports that "road crews are set to begin work on a project aimed at alleviating flooding problems on the main road running through the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge." Gov. Jack Markell and Sen. Tom Carper were "among the guests scheduled to attend a ground breaking ceremony Monday for bridge construction and road improvements on Prime Hook Road." According to the article, "the construction project includes a concrete-girder bridge on piles that will cross a new drainage channel being built by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER MAY LOSE ITS ENDANGERED CLASSIFICATION. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/20, 290K) reports that the FWS "last week published a finding indicating that there was 'substantial information' that the Southwestern willow flycatcher is not a subspecies, the designation under which it was classified as endangered in 1995." According to the article, "the findings published in the National Register on Wednesday indicate that delisting the bird may be warranted 'based on information related to taxonomic status.'" Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, "We're still determining our way forward on resolving that question and are seeking information on the subspecies' classification and genetics."

AERIAL GUNNING REDUCES WYOMING WOLF PACK THAT KILLED CATTLE. The AP (3/18, 285K) reports that "wildlife managers have killed five wolves from a large pack that had been killing yearling cattle in western Wyoming." According to the article, "the Dell Creek Pack numbered as many as 16 animals and repeatedly killed cows grazing on private rangeland in the Hoback River Basin southeast of Jackson this winter." FWS Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Coordinator Mike Jimenez says that the "Dell Creek Pack hadn't started killing livestock until this winter."

FOUR BALD EAGLES DIE IN DELAWARE. The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Weil, 8.98M) reports that "four bald eagles died over the weekend in Delaware after being found about 30 miles from where 13 eagles were found dead last month in Maryland." According to the article, "the causes of the deaths were not known."

NARWHAL IVORY SMUGGLER EXTRADITED TO US FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TRIAL. [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, 442K) reports that "a former member of Canada's federal police force was extradited to the United States on March 11 and is being held in custody until his trial in May on charges of money laundering from a \$2-million operation to smuggle ivory from narwhal between the two countries." In an announcement of Gregory R. Logan's extradition, Ed Grace, deputy chief of law enforcement for the FWS, said, "Modern wildlife crime investigations often track money as much as they track animals. This case shows the breadth of the illegal wildlife trade, normally associated with elephant ivory and rhino horn. Even species of the deep polar waters are not safe until we extinguish the market for protected animals and with it, the livelihood of criminal profiteers who benefit from their exploitation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MILITARY POSTPONES TORTOISE RELOCATION PLAN. Additional coverage that "the Marine Corps base at Twenty-Nine Palms said Friday it had postponed plans to move 1,185 tortoises off prospective combat training grounds until wildlife agencies can determine whether the plan complies with the Endangered Species Act" was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/19, Sahagun, 4.1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO RAISE WHOOPING CRANES. Additional coverage of the effort to raise whooping cranes was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (3/18, McConnaughey, 285K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ALBATROSS GIVES BIRTH AT 65. Additional coverage that Wisdom, “a Laysan albatross named Wisdom – she’s at least 65 years old – became a mother again last month” was provided by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20).

FWS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RECOGNIZED. In an editorial, the [Key West \(FL\) Keynoter](#) (3/18, 28K) congratulates Jared Brierley, a FWS law enforcement officer, who has been named the 2015 James A. Clark Officer of the Year for the southeast region. Brierley “received his award this month at a training session in Mississippi and was recognized for his leadership in ‘resource law enforcement,’ cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and his professional demeanor.”

National Park Service:

BING PARTNERS WITH NPS FOR #FINDYOURPARK PHOTO CONTEST. [Search Engine Land](#) (3/20, 11K) reports that “Bing has partnered with the US National Park Service for the organization’s centennial celebrations and is hosting a #FindYourPark photo contest to help promote the US’s 59 national parks.” According to the article, “the grand prize winner’s photo will be featured on Bing’s home page during National Park Week and will serve as the cover photo on Bing’s Facebook and Twitter pages for all of April in honor of Earth Month.”

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by [CBS News](#) (3/20, 3.97M), [NPR](#) (3/19, 1.81M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/20, 1.25M), the [Poughkeepsie \(NY\) Journal](#) (3/18, 113K), and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (3/18, Leadbeater, 929K).

YOSEMITE FIGHT OVER NAMES ESCALATES AS NPS PUSHES TO CANCEL TRADEMARKS. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has “opened up a new front in the fight over the names of historic hotels and other beloved landmarks at Yosemite National Park.” The park service has “asked a federal trademark board to cancel trademarks obtained by the company that previously ran the park’s hotels, restaurants and outdoor activities.” Attorneys for the U.S. Department of the Interior told the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board that the trademark registrations were causing “damage and injury” to the NPS.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Kaplan, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/19, Press, 8.98M), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (3/21, Press, 251K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 569K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, 1.1M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/19, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, 285K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, 3.37M), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (3/20, 333K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/20, 4.92M), [Skift](#) (3/19), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/21, 6.31M), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/20, 352K), and [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (3/20, 104K).

INTERIOR SUPPORTS BILL TO INCLUDE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE IN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department was “largely supportive of nearly two dozen bills under consideration” last week in the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. According to the article, “the most controversial bill that Peggy O’Dell, the National Park Service’s deputy director for operations, gave the administration’s blessing to was S. 1975, a bill from Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a unit of the national park system.” Mikulski’s bill is “co-sponsored by over half of the 20 women in the Senate, including Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the full committee.” However, “Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), the chairman of the subcommittee, pressed O’Dell on how much the legislation could cost the Park Service, which is already struggling to pay down a nearly \$11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog.”

CHERRY BLOSSOMS CLOSE TO PEAK BLOOM. In its “Capital Weather Gang” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Fritz, 8.98M) reports that the cherry blossom trees in DC “reached the peduncle-elongation stage on Thursday,” the NPS said. According to the article, “that means we’re just days away from peak bloom.” However, “cold weather” over the weekend will “at least delay peak bloom.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (3/18, 9.42M), [ABC News](#) (3/20, 4M), [USA Today](#) (3/18, Baskas, 5.45M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/19, Smith, 8.98M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/18, Thomson, 8.98M).

FAA Reminds Cherry Blossom Festival Attendees To Leave Drones At Home. The [Washington Post](#) (3/18,

Halsey III, 8.98M) reports in its "Dr. Gridlock" blog the Federal Aviation Administration issued a news release Friday to remind attendees that the "cherry blossom festival is a no-drone zone." The reason is that the area is "within a 15-mile radius of Reagan National Airport," and the District of Columbia's airspace "is the most restricted flight zone in the country." [WTOP-FM Washington](#) (3/19, Keyes, 255K) reports the FAA issued a video in which it "warned people to leave their drones at home." [DCist](#) (3/19, Sturdivant, 39K) also reports the warning.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT DISMANTLES RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE.

[National Parks Traveler](#) (3/20, 989) reports that Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga, "acting in the wake of a tide of sexual harassment complaints, has dismantled the River District Office where the grievances arose." Uberuaga, "in an email to all his employees, wrote that he takes 'full responsibility for the situation the park finds itself in and I acknowledge and accept that over time, a culture was tolerated that allowed sexual harassment and created a hostile work environment.'" The article notes that "that email, sent Wednesday, came a day after National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis sent an email to all Park Service employees stating that 'no employee has the right or the power by nature of their position to inflict their will or to subject co-workers, regardless of their status, to abuse.'"

Additional coverage of the complaints of sexual harassment was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, 518K).

FIRED PARK POLICE CHIEF RETURNING TO FORMER POSITION. [WAMU-FM Washington](#) (3/20, 30K) reports that "a U.S. Park Police chief who was fired in 2004 after complaining publicly that her department was understaffed and underfunded is officially returning to her former position Monday." Teresa Chambers was "suspended in December 2003 and fired the following July." The Interior Department said "it was due to insubordination and failure to follow the chain of command." According to the article, "earlier this month, a federal board ordered that Chambers be reinstated, saying she's entitled to back pay, interest, and other benefits."

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR CARLSBAD CAVERNS ELEVATOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park has "awarded a contract for overdue repair work to its elevators." Park officials announced last Friday that "the contract, worth more than \$235,000, will go to a company based in Illinois." Supplied Industrial Solutions will "start the work April 11 with a deadline of Memorial Day weekend, one of the park's busiest."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES PUBLIC LANDS PARTNER AWARD. The [Sevier \(TN\) News Messenger](#) (3/18) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Great Smoky Mountains Association were "jointly awarded the Public Lands Partner Award, a prestigious national award, during the recent Public Lands Alliance annual convention and trade show in Spokane, WA." Park Superintendent Cassius Cash and GSMA Executive Director Laurel Rematore were "awarded the Public Lands Partner Award, which recognizes an exemplary partnership for its stunning achievement to protect and preserve our country's public lands and enhance the experiences of visitors and users." According to the article, "the 65-year old partnership was singled out for a variety of successful partnership efforts, including unprecedented quantity and quality of visitor services at America's most-visited national park."

BIOLOGISTS DISCOVER NEW MULE DEER MIGRATION ROUTE. The [AP](#) (3/20, 285K) reports that "biologists say they are surprised after finding a new mule deer migration route leading to summer range in Grand Teton National Park that passes over the Teton Range." According to the article, "the rough, rocky 45-mile route took a doe that was being tracked from Colter Bay summer grounds north to a Snake River crossing above Jackson Lake and then west across the northern Tetons near Mount Bery." The article says that "the deer ended up wintering not far from the Teton River southeast of Ashton, Idaho, and researchers want to know if more deer are using that route."

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER REPAIR WORK. The [AP](#) (3/18, 285K) reports that Grand Teton National Park is "recruiting volunteers to help with construction and repairs over the summer." The new Grand Teton Hammer Corps program is "looking for volunteers to help a few days to several weeks." According to park officials, "the corps formalizes volunteer programs that have been going on for years."

HENRICO COUNTY SUBDIVISION LOCATED ON CONFEDERATE FORTS. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, Childers, 337K) reported the Battlefield Park Farms subdivision in Henrico County is located near Fort Harrison, the largest Confederate fort responsible for protecting the city. According to the Times-Dispatch, "the remains of another fort, Fort Hoke, lie along the neighborhood's western boundary." One battle in Sept. 1864 "went right through the East and West Chaffin road areas," according to Robert E. L. Krick, historian for the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Sandra Seelmann, a real estate agent with Varina & Seelmann, said,

"You're literally surrounded by history in Battlefield Park Farms." Elaine Eberly, a real estate agent with Billy Jacobs & Co., added, "The National Park Service owns a great deal of land around the subdivision" which limits the amount of room for development.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BATTLE OVER GRAZING AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed over cattle grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by [National Parks Traveler](#) (3/20, 989).

FRIENDSHIP URN RECALLS GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CUBA. The [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Montgomery, 8.98M) reported that the last time a sitting president visited Cuba was in January 1928, when President Calvin Coolidge was invited to give the opening address at the Pan-American Conference in Havana. Coolidge was met by Cuban President Gerardo Machado and "thousands of people cheered Coolidge's motorcade as it progressed slowly through Old Havana to the presidential palace." According to the National Park Service, Machado gave Coolidge the Cuban Friendship Urn to celebrate his visit. The urn was sculpted from a piece from a broken marble column from a monument to sailors killed on the USS Maine in 1898. The urn was "erected in a rose garden in West Potomac Park." It was later removed to accommodate highway construction, and forgotten. The urn was later found by NPS employees in 1996. It was then restored and rededicated in its current location near the Jefferson Memorial in 1998.

US Geological Survey:

SEISMOLOGIST LUCY JONES RETIRING FROM USGS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 1.99M) reports that "seismologist Lucy Jones, the face of earthquake science and safety in Southern California for many years, is retiring from the U.S. Geological Survey." Jones said "in a Twitter posting Friday that she's leaving federal service but will keep her appointment at the California Institute of Technology, where she is a research associate."

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (3/18, 853K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, 442K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/18, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, 285K), [Maine News Online](#) (3/19), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (3/18, 75K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/18, 6.31M).

STUDY: 70% OF COASTAL NORTHEAST COULD ADAPT TO RISING SEAS. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 195K) reports that "a new study published Monday suggests that up to 70 percent of the coast from Virginia to the Canadian border is actually more likely to shift and change rather than drown" from a rise in the sea level. According to the article, "barrier islands will migrate landward, get carved into dunes or split into inlets, the study says," and "low-lying forests will evolve into salt marshes, and salt marshes will build up and, in some cases, even expand." The new study led by the USGS "offers a more complex model that incorporates the coast's capacity for dynamic change depending on its particular ecosystem — beach, marsh, lagoon, barrier island, forest or developed land."

Top National News:

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTESTERS ARRESTED AHEAD OF OBAMA'S ARRIVAL IN CUBA. Coverage of the President's visit to Cuba, which included reports on all three network newscasts, is mostly favorable toward the White House. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, lead story, 2:50, Miller, 5.08M), for example, described Obama in its lead story as stepping "off Air Force One and into the history books," while the [AP](#) (3/20, Pace, Weissenstein) referred to the trip as "a crowning moment." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, DeYoung, Miroff, Eilperin, 8.98M) calls it an "affirmation" of Obama's "foreign policy vision," [Politico](#) (3/20, Dover, 1.07M) "a metaphor for his foreign policy and a potential glimpse into his post-presidency," and [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) sees it as another example "of what might be called the Obama Doctrine: That engaging with isolated authoritarian regimes can bring about greater prosperity, peace, democracy and human rights." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 12, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), meanwhile, reported Obama's visit "has deep meaning to many ordinary Cubans who until now could only dream of the historic changes unfolding before them," while the [AP](#) (3/20, Weissenstein) highlights the fact that for "hundreds of thousands of black Cubans...Obama isn't just the first US leader to visit their country in nearly nine decades," but rather "a black man whose rise to the world's most powerful job is a source of pride and inspiration."

Nearly all reports, however, include accounts of the continuing political repression in Cuba, and allude to the debate in the US over whether the détente with the Castro regime will or will not lead to political and economic liberalization. One of the toughest assessments of Obama's approach to Cuba came from [Voice of America](#) (3/20, Bowman, 60K), which reported that "supporters and critics of...Obama's history-making trip to

Cuba...agree on one thing: there has been little, if any, progress on basic liberties and human rights on the island since Washington and Havana restored full diplomatic ties." Even at the height of the US political season, however, the coverage casts the debate at home as relatively tame. As the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) concludes in its story on Obama's arrival, headlined "From Cold War To Warm Welcome," the trip "is largely evidence that US-Cuba policy" has "lost its potency as a political issue."

Along similar lines, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, LaFranchi, 442K) said that Obama's Cuba policies, initially "labeled bold and provocative," are "evolving into one of Obama's more bipartisan foreign-policy initiatives." Reporting from Miami, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Marte, 8.98M) highlights the support for Obama's course among younger Cuban Americans. Nonetheless, "more than 200 protesters of all ages gathered in the core of Little Havana, Southwest Eighth Street and 13th Avenue" yesterday, the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Madan, 803K) reports, to rally against Obama's policies.

A number of media reports also note that shortly before the President's arrival in Cuba, and as they have for the last 46 Sundays, the dissident Ladies in White were arrested by police after marching in Havana to demand respect for human rights and the release of all political prisoners. [AFP](#) (3/20) reports that "the arrests are an almost weekly feature and the protesters" were "quickly released," but "the incident was embarrassing ahead of Obama's landmark visit." According to the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Cave, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), yesterday's protest "was widely expected to be a test of Cuba's tolerance for dissent during Mr. Obama's trip," and the arrests "confirmed that the government was maintaining and intensifying its repressive tactics ahead of the visit." Berta Soler, "the head of the Ladies in White, is one of a dozen dissidents invited to meet with Mr. Obama on Tuesday at the United States Embassy," but "other dissidents said...that it was not clear if she would attend because of her opposition to the American president's policy of engagement."

In fact, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, DeYoung, Miroff, Eilperin, 8.98M) reports, "as the Ladies in White began their ill-fated march" yesterday, "several held a banner that read 'Obama: Traveling to Cuba Isn't Fun. No more human rights violations.'" As the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) indicates, Obama "told reporters last month that it would be 'fun' to visit Cuba." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Gomez, 5.45M) notes that Soler told reporters before her arrest, "For us, it's very important that we do this so President Obama knows that there are women here fighting for the liberty of political prisoners. ... And he needs to know that we are here being repressed simply for exercising our right to express ourselves and manifest in a non-violent way."

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported after his arrival, Obama "visited old Havana," where he thanked Cuba's Cardinal Ortega for assisting Pope Francis in helping to broker secret talks between Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro. In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (3/20, lead story, 5:40, Muir, 5.84M) noted Obama will meet with Castro privately during the trip, but will first speak directly to the Cuban people in a televised speech. Cuban citizens will reportedly be watching closely to see if Obama delivers a tough stance against the island's human rights issues. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cave, Robles, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that while "security and control are mainstays of every country Mr. Obama visits," Cuba "has gone above and beyond to prevent embarrassing surprises." In fact, "beyond Mr. Obama's speech on Tuesday, which will be broadcast on national television, it is not even clear how much Cubans will get to see or hear."

The [AP](#) (3/20, Pace, Weissenstein) indicates that Cubans stayed "home in order to avoid extensive closures of main boulevards," and that the Cuban government "didn't appear to be calling out crowds of supporters to welcome Obama, as it has with other visiting dignitaries." [Reuters](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Trotta, Mason, Daniel, 518K) does indicate, however, that there are welcome signs with pictures of Obama and Castro in the area Obama toured last night, and [Politico](#) (3/20, Amsdorf, 1.07M) says that despite the "drizzle that became a heavy rain," Cubans did turn out to see Obama, "standing by the side of the road as the motorcade passed or cheering as they lined the square outside the cathedral, where the president briefly put down his umbrella to shake some hands in the crowd."

[The Hill](#) (3/20, Hellmann, 862K), meanwhile, reports that "Cubans have been preparing for the Obama visit, with plainclothes officers reportedly blanketing the capital of Havana and public works crews laying down asphalt in pothole-laden streets." As the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Parsons, Wilkinson, 4.1M) puts it, the Castro regime "is eager to welcome Obama, but also determined to reassert its own socialist values that it insists will not be bent to US will."

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) notes that "Obama and the first family were greeted at the airport by Cuban delegates bearing flowers." But Raul Castro "was one prominent no-show on the tarmac." On its website, [The Hill](#) (3/20, Hellmann, 862K) noted that taking to Twitter after Obama's arrival in Cuba, Donald Trump wrote,

"Wow, President Obama just landed in Cuba, a big deal, and Raul Castro wasn't even there to greet him. He greeted Pope and others. No respect." Under the headline "In Cuba, Raúl Castro Proves A Pragmatic Communist," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Vyas, Colombia, Muñoz, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) credits the Cuban leader's pragmatism with making improved ties with the US a possibility.

Highlighting the historic nature of the trip, [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) notes Obama arrived in "the same airport the CIA once bombed in the 1960s, and whose broken-down Russian-built airplanes and colorful, antiquated terminals give testimony to the impact of 50 years of US sanctions and diplomatic isolation." The [New York Daily News](#) (3/20, Brown, 3.7M) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, De Córdoba, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), among other news outlets, run similar accounts of Obama's arrival in Havana.

In an interview on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), Jeffrey Delaurentis, US Ambassador to Cuba, says he thinks the newly reopened embassy now stands as a "beacon of hope" and opportunity, and hopes that the new relationship between the two countries can be one "where we can have frank discussion about ideas and issues where we do not agree such as, such as human rights." Delaurentis said he would like to see Cuba move faster to improve on that front, "But I think we have to be patient." He added that he doesn't see re-establishing diplomatic relations as a reward for the country's poor human rights record, and that the US feels "strongly that advocating for and promoting US interests and values can be best achieved through engagement." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) reports that Obama "brings to Havana a variety of diplomatic tools: 11 American CEOs eager to make deals in a newly emerging market; the possibility of further lifting of decades-old restrictions on trade and travel; and even a shared love of baseball."

More pessimistic is the assessment in the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Boyer, 285K), which sees "few expectations that the president's legacy-building visit will improve human rights for Cubans under the repressive military regime of the Castro brothers." To the Times, the "primary goal" of the trip is not political, but rather "to emphasize the economic potential of restoring ties between the US and Cuba." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes White House press secretary Josh Earnest telling reporters on Friday, "By deepening those ties and solidifying our efforts to normalize relations between our two countries, we can bring about the kind of change that we have long sought on the island nation of Cuba, and we can do it in a way that ends up being good for the American people and for the American economy."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (3/20, 5.45M) defends Obama's "much needed...adjustments" to US policies toward Cuba, and urges him to "use his time on the island to speak out on behalf of greater political and economic freedom for the Cuban people." In an accompanying op-ed, Lawrence Haas, a former Bill Clinton aide and currently a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, writes in [USA Today](#) (3/20, Haas, 5.45M) that Obama is "rewarding" the Castro's "bad behavior," and that his trip "will...reward and legitimize a brutal dictatorship" and "send an unfortunate signal to dictators and dissidents alike that the United States doesn't care as much about human rights as it proclaims."

Writing in [Politico Magazine](#) (3/20, Cruz), Sen. Ted Cruz also lambasted Obama's policies toward Cuba, terming them "appeasement of the Castro dictatorship." Their "effect will not be liberalization but rather the institutionalization of the Communist dictatorship as the profits from this détente will line the pockets not only of Fidel and Raul Castro, but also of Raul's son, Alejandro Castro Espin." Adds Cruz, "Corporate cronyism, meet communist totalitarianism."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Doming, 289K) reports that "even with little chance that Congress will end the US trade embargo on Cuba before he leaves office in January, Obama's betting that a rapprochement, symbolized by his historic visit, has now become irrevocable, no matter who succeeds him." Mary Anastasia O'Grady, in her [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, O'Grady, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) column, casts the trip as a White House PR effort to pressure Congress to end the embargo, and urges lawmakers to keep it in place until the Castros move toward political and economic liberalization.

[TIME](#) (3/20, Rhodan, 18.01M) reported on its site that "the rapprochement has only just begun, but many Republicans hope to delay or even reverse it, and there is little support in Congress for ending the Cuban embargo, which dates back to the 1960s." [NPR](#) (3/20, Horsley, 1.81M) similarly reported that "only Congress can lift the trade embargo against Cuba," though "the Administration has been chipping away at it, easing restrictions on both travel and commerce."

Obama's Cuban Mail Correspondent Extends Invitation Again. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 12, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported Obama's visit is particularly inspiring for Ileana Garza, who has written Obama five times to personally thank him for developing new relations. Garza was shocked when Obama sent her a hand-written

response earlier this month. [ABC World News](#) (3/20, story 9, 1:55, Muir, 5.84M) also reported on the correspondence between Obama and Garza, noting that Garza has again invited the president for coffee. In his letter last week, "one of the first direct letters to arrive here in decades," Obama said, "hopefully, I will have time to enjoy a cup of Cuban coffee."

Airbnb Allowed To Offer Services In Cuba. The [AP](#) (3/20, Weissenstein) reports that "online lodging service Airbnb is allowing travelers from around the world to book stays in private homes in Cuba after the San Francisco-based company received a special authorization from the Obama administration, Airbnb announced Sunday."

Cuban Migrants Drown Off Florida Coast. A later [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 3, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) segment reported that despite growing relations, many Cubans continue to make the dangerous journey to America "out of fear that the US law that for years has given Cubans special immigration status will change as relations with Cuba improve." The US Coast Guard said nine Cuban migrants died and 18 were rescued by a cruise ship on Friday 130 miles off the coast of Florida's Marco Island.

MCCONNELL RULES OUT LAME-DUCK SESSION TO CONFIRM GARLAND. In appearances on the Sunday talk shows, Senate Majority Leader McConnell ruled out the possibility that the Senate would take up Garland's nomination in a lame duck session after the election. The [AP](#) (3/20) reports McConnell "signaled no retreat or surrender from his firm stand to keep the court short-handed through at least January." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Tanfani, 4.1M) says McConnell redrew "his tough line against the Senate taking up the nomination" as "some members of his party have been suggesting that Garland should get a hearing and a vote."

However, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says McConnell, in a bid to "shut the door on a scenario that some Republicans in the Senate have said could allow them to prevent a more liberal jurist" than Garland rejected the possibility that Republicans could consider Garland's nomination after the election "even if a Democrat were elected president or Republicans lost their majority." Speaking on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), McConnell said, "The principle is the same. Whether it's before the election or after the election. The principle is the American people are choosing their next president and their next president should pick this Supreme Court nominee."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (3/20, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), McConnell said, "The way Supreme Court justices have been handled in presidential election years is very clear. It's been 80 years since a vacancy created in a presidential election year was filled. ... Joe Biden in 1992, when he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, laid down the Biden rule. He said when the campaign is underway, no Supreme Court judge would be confirmed."

According to [Reuters](#) (3/20, Comwell), McConnell told CNN's "State of the Union," "I can't imagine that a Republican majority Congress, in a lame duck session, after the American people have spoken, would want to confirm" Garland. [Roll Call](#) (3/20, Bowman, 126K) noted that when McConnell was asked if he was "ruling it out, 100 percent," he replied, "Yes." McConnell said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace) he "can't imagine that a Republican majority in the United States Senate would want to confirm in a lame duck session a nominee opposed by the National Rifle Association, the National Federation of Independent Business that represents small businesses that have never taken a position on the Supreme Court appointment before."

[Politico](#) (3/20, Cohen, 1.07M) said McConnell "made it clear he believes the next president, and only the next president, should fill the vacancy created by the death of Antonin Scalia," saying, "We're in the process of picking a president, and that new president ought to make this appointment, which will affect the Supreme Court maybe for the next quarter of a century." The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Howell, 285K) describes McConnell's comments as a break "with members of his caucus," and notes that he argued Garland "would move the high court 'dramatically to the left' for a quarter century." McConnell told Fox, "Barack Obama calling this judge a moderate doesn't make him a moderate."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/20, Bash, 420K), McConnell said, "The right-of-center world does not want this vacancy filled by this president," adding, "even though Barack Obama calls him a moderate, he's opposed by the NRA. He's opposed by the National Federation of Independent Business, which has never taken a position on a Supreme Court nominee before."

Conservatives Divided Over Message In Nomination Fight. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Lipton, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says conservative groups are "divided over their message" in the Supreme Court nomination battle and may be "outflanked by groups on the left." The division "was on display on Sunday" as

McConnell “dismissed the possibility that Republicans could consider Judge Garland in a lame duck session” and House Speaker Ryan “posted a video on Twitter backing up Mr. McConnell.” Many conservative groups “are making the same argument,” but others “are still trying to paint Judge Garland as a reflexive liberal unworthy of a seat on the court.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Dionne, 8.98M) column, E.J. Dionne argues Senate Republicans’ “gambit evades a full and open debate over the conservative judicial agenda,” adding it is “precisely because Garland’s record reveals him to be a devout practitioner of judicial restraint that an intellectually frank dialogue over his nomination would be so dangerous to the right.” According to Dionne, conservatives “have embraced an astonishingly aggressive approach to judging” that “allows them to reach outcomes through the courts that they cannot achieve through the democratic process.”

Senate Schedules Pro Forma Sessions To Prevent Recess Appointment. The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Dinan, 285K) reports while the Senate is set to be on a break for the next two weeks, a “rearguard” has been left in Washington “to keep the chamber running on low gear, denying President Obama a chance to install his Supreme Court nominee.” In order to prevent the President making a recess appointment, senators “have scheduled pro forma sessions to meet a couple of times a week, with no business scheduled,” which, under Senate rules, “is enough to prevent the constitutional trigger that would let Mr. Obama deem the Senate in recess and make an appointment without them.”

Reid: McConnell Leading Republicans “Over A Cliff.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid, in an appearance on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) said McConnell is “marching these [GOP senators] over a cliff and I don’t think they’re going to go,” and predicted Republicans will lose Senate seats as a result.

McDonough: Obama Will Stand By Garland Nomination. The [Hill](#) (3/20, Savransky, 862K) reported in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog White House Chief of Staff McDonough also appeared on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), where he “defended” Garland and said the President will stand by him “even if a Democratic candidate wins the White House in November.” McDonough said, “The president will stand by his nominee. This is an unbelievably qualified, extraordinarily decent man who comes to this nomination with more federal court experience than any nominee beforehand,” adding, “We will stand by him from now until he is confirmed and he is sitting on the Supreme Court.”

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/20, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), McDonough commented on the progress being made toward holding a hearing and vote for Garland, saying, “We’ve seen some good progress, some good forward momentum. We have about 12 Republican senators who have now indicated that they’ll meet with him. As you know, before we announced him, people were saying they would not even deign to meet with him. And we’re also aware that early in the week, when the Congress comes back, in fact, Senator Collins, the Republican from Maine, has agreed to meet with Judge Garland up in the Senate. So we think this is a very good progress, good momentum.”

USAToday Analysis: Garland Has Rarely Dissented On US Appeals Court. A [USA Today](#) (3/18, Wolf, 5.45M) analysis describes Garland as “the polar opposite” of Scalia who “was best known for his pugnacious style, most clearly on display in frequent, angry dissents that mocked his colleagues’ majority opinions.” In his nearly 19 years on the US court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, Garland “has penned just 16 dissents” and “far more often” works “to unite the three-judge panels that decide most cases, molding the opinions so that they emerge unanimous.” Garland’s dissents “almost always to take a more progressive view – in favor of civil rights, workers’ rights, environmental protection or freedom of the press.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) decries what it says is Garland’s deference to the NLRB, noting that he wrote the majority opinion in 22 cases dealing with appeals of NLRB decisions and in 18 of those, Garland sided with the NLRB.

BELGIAN OFFICIALS: ARRESTED PARIS MILITANT ABDESLAM WAS PLANNING MORE ATTACKS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) reported the Belgian prosecutor says Salah Abdeslam, the Paris attacker captured last week in Brussels, “relied on a large network of friends to stay hidden.” Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said Sunday that Abdeslam may have been planning further attacks while he hid in Brussels.

Reynders’ claim, according to [ABC World News](#) (3/20, story 5, 1:35, Muir, 5.84M), is “backed up by the large weapons cache found in a raid on Tuesday.” European officials warn that the threat of further attacks “is as high,

or higher, than before Paris.” Abdeslam is currently fighting extradition to France, and his lawyer said Sunday “they will take legal action against the Paris prosecutor for revealing details about the interrogations.” He is expected to make his first court appearance Wednesday in Brussels.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:40, D’Agata, 5.08M) reported, “It turns out Salah Abdeslam wasn’t just a driver,” but “a key operative in the Paris massacre orchestrated directly by ISIS.” [USA Today](#) (3/20, Bacon, 5.45M) reports that Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins “said Abdeslam has told Belgian authorities he was involved in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks and was supposed to die that night.” Abdeslam “said he dropped off the other attackers before changing his mind, dumping his own suicide vest and fleeing back to Belgium.” The AP (3/20, Cook) notes that Abdeslam’s Belgian lawyer, meanwhile, “threatened to launch legal action Monday against a French prosecutor, accusing him of breaching the confidentiality of the investigation into the deadly rampage in Paris.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, McAuley, Mekhennet, 8.98M), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Strauss, 289K), [Reuters](#) (3/20, Emmott) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Barnes, Pop, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), said that Abdeslam’s arrest sends “a very strong message that our allies and we, in support of them – we’re not going to stop until we get all the facts of this case figured out. And now I know there will be an intensive process to figure out exactly what he knows and what he did and what he knows about what others may be doing. And that’s why it’s important that we dig very hard into this case and why the President called the French president and the Belgium prime minister on Friday to commend them for this good work.”

Also on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), McDonough said that “there are indications that, in fact,” the Paris attacks have ties to “some of those folks back in the Middle East. ... We’re going to get to the bottom of this story. But what we’re not going to do is let our guard down and that means, obviously, staying on offense against ISIL in Syria and Iraq and that’s why we’ve done precisely that over the course of these last many months. We’ll continue to do that...because we’re not going to sit and wait. We’re going to go get this.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*Religion And Birth Control At The Supreme Court.*” The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes on the case *Zubik v. Burwell* before the Supreme Court, which the Times says may “split 4-to-4, meaning that a crucial legal issue affecting large numbers of people will remain unresolved.” The Times hopes that does not happen and urges the court to “reject the plaintiffs’ absurd argument.”

“*A Presidential Rebuke To The Saudis.*” The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) praises President Obama for having “skewer[ed] a friendly government publicly” last week in an interview in *The Atlantic*, in “presenting a well-considered analysis of troubles in the relationship with Saudi Arabia.” He described Saudi Arabia as a “free rider” that depends on the US “to fight their battles for them.” The Times says that the US-Saudi relationship “born of antipathy to the Soviet Union and an American reliance on Saudi oil, is growing increasingly brittle.” The Times concludes by saying “there is little time left” for Obama to do much with the Saudi relationship, and says that will be up “to his successor.”

“*Chinese Problems On America’s Shores.*” The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) in an editorial warns that with inflows of money into the US, due to people seeking “a safe haven for their money in uncertain times,” banks may be tempted to “lower their standards and make questionable loans.” The Times points out that banks increased loans in 2015 “at the fastest pace since 2007.” The Times worries that bank regulators may not be willing “to apply what they have learned to new circumstances and new threats.”

WASHINGTON POST. “*The Next Step For Fixing Flint.*” The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) editorializes that “government at every level bears some responsibility” for the Flint water crisis, though the state is “most to blame.” Still, the Post says it would be an “outrageous irony” if Republican lawmakers use the crisis as a pretext to cut EPA funding, especially since the agency’s GOP antagonists “routinely attempt to undermine the agency.” The Post says Michigan must ensure that resources needed both for fixing damaged pipes and addressing the public-health challenge “will be available for as long as Flint’s residents, who were betrayed by their government, need them.”

“*The Annual Medicare Advantage Dance Avoids The Bigger Issues Of Entitlements.*” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) decries the debate over “impending ‘cuts’ to the Medicare Advantage program,”

arguing it is something of a yearly ritual in which HHS “announces how much it will pay insurance companies for serving Medicare Advantage patients in the next year, and each year the insurance companies complain it’s not enough” before the government “finally settle[s] on a new funding figure that is somewhat more to the industry’s liking, and the kerfuffle [goes] away for another year” The Post questions “what would happen if we could put the same energy and resources behind a structural reform of Medicare and other entitlements.”

“A New Rule Could Help Ensure That Prosecutors Share Info With The Defense.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of the US District Court for the District of Columbia adopting a new rule that would “establish court-wide standards for disclosure of information” between prosecutors and defense attorneys. While the best change would be to give defense counsels access to all investigative information, “with certain exceptions for public safety and witness protection,” there seems “little chance of federal prosecutors moving to such a system anytime soon,” which “makes all the more urgent the court’s adoption of this modest reform.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Government By Google.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Journal, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against the FCC’s proposed rule that would require television providers to create a universal cable-box adapter, arguing that it would effectively amount to federally-sponsored piracy by allowing companies like TiVo and Google to broadcast programs that providers pay to distribute. Meanwhile, 30 Members of the Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler over concerns that the rule would push minority programming to channels with limited audiences. In addition, Google can mine viewers’ habits, and a universal adapter would be hackable.

“Judge Garland’s Inconsistent Deference.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) decries what it says is Supreme Court nominee Judge Merrick Garland’s deference to the NLRB, noting that he wrote the majority opinion in 22 cases dealing with appeals of NLRB decisions and in 18 of those, Garland sided with the NLRB.

“The Long Reach Of Islamic State.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that ISIL’s global reach has been illustrated this past week by a suicide bombing in Istanbul, the capture of Salah Abdeslam, and the FBI’s announcement Thursday that a November attack at the University of California, Merced may have been the result of self-radicalization inspired by terrorist propaganda. These events give even more reason for the US to accelerate its military campaign against ISIL to prevent others from being persuaded by the group’s ideology. The Journal adds that President Obama is particularly obligated in this endeavor since his decisions in Iraq and Syria allowed ISIL to build its foundation and expand.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Scary News Via A Calm Voice
Now, The Wrecking Ball
Obama Takes ‘First Step’ In Cuba
Trump’s Rise Unnerves German Ancestral Town
‘A Good Villain’ Spurs Arizona’s Latino Activists

Wall Street Journal:

GOP Chairman Sees Long Fight Over Trump
Paris Terror Suspect Says He Planned More Attacks
Troubled Plane Dims China’s Aviation Dream
M&A Bankers Saying No To More Junk Debt

New York Times:

Obama Lands In Cuba With A Pledge To Listen To Its People
Cubans Pack The Streets For A Glimpse Of President Obama
As Coal’s Future Grows Murkier, Banks Pull Financing
First Step In Conservatives’ Supreme Court Fight: Agreeing On A Message
Donald Trump Courts Wary Jewish Voters
Older Voters May Be Hillary Clinton’s Answer To Bernie Sanders’s Youth Appeal
US Casts Wary Eye On Australian Port Leased By Chinese

Washington Post:

Obama Lands In Cuba To Begin Historic Visit
A Nation, Divided
Clinton Preps For Trump Matchup
High Court To Examine Changes In Va Districts
Hopkins Team Pokes A Hole In Apple's Encryption

Financial Times:

China Bank Governor Wams Over Corporate Debt
Cameron Under Fire As Ruling Party Splits Ahead Of "Brexit" Referendum

Washington Times:

Maryland Beats Hawaii To Advance To Sweet 16
Sanders' Weaknesses Give Strength To Clinton
After Ohio Win, Kasich Fighting For Respect
Brokered Conventions Unkind To Frontrunners
Senators To Skip Recess To Prevent Obama Appointment
Obama Takes Symbolic Steps In Cuba
Intel's Ex-Chief Urges Army War-Data Overhaul

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; Severe Weather; Indiana Police Officer Killed; Paris Terror Attack Suspect-Plans; Russia Plane Crash-Investigation; Indiana-School Bus Crash; Bacterial Infection-Spread; President Obama Cuba Visit-Response.

CBS: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump Rallies; 2016 Politics-Arizona; Russian Plane Crash Investigation; Iraq-US Marine Killed; Pope Francis-Mass; US Trade Deals.

NBC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Cuba-US Ambassador Interview; Cuban Migrants; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans; Indiana-School Bus Crash; Severe Weather, Syrian Migrants-Italy; Star Cluster Identification; Comet Courses; Pope Francis-Mass; President Obama Cuba Visit.

Network TV At A Glance:

President Obama-Cuba Visit – 18 minutes, 55 seconds
2016 Politics – 8 minutes, 35 seconds
Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Severe Weather-New England Snow Storm; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump Rallies; Indiana Police Officer Shot; International Markets.

CBS: President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Pennsylvania-Toll Booth Shooting; NCAA Tournament.

NPR: President Obama-Cuba Visit; Cuba-US Hotel Chain Deal; United Nations-Northern Sahara Evacuations; Pennsylvania-Toll Booth Shooting; Indiana-Police Officer Shot; International Markets.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Visits Cuba with the first family.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Participates in an event in Seattle for Sen. Patty Murray, who is running for re-election.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session * Senate on recess from 18 Mar – 4 Apr Location: TBD <http://www.senate.gov/>

10:15 AM Senate Aging Committee field hearing on scams – Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing on 'Senior Scams: What Are They and How Can People Avoid Them' Location: 200 N River St Wilkes-Barre,

PA Wilkes-Barre <http://aging.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 2745, the Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015’ Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference ‘16 – ‘preeminent annual gathering of the pro-Israel community’. Speakers today include Vice President Joe Biden, with other speakers over three days including Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu (via satellite), presidential candidates Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republicans Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham; Democratic Reps. Brad Ashford, Brendan Boyle, Ted Deutch, Eliot Engel, Gwen Graham, Alcee Hastings, Steve Israel, Ted Lieu, Nita Lowey, Grace Meng, Donald Norcross, Kathleen Rice, David Scott, Brad Sherman, and Juan Vargas; Republican Reps. Barbara Comstock, Carlos Curbelo, Mario Diaz-Balart, Dan Donovan, Kay Granger, Mike Rogers, Peter Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ed Royce, Dan Sullivan, Mimi Walters, and Lee Zeldin; and former CIA and NSA Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
www.policyconference.org <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #PC16

4:00 PM Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks at Georgetown – Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks at Georgetown University on ‘The Global Future of Security’, as part of the university’s ‘Global Future Initiatives’ series, addressing how historical challenges of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and great power rivalry are increasingly intersecting with new concerns, such as environmental and cyber security, and offering suggestions as to how the U.S. and the international community should respond to these and other security challenges in the years ahead Location: Copley Formal Lounge, Georgetown University, 37th and O Sts, Washington, DC www.georgetown.edu <https://twitter.com/Georgetown>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “I saw that Trump Tower in Chicago was struck by lightning during the Illinois primary, which Donald Trump went on to win. Yeah, nobody was hurt. While God was like, ‘Crap, I missed.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Speaking of Trump, he recently said that if he becomes president he’ll force Apple to start making its products in the United States. It’s great news for anyone who wants to pay \$20,000 for an iPhone.”

Jimmy Fallon: “And [Sen.] Lindsey Graham...has announced that he’s supporting Ted Cruz since Jeb Bush is out of the race. And Graham had a lot of good things to say about Cruz, kind of. It explains Ted Cruz’s new slogan, ‘Ted Cruz, all you got left.’”

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Courtesy Copy: Interior on Twitter

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Tue, Mar 29, 2016 at 3:01 PM

To: rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, vicki_s_dixon@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, pagewatcher@govdelivery.com, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov

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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Buddy Bison Book Sets Precedent on President's Day

1 message

Grace Lee <grace.lee@parktrust.org>
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To: vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Tue, Feb 23, 2016 at 2:52 PM

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FEBRUARY 2016 NEWS

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Cabin at Knob Creek Hill.

Cabin Fit for a President

This month, we celebrate President's Day and Black History Month by taking a look at a place that helped shape one of our most influential presidents. **Knob Creek Hill** in Kentucky is now a National Historic Site, but in 1811 it was the boyhood home of **Abraham Lincoln**. "My earliest recollection is of

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Last Call for a Chance to Win a Park Trip!



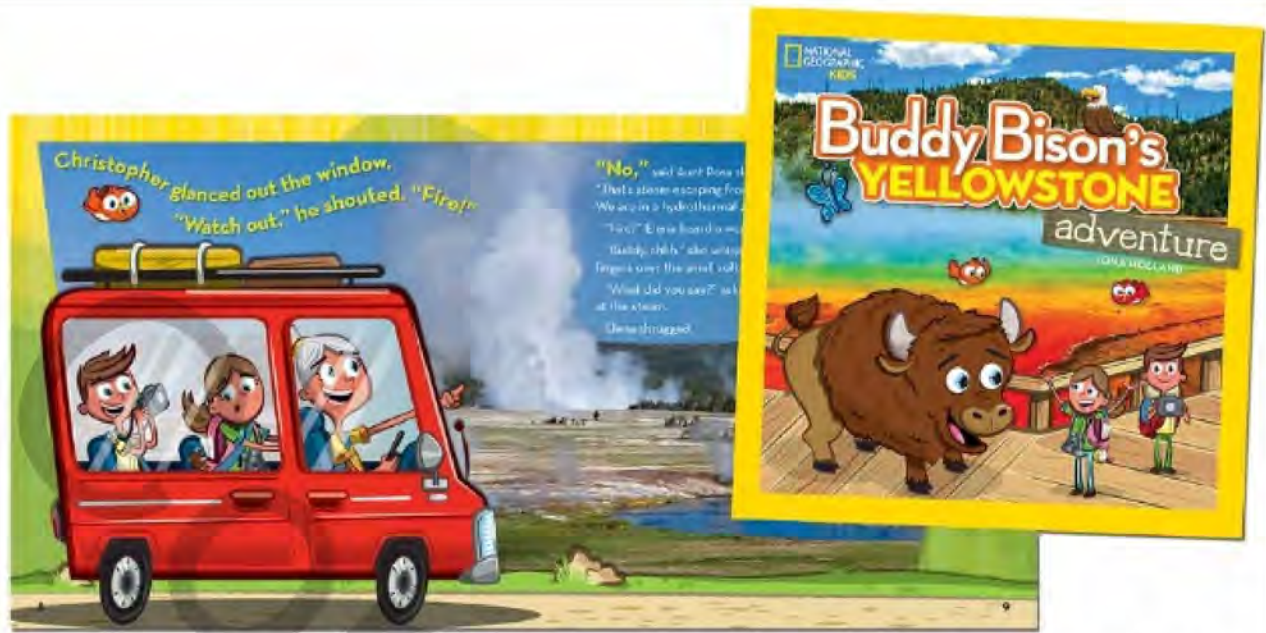
Last year's winners included students, grades K-12, from Tri-County Christian School, NC who visited Grandfather Mountain and hiked the The Mile High Swinging Bridge, America's highest suspension footbridge.

Hurry, **March 4th** is the last day to enter our 2016 **Kids to Parks Day National School Contest!** Teachers, there's still time to work with your students and plan your park adventure to celebrate Kids to Parks Day in May.

The 2016 contest was selected as a **National Park Service Centennial Challenge Project**. This match will help us double the number of grants we award to schools that lack the funds for a park experience. Last year, we provided 50 schools with grants. With the NPS match, we will be able to award grants to 100 schools! 100 schools to celebrate 100 years of the National Park Service! A generous gift from **First Solar Corporate Charitable Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation** is helping us towards our match. To learn more about how you can help support our fundraising efforts, contact Dan Quinn at danquinn@parktrust.org, or donate [here](#).

The contest closes on **Friday, March 4th, 2016**. Winning classrooms will be announced on **March 25th** on our website. [See contest forms here](#). For more information about the contest, contact Billy Schrack at william@parktrust.org or call 301-279-7275 x11.

Buddy Bison Comes to Life to Save the Day!



National Geographic Kids in partnership with NPT released their new book this month, *Buddy Bison's Yellowstone Adventure*, by **Ilona Holland**, a member of NPT's Leadership Council. In this wonderful book full of adventure and fun facts, Buddy Bison, NPT's pint-sized woolly mascot, shares his love for parks with readers.

"What a sweet and magical romp through one of our beloved National Parks! The photographic backgrounds leap off the page - I imagine that readers will be inspired to visit these beautiful locations and have adventures of their own. The charming story of Elena, Christopher, Aunt Rosa and Buddy is a treat for parents, aunts, kids and nature lovers of all ages."—**Danielle Gillis**, Producer, Fablevision.

[Get your copy now!](#)

For the Love of Whales, Teacher Awarded *The Buddy*



Krista Gordon, (first row, center) and members of the 5th grade class from Alderwood Elementary (WA) who were the NPT Executive Director (third row right)

We all know about the Oscars, the Emmys, the Tonys and the Grammys. Did you know that *The Buddy* won the National Teacher Award for Outstanding Environmental Stewardship? Earlier this month, Lee, NPT Executive Director, and Krista Gordon, Alderwood Elementary School in Bellingham, WA with *The Buddy* at an all-school assembly. Krista, a substitute teacher, found inspiration while whale watching off the shore of San Juan Island and wanted to share this experience with students in her community. Two years ago she helped her Alderwood Elementary students apply for the Kids to Parks Day National School Contest. They won and used the funds to visit Lime Kiln Point State Park.

Our contest inspired Krista to raise funds locally and also re-enter the contest for a second year. With the money she raised last year including a contest grant, 10 of the 14 schools in her district were able to visit Lime Kiln Point State Park to see whales and learn about their environment.

Krista believes that the experience of visiting Lime Kiln Point -- taking the ferry, exploring the rocky seashore, meeting with scientists, and whale-watching from shore impacts each child differently, stating, "My job is to plant the seed of experience. Each student decides how those seeds will grow. All come away understanding their actions have an impact though and that simple things like picking up trash make a difference." She added, "Students took pride and ownership of their experience because they earned their trip by preparing their contest entry. Receiving the grant let them know others felt their experience was valuable too."

400 Acres Added to Yosemite National Park



Ackerson Meadow at Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest.

You may recall reading about NPT's partnership with The Trust for Public Land to acquire

Ackerson Meadow at Yosemite, a 400-acre parcel of privately owned land at risk. The property is surrounded by **Yosemite National Park** and **Stanislaus National Forest** and is just minutes from the national park's Big Oak Flat entrance. Great news! The acquisition has been completed and the Yosemite boundary has been extended. TPL raised the funds for the transaction while NPT provided funding for the due diligence steps for the land acquisition. The next step is for the National Park Service to carry out their due diligence steps in order to take possession and officially add the acreage to the national park.

The meadow habitat is unique to the higher elevations in the **Sierra Nevada**, and protects an abundance of wildlife species. **Ackerson Creek** travels through the property for nearly one mile before converging with the **Wild and Scenic South Fork** of the **Tuolumne River**. The meadow's key location and beauty had attracted the attention of developers but now it will be open for all to enjoy an enhanced park experience.

3 National Monuments Designated in California



Mojave Trails National Monument includes 400,000 acres of congressionally-designated wilderness spanning 1.6 million acres.

Nearly 1.8 million acres of land in the California desert have now been designated by **President Obama** as national monument linking already protected lands, including **Joshua Tree National Park**, **Mojave National Preserve**, and fifteen congressionally-designated wilderness areas. Wildlife, natural resources, and cultural and historic sites within **Sand to Snow National Monument**, **Mojave Trails National Monument**, and **Castle Mountains National Monument** will now be permanently

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Since taking office, President Obama has protected more than 265 million acres of land and water – more than any other president in American history – 97% of which are located in the **Pacific Remote Islands National Monument**.



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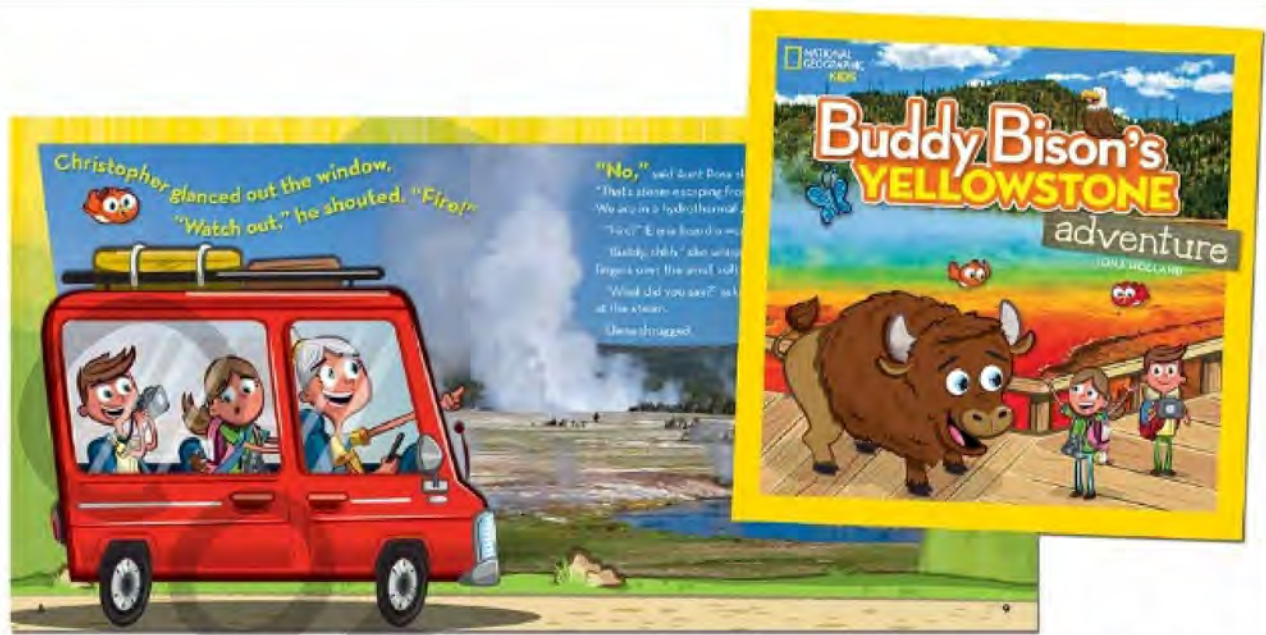
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Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 6:59 AM

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- + Wooden Surfboard Contains Signatures Opposing Offshore Drilling In The Atlantic.
- + CSA Ocean To Receive NOPP Deepwater Canyons Award.
- + Jury Selected For Trial Of Ex-BP Rig Supervisor.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + Wild Horse Advocates Raise Concerns About BLM Adoption Proposal.
- + Idaho Land Board Approves Agreement With BLM Involving Land Swap.
- + Bill Introduced To Reopen Permitting Process Of CEMEX Mine.
- + BLM Criticized For Missing Opportunity On Bullwacker-Cow Creek Access.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Obama's Budget Request Includes \$1.6B For FWS.
- + FWS Grant Helps Joins Two Halves Of Negwegon State Park.
- + Group Moves To Block Import Of Elephants To Zoos.
- + FWS Considering Transfer Of National Bison Range To Tribes.
- + Students Create Campus Wildlife Area On Peregrine School Campus.
- + Fire At Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge 50% Contained.
- + Public Meeting To Be Held On Manatee Reclassification.
- + Additional Coverage: Conservation Groups To Sue FWS Over New Bat Rule.

National Park Service:

- + Fourth Graders Offered Free Access To National Parks.
- + NPS Designated 34 New Communities As Certified Local Governments In 2015.
- + NPS Begins Selling Passes Online.
- + Report Recommends Expanding Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
- + Yellowstone National Park Begins Trapping And Slaughter Of Bison.
- + Thefts Prompt Closures At Mining Sites In Joshua Tree National Park.
- + Officials Plan To Shoot Utah Mountain Goats.
- + Water Begins Flowing To Eastern Everglades National Park.
- + NPS Supports Plan By Lowell To Light Up Canals.
- + Trail At Saguaro National Park To Be Made Wheelchair Accessible.
- + Superdome Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- + Weir Farm Superintendent To Receive National Park Service's Cultural Resource Stewardship Award.
- + Silent-Movie Film Studio Seeks Recognition As A Historic Landmark.
- + Additional Coverage Of National Park Foundation Field Trip Grants.
- + Additional Coverage Of "National Parks Adventure" Film.
- + NPS Urged To Side With Point Reyes Ranchers.
- + Portland Press Herald: Maine Officials Shouldn't Shut Down Dialogue With National Park Service.
- + Weiser: McClintock Misinterprets Muir's Support For Reforming Yosemite.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Obama Confident Trump Won't Be Elected President.
- + South Carolina Poll: Clinton Leads Sanders 56%-38%.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

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

BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that President Obama has used the Antiquities Act “much more ambitiously in his second term, designating last Friday the 1.6-million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument.” With the designations, “he’s closing in on Clinton, who used the act 22 times to preserve 5.7 million acres.” According to the article, “Obama would surpass Clinton if he heeds calls by conservationists to designate the 2.5-million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands in southeast Oregon, an area the size of Yellowstone National Park that’s full of stark river gorges and rolling sagebrush hills.” But “that proposal is bitterly opposed by many local ranchers and elected officials and could be a tough political sell as communities heal from the 40-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.”

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), Jim Bagley criticizes “President Barack Obama’s use of executive authority to create national monuments in the California desert with the Antiquities Act.” According to Bagley, “the issue is the essential American value of fairness and open governmental process.” He argues that “any decisions on the long term use of these American treasures should involve an open public hearing process for the determination of the highest and best use for those lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/17, 98K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) and [AlterNet](#) (2/16, 91K).

Focus Turns To Owyhee Canyonlands. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “the occupation that ended last week touched raw nerves over the federal government’s vast landholdings in Oregon and the restrictions it imposes on grazing, mining and logging.” According to the article, “while Harney County residents largely opposed Ammon Bundy’s decision to seize the bird sanctuary south of Burns, they sympathized with his critique of federal environmental restrictions – and some vented about the monument proposal, which is located in neighboring Malheur County along the Idaho border.”

Meanwhile, the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (2/16, 19K) reports that “ballots for a county-wide referendum on the possible designation of a national monument in Malheur County will be going out this week.” According to the article “county voters are being asked to weigh in on whether 2.5 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands in Malheur County be designated as a national monument.”

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Opposes Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (2/16) reports that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation opposes the designation of the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The believes “the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state of Arizona already manage the lands in question for multiple uses with wildlife and natural resource conservation as top priorities.” They are also concerned the Grand Canyon Watershed and Kaibab National Forest “could be shut down for hunting and recreational shooting without public comment, usurping state management authority.”

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department announced that “a wealthy investor with a history of supporting the National Park Service has donated \$18.5 million to a congressionally chartered charity that will help restore the Lincoln Memorial.” The donation by David Rubenstein “to the National Park Foundation is part of a broader effort during the NPS centennial year to raise \$350 million from wealthy donors and corporations to protect and restore prized national treasures like the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., which honors the nation’s 16th president.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “David Rubenstein’s generous donation will promote and protect one of the Nation’s most hallowed symbols and comes at a critical time as our national parks usher in a new century of service. This donation will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials but will preserve Lincoln’s legacy for future generations to appreciate.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (2/16, Pearson, 3.96M), the [Daily Caller](#) (2/16, Birr, 443K), [NBC News](#) (2/16, 3.58M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/16, 1.1M), the [Bethesda-Chevy Chase \(MD\) Patch](#) (2/16), [Townhall](#) (2/16, 132K), [PopHerald](#) (2/17), and [WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (2/16, 154K).

CLIVEN BUNDY DENIED BAIL IN 2014 STANDOFF CASE. [CNN](#) (2/16, Martinez, 3.96M) reports Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was denied Bail Tuesday by a judge in an Oregon federal court, saying that Bundy was a flight risk. Bundy was charged with six counts last week relating to this 2014 armed showdown against federal land managers on the open range where his cattle grazed illegally. He was arrested last week in Portland,

"where he flew in support of his sons Ammon and Ryan," who are among 16 people indicted for participating in another, more recent armed standoff against federal authorities at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Federal prosecutors argued that Bundy was "a danger to the community" and he "does not recognize federal courts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, Duara, 4.1M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/16, Sottile, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/16, 853K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/16, Dubois, Ritter, Press, 1.99M), [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/17, 4.92M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois, Press, 881K), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois Ken Ritter |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Dubois, Ritter, 285K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/16, 442K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/16, 2K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Berger, 3.71M).

Ammon Bundy's Bodyguard Also Denied Bail. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that a federal magistrate ordered Wesley Kjar, a Salt Lake City resident, to be sent to Oregon to face prosecution for participating in the armed takeover at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Magistrate Judge Dustin Pead ruled Kjar is a flight risk and a danger to the community. The Tribune says Kjar "encouraged others to join in the standoff and described himself as the right-hand man of occupation leader Ammon Bundy," according to prosecutor Alicia Cook. She said Kjar served as Bundy's bodyguard and cited an article claiming Kjar "said he would not hesitate to stand between Bundy and a bullet."

BLM In No Hurry To Return To Gold Butte Area. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/16, 479K) reports the Bureau of Land Management will take their time returning to Gold Butte following the arrest of Cliven Bundy and his two sons this week. Southern Nevada BLM field manager Gayle Marrs-Smith informed the Legislative Public Lands Committee the situation remains "fluid" and said no timeline has been established for federal officials to "resume a presence on those public lands where a tense standoff occurred in 2014."

FBI Discovers Human Feces At Cultural Site Near Oregon Refuge. [Reuters](#) (2/17) reports the FBI said it discovered human feces in a trench at an outdoor camping area near a sensitive cultural site with artifacts at the Oregon wildlife refuge that was the site of a recent armed standoff with federal authorities. The filing came after the FBI said it was helping the Burns Paiute Tribe identify damage to the tribe's artifacts and sacred burial grounds at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. It will take evidence teams about three weeks to process the crime scenes at the refuge, according to the document submitted in Oregon federal court on Tuesday.

NEXT SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILL HAVE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that "with speculation over the next Supreme Court nominee running rampant, potential nominees' records on environmental issues and other hot-button topics are drawing scrutiny." According to the article, "whoever replaces the late Justice Antonin Scalia stands to play a major role in legal battles over high-stakes environmental regulations including U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Rule and tightened air restrictions on ozone." Also, "several potentially casting decisive votes on President Obama's environmental legacy in the short-term, the new justice is certain to influence environmental law for decades to come."

GROUP SEEKS "MINERAL WITHDRAWAL" TO STOP POSSIBLE COPPER MINE. The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (2/16, 60K) reports that "a group that formed to fight a possible copper mine in Mazama announced Sunday that it will ask the Secretary of the Interior to prevent all industrial-scale mining on 340,000 acres of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for the next 20 years." According to the article, "ninety Methow Valley business owners signed the Sunday letter to Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to withdraw the national forest lands north and west of Mazama and Winthrop from the establishment of new mineral claims."

PHOTOS DEPICT LIVES DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Murano, 8.98M) "In Sight" photography blog displays a series of restored black and white pictures taken by Roy K. Stryker and his team of photographers in the 1930s for the Farm Security Administration, formerly known as the Resettlement Administration (RA), to "document the hardships and conditions around the country, particularly across the Midwestern states and into California." The RA was created by a 1935 executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt "to help struggling farmers and sharecroppers by providing loans, purchasing depleted farmland and resettling destitute families into government-designed communities." The Post says that Stryker's team produced over 175,000 black and white negatives, 1,610 color transparencies, and several films.

WSJOURNAL: HOUSE MUST HOLD EPA ACCOUNTABLE FOR MINE DISASTER. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn't giving the full story regarding the agency's litany of failures that culminated in the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department

include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn't tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Signal](#) (2/16).

PETERMAN: SPENDING TIME IN NATIONAL PARKS PROVIDES TRANQUILITY. Environmental activist Audrey Peterman writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) blog about her confusion why "large numbers of people and huge sections of our infrastructure," including national parks, "will be affected by rising seas within the next 15 years," but Congressional leaders and several presidential candidates "slough off responsibility by professing that they 'do not believe' in climate change." To quell this anxiety, Peterman says she routinely visits national parks, especially Yosemite, to restore her "sunny perspective." She concludes by stating that it is "time for each of us to decide what action we will take to confront the great challenges that face us today," such as climate change and "protecting our public lands system from those who want to degrade it."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE NEARS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SHABBONA BINGO PLAN. The [DeKalb \(IL\) Daily Chronicle](#) (2/16, 24K) reports that "time is running out for residents to voice their opinions to the federal government about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's plan to bring a 24-hour bingo hall to the area." The BIA is "in the process of crafting an environmental impact study and an impact statement on the tribe's plans to bring Class II gaming to the area."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO HOST PANEL DISCUSSION ON SELF DETERMINATION. [St. Croix Source](#) (2/16) reports that Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will "host a panel discussion in Washington, D.C., on self determination in U.S. territories, including the Virgin Islands." According to the article, "the hearing will focus on the V.I., Guam and American Samoa, which are listed on the United Nations List of Non-Self-Governing Territories." It is scheduled to be held Feb. 23 in the nation's capital.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (2/16) and the [Pacific News Center](#) (2/16).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

\$2M FUNNELED TO EASTERN NEW MEXICO PIPELINE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the federal government is funneling another \$2 million toward a pipeline project aimed at bringing billions of gallons of water a year to parts of eastern New Mexico." According to the article, "members of the state's congressional delegation announced the funding from the Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday." The article notes that "the price has ballooned to more than \$550 million, and the Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged it could end up costing \$750 million."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clovis \(NM\) News Journal](#) (2/16, 21K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (2/16, 952K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), and [KOAT-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/16, 120K).

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT ADDS FEE FOR SPOTTED FROG LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the Tumalo Irrigation District has added an additional fee for patrons in anticipation of mounting legal costs associated with recently filed lawsuits over Oregon spotted frog habitat." The district imposed "a \$175 fee this year for each water right account holder to help pay for litigation as well as for public relations during the court case." The BOR, "Tumalo and other irrigation districts are being sued by the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, Shorack, 285K), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/16, Bulletin, 84K), and the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/16, 98K).

AGENCIES FOCUS ON SAVING WINTER-RUN SALMON. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/16, 65K) reports that "members of the Winnemem Wintu tribe believe their lives are intertwined with the salmon — particularly the winter-run chinook salmon." But "fish die-offs in the Sacramento River over the past two years have many people worried about the winter-run going extinct." The article notes that "federal and state fisheries

officials are so concerned with the die off that for the past two years they have taken the unprecedented step of closing the Sacramento River in Redding to fishing from April to August when the salmon are spawning.”

OPINION: SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM REQUIRED TO MEET CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS. In response to a Jan. 26 [article](#) titled, “Council takes hard line on SDS talks,” local property owner Dwain Maxwell writes in the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/16, 87K) that the Southern Delivery System should be shut down unless it meets all of its contractual agreements stated in the 1041. Maxwell points out that, for property owners, the 1041 “states that eminent domain can only be taken when proof of need is proven.” He believes that the SDS’ recent actions trying to obtain property via an eminent domain court shows their “greed” is “just too much to swallow.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SCIENTISTS TRYING TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/16, 312K) reports that “scientists are working on harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., where the ocean flows with more power than all of the world’s rivers combined.” According to the BOEM, “Gulf Stream currents might have more potential than offshore wind. Ocean currents move more slowly than wind but are about 800 times more dense.”

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON METHANE EMISSIONS. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that “the city of Farmington will hold one of only four public hearings across the country for a proposal aimed at updating 30-year-old regulations on methane and natural gas releases from public and tribal lands.”

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/16, 31K) reports that “nearly 800 people flooded the San Juan College’s Henderson Fine Arts Center auditorium Tuesday to weigh in on the Bureau of Land Management’s proposed set of regulations aimed at reducing methane leaks on public and tribal lands.” According to the article, “the public comments, which came after a 45 minute BLM briefing about the proposed changes, came from two camps: those seeking to protect the environment and eliminate waste and those worried about the impact of the regulations on oil and gas industry jobs and the regional economy.” During the meeting, “frustrations bubbled up and some of those who objected to the proposed rules started booing, shouting and noisily yawning during testimonials.” The article notes that “when the Farmington mayor asked those in the crowd opposed to the BLM’s proposed regulations to stand up, most attendees rose to their feet.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/16, 44K)

New Mexico Leaders Support Methane Rule. The [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/16, 4K) reports that “a proposed rule from the U.S. Department of the Interior to reduce the venting, leaking and flaring of methane and other natural gases from oil and gas drilling operations on public lands has strong support among New Mexico leaders.” According to the article, “more than 40 current and former elected officials from San Juan County in New Mexico recently submitted a letter to the Bureau of Land Management in support of its proposed rules on flaring.”

WYOMING DEQ DEFENDS COAL MINING DEAL. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports Wyoming regulators defended their oversight of Alpha Natural Resources’ and Arch Coal’s bonding after they filed for bankruptcy. In a letter to federal regulators, Kyle Wendtland, who oversees mining regulation at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, wrote that the US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has “no basis for second guessing DEQ’s judgment.” Wyoming officials have faced scrutiny after agreeing last year to make the state a “priority creditor to receive \$61 million out of \$411 million in required bonding for Alpha’s mines.” State officials argued that the agreement did not free Alpha from its reclamation obligations, and that it requires the coal mining company to emerge from bankruptcy to fully cover its bond obligations.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/16, 337K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), [WyoFile](#) (2/16), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\) Billings, MT](#) (2/16, 2K).

Wyoming House Committee Allocates \$241M In Federal Funds For Highways, DEQ. The [Casper \(WY\)](#)

[Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K) reports the Wyoming House Appropriations Committee advanced a bill Tuesday morning that allocates \$162.3 million of federal mine land reclamation money to the state Highway Fund and \$79.6 million to the state Department of Environmental Quality “for ongoing operations of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and the Air Quality and the Solid Waste Management divisions.” Congress passed a large spending bill in December that gave Wyoming \$241.9 million from the federal Office of Surface Mining. The Star-Tribune mentions that Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, “two bankrupt coal companies,” have unsecured reclamation obligations in the state worth a combined \$900 million.

SIERRA CLUB FILES CHALLENGE AGAINST OIL, GAS ACTIVITIES IN OKLAHOMA. [Politico Pro](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the Sierra Club has “filed a court challenge against three oil and gas companies active in Oklahoma over their wastewater injection practices, alleging a connection between drillers’ underground disposal habits and a recent surge in earthquake activity in the state.” The petition filed in Oklahoma federal court “seeks relief under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and follows a 5.1 earthquake that hit the state on Saturday.” The group asked that the companies Devon, Chesapeake, and New Dominion “reduce immediately and substantially the amounts of Production Wastes [sic] they are injecting into the ground to levels that seismologists believe will not cause or contribute to increased earthquake frequency and severity.”

CLIMATE ACTIVIST BIDS FOR OIL, GAS LAND IN UTAH. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, Roth, 98K) reports that two dozen bidders attended a meeting in Salt Lake City on Tuesday to purchase leases of over 22,000 acres of public land auctioned off by the Bureau of Land Management. Nearly 100 climate activists protesting the auction were seated in the back of the room, but one protester, Terry Tempest Williams, had registered as a bidder. Following the auction, Williams bid \$1.50 per acre for the right to explore 800 acres of unwanted land “with the explicit goal of keeping the land out of the hands of the fossil-fuel industry.” She plans to also bid on two more parcels totaling 871 acres near Arches National Park in eastern Utah and in the Book Cliffs mountain range.

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/17, Roth, 5.45M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/16, 975K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/16, 404K).

BLM SET TO AUCTION SIX OIL AND GAS PARCELS IN MAY. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that “the first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management’s quarterly oil and gas lease sale.” According to the article, “since 2001, Forest Service officials have worked on an Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis to protect resources and manage oil and gas development. It was completed in 2013.” The article notes that “six land parcels, four of which are in the San Juan National Forest, will be up for competitive bid on May 12.”

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSING FOR TRAPPER, COLOWYO MINES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (2/16, 10K) reports that “the public comment period for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s environmental assessments for two Northwest Colorado mines is coming to a close this week.” According to the article, “Trapper is still undergoing a court-ordered redo on part of its federal coal leases while Colowyo is taking the next step in its Collom Expansion, which has been under assessment for several years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (2/16, 30K).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON THREE POTENTIAL FALL RIVER OIL LEASE SITES. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (2/16, 117K) reports that the BLM is “seeking public comments on potential oil and gas leases on three parcels of private land west of Edgemont, but within the boundaries of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.” Russ Pigors, a physical scientist with the Belle Fourche BLM office, said that “a lease sale will be held for these three Fall River County parcels on July 12 this year, and BLM wants comments from the public for perspective on what sort of environmental impact permitting oil and gas exploration on these leases might have.”

BULLISH ANALYST CHANGES STANCE ON COAL MARKETS. The [Seattle Times](#) (2/17, Mapes, Bemton, 1.12M) reports that Andy Roberts, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, who “less than three years ago” was lauding the long-term prospects of two export terminals proposed for Washington “once considered vital are now irrelevant” due to the decline in Asian coal markets. Roberts indicated in his Feb. 10 report that “rapid changes in coal’s fortunes show what a miscalculation the investment in the ports was.” Combined with “stiff opposition from tribal nations and community and conservation groups,” Roberts said that the “economic wind has fallen out of the projects’ sales.” Additionally, “Asian demand has weakened to the point that coal from the Powder River Basin won’t be competitive in the market until well after 2020.” According to Roberts, non-coal alternatives are gaining momentum, aided by policy and regulation.

Offshore Energy Development:

TWO STATES ASK COURT TO REVERSE INTERIOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE. [Law360](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that "Louisiana and Alabama pushed a D.C. federal judge to reverse a Department of the Interior rule change on splitting offshore oil drilling revenue Tuesday, arguing the agency favored some Gulf states over others with the new rule." The two states asked U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton to "bind the agency to a 25-year-old interpretation of a rule for divvying up offshore oil lease revenue where states' borders meet."

COURT BLOCKS USE OF BP RESTORATION FUNDS FOR GULF STATE PARK CONFERENCE CENTER. [Alabama Live](#) (2/17, 627K) reports that "a federal judge has blocked the use of certain BP restoration funds stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from being used to rebuild a beachfront lodge and conference center on the Alabama coast." U.S. District Judge Charles Butler "wrote in his decision that the Trustees who were in charge of allocating the funds 'acted arbitrarily and capriciously by failing to conduct a proper alternatives analysis,' as required by the Oil Pollution Act." Butler wrote, "The Court can, and will, enjoin the use of those funds pending further review by the Trustees. However, based on the administrative record before it, and the narrow issue presented by the pleadings, the Court cannot enjoin the Commissioner or the State from building the lodge/conference center with funds other than early restoration funds."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gulf Coast \(FL\) News Today](#) (2/16, 33K).

US REP. BUDDY CARTER CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/16, 207K) reports US. Rep Buddy Carter (R-GA) reiterated his support for oil exploration and offshore drilling for Georgia "even as local communities from Savannah to Brunswick oppose it." In a telephone interview, Carter said, "American has an abundance of natural resources, and we should be utilizing all of them to assure our energy independence." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released its draft plan last year to lease ocean land for oil and gas development off the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Georgia. An expected update of the plan, set to be released soon, could omit some states. The availability of oil and gas leasing as proposed in the Department of the Interior's 2017-2022 plan "has not happened in more than 30 years." Before drilling would begun, "exploration would take place with seismic testing, a controversial practice that maps possible oil and gas deposits under the sea floor."

WOODEN SURFBOARD CONTAINS SIGNATURES OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC. Pete Stauffer, environmental director for Surfrider Foundation, writes in [Clean Energy](#) (2/16) about a wooden surfboard that "journeyed through seven states and visited countless communities on its way to Washington DC." The surfboard, which contains dozens of signatures from "restaurants, surf shops, art galleries, hotels, and other coastal businesses," is a symbol of the recreation industry's opposition to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. US Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) said they will add their signatures before it is presented to White House officials on Feb. 16 "along with letters signed by over a thousand businesses asking our nation's leaders to cancel plans for oil drilling in the Atlantic."

CSA OCEAN TO RECEIVE NOPP DEEPWATER CANYONS AWARD. [Hydro International](#) (2/16, 28K) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey announced that the National Oceanographic Partnership Program will present the 2015 Excellence in Partnering Award to a team managed by CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. that participated in the "Atlantic Canyons: Pathways to the Abyss" project. The ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 23 to coincide with Ocean Sciences 2016 in New Orleans. During its work, the CSA study team "discovered new shipwrecks, deep, cold-water corals and unexpectedly, extensive methane seeps with exotic biological assemblages" in the Baltimore and Norfolk deepwater canyons.

JURY SELECTED FOR TRIAL OF EX-BP RIG SUPERVISOR. The [AP](#) (2/16) the jury has been selected in the trial of former BP rig supervisor Robert Kaluza who is facing a misdemeanor pollution charge for his alleged role in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Kaluza had faced manslaughter counts connected to the deaths of 11 workers, but federal prosecutors backed off those charges in December.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT BLM ADOPTION PROPOSAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that a BLM “plan to transfer wild horses and burros to other government agencies to be used as work animals lacks safeguards to ensure they are not mistreated, wild horse advocates said.” The bureau “last week asked Congress to pass legislation that would allow it to swiftly transfer excess animals that have been removed from public lands to other federal, state and local government agencies, such as the Marine Corps or the U.S. Border Patrol.” The proposal, “which requires congressional approval, aims to alleviate BLM’s fiscal burden as it feeds and cares for roughly 47,000 excess animals in off-range holding facilities.” The Cloud Foundation, “a Colorado-based wild horse advocacy group, said the proposal has some merit, because trained wild horses would live a higher quality of life working with humans than being kept in short-term holding corrals.”

IDAHO LAND BOARD APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH BLM INVOLVING LAND SWAP. The [AP](#) (2/16, Ridler, Press, 1.99M) reports that the Idaho Land Board on Tuesday “voted 5-0 to update an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management involving a land swap involving about 50 square miles of state land in southwest Idaho.” The article notes that “the board in the same vote approved deferring leasing of mineral development of those state lands until Dec. 31, 2017, to avoid activity in areas considered key sage grouse habitat.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/16, 198K).

BILL INTRODUCED TO REOPEN PERMITTING PROCESS OF CEMEX MINE. [KHTS-AM](#) Santa Clarita, CA (2/16, 2K) reports that Assemblyman Scott Wilk “introduced Assembly Bill 1986 on Tuesday that would reopen the permitting process of CEMEX’s proposed mine in Soledad Canyon.” Wilk said, “CEMEX’s mine would wreak havoc on our environment and quality of life. Our children and seniors won’t be able to breath, our roads will be choked daily with an additional 1,200 18-wheelers and the mine will soak up our most precious resource, water. I’m committed to killing this project.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (2/17, 23K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR MISSING OPPORTUNITY ON BULLWACKER-COW CREEK ACCESS. In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/16, 131K), Mike Penfold, a former BLM director for Montana, writes that the BLM has “decided not to go forward with the controversial land exchange of BLM’s Durfee Hills for the Anchor Ranch located inside the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.” He argues that “acquiring better access and consolidation of public land into usable tracts for the public is a good thing.” Furthermore, “opportunities often come only once and must be taken quickly if they are in the public interest.” Penfold says that “the Anchor Ranch could have been a very significant addition to this amazing Montana landscape,” and he is “sorry to see this opportunity pass without full public analysis.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA’S BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDES \$1.6B FOR FWS. The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (2/16, 97K) reports that President Barack Obama has “requested \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in his 2017 fiscal year budget, an increase of \$54.5 million from fiscal year 2016.” Obama’s “budget includes \$137.6 million for refuge land acquisition, including \$58.7 million in current funding and \$79 million in proposed permanent funding, an increase of \$69.1 million above the 2016 enacted level.”

FWS GRANT HELPS JOINS TWO HALVES OF NEGWEGON STATE PARK. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/16, 617K) reports that the two halves of Negwegon State Park will “finally become one” this year. Negewgon, “a remote park on the shore of Lake Huron’s Thunder Bay, will become contiguous property with help from a \$900,000 federal grant to buy 391 acres of land between the park halves the state has long hoped join the park with.” The federal grant money comes from a FWS coastal wetlands conservation program.

GROUP MOVES TO BLOCK IMPORT OF ELEPHANTS TO ZOOS. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that “an animal rights group has sued to stop zoos in Kansas, Nebraska and Texas from bringing in new elephants from Africa.” The Friends of Animals filed a lawsuit last week in federal court against the FWS. Last month, the FWS “issued permits allowing the importation of 18 African elephants from Swaziland.” The lawsuit argues the FWS “did not take into account how the transfer would negatively hurt the social, mental and physical well-being of the 18 elephants.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#)

(2/16, 1.24M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Nasa, 929K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K).

FWS CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF NATIONAL BISON RANGE TO TRIBES. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/16, 15K) reports that “in a dramatic change of course from its historic management goals, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered the first stage of negotiations to cede control of the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.” The discussions between the FWS and CSKT “came to light in emails distributed Feb. 5 by Fish and Wildlife Service administrators, who informed agency employees of the decision, citing the inability to reach an annual funding agreement with CSKT that would allow the tribes to jointly manage the Bison Range.” According to the article, “the agency-wide messages, sent by both FWS Refuge Chief Cynthia Martinez and Mountain Prairie Regional Director Noreen Walsh, explain that talks have begun about drafting legislation that would transfer the lands comprising the National Bison Range in Montana to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the CSKT.”

STUDENTS CREATE CAMPUS WILDLIFE AREA ON PEREGRINE SCHOOL CAMPUS. The [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that “parts of the Peregrine School campus in South Davis are now wildlife areas with native plants, thanks to some elbow grease from students with assistance and advice from Karlleen Vollherbst, school habitat program coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” According to the article, “the project that culminated with last Friday’s planting project began many months ago, with the preparation of a 75-page grant application detailing the proposed wildlife area.” Vollherbst said the goal of the project is to “attract different pollinators and birds to a space just outside the classroom building, where students can learn from the habitat, and play, and observe wildlife over time.”

FIRE AT GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 50% CONTAINED. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports that FWS officials say “they’re planning to resume air operations and clear debris from a wildfire that began near a wildlife refuge in Mississippi and crossed into Alabama marshland.” According to spokeswoman Candice Stevenson, “authorities plan to fly over the burned area Tuesday after severe storms on Monday grounded air operations.” Officials say “a fire at the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge has burned roughly 4,400 acres and is about 50 percent contained.”

PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD ON MANATEE RECLASSIFICATION. The [Orlando \(FL\) Weekly](#) (2/16, 115K) reports that the FWS will hold a public meeting about the reclassification of Florida manatees from a status of “endangered” to “threatened” on Saturday, Feb. 20 in Orlando.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CONSERVATION GROUPS TO SUE FWS OVER NEW BAT RULE. Additional coverage that conservation groups said they intend to sue the FWS over a new bat rule was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/17).

National Park Service:

FOURTH GRADERS OFFERED FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS. [Fox News](#) (2/12, 9.42M) reports that families with fourth-graders can celebrate the National Parks Centennial this year with the Every Kid in a Park initiative, “which gives free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and more through Aug. 31.”

Additional coverage of the NPS Centennial and the Every Kid in a Park initiative was provided by the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/15, Freeman, 84K) the [Tucson \(AZ\) Local Media](#) (2/16).

NPS DESIGNATED 34 NEW COMMUNITIES AS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN 2015. The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/16) reports that the NPS “designated 34 communities from across the United States as Certified Local Governments in 2015.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “We are proud that last year 34 new communities spanning the country from Florida to Washington joined us in our commitment to historic preservation and protecting what makes their cities and towns special. These Certified Local Governments now have access to unique resources to preserve the heritage of their communities and promote local economic growth through tourism to their historical areas.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marblehead \(MA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 157).

NPS BEGINS SELLING PASSES ONLINE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that as the NPS “prepares to enter its second century, the agency is taking its first steps into e-commerce.” They announced “it has launched a pilot program to sell entrance passes online for a handful of selected parks, a

move Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) has pushed since last year.” King said in a statement, “With the launch of this pilot program at Acadia, the National Park System is entering a new era of accessibility. Electronic park passes will not only make it easier for the American people to visit and enjoy our most treasured places, but they’ll also help the Park Service maximize sales and generate new revenues. I applaud the Park Service for embracing the power of this technology and am delighted that Acadia is leading the nation in piloting it.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) and [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (2/16, 333).

REPORT RECOMMENDS EXPANDING SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION

AREA. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has “released a plan that recommends adding more than 265 square miles of land around Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area.” According to the article, “the final plan, released Tuesday, would more than double the existing wilderness area in one of the nation’s most densely populated regions.” The proposal would “add portions of the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel Mountains foothills, scenic areas, historic and archaeological sites, wildlife corridors and miles of hiking trails in a sprawling area that’s home to millions.” The article notes that “the final plan differs from last year’s draft proposal by eliminating some industrialized or urbanized areas in favor of more pristine properties.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, 32K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (2/16, 301K), the [Santa Monica \(CA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 3K), and [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/16).

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BEGINS TRAPPING AND SLAUGHTER OF BISON. [USA Today](#)

(2/16, Hafner, 5.45M) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials “started trapping bison Monday as part of an annual effort to kill hundreds of the area’s iconic animals through hunting or shipment to slaughterhouses.” According to the article, “government agencies aim to drive down the bison population by as many as 900 this year to reduce the mammals’ centuries-old migration beyond the park’s boundaries and into Montana.” A plan “calls for eventually culling bison in the park from about 5,000 down to 3,000.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Oregonian](#) (2/16, 864K), the [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (2/16, 1.13M), and [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (2/16, 385K).

THEFTS PROMPT CLOSURES AT MINING SITES IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/15, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that “two areas of Joshua Tree National Park noted for their mining artifacts have been closed indefinitely because of looting, according to the park’s superintendent.” Carey’s Castle and El Sid Mine will “be closed ‘at least for a month’ until cultural artifact teams can inventory and record the areas, and while the park devises an enforcement and surveillance strategy, park Supt. David Smith said Monday.” He said, “We had some looting at El Sid that started a few months ago. We actually bought some artifacts to replace the original ones and they got stolen, too.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (2/16, 302K), and [Time Out](#) (2/16, 66K).

OFFICIALS PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that to the NPS, “mountain goats are a potentially invasive species and unwanted itinerants in several Western parks, including Dinosaur National Monument.” NPS officials are looking to shoot goats “wandering in from artificially established herds in Utah damage resources and disturb Dinosaur’s resident bighorn sheep.” According to the article, “under a draft plan released Feb. 8, the park intends to shoot any wild goats that roam into its boundaries, which straddle the Utah-Colorado line.”

WATER BEGINS FLOWING TO EASTERN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (2/16, Gillis, 190K) reports the South Water Management District began moving water Monday night from water storage areas south of Lake Okeechobee to the eastern side of Everglades National Park. As a result, water that usually flows to the west and into the western section of the park will now head east, “to Shark Valley Slough — where alligators have died in recent years due to a lack of water.” Water has not flowed regularly in this manner since the Tamiami Trail opened in 1928, which has served as a dam that holds back water “that historically spread to Florida Bay.” District spokesperson Randy Smith said sending water to the park will improve wildlife conditions in the water storage areas between the lake and the park.

NPS SUPPORTS PLAN BY LOWELL TO LIGHT UP CANALS. The [Boston Globe](#) (2/16, Siefer, 1.05M) reports that “starting Friday evening as part of a weekend-long Winterfest, a stretch of one canal will be bathed

in shifting colors, and the area flanking the canal, Lucy Larcom Park, will feature fire artists, music, and food." According to the article, "it's a first phase in what project boosters hope could lead to the illumination —and enlivening — of much of city's the 5.6-mile network of canals." Although "one might also expect some friction between canal boosters and the National Park Service, which imposes strict design standards throughout the historic park, "park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo "expressed enthusiasm for the lighting project, noting that \$51 million in federal, state, and city funds had already been invested in canal improvements, such as paths, landscaping, and historical markers."

TRAIL AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TO BE MADE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the Mica View Trail at Saguaro National Park will "undergo changes to make it wheelchair accessible." The trail will be "upgraded and given a hardened surface to make it suitable for visitors who use a wheelchair or other equipment to assist with mobility." It will be "closed from Feb. 22 through May while work is under way, but once it's reopened, it will meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act for recreation trails."

SUPERDOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/16, 625K) reports that the Superdome has been named to the National Register of Historic Places "despite an objection by the state, which owns the stadium and is concerned the designation might slow down future projects." Superdome officials said Monday that "they were unaware that the federal government had approved the listing and had not been notified."

WEIR FARM SUPERINTENDENT TO RECEIVE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AWARD. The [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (2/16, Carr, 28K) reports Linda Cook, the superintendent of Weir Farm National Historic Site, will be awarded the National Park Service's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Stewardship at a ceremony in Washington, DC on Feb. 23. Cook spearheaded a "decade-long project to meticulously restore" the home and studio of Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir to its original condition.

SILENT-MOVIE FILM STUDIO SEEKS RECOGNITION AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Goodykoontz, 5.45M) reports Norman Studios, one of the last silent-movie film studios, is already on the National Register of Historic Places but is "angling for recognition as a historic landmark by the National Park Service." The Jacksonville, Florida-based studio is known for making "race films" in the 1920s that featured African-Americans and produced "almost exclusively" for African-American audiences. A nonprofit group is currently "working to restore the studio complex and turn it into a learning center for aspiring film professionals."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP GRANTS. Additional coverage of the field trip grants awarded by the National Park Foundation was provided by the [Alexander City \(AL\) Outlook](#) (2/13, 12K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE" FILM. Additional coverage of "National Parks Adventure" was provided by the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (2/16, 489K) and [Skift](#) (2/16).

NPS URGED TO SIDE WITH POINT REYES RANCHERS. The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (2/17, 165K) criticizes "a lawsuit seeking to drive peaceful ranchers out of Point Reyes National Seashore." It notes that "some of the ranches have been there since the 1860s, and many ranchers joined with neighbors and conservation groups to lobby for creation of the park when pressure built for residential development of Marin County's scenic coastal bluffs in the late 1950s and early 1960s." According to the paper, "the 15 family ranches were promised 20-year lease extensions in 2012 by then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar as proof that the long-scheduled removal of an oyster farm in Drakes Bay wasn't the first step in clearing in-holdings from the park." It hopes the NPS will "keep Salazar's promise."

Additional coverage that a group of environmentalists is suing to stop grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (2/16, 22K) and [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K).

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD: MAINE OFFICIALS SHOULDN'T SHUT DOWN DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) editorializes that the negative response by Maine Gov. LePage and the state's congressional delegation to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis' letter concerning a proposed national park is unwarranted and needlessly hostile. LePage has "predictability overacted" to the letter regarding the donation of private property belonging to Elliotsville Plantation Inc. to the federal government for the park by seizing the land "to build roads that Maine doesn't need to spoil the organization's plans." The Press Herald says that a federally run park comprised of donated land "could be a

gift for the state to treasure, not a theft to be prevented." Maine officials should be "actively engaging the Park Service" about their concerns instead of "shutting down dialogue."

WEISER: MCCLINTOCK MISINTERPRETS MUIR'S SUPPORT FOR REFORMING YOSEMITE. Matt Weiser writes in the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/17, Weiser, 569K) that it required a "certain arrogance" for US Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) to claim at a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands that John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club "and savior of Yosemite," would oppose the National Park Service removing "resort-like" amenities like ice-skating rinks, swimming pools and convenience stores from the park. McClintock said Muir "wanted people to come to our public lands knowing they would go away with fond memories, happy experiences." At the Oct. 28 hearing, McClintock called on a series of "hand-picked witnesses" to support his claim that federal agencies are responsible for Yosemite's declining attendance because it lacks amenities and concessionaires lack free rein in the parks. This move supports McClintock's goal of giving away national forest lands to local and state governments. John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, said McClintock "abuses the facts to somehow portray this dark, sinister threat that he is the champion of protecting the public from."

Top National News:

OBAMA CONFIDENT TRUMP WON'T BE ELECTED PRESIDENT. In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, lead story, 0:40, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported President Obama on Tuesday "weighed in on the political phenomenon that is Donald Trump. President Obama was answering a question at a news conference today, and he did not mince words." The President was shown saying, "I continue to believe Mr. Trump will not be president. And the reason is because I have a lot of faith in the American people, and I think they recognize that being president is a serious job. It's not hosting a talk show or a reality show. It's not promotion. It's not marketing. It's hard."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Boyer, 285K) reports Obama, speaking at a press conference in California, "lashed out at... Trump and the rest of the" GOP White House hopefuls, "calling them unserious candidates who are 'troubling' the rest of the world with careless rhetoric and a poor grasp of basic facts." Along with his direct comments on Trump, the President – without mentioning him by name – also chided Sen. Marco Rubio "for abandoning the immigration reform bill he once supported." Said Obama, "You've got a candidate who sponsored a bill that I supported to finally solve the immigration problem, and he's running away from it as fast as he can."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Keane, 289K) reports that Obama, who "has repeatedly shown frustration with the tone and tenor of the" GOP race, said, "Foreign observers are troubled by some of the rhetoric that has taken place in some of these Republican primaries and Republican debates." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Obama "said Mr. Trump 'says in more interesting ways what the other candidates are saying as well.' 'He may up the ante in anti-Muslim sentiment,' Mr. Obama said, 'but if you look at what the other candidates have said, that's pretty troubling, too.'"

[Vox](#) (2/16, Stein, 758K) reports that after his remarks on Trump, Obama described "the magnitude of the challenges that face the president. 'Whoever's standing where I'm standing right now has the nuclear codes with them, and can order 21-year-olds into a firefight and [has] to make sure that the banking system doesn't collapse – and is often responsible for not just the United States of America, but 20 other countries that are having big problems,' Obama said."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Parsons, Memoli, 4.1M) reports that the remarks "represented Obama's most energetic criticism of the Republicans running to replace him." The President "has mostly kept a studied distance from the fray and resisted invitations to engage in political analysis. But GOP candidates are promising to dismantle Obama's entire legacy if they win the Oval Office, and polls show Trump dramatically in the lead in South Carolina going into its Saturday primary." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M) also reported on Obama's remarks.

Firing Back, Trump Says He Would Have Defeated Obama In 2012. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Johnson, 8.98M) reports that Trump, asked about the President's remarks during a campaign event in South Carolina, said, "He has done such a lousy job as president. You look at our budgets, you look at our spending, we can't beat ISIS, Obamacare is terrible – we're going to terminate it, we're absolutely going to terminate it. And you look at everything, our borders are like Swiss cheese, this man has done such a bad job, he has set us back so far, and for him to say that is actually a great compliment." Of Obama, Trump added, "You're lucky I didn't run last time, when [Mitt] Romney ran, because you would have been a one-term president."

Poll: Trump Leads Cruz By 16 Points In South Carolina. [ABC World News](#) (2/16, story 3, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported new poll numbers show Donald Trump leading Sen. Ted Cruz by 16 points in South Carolina. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump "is crushing the competition" according to the CNN-ORC poll released on Tuesday. The survey shows Trump has 38% support compared with Cruz's 22%, followed Sen. Marco Rubio 14%, Jeb Bush 10%, Ben Carson 6%, and Gov. John Kasich 4%. The poll shows, according to The Hill, that "a majority of Republicans surveyed – 53 percent – say Trump gives the GOP its best chance of winning the general election."

LA Times Analysis: Trump Holds Lead In South Carolina Despite "Crude Rhetoric." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Bieman, Mascaró, 4.1M) reports Trump "is maintaining his wide lead" in South Carolina "despite criticism of his crude rhetoric." The Times says while the state "has long prided itself on Southern manners and propriety, it is changing rapidly as outsiders increasingly move" there and "Trump Nation may be immune to, and in some cases, even more forgiving of his brash behavior." In a quote that is used in the article's headline, the Times reports, a South Carolina voter said, "We're voting with our middle finger."

WPost: "Middle-Of-Road" Republicans Leave Trump Event "More Terrified Than Ever." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Terris, 8.98M) reports the "madness" surrounding Trump "has not been lost on the middle-of-the-road Republicans" in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. The Post highlights attendees at a Trump town-hall who left the event "more terrified than ever" and "comparing the Republican front-runner to President Obama, comparing him to Vladimir Putin, calling him a bully, saying he denigrates women and the disabled."

Tea Party Of America Co-Founder "Abandoned" Trump. The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, Miller, 285K) reports Tea Party of America co-founder Ken Crow "abandoned" Trump on Tuesday and "threw his backing to Jeb Bush in a striking move that suggests some softening in the GOP front-runner's support among conservatives as the campaign shifts to South Carolina." Crow told the Times "he's become repulsed by [Trump's] volatile personality and crude antics on the stump." Crow said, "I was on the Trump train, but enough is enough," adding, "When is Trump going to act like a president? The answer is he's not."

CBS: Haley Will Not Endorse Trump Before Primary. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 2, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley not only said "she will not endorse Trump" before the South Carolina primary, but "said Trump is everything a governor does not want in a president."

The Hill Analysis: Trump's "Blunt Message" Defies Predictions. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump "was supposed to be dead and buried by now" as "the political class and pundits have been predicting [his] political demise" since he announced his candidacy. However, according to The Hill, "Trump's blunt message of American exceptionalism and his distance from the political establishment continue to strike a chord with grassroots conservatives, who are fed up with the status quo in Washington." The Hill provides seven instances in which "the political class leaped to write the Trump campaign's obituary, only to be proven wrong."

NY Times Analysis: Trump's Style Makes Him "Almost Comic-Proof." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Poniewozik, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Trump "works in the mode and rhythms of a stand-up. He riffs. He goads. He works blue." That style, according to the Times, "has rendered him, weirdly, almost comic-proof." The Times explains that "election parodies traditionally exaggerate candidates," but Trump "exaggerates himself – he's the frilled lizard of politics, inflating his self-presentation to appear ever larger." The Times says "satire exposes candidates' contradictions and absurdities," but "Trump blows past those, while his supporters cheer."

Milbank: George W. Bush Is Reminder Of When "Conservative Politics Wasn't So Beastly." In his [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says former President George W. Bush's recent campaigning for Jeb Bush "served as a reminder that, not too long ago, conservative politics wasn't so beastly." Milbank says while Bush "did his share to coarsen political discourse ... even Karl Rove's underhandedness seems almost quaint compared with today's brutality." Milbank adds the GOP "isn't necessarily more conservative; Trump is less a conservative than a purveyor of insults, nationalism and conspiracy theories." Milbank concludes the former President's "reemergence offered Republicans a chance to reflect on how Bush's party of conservatism so quickly became Trump's party of rage."

SOUTH CAROLINA POLL: CLINTON LEADS SANDERS 56%-38%. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Byrnes, 862K) reported that CNN/ORC survey of 280 South Carolina likely Democratic primary voters, taken Feb. 10-15, shows Hillary Clinton leading Sen. Bernie Sanders 56%-38%. Among African-American voters, Clinton leads 65%-28%, and among women voters, she leads 60%-33%, according to the poll. Sanders leads among white voters 54%-40%,

and he leads among men voters 49%-45%, according to the poll.

Media Analyses: Clinton, Sanders South Carolina Battle Comes Down To Black Vote. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Tucker, Wagner, 8.98M) reports that as Clinton and Sanders battle for support in South Carolina, "the fight is largely among African Americans, who are expected to make up at least half of the" state's "electorate and who maintain a large degree of fondness for the Clintons." Sanders is attempting "to cut into Clinton's sizable lead by appealing to younger African Americans," who find appeal in "his message of economic justice and feel that many of the crime policies that began under President Bill Clinton have done long-term harm to their communities."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Nancy Cordes reported that Sanders on Tuesday "met with black ministers in Columbia, South Carolina," while Clinton "sat down with civil rights leaders in Harlem." In her Harlem speech, Clinton "proposed a \$2 billion plan to reform school discipline policies that she says are failing black students." Sanders, meanwhile, "focused on black incarceration rates." Cordes added that Clinton leads "among South Carolina African Americans by nearly 40 points. She sought to cement that advantage today by implying Sanders is new to the fight for racial equality." However, Sanders "argued the civil right movement inspired his fight against Wall Street greed."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, story 2, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M), Kasie Hunt reported that in the Democratic race, "African-American voters [were] are the focus" on Tuesday, with "Clinton courting black leaders, hoping for an endorsement from reverend Al Sharpton," and Sanders meeting with "faith leaders" in South Carolina, where he "campaigning with Erica Garner, whose father died after a New York city police officer put him in a chokehold." Erica Garner was shown saying of Sanders, "He marched with Martin Luther King. He stood with Jesse Jackson, so basically he's stood with black people when it wasn't popular."

The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Chozick, Alcindor, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, "The black vote is likely to make up roughly half the Democratic electorate in the party's Feb. 27 primary in South Carolina, and the two candidates highlighted similar themes in their appeals: the disproportionate economic barriers that young black men, in particular, face and the need to overhaul a criminal justice system that incarcerates young black men at high rates and to work with police forces to prevent officers from shooting black men or singling out African-Americans for arrest. Mr. Sanders, speaking to students at a town-hall-style meeting at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, said he was tired of seeing 'videos of unarmed people being killed by police officers.'"

Clinton Woos African-Americans During Harlem Speech, Meeting With Civil Rights Leaders. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Przybyla, 5.45M) reported that a Harlem speech yesterday, Hillary Clinton, "citing a lingering 'reality of systemic racism' in America, called for a comprehensive approach to battling racial inequality...that goes beyond changes to the criminal justice system." Clinton detailed "a multi-pronged approach, including new job investments, equal pay for women of color and ending what is, for many young black men, a school-to-prison pipeline."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Allen) reports that Clinton, wooing the crucial African-American vote, also met with civil rights leaders at the National Urban League's New York headquarters, including the Rev. Al Sharpton. Reuters adds that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and ex-US Attorney General joined Clinton onstage for her speech in Harlem.

Bill Clinton Stumps For Hillary In South Carolina. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/16, Morrill, 610K) reports that former President Bill Clinton, addressing "350 people at the West End Community Development Center" on Tuesday in Greenville, SC, portrayed his wife Hillary "as a pragmatic 'change agent.'" While Clinton didn't mention Sanders by name, "he said [Hillary's] policies are more pragmatic."

Under the headline "Bill Clinton Makes Nice With S.C. Blacks Who Ditched Hillary For Obama In 2008," the [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, 285K) reports that the former President attempted to link "Clinton to his own eight years in office, to President Obama's tenure and even to the anger that's forced Mrs. Clinton into a tougher primary race than she had hoped." Targeting "the young voters drawn to Mr. Sanders' promise of free public college," the former President said, "A lot of these young millennials are mad, and I think they are making a mistake, but they're supporting her opponent, because he's promising free college. Why? Because they can't move out of their parents' homes because they can't afford to pay their debt."

Sanders Dismisses Bill Clinton's Tea Party Comparison As "Silly." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Brody, 289K) reported that one day after Bill Clinton made remarks "widely interpreted as a criticism directly aimed at Bernie

Sanders," the Vermont lawmaker on Tuesday fired back. Campaigning for his wife on Monday in Florida, Clinton – while not mentioning Sanders by name – “said the Tea Party succeeded at the ballot box by deciding to ‘just tell people what they want to hear,’ before quickly adding that Democrats have also began ‘rewarding people who tell us things we know they can’t do because it pushes our hot button.’” Asked by Bloomberg Politics’ Mark Halperin about Clinton’s comments, Sanders said that “we should not be making silly remarks.” Asked, “Is there a comparison” between Sanders and the Tea Party, Sanders replied, “There’s no comparison.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“Hillary Clinton Should Just Say Yes To A \$15 Minimum Wage.”* A [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton “has eloquently defined workers’ rights as human rights,” and argues that she “could assert both more forcefully by championing a stronger federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour.” Clinton’s fight for a \$12 wage, the Times says, “stance misses the big picture, which is that the risk in keeping the minimum too low is bigger than the risk of raising it too high.”

“A Tale Of Horror At The United Nations.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the UN is “failing some of the most vulnerable children it is supposed to protect,” noting accusations of sexual abuse by peacekeepers in the Central African Republic. The Times says that while countries that contribute troops to peacekeeping missions “bear the primary responsibility for crimes committed by their forces,” the UN “urgently needs to intensify its oversight,” and welcomes the appointment last week of Jane Holl Lute as a special coordinator. Lastly, the Times argues that “despite the difficulties in recruiting enough troops for peacekeeping duties, it is time to exclude countries that do not impose the necessary discipline to make zero tolerance possible.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“Mr. Obama’s Defense Budget Reflects A New Age Of Military Deterrence.”* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) calls the President’s budget “recognition that Russia has evolved from hoped-for partner to serious threat is welcome.” The Post argues Western allies “must continue the fight against the Islamic State and other forces of instability,” but they “also must recognize that, through no choice of their own, a new age of deterrence has dawned,” and the US must “make clear to Russia that further aggression would impose an unacceptable cost.”

“Virginia, Don’t Revive The Electric Chair.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes against a bill by Virginia Del. Jackson H. Miller (R-Manassas) to bring back the electric chair for capital punishment. The Post says electrocution is “barbaric,” and Virginia should either wait to procure drugs needed for lethal injections or “recognize the future and scrap capital punishment altogether.”

“DC Fire System Needs To Change Because Lives Are At Stake.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes that with the persistent “incompetence” of emergency medical care, the DC fire system needs to change. The system’s failures were highlighted last week when Juliette Saussy, the medical director hired seven months ago to help reform the department, quit “with a withering critique of the organization and its leadership.” Because Chief Gregory Dean has been in the department for less than a year, the Post says he “should be given more time.” However, with lives at stake, the “clock should be ticking” on his efforts towards improvement.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“Regulating Education For Profit.”* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) criticizes Tony Miller, the second highest-ranking official in the Education Department from 2009 to 2013, because of the fact that Miller will soon become chairman of the for-profit Apollo Education once Apollo is bought by the private-equity firm Vistria Group. The Journal says that Miller led a federal department bent on destroying the value of Apollo, then left the government and bought Apollo at a fraction of the price with the hopes that a new Administration will be more lenient towards for-profit education.

“Africa’s Terror Crescent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the US, UN, African Union, and European powers have failed to uproot Islamist terrorists from Africa, with several attacks last weekend highlighting jihad’s reach on the continent. This terrorism endangers some of Africa’s most promising regions that span from the Horn of Africa to the Mediterranean coast and south to Nigeria. The Journal concludes that as the situation in Syria shows, jihad will continue to spread unless it is crushed.

“The New Schumer Precedent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an

editorial that Sen. Charles Schumer appears ham-fisted in his efforts to explain comments he made in 2007 that the Senate should reject any hypothetical Supreme Court nominees during the last 18 months of President Bush's term.

"An Animas River Accounting." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn't giving the full story regarding the agency's litany of failures that culminated in the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn't tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Their Unifying Principal](#)

[Obama Won't Shy From A Court Fight](#)

[Grim Sleeper Trial Finally Begins](#)

[Pope Makes A Stand At The Front Line Of Mexico's Drug War](#)

[Lautner Home Marks A Sweet Spot For LACMA](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Saudi, Russia, Qatar, Venezuela Agree To Freeze Oil Output](#)

[Obama Plans To Make Court Pick In Next Few Weeks](#)

[Iran "Foreign Legion" Leads Battle In Syria's North](#)

[South Carolina GOP Voters Feel The Benefits Of Free Trade—But Also The Scars](#)

New York Times:

[President Raises Stakes In Supreme Court Nominee Battle](#)

[Supreme Court Path Is Littered With Pitfalls, For President And GOP](#)

[Hillary Clinton's Candidacy Reveals Generational Schism Among Women](#)

[Virtual Reality Companies Look To Science Fiction For Their Next Play](#)

[New York Schools Wonder: How White Is Too White?](#)

[Young Saudis See Cushy Jobs Vanish Along With Nation's Oil Wealth](#)

Washington Post:

[DC Cabbies Are On Prolific Ticket-Writing Officer's Radar](#)

[Shutdown Was Cruz's Defining Moment](#)

[Europe Flails At Migrant Crisis](#)

[Obama Pledges Qualified Nominee](#)

[Sanders And Clinton See Black Votes As Key In SC](#)

Financial Times:

[Saudi And Russia Agree Oil Freeze](#)

[China Bank Lending Hits Record In January](#)

Washington Times:

[Angry Tea Partyer Abandons Trump In S. Carolina](#)

[GOP Starts To Yield On Voting To Fill Scalia's Seat](#)

[Clinton Welcomed In South Carolina Despite Caustic Campaigning In 2008](#)

[Leftist Takes Advantage Of A Weakened Venezuela](#)

[Some Planned Parenthood Supporters Say Constitution Protects Investigators](#)

[Ugandan Voters To Test Another African Leader's Grip On Power](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Heartburn Medication Debate; Eagles Of Death Concert; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; California Earthquake.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court

Nomination; Severe Weather; El Nino-Global Effects; Lesotho Drought-El Nino; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Pope John Paul II-Lifelong Friendship; US Railroad Inspection Standards; Westminster Dog Show.

NBC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; Student Loan Arrest; US Prescription Drug Prices; Former UN Secretary General Death; US-Cuba Commercial Flights; Angola-Record Diamond; Westminster Dog Show.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 16 minutes, 00 seconds

Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 40 seconds

Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 6 minutes, 00 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

CBS: San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show Winner.

NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Oregon Protester Leaders-Comments; China-Woody Island Missiles Deployed; Hanoi-War Commemoration; Baltimore-Organized Crime Leader Story; Westminster Dog Show.

FOX: 2016 Politics-Republican Campaigns; 2016 Politics- Donald Trump; Supreme Court Nomination Debate.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No scheduled public events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits New Orleans, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee to participate in events commemorating the 7th anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 7:30 AM FCW Unified Security event, "Strengthening the Cyber Ecosystem." – An event that will "provide federal IT leaders with insights into how to build a cyber ecosystem that reduces their vulnerabilities and strengthens their capacity to respond to the rising tide of cyber threats." Speakers include NPPD Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) Cybersecurity Assurance Branch Chief Martin Stanley, who is scheduled to deliver remarks at 10:50 a.m. Location: Willard InterContinental Hotel 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW <https://fcw.com/cybersecurity2016>

3:00 PM U.S. Justice Action Network to Release New Poll Revealing Voter Attitudes Toward Criminal Justice Reform – The U.S. Justice Action Network will unveil new polling that highlights voter sentiment toward federal criminal justice reforms currently being considered by the U.S. Senate. The poll results will highlight voter attitudes toward federal reform in six states, all of which are considered crucial in the 2016 election cycle, including Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Ed Goeas, president and CEO of conservative polling firm The Tarrance Group will present the polling results as well as highlight other insights generated by the survey. The U.S. Justice Action Network's conservative and progressive partners will also be on hand to give their take on the findings, and what it means for the larger effort to advance reforms. Location: 444 North Capitol, Room 337 www.justiceactionnetwork.org

7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit. Day two speakers include National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Frank Klotz, Russia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sergey Kislyak, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, GeoStrategic Analysis President Peter Huessy, and Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>

12:30 PM GOP Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' on helping America's entrepreneurs – House Committee on Small Business Chairman Republican Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' at the NPC on 'how Congress can help America's entrepreneurs', as part of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation 2016 State of Entrepreneurship Address Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, during his speech at the rally, George W. Bush said his brother Jeb is the guy who can fix the problems that inflame our country's frustrations. Or in other words, Jeb is America's 'Preparation H.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the latest national poll, Hillary Clinton's lead over Bernie Sanders has narrowed to ten points. Also narrowed, Hillary Clinton's eyes."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 31 percent of Donald Trump supporters in South Carolina would support a ban on homosexuals immigrating to the US. Oh, yeah, because that's what all cool, gay Europeans dream of...South Carolina."

Seth Meyers: "CNN has released an article comparing the Republican candidates to used cars, which likened John Kasich to a family-friendly minivan. And here are some of the other candidates. Ben Carson is a Prius. You can hardly hear it running."

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Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert

1 message

White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 5:49 AM

Reply-To: noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov

To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2016

FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert

On Friday, President Obama will designate three new national monuments in the California desert, encompassing nearly 1.8 million acres of America's public lands. Building on the Administration's commitment to protect our land and water for future generations, today's designations will nearly double the number of acres of public lands previously protected as national monuments by President Obama--- demonstrating the Administration's strong commitment to aggressive action to protect the environment for future generations.

In addition to permanently protecting incredible natural resources, wildlife habitat and unique historic and cultural sites, and providing recreational opportunities for a burgeoning region, the monuments will support climate resiliency in the region and further advance the President's unprecedented work to address climate change. The new monuments will link already protected lands, including Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and fifteen congressionally-designated Wilderness areas, permanently protecting key wildlife corridors and providing plants and animals with the space and elevation range that they will need in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The new monuments are Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument in southern California.

- **Mojave Trails National Monument:** Spanning 1.6 million acres, more than 350,000 acres of previously congressionally-designated Wilderness, the Mojave Trails National Monument is comprised of a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. The monument will protect irreplaceable historic resources including ancient Native American trading routes, World War II-era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66. Additionally, the area has been a focus of study and research for decades, including geological research and ecological studies on the effects of climate change and land management practices on ecological communities and wildlife.
- **Sand to Snow National Monument:** Encompassing 154,000 acres, including just over 100,000 acres of already congressionally-designated Wilderness, Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure and one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California, supporting more than 240 species of birds and twelve threatened and endangered wildlife species. Home to the region's tallest alpine mountain that rises from the floor of the Sonoran desert, the monument also will protect sacred, archaeological and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs. Featuring thirty miles of the world famous Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing.
- **Castle Mountains National Monument:** The Castle Mountains National Monument is an integral piece of the Mojave Desert with important natural resources and historic sites, including Native American archeological sites. The 20,920-acre monument will serve as a critical connection between two mountain ranges, protecting water resources, plants, and wildlife such as golden eagles, bighorn sheep,

mountain lions and bobcats.

Following decades of local input and leadership from Senator Dianne Feinstein, today's designation's will enhance the region's economic activity by attracting visitors, increasing tourism, and ensuring public access for hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, rock climbing and other outdoor recreation activities for generations to come. Permanent protection for the three new national monuments is strongly supported by local governments, tribes, business groups, elected officials, community leaders, and a variety of stakeholders including faith leaders, sportsmen, historians, conservationists and others. Additionally, the designations complement an ongoing planning process for renewable energy development on public lands in the California desert and furthers the longstanding work with public land managers and local communities to protect these lands for future generations.

In addition to protecting more land and water than any Administration in history - more than 265 million acres - the President has sought to ensure that all Americans and future generations have the opportunity to experience the natural and cultural richness of our national parks, monuments, forests and other public lands. Nearly a year ago, the President announced the launch of the Every Kid in a Park program to give every 4th grader in America free access to visit the country's unparalleled public lands, and over the course of the next year, the Administration will continue to encourage all Americans to "find your park" and experience firsthand the wonder of America's great outdoors. Moreover, the Administration is working to galvanize public and private support to achieve the goals of Every Kid in a Park and boost additional efforts to connect more underserved youth with nature.

Inspired by the Administration's commitment to connecting more young Americans to the outdoors and by the President's trip to Alaska last summer, IslandWood, the Sierra Club, the Children & Nature Network's Natural Leaders, and action sports retailer Zumiez are today announcing a new project called "Fresh Tracks." Their independent project will provide two dozen youth from underserved Los Angeles and Alaska Native communities with opportunities to travel together to both areas and explore diverse cultures and outdoors over a three-week period in August. Their project is particularly focused on working with communities responding to the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, a call to action by President Obama for cities, Tribal Nations, towns, and counties to build and execute robust cradle-to-college-and-career plans to ensure that all young people - no matter who they are or where they come from - can achieve their full potential. The President's actions today are protecting important public lands, and efforts like Fresh Tracks and Every Kid in a Park will work to ensure that our country's youth are able to visit and enjoy these types of cultural and natural areas.

###

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The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW · Washington DC 20500 · 202-456-1111



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert

1 message

Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
To: doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 5:52 AM

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Begin forwarded message:

From: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: February 12, 2016 at 5:49:45 AM EST
To: <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert
Reply-To: <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2016**FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert**

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###

5/13/2016

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert

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Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Courtesy Copy: Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

1 message

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 6:00 AM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, steven_avila@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, nils_franco@ios.doi.gov

This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Nate Adams.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Internal Group, Press in California, or Updated Print and Media List, (2912 recipients)



Date: February 12, 2016

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623, press@oc.usda.gov

Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

President's Action Follows Decades-Long Local Campaign to Preserve Spectacular Desert Landscapes, and Recreational Uses

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today joined members of Congress, state and local officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the [Sand to Snow National Monument](#), [Mojave Trails National Monument](#), and [Castle Mountains National Monument](#) in southern California.

The new monuments, located in San Bernardino and Riverside counties about one hour from the Los Angeles metropolitan area and one hour from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, protect approximately 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources, and important cultural sites. The three designations connect Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree

National Park, San Bernardino National Forest, and fifteen wilderness areas previously designated by Congress, creating a series of protected lands stretching hundreds of miles. The monuments protect current uses of the land, including military training operations, off-highway vehicle recreation, transportation, utility corridors, and existing mining operations.

The monuments announced today are the result of nearly two decades of leadership by U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein to craft legislation to protect the special places of the California desert. In October, senior Administration officials visited Palm Springs, California, at the Senator's invitation to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in the California desert. Supporters of protecting these areas include local counties and cities, area business groups, tribes, hunters, anglers, faith-based organizations, recreationists, local land trusts and conservation groups, and students from local schools.

"The California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of southern California," said Secretary Jewell. "It is an oasis of nature's quiet beauty just outside two of our nation's largest metropolitan areas. Its historic and cultural resources tell the stories of armies, travelers, ranchers, and miners, and of the original caretakers of this land. Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."

"Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," said Secretary Vilsack. "Today, they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions. We are honored to ensure the permanent protection of these cherished places."

The national monuments, comprised exclusively of existing federal lands, will be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service and by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The proclamations direct the agencies to engage the public in comprehensive planning for the management of these areas, building upon the provisions outlined in the proclamations. The three designations all honor valid existing rights, and provide for continued use for training activities of the U.S. military.

The **Sand to Snow National Monument** encompasses approximately 154,000 acres of federal lands, including just over 100,000 acres of already Congressionally-designated wilderness, east of Los Angeles, California, and will be managed jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Geronio Peak, the tallest in southern California, the monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites, and thirty miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing. The area is renowned for its rich diversity of rare and fragile wildlife and is one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California.

The Mojave Trails National Monument spans 1.6 million acres of federal lands, including more than 350,000 acres of already Congressionally-designated wilderness, managed by the Bureau of Land Management between Barstow and Needles, California. It is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Connecting the Mojave National Preserve with Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave Trails National Monument ensures the biological connectivity of this landscape while preserving traditional uses such hunting and off-highway vehicle recreation.

The **Castle Mountains National Monument** consists of approximately 21,000 acres of federal land surrounded by the existing Mojave National Preserve and will be managed by the National Park

Service. An integral piece of the Mojave Desert, the area has important flora, fauna, water, and historic resources, and its designation as a national monument helps to preserve related resources set aside for protection in the Preserve. The monument has some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching, and the railroad from the period of western expansion.

Today's announcement brings to twenty-two the number of national monuments established by President Obama under the Antiquities Act, an authority exercised by sixteen presidents starting with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and used to protect treasures such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients. Altogether, President Obama has protected more than 265 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – and has preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people and extraordinary events in American history.

A list of Q&As on the three new national monuments can be found [HERE](#).

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Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

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Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

President's Action Follows Decades-Long Local Campaign to Preserve Spectacular Desert Landscapes, and Recreational Uses

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today joined members of Congress, state and local officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the [Sand to Snow National Monument](#), [Mojave Trails National Monument](#), and [Castle Mountains National Monument](#) in southern California.

The new monuments, located in San Bernardino and Riverside counties about one hour from the Los Angeles metropolitan area and one hour from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, protect approximately 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources, and important cultural sites. The three designations connect Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, San Bernardino National Forest, and fifteen wilderness areas previously designated by Congress, creating a series of protected lands stretching hundreds of miles. The monuments protect current uses of the land, including military training operations, off-highway vehicle recreation, transportation, utility corridors, and existing mining operations.

The monuments announced today are the result of nearly two decades of leadership by U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein to craft legislation to protect the special places of the California desert. In October, senior Administration officials visited Palm Springs, California, at the Senator's invitation to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in the California desert. Supporters of

protecting these areas include local counties and cities, area business groups, tribes, hunters, anglers, faith-based organizations, recreationists, local land trusts and conservation groups, and students from local schools.

“The California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of southern California,” said Secretary Jewell. “It is an oasis of nature’s quiet beauty just outside two of our nation’s largest metropolitan areas. Its historic and cultural resources tell the stories of armies, travelers, ranchers, and miners, and of the original caretakers of this land. Today’s designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations.”

“Sand to Snow’s peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people,” said Secretary Vilsack. “Today, they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions. We are honored to ensure the permanent protection of these cherished places.”

The national monuments, comprised exclusively of existing federal lands, will be managed by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service and by the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service. The proclamations direct the agencies to engage the public in comprehensive planning for the management of these areas, building upon the provisions outlined in the proclamations. The three designations all honor valid existing rights, and provide for continued use for training activities of the U.S. military.

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

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Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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

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

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DOI in the News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Empowering Native American Communities:

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

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

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

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

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

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

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

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

Onshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Offshore Energy Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Park Service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Top National News:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial Wrap-Up:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

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

New York Times:

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

Washington Post:

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

Financial Times:

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

Washington Times:

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

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

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

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

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

Network TV At A Glance:

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

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Air Traffic Controller Report.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Wall Street; Oregon Standoff Ends.

FOX: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; Oregon Standoff Ends; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; Wall Street; Congress-Trans-Pacific Partnership; Myspace Sold.

NPR: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; North Korea Rocket Launch-South Korea Response; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; California-Methane Gas Leak Stopped; West Virginia Chemical Spill-Mining Executive Sentenced; Uber Settles Class-Action Lawsuit.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

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

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 10:30 AM 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' Congressional briefing – 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' briefing, on the state of the nation's working class and what can be done to address a rising level of family and economic instability, sponsored by bipartisan Sens. Tim Scott and Bob Casey and co-hosted by The American Academy of Political and Social Science and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Social policy experts Johns Hopkins University Professor of Public Policy Andrew Cherlin, Brookings Institution Center on Children and Families co-director Ron Haskins, Princeton University Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs Sara McLanahan, and Harvard University Professor of Public Policy Robert Putnam present evidence on the current state of American families, marriage, mobility, and child well-being, and examine what has been called 'the fall of the working class'. Location: Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.aapss.org> <https://twitter.com/TheAAPSS>. Contacts: AAPSS 1 215 746 6500.

US House: 8:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Air Force FY'17 budget – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Air Force 2017 Budget Request and Readiness', with testimony from US Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Gen. John Raymond, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection Lt. Gen. John Cooper. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.amedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

9:00 AM House expected to debate Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 2017, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015' * Administration has said it opposes the bill, saying it would 'undercut the objective of providing clear, consistent calorie information to consumers'. Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>. Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating biological threats – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Outbreaks, Attacks, and Accidents: Combating Biological Threats', with testimony from Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense members Donna Shalala and James Greenwood; In-Q-Tel Senior Fellow and Executive Vice President Tara O'Toole; and Texas A&M University Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing Associate Vice President for Public Health Preparedness and Response Dr. Gerald Parker. Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>. Contacts: House Energy and Commerce Committee 1 202 225 2927.

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA IG budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Office of the Inspector General', with testimony from USDA Inspector General Phyllis Fong, Assistant Inspector General for Audits Gil Harden, and Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Ann Coffey. Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

2 messages

OS, OIEA <oiea@ios.doi.gov>
Bcc: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 9:10 AM

Friends:

We wanted to share with you exciting news that today President Obama designated three new national monuments in the California desert.

Below is a press release and attached is a fact sheet on the designation of Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument in southern California.

We encourage you to share any statements or press releases that your office might put out regarding today's news. You can either reply to this email or send it directly to oiea@ios.doi.gov. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923



Date: February 12, 2016

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623, press@oc.usda.gov

Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

President's Action Follows Decades-Long Local Campaign to Preserve Spectacular Desert Landscapes, and Recreational Uses

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today joined members of Congress, state and local officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the [Sand to Snow National Monument](#),

Mojave Trails National Monument, and **Castle Mountains National Monument** in southern California.

The new monuments, located in San Bernardino and Riverside counties about one hour from the Los Angeles metropolitan area and one hour from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, protect approximately 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources, and important cultural sites. The three designations connect Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, San Bernardino National Forest, and fifteen wilderness areas previously designated by Congress, creating a series of protected lands stretching hundreds of miles. The monuments protect current uses of the land, including military training operations, off-highway vehicle recreation, transportation, utility corridors, and existing mining operations.

The monuments announced today are the result of nearly two decades of leadership by U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein to craft legislation to protect the special places of the California desert. In October, senior Administration officials visited Palm Springs, California, at the Senator's invitation to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in the California desert. Supporters of protecting these areas include local counties and cities, area business groups, tribes, hunters, anglers, faith-based organizations, recreationists, local land trusts and conservation groups, and students from local schools.

"The California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of southern California," said Secretary Jewell. "It is an oasis of nature's quiet beauty just outside two of our nation's largest metropolitan areas. Its historic and cultural resources tell the stories of armies, travelers, ranchers, and miners, and of the original caretakers of this land. Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."

"Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," said Secretary Vilsack. "Today, they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions. We are honored to ensure the permanent protection of these cherished places."

The national monuments, comprised exclusively of existing federal lands, will be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service and by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The proclamations direct the agencies to engage the public in comprehensive planning for the management of these areas, building upon the provisions outlined in the proclamations. The three designations all honor valid existing rights, and provide for continued use for training activities of the U.S. military.

The **Sand to Snow National Monument** encompasses approximately 154,000 acres of federal lands, including just over 100,000 acres of already Congressionally-designated wilderness, east of Los Angeles, California, and will be managed jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Geronio Peak, the tallest in southern California, the monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites, and thirty miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing. The area is renowned for its rich diversity of rare and fragile wildlife and is one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California.

The Mojave Trails National Monument spans 1.6 million acres of federal lands, including more than 350,000 acres of already Congressionally-designated wilderness, managed by the Bureau of Land Management between Barstow and Needles, California. It is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest

remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Connecting the Mojave National Preserve with Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave Trails National Monument ensures the biological connectivity of this landscape while preserving traditional uses such hunting and off-highway vehicle recreation.

The **Castle Mountains National Monument** consists of approximately 21,000 acres of federal land surrounded by the existing Mojave National Preserve and will be managed by the National Park Service. An integral piece of the Mojave Desert, the area has important flora, fauna, water, and historic resources, and its designation as a national monument helps to preserve related resources set aside for protection in the Preserve. The monument has some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching, and the railroad from the period of western expansion.

Today's announcement brings to twenty-two the number of national monuments established by President Obama under the Antiquities Act, an authority exercised by sixteen presidents starting with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and used to protect treasures such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients. Altogether, President Obama has protected more than 265 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – and has preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people and extraordinary events in American history.

A list of Q&As on the three new national monuments can be found [HERE](#).

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OS, OIEA <oiea@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 10:07 AM

To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Kimberly Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

*Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
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U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923*

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

From: **Matt Keller** <matt_keller@tws.org>

Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 9:38 AM

Subject: RE: Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

To: "OS, OIEA" <oiea@ios.doi.gov>

Here is the release The Wilderness Society sent out:

<https://wilderness.org/press-release/president-obama-designate-three-new-national-monuments-california-desert>

Thank you!

Matt

Matt Keller
National Monuments Campaign Director

The Wilderness Society

Office: 970.422.4349

Cell: 970.946.0906

matt_keller@twes.org

www.wilderness.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheWildernessSociety

Twitter: twitter.com/Wilderness



We protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places

From: maria_najera@ios.doi.gov [mailto:maria_najera@ios.doi.gov] **On Behalf Of** OS, OIEA

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 7:10 AM

Subject: Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

in California Desert

[Quoted text hidden]

Confidential

FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments in the California Desert

Today, President Obama will designate three new national monuments in the California desert, encompassing nearly 1.8 million acres of America's public lands. Building on the Administration's commitment to protect our land and water for future generations, today's designations will nearly double the number of acres of public lands previously protected as national monuments by President Obama.

In addition to permanently protecting incredible natural resources, wildlife habitat and unique historic and cultural sites, and providing recreational opportunities for a burgeoning region, the monuments will support climate resiliency in the region and further advance the President's unprecedented work to address climate change. The new monuments will link already protected lands, including Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and fifteen congressionally-designated Wilderness areas, permanently protecting key wildlife corridors and providing plants and animals with the space and elevation range that they will need in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The new monuments are Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument in southern California.

- **Mojave Trails National Monument:** Spanning 1.6 million acres, including 400,000 acres of previously congressionally-designated Wilderness, the Mojave Trails National Monument is comprised of a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. The monument will protect irreplaceable historic resources including ancient Native American trading routes, World War II-era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66. Additionally, the area has been a focus of study and research for decades, including geological research and ecological studies on the effects of climate change and land management practices on ecological communities and wildlife.
- **Sand to Snow National Monument:** Encompassing 154,000 acres, including just over 100,000 acres of already congressionally-designated Wilderness, Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure and one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California, supporting more than 240 species of birds and twelve threatened and endangered wildlife species. Home to the region's tallest alpine mountain that rises from the floor of the Sonoran desert, the monument also will protect sacred, archaeological and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs. Featuring thirty miles of the world famous Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing.
- **Castle Mountains National Monument:** The Castle Mountains National Monument is an integral piece of the Mojave Desert with important natural resources and historic sites, including Native American archeological sites. The 20,920-acre monument will serve as a critical connection between two mountain ranges, protecting water resources, plants, and wildlife such as golden eagles, bighorn sheep, mountain lions and bobcats.

Following decades of local input and leadership from Senator Dianne Feinstein, today's designation's will enhance the region's economic activity by attracting visitors, increasing tourism, and ensuring public access for hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, rock climbing and other outdoor recreation activities for generations to come. Permanent protection for the three new national monuments is strongly

supported by local governments, tribes, business groups, elected officials, community leaders, and a variety of stakeholders including faith leaders, sportsmen, historians, conservationists and others. Additionally, the designations complement an ongoing planning process for renewable energy development on public lands in the California desert and furthers the longstanding work with public land managers and local communities to protect these lands for future generations.

In addition to protecting more land and water than any Administration in history – more than 265 million acres – the President has sought to ensure that all Americans and future generations have the opportunity to experience the natural and cultural richness of our national parks, monuments, forests and other public lands. Nearly a year ago, the President announced the launch of the Every Kid in a Park program to give every 4th grader in America free access to visit the country's unparalleled public lands, and over the course of the next year, the Administration will continue to encourage all Americans to "find your park" and experience firsthand the wonder of America's great outdoors. Moreover, the Administration is working to galvanize public and private support to achieve the goals of Every Kid in a Park and boost additional efforts to connect more underserved youth with nature.

Inspired by the Administration's commitment to connecting more young Americans to the outdoors and by the President's trip to Alaska last summer, IslandWood, the Sierra Club, the Children & Nature Network's Natural Leaders, and action sports retailer Zumiez are today announcing a new project called "Fresh Tracks." Their independent project will provide two dozen youth from underserved Los Angeles and Alaska Native communities with opportunities to travel together to both areas and explore diverse cultures and outdoors over a three-week period in August. Their project is particularly focused on working with communities responding to the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, a call to action by President Obama for cities, Tribal Nations, towns, and counties to build and execute robust cradle-to-college-and-career plans to ensure that all young people—no matter who they are or where they come from—can achieve their full potential. The President's actions today are protecting important public lands, and efforts like Fresh Tracks and Every Kid in a Park will work to ensure that our country's youth are able to visit and enjoy these types of cultural and natural areas.



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

1 message

OS, OIEA <oiea@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 10:08 AM

To: Kimberly Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

*Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
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From: **Ryan Bidwell** <ryan@conservationlands.org>

Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 9:22 AM

Subject: Re: Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

To: "OS, OIEA" <oiea@ios.doi.gov>

Many press releases have been placed here: <http://californiadesert.org/media/>

PRESS RELEASES

- Historic Designation of New California Desert National Monuments Celebrated by Local Communities
- Amargosa Conservancy Applauds President Obama's Plan to Designate California Desert National Monuments
- Microbusiness Network Applauds Establishment of California Desert Monuments (California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO))
- New Desert Monuments Protect Heritage, Open Space with Balanced Approach to Conservation (Conservation Lands Foundation)
- Christian Communities Rejoice over Establishment of California Desert Monuments (Creation Justice Ministries)
- Joshua Tree Chamber Applauds the Designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails & Castle Mountains National Monuments
- Latin Business Association Applauds Establishment of New California Desert Monuments
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California Celebrates Announcement to Establish New California Desert Monuments
- Mojave Desert Land Trust Celebrates Three New California Desert Monuments
- Native American Land Conservancy Comments Announcement to Establish California Desert

National Monuments

- Pew Applauds Plan to Create National Monuments in California Desert
- Por La Creación Faith-based Alliance: Latinos Celebrate New Monuments Protecting the California Desert
- Trout Unlimited applauds new Sand to Snow National Monument: Designation of three new national monuments in southern California will permanently protect water supply, habitat, and sporting opportunities
- Vet Voice Foundation Applauds President Obama, Sen. Feinstein on Announcement of California Desert National Monuments

Ryan

From: <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> on behalf of "OS, OIEA" <oiea@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 at 7:10 AM

To: <undisclosed-recipients:;>

Subject: Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

Friends:

We wanted to share with you exiting news that today President Obama designated three new national monuments in the California desert.

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We encourage you to share any statements or press releases that your office might put out regarding today's news. You can either reply to this email or send it directly to oiea@ios.doi.gov. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923



Date: February 12, 2016

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.govUSDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623, press@oc.usda.gov

Secretaries Jewell, Vilsack Applaud President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments in California Desert

President's Action Follows Decades-Long Local Campaign to Preserve Spectacular Desert Landscapes, and Recreational Uses

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today joined members of Congress, state and local officials, and local business and community leaders in applauding the President's designation of the [Sand to Snow National Monument](#), [Mojave Trails National Monument](#), and [Castle Mountains National Monument](#) in southern California.

The new monuments, located in San Bernardino and Riverside counties about one hour from the Los Angeles metropolitan area and one hour from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, protect approximately 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources, and important cultural sites. The three designations connect Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, San Bernardino National Forest, and fifteen wilderness areas previously designated by Congress, creating a series of protected lands stretching hundreds of miles. The monuments protect current uses of the land, including military training operations, off-highway vehicle recreation, transportation, utility corridors, and existing mining operations.

The monuments announced today are the result of nearly two decades of leadership by U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein to craft legislation to protect the special places of the California desert. In October, senior Administration officials visited Palm Springs, California, at the Senator's invitation to hear from the community about its vision for conservation in the California desert. Supporters of protecting these areas include local counties and cities, area business groups, tribes, hunters, anglers, faith-based organizations, recreationists, local land trusts and conservation groups, and students from local schools.

"The California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of southern California," said Secretary Jewell. "It is an oasis of nature's quiet beauty just outside two of our nation's largest metropolitan areas. Its historic and cultural resources tell the stories of armies, travelers, ranchers, and miners, and of the original caretakers of this land. Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."

"Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," said Secretary Vilsack. "Today, they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions. We are honored to ensure the permanent protection of these cherished places."

The national monuments, comprised exclusively of existing federal lands, will be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service and by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The proclamations direct the agencies to engage the public in comprehensive planning for the management of these areas, building upon the provisions outlined in the proclamations. The three designations all honor valid existing rights, and provide for continued use for training activities of the U.S. military.

The [Sand to Snow National Monument](#) encompasses approximately 154,000 acres of federal

lands, including just over 100,000 acres of already Congressionally-designated wilderness, east of Los Angeles, California, and will be managed jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Gorgonio Peak, the tallest in southern California, the monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites, and thirty miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing. The area is renowned for its rich diversity of rare and fragile wildlife and is one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California.

The Mojave Trails National Monument spans 1.6 million acres of federal lands, including more than 350,000 acres of already Congressionally-designated wilderness, managed by the Bureau of Land Management between Barstow and Needles, California. It is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Connecting the Mojave National Preserve with Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave Trails National Monument ensures the biological connectivity of this landscape while preserving traditional uses such hunting and off-highway vehicle recreation.

The **Castle Mountains National Monument** consists of approximately 21,000 acres of federal land surrounded by the existing Mojave National Preserve and will be managed by the National Park Service. An integral piece of the Mojave Desert, the area has important flora, fauna, water, and historic resources, and its designation as a national monument helps to preserve related resources set aside for protection in the Preserve. The monument has some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching, and the railroad from the period of western expansion.

Today's announcement brings to twenty-two the number of national monuments established by President Obama under the Antiquities Act, an authority exercised by sixteen presidents starting with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and used to protect treasures such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients. Altogether, President Obama has protected more than 265 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – and has preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people and extraordinary events in American history.


A list of Q&As on the three new national monuments can be found [HERE](#).

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Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Defenders of Wildlife's statement on CA monuments

1 message

OS, OIEA <oiea@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 10:08 AM

To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Kimberly Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

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

From: Catalina Tresky <CTRESKY@defenders.org>

Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 10:07 AM

Subject: Defenders of Wildlife's statement on CA monuments

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

Good morning - What an exciting day for the California desert! Thank you to Secretary Jewell and DOI for making these important monuments a reality.

Please see Defenders of Wildlife's statement on the newly announced monuments

Thank you,

Catalina Tresky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**February 12, 2015****Contact: Catalina Tresky; ctresky@defenders.org, (202) 772-0253****The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments**

WASHINGTON – Today, as one of his first public lands initiatives of his final year in office, President

Obama announced the designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as the nation's newest national monuments. This act will conserve 1.8 million acres of California's most ecologically important and scenic areas for generations to come.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, CEO and President of Defenders of Wildlife, issued the following statement:

"President Obama's announcement of new national monuments is especially welcome news at the start of the New Year. National monument status guarantees the conservation of unique ecological, recreational and economic benefits of landscapes far into the future. This protective status safeguards wildlife as they adapt to climate change, protects fragile water sources, encourages tourism, supports local businesses, and provides outdoor recreation access to suitable public lands.

"President Obama's inclusion of the California desert is particularly important since this desert is the most intact, undisturbed landscape left unprotected in the Lower-48. The California desert provides a home to fragile wildlife, such as the state-listed Mohave ground squirrel and the federally listed desert tortoise, and includes spectacular scenic areas, such as the biologically significant Pisgah Valley, the scenic Owens Valley and the remote Springs Valley.

"We look forward to the official designation of The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the near future and are encouraged to see that President Obama is making conservation a priority in his final year in office."

###

Get the latest Defenders news on Twitter [@defendersnews](#).

Past press statements are available in our [newsroom](#) and be sure to visit our [multimedia library](#) and [reporter resources](#) pages for more info, including free-use photos.

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With more than 1.2 million members and activists, Defenders of Wildlife is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come. For more information, visit www.defenders.org.



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Courtesy Copy: America's Great Outdoors Tumblr updates

3 messages

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 11:02 AM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dombush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, pagewatcher@govdelivery.com

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments:...

02/12/2016 10:25 AM EST



Mojave Trails National Monument



Castle Mountains National Monument



Sand to Snow National Monument

Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments: Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument. These new monuments protect 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources and important cultural sites – ensuring that current and future generations can enjoy the unique beauty of the California desert.

Mojave Trails is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

An integral part of the California desert, Castle Mountains National Monument protects some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching and the railroad from the period of western expansion. Photo by National Park Service.

Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Geronio Peak, the tallest in southern California, Sand to Snow National Monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites and 30 miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing and even skiing. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 3:02 PM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dombush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, pagewatcher@govdelivery.com

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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America's public lands are wonderful places to love and be in...

02/12/2016 02:25 PM EST

America's public lands are wonderful places to love and be in love. Every year thousands get engaged and married in national parks, wildlife refuges and scenic wildernesses. We're celebrating these great love stories with this video of proposals and weddings on public lands. Thanks to everyone who shared their photos and helped make this sweet Valentines Day video!

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 5:00 PM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, pagewatcher@govdelivery.com

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Happy 207th Birthday to President Abraham Lincoln. Remembered as...

02/12/2016 04:50 PM EST



Happy 207th Birthday to President Abraham Lincoln. Remembered as the "Great Emancipator" and the "Man Who Saved the Union," the legacy of Lincoln lives on in our commitment to unity and equality. His memorial in Washington, D.C., is a popular national park and one of the finest pieces of public art in the world. Photo by Lisa Locke (www.sharetheexperience.org).

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Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

America's Great Outdoors Tumblr updates - New

3 messages

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov> Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 11:02 AM
 To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudeias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov

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Change Report

New RSS story:

Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments:...

02/12/2016 10:25 AM EST



Mojave Trails National Monument



Castle Mountains National Monument



Sand to Snow National Monument

Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments: Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument. These new monuments protect 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources and important cultural sites – ensuring that current and future generations can enjoy the unique beauty of the California desert.

Mojave Trails is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

An integral part of the California desert, Castle Mountains National Monument protects some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching and the railroad from the period of western expansion. Photo by National Park Service.

Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Geronio Peak, the tallest in southern California, Sand to Snow National Monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites and 30 miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing and even skiing. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 3:02 PM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov

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Change Report

New RSS story:

[America's public lands are wonderful places to love and be in...](#)

02/12/2016 02:25 PM EST

America's public lands are wonderful places to love and be in love. Every year thousands get engaged and married in national parks, wildlife refuges and scenic wildernesses. We're celebrating these great love stories with this video of proposals and weddings on public lands. Thanks to everyone who shared their photos and helped make this sweet Valentines Day video!

GovDelivery, Inc., 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102



U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov> Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 5:00 PM
 To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov

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Change Report

New RSS story:

[Happy 207th Birthday to President Abraham Lincoln. Remembered as...](#)

02/12/2016 04:50 PM EST



Happy 207th Birthday to President Abraham Lincoln. Remembered as the “Great Emancipator” and the “Man Who Saved the Union,” the legacy of Lincoln lives on in our commitment to unity and equality. His memorial in Washington, D.C., is a popular national park and one of the finest pieces of public art in the world. Photo by Lisa Locke (www.sharetheexperience.org).

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GovDelivery, Inc., 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102





Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Sand to Snow National Monument

1 message

White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-To: noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov
To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 12:02 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE


February 12, 2016

Attached and signed today by the President is a proclamation regarding the establishment of the Sand to Snow National Monument.

###

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 **2016sandtosnow.prc.rel.pdf**
70K

For Immediate Release

February 12, 2016

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SAND TO SNOW NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Sand to Snow area of southern California is an ecological and cultural treasure, a microcosm of the great geographic diversity of the region. Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to the tallest peak in southern California, the area features a remarkable diversity of plant and animal species. The area includes a portion of the San Bernardino National Forest and connects this area with Joshua Tree National Park to the east, knitting together a mosaic of spectacular landscapes stretching over 200 miles. The mountain peaks of the Sand to Snow area frame the northeastern reach of Coachella Valley along with the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument to the south. Home to desert oases at Big Morongo Canyon and Whitewater Canyon, the area serves as a refuge for desert dwelling animals and a stopover for migrating birds. The archaeological riches of the Black Lava Buttes and the historical remains of mining and ranching communities tell of past prosperity and struggle in this arid land. The unbroken expanse is an invaluable treasure for our Nation and will continue to serve as an irreplaceable resource for archaeologists, geologists, and biologists for generations to come.

The Sand to Snow area encompasses a rich diversity of geological and ecological resources, including a nearly 10,000-foot elevation gradient from the Sonoran Desert floor to the top of the 11,500-foot San Gorgonio Mountain, the highest mountain in southern California. From the flat desert lowlands, the mountains thrust upward in stark relief, creating indelible beauty along with a unique diversity of resources and a rich history of human habitation and movement. Along this remarkable topographic gradient lies an unusually wide range of ecosystems, ranging from lowland Mojave and Colorado deserts to scrub and woodlands and Mediterranean chaparral to subalpine and alpine conifer forests. San Gorgonio Mountain is one end of the longest recorded line of sight in the lower 48 States, the other being Mount Whitney, 190 miles away. In addition, the Henry Washington Survey Marker, located on San Bernardino Peak, serves as the starting point for surveying land in southern California and is included on the National Register of Historic Places.

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mountain with reverence and referred to as Akvungna. The Luiseño refer to the Gorgonio Mountain sacred and the older brother of Mount San Jacinto; both peaks were among the first born of Earth Mother. The Luiseño refer to San Gorgonio Mountain as Pewipwi.

Thirty miles of the world famous Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail run through the Sand to Snow area, climbing 7,000 feet from the desert of Whitewater Canyon to Mission Springs in the San Bernardino National Forest. The history of this renowned trail dates back to the 1920s when the idea of a border-to-border trail was first conceptualized. Although the establishment of the trail took decades to fully materialize, today the trail is a national icon, highlighting the wilderness treasures of the American West. Since its completion, over 3,000 people have hiked the 2,600 miles of continuous trail along the Pacific crest, including the Mission Creek Canyon segment found within the Sand to Snow area.

The Sand to Snow area first took its current shape 175 million years ago with the subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the North American Plate. The San Bernardino Mountain range in the western half of the Sand to Snow area is unusual in California, a transverse range as distinct from the north-south mountain ranges found through most of California. This difference in direction results from a change in the San Andreas Fault, which shifts direction to the west of the Sand to Snow area. This intersection of mountains makes this area a critical bridge for wildlife traversing the high elevations of southern California's desert landscape.

Two branches of the San Andreas Fault run through the Sand to Snow area, and the faulting that created the mountains and canyons throughout this landscape also created the Morongo Valley. The Whitewater Canyon area has been featured in numerous studies of the plate tectonics and geologic rifting of southern California, including studies that examine the impact of earthquakes on fault stability. The San Bernardino Mountains and Big Morongo Canyon contain ancient rocks from the Proterozoic Eon, along with some of the oldest exposed rocks in California, nearly 2 billion years old. Granite, gneiss, and schist in these areas have been used by geologists to better understand the tectonic history of the region, and are a testament to the area's important geologic past.

Covering a range of nearly 10,000 feet in elevation, the Sand to Snow area includes an extraordinarily diverse range of ecosystems from lowland deserts, fresh water marshes, and Mojave riparian forests, to creosote bush scrub ecosystems, and alpine peaks. Hundreds of springs rise to the surface at South Fork Meadows, the origin of the South Fork of the Santa Ana River. The Sand to Snow area has been important to biological and ecological research, as well as studies of climate and land use change, the impact of fires and invasive species management.

The area has a remarkable species richness that makes it one of most biodiverse areas in California. The area is home to 12 federally listed threatened and endangered animal
00068988-OEI-BATCH039-DOC0013-ATT-20240 Page 2 of 6

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nearby yellow-legged frog, and unarmored three-spine stickleback, as well as the threatened Santa Ana sucker, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, and desert tortoise.

A tremendous diversity of other wildlife species also make their homes here. In the San Gorgonio Wilderness, black bears, mountain lions, bobcats, mule deer, and bighorn sheep can all be found. Species such as ringtails, kit fox, striped skunk, California ground squirrel, blacktail jackrabbit, and 19 species of bat live in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Amphibians and reptiles including the Mohave Rattlesnake, red diamond rattlesnake, rosy boa, desert spiny lizard, California kingsnake, Western whiptail, and Pacific tree frog also live in the Sand to Snow area.

The Sand to Snow area is famous for its oases frequented by over 240 species of birds, including the endangered Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and Yuma clapper rail, as well as the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. Big Morongo Canyon, characterized by steep canyons, rugged terrain, and desert oases, is particularly high in biodiversity and is among the largest desert riparian habitats in California. It has been recognized as among the most important avian habitats in the State. Common birds found at Big Morongo Canyon include shore birds like the American white pelican, great blue heron, and green heron, raptors such as the Swainson's hawk, Northern Harrier, and American kestrel, owls, including the western screech-owl and great horned owl, and hummingbirds, woodpeckers, vireos, and finches. Additionally, 32 species of migratory birds of conservation concern have been identified in the Sand to Snow area, including eagles, sparrows, owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and falcons, among others.

The Sand to Snow area is home to dozens of native plant species, including 14 federally listed threatened or endangered species of flowering plants. These include the endangered California dandelion, Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Cushenbury buckwheat, Cushenbury oxytheca, pedate checker-mallow, San Bernardino bluegrass, San Bernardino Mountains bladderpod, Santa Ana River woolly-star, slender-petaled mustard, and triple-ribbed milk-vetch and the threatened ash-grey paintbrush, Bear Valley sandwort, Parish's daisy, and Southern Mountain wild-buckwheat. The southern-most stand of quaking aspen trees is located here as are important stands of white fir and bigcone Douglas-fir.

The human history of the Sand to Snow area extends back thousands of years. People now identified as part of the Tatic subset of the large Uto-Aztecan group of Native Americans arrived in the region around 2,500 years ago. Ancient people of the area used a wide variety of plants from both the mountains and the Mojave desert, such as honey mesquite, oak, piñon, cactus fruits, yucca roots, and tubers as well as grasses, seeds, and berries. Common tools were made of wood, bone, shell, stone, clay, and plant fibers. These people also manufactured woven goods, pipes made of stone, awls made of bone, tools associated with archery, and fire drills. They made coiled basketry and simple und
00068988-OEI-BATCH039-DOC0013-ATT-20240 Page 3 of 6
storage and transport.

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meanwhile. In 1837, the Spanish forcibly relocated many Serrano people to new villages. In 1840 the Serrano suffered a devastating smallpox outbreak, and the disease returned in 1860. Ruth Benedict, one of the world's foremost cultural anthropologists, studied the Serrano extensively in 1924. However, by this time there were few remaining eastern groups and no old shamans or priests survived. Today, the rich archaeological resources in this area serve to preserve the history of the Serrano people. Black Lava Butte, topped by distinctive basaltic lava flows, is sacred to the Serrano Tribe and home to a substantial number of archaeological sites, including evidence of habitation, rock art, and possible ritual activities. Black Lava Butte contains an estimated 1,700 distinct petroglyphs, most of which have not yet been studied and may provide insight into the history of the Serrano and other tribes in the region. The mesa also contains dozens of isolated grinding and milling sites and at least one shelter site, where many milling stones are present.

After the Holcomb Valley gold rush of 1860, ranchers used the area for grazing sheep, horses, and cattle. Many of the ranchers kept their herds at lower elevations during the winter and drove their stock to the meadows of the San Bernardino Mountains to graze during the summer months. Old cattle paths, watering holes, and campsites remain a part of the landscape today. Although not particularly successful, many miners prospected in the southeastern portions of the San Bernardino Mountains. Evidence still remains in the form of old cabins, mine shafts, prospecting pits, and refuse deposits.

The protection of the Sand to Snow area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans. In addition to its significant scientific and historic values, the area also provides world class outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

WHEREAS, section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to preserve the objects of scientific and historic interest on the Sand to Snow lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, hereby proclaim the objects identified above to be national monuments and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

00068988-OEI-BATCH039-DOC0013-ATT-20240 Page 4 of 6

map, which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation. The Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 154,000 acres. The boundaries described on the accompanying map are confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws or laws applicable to the U.S. Forest Service, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights. If the Federal Government acquires any lands or interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, such lands and interests in lands shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior (Secretaries) shall manage the monument through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), pursuant to their respective applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation. The USFS shall manage that portion of the monument within the boundaries of the National Forest System (NFS), and BLM shall manage the remainder of the monument. The lands administered by USFS shall be managed as part of the San Bernardino National Forest. The lands administered by BLM shall be managed as a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System, pursuant to applicable legal authorities.

For purposes of protecting and restoring the objects identified above, the Secretaries shall jointly prepare a management plan for the monument and shall promulgate such regulations for its management as deemed appropriate. In developing any management plans and any management rules and regulations governing NFS lands within the monument, the Secretary of Agriculture, through USFS, shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior through BLM. The Secretaries shall provide for public involvement in the development of the management plan including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, State, and local governments. In the development and implementation of the management plan, the Secretaries shall maximize opportunities, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, for shared resources, operational efficiency, and cooperation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to interfere with the operation or maintenance, or with the replacement or modification of boundary, of existing water resource, flood control, utility, 00068988-OEI-BATCH039-DOC0013-ATT-20240 Page 5 of 6

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constructed within the monument, to the extent consistent with the proper care and management of the objects identified above. This proclamation does not alter or affect the valid existing water rights of any party, including the United States. This proclamation does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law.

Except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes, motorized vehicle use in the monument shall be permitted only on roads existing as of the date of this proclamation. Non-motorized mechanized vehicle use shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for their use consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the rights of any Indian tribe. The Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law and in consultation with Indian tribes, ensure the protection of Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties in the monument and provide access by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites).

Nothing in this proclamation shall preclude low level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special use airspace, the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by this proclamation, or related military uses, consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of California, including its jurisdiction and authority with respect to fish and wildlife management.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument, including wildland fire response.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

00068988-OEI-BATCH039-DOC0013-ATT-20240 Page 6 of 6



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

LCV & CLCV on Cal desert monuments

2 messages

Alex Taurel <Alex_Taurel@lcv.org>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 12:58 PM

To: Mark Antoniewicz (b) (6), Tom Elson (b) (6), Michael Degnan (b) (6), Rohan Patel (b) (6), John Bisognano (b) (6), Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding (b) (6), Christy Goldfuss (b) (6), Andrew McConville - (b) (6), Andrew McConville - (b) (6), Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>, Robert Bonnie <Robert.Bonnie@osec.usda.gov>, Leslie Jones <Leslie.Jones@osec.usda.gov>

Huge thanks!!

Alex

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-California-LCV-Statement-on-the-Designation-of-Three-National-Monuments-in-the-California-Desert.html>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 12, 2016

CONTACT: Seth Stein, 202-454-4573 or Seth_Stein@lcv.org

LCV & California LCV Statement on the Designation of Three National Monuments in the California Desert

Washington, DC – Today, President Obama has designated the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the California desert.

League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement:

“President Obama's historic action will buffer the California desert, its wildlife and its communities from the greatest long-term challenge they face: climate change. Future generations will have President Obama to thank for their ability to access and explore the scenic, historic, and cultural treasures found in the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. We celebrate the designation of these national monuments along with the nearby communities who strongly support protecting these spectacular landscapes to boost tourism and quality of life in the California desert.”

California League of Conservation Voters Chief Executive Officer Sarah Rose released this statement:

“We thank President Obama for his leadership in permanently protecting these important sites in the California desert. The California desert is one of the most unique and pristine places in the country. Californians and visitors from all over our country and the world over have long been drawn to its stark beauty, painted mountains, iconic Route 66, fascinating wildlife, Native American petroglyphs, inspirational vistas and storied history. The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and the Castle Mountains feature unparalleled scenery, making tourism and recreation an essential part of the region's economy, and providing critical habitat for a healthy desert ecosystem. In addition to protecting recreation opportunities for generations to come, the National Monument designation by President Obama will safeguard sensitive water resources and help the desert cope with climate change by conserving and connecting habitat needed by plants and animals to survive, migrate, and adapt.”

Sent from my iPhone

John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 1:02 PM

From: Alex Taurel [mailto:Alex_Taurel@lcv.org]

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:58 PM

To: Mark Antoniewicz; Tom Elson; Michael Degnan; Rohan Patel; John Bisognano; Nikki Buffa; Tommy Beaudreau; John Blair; Stephenne Harding; Christy Goldfuss; **Andrew McConville - (b) (6)** Neil Kornze; Robert Bonnie; Leslie Jones

Subject: LCV & CLCV on Cal desert monuments

[Quoted text hidden]

Confidential



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Press statement: The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments

2 messages

Mary Beth Beetham <MBEETHAM@defenders.org>
To: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 12:53 PM

FYI

Mary Beth Beetham



Director of Legislative Affairs
Defenders of Wildlife

1130 17th Street N.W. Washington D.C. 20036-4604

Tel: (202) 772-0231 | **Fax:** (202) 682-1331

mbeetham@defenders.org | www.defenders.org

Mobile: (202) 422-4085

From: Catalina Tresky
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:11 AM
To: #STAFF <STAFF@defenders.org>
Subject: Press statement: The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments

Good morning all – The following press statement has been distributed and posted to our website.

<https://www.defenders.org/press-release/california-desert-home-three-newly-announced-monuments>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2015

Contact: Catalina Tresky; ctresky@defenders.org, (202) 772-0253**The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments**

WASHINGTON – Today, as one of his first public lands initiatives of his final year in office, President Obama announced the designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as the nation's newest national monuments. This act will conserve 1.8 million acres of California's most ecologically important and scenic areas for generations to come.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, CEO and President of Defenders of Wildlife, issued the following statement:

“President Obama’s announcement of new national monuments is especially welcome news at the start of the New Year. National monument status guarantees the conservation of unique ecological, recreational and economic benefits of landscapes far into the future. This protective status safeguards wildlife as they adapt to climate change, protects fragile water sources, encourages tourism, supports local businesses, and provides outdoor recreation access to suitable public lands.

“President Obama’s inclusion of the California desert is particularly important since this desert is the most intact, undisturbed landscape left unprotected in the Lower-48. The California desert provides a home to fragile wildlife, such as the state-listed Mohave ground squirrel and the federally listed desert tortoise, and includes spectacular scenic areas, such as the biologically significant Pisgah Valley, the scenic Owens Valley and the remote Springs Valley.

“We look forward to the official designation of The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the near future and are encouraged to see that President Obama is making conservation a priority in his final year in office.”

###

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Past press statements are available in our [newsroom](#) and be sure to visit our [multimedia library](#) and [reporter resources](#) pages for more info, including free-use photos.

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With more than 1.2 million members and activists, Defenders of Wildlife is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to

5/13/2016

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - FW: Press statement: The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments

safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come. For more information, visit www.defenders.org.



Catalina Tresky

Communications Associate

Defenders of Wildlife

1130 17th Street N.W. Washington D.C. 20036-4604

Tel: (202)772-0253 | **Fax:** (202)682-1331

ctresky@defenders.org | www.defenders.org

John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 1:03 PM

From: Mary Beth Beetham [<mailto:MBEETHAM@defenders.org>]

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:53 PM

To: John Blair

Subject: FW: Press statement: The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments

[Quoted text hidden]



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Latinos Celebrate New Monuments Protecting the California Desert

1 message

Maite Arce <maite@hispanicaccess.org>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 4:04 PM

To: "Blair, John" <John_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, "<maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Jennifer Brandt <jenny@hispanicaccess.org>

Dear John,

I'd like to share the stories from HAF and our partners in communities on the reaction to President Obama's action to designate three new monuments in the California Desert. As you know, we've been hoping for this and communities are celebrating today! Please relay our deepest thanks to Secretary Jewel and to you and your staff. We are grateful. - Maite Arce

Latinos Celebrate New Monuments Protecting the California Desert



Feb 12, 2016

WASHINGTON, DC – Latinos are celebrating the announcement that President Barack Obama will sign proclamations this week establishing three new national monuments in the California desert – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains. Latinos account for nearly half of the... [Read More](#)

Latino Faith Leaders Rebut Criticisms of California Desert Monuments



Feb 12, 2016

Leaders applaud protecting outdoor heritage for future generations
WASHINGTON, DC – Members and supporters of Por la Creación: Faith Based Alliance (PLC), which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation, are applauding the news that President Obama is designating... [Read More](#)

Indland News Today

February 12, 2016

INLAND EMPIRE - (INT) - There has been widespread support for President Obama's designation of three national monuments in the deserts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

It has come from the Mojave Desert Land Trust which applauded President Obama for his visionary leadership and Senator Dianne Feinstein for her 'foresight and dedication to the preservation of these treasured desert lands'.

The Hispanic Access Foundation declared that the President’s action protects outdoor heritage for future generations. “Latinos have such an important voice in the protection of our public lands, and a critical role to play in encouraging stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage,” the Foundation stated. [More...](#)

Maite Arce, President/CEO
Hispanic Access Foundation
571.335.3645
<http://hispanicaccess.org>

Confidential



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Monument Statements

1 message

Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 6:01 PM

To: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <liz_pardue@ios.doi.gov>

Hey all-

Here are all the monument statements.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Elected Officials

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Tweet - Mojave Trails Nat'l Monument, on both sides of historic Route 66, has majestic mountains & valleys. #ProtectCADesert

<https://twitter.com/SenFeinstein/status/698201781092880384>

Tweet - Sand to Snow National Monument is one of the most biologically diverse monuments in the country. #ProtectCADesert

<https://twitter.com/SenFeinstein/status/698224600732319744>

"The effort to preserve the California desert has been a long one, and today is a major milestone," Feinstein said. "This kind of landscape is so much a part of what the West once was, and these monuments are icons of our cultural heritage. Simply put, the California desert is a national treasure. This designation only reaffirms that fact."

<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-monuments-20160212-story.html>

External Organizations

Defenders of Wildlife

The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, as one of his first public lands initiatives of his final year in office, President Obama announced the designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as the nation's newest national monuments. This act will conserve 1.8 million acres of California's most ecologically important and scenic areas for generations to come.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, CEO and President of Defenders of Wildlife, issued the following statement:

"President Obama's announcement of new national monuments is especially welcome news at the start of the New Year. National monument status guarantees the conservation of unique ecological, recreational and economic benefits of landscapes far into the future. This protective status safeguards wildlife as they adapt to climate change, protects fragile water sources, encourages tourism, supports local businesses, and provides outdoor recreation access to suitable public lands.

"President Obama's inclusion of the California desert is particularly important since this desert is the most intact, undisturbed landscape left unprotected in the Lower-48. The California desert provides a home to fragile wildlife, such as the state-listed Mohave ground squirrel and the federally listed desert tortoise, and includes spectacular scenic areas, such as the biologically significant Pisgah Valley, the scenic Owens Valley and the remote Springs Valley.

"We look forward to the official designation of The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the near future and are encouraged to see that President Obama is making conservation a priority in his final year in office."

League of Conservation Voters

League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement:

"President Obama's historic action will buffer the California desert, its wildlife and its communities from the greatest long-term challenge they face: climate change. Future generations will have President Obama to thank for their ability to access and explore the scenic, historic, and cultural treasures found in the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. We celebrate the designation of these national monuments along with the nearby communities who strongly support protecting these spectacular landscapes to boost tourism and quality of life in the California desert."

California League of Conservation Voters Chief Executive Officer Sarah Rose released this statement:

"We thank President Obama for his leadership in permanently protecting these important sites in the California desert. The California desert is one of the most unique and pristine places in the country. Californians and visitors from all over our country and the world over have long been drawn to its stark beauty, painted mountains, iconic Route 66, fascinating wildlife, Native American petroglyphs, inspirational vistas and storied history. The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and the Castle Mountains feature unparalleled scenery, making tourism and recreation an essential part of the region's economy, and providing critical habitat for a healthy desert ecosystem. In addition to protecting recreation opportunities for generations to come, the National Monument designation by President Obama will safeguard sensitive water resources and help the desert cope with climate change by conserving and connecting habitat needed by plants and animals to survive, migrate, and adapt."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-California-LCV-Statement-on-the-Designation-of-Three-National-Monuments-in-the-California-Desert.html>

Pew Charitable Trusts

President Barack Obama proclaimed three national monuments in the California desert on Feb. 12, capping nearly a decade of work by local leaders to ensure continued recreational opportunities, benefit to local economies, and conservation of the region's beauty. Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains total nearly 1.8 million acres.

These three national monuments will permanently protect public lands in the California desert for future generations. The conserved, connected habitat will ensure the continued enjoyment of recreational activities such as camping, hunting, and hiking, and also help buffer the desert—and its wildlife and communities—from a changing climate.

Public lands in the California desert contribute significantly to the region's tourism economy—these national monuments will bring more attention and visitors to the area. In 2014, more than 3.2 million people visited Joshua Tree, Death Valley, and the Mojave National Preserve, adding \$194 million to the region's economy and supporting over 2,700 jobs, according to the National Park Service.

These new monuments are an important part of a broader approach by federal, state, and local agencies to integrate land and wildlife conservation with the development of renewable energy sources in the California desert.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2016/02/12/obama-designates-3-national-monuments-in-california-desert>

Tweet - Good news! 1.8M acres of CA desert set aside for conservation:

<https://twitter.com/pewenvironment/status/698228084160462848>

California Desert

Tweet - Thx @POTUS @SecretaryJewell @forestservice - the public supports CA Desert #MonumentsForAll! pic.twitter.com/PIX5BbM1de

<https://twitter.com/CalDesert/status/698182792153157633>

Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and Fishing

Tweet – THANK YOU! Incredible amount of local & nationwide support is why we now have 3 new CA Desert #MonumentsForAll.

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/698185235255570432>

Tweet - PLC is beyond elated @CalDesert's new #MonumentsForAll! Thanks @USDA @SecretaryJewell @POTUS @SenFeinstein! pic.twitter.com/Bo2UrGiffI

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/698185835041071104>

Tweet - Great work by @POTUS to protect such amazing desert #CA landscapes. What treasure will be next? #MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/EnvAm/status/698224495904079872>

Conservation Lands

Tweet - Thx @SenFeinstein for your leadership. 'Gen's you'll never meet' thank u too. (h/t @MartinHeinrich) #MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/ConservationLF/status/698239875565355014>

National Parks Conservation Association

"A few centuries ago, Mexican wolves chased pronghorn antelope across this very landscape. We're already in discussions with federal wildlife authorities," he added, "about taking the next step: reintroducing species of a bygone era, starting with pronghorn antelope."

<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-monuments-20160212-story.html>

Conservation Partners

Tweet - Some great new additions to our National #ConservationLands and our #NationalParks. Thanks @POTUS! #MonumentsForAll whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/02/1...

<https://twitter.com/conservpartners/status/698253492368986113>

The Wilderness Society

Tweet - (via Chase Huntley, Director of Energy & Climate Program) thank YOU @SenFeinstein for never letting up in your fight to #protectCAdesert! #MonumentsForAll

https://twitter.com/chase_huntley/status/698246444986273792

President Obama has designated three new national monuments in the California desert that will safeguard nationally significant historical, cultural, geological and ecological resources.

The new monuments - Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains - include Southern California's highest peak (Mount San Geronio), the headwaters of its longest river (the Santa Ana), the longest intact stretch of the iconic Route 66, and many other important resources.

"We are extremely grateful to President Obama for his foresight and leadership to protect these remarkable and fragile places in the California desert," said Dan Smuts, The Wilderness Society's California Senior Regional Director. "These national monuments not only protect important natural and cultural resources, but will also bring more visitors to hike, camp, and explore - which is great for the local economy. Moreover, they protect critical migration corridors that are essential for desert wildlife to adapt to a changing climate."

This historic presidential action is welcomed by a broad coalition of local residents and elected officials, community leaders and business owners, veterans, tribes, outdoor recreation advocates, faith leaders, historians, conservationists, and others who have worked for nearly a decade, with leadership from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, to achieve permanent protection for these important desert areas.

Mojave Trails National Monument:

- A critical linkage between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park
- Refuge for bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and fringe-toed lizards
- Sensitive underground springs
- Amboy Crater – one of North America's youngest volcanoes
- 550 million-year-old fossil beds of the Marble Mountains
- World War II desert training center, Iron Mountain

- Largest intact, open stretch of historic Route 66

Castle Mountains National Monument:

- Critical pathways for endangered wildlife
- Native American archaeological sites
- Historic gold mining ghost town of Hart
- Native desert grasslands and Joshua tree, pinion pine and juniper forests
- Target area for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world
- Spectacular views of California and Nevada peaks, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain

Sand to Snow National Monument:

- Headwaters of the Whitewater and Santa Ana Rivers
- Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa Native American cultural sites
- Home to more than 240 types of migrating birds, including yellow chat and vermilion flycatchers
- Wildlife paths for mule deer, mountain lions, black bears, bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise
- 25 miles of the iconic Pacific Crest Trail
- Home to one of the most botanically diverse mountains in the United States

The Wilderness Society is proud to have participated in the campaign to safeguard the California desert. We thank President Obama for having the wisdom and conviction to protect these irreplaceable national treasures, and we are grateful to Senator Dianne Feinstein for her steadfast efforts on behalf of the rich heritage and natural resources within California's public lands.

Creation Justice

Tweet - @POTUS, thx for new #MonumentsForAll - will help God's creatures of @CalDesert cope w/climate change. #ActOnClimate [pic.twitter.com/eo3La7oift](https://twitter.com/eo3La7oift)

<https://twitter.com/CreationJustice/status/698241529643663361>

Mojave Land Trust

Tweet - Petition: Thank @POTUS & @SenFeinstein for protecting our CA Desert bit.ly/1EDOTV2 #MonumentsForAll pic.twitter.com/hG4BmL3RXu

<https://twitter.com/MojaveDesertLT/status/698241257152196608>

Hispanic Access Fund

Leaders applaud protecting outdoor heritage for future generations

WASHINGTON, DC – Members and supporters of Por la Creación: Faith Based Alliance (PLC), which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God’s creation, are applauding the news that President Obama is designating three new national monuments in the California desert today: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains.

However, the group also expressed dismay over criticisms from Rep. Paul Cook regarding the President’s action. While we appreciate Rep. Cook’s commitment to preserving public lands, he raises several objections that warrant a thoughtful response.

Rep. Cook claims that the new national monuments lack broad public support. In fact, the breadth and depth of public support for the President to designate the new California desert national monuments demonstrates overwhelmingly that Rep. Cook is incorrect. Calls for President Obama to act came from chambers of commerce, over 200 desert business operators, local elected officials, veterans, Native Americans, Latino organizations, historians, artists, archaeologists, sportsmen, biologists, and community members. In addition, a recent poll from Vet Voice Foundation showed that 75 percent of California voters support the President designating three National Monuments in the California desert, with comparable levels of support—70 percent—among residents in the desert region. Rep. Cook himself built a huge amount of public support for permanent protection of most of the public lands in the new national monuments.

But Rep. Cook is opposed to Presidents creating any national monuments through the Antiquities Act. This is befuddling since Joshua Tree National Park – an economic engine that supports over 1,000 private sector jobs through \$74 million in visitor spending (based on 2014 data) in surrounding communities, including Rep. Cook’s hometown of Yucca Valley – was originally protected through the Antiquities Act in 1936. Other American icons protected through the Antiquities Act include the Statue of Liberty, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Mount Lassen. Furthermore, a poll released by Colorado College in January showed that 80 percent of Westerners favor Presidents continuing to protect public lands as national monuments.

“We have a moral responsibility to future generations to protect God’s creation — preserving the mountains, rivers, deserts and other breathtaking landscapes of our nation,” said Pastor Jesse Villarreal of Templo La Hermosa in Coachella and member of Por La Creación. “Protecting the California desert is crucial not only to the majority of local economies in the area, but also to the spiritual well-being of our community.”

Rep. Cook claims that the President should give the legislative process a chance to work. While legislative protection is desirable, many desert residents and organizations have expressed great concern with Rep. Cook’s California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act (CMORCA). PLC leaders met with Paul Cook’s office to share community concerns about CMORCA, including its provision to designate Mojave Trails as a “Special Management Area,” which would allow up to 150 square miles (96,500 acres) of the area to be mined, an expansion of nine times over current levels. The reality is that passage of California desert public lands legislation through the 114th Congress is slim at best, mainly because the objectionable provisions in CMORCA are incompatible with Senator Feinstein’s California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA). As a result, President Obama heeded the call from Senator Feinstein and business and community leaders to use the Antiquities Act.

“We feel that Senator Feinstein’s request to have President Obama designate Mojave Trails, Sand to

Snow, and the Castle Mountains as national monuments is a more balanced approach. It safeguards the region's natural and cultural treasures and will help expand the region's tourism economy without impeding existing mining claims or operations," said Pastor Frank Ruiz of the Indio Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coachella Valley and co-founder of PLC, in response to Rep. Cook's criticisms. "For these and many other reasons — from opportunities to hike, watch wildlife, and learn about historical sites, to the protection of groundwater aquifers and clean air — I have joined over 100 faith leaders from PLC and the Assemblies of God Southern Pacific District in signing letters in support of the monuments."

Rep. Cook also inaccurately criticizes the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, established in 2014, saying that the area has experienced increased strain and the US Forest has been unable to provide additional resources. The truth is that designating San Gabriel Mountains National Monument has resulted in a \$3 million increase in federal funds for the area as well as \$4 million in donations of private funding for the National Monument and areas connected to it. Since the monument's designation, the USFS has improved recreation sites and natural resource conditions, hired additional staff, and funded youth work crews.

Latinos Celebrate New Monuments Protecting the California Desert

WASHINGTON, DC – Latinos are celebrating the announcement that President Barack Obama will sign proclamations this week establishing three new national monuments in the California desert – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains. Latinos account for nearly half of the population throughout the California desert region and value that the new monuments will protect the cultural heritage, economic viability and natural resources of the region for future generations.

"Thanks to President Obama's actions and the tireless efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein, the California desert's wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are protected and preserved for future generations. The President's actions help us fulfill our moral responsibility to care for our desert land, water, and wildlife," said Pastor Frank Ruiz of the Indio Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coachella Valley and co-founder of Por La Creación Faith-based Alliance.

This effort to protect the California desert has strong local support from a diverse coalition of community leaders, organizations, and constituents. Latinos throughout the region have been active in the coalition by educating their communities about protecting this region. In the past two years, members of Por la Creación, which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation, have led hikes, events and camping trips for Latino community leaders, youth and families at Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, San Jacinto Mountains, The Living Desert and Amboy Crater.

Additionally, Latino faith leaders and youth from the Coachella Valley and High Desert region attended Sen. Dianne Feinstein's public meeting last October with the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture to express their support for national monument designations. Then in December, 100 Latino faith leaders from Assemblies of God Southern Pacific District jointly signed a letter to President Obama urging him to take action.

"Latinos have such an important voice in the protection of our public lands, and a critical role to play in encouraging stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF). "Today's historic action not only ensures continued public access to these places and enhances the local tourism and outdoor economies, but it also strengthens the diverse social fabric of the region."

Each of the new national monuments will greatly benefit the region. Mojave Trails provides vital habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is also steeped in historical significance as it includes irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites. Sand to Snow features one of the most diverse habitats in the country, which includes stunning cultural sites and rare species. The Castle Mountains feature the ghost town of Hart, rare intact desert grasslands, and stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges.

“Protecting the California desert is crucial not only to the majority of local economies in the area, but also to the spiritual well-being of our community,” said Pastor Raul Velázquez of New Beginnings Christian Center in Victorville and a Por La Creación member. “We thank President Obama for designating these new monuments and his faith in preserving these resources for future generations, as well as Sen. Feinstein for her years of leadership on this issue and for understanding why protecting the California desert is important to the Latino community.”

The Conservation Alliance

President Obama has designated three new national monuments, protecting roughly 1.8 million acres of BLM land in the California Desert. The three monuments connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world. With this action, Obama has now preserved more acres of land and water than any other President.

The largest of the three is Mojave Trails National Monument, a 1.6-million-acre matrix of land along 100 miles of historic Route 66 that protects wildlife corridors between Death Valley and Joshua Tree. Sand to Snow National Monument preserves 154,000 acres between Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest, and includes 24 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The 20,920-acre Castle Mountains National Monument preserves a ridge of desert peaks and rare grasslands roughly 100 miles south of Las Vegas, Nevada.

After years of trying to move legislation through a dysfunctional Congress, California Senator Dianne Feinstein asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the desert landscapes. Since 2008, The Conservation Alliance made a total of seven grants to California Wilderness Coalition and Conservation Lands Foundation for their efforts to secure protection for these lands. Both organizations played a key role in building local support for the protections, and guiding the project to success. We thank Senator Feinstein and President Obama for their leadership in protecting this important landscape.

President Obama has indicated his interest in protecting additional landscapes before he leaves office. The Conservation Alliance and our grantees will work hard throughout the year to demonstrate outdoor business support for saving these special places. We will keep you posted!

—
Kimberly Jensen
Special Assistant, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Department of the Interior
202-208-5541 (Desk)
202-573-0305 (Cell)

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Monument Statements

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Elected Officials

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

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<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-monuments-20160212-story.html>

External Organizations

Defenders of Wildlife

The California desert is home to three newly announced monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, as one of his first public lands initiatives of his final year in office, President Obama announced the designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as the nation’s newest national monuments. This act will conserve 1.8 million acres of California’s most ecologically important and scenic areas for generations to come.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, CEO and President of Defenders of Wildlife, issued the following statement:

“President Obama’s announcement of new national monuments is especially welcome news at the start of the New Year. National monument status guarantees the conservation of unique ecological, recreational and economic benefits of landscapes far into the future. This protective status safeguards wildlife as they adapt to climate change, protects fragile water sources, encourages tourism, supports local businesses, and provides outdoor recreation access to suitable public lands.

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“We look forward to the official designation of The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the near future and are encouraged to see that President Obama is making conservation a priority in his final year in office.”

League of Conservation Voters

League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement:

“President Obama’s historic action will buffer the California desert, its wildlife and its communities from the greatest long-term challenge they face: climate change. Future generations will have President Obama to thank for their ability to access and explore the scenic, historic, and cultural treasures found in the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. We celebrate the designation of these national monuments along with the nearby communities who strongly support protecting these spectacular landscapes to boost tourism and quality of life in the California desert.”

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“We thank President Obama for his leadership in permanently protecting these important sites in the California desert. The California desert is one of the most unique and pristine places in the country. Californians and visitors from all over our country and the world over have long been drawn to its stark beauty, painted mountains, iconic Route 66, fascinating wildlife, Native American petroglyphs, inspirational vistas and storied history. The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and the Castle Mountains feature unparalleled scenery, making tourism and recreation an essential part of the region's economy, and providing critical habitat for a healthy desert ecosystem. In addition to protecting recreation opportunities for generations to come, the National Monument designation by President Obama will safeguard sensitive water resources and help the desert cope with climate change by conserving and connecting habitat needed by plants and animals to survive, migrate, and adapt.”

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-California-LCV-Statement-on-the-Designation-of-Three-National-Monuments-in-the-California-Desert.html>

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These three national monuments will permanently protect public lands in the California desert for future generations. The conserved, connected habitat will ensure the continued enjoyment of recreational activities such as camping, hunting, and hiking, and also help buffer the desert—and its wildlife and communities—from a changing climate.

Public lands in the California desert contribute significantly to the region's tourism economy—these national monuments will bring more attention and visitors to the area. In 2014, more than 3.2 million people visited Joshua Tree, Death Valley, and the Mojave National Preserve, adding \$194 million to the region's economy and supporting over 2,700 jobs, according to the National Park Service.

These new monuments are an important part of a broader approach by federal, state, and local agencies to integrate land and wildlife conservation with the development of renewable energy sources in the California desert.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2016/02/12/obama-designates-3-national-monuments-in-california-desert>

Tweet - Good news! 1.8M acres of CA desert set aside for conservation:

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California Desert

Tweet - Thx @POTUS @SecretaryJewell @forests-service - the public supports CA Desert #MonumentsForAll! pic.twitter.com/PIX5BbM1de

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Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and Fishing

Tweet – THANK YOU! Incredible amount of local & nationwide support is why we now have 3 new CA Desert #MonumentsForAll.

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National Parks Conservation Association

"A few centuries ago, Mexican wolves chased pronghorn antelope across this very landscape. We're already in discussions with federal wildlife authorities," he added, "about taking the next step: reintroducing species of a bygone era, starting with pronghorn antelope."

<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-monuments-20160212-story.html>

Conservation Partners

Tweet - Some great new additions to our National #ConservationLands and our #NationalParks. Thanks @POTUS! #MonumentsForAll whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/02/1...

<https://twitter.com/conservpartners/status/698253492368986113>

The Wilderness Society

Tweet - (via Chase Huntley, Director of Energy & Climate Program) thank YOU @SenFeinstein for never letting up in your fight to #protectCAdesert! #MonumentsForAll

https://twitter.com/chase_huntley/status/698246444986273792

President Obama has designated three new national monuments in the California desert that will safeguard nationally significant historical, cultural, geological and ecological resources. The new monuments - Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains - include Southern California's highest peak (Mount San Geronio), the headwaters of its longest river (the Santa Ana), the longest intact stretch of the iconic Route 66, and many other important resources.

"We are extremely grateful to President Obama for his foresight and leadership to protect these remarkable and fragile places in the California desert," said Dan Smuts, The Wilderness Society's California Senior Regional Director. "These national monuments not only protect important natural and cultural resources, but will also bring more visitors to hike, camp, and explore - which is great for the local economy. Moreover, they protect critical migration corridors that are essential for desert wildlife to adapt to a changing climate."

This historic presidential action is welcomed by a broad coalition of local residents and elected officials, community leaders and business owners, veterans, tribes, outdoor recreation advocates, faith leaders, historians, conservationists, and others who have worked for nearly a decade, with leadership from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, to achieve permanent protection for these important desert areas.

Mojave Trails National Monument:

- A critical linkage between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park
- Refuge for bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and fringe-toed lizards
- Sensitive underground springs
- Amboy Crater – one of North America's youngest volcanoes
- 550 million-year-old fossil beds of the Marble Mountains
- World War II desert training center, Iron Mountain
- Largest intact, open stretch of historic Route 66

Castle Mountains National Monument:

- Critical pathways for endangered wildlife
- Native American archaeological sites
- Historic gold mining ghost town of Hart
- Native desert grasslands and Joshua tree, piñon pine and juniper forests
- Target area for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world
- Spectacular views of California and Nevada peaks, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain

Sand to Snow National Monument:

- Headwaters of the Whitewater and Santa Ana Rivers
- Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa Native American cultural sites
- Home to more than 240 types of migrating birds, including yellow chat and vermilion flycatchers
- Wildlife paths for mule deer, mountain lions, black bears, bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise
- 25 miles of the iconic Pacific Crest Trail
- Home to one of the most botanically diverse mountains in the United States

The Wilderness Society is proud to have participated in the campaign to safeguard the California desert. We thank President Obama for having the wisdom and conviction to protect these irreplaceable national treasures, and we are grateful to Senator Dianne Feinstein for her steadfast efforts on behalf of the rich heritage and natural resources within California's public lands.

Creation Justice

Tweet - @POTUS, thx for new #MonumentsForAll - will help God's creatures of @CalDesert cope w/climate change. #ActOnClimate pic.twitter.com/eo3La7oift

<https://twitter.com/CreationJustice/status/698241529643663361>

Mojave Land Trust

Tweet - Petition: Thank @POTUS & @SenFeinstein for protecting our CA Desert bit.ly/1EDOTV2 #MonumentsForAll pic.twitter.com/hG4BmL3RXu

<https://twitter.com/MojaveDesertLT/status/698241257152196608>

Hispanic Access Fund

Leaders applaud protecting outdoor heritage for future generations

WASHINGTON, DC – Members and supporters of Por la Creación: Faith Based Alliance (PLC), which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God’s creation, are applauding the news that President Obama is designating three new national monuments in the California desert today: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains.

However, the group also expressed dismay over criticisms from Rep. Paul Cook regarding the President’s action. While we appreciate Rep. Cook’s commitment to preserving public lands, he raises several objections that warrant a thoughtful response.

Rep. Cook claims that the new national monuments lack broad public support. In fact, the breadth and depth of public support for the President to designate the new California desert national monuments demonstrates overwhelmingly that Rep. Cook is incorrect. Calls for President Obama to act came from chambers of commerce, over 200 desert business operators, local elected officials, veterans, Native Americans, Latino organizations, historians, artists, archaeologists, sportsmen, biologists, and community members. In addition, a recent poll from Vet Voice Foundation showed that 75 percent of California voters support the President designating three National Monuments in the California desert, with comparable levels of support—70 percent—among residents in the desert region. Rep. Cook himself built a huge amount of public support for permanent protection of most of the public lands in the new national monuments.

But Rep. Cook is opposed to Presidents creating any national monuments through the Antiquities Act. This is befuddling since Joshua Tree National Park – an economic engine that supports over 1,000 private sector jobs through \$74 million in visitor spending (based on 2014 data) in surrounding communities, including Rep. Cook’s hometown of Yucca Valley – was originally protected through the Antiquities Act in 1936. Other American icons protected through the Antiquities Act include the Statue of Liberty, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Mount Lassen. Furthermore, a poll released by Colorado College in January showed that 80 percent of Westerners favor Presidents continuing to protect public lands as national monuments.

“We have a moral responsibility to future generations to protect God’s creation — preserving the mountains, rivers, deserts and other breathtaking landscapes of our nation,” said Pastor Jesse Villarreal of Templo La Hermosa in Coachella and member of Por La Creación. “Protecting the California desert is crucial not only to the majority of local economies in the area, but also to the spiritual well-being of our community.”

Rep. Cook claims that the President should give the legislative process a chance to work. While legislative protection is desirable, many desert residents and organizations have expressed great concern with Rep. Cook’s California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act

(CMORCA). PLC leaders met with Paul Cook's office to share community concerns about CMORCA, including its provision to designate Mojave Trails as a "Special Management Area," which would allow up to 150 square miles (96,500 acres) of the area to be mined, an expansion of nine times over current levels. The reality is that passage of California desert public lands legislation through the 114th Congress is slim at best, mainly because the objectionable provisions in CMORCA are incompatible with Senator Feinstein's California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA). As a result, President Obama heeded the call from Senator Feinstein and business and community leaders to use the Antiquities Act.

"We feel that Senator Feinstein's request to have President Obama designate Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and the Castle Mountains as national monuments is a more balanced approach. It safeguards the region's natural and cultural treasures and will help expand the region's tourism economy without impeding existing mining claims or operations," said Pastor Frank Ruiz of the Indio Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coachella Valley and co-founder of PLC, in response to Rep. Cook's criticisms. "For these and many other reasons — from opportunities to hike, watch wildlife, and learn about historical sites, to the protection of groundwater aquifers and clean air — I have joined over 100 faith leaders from PLC and the Assemblies of God Southern Pacific District in signing letters in support of the monuments."

Rep. Cook also inaccurately criticizes the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, established in 2014, saying that the area has experienced increased strain and the US Forest has been unable to provide additional resources. The truth is that designating San Gabriel Mountains National Monument has resulted in a \$3 million increase in federal funds for the area as well as \$4 million in donations of private funding for the National Monument and areas connected to it. Since the monument's designation, the USFS has improved recreation sites and natural resource conditions, hired additional staff, and funded youth work crews.

Latinos Celebrate New Monuments Protecting the California Desert

WASHINGTON, DC – Latinos are celebrating the announcement that President Barack Obama will sign proclamations this week establishing three new national monuments in the California desert – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains. Latinos account for nearly half of the population throughout the California desert region and value that the new monuments will protect the cultural heritage, economic viability and natural resources of the region for future generations.

"Thanks to President Obama's actions and the tireless efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein, the California desert's wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are protected and preserved for future generations. The President's actions help us fulfill our moral responsibility to care for our desert land, water, and wildlife," said Pastor Frank Ruiz of the Indio Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coachella Valley and co-founder of Por La Creación Faith-based Alliance.

This effort to protect the California desert has strong local support from a diverse coalition of community leaders, organizations, and constituents. Latinos throughout the region have been active in the coalition by educating their communities about protecting this region. In the past two years, members of Por la Creación, which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation, have led hikes, events and camping trips for Latino community leaders, youth and families at Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, San Jacinto Mountains, The Living Desert and Amboy Crater.

Additionally, Latino faith leaders and youth from the Coachella Valley and High Desert region attended Sen. Dianne Feinstein's public meeting last October with the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture to express their support for national monument designations. Then in December, 100 Latino faith leaders from Assemblies of God Southern Pacific District jointly signed a letter to President Obama urging him to take action.

"Latinos have such an important voice in the protection of our public lands, and a critical role to play in encouraging stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF). "Today's historic action not only ensures continued public access to these places and enhances the local tourism and outdoor economies, but it also strengthens the diverse social fabric of the region."

Each of the new national monuments will greatly benefit the region. Mojave Trails provides vital habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is also steeped in historical significance as it includes irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites. Sand to Snow features one of the most diverse habitats in the country, which includes stunning cultural sites and rare species. The Castle Mountains feature the ghost town of Hart, rare intact desert grasslands, and stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges.

"Protecting the California desert is crucial not only to the majority of local economies in the area, but also to the spiritual well-being of our community," said Pastor Raul Velázquez of New Beginnings Christian Center in Victorville and a Por La Creación member. "We thank President Obama for designating these new monuments and his faith in preserving these resources for future generations, as well as Sen. Feinstein for her years of leadership on this issue and for understanding why protecting the California desert is important to the Latino community."

The Conservation Alliance

President Obama has designated three new national monuments, protecting roughly 1.8 million acres of BLM land in the California Desert. The three monuments connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world. With this action, Obama has now preserved more acres of land and water than any other President.

The largest of the three is Mojave Trails National Monument, a 1.6-million-acre matrix of land along 100 miles of historic Route 66 that protects wildlife corridors between Death Valley and

Joshua Tree. Sand to Snow National Monument preserves 154,000 acres between Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest, and includes 24 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The 20,920-acre Castle Mountains National Monument preserves a ridge of desert peaks and rare grasslands roughly 100 miles south of Las Vegas, Nevada.

After years of trying to move legislation through a dysfunctional Congress, California Senator Dianne Feinstein asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the desert landscapes. Since 2008, The Conservation Alliance made a total of seven grants to California Wilderness Coalition and Conservation Lands Foundation for their efforts to secure protection for these lands. Both organizations played a key role in building local support for the protections, and guiding the project to success. We thank Senator Feinstein and President Obama for their leadership in protecting this important landscape.

President Obama has indicated his interest in protecting additional landscapes before he leaves office. The Conservation Alliance and our grantees will work hard throughout the year to demonstrate outdoor business support for saving these special places. We will keep you posted!



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

great job today!!

1 message

Margie Alt <margie@environmentamerica.org>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 7:37 PM

To: Outreach@ceq.eop.gov, "Blair, John" <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks for all your good work to make this happen. And . . . Happy Valentine's Day!

Margie Alt

Executive Director

Environment America

294 Washington Street, Suite 500


Boston, MA 02108

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617-852-1069 (c)

www.EnvironmentAmerica.org

****NOTE NEW ADDRESS****

 ca desert monument.docx
91K



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P (202) 683-1250
F (202) 346-3461

Subject: Obama protects 1.8 million acres of fragile desert in California

WASHINGTON, DC - President Obama designates three new national monuments in the fragile California desert today, [Sand to Snow National Monument](#), [Mojave Trails National Monument](#), and [Castle Mountains National Monument](#). The move protects Joshua tree forest, archeological sites, Pacific Crest Trail, desert grasslands, and wide range of recreational and cultural activities in more than 1.8 million acres of Mojave and Sonoran Desert landscapes, between Los Angeles and the Nevada border.

“These new monuments permanently protect a special piece of California’s cultural and natural heritage,” said Dan Jacobson, Environment California state director. “Future generations will have the chance to experience first-hand old Route 66 and Native American archeological sites; and enjoy breathtaking lava flows, desert oases, and Joshua tree forest.”

Today’s announcement - under the 1906 Antiquities Act signed by Teddy Roosevelt - brings President Obama’s total number of monument designations to 22, encompassing 265 million acres, more than any other president.

“From protecting the jagged peaks of New Mexico, to honoring parts of the Underground Railroad on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, to today safeguarding the fragile California desert, President Obama has already built a proud conservation legacy,” said Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America, the national federation of Environment California. “But with 11 months left, his work is not done yet! The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Grand Canyon watershed, and Bears Ears in Utah are just a few of the prized landscapes we hope the president will preserve before he leaves office.”



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: California Desert Roundup - Press Clips, Statements & Social Media

2 messages

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 7:27 PM

To: Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Komze <nkomze@blm.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

FYI!

Begin forwarded message:

>
 > From: Moser, Claire (b) (6)
 > Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 6:01 PM
 > To: DL-CEQ-ALL
 > Subject: California Desert Roundup - Press Clips, Statements & Social Media
 >
 >
 > Below is a big roundup of everything California Desert from today, including press clips, statements from stakeholders and the Hill (h/t Tyler and Nate!), social media highlights and front pages. This is also the weekly social media roundup for this week.
 >
 > Have a great weekend!
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 > Quick Links
 > Press Clips
 > Statements
 > Social Media Highlights
 >
 > - Twitter & Facebook
 >
 > - Instagram
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 > - DOI Takeover of WH Instagram
 > Front Pages
 > Press Clips
 >
 > · Washington Post: Obama to designate new national monuments in the California desert<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-to-designate-new-national-monuments-in-the-california-desert/2016/02/11/5b77db4e-c6be-11e5-a4aa-f25866ba0dc6_story.html>
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 > · LA Times: Obama creates 3 new national monuments to protect 1.8 million acres of California desert<<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-monuments-20160212-story.html>> (Also covered in LA Times Weekly Newsletter<<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-essential-california-20160212-story.html>>)
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 > · San Francisco Chronicle: Obama designates 3 new national monuments in California desert<<http://www.sfgate.com/nation/article/Obama-designates-3-new-national-monuments-in-6824931.php>>
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 > · Desert Sun: Obama to protect 1.8 million acres of California desert<<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2016/02/12/obama-protect-18-million-acres-california-desert/80235292/>>
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 > · AP: Obama Grants Monument Status to Vast Swath of Calif. Desert<<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/obama-grants-monument-status-vast-swath-calif-desert-36881853>>
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- > · The Hill: Obama sets aside 1.8M California desert acres as monument<<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/269227-obama-to-set-aside-18-million-acres-in-california-desert>>
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- > · Las Vegas Review-Journal: President will create three new desert monuments on Nevada's doorstep<<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/water-environment/president-will-create-three-new-desert-monuments-nevadas-doorstep>>
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- > · Guardian: Obama creates three new national monuments to protect California desert<<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/feb/12/obama-california-national-monuments-mojave-trails-sand-to-snow-castle-mountains>>
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- > · Sacramento Bee: Obama orders creation of new national monuments in California<<http://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/national/article60034971.html>>
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- > · TPM: Obama To Name 3 New National Monuments In Southern California<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/obama-new-national-monuments-california?utm_content=buffer86388&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer>
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- > · ThinkProgress: Obama Designates Three New National Monuments In The California Desert<<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/02/12/3749200/obama-three-new-monuments/>>
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- > · E&E News: NATIONAL MONUMENTS: Obama sets aside sweeping Calif. desert lands<<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2016/02/12/stories/1060032355>>
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- > · Reuters: California desert to be protected as national monument<<http://news.yahoo.com/california-desert-protected-national-monument-214102885.html>>
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- > · Examiner.com: President Obama designates 1.8 million acres as National Monuments<<http://www.examiner.com/article/president-obama-designates-1-8-million-acres-as-national-monuments>>
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- > · Mother Nature Network: Say hello to these 3 new national monuments<<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/blogs/say-hello-these-3-new-national-monuments>>
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- > · Grist: Obama protects nearly 2 million acres of scenic California desert<<http://grist.org/politics/obama-protects-nearly-2-million-acres-of-scenic-california-desert/>>
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- > · Conde Nast Traveler: Obama Designates New National Monuments in California Desert<<http://www.cntraveler.com/stories/2016-02-12/obama-designates-new-national-monuments-in-california-desert>>
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- > · Smithsonian Magazine: Obama Just Added Three More National Monuments<<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/obama-just-added-three-more-national-monuments-180958137/#6EF8kCfj093MD6Rq.99>>
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- > · Travel+Leisure: Obama Just Created Three New National Monuments<<http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/obama-created-new-national-monuments>>
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- > · Slate: The United States Is Creating "the Second-Largest Desert Preserve in the World"<http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/02/12/california_national_monuments_create_world_s_second_largest_desert_preserve.html>
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- > · Christian Science Monitor: Obama designates 3 new national monuments. How can they be used? <<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2016/0212/Obama-designates-3-new-national-monuments.-How-can-they-be-used>>
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- > · International Business Times: Obama To Designate 3 New National Monuments Covering 1.8 Million Acres Of California Desert<<http://www.ibtimes.com/obama-designate-3-new-national-monuments-covering-18>>

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> · Washington Times: Obama designates three more monuments in California<<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/feb/12/obama-designates-three-more-monuments-california/>>

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> · KTLA: Obama Creates 3 New National Monuments to Preserve 1.8 Million Acres of California Desert<<http://ktla.com/2016/02/11/obama-creates-3-new-national-monuments-to-protect-1-8m-acres-of-california-desert/>>

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> · KCET: New Desert National Monuments Will Help Protect California's Wildest Landscapes<<http://www.kcet.org/news/define/revisit/parks/new-monuments-will-help-protect-californias-wildest-landscapes.html>>

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> · WZZM: Obama to designate 3 monuments in Calif.<<http://www.wzzm13.com/news/nation-now/obama-to-designate-3-national-monuments-in-calif/40832456>>

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> · Backpacker Magazine: White House Designates Three New National Monuments<<http://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/obama-to-designate-three-new-national-monuments-in-california/#sthash.edxVLMuJ.dpuf>>

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> · The Week Magazine: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS Obama to protect 1.8 million acres of southern California desert<<http://www.theweek.com/speedreads/605577/obama-protect-18-million-acres-southern-california-desert>>

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> · National Parks Traveler: President Obama Designates Three National Monuments In California<<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2016/02/president-obama-designates-three-national-monuments-california>>

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> · Daily Beast: PROTECTED: Obama to Announce 3 New Calif. Monuments<<http://www.thedailybeast.com/cheats/2016/02/12/obama-to-announce-3-new-calif-monuments.html>>

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> · KTLA: Obama to Wrap Up Busy L.A. Visit, Head to Palm Springs Friday<<http://ktla.com/2016/02/12/obama-to-wrap-up-busy-l-a-visit-head-to-palm-springs-friday/>>

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> · LAist: Obama Protects 1.8 Million Acres Of Desert With 3 New National Monuments<http://laist.com/2016/02/12/obama_desert.php>

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> · Inquisitr: Obama Creates Three New National Monuments – President Has Protected More Land than Any Other<<http://www.inquisitr.com/2789981/obama-creates-three-new-national-monuments-president-has-protected-more-land-than-any-other/#ftCzUkSCXjeqdYI5.99>>

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> · My News LA.com: Obama designates 3 new national monuments to protect 1.8M acres of CA desert<<http://mynews1a.com/government/2016/02/12/obama-designates-3-new-national-monuments-to-protect-1-8m-acres-of-ca-desert/>>

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> · The Blaze: Obama Making More Lands Public Monuments so Plants and Animals Can 'Adapt to Climate Change'<<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2016/02/12/obama-making-more-lands-public-monuments-so-plants-and-animals-can-adapt-to-climate-change/>>

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> · Fusion: These three new national monuments will protect 1.8 million acres of stunning desert land<<http://fusion.net/story/268132/obama-designates-three-national-monuments-california/>>

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> · Personal Liberty: Obama unilaterally creates 3 national monuments in California desert<<http://personalliberty.com/obama-unilaterally-creates-3-national-monuments-in-california-desert/>>

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> · Daily Caller: Obama Designates Three New National Monuments In Calif.'s Barren Desert<<http://dailycaller.com/2016/02/12/obama-designates-three-new-national-monuments-in-calif-s-barren-desert/>>

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> · The Northern Miner: NewCastle Gold project safe from Castle Mountain Monument<<http://www.northernminer.com/news/newcastle-gold-project-safe-from-castle-mountain-monument/1003761201/#sthash.XTfnHD1D.dpuf>>

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> · Deseret News: Utah delegation urges Obama to refrain from monument creation<<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865647575/Utah-delegation-urges-Obama-to-refrain-from-monument-creation.html?pg=all>>

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> · White House Blog: In Photos: President Obama Designates 3 National Monuments in California<<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/02/12/photos-president-obama-designates-3-national-monuments-california>>

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> · Huffington Post Blog: Celebrating the California Desert National Monument<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-chu/celebrating-the-californi_b_9218924.html> (Dan Chu Director, Sierra Club 'Our Wild America' campaign)

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> · Huffington Post Blog: Three New Desert Gems<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-brune/three-new-desert-gems_b_9219750.html> (Michael Brune, Executive Director, The Sierra Club)

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> · National Geographic: The Presidents Who Gave Us Our Best Parks<<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/02/160212-presidents-national-monuments-parks-history-photos/>>

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> Statements:

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> · Center for Biological Diversity: President Obama Designates Three New California Desert National Monuments<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2016/national-monuments-02-12-2016.html>, February 12, 2016

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> · Pew Charitable Trusts: Pew Applauds Plan to Create National Monuments in California Desert<<http://news.sys-con.com/node/3676101>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Environment America: Obama fortifies conservation legacy with CA monuments, but hopefully he's not done yet<<http://www.environmentamerica.org/news/ame/obama-fortifies-conservation-legacy-ca-monuments-hopefully-hes-not-done-yet>>, February 12, 2016

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> · NRDC: Designating New Monuments in California Desert is Smart Conservation Move<<http://enewspf.com/2016/02/12/nrdc-designating-new-monuments-in-california-desert-is-smart-conservation-move/#sthash.RQg0qgLf.dpuf>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Sierra Club: Sierra Club Praises California Desert National Monuments<<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2016/02/sierra-club-praises-california-desert-national-monuments>>, February 12, 2016

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> · The Wilderness Society: President Obama designates three new national monuments in the California desert<<http://wilderness.org/press-release/president-obama-designates-three-new-national-monuments-california-desert>>, February 12, 2016

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> · National Parks Conservation Association: President Obama Designates Three National Monuments in the California Desert<<https://www.npca.org/articles/1136-president-obama-designates-three-national-monuments-in-the-california>>, February 12, 2016

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> · League of Conservation Voters: LCV & California LCV Statement on the Designation of Three National Monuments in the California Desert<<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-California-LCV-Statement-on-the-Designation-of-Three-National-Monuments-in-the-California-Desert.html>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Environment America: Obama fortifies conservation legacy with CA monuments, but hopefully he's not done yet<<http://www.environmentamerica.org/news/ame/obama-fortifies-conservation-legacy-ca-monuments-hopefully-hes-not-done-yet>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Defenders of Wildlife: The California Desert is Home to Three Newly Announced Monuments<<http://www.defenders.org/press-release/california-desert-home-three-newly-announced-monuments>>, February 12, 2016

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> · KEEN, KEEN's Live Monumental Campaign Celebrates the Historic Protection of California's Desert Landscape<http://www.cswire.com/press_releases/38703-KEEN-s-Live-Monumental-Campaign-Celebrates-the-Historic-Protection-of-California-s-Desert-Landscape>, February 12, 2015

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> · NewCastle: NewCastle's Gold Project NOT Included in New Castle Mountain Monument<<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/newcastles-gold-project-not-included-163057946.html>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Senator Feinstein: Feinstein Statement on California Desert National Monuments<<http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=AAB26A3C-B92B-461F-949D-A79E645751CE>>, February 12, 201

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> · Senator Murkowski: Sen. Murkowski Comments on Admin.'s Unilateral Action to Designate New National Monuments<<http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republican-news?ID=6adbcf69-d5dc-46e9-b7c2-a920ed9ba011>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Congressman Bishop: President Ignores Legislative Process in Another Round of Unilateral Monument Designations<<http://naturalresources.house.gov/newsroom/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=399939>>, February 12, 2016

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> · Congressman Cook: Rep. Paul Cook Issues Statement on New Monument Designations<<http://cook.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-paul-cook-issues-statement-on-new-monument-designations>>

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John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 8:10 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Date: February 12, 2016 at 7:27:20 PM EST
To: Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: California Desert Roundup - Press Clips, Statements & Social Media

[Quoted text hidden]

Confidential



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, February 16, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA DESIGNATES THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. The White House announced on Friday that President Obama designated three new national monuments in the California desert. According to an information sheet, the White House says the new monuments will encompass "nearly 1.8 million acres of America's public lands," and will "nearly double the number of acres of public lands previously protected as national monuments by President Obama – demonstrating the Administration's strong commitment to aggressive action to protect the environment for future generations." The new monuments will "link already protected lands, including Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and fifteen congressionally-designated Wildemess areas, permanently protecting key wildlife corridors and providing plants and animals with the space and elevation range that they will need in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change." The new monuments are Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Eilperin, 8.98M) reported the monuments create "the world's second-largest desert preserve" and nearly double "the amount of land [Obama] has unilaterally protected while in office," giving rise to opposition to Obama's use of executive powers. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) called it "presidential bullying." On the other side, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," adding, "they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions."

The [AP](#) (2/16, Rogers) pointed out the "Mojave Trails National Monument, at 1.6 million acres, is by far the largest of the three new ones." The article described the lands. [US News & World Report](#) (2/12, 853K) also carried the AP report. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Cama, 862K) cited Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) support for the monument designations. The BLM, the NPS, and the Forest Service will manage the lands, which were "already owned by the federal government."

[McClatchy](#) (2/15, Doyle, 22K) quotes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's statement that "the California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of Southern California." Jewell also said "valid existing" uses of the affected lands will continue, including those of the US military. [Reuters](#) (2/12, Bernstein) reported similarly, and its report was also carried by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 822K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 6.31M).

[Greenwire](#) (2/12, Jacobs, Subscription Publication) explained the monument designation "shields the land from any new mining and other industrial activities, including solar and wind farms." Jewell reportedly "applauded the designations in San Bernardino and Riverside counties." Jewell said in a statement, "Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/15) carries the press release from the Interior Department. Additional coverage was provided by [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/12, Sklar), [Tech Times](#) (2/14, Pascual, 173K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/12, Milman, 3.71M).

Western Lawmakers Concerned By "Federal Overreach" In Obama's National Monument Strategy. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/13, Jonsson, 442K) discussed how President Obama's Friday decision to establish three new national monuments, the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains, in California "smacks of federal overreach" to critics. The article said "the reaction to Obama's use of executive powers to protect these natural resources highlights the shifts in thinking around public lands and the impact of federal policy on Americans who live and work in the West."

JEWELL DISCUSSES NATIONAL MONUMENTS AT ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE EVENT. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (2/15, Connelly, 663K) reports that US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was "honored Saturday night by the Alaska Wildemess League" following the creation of three new national monuments, but that the group proceeded to pitch "designation of a new national monument on land in Alaska's Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge that is coveted by Big Oil." Jewell "joked" in responding, "Everybody is coming to me with their wish list." Jewell added, "The fact is you do not see the land of man," but also said "There's a lot of oil under there." The article describes how in recent months, Jewell "has lately been at work on everything from monuments to the role of indigenous people in protecting lands, to a global anti-poaching initiative which has taken her to Africa and Southeast Asia." At the event Jewell said of Obama, "He does not have the outdoor affinity that I do except for Hawaii. He is a creature of the beach."

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The [AP](#) (2/15, Barakat) reports that on Monday the NPS announced philanthropist billionaire David Rubenstein donated \$18.5 million to refurbish the Lincoln Memorial and other icons, with the money slated to "be used to fix the memorial's roof, clean Lincoln's statue, repair marble panels and improve accessibility by adding a second elevator." The NPS "also plans to create 15,000 square feet of visitor space in the cavernous space below the memorial for education." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said the memorial is "pretty stout, and...has held up quite well for a structure of its age," but added, "you can't build a 100-year roof." The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Barakat, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, Barakat, 8.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/15, Barakat, 442K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/15, Barakat, 1.99M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Services, 2.17M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, Barakat, 822K), also carry this story.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Ruane, 8.98M) says the planned repairs will likely be "the biggest overhaul of the building since the structure was dedicated in 1922," according to officials. Rubenstein said in an interview last week, "the idea was to take the basic Lincoln Memorial and reshape it a bit, make it more modern, scrub it up a bit," and to add an education center about Lincoln. National Mall and Memorial Parks superintendent Gay Vietzke said the memorial "has become symbolic of so much more." Jarvis said last week, "When we build the new exhibit and visitor-use space, it will...give the public an opportunity to actually see underneath the memorial," adding that he "feel[s] great" about the renovations.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/15, Merda, 764K) quotes US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell's statement: "His act of 'patriotic philanthropy' will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials for future generations, but will also help preserve Lincoln's legacy to this country." [UPI](#) (2/15, Ware) further quotes Jewell as saying, "This generous donation by David Rubenstein, his fourth to benefit national parks, comes at a perfect time as our national parks usher in a new century of service to this nation."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Mcdermott, 285K) cites Rubenstein saying his donation aims to "help people better understand Lincoln's leadership during a trying time." The article adds that the NPS "is expected to spend about \$6 million of its own money" toward the project, and paraphrases Jewell as saying the NPS "is in desperate need of donation." Jewell said "From my office I've watched the roof of the Jefferson Memorial get browner and browner."

[Reuters](#) (2/16) reports similarly, and is also carried by [Yahoo! News](#) (2/16, 6.31M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, 822K), and the website of [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M). [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/18, 255K) and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/15, 1.25M) provide photographic coverage online. [TIME](#) (2/15, Reilly, 18.01M) also covers this story.

IN FASTEST-EVER SPECIES RECOVERY, FWS RECOMMENDS DELISTING CALIFORNIA FOXES. The [AP](#) (2/12) reported in its "The Latest" brief that on Friday the FWS said "years of work to monitor" the population of three island fox subspecies native to California's Channel Islands, to vaccinate them against diseases and to "relocate non-native predators have resulted in the historic recovery" of the subspecies that "were once on the brink of extinction." The FWS also recommended foxes on Santa Catalina Island "be reclassified from endangered to threatened, saying the potential for disease outbreak is a remaining threat" to that subspecies. The FWS "says it's the fastest successful recovery of any mammal listed" under the ESA. This report was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

In lengthier coverage, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Sahagun, 4.1M) said a "remarkably successful recovery effort" by the FWS led to the delisting recommendation for subspecies. The Times explained the population of Santa Catalina Island foxes "crashed to roughly 100 in 1999 because of a canine distemper epidemic." The San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Island foxes "were classified as endangered in 2004 after suffering catastrophic declines primarily because of predation by Golden eagles." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The speed at which these subspecies have recovered points to the strength of the endangered species act in focusing conservation attention and catalyzing recovery actions, and demonstrates what we can achieve together."

[National Parks Traveler](#) (2/14, 989) paraphrased the FWS press release as stating the “best available scientific data now suggests that populations of these island fox subspecies have recovered to self-sustaining levels.” Ashe is further quoted as saying, “The remarkable recovery efforts of land managers and conservation partners over the past two decades on behalf of the Channel Island fox is the reason for this historic recovery success.” Ashe added, “We look forward to continuing our collaborations with land managers and conservation partners on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Catalina Islands. ... Together, we will continue to monitor island fox populations to ensure their long-term survival in the wild.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (2/12, Hiar, Subscription Publication, 705) added that “the only species that have recovered faster or as fast as Eggert’s sunflowers, with an eight-year recovery, and Lake Erie water snakes, which took 12 years.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Noozhawk](#) (2/15, Potthoff, 210), [Nature World News](#) (2/14) and [Solo News \(ITA\)](#) (2/15).

THREATENED BAT SPECIES UNLIKELY TO DISRUPT CASINO CONSTRUCTION IN INDIANA. The [AP](#) (2/14) reported “a less restrictive rule taking effect this month” will allow the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians to construct an 18-story casino in South Bend, IN despite a rule proposed by the FWS in April that would’ve prohibited development on potential northern long-eared bat habitat. The threatened species now only receives protection “on sites known to contain roosting trees.” The [AP](#) paraphrased FWS field supervisor Scott Pruitt’s statement to the [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (2/5, Parrott, 184K) that “the database for Indiana contains no records of roosting trees on the 165-acre site in South Bend where the tribe wants to build its development.”

The [AP](#) story is also carried by the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/14, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, 1.99M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, 285K).

Groups To Sue FWS Over Possible Bat Habitat Destruction. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Skibell, Subscription Publication) reported four environmental groups said on Friday they plan to sue the FWS for permitting “logging and habitat destruction” for the northern long-eared bats. Despite disease causing the bat’s decline, the groups claimed “habitat loss is also a contributing factor...because the animals require large, uninterrupted swaths of forest for foraging, migrating and roosting.” The FWS’ new rule would allow “logging, coal mining, pesticide use, oil and gas projects, and pipeline construction in the areas where the bats live.”

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PERMITTED TO INTERVENE IN SAGE GROUSE LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/14, Sonner) reported that late last month US District Judge Miranda Du permitted three national conservation groups to intervene in Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter’s (R) lawsuit against the Obama Administration that contends “land use planning amendments impose unnecessary restrictions on activities in or near grouse habitat.” Neither the Governor nor the Administration objected to the intervention, but other parties opposed the introduction of new elements “in an already complicated case expected to drag well into the summer in Reno.” Du decided the conservation groups should be allowed to intervene “because of their more narrowed focus (on) environmental protections in contrast to the agencies’ broader land management interests.”

This story was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, Sonner, 1.99M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/14, 881K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, Sonner, 285K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/15, 22K), [Montana Kaimin](#) (2/15, 11K), and on the website of [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\) Las Vegas](#) (2/15, 27K).

IMAX FILM “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” RECEIVES POSITIVE REVIEWS. The [AP](#) (2/14, Harpaz) continued coverage of the new IMAX movie, “National Parks Adventure,” which debuted Friday, celebrating “the beauty and thrills of America’s parks.” The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (2/13, 94K) and the [Paducah \(KY\) Sun](#) (2/13, 61K) also carried the [AP](#) story. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication) quoted MacGillivray Freeman Films Director Greg MacGillivray as praising the 3-D movie medium, saying, “When something spectacular happens in an Imax film, audiences remember it like it’s a firsthand experience.” The movie “follows three adventurers led by elite climber Conrad Anker through some of the country’s most famous landscapes.” MacGillivray said the film “fills you with a reverence for what nature can do.”

[Skift](#) (2/14) said the movie, narrated by Robert Redford, stars “geysers, red rock canyons, mountaintops and redwood forests.” According to Skift, “the emphasis on adventure and not just beauty and history is a way of furthering the National Park Service’s efforts to attract millennials.” The article quoted NPS Director Jon Jarvis’ statement that the service aims to “connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, King, 4.1M) highlighted the “eye-popping footage” in its review of the movie. MacGillivray expressed gratitude for the production team’s “incredible access to the parks,” saying “the people in Washington, D.C., were able to help us a lot as far as navigating and working with each park to get the best

possible shots.”

In its review of the film, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/15, Granfield, 803K) calls the soundtrack “superb,” as it “adds to the upbeat momentum of rushing waterfalls, towering canyons and other sweeping scenes.” The Herald also praises the NPS’ use of the IMAX medium. However, in assessing content the Herald concludes, “Though the film highlights threats that happened before the National Park’s formation, such as the near extinction of redwoods for lumber, it falls short of engaging the audience with ongoing threats and controversial practices within and around the parks.” NPS Ranger Gary Bremen said, “The centennial is a great opportunity for people to get out and experience the beauty of national parks. ... No matter what your interest is, there’ll be something for you.”

Additional coverage is provided by the website of [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/14, 165K) and the [Uniontown \(PA\) Herald-Standard](#) (2/15, 44K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE TO OFFER NPS ARTIFACTS IN ONLINE MUSEUM. [Indian Republic](#) (2/15, Nehru) reports Secretary Jewell “was in Tuskegee Thursday to make a big announcement involving a public-private partnership with Google.” The Google Cultural Institute will be putting many artifacts from the National Park Service in its online museum.

BIA, FBI INVESTIGATING STABBING DEATH ON UTE MOUNTAIN UTE RESERVATION. The [Denver Post](#) (2/16, 881K) reports on the investigation into the stabbing death of Keisha Meya Colorow at the Ute Mountain Ute reservation on Monday. The US Attorney’s spokesman Jeff Dorschner said that “no arrests have been made,” but that both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and FBI “are investigating.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT URGED TO SUPPORT TWIN TUNNELS. Derrick Seaver of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and Josué Garcia of the Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council write in an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (2/15, Seaver, Garcia, 648K) that the Santa Clara Valley Water District should support the California Water Fix. “It is absolutely vital to ensure reliable, secure water for our region and to protect the health of the failing Delta.” They note that Bay Area water districts supply “Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Oracle, AT&T, and many biotech and medical research firms.”

BUDGET WOULD BOOST FUNDS FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION, IMPOSE FEE ON HARDROCK MINING. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/12, Graham, 31K) reports the Administration’s budget “would invest hundreds of millions of dollars in environmental causes to the benefit of Colorado and other Western states.” That includes funding for “land and water conservation...water sustainability efforts and...fees on hardrock mining.” It would spend \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It would also impose a fee on hardrock mining, the revenue to be used for “remediating abandoned mine sites.” It would also include “\$98.6 million for WaterSMART programs, with \$61.5 million for water sustainability efforts through (the Bureau of) Reclamation.”

JUDGE REJECTS EFFORT TO FORCE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO RELEASE WATER TO IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/15, Jenkins, 113K) reports U.S. District Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson ruled against the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association in its effort to secure “water to irrigate 14,000 acres in Eastern Washington.” The group sued “to push the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation toward providing” the water, but Judge Peterson “said she wasn’t going to second-guess” the agency.

SUIT SEEKS CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT OF DESCHUTES RIVER. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/15, 98K) reports on management of the Deschutes River as the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon are seeking a preliminary injunction to force “the Bureau of Reclamation and five irrigation districts in Central Oregon [to] manage the river’s water differently.” The groups are seeking to change water management in order to ensure water for “the Oregon spotted frog and other river animals.” The Deschutes Basin Board of Control objects that any change ordered by the court may result in “abrupt and severe restrictions” on water usage. The frog is listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

COMPROMISE SOUGHT ON WATER USAGE AROUND QUIVIRA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The

AP (2/12) reports on the effort to come to an agreement on “competing water needs of south-central Kansas irrigators” and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, “which has senior rights to water that has long been used by hundreds of surrounding irrigators with junior rights.” The US Fish and Wildlife Service has requested Kansas “to address the issue, but the state has so far refused.” A report last year from the Kansas Division of Water Resources found that “the refuge had been denied more than 3,000 acre-feet in 18 of the 34 years reviewed,” and that “a solution would likely include ‘long term cuts in groundwater pumping.’” Refuge manager Mike Oldham said the refuge needs water “to maintain the 7,000 acres of internationally recognized wetlands.” The various authorities and interests are “working to devise a compromise.”

FLORIDA RELEASING WATER FROM OKEECHOBEE TO EVERGLADES. [USA Today](#) (2/15, Gillis, 5.56M) reports that Florida is “releasing water from Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park” to reduce flooding. The release is attributed to Gov. Rick Scott’s insistence, and “the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District and others agreed to speed up a project aimed at restoring historic flows.” In addition, affected area landowners agreed not to sue, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, facing flooding, also agreed.

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FORMER EPA OFFICIAL CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE. Former EPA Assistant Administrator J. Winston Porter, in a letter to the editor of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), takes issues with Fred Krupp’s op-ed on methane leaks. While Porter agrees that methane leakage should be reduced, he argues Krupp doesn’t credit the progress the industry is already occurring in this area. Porter disagrees with Krupp’s call for additional regulation and instead calls for investment in natural-gas production and infrastructure.

Methane Leaks Said To Undermine Clean Power Plan Targets. Elena Krieger at PSE Healthy Energy and Zeke Hausfather at UC Berkeley write for [The Hill](#) (2/16, Krieger, Hausfather, 862K) that “according to a study by PSE Healthy Energy released in January, methane leakage from natural gas wells and pipelines could severely undermine the climate objectives of the Clean Power Plan.” As a result of methane’s “outsized impact on near-term climate change,” the “real climate benefit of natural gas is much lower than the EPA suggests,” they write. If methane leaks are not addressed, they could “severely undermine the EPA’s aim to slash greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, especially if states shift from coal to natural gas, rather than to renewable energy.”

Additional coverage is provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/15, 290K), the [Oklahoman](#) (2/15, Moss, 421K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K), a separate article in the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/13, Graham, 31K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/15, Romeo, 4K), and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (2/15, 67K).

CLEAN POWER PLAN IN LIMBO WITH JUSTICE SCALIA’S DEATH. [NPR](#) (2/14, Elving, 1.81M) reports that following the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, “any case in which his vote would have been decisive will be left in stalemate, and the last ruling by a lower court will remain in force.” President Obama has vowed to submit a nominee to replace Justice Scalia, but key Senate Republicans have said that a nominee should be chosen by the next president. NPR says, “Scalia’s vote to freeze enforcement of President Obama’s orders reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, announced on Feb. 9, will stand because that 5-4 order had already been issued.” However, a “short-handed court in the months ahead could elevate the importance of the decision on that issue by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is expected to rule before summer.”

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/14, Redden, 3.71M) says that such a scenario would favor the Administration as “the DC panel is made up of mostly Democratic appointees, and is likely to dismiss the states’ argument that the clean power plan is illegal and represents federal government overreach.” Were that to occur, the Supreme Court “would still have to overturn its stay – which would be problematic if Scalia’s seat remains empty.” The stay has left the EPA “unable to enforce any part of the bill until the litigation is over – marking a significant victory for opponents of regulation to restrict greenhouse gas emissions.”

In a column for [The Atlantic](#) (2/14, 2.95M), Robinson Meyer speculates that “the opening of a new slot on the

Supreme Court makes the Clean Power Plan's survival much likelier – if a Democrat wins the White House in November,” while “the Plan might also enter force if a Court with a vacant seat hears its case.”

Wisconsin Gov. Walker Orders Agencies Not To Prepare For Clean Power Plan. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/15, 743K) reports that citing last week's decision by the US Supreme Court to stay the Clean Power Plan, “Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Monday ordered state agencies not to do any work to prepare for federal climate change regulations.” Walker in a statement said, “The stay granted last week by the Supreme Court validates our concerns about this rule. The Executive Order we issued today protects our taxpayers from an unnecessary cost of up to \$13 billion as we continue to act in the best interests of Wisconsin citizens.”

McCarthy: Court Stay Slows But Does Not Stop Carbon Cutting. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that despite a Supreme Court ruling putting the Clean Power Plan on hold, state officials “signaled interest” in continuing planning for power-sector carbon reductions when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy spoke before the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), National Association of State Energy Officials and National Association of Clean Air Agencies. McCarthy said EPA “remains fully confident in the legal merits of this rule,” adding, “One decision to stay doesn't mean that the CPP isn't alive or isn't going to survive.”

GEOENGINEERING SEEN AS TOO RISKY TO REDUCE GLOBAL EMISSIONS. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Hirtenstein, 2.92M) reports that Phil Williamson, a scientist at Britain's University of East Anglia, “examined the ecological effect of a number of proposed methods known as geoengineering and concluded in a paper that none would work at a large scale without huge risks for the planet.” Williamson said in a phone interview, “We could cool the world in all sorts of weird and wacky ways that seem like they could be technically possible, but whether they will actually work on a large scale is a big question, and what kind of disruptions they would cause is another.”

NEVADA COMMISSION UPHOLDS RATE INCREASE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR CUSTOMER. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/15, Whaley, Corey, 479K) reports that on Friday the Nevada Public Utilities Commission voted to keep a Jan 1 2016 phased in rate increase to rooftop-solar customers in effect and rejected proposals to grandfather in existing customers under original net metering rates. The Commission also reduced the credits to solar-users for their excess energy back to the grid. “I think this proposal creates a seamless transition to cost-based rates,” Commission Chairman Paul Thomsen said. The Review-Journal says “Gov. Brian Sandoval expressed disappointment at the decision, saying it did not go far enough to protect existing rooftop-solar customers.” Hundreds of protesters gathered outside of the Las Vegas PUC offices in support of solar customers.

Additional coverage of this story was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/16) which reports that all three members of Nevada's Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to keep the increased rates.

In its “Ballot Box” blog [The Hill](#) (2/13, Neidig, 862K) reports that on Saturday at a campaign stop in Reno Nevada, Bernie Sanders called on Warren Buffett to hear from Nevada constituents on the solar decision, saying “this is a terrible decision” and “the ruling went exactly the wrong way.”

Nevada Public Utilities Union Denies Request To Resume Energy Efficiency Programs. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (2/12, Rothberg, 196K) reports that on Friday, Nevada's Public Utilities Union denied NV Energy's request “to bring back two popular energy efficiency programs in Southern Nevada.” One program “lowered the cost of residential LED lights and another helped cover the cost of energy-efficient pool pumps.” NV Energy claimed that “it would be able to reinstate the programs under the budget the commission approved in December for the utility's energy efficiency programs.” However, “The commission denied NV Energy's argument on the foundation that NV Energy had not met its burden for an appeal before the quasi-judicial panel,” and also said that the utility “did not submit any new information to warrant a change.”

NEW YORK RANKS FOURTH IN US FOR SOLAR ENERGY JOBS. The AP (2/15) reports a census by the Solar Foundation “shows New York ranks fourth in the nation in solar technology jobs.” The nonprofit group “reports in its 2015 census that 208,859 Americans now work in the solar energy sector, including 8,250 in New York.” The Solar Foundation “says it's the third consecutive year that solar jobs nationwide have grown by 20 percent or more.”

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWMAKERS PUSH CONGRESS TO CUT EU SODA ASH TAX. [E&E Daily](#) (2/12, Brown, Subscription Publication) reported Wyoming's congressional delegation asserted in a letter, "U.S. trade negotiators shouldn't come home from trans-Atlantic trade negotiations until they've persuaded the European Union to drop its tax on soda ash," as part of a push for "Congress to reduce soda ash royalty rates at home to offset the impacts of what they see as foreign subsidies." The article cited the Interior Department as indicating "Wyoming and California are home to many of the 78 soda ash mining leases on 99,000 acres of public lands, while Oregon's Port of Portland is a major shipping point."

NATIONAL GRID POISED TO SHIFT COSTS TO CUSTOMERS. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/15, Harrington, 1.23M) reports, "National Grid is proposing to shift its \$356,000 annual electricity bill onto its gas customers following LIPA's decision to end its longtime practice of providing electricity to the company for free." [Newsday](#) says, "Most of the free electric service went to support National Grid's operation of the LIPA electric grid, company spokeswoman Wendy Ladd said." However, "That changed in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy, and in 2014 LIPA handed the contract to operate the electric system to PSEG Long Island" and "National Grid was forced to split off the gas and electric parts of its business." Ladd said that National Grid "is now responsible for electric charges for the portion of these facilities supporting the gas business."

NORTH DAKOTA PSC HAD HUNDREDS OF CONSUMER CONTACTS LAST YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/15) reports the Public Service Commission in North Dakota "says it received hundreds of consumer contacts in the last year that included complaints against regulated entities." The commission "says it received a total of 905 consumer contacts in 2015" but the commission "says more than a third of them called for increased crude oil conditioning, which didn't fall under the agency's jurisdiction." The PSC "regulates coal mining, land reclamation, pipelines, electric and gas utilities, grain elevators, telecommunications and auctioneers."

COUNCIL SAYS NORTHWEST'S POWER NEEDS CAN BE MET WITH CONSERVATION. The [AP](#) (2/15, Geranios) reports the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is predicting that "the electricity needs of Northwest states can be met in the next 20 years mostly through conservation efforts, with little need to construct new power plants." The NPCC "recently issued its 20-year plan for meeting the energy needs of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana." In a statement last week Council Chairman Henry Lorenzen said, "By investing in energy efficiency at the levels recommended in the plan, we'll be able to grow without initiating an aggressive program to build new generating resources, and we'll keep Northwest electricity rates low."

CONNECTICUT TO CLOSE LAST COAL-POWERED PLANT. The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (2/11, Hladky, 518K) reports that officials from PSEG have announced they will close down Connecticut's last coal-fired power plant, Bridgeport Harbor Station, by 2021 and replace it with a natural-gas-powered plant to begin operating in 2019. The [Courant](#) reports that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim "praised the announcement as a major step toward reducing pollution and retaining employment within the community."

NYTIMES CRITICIZES MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL. The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, denounces "mountaintop removal" mining for "leaving behind... a grossly disfigured landscape." It cites a report from Duke University researchers on the effects of the practice, and points out that the Interior Department is "working on a stronger Stream Protection Rule." The [Times](#) concludes by quoting Chief Judge Charles Haden II of United States District Court, "No effect on related environmental values is more adverse than obliteration."

FRACKING BECOMES FLASH POINT IN PENNSYLVANIA'S DEMOCRATIC SENATE PRIMARY. The [AP](#) (2/13, Levy) reports that in recent days, a divide over fracking has emerged in the Democratic primary battle to challenge Republican Sen. Pat Toomey in November as "two of the three candidates declared their support for a halt to hydraulic fracturing on both public and private lands." Mayor John Fetterman and former Congressman Joe Sestak "both support a halt to fracking, at least until there is stronger regulation," while a third candidate, Katie McGinty, "a former top-level environmental adviser in Washington and Harrisburg, also supports stronger regulation, but not a broad moratorium." G. Terry Madonna, a pollster at Franklin and Marshall College, "said it's not clear that the stance will help Fetterman or Sestak," but "it is likely to be part of their campaign to highlight where McGinty may not be as liberal and help Sestak and Fetterman even the playing field with a candidate who has considerable support from the party establishment."

Pennsylvania Democrats "Squabbling" Over State's Fracking Future. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reported that Pennsylvania Democrats vying in an April 26 primary are "squabbling" over fracking's future in the state as well as "taking aim at each other over campaign contributions tied to the energy industry." Former White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairwoman Katie McGinty "has called fracking the state's 'secret sauce' for job growth," while former Rep. Joe Sestak "has long supported a

moratorium on drilling the oil-and-gas-rich Marcellus Shale." Meanwhile, Braddock Mayor John Fetterman is "in the middle" and "has endorsed significantly stricter environmental regulations on the process and endorsed taxing natural gas drilling."

The [AP](#) (2/13, Levy) reported that Fetterman and Sestak both support a "halt to fracking" while McGinty supports stronger regulation, "but not a broad moratorium." Fetterman's campaign attacked McGinty on the issue, sending out an online video that accused McGinty of taking campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry, while McGinty's supporters deny the charge.

LENDING LIMIT REVIEW COULD CAUSE SHAKEOUT IN OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCERS. USA

[Today](#) (2/14, Loveless, 5.56M) reports Standard & Poor's Rating Services predicts that 45 speculative-grade US oil and natural gas producers will have their "borrowing bases" drop "by an average 20%-30% when banks take a fresh look" at credit lines in April, "making it difficult for some companies to stay in business." S&P lowered its credit ratings for 25 of the producers; previously the company "lowered credit ratings and outlooks for 13 large, investment-grade producers, including Chevron."

OIL DOWNTURN COULD HIT PIPELINE COMPANIES.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/16, Grattan, 1.99M) reported that US pipeline companies that move and process crude oil are likely to be impacted by an impending wave of oil company bankruptcies. Smaller pipeline companies face the most pressing fallout as their customers can be fewer and riskier. Williams Cos. and Energy Transfer Equity, which are in the process of merging, recently saw their stocks take a hit on rumors that major Williams' customer Chesapeake Energy was considering bankruptcy.

Jakab: Investors Should Cautious On MLPs. In his "Heard on the Street" column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Spencer Jakab wrote that while the energy MLP sector appears to offer good performance, he advises investors to be cautious. Jakab says that MLP's customers are struggling, with some filing for bankruptcy, and long-term contracts between MLPs and producers could be thrown out, meaning uncertain cashflow and spooked investors.

SPECULATORS BETTING ON OIL PRICE REBOUND. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Shenk, 2.92M) reports speculators are betting oil prices will rebound, with long positions in West Texas Intermediate crude up "to the highest since June as oil sank toward a 12-year low, according to U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data." Bloomberg notes Chevron Corp and other companies "have said they will reduce outlays to maintain cash." Meanwhile, Phil Flynn, senior market analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago, said, "There's a growing realization after all the announcements of cuts in capital expenditures that we're going to see a drop in production."

Offshore Energy Development:

FIRST STUDY OF OFFSHORE HYDRAULIC FRACTURE IS UNDERWAY. The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (2/13, Mazza, 301K) reports on "the first federal study of offshore hydraulic fracturing," due to a suit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The suit alleged that "the environmental and human health dangers that could arise from fracking" had not been sufficiently studied as required by the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

SCIENTISTS EXAMINE WAYS TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/15, Hampton, 312K) reports on research into "harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C.," which may offer "more potential than offshore wind." That's because the ocean current offers energy that is "about 800 times more dense" than wind. The Gulf Stream current is "about 60 miles wide and 3,000 feet deep in places," moving more water "than all the world's rivers put together."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF KEEP IT IN THE GROUND ACT. In continuing coverage, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (2/13, Lochhead, 3.37M) reported on the Keep It in the Ground Act, which seeks "to halt new fossil fuel development on all federally controlled public lands, which is where most of the nation's coal, oil and natural gas is found." Besides blocking "leases for coal, oil, gas, oil shale and tar sands on public land," there would be a moratorium on new leases for offshore drilling and leases not producing fuel would be ended. Furthermore offshore drilling in the Arctic and the Atlantic seaboard would be banned. This is "an aggressive escalation by the Democratic left on the issue." The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (2/12, Halstead, 251K) and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/13, Pfister, 131K) also covered this story.

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR ASKS OBAMA TO HALT ATTEMPT TO REPEAL OFFSHORE REVENUE-SHARING. The [AP](#) (2/12) reported that Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards has asked President Obama to drop an attempt in his 2017 budget proposal to repeal a 2006 budget provision establishing a revenue-sharing formula for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Edwards in a Friday letter to Obama “said the budget proposal would strip Louisiana of the only consistent source of federal funds the state has for coastal restoration projects.”

TEXAS-BASED PARAGON OFFSHORE DRILLING COMPANY FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Houston-based oil drilling company Paragon Offshore filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Sunday, becoming roughly the 60th company in the sector to file for bankruptcy in the last 16 months. Paragon completed a prepackaged bankruptcy agreement last week that cut its \$2.7 billion of debt “by about \$1.1 billion” so it can keep operating. The Times says the swift drop in oil prices could lead “to a series of drawn-out and messy bankruptcies,” and analysts say as much as a third of the US oil and gas industry “could be consolidated as a result of the downturn.”

[USA Today](#) (2/15, Bomey, 5.56M) reported that the bankruptcy “reflects what analysts say is the latest in a string of energy bankruptcies,” with drillers “particularly susceptible as oil companies cut back considerably on production” with a worldwide oversupply. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/14, Brickley, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reported that the low oil prices are taking their toll as companies compete for increasingly scarce business, with Paragon’s big customers Petróleos Mexicanos and Petróleo Brasileiro SA both moving to cut back contracts.

LITTLE OPTIMISM FOR INDUSTRY AT INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM WEEK CONFERENCE. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/12, Hoffman, Smith, Blas, Rascouet, 2.92M) reports that attendees at last week’s International Petroleum Week conference had seemed to repeat the same underlying message: “There are few reasons for optimism. The world is awash with oil. The market is overwhelmingly bearish.” Bloomberg says, “Prices will stay low for up to a decade as Chinese economic growth slows and the U.S. shale industry acts as a cap on any rally, according to Ian Taylor, chief executive officer of Vitol Group.” Jeff Currie, head of commodities research at Goldman Sachs, echoed that sentiment, saying, “I wouldn’t be surprised if this market goes into the teens.” Land-based oil storage is running out, “and the contango is getting so steep that it’s becoming profitable to hire supertankers, fill them with crude and anchor them offshore.”

TRUMP DISCUSSES OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/16, Smith, 803K) reported on comments by Donald Trump on Cuba, oil drilling and opposing candidate Marco Rubio. When asked about current Congressional proposals that would expand offshore drilling and allow it closer to Florida’s coast, Trump said, “They’ve already got plenty in the Gulf. ... It would be a little bit of a shame [to expand drilling closer to Florida], because there’s so much fracking and there’s so much oil that we have now that we never thought possible. That’s an issue I’d absolutely study and do the right thing.”

Despite Price Rally, Oil Demand Set To Decline With Winter’s End. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/15, Smith, 2.92M) reported “one reason to withhold faith in oil’s recovery” is that despite oil prices’ recent rally, once winter ends fuel demand will decline until summer. David Hufton with PVM Group said, “Given the seasonality of oil demand, traditionally there is a supply surplus in the first half of the year,” with unconsumed oil now “coming on top of the mountain of oil that built up in 2014 and 2015.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

FBI ENDED OCCUPATION AT WILDLIFE REFUGE PEACEFULLY WITH HELP. In a 2,250-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sullivan, Berman, 8.98M) chronicled the final days of the occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. The Post described the “key” roles Nevada Assemblywoman Michele Fiore and the Rev. Franklin Graham played in convincing the four holdouts “to surrender” peacefully. In another article, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sullivan, Berman, 8.98M) reported that Graham and Fiore – “a celebrity among anti-government activists” – kept the occupiers calm by assuring them that the FBI would allow them to meet Graham and Fiore after they turned themselves in.

WPost: FBI Deserves Credit For Approach To Oregon Occupation. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 8.98M) gave “credit to federal law enforcement authorities” for negotiating a “peaceful denouement” to the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The Post praised the FBI for having “showed

restraint in sitting out the armed activists" and for refusing to "waver on the need to bring to account those who so willfully and flagrantly broke the law." According to the Post, the FBI "clearly had learned lessons from the bloody sieges" of the 1990s and its "patient approach in letting the Oregon siege play out and bum out proved far more effective than a SWAT team assault."

FBI: No Booby Traps Found At Wildlife Refuge. The AP (2/12, Boone, Dubois) reported that the FBI said Friday that investigators had not found any booby traps or rigged explosives at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. FBI Portland Assistant Special Agent in Charge Larry Karl said agents were concluding their safety sweep of the refuge and were hoping to begin processing evidence soon. According to Karl, some hazardous materials were stored at the refuge prior to the takeover, and the FBI had information that the armed occupiers may have brought additional materials with them. Karl, the AP (2/13, Boone) reported, said that collecting evidence from the wildlife refuge could take several weeks. "Then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be tasked with cleaning up the site, including garbage or debris left by the people who occupied the refuge during the standoff," the AP added.

Oregon Authorities Look To Feds, Occupiers To Cover Occupation Costs. Reuters (2/16, Urquhart) reports that Oregon officials have indicated that they hope to have the federal government – and the militants themselves – pay the bulk of the expenses caused by the wildlife refuge occupation. Oregon Governor Kate Brown is seeking up to \$1 million from state lawmakers to offset the costs to cities and towns. She will seek to reimburse the state from federal funds. Harney County judge and county commissioner Steven Grasty said the county plans to seek reimbursement directly from the armed occupiers, and is prepared to take them to court. Federal prosecutors, a source said, are looking into whether the US will join the county in pursuing reimbursement from the occupiers. Though the exact cost of the occupation is unknown, it is estimated in the millions of dollars, Reuters says. The New York Times (2/13, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) also reports Reuters' coverage on its website.

Twenty-Three Charged So Far In Occupation. The Guardian (UK) (2/15, Levin, 3.71M) reports that 23 people allegedly involved with the occupation all face a single federal charge of conspiring to impede federal officials via "force, intimidation and threats." The suspects "hail from 10 states across the US and have a wide range of prior involvement in conservative activism and criminal activity," The Guardian said. Despite the long list of individuals charged, the newspaper says, some observers have noted that many involved with the occupation have so far, avoided arrest and prosecution. "Notably, many of the most high-profile women of the militia...are...not listed in the charges," the Guardian says.

Experts: Cliven Bundy Case Is Complex. The AP (2/15, Ritter) reports that according to experts the case against Cliven Bundy in the 2014 armed standoff with federal authorities in Nevada will be a complex one. Bundy was arrested Wednesday and charged with "conspiracy, assault on a federal officer, obstruction, weapon use and possession, extortion to interfere with commerce, and aiding and abetting" in the 2014 case, the AP says. "They've probably been working up to this by talking to a lot of people who showed up as followers, and making deals and trying to get cooperating witnesses," said former US Attorney Richard Pocker said. "It's really hard to get folks in these movements to cooperate with a grand jury."

The Los Angeles Times (2/12, Pearce, 4.1M), the Washington Post (2/12, 8.98M), and the Oregonian (2/15, Brosseau, 864K) also report on the aftermath of the Oregon occupation.

BLM PROPOSES RULE TO UPDATE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS. The Oil and Gas Journal (2/15, Snow, 1K) reports BLM has "proposed a rule aimed at improving its resource management process" as part of its Planning 2.0 initiative. The proposal "will make changes to regulations that are guided by the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act" including the creation of "several new opportunities for early public involvement during the planning process" and requiring the "development of a planning assessment before work could begin on putting together a land use plan."

Politico Pro (2/12) quoted BLM's announcement that the reforms support the agency's "shift to science-based, landscape-scale approaches to resource management while increasing opportunities for early engagement by state and local government, tribes, partner agencies, stakeholders, and the public." Politico explained the plans entail the overhaul of Resource Management Plans, which are "the systems that the Interior Department unit uses to coordinate collective priorities for public lands, from fossil-fuel development to recreation to wildlife protection."

TEXAS CITIES ASK BLM TO HALT PLANS FOR GAS DRILLING LEASES BELOW LEWISVILLE LAKE. The AP (2/13) reported that some North Texas cities as well as environmental groups have asked the Bureau of

Land Management to halt plans to allow gas drilling below Lewisville Lake, where as many as 259 acres are up for auction for leases. The lake is "a drinking water source for millions and has a dam cited by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as being in hazardous condition," and "nearby residents fear possible drinking water contamination and earthquakes that could further threaten stability." This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/13, 285K) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/13).

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/12, Mosier, 1.24M) added that Dallas and Highland Village are among those opposing the drilling. Additional coverage is provided by [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (2/15, 28K), the [Cross Timbers \(TX\) Gazette](#) (2/15, Pry, 429) and on the website of [WFAA-TV Dallas](#) (2/15, 367K).

BLM, UTAH AGENCY SETTLE SUIT OVER WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT. [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/15, O'Donoghue, 404K) reports on its website that a lawsuit against BLM brought by the Utah Schools and Institutional Trust Lands Administration "alleging mismanagement of wild horse and burro populations on school trust lands in Utah was dismissed after the parties reached a cooperative agreement this month." The agreement calls for "identification of priority removal areas, population surveys and enhanced monitoring of rangeland conditions." The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Maffly, 388K) reports that "in a news release announcing the settlement last week, BLM vowed to do the things the agency...has long claimed it already does, namely collaborate with local stakeholders and protect resources."

BLM TO HOLD FARMINGTON, NM PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED RULE CHANGE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/14, Fenton, 44K) reports that BLM will hold a public forum at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico on Tuesday "to hear comment on the agency's proposed rule on oil and gas industry venting and flaring." The proposed rule "targets the escape of methane gas from venting and flaring, processes used in oil and gas production, and from gas leaks during drilling operations and from well sites. The proposed update to a current rule is designed to cut in half the industry's methane emissions from operations on federal land."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE FEATURE ON DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK CITES BLM. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/15, Williams, 2.17M) has a feature on Death Valley National Park, writing that "it is astonishing that the land in Death Valley remains as pristine as it is, with its history of mining. In 1994, Congress expanded the area's protection beyond its status as a national monument to that of a national park." The Tribune piece highlights "the Trona Pinnacles, jagged peaks formed underwater up to 100,000 years ago in the now dry Searles Lake, according to the Bureau of Land Management."

LAND PARCELS IN SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST TO BE UP FOR LEASE IN BLM SALE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports, "The first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management's quarterly oil and gas lease sale." Four parcels in the forest are among six that will be up for competitive bid on May 12.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DOMINION PROPOSES NEW ACP ROUTE. The AP (2/12, Szkotak) reported that Dominion proposed a new route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) in response to a previous permit rejection from the US Forest Service, which "cited a 1994 conservation agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service aimed at shielding the salamander from actions that would place it under the Endangered Species Act." The new proposal would have a 30 percent smaller footprint in the Monongahela and George Washington national forests, but adds 30 miles to the project, involving an additional 249 landowners.

This story was also carried by the [Daily Mail](#) (2/12, 4.92M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, Szkotak), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, Szkotak, 1.99M), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Szkotak, 822K).

Residents Ask County Board To Oppose ACP. The [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/15, Banks, 148K) reports that several residents spoke to the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners on Monday, asking them to oppose the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that they believe will devalue their property and bring fracked gas to their community. "I'm pleading with the county commissioners to not approve. We can't afford to fight them, personally, because we don't have the money to fight them," said Fayetteville resident Rodney Simmons. Dominion senior policy advisor Bruce McKay was scheduled to address the Board, but did not attend and "his absence came as a surprise to the commissioners."

Letter: Pipeline Resistance Overdone. In a letter to the editor of the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M),

Woodbridge resident Jeff Hazle rejects the premise of a previous letter from Lewis Freeman of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, arguing that resistance to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline “seems oversold and more consistent with a generalized opposition to hydrocarbons than any genuinely significant risks.” He questions how the project could result in damage to the water supply.

MILITARY BASES RECEIVE \$17.5M IN CONSERVATION GRANTS. The [AP](#) (2/12, Bynum) reported that on Friday Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced “\$17.5 million in conservation funding to protect longleaf pine forests used for training troops while assisting the recovery of threatened species.” The awards to bases in Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina were among 84 grants totaling \$720 million. FWS Fort Stewart branch chief Tim Beatty said, “Fortunately the Army is pretty good at starting fires. ... If we have an urban development at the edge of Fort Stewart, it would be awfully tough to continue to do burning the way we do now.” This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, Bynum, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, Bynum, 1.99M).

WHALE BONES FOUND IN LUGGAGE AT BALTIMORE AIRPORT. The [AP](#) (2/12) reported that on Friday the US CBP said agents found possible whale bones while inspecting baggage from Iceland at BWI Airport on Feb. 7. The traveler carrying the luggage also “claimed they were whale bones,” but “Customs officials kept the bones to determine their origin.” Border agents said the FWS regulates whale bones. This story was also carried by the [Washington Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (2/12, 712K), and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSES TRANSFERRING BISON RANGE TO SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/15, Devlin, 78K) reports on a “surprise” proposal by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support legislation to transfer the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The proposal would “place the refuge’s 18,766 acres in trust for the tribes, and leave it to them to manage and operate” with no continuing role for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the range would no longer be part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. There are some remaining questions regarding the “costs of managing and maintaining the Bison Range.” [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/15, 48K) reports the tribes “have worked to become more involved with management of the bison range since the 1994 Self Governance Act made that a possibility.”

Missoulian Favors Plan. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/15, 78K) in an editorial says the Fish and Wildlife Service “showed signs it is finally coming to its senses” in making the proposal. The paper says the tribes ought to hold “the bison range in trust for the people of the United States – including its original inhabitants.”

USDA AGENCY SPECIALIZES IN KILLING PREDATORS. Rachael Bale writes in [National Geographic](#) (2/15, Bale, 30.99M) about Wildlife Services, an agency under the US Department of Agriculture that “specializes in killing wild animals that threaten livestock,” though it also provides “bird control nationwide at airports to prevent crashes and feral pig control in the South.” Bale cites an article by Christopher Ketcham in Harper’s Magazine titled “The Rogue Agency: A USDA program that tortures dogs and kills endangered species.” The article describes Ketcham’s indictment of the agency.

National Park Service:

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT VALENTINE’S VIDEO DISTRIBUTED. [EHS Today](#) (2/15, 3K) reports the Interior Department “created a video showcasing couples who committed to one another while celebrating their love of planet Earth.” The agency said, “America’s public lands are wonderful places to love and be in love.” On its website, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/14, 803K) hosted the Interior Department’s video that celebrates the thousands who get engaged and married in national parks ever year.

Spending Valentine’s Day In A National Park Recommended. On its website, [CNN](#) (2/14, 3.96M) summarized ways to spend Valentine’s Day, describing how lovers could “celebrate nature and the centennial of the National Park Service by visiting Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks or one of the nation’s park sites in your state.” CNN wrote that lovers “can be awed by the same beauty and power that inspired President Abraham Lincoln (who protected Yosemite in the middle of the Civil War), Sierra Club founder John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt.”

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON HISTORICAL SITE CONVERSATION BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/12, Kessler, Subscription Publication) reported on testimony before the House Natural Resources subcommittee regarding “four bills aimed at promoting the conservation of historical

sites." A bill "from Rep. Marsha Blackburn, H.R. 87, would modify the boundaries of Shiloh National Military Park in southern Tennessee" to permit the NPS "to preserve more than 21,000 additional acres to include Fallen Timber Battlefield, Russell House Battlefield and Davis Bridge Battlefield." Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA) rebutted an economic argument for the historical preservation of the sites.

INTERIOR, GOOGLE LAUNCH ONLINE EXHIBIT OF PARKS' HISTORY. [National Parks Traveler](#) (2/15, 989) reports the Department of the Interior said it "is partnering with the Google Cultural Institute to photograph and share historically important material with global audiences and digitally preserve them for future generations." The institute's Centennial One Object Exhibit contains "more than 3,800 works of art, artifacts, and records [that] can be viewed as part of an online exhibition just launched to honor the National Park Service's centennial." Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement last week, "This marriage of technology and history means that anyone, anywhere can see artifacts and sites that provide a taste of the rich and diverse story of America," adding, "Our hope is that this partnership will not only illustrate and elevate our nation's history and culture, but inspire more people to visit the wonderfully diverse places that the National Park Service protects and preserves for current and future generations."

NPS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON BISON QUARANTINE PLAN. The AP (2/15) reports that the National Park Service "has extended the public comment period" two weeks to February 29 on its plan to "quarantine some Yellowstone National Park bison on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana."

YELLOWSTONE BISON CULL CRITICIZED. Christopher Ketcham, a fellow at M.I.T.'s Knight Science Journalism Program, writes in the [New York Times](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) on the bison cull at Yellowstone National Park, which "is done largely outside of public view" in order to protect "the safety of the public and staff" according to the park service, though Ketcham says it is because "the brutality of the cull would be revealed." Ketcham says the cull has been justified by fears that cattle could be infected with brucellosis from the bison, but "not a single instance of transmission has ever been documented." He argues that instead of the cull, the bison should be allowed to roam, like other wild animals and controlled "with seasonal hunting." Ketcham praises Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's proposal to allow the "Yellowstone bison to roam in certain areas beyond the park's boundaries throughout the year," but laments "the park service...helping to slaughter a native animal so iconic that it is emblazoned on the park service's own logo."

DEATH VALLEY PARK RANGER HOPES FOR "SUPER BLOOM" THIS YEAR. The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Stars, 8.98M) reports on Death Valley, where National Park Service Park Ranger Alan Van Valkenburg said that he hopes there will be a "super bloom" this year. He explains that such events "are quite rare, maybe once a decade or so," the last one having been in 2005. But, he also points out that they "are near-impossible to predict and very short-lived." There is a bloom at present that is "beginning to spread beyond the southeastern part of the park."

PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON YELLOWSTONE ROAD PROPOSAL UNTIL MARCH 15. The AP (2/14) report the National Park Service is accepting public comments until March 15 on its proposal for a "road repair project on the east side of Yellowstone National Park." The proposal includes reconstructing "a segment of the East Entrance Road from Fishing Bridge to Indian Pond."

MAINE GOVERNOR OPPOSES PROPOSAL FOR NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The AP (2/14) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage opposes the proposal for a new national park in Maine, "especially when there's a \$12 billion backlog of maintenance." The idea comes from "Burt's Bees founder and conservationist Roxanne Quimby [who] proposed donating land east of Baxter State Park for a new national park in 2011." LePage says the idea "defies logic" given the maintenance backlog.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION PRESIDENT URGES SUPPORT FOR CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN. Will Shafroth, President of the National Park Foundation, writes at [Huffington Post](#) (2/15, Shafroth, 518K) on the centennial of the National Park Service. He writes that the "national parks and their future are dependent on vibrant and robust public-private partnerships." That's because "federal appropriations only sustain basic operations," and there are "\$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance projects." That means the parks "rely on other sources of funding," namely, the National Park Foundation. The foundation is conducting "the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign in its history, the Centennial Campaign for America's National Parks" with a goal of \$350 million.

MONTANA EXPECTED TO SEE MORE NATIONAL PARK VISITS THIS YEAR. The AP (2/14) reports Norma Nickerson, director of the Institution for Tourism and Recreation Research, is projecting "another big year for national park visitation and ski resorts" in Montana, due "to the National Park Service's centennial and an

increase in advertising.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ASKED TO DO MORE TO PROTECT GRAND CANYON EMPLOYEES. [CBS5 Arizona](#) (2/15) continued coverage in reporting on its website “Arizona’s congressional delegation says the National Park Service must do more to protect Grand Canyon employees who participate on the agency’s river rafting trips.” The article notes that “a report released last month by a federal watchdog found that Park Service workers have preyed on their female colleagues, demanding sex and retaliating against women who refused.” The NPS “banned alcohol on the trips and required pre-trip briefings while the Interior Department’s Office of the Inspector General looked into allegations of sexual harassment,” but “Arizona’s congressional delegation says those reforms are insufficient.”

US Geological Survey:

BUDGET PROPOSES \$8 MILLION FOR “SHAKEALERT” SYSTEM. [McClatchy](#) (2/15, Hotakainen, 22K) reports the President’s budget proposes \$8 million for “an early earthquake warning system,” known as the “ShakeAlert” system, that would include “a network of sensors on the ocean floor” over the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The system is being developed with the assistance of the University of Washington, the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Oregon, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Secretary Jewell has also urged support for the system.

APP TO USE CELLPHONES TO HELP DETECT EARTHQUAKES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Xia, Lin, 4.1M) reports on an app to test an idea to use “cellphones to detect earthquakes as soon as they start.” The app “uses smartphone sensors to detect movement caused by an earthquake,” and sends that data “to a central server.” The app works on the idea that if 300 phones in an area are “sending warnings” that means there is an earthquake. It may also be used to support a system to “provide early warnings before the worst shaking from an earthquake arrives,” which is based on “the U.S. Geological Survey’s ShakeAlert prototype.” The phone app could not be a replacement because the phone sensors are not “as effective as hundreds of sophisticated earthquake sensor stations installed underground,” but it might provide an alternative where there are few or no earthquake sensors.

USGS: OKLAHOMA HIT BY STATE’S THIRD-STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE EVER. [Reuters](#) (2/16) reports that according to the US Geological Survey, Oklahoma this weekend was hit by the third-strongest quake to ever be recorded in the state, a magnitude 5.1 quake that struck at around 11 am Saturday morning. Seismologists say Oklahoma’s frequent earthquakes could be linked to the oil and gas industry’s injection disposal wells. [CBS News](#) (2/16, Villarreal, 3.97M) reports on its website that the quake hit near Fairview, which “is quickly gaining a big reputation for large quakes.”

This story was also covered by the [Daily Mail](#) (2/15, 4.92M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/13, 8.98M), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/15, 3.7M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/13, Miller, Press, 1.99M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/13, 822K), and the website of [ABC News](#) (2/15, 4M).

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE COULD ANNOUNCE HIGH COURT NOMINEE NEXT WEEK. The coming battle over the successor to late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia received 19 minutes of coverage between the three broadcast networks, with CBS and NBC opening with the story. The White House is indicating that President Obama may offer a nominee as soon as next week, but most of the television coverage deals with the difficulty any nominee will have in advancing, and on the role the vacancy will play in the presidential race. Those political considerations are also part of the print and online coverage, but these sources also look at prospective candidates, with Attorney General Lynch and District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sri Srinivasan mentioned as top contenders.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, lead story, 3:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the “quiet memorial” to Scalia outside the Supreme Court is “in sharp contrast to the coming political battle over his successor.” CBS (Crawford) added, “When the justices return to the bench next week, it will be the first time for all eight to serve without Justice Scalia. ... They will have a term of controversial case, regulation of abortion clinics, another challenge to Obamacare, affirmative action and college admissions and presidential power on immigration.” Without Scalia, it will be “a court on pause. Many of those cases will end up in a 4-4 tie, keeping the lower court rulings in place and setting no nationwide precedents.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/15, lead story, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) opened by saying, "In an election year already fraught with improbable plot twists and drama, now this: The ideological balance of the US Supreme Court suddenly in limbo...as lines are drawn for an epic battle between Democrats and Senate Republicans who are determined to leave the choice up to the next president. Tonight, the current president is suggesting Republicans are full of bluster." On [ABC World News](#) (2/15, story 5, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported, "The flag is at half staff today at a snowy and peaceful Supreme Court, but the epic political battle is just beginning. ... Within an hour" of Scalia's death, Senate Majority Leader McConnell "drew the battle lines, declaring, 'This vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.'" Then, President Obama weighed in, paying tribute to Scalia, but making it clear, he's ready to fight to replace him."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House said the President had started discussions with his advisers about selecting a nominee. [USA Today](#) (2/15, Korte, 5.56M) reports deputy press secretary Eric Schultz said a nominee could come "as soon as next week." Schultz said, "As soon as the Senate returns, the President was very clear that he is going to fulfill his constitutional responsibility to nominate a successor to Justice Scalia. ... There are no caveats. The Constitution does not include exemptions for election years, or for the president's last term in office. There's no exemption for when a nomination would tip the balance of the court."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Boyer, 285K) says the Senate "is in the middle of a 10-day recess until Monday, giving Mr. Obama a chance to bypass Congress and install a successor quickly" via recess appointment. But [The Hill](#) (2/15, Balluck, 862K) and the [NPR](#) (2/15, 1.81M) website report that Obama has ruled that out.

In a 2,100-word assessment, Tom Goldstein of [SCOTUSblog](#) (2/15, 2K) writes that Obama "has two priorities. First, fill the Scalia seat by getting a nominee confirmed," and "second, gain as much political benefit as possible and exact as heavy a political toll as possible on Republicans, particularly in the presidential election." Goldstein says a nominee "may in fact receive a vote" in the Senate, and "if Republicans can come up with even a slender substantive thread on which to base an objection to the nominee, they will seize on it and vote the nominee down on the merits." Politically, the best candidate "would probably be Hispanic," but Obama "personally will be very tempted to appoint a black Justice." California Attorney General Kamala Harris would be the best choice, Goldstein writes, but as "the prohibitive favorite" in the California Senate race, she probably does not want it. So Lynch "is a very serious possibility." [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M) and [Mediaite](#) (2/15, Griswold, 277K) also report on Goldstein's assessment.

However, Edward-Isaac Dovere of [Politico](#) (2/15, 1.07M) writes that while Lynch is "suddenly lighting up chatter as a potential dark horse," Srinivasan is Obama's "likeliest Supreme Court choice." He would be "a historic first" as an immigrant from India and won unanimous Senate approval to the appeals bench. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 2, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Margaret Brennan said Obama "could choose a candidate who has already won Senate approval," such as Srinivasan, "or he could make a bold choice" like Lynch, "who had to wait more than 160 days before she was confirmed for her current position."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/15, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that whomever Obama nominates, the candidate will face a polarized Senate Judiciary Committee. Chairman Charles Grassley, who has said he supports McConnell's plan to block any Obama nominee, would be presiding over his first Supreme Court confirmation hearings. Karen Tumulty of the [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) says the "rancorous debate...reflects in many ways a growing public skepticism toward the US Supreme Court itself, as its image has evolved from impartial arbiter of the laws to yet another politicized institution."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) editorializes, "This one shouldn't be complicated. The fourth year of President Obama's four-year term has just begun. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and all of them have at least 11 months still to serve." Scalia's death "has created a vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court. The Constitution tells the president to nominate justices and senators to confirm or reject those nominees." Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) column that the Senate should "force Obama's nominee to prove that he, or she, is in the mainstream. But unless the Senate wants to return to antebellum divisions, don't deny that nominee consideration."

But the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that it is liberals who have politicized the Court, so it is reasonable that Republicans would prefer to wait for a new president before confirming a nominee. In a second editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Sen. Charles Schumer from a 2007 speech, 18 months before President Bush left office, saying that should a vacancy arise, he would recommend to his colleagues "that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances." The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 3, 2:05,

Pelley, 5.08M) also included Schumer's 2007 remarks in a report.

Four Republican Senators In Tight Races Backing McConnell. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Shear, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that several Republican senators facing tough re-election races this year are now saying they will back McConnell in blocking a nominee. New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, "who faces a primary threat from the right wing of her party, said over the weekend that she supported" McConnell. In addition, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman said Monday, "It is common practice for the Senate to stop acting on lifetime appointments during the last year of a presidential term, and it's been nearly 80 years since any president was permitted to immediately fill a vacancy that arose in a presidential election year." [Politico](#) (2/15, Everett, 1.07M) reports that Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey and Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson are also backing McConnell.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Mufson, Eilperin, 8.98M) writes that "one consideration that may force Republicans to recalibrate their strategy is the prospect of political damage" to some of these incumbents. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/15, Pearson, 2.17M) reports that Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, "perhaps the most vulnerable of Republican senators seeking re-election this year," is "offering no clue on whether he will side with" McConnell.

The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Savage, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "the clash is less a new front against the White House than an escalation of a battle that had begun at the appeals court level." Since Republicans gained the Senate majority 13 months ago, "the process that would enable Mr. Obama to fill vacancies on the 12 regional federal courts of appeal has essentially been halted."

Cruz, Trump Make Issue Of Vacancy. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/15, Kapur, 289K) reports that "within hours" of Scalia's death, Republican presidential candidates "began using the battle to tear each other apart" ahead of Saturday's pivotal South Carolina primary. Sen. Ted Cruz is airing an ad "attacking Republican front-runner Donald Trump as untrustworthy when it comes to picking justices," while Trump is blasting Cruz for supporting the 2005 nomination of John Roberts as chief justice. [Politico](#) (2/15, Glueck, 1.07M) reports that Cruz also criticized Trump for suggesting last year that his sister Maryanne Trump Barry, a federal appeals court judge, would be his pick. Trump said he was joking, but on Monday, Cruz called Barry "a Bill Clinton-appointed federal appellate judge who's a radical pro-abortion extremist."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/15, story 2, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "No matter who it is the President picks, the Republican leader in the Senate and many of the leading GOP candidates say no one should get a vote and the seat should remain empty until the next president nominates a successor. That could leave this battle raging for well over a year." The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "the unexpected vacancy...immediately made the Supreme Court a dominant issue in the presidential campaign. The court, usually cast in the role of deciding issues that elections cannot, now may be the issue that decides the election."

Scalia Left Suggestions On Successor In Passage From 2015 Dissent. The [New York Times](#) (2/15, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that "we know more than you might think" about what sort of successor Scalia might have preferred. In a "largely overlooked passage in his dissent from the court's decision in June establishing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, he left detailed suggestions," such as finding "someone who did not go to law school at Harvard or Yale," or "a candidate from the Southwest" or an evangelical Christian. He "was criticizing the lack of diversity of the court he sat on, and he did not exclude himself." [ABC World News](#) (2/15, story 6, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/15, story 11, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) both broadcast remembrances of Scalia's life and career.

Scalia's Death Sparks Conspiracy Theories. The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Sun, Horwitz, 8.98M) reports on the "conspiracy theories" arising in the wake of Scalia's sudden death, particularly since no autopsy was ordered. The AP (2/15, Hananel, Warren) reports that Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara, "who decided no autopsy was needed," said she spoke to Scalia's doctor on the day he was found dead and was told that Scalia "had a history of heart trouble, high blood pressure and was considered too weak to undergo surgery for a recent shoulder injury."

Writer Wonders If Obama Could Sue Senate Over Obstruction. Writing at the [Huffington Post](#) (2/15, 518K), television writer Michael Russnow asks, "Why can't Obama sue the Senate?" Last September, "a court determined that the House of Representatives could sue the Executive Branch over funding of the Affordable Care Act." He argues that "a Senate led by an obstructionist" may be overstepping constitutional boundaries.

SURGEON GENERAL SAYS "TRUSTED VOICES" NEED TO GET INVOLVED IN FLINT. The [Detroit Free](#)

[Press](#) (2/15, Allen, 989K) reports Surgeon General Murthy said in Flint, Michigan on Monday night that “most Flint kids exposed to toxic lead in the city’s tap water should be OK, but ‘trusted voices’ need to impart critical nutrition and education.” Murthy said, “The problem is, we don’t know which kids are going to develop complications going forward. And that’s why what we have to do is make sure that we are providing as much support to these kids and their families as possible.”

HOUSE FETAL TISSUE INVESTIGATION SUBPOENAS MORE THAN 30 GROUPS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, DeBonis, 8.98M) reports the special House committee formed amid the Planned Parenthood fetal tissue controversy “has begun a broad investigation of the matter, issuing document requests to more than 30 agencies and organizations, including a closely scrutinized abortion clinic and some of the nation’s most prominent research institutions.” Subpoenas were sent to “StemExpress, a California firm that prepares human specimens for researchers; Southwestern Women’s Options, an Albuquerque abortion clinic; and the University of New Mexico, whose Health Sciences Center conducts medical research using fetal tissue.” Critics have expressed concern about “the privacy implications of the wide-ranging requests.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“A College Education For Prisoners.”* The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, says “the most effective way to keep people out of prison once they leave is to give them jobs skills,” and that “means restarting prison education programs.” The Times says that those inmates “who attend privately financed college classes” have much lower recidivism rates, with a Bard College program showing a “recidivism rate of 4 percent” for participants and “2.5 percent” for graduates. The Times urges New York to provide public funding for college education for prison inmates.

“The Chirp Heard Across The Universe.” A [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial

“How The Coal Industry Flattened The Mountains Of Appalachia.” The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), in an editorial, denounces “mountaintop removal” mining for “leaving behind...a grossly disfigured landscape.” It cites a report from Duke University researchers on the effects of the practice, and points out that the Interior Department is “working on a stronger Stream Protection Rule.” The Times concludes by quoting Chief Judge Charles Haden II of United States District Court, “No effect on related environmental values is more adverse than obliteration.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“Ukraine Should Heed Its Economy Minister’s Warning On Corruption.”* The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) in an editorial says that Ukraine must “build a strong and prosperous nation” if it is going to remain independent of Russia, but has so far “remained mired in a system in which billionaires gobble up state assets and siphon off the revenue streams.” The Post says the problem goes “all the way to the top” of Ukraine’s government, and that if Ukraine is to “survive” it must be rid of this system.

“Senators, Do Your Job And Vote On The Next Supreme Court Nominee.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) editorializes, “This one shouldn’t be complicated. The fourth year of President Obama’s four-year term has just begun. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and all of them have at least 11 months still to serve.” Scalia’s death “has created a vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court. The Constitution tells the president to nominate justices and senators to confirm or reject those nominees.”

“Gun Safety Advocates Are Wrong To Rebuff Gov. McAuliffe’s Gun Control Victory.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, 8.98M) says it’s a “shame” that gun safety advocates have “vilified” Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe for scrapping the state’s attorney general’s order ending recognition of concealed-carry permits from 25 states “with lax standards” in return for “a concession from the pro-gun lobby” that will allow the state to criminalize gun possession of almost 5,000 domestic abusers hit with protective orders annually. While the deal “isn’t perfect,” a “cold-eyed assessment suggests that Mr. McAuliffe got the better bargain.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Supreme Court After Scalia.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that it is liberals who have politicized the Court, so it is reasonable that Republicans would prefer to wait for a new president before confirming a nominee.

“The Schumer Precedent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Sen. Charles Schumer from a 2007 speech, 18 months before President Bush left office, saying that should a vacancy arise, he would recommend to his colleagues “that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the

Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances.”

“**Donald Trump’s MoveOn.org Moment.**” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) blasts Donald Trump’s claim during Saturday’s GOP debate that the Administration of President George W. Bush deliberately “lied” about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, noting that there is no evidence to support the claim. The Journal says touting false conspiracy theories should disqualify a presidential candidate because it undermines public trust in democracy and argues Trump’s willingness to entertain the theory demonstrates the risk the GOP would be taking by making him the party’s presidential nominee.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Scalia’s Death Sets Up Collision](#)
[Millennial Wave Unsettles Presidential Race](#)
[Senate Girds For A Pivotal Battle On Court Nominee](#)
[Stocks Rise As Banking Shares Rally](#)

New York Times:

[Before Scalia’s Death, A Clash Between GOP And Obama Over Appellate Judges](#)
[What Would Scalia Want In His Successor? A Dissent Offers Clues](#)
[South Carolina Church Bridges Racial Gap, But Not Political Divide](#)
[Bush Brothers Swipe At Donald Trump](#)
[Tasked With Combating Opium, Afghan Officials Profit From It](#)
[Cornell’s Plan To Merge Hotel School Gets An Icy Reception](#)
[Kendrick Lamar Sweeps Rap Field At Grammys; Taylor Swift Wins Best Album](#)

Washington Post:

[In Nev, Sanders Is Challenging Clinton’s “Firewall”](#)
[“My Demons Won Today”: Ohio Activist’s Suicide Spotlights Depression Among Black Lives Matter Leaders](#)
[Court Fight Hits Senate Races](#)
[Venezuela Lacks Tools To Battle Zika Virus](#)
[In A Fearful Europe, Racial Profiling Becomes More Common](#)

Financial Times:

[Russia-Turkey Tensions In Syria Hit Peak](#)
[Criminals’ “Currency Of Choice” For Chop](#)

Washington Times:

[Special Forces Face Challenges As Integration Of Women Loom](#)
[Lawmakers Hope To Stop Pressure On Child Brides In Virginia](#)
[Ex-President Makes Return To Campaign For Jeb Bush](#)
[Obama Starts With Cautious Approach To Fill Scalia’s Seat](#)
[Kiosk Carriage Raises Questions On Moscow’s Business Climate](#)
[Palestinians Admit To Working With Israel To Foil Local Attacks](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Virgin Atlantic Flight-Laser Scare; Heartburn Medication Warning; Peyton Manning-University Of Tennessee Allegations; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show.

CBS: Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Nomination Process; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Central America-Migration Crisis; Severe Weather; Alaska Flight-Smoke; Lincoln Memorial Restoration; Justice Scalia-Record.

NBC: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Supreme Court Nomination Process; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Syria-Hospital Bombed; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Heartburn Medication-Warning; Virgin Atlantic Flight-Laser Scare; 2015 Airline Safety; Jimmy Carter-Grammy.

Network TV At A Glance:

Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 19 minutes, 05 seconds
 2016 Politics – 12 minutes, 50 seconds
 Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
 Syria-Hospital Bombed – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
 Pope Francis-Mexico Visit – 0 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Severe Weather-Snow Storms; 2016 Politics-Republican Campaign Trail; Financial Markets.

CBS: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush Campaign; Severe Weather-Damages; Grammy Awards; Oregon Legislation-Coal Reduction; Gas Price Decrease.

NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush Campaign; 2016 Politics-Republicans; US-ASEAN Summit; Severe Weather-Damage; Indian University-Student Protests; Bahrain-US Journalists Detained.

FOX: Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Syria Hospital Bombed-France Condemnation; US-ASEAN Summit; Severe Weather Damage.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts day two of the US-ASEAN Summit in California.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public scheduled events.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 9:30 AM Public Citizen Goes to Court Seeking to Uncover Misconduct by Immigration Judges – Public Citizen will argue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that the government should be required to disclose information about immigration judges who have been accused of misconduct. In 2013, Public Citizen and the American Immigration Council, acting as counsel for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), sued the U.S. Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) under the Freedom of Information Act. The lawsuit challenged EOIR's refusal to disclose complaints against immigration judges and to make public records that would reveal agency investigations of and resolutions to those complaints. After filing the lawsuit, EOIR released nearly 16,000 pages of complaint and complaint resolution documents. However, key sections of many documents were blacked out. And none of the documents contained the names of the immigration judges who had been the subject of complaints, even though these judges are high-ranking public officials who make life-or-death decisions for the immigrant Location: Courtroom 31, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, 333 Constitution Ave., NW <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=2281> https://twitter.com/public_citizen

8:30 AM National Academies workshop on the Zika virus – National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine convene workshop – at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services – to identify basic research priorities that could be implemented in real time to help minimize the likelihood of local Zika virus transmission in the U.S. and inform public health responses. Experts and stakeholders discuss topics including clinical management, public health resources, and guidance that may be needed to inform prevention, mitigation, detection, and treatment efforts; current research efforts to better understand the virus and research gaps; specific risk factors for the babies of pregnant women who have been infected with the Zika virus and periods of particularly increased risk during pregnancy; burdens associated with microcephaly and other neurological disorders in babies and the resources need to care for them and other affected individuals; and risk factors for developing Guillain-Barre syndrome after Zika infection and appropriate medical care Location: NAS, 2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences> #ZikaResearch

10:00 AM GOP Rep. Luke Messer speaks at NPC – House Republican Policy Chair Luke Messer discusses governing in the 2016 election year via NPC Newsmaker news conference Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

10:00 AM Deputy Secretary of State Blinken in conversation at Brookings – 'New frameworks for countering terrorism and violent extremism: A conversation with Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken' hosted by Brookings Institution Foreign Policy program, on U.S. civilian-led initiatives to counter the spread of the Islamic State group and other violent extremist groups. He charts the path forward and outlines the challenges that lie

ahead Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #CVE

1:00 PM Washington FPC briefed on new U.S. assistance for the Syrian crisis – Washington Foreign Press Center On-The-Record Briefing on 'New U.S. Assistance to Respond to Syria Crisis', featuring Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Richard, and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Thomas Staal Location: National Press Bldg, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.fpc.state.gov <https://twitter.com/ForeignPressCtr>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "In addition to the [Los Angeles] marathon, I also saw that President Obama just visited LA. Or as Donald Trump put it, 'The state is being taken over by Kenyans.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, while he was in Los Angeles last week, President Obama met privately with Will Smith. Not to be outdone, Joe Biden spent the day learning how to do the Carlton."

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's the latest on the election. Donald Trump just promised that he will no longer use foul language on the campaign trail. Now, when people ask him his policy on ISIS, he just says, 'I'm gonna bomb the shy diddly doodles out of them.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And during a recent rally in Louisiana, Donald Trump actually autographed someone's baby. Even crazier, when he handed the baby back to the parents, he said, 'Congratulations, your baby is worth three times as much now.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Ted Cruz's campaign pulled a recent attack ad after it came out that one of the actresses in the ad had also appeared in some softcore porn films. I feel so bad for that actress who now has to explain to her parents what she was doing in a Ted Cruz ad."

Seth Meyers: "Republicans and Democrats are fighting over whether President Obama should be able to appoint Justice Scalia's successor. Democrats say that he should, whereas the Constitution says that he shall."

Seth Meyers: "The Ted Cruz campaign has pulled a new ad after it was revealed that the actress in it has appeared in softcore porn. And now Jeb has hired her to teach him how to act like he's enjoying something."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump spent his President's Day getting ready by photoshopping his head onto a million-dollar bill."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, in a very different kind of race in LA: the LA marathon, the 31st annual marathon. Between the marathon and Obama's visit, it was a big week for Kenyans screwing up LA traffic."

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Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

2-16-16 OCO Nightly

1 message

Adams, Nathan <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 2:05 PM

To: OS_OCO <os_oco@ios.doi.gov>, DOI_OPA_Bureau_Contacts <doi_opa_bureau_contacts@ios.doi.gov>

Bcc: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Nightly Report to White House Comms

2-16-16

i. Today's Announcements

- Today, Secretary Jewell convened a semi-annual meeting with conservation organization CEOs. The Secretary discussed her conservation priorities for the remainder of this administration. The event was held at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., and it was closed press.
- Today, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held the first of a series of nationwide public meetings on the venting and flaring rule in Farmington, NM. The BLM expects to conduct Tribal consultation meetings and public outreach at four locations including Oklahoma City, OK on February 18; Denver, CO on March 1; and Dickinson, ND on March 3.
- Today, BLM held an oil and gas lease sale in Utah.

ii. Today's Major Interviews

- N/A

iii. Major Press Inquiries/Stories for Flagged Awareness

- N/A

iv. Social/Digital Amplification

- Interior continued to promote our [blog post on doi.gov](#) recognizing the public lands legacies of eight U.S. presidents, including President Obama.
- @Interior [tweeted](#) about David Rubenstein's \$18.5 million donation to renovated the Lincoln Memorial.

v. Major Clips

- **OBAMA DESIGNATES THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.** The White House announced on Friday that President Obama designated three new national monuments in the California desert. According to an information sheet, the White House says the new monuments will encompass "nearly

1.8 million acres of America's public lands," and will "nearly double the number of acres of public lands previously protected as national monuments by President Obama – demonstrating the Administration's strong commitment to aggressive action to protect the environment for future generations." The new monuments will "link already protected lands, including Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and fifteen congressionally-designated Wilderness areas, permanently protecting key wildlife corridors and providing plants and animals with the space and elevation range that they will need in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change." The new monuments are Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument.

- o The [Washington Post](#) (2/12, Eilperin, 8.98M) reported the monuments create "the world's second-largest desert preserve" and nearly double "the amount of land [Obama] has unilaterally protected while in office," giving rise to opposition to Obama's use of executive powers. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) called it "presidential bullying." On the other side, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "Sand to Snow's peaks and valleys have long provided physical and spiritual sustenance to native people," adding, "they are also an inspiration and recreational beacon to millions."
- o The [AP](#) (2/16, Rogers) pointed out the "Mojave Trails National Monument, at 1.6 million acres, is by far the largest of the three new ones." The article described the lands. [US News & World Report](#) (2/12, 853K) also carried the AP report. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Cama, 862K) cited Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) support for the monument designations. The BLM, the NPS, and the Forest Service will manage the lands, which were "already owned by the federal government."
- o [McClatchy](#) (2/15, Doyle, 22K) quotes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's statement that "the California desert is a cherished and irreplaceable resource for the people of Southern California." Jewell also said "valid existing" uses of the affected lands will continue, including those of the US military. [Reuters](#) (2/12, Bernstein) reported similarly, and its report was also carried by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 822K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Bernstein, 6.31M).
- o [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Jacobs, Subscription Publication) explained the monument designation "shields the land from any new mining and other industrial activities, including solar and wind farms." Jewell reportedly "applauded the designations in San Bernardino and Riverside counties." Jewell said in a statement, "Today's designation by the President furthers the longstanding work of public land managers and local communities to ensure these areas will remain preserved and accessible to the public for future generations."
- o The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/15) carries the press release from the Interior Department. Additional coverage was provided by [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/12, Sklar), [Tech Times](#) (2/14, Pascual, 173K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/12, Milman, 3.71M).
- o ***Western Lawmakers Concerned By "Federal Overreach" In Obama's National Monument Strategy.*** The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/13, Jonsson, 442K) discussed how President Obama's Friday decision to establish three new national monuments, the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains, in California "smacks of federal overreach" to critics. The article said "the reaction to Obama's use of executive powers to protect these natural resources highlights the shifts in thinking around public lands and the impact of federal policy on

Americans who live and work in the West.”

- **JEWELL DISCUSSES NATIONAL MONUMENTS AT ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE EVENT.** The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (2/15, Connelly, 663K) reports that US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was “honored Saturday night by the Alaska Wilderness League” following the creation of three new national monuments, but that the group proceeded to pitch “designation of a new national monument on land in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that is coveted by Big Oil.” Jewell “joked” in responding, “Everybody is coming to me with their wish list.” Jewell added, “The fact is you do not see the land of man,” but also said “There’s a lot of oil under there.” The article describes how in recent months, Jewell “has lately been at work on everything from monuments to the role of indigenous people in protecting lands, to a global anti-poaching initiative which has taken her to Africa and Southeast Asia.” At the event Jewell said of Obama, “He does not have the outdoor affinity that I do except for Hawaii. He is a creature of the beach.”
- **PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.** The [AP](#) (2/15, Barakat) reports that on Monday the NPS announced philanthropist billionaire David Rubenstein donated \$18.5 million to refurbish the Lincoln Memorial and other icons, with the money slated to “be used to fix the memorial’s roof, clean Lincoln’s statue, repair marble panels and improve accessibility by adding a second elevator.” The NPS “also plans to create 15,000 square feet of visitor space in the cavernous space below the memorial for education.” NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said the memorial is “pretty stout, and...has held up quite well for a structure of its age,” but added, “you can’t build a 100-year roof.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Barakat, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/15, Barakat, 8.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/15, Barakat, 442K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/15, Barakat, 1.99M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/15, Services, 2.17M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, Barakat, 822K), also carry this story.

 - The [Washington Post](#) (2/15, Ruane, 8.98M) says the planned repairs will likely be “the biggest overhaul of the building since the structure was dedicated in 1922,” according to officials. Rubenstein said in an interview last week, “the idea was to take the basic Lincoln Memorial and reshape it a bit, make it more modern, scrub it up a bit,” and to add an education center about Lincoln. National Mall and Memorial Parks superintendent Gay Vietzke said the memorial “has become symbolic of so much more.” Jarvis said last week, “When we build the new exhibit and visitor-use space, it will...give the public an opportunity to actually see underneath the memorial,” adding that he “feel[s] great” about the renovations.
 - The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/15, Merda, 764K) quotes US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell’s statement: “His act of ‘patriotic philanthropy’ will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials for future generations, but will also help preserve Lincoln’s legacy to this country.” [UPI](#) (2/15, Ware) further quotes Jewell as saying, “This generous donation by David Rubenstein, his fourth to benefit national parks, comes at a perfect time as our national parks usher in a new century of service to this nation.”
 - The [Washington Times](#) (2/15, Mcdermott, 285K) cites Rubenstein saying his donation aims to “help people better understand Lincoln’s leadership during a

trying time.” The article adds that the NPS “is expected to spend about \$6 million of its own money” toward the project, and paraphrases Jewell as saying the NPS “is in desperate need of donation.” Jewell said “From my office I’ve watched the roof of the Jefferson Memorial get browner and browner.”

- [Reuters](#) (2/16) reports similarly, and is also carried by [Yahoo! News](#) (2/16, 6.31M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (2/15, 822K), and the website of [AOL](#) (2/15, 6.15M). [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/18, 255K) and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (2/15, 1.25M) provide photographic coverage online. [TIME](#) (2/15, Reilly, 18.01M) also covers this story.

- **IN FASTEST-EVER SPECIES RECOVERY, FWS RECOMMENDS DELISTING CALIFORNIA FOXES.** The [AP](#) (2/12) reported in its “The Latest” brief that on Friday the FWS said “years of work to monitor” the population of three island fox subspecies native to California’s Channel Islands, to vaccinate them against diseases and to “relocate non-native predators have resulted in the historic recovery” of the subspecies that “were once on the brink of extinction.” The FWS also recommended foxes on Santa Catalina Island “be reclassified from endangered to threatened, saying the potential for disease outbreak is a remaining threat” to that subspecies. The FWS “says it’s the fastest successful recovery of any mammal listed” under the ESA. This report was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/12, 8.98M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/12, 1.99M).

- In lengthier coverage, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, Sahagun, 4.1M) said a “remarkably successful recovery effort” by the FWS led to the delisting recommendation for subspecies. The Times explained the population of Santa Catalina Island foxes “crashed to roughly 100 in 1999 because of a canine distemper epidemic.” The San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Island foxes “were classified as endangered in 2004 after suffering catastrophic declines primarily because of predation by Golden eagles.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “The speed at which these subspecies have recovered points to the strength of the endangered species act in focusing conservation attention and catalyzing recovery actions, and demonstrates what we can achieve together.”
- [National Parks Traveler](#) (2/14, 989) paraphrased the FWS press release as stating the “best available scientific data now suggests that populations of these island fox subspecies have recovered to self-sustaining levels.” Ashe is further quoted as saying, “The remarkable recovery efforts of land managers and conservation partners over the past two decades on behalf of the Channel Island fox is the reason for this historic recovery success.” Ashe added, “We look forward to continuing our collaborations with land managers and conservation partners on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Catalina Islands. ... Together, we will continue to monitor island fox populations to ensure their long-term survival in the wild.”
- [E&E Publishing](#) (2/12, Hiar, Subscription Publication, 705) added that “the only species that have recovered faster or as fast are Eggert’s sunflowers, with an eight-year recovery, and Lake Erie water snakes, which took 12 years.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Noozhawk](#) (2/15, Potthoff, 210), [Nature World News](#) (2/14) and [Solo News \(ITA\)](#) (2/15).

- **THREATENED BAT SPECIES UNLIKELY TO DISRUPT CASINO CONSTRUCTION**

IN INDIANA. The [AP](#) (2/14) reported “a less restrictive rule taking effect this month” will allow the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians to construct an 18-story casino in South Bend, IN despite a rule proposed by the FWS in April that would’ve prohibited development on potential northern long-eared bat habitat. The threatened species now only receives protection “on sites known to contain roosting trees.” The AP paraphrased FWS field supervisor Scott Pruitt’s statement to the [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (2/5, Parrott, 184K) that “the database for Indiana contains no records of roosting trees on the 165-acre site in South Bend where the tribe wants to build its development.”

- The AP story is also carried by the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/14, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, 1.99M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, 285K).

- **Groups To Sue FWS Over Possible Bat Habitat Destruction.** [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Skibell, Subscription Publication) reported four environmental groups said on Friday they plan to sue the FWS for permitting “logging and habitat destruction” for the northern long-eared bats. Despite disease causing the bat’s decline, the groups claimed “habitat loss is also a contributing factor...because the animals require large, uninterrupted swaths of forest for foraging, migrating and roosting.” The FWS’ new rule would allow “logging, coal mining, pesticide use, oil and gas projects, and pipeline construction in the areas where the bats live.”

- **ENVIRONMENTALISTS PERMITTED TO INTERVENE IN SAGE GROUSE LITIGATION.** The [AP](#) (2/14, Sonner) reported that late last month US District Judge Miranda Du permitted three national conservation groups to intervene in Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter’s (R) lawsuit against the Obama Administration that contends “land use planning amendments impose unnecessary restrictions on activities in or near grouse habitat.” Neither the Governor nor the Administration objected to the intervention, but other parties opposed the introduction of new elements “in an already complicated case expected to drag well into the summer in Reno.” Du decided the conservation groups should be allowed to intervene “because of their more narrowed focus (on) environmental protections in contrast to the agencies’ broader land management interests.”

- This story was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/14, Sonner, 1.99M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/14, 881K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/14, Sonner, 285K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/15, 22K), [Montana Kaimin](#) (2/15, 11K), and on the website of [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (2/15, 27K).

- **IMAX FILM “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” RECEIVES POSITIVE REVIEWS.** The [AP](#) (2/14, Harpaz) continued coverage of the new IMAX movie, “National Parks Adventure,” which debuted Friday, celebrating “the beauty and thrills of America’s parks.” The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (2/13, 94K) and the [Paducah \(KY\) Sun](#) (2/13, 61K) also carried the AP story. [Greenwire](#) (2/12, Subscription Publication) quoted MacGillivray Freeman Films Director Greg MacGillivray as praising the 3-D movie medium, saying, “When something spectacular happens in an Imax film, audiences remember it like it’s a firsthand experience.” The movie “follows three adventurers led by elite climber Conrad Anker through some of the country’s most famous landscapes.” MacGillivray said the film “fills you with a reverence for what nature can do.”

- o [Skift](#) (2/14) said the movie, narrated by Robert Redford, stars “geysers, red rock canyons, mountaintops and redwood forests.” According to Skift, “the emphasis on adventure and not just beauty and history is a way of furthering the National Park Service’s efforts to attract millennials.” The article quoted NPS Director Jon Jarvis’ statement that the service aims to “connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates.”
- o The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/12, King, 4.1M) highlighted the “eye-popping footage” in its review of the movie. MacGillivray expressed gratitude for the production team’s “incredible access to the parks,” saying “the people in Washington, D.C., were able to help us a lot as far as navigating and working with each park to get the best possible shots.”
- o In its review of the film, the [Miami Herald](#) (2/15, Granfield, 803K) calls the soundtrack “superb,” as it “adds to the upbeat momentum of rushing waterfalls, towering canyons and other sweeping scenes.” The Herald also praises the NPS’ use of the IMAX medium. However, in assessing content the Herald concludes, “Though the film highlights threats that happened before the National Park’s formation, such as the near extinction of redwoods for lumber, it falls short of engaging the audience with ongoing threats and controversial practices within and around the parks.” NPS Ranger Gary Bremen said, “The centennial is a great opportunity for people to get out and experience the beauty of national parks. ... No matter what your interest is, there’ll be something for you.”
 - Additional coverage is provided by the website of [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) (2/14, 165K) and the [Uniontown \(PA\) Herald-Standard](#) (2/15, 44K).

vi. Tomorrow’s Announcements

- Tomorrow, Secretary Jewell will meet representatives from the Alaskan Federation of Natives. This meeting will take place at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., and is closed press.
- Tomorrow, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will release an Environmental Assessment (EA) on Pacific Offshore Fracking.

###

—
Nate Adams
Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-2060



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America's Great Outdoors Tumblr updates - Update

13 messages

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 12:00 PM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov

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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

[One of the most dramatic sunrises we have ever seen over Rocky...](#)

02/13/2016 10:22 AM EST



One of the most dramatic sunrises we have ever seen over Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Erik Page took this pic two weeks ago on a cold, windy morning. But it was all worth it. Of the moment, Erik says, "Sometimes you get a wild hair to go on a sunrise adventure, and the sky just so happens to go thermonuclear!" Photo courtesy of Erik Page.

GovDelivery, Inc., 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

**U.S. Department of the Interior** <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 7:02 PM

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Page Watch Notification

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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

[Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today?...](#)

02/15/2016 05:47 PM EST



Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today? Learn how 8 presidents shaped America's national parks: <http://on.doi.gov/20Zegrl> Mount Rushmore National Monument photo by Flora Gilmer (www.sharetheexperience.org). #presidentsday

Updated RSS story:

Virgin Islands National Park is an American paradise with...

02/08/2016 03:02 PM EST



Virgin Islands National Park is an American paradise with breathtaking hills, valleys and beaches. With 7,000-plus acres on the island of St. John, Virgin Islands National Park offers snow-white sand dotted by palm trees, coral reefs, pre-historic sites and Bay Rum Tree forests. Its Trunk Bay is considered one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and features a 225-yard long underwater snorkeling trail. For more great warm-weather getaways, check out: <http://on.doi.gov/1QFtX22>.

Photo by Kerry Childers (www.sharetheexperience.org).

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov> Tue, Feb 16, 2016 at 11:01 PM
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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

[Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today?...](#)

02/15/2016 05:47 PM EST



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Photo by Kerry Childers (www.sharetheexperience.org).

Updated RSS story:

Need a break from the snow and cold weather hitting much of the...

02/03/2016 02:24 PM EST



Virgin Islands National Park



Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge



Baldwin County, Alabama



Channel Islands National Park



Haleakala National Park

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You won't even have to leave the country to visit to these amazing tropical getaways. 🌴 🌊 🧑🏻‍🌾

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 3:00 AM

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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

[A fiery sunset overtakes the sky at Great Sand Dunes National...](#)

02/09/2016 10:21 AM EST



A fiery sunset overtakes the sky at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve in Colorado, casting an otherworldly glow on the park's purple sands. Photo courtesy of Chris Wheeler.

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Page Watch Notification

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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today?...

02/15/2016 05:47 PM EST



Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today? Learn how 8 presidents shaped America's national parks: <http://on.doi.gov/20Zegr1> Mount Rushmore National Monument photo by Flora Gilmer (www.sharetheexperience.org). #presidentsday

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02/09/2016 10:21 AM EST



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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today?...

02/15/2016 05:47 PM EST



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Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge



Baldwin County, Alabama



Channel Islands National Park



Haleakala National Park

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You won't even have to leave the country to visit to these amazing tropical getaways. 🌴 🌊 🏖️

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov> Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 10:01 AM
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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today?...

02/15/2016 05:47 PM EST



Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today? Learn how 8 presidents shaped America's national parks: <http://on.doi.gov/20ZegrI> Mount Rushmore National Monument photo by Flora Gilmer (www.sharetheexperience.org). #presidentsday

Updated RSS story:

Happy Presidents' Day! What better way to celebrate our first...

02/15/2016 09:08 AM EST



Happy Presidents' Day! What better way to celebrate our first president's birthday – George Washington – than with this gorgeous photo of the monument built to honor him. A 555-foot marble obelisk, the Washington Monument towers over Washington, D.C. Photo by Jeff Norman (www.sharetheexperience.org).

Updated RSS story:

Virgin Islands National Park is an American paradise with...

02/08/2016 03:02 PM EST



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Photo by Kerry Childers (www.sharetheexperience.org).

Updated RSS story:

Baby black bears are born in the winter and stay in the den with...

02/08/2016 10:19 AM EST



Baby black bears are born in the winter and stay in the den with their mothers through the cold months. In spring, the cubs emerge to explore the world and show off their cuteness. Photo from Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee by Steve Perry (www.sharetheexperience.org).

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 11:00 AM

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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

[Ever wonder how our public lands system became what it is today?...](#)

02/15/2016 05:47 PM EST



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Updated RSS story:

Pictured here is the bog turtle – North America's tiniest...

02/09/2016 03:30 PM EST



Pictured here is the bog turtle – North America's tiniest turtle! This turtle can be found in the Appalachian Mountain bogs, one of the nation's most biodiverse, yet rarest and most imperiled habitats. Roughly 90 percent of the area's mountain bogs that once existed have been lost, making protection critical. That's why the President's budget calls for funding to conserve places like this as part of full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. <http://on.doi.gov/23Ljo4L>

[23Ljo4L](http://on.doi.gov/23Ljo4L) 

Photo by Rosie Walunas, USFWS.

Updated RSS story:

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Page Watch Notification

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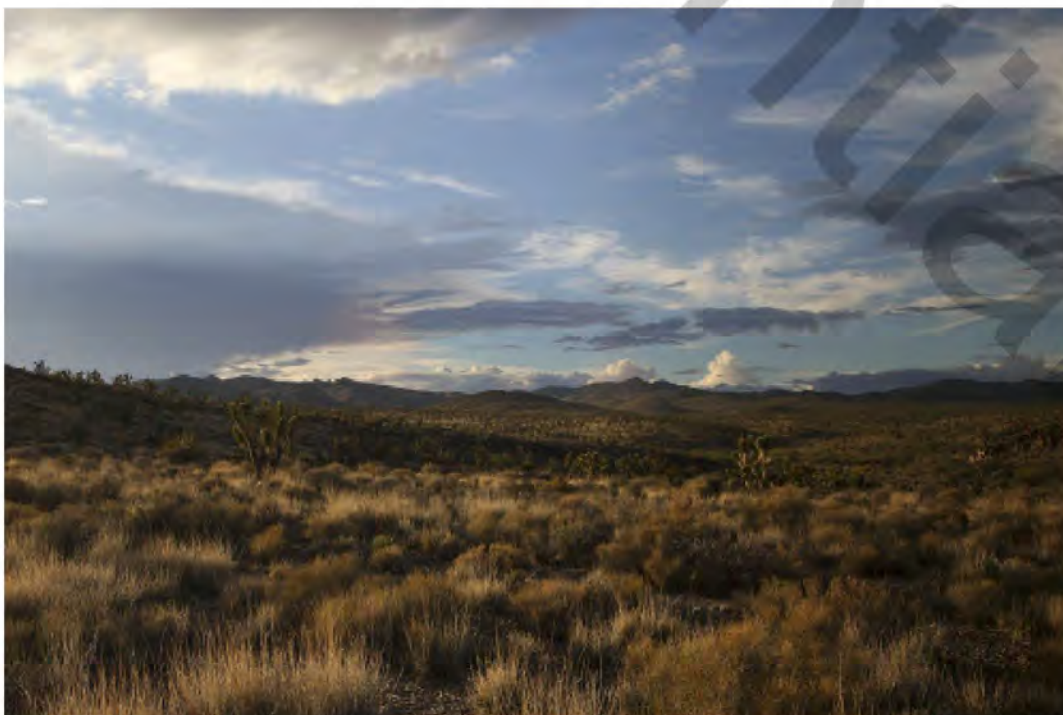
Updated RSS story:

Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments:...

02/12/2016 10:25 AM EST



Mojave Trails National Monument



Castle Mountains National Monument



Sand to Snow National Monument

Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments: Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument. These new monuments protect 1.8 million acres of spectacular landscapes, fragile wildlife habitat, unique historic resources and important cultural sites – ensuring that current and future generations can enjoy the unique beauty of the California desert.

Mojave Trails is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

An integral part of the California desert, Castle Mountains National Monument protects some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching and the railroad from the period of western expansion. Photo by National Park Service.

Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Geronio Peak, the tallest in southern California, Sand to Snow National Monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites and 30 miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing and even skiing. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

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[Pictured here is the bog turtle – North America's tiniest...](#)

02/09/2016 03:30 PM EST



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Updated RSS story:

This cute little guy is a long-tailed weasel at Bear River...

02/05/2016 10:20 AM EST



This cute little guy is a long-tailed weasel at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah. While he might look sweet, the long-tailed weasel is fierce. The sharp teeth, keen eyesight and scrappy character make this species a highly skilled predator. During the winter, their fur changes from brown to white to better protect them. Photo by Jana M. Cisar, USFWS.

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 7:01 PM

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Mojave Trails is a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows and spectacular sand dunes. The monument contains the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66 and some of the best preserved sites from the World War II-era Desert Training Center. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

An integral part of the California desert, Castle Mountains National Monument protects some of the finest Joshua tree forest and native desert grassland in the Mojave Desert and contains important cultural resources including Native American archeological sites and vestiges of mining, ranching and the railroad from the period of western expansion. Photo by National Park Service.

Rising from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to San Geronio Peak, the tallest in southern California, Sand to Snow National Monument includes lush desert oases, significant archeological sites and 30 miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing and even skiing. Photo by [@mypubliclands](#).

Updated RSS story:

[Baby black bears are born in the winter and stay in the den with...](#)

02/08/2016 10:19 AM EST



Baby black bears are born in the winter and stay in the den with their mothers through the cold months. In spring, the cubs emerge to explore the world and show off their cuteness. Photo from Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee by Steve Perry (www.sharetheexperience.org).

Updated RSS story:

This cute little guy is a long-tailed weasel at Bear River...

02/05/2016 10:20 AM EST



This cute little guy is a long-tailed weasel at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah. While he might look sweet, the long-tailed weasel is fierce. The sharp teeth, keen eyesight and scrappy character make this species a highly skilled predator. During the winter, their fur changes from brown to white to better protect them. Photo by Jana M. Cisar, USFWS.

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Thu, Feb 18, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov

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Change Report

Updated RSS story:

[Happy Presidents' Day! What better way to celebrate our first...](#)

02/15/2016 09:08 AM EST



Happy Presidents' Day! What better way to celebrate our first president's birthday – George Washington – than with this gorgeous photo of the monument built to honor him. A 555-foot marble obelisk, the Washington Monument towers over Washington, D.C. Photo by Jeff Norman (www.sharetheexperience.org).

Updated RSS story:

Virgin Islands National Park is an American paradise with...

02/08/2016 03:02 PM EST



Virgin Islands National Park is an American paradise with breathtaking hills, valleys and beaches. With 7,000-plus acres on the island of St. John, Virgin Islands National Park offers snow-white sand dotted by palm trees, coral reefs, pre-historic sites and Bay Rum Tree forests. Its Trunk Bay is considered one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and features a 225-yard long underwater snorkeling trail. For more great warm-weather getaways, check out: <http://on.doi.gov/1QFtX22>.

Photo by Kerry Childers (www.sharetheexperience.org).

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Updated RSS story:

The Guadalupe Mountains rise dramatically above the high plains...

02/04/2016 10:29 AM EST



The Guadalupe Mountains rise dramatically above the high plains of west Texas. Featuring a premier fossil collection, ancient pictographs, pristine wilderness and fascinating history, Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers a rich reward to those bold enough to visit. Photo of Texas's El Capitan courtesy of Sean Kennedy.



U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Thu, Feb 18, 2016 at 9:00 AM

To: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, thomas_libbey@ios.doi.gov, robert_dornbush@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov, constantine_goudelias@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, Rachael_Johnson@ios.doi.gov, joan_moody@ios.doi.gov, govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov

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Updated RSS story:

Pictured here is the bog turtle – North America's tiniest...

02/09/2016 03:30 PM EST



Pictured here is the bog turtle – North America's tiniest turtle! This turtle can be found in the Appalachian Mountain bogs, one of the nation's most biodiverse, yet rarest and most imperiled habitats. Roughly 90 percent of the area's mountain bogs that once existed have been lost, making protection critical. That's why the President's budget calls for funding to conserve places like this as part of full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. <http://on.doi.gov/23Ljo4L> 🐢

Photo by Rosie Walunas, USFWS.

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Thu, Feb 18, 2016 at 11:00 AM

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Confidential



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Memorial Invite List

7 messages

Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 26, 2016 at 4:01 PM

To: **Mark Antoniewicz - (b) (6)**

Cc: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Good afternoon Mark-


John wanted me to pass along this draft invite and invite list for the upcoming California Monument reception. Feel free to make any edits to the email or the invite list.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Kim

—
Kimberly Jensen
Special Assistant, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Department of the Interior
202-208-5541 (Desk)
202-573-0305 (Cell)

2 attachments **CA Desert Celebration Events - March 2016.xlsx**
27K **CAMonumentsEmail.docx**
6K

Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ **(b) (6)**

Fri, Feb 26, 2016 at 4:03 PM

To: "Jensen, Kimberly" <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks -- will take a look when I land at my desk. The dates are obviously still TBD, now looking at March 14-18. Will let you know ASAP!

From: Jensen, Kimberly
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ
Cc: John Blair; Maria Najera
Subject: Memorial Invite List
[Quoted text hidden]

Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 2:06 PM

To: "Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ" **(b) (6)**

Cc: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Mark-

I wanted to check in on this. Do you have an update on the date?

Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]

Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ (b) (6)

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 2:40 PM

To: "Jensen, Kimberly" <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Kim - thanks for circling back. We're still waiting on the date. Hopefully we'll know this week! If you don't hear from me by COB, Thursday, please ping me again.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jensen, Kimberly [mailto:kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 2:07 PM

To: Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ (b) (6)

Cc: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>; Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: Memorial Invite List

Hi Mark-

I wanted to check in on this. Do you have an update on the date?

Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]

Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 2:43 PM

To: "Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ" (b) (6)

Cc: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Got it. Will do!

[Quoted text hidden]

John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 4:24 PM

To: Kimberly Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Good try! ☺

From: Jensen, Kimberly [mailto:kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:44 PM

To: Antoniewicz, Mark T. EOP/CEQ

Cc: John Blair; Maria Najera

Subject: Re: Memorial Invite List

[Quoted text hidden]

Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 4:44 PM

To: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks :)

[Quoted text hidden]

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		Business (National)	KEEN Effect	Kirk	Richardson
		Businesses/Chambers	Visitors Bureau	Genoa	Aleman
		Businesses/Chambers	Death Valley Chamber of Commerce	Suzi	Dennett
		Businesses/Chambers	Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Bill	Vincent
		Businesses/Chambers	Visitors Bureau	Scott	White
		Businesses/Chambers	Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce	Patrick	Kelly
		Businesses/Chambers	Route 66 Chamber of Commerce		
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Mark	Algazy
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Randy	Banis
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Leslie	Barrett
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Tim	Branning
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Jane	Brockhurst
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Robert	Burke
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Raymond	Castillo
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Caroline	Conway
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Sheri	Davis
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Donald	Houston
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	James	Kenney
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	James	Kenny
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Francis	Muth
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Paul	O'Boyle
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Robert	Reynolds
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	April	Sall
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council	Seth	Shteir
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Seth	Shteir
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Peter	Siminski
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Kim	Stringfellow
		DOI Advisory Council	Desert Advisory Council Subgroup	Laraine	Turk
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Frank	Ruiz
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Juan Manuel	Almanza
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Dr. Francisco	Colop
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Absalon	Duran
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Hector	Manzo

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Martin	Martinez
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Steven	Morales
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Javier	Moreno
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Dr. Sergio	Navarette
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Enrique	Orellana
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Raymundo	Ortiz
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Jorge	Quintanilla
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Cecilia	Ruano
		Faith-Based	Por la Creación	Joseito	Velasquez
		Federal	U.S. Senate	Barbara	Boxer
			Senator Boxer's office	Zachary	Coile
		Federal	U.S. House of Representatives (R-8)	Paul	Cook
			Representative Paul Cook's Office	Michael	Fresquez
		Federal	U.S. Senate	Diane	Feinstein
		Federal	U.S. House of Representatives (D-36)	Raul	Ruiz
			Representative Ruiz's Chief of Staff	Cookab	Hashemi
		Federal	U.S. House of Representatives (D-51)	Juan	Vargas
			Representative Vargas' Office	Veronica	Licha-Lopez
		Federal	U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein Office	Jennifer	Duck
		Federal	U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein Office	James	Peterson
		Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Michael	Fris
		Federal	NPS	Martha	Lee
		Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Alex	Pitts
		Federal	NPS	David	Smith
		Federal	NPS	Todd	Suess
		Federal	US Arctic Research Commission	Fran	Ulmer
		Federal	US Arctic Research Commission	John	Farrell
		Federal (former)		Bruce	Babbitt
		Local Government	San Bernardino County	Josh	Candelaria

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		Local Government	San Bernardino County	Robert	Lovingood
		Local Government	San Bernardino County	James	Ramos
		Local Government	City of Cathedral City	John	Aguilar
		Local Government	Riverside Co. Board of Supervisors	Marion	Ashley
		Local Government	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	Katie	Barrows
		Local Government	Riverside Co. Board of Supervisors	John	Benoit
		Local Government	City of Desert Hot Springs	Russell	Betts
		Local Government	Imperial Co. Board of Supervisors	Raymond	Castillo
		Local Government	U.S. Conference of Mayors	Tom	Cochran
		Local Government	Town Apple Valley	Larry	Cusack
		Local Government	U.S. Conference of Mayors	Debra	Dehaney-Howard
		Local Government	City of La Quinta	Linda	Evans
		Local Government	City of Palm Springs	Ginny	Foat
		Local Government	City of Coachella	David	Garcia Desert
		Local Government	City of Bishop	Patricia	Gardner
		Local Government	City of Indian Wells	Douglas	Hanson
		Local Government	City of Cathedral City	Stan	Henry
		Local Government	City of Coachella	Steven	Hernandez
		Local Government	City of Rancho Mirage	Dana	Hobart
		Local Government	City of Yucca Valley	George	Huntington
		Local Government	Riverside Co. Board of Supervisors	Kevin	Jeffries
		Local Government	City of Cathedral City	Shelley	Kaplan
		Local Government	Imperial Co. Board of Supervisors	Michael	Kelley
		Local Government	Imperial Co. Board of Supervisors	Ryan	Kelley
		Local Government	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	Tom	Kirk
		Local Government	City of Palm Springs	Paul	Lewin
		Local Government	City of Calimesa	Joyce	McIntire
		Local Government	City of Rancho Cucamonga	Dennis	Michael
		Local Government	City of Indio	Glenn	Miller
		Local Government	City of Chico Hills	Cynthia	Moran
		Local Government	City of Beaumont	Mark	Orozco
		Local Government	City of Cathedral City	Greg	Pettis
		Local Government	Imperial Co. Board of Supervisors	John	Renison
		Local Government	City of Yucaipa	Dick	Riddell
		Local Government	Desert Hot Springs	Adam	Sanchez
		Local Government	U.S. Conference of Mayors	Judy	Sheahan

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		Local Government	City of Indio	Troy	Strange
		Local Government	Riverside Co. Board of Supervisors	John	Tavaglione
		Local Government	Imperial Co. Board of Supervisors	Jack	Terrazas
		Local Government	Riverside Co. Board of Supervisors	Chuck	Washington
		Local Government	City of Palm Desert	Susan Marie	Weber
		Local Government	City of Calimesa	Ella	Zanowic
		Local Government	Morongo Valley		
		Local residents	Local residents	Chris	Carillo
		Local residents	Mother Road Enterprises	James	Conkle
		Local residents	Local resident/Tecopa Hot Springs Conservancy	Nancy	Good
		Local residents	Resident of Palm Springs/Former Dean of Cal State San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus	Dr. Fred	Jandt
		Local residents	Resident of Joshua Tree	Jim	Mattern
		Local residents	Hot Purple Energy, Palm Springs	Nate	Otto
		Local residents	Local residents	James	Ramos
		Local residents	Tourism Economics Commission and Co-Owner of 29 Palms Inn	Paul	Smith
		Local residents	Resident of Joshua Tree	Peter	Spurr
		Local residents	Local residents/ Por la Creación	Raul	Velasquez
		Local residents	Resident of Joshua Tree	Ryan	Weber
		National Association	Western Governors' Association	Carlee	Brown
		National Association	National Association of Counties	Matthew	Chase
		National Association	National Association of Counties	Deborah	Cox
		National Association	National Association of Counties	Chris	Marklund
		National Association	Western Governors' Association	Jim	Ogsbury
		National Association	National Governors Association	Alex	Whitaker

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		NGO	Vet Voice Foundation	Steve	Dunwoody
		NGO	Western Conservation Foundation	Dan	Fenn
		NGO	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Whit	Fosburgh
		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Gene	Karpinski
		NGO	Center for American Progress	Matt	Lee-Ashley
		NGO	National Parks Conservation Association	Theresa	Pierno
		NGO	Pew Charitable Trusts	Ken	Rait
		NGO	Outdoor Industry Association	Amy	Roberts
		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Larry	Selzer
		NGO	Natural Resources Defense Council	Rhea	Suh
		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Mark	Tercek
		NGO	Trout Unlimited	Chris	Wood
		NGO	American Recreation Coalition	Derrick	Crandall
		NGO	Sierra Club	Athan	Manuel
		NGO	The Aspen Institute	Mike	Boots
		NGO	The Wildlands Conservancy	David	Myers
		NGO	National Parks Conservation Association	David	Lamfrom
		NGO	Conservation Lands Foundation	Ryan	Bidwell
		NGO	Sierra Club	Michael	Brune
		NGO	Pew	Nicole	Cordan
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Matt	Keller
		NGO	Pew Charitable Trusts	Jim	Mathews
		NGO	PEW	Jim	Matthews
		NGO	Defenders of Wildlife	Jamie	Rappaport Clark
		NGO	National Park Foundation	Will	Shafroth
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Jamie	Williams
		NGO	NPCA	Kristen	Brengel

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		NGO	American Recreation Coalition	Catherine	Ahern
		NGO	Environment America	Margie	Alt
		NGO	Blue Ribbon Coalition	Don	Amador
		NGO	Center for Biological Diversity	Ileene	Anderson
		NGO	UC, Riverside	James	Andre
		NGO	National League of Cities	Clarence	Anthony
		NGO	Hispanic Access Foundation	Maite	Arce
		NGO	California Wilderness Coalition	Monica	Argandona
		NGO	PEW Environment Group	Marcia	Argust
		NGO	National Latino Farmers and Ranchers trade Association	Rudy	Arredondo
		NGO	Environment America	Anna	Aurilio
		NGO	Society of Outdoor Recreation Professional	John	Baas
		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Bob	Barnes
		NGO	Center for Biological Diversity	Lisa	Belenky
		NGO	Sierra Club	Barbara	Boyle
		NGO	PEW Environment Group	Geoffrey	Brown
		NGO	Natural Resources Defense Council	Sharon	Buccino
		NGO	National Parks Conservation Association	Clark	Bunting
		NGO	Wyss Foundation	Myke	Bybee
		NGO	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Tom	Cassidy
		NGO	California Wilderness Coalition	Linda	Castro
		NGO	National League of Cities	Carolyn	Coleman
		NGO	Great Outdoors Palm Springs	Scott	Connelly
		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Tom	Cors
		NGO	Outdoor Alliance	Adam	Cramer
		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Laura	Crane

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		NGO	Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	Buford	Crites
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Nada	Culver
		NGO	Public Lands Foundation	Elena	Daly
		NGO	Defenders of Wildlife	Stephanie	Dashiell
		NGO	National Audubon Society	Mike	Daulton
		NGO	Land Trust Alliance	Bryan	David
		NGO	The Trust for Public Land	Kathy	DeCoster
		NGO	Defenders of Wildlife	Kimberley	Delfino
		NGO	Defenders of Wildlife	Robert	Dewey
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Jennifer	Dickson
		NGO	Center for American Progress	Patrick	Dolan
		NGO	Amargosa Conservancy	Patrick	Donnelly
		NGO	California Historic Route 66 Association	Glen	Duncan
		NGO	Pew Environmental Group	Leslie	Duncan
		NGO	Outdoor Foundation	Ms. Chris	Fanning
		NGO	Trout Unlimited	Kira	Finkler
		NGO	Outdoor Alliance	Tom	Flynn
		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Andy	French
		NGO	Sierra Club	Sarah	Friedman
		NGO	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Dave	Gagner
		NGO	Outdoor Alliance	Luis	Geltman
		NGO	Audubon California	Garry	George
		NGO	Public Lands Service Coalition	Joe	Gersen
		NGO	Student Conservation Association	Joe	Gersen
		NGO	Conservation Lands Foundation	Sam	Goldman
		NGO	Natural Resources Defense Council	David	Goldston
		NGO	Latino Outdoors	Jose	Gonzalez
		NGO	La Madre Tierra/Azul	Marcela	Gutierrez
		NGO	Society of Outdoor Recreation Professional	Glen	Haas
			Theodore Roosevelt Conservation		
		NGO	Partnership	Jimmy	Hague
		NGO	Mojave Desert Land Trust	Frazier	Haney
		NGO	International Mountain Bicycling Association	Laurel	Harkness

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		NGO	UC Davis	Susan	Harrison
		NGO	Outdoor Alliance	Tania	Hecht
		NGO	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Lila	Helms
		NGO	California Wilderness Coalition	Ryan	Henson
		NGO	Campaign for the California Desert	Sarah	Hersh
		NGO	Land Stewards	Brian	Hires
		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Kris	Hoellen
		NGO	Environmental Defense Fund	Elgie	Holstein
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Chase	Huntley
		NGO	Tuleyome	Sara	Husby-Good
		NGO	Land Trust Alliance	Mary Pope	Hutson
		NGO	Public Lands Foundation	Jesse	Juen
		NGO	Outdoors America	Lesley	Kane
		NGO	Putah Creek Trout	Steve	Karr
		NGO	Western Conservation Foundation	Andrea	Keller Helsel
		NGO	NatureBridge	Phil	Kilbridge
		NGO	Conservation Lands Foundation	Meghan	Kissell
		NGO	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Steve	Kline
		NGO	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Greg	Knadle
		NGO	Back Country Horseman of Lake County	Bill	Knispel
		NGO	SummerTree Institute	Robin	Kobaly
		NGO	Environmental Defense Fund	Fred	Krupp
		NGO	Trout Unlimited	David	Lass
		NGO	National Park Trust	Grace	Lee
		NGO	Outdoor Foundation	Ivan	Levin
		NGO	NatureBridge	Steve	Lockhart
		NGO	National Wildlife Federation	Jim	Lyon
		NGO	Green Latinos	Mark	Magana
		NGO	Outdoor Afro	Rue	Mapp
		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Kramer	Mark

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		NGO	Pew Charitable Trusts	Mike	Matz
		NGO	Alabama Hills Stewardship Group	Kevin	Mazzu
		NGO	Old Spanish Trail Association	Paul	McClure
		NGO	Wyss Foundation	Molly	McUSIC
		NGO	CA Off-Road Vehicle Assoc.	Diana	Mead
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Bill	Meadows
		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Erik	Meyers
		NGO	American Hiking Society	Greg	Miller
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Sally	Miller
		NGO	Trout Unlimited	Kate	Miller
		NGO	UC Davis, Retired	Eldridge	Moore
		NGO	Latino Coalition for Health California	Xavier	Morales
		NGO	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Geoffrey	Mullins
		NGO	Conservation Lands Foundation	Danielle	Murray
		NGO	City Parks Alliance	Catherine	Nagel
		NGO	American Recreation Coalition	Ben	Nasta
		NGO	Conservation Lands Foundation	Brian	O'Donnel
		NGO	National Wildlife Federation	Collin	O'Mara
		NGO	Natural Resources Defense Council	Helen	O'Shea
		NGO	American Land Conservancy	Kerry	O'Toole
		NGO	American Hiking Society	Peter	Olson
		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Kameran	Onley
		NGO	Environment America	Mary	Rafferty
		NGO	Creation Justice Ministries	Shantha	Ready Alonso
		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Kelly	Reed
		NGO	PEW Environment Group	Josh	Reichert
		NGO	Vet Voice Foundation	Garrett	Reppenhagen
		NGO	Natural Resources Defense Council	Joel	Reynolds
		NGO	Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City	Scott	Robinson
		NGO	Hispanic Federation	Lisette	Rodriguez

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		NGO	The Trust for Public Land	Will	Rogers
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Alan	Rowsome
		NGO	Tuleyome	Bob	Schneider
		NGO	Sonoran Institute	John	Shepard
		NGO	Public Lands Foundation	Ed	Shepherd
		NGO	HECHO	Camilla	Simon
		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Tierman	Sittenfeld
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Dan	Smuts
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Paul	Spitler
		NGO	The Corps Network	Mary Ellen	Sprenkel
		NGO	California Native Plant Society	Greg	Suba
		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Alex	Taurel
		NGO	Western Conservation Foundation	Whitney	Tawney
		NGO	Sierra Club	Joan	Taylor
		NGO	UC, Riverside	Clifford	Trafzer
		NGO	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Jeff	Trandahl
		NGO	E2 Strategies	Peter	Umhofer
		NGO	California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity	Claudia	Viek
		NGO	City Parks Alliance	Julie	Waterman
		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Lydia	Weiss
		NGO	Land Trust Alliance	Rand	Wentworth
		NGO	Conservation Lands Foundation	Douglas	Wheeler
		NGO	National Audubon Society	David	Yarnold
		NGO	California Desert Coalition		
		NGO	Friends of Big Morongo Basin Preserve		
		NGO	Friends of Desert Mountains		
		NGO	Friends of Pioneertown		
		NGO	Morongo Basin Conservation Association		
		NGO	The Conservation Alliance (17 outdoor Co. including Patagonia, Camelbak, Vans, etc.		
		NGO	Heritage Outdoors	Laura	David

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		Other		Susan	Sorrells
		Other		Nancy	Sutley
		Other	Sempra	Blair	Baker
		Other	Sempra	Sean	Mackay
		Other	Southern California Edison	Nino	Mascolo
		Other	PG&E	matt	Miller
		Other	Southern California Edison	Matt	Miller
		Other	PG&E	Diane	Ross Leech
		Other	PG&E	Jeff	Smyly
		Other	Southern California Edison	Kathy	Yhip
		Other	Newcastle Gold Ltd.	Dr. David	Adamson
		Other	Field Botanist & Botanical Explorer of the SW Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association	Duncan	Bell
		Other	General Patton Museum	Dennis	Casebier
		Other	Potomac Partners	Margit	Chiriaco Rusche
		Other	San Jose State University, Dept. of Environmental Studies	Feliz	Dan
		Other	Coachella Valley Economic Partnership	Dr. David	Mulvaney
		Other		Joe	Wallace
		Other		Cindy	Zaks
		Other	China Ranch Date Farm		
		Other/Op-Ed	Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps	William	Reeves
		State Government	California - Gov. Edmund "Jerry" Brown (D)	Katie	Mathews
		State Government	CA Natural Resources Agency	John	Laird
		State Government	CA Energy Commission	Karen	Douglas
		State Government	CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Kevin	Hunting
		State Government	CA State Parks	Connie	Latham
		State Government	California State Lands Commission	Jennifer	Lucchesi
		State Government	Governor	Jerry	Brown
		State Government	Governor Brown's Office	Katie	Wheeler Matthew

DC Event	Local Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name
		Tribal	Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (AL Hills)	Richard	Button
		Tribal	Timbisha Shoshone	Earl	Frank III
		Tribal	Timbisha Shoshone	George	Gholson
		Tribal	Cahuilla Band of Indians/Native American Land Conservancy	Michael	Madrigal
		Tribal	Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Robert	Martin
		Tribal	Colorado River Indian Tribes	Denis	Patch
		Tribal	Timbisha Shoshone	Tucheh	Stone
		Tribal	Fort Mojave Band of Indians	Timothy	Williams
		Tribal	Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (AL Hills)	Mary	Wuester
		Tribal	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians		
		Veterans	U.S. Army Veteran, Arlington, VA	Steven	Anderson

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President	director@joshuatreechamber.org	760.366.3723	should-act-now-to-declare-desert-monuments-
President & CEO	swhite@palmspringsoasis.com	760-770-9000	view-obama-could-add-to-deserts-draw/
Director at Large	smokesignalmv@aol.com		folder; no contact info
	(b) (6)		folder; no contact info
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member	RBanis@DeathValley.com	(b) (6)	
member	(b) (6)	310-266-3633	
member	tbranning@mac.com		
member	jane@desertdiscoverycenter.com		
member	cameracoordinator@sheepsociety.com	(b) (6)	
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member	sheridavis@filminlandempire.com		
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member	pro@boylelaw.com	858-922-8807	
member	reynolds220@verizon.net		
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member	sshteir@npca.org		
member	psiminski@livingdesert.org		
member	mail@kimstringfellow.com		
member	laraine518@earthlink.net		
Pastor		760-799-5140	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member			9/25/15 letter
member			9/25/15 letter

Title	Email Address	Phone Number	Notes
member			9/25/15 letter
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
member		9/25/15 letter	
Senator			This is a call to the Senator herself, not her staff
Communications Director for Senator Boxer	zachary.coile@boxer.senate.gov		
Representative			This is a call to the member, not the member's staff
Communications Director for Rep. Cook	michael.frequez@mail.house.gov		
Senator			This is a call to the Senator herself, not her staff
Representative			This is a call to the member, not the member's staff
Rep. Ruiz Chief of Staff	cookab.hashemi@mail.house.gov		
Representative			This is a call to the member, not the member's staff
Communications Director for Rep. Vargas			
Chief of Staff	J_Duck@feinstein.senate.gov		
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Deputy Regional Director	alexandra_pitts@fws.gov		
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Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve	todd_suess@nps.gov	760-252-6103	
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Executive Director	jfarrell@arctic.gov		
Former Interior Secretary			
Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs	jcandelaria@cao.sbcounty.gov	909-387-4821	

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Director of Environmental Resources	kbarrows@cvag.org	760 346-1127	
Supervisor - District 4	district4@rcbos.org	951-955-1040	
Councilman	rbetts@cityofdhs.org	760-329-6411	
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Councilman	Ginny.Foat@palmspringsca.gov	760-323-8200	
City Manager	dgarcia@coachella.org	760-398-3502	
Mayor	patgardner2012@gmail.com	760-873-8579	
Councilman	dhanson@indianwells.com	760-346-2489	
Mayor	jmeza@cathedralcity.gov	760-770-0372	EA contact info
Mayor	shernandez@coachella.org	760-398-3502	
Mayor	danah@ranchomirageca.gov	760-324-4511	
Mayor	ghuntington@yucca-valley.org	760-369-7207	
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Supervisor - District 4	ryankelley@co.imperial.ca.us	442-265-1035	
Executive Director	tkirk@cvag.org	760-346-1127	
Former Mayor Prom Tem		760-323-8200	EA # for Mayor and City Council
Mayor	jmcontire@cityofcalimesa.net	909-795-9801	
Mayor	council@cityofrc.us	909-477-2700	
Mayor	gmiller@indio.org	760-391-4000	
Mayor	cmoran@chinohills.org	909-364-2620	
City Councilman	mark@markorozco.com	951-572-2101	
Mayor Pro Tem	GPettis@cathedralcity.gov	760-770-0340	
Supervisor - District 1	johnrenison@co.imperial.ca.us	442-265-1031	
Councilman	driddell@yucaipa.org	909-797-2489	
Mayor	asanchez@cityofdhs.org	760-464-3333	
Assistant Executive Director, Environment	jsheahan@usmayors.org	202-861-6775	

Title	Email Address	Phone Number	Notes
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Supervisor - District 2	jackterrazas@co.imperial.ca.us	442-265-1032	
Supervisor - District 3	district3@rcbos.org	951-955-1030	
Mayor	cityhall@cityofpalmdesert.org	760-346-0611	
Mayor Pro Tem	ezanowic@cityofcalimesa.net	909-795-9801	
Mayor			No mayor 4/24 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/desert-protection-bill-offers-balanced-approach/
Tour Director	jimconkle@verizon.net		
Officer			2/28/15 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/desert-legislation-would-benefit-economy-and-environment/ 9/21/15 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/viewpoint-presidential-action-ok-on-desert-protection/ 9/9/15 letter to the editor
President	solar@hotpurpleenergy.com	760-322-4433	9/30/15 meeting w/ NB
Chair			10/14 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/monument-designation-key-to-protecting-natural-heritage/ 9/2/15 letter to the editor 8/29/15 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/antiquities-act-allows-president-to-protect-our-desert/ 8/28/15 letter to the editor: http://californiadesert.org/letters-national-monuments-will-provide-economic-benefits/
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California Program Director Program Manager	dan@wcfnd.org	(b) (6)	http://californiadesert.org/military-veteran-households-support-new-national-monuments-in-california-desert-guest-commentary-i-joined-a-group-of-my-fellow-veterans-and-their-families-recently-on-a-tour-of-historic-camp-iron-mou/
President and CEO	wfosburgh@trcp.org	202-639-8727	
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Senior Fellow	mlashley@americanprogress.org	202-741-6358	
President & CEO	tpierno@npca.org		10/27/15 letter co-signer
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Executive Director	aroberts@outdoorindustry.org	303-327-3501	
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President and CEO	rsuh@nrdc.org	212-727-2700	
President & CEO	mtercek@tnc.org	703-841-5300	
President	cwood@tu.org	703-284-9403	
President	dcrandall@funoutdoors.com	(b) (6)	
Director, Lands Protection Program	athan.manuel@sierraclub.org	202-548-4580	
Senior Fellow	(b) (6)	michael.boots@aspeninstitute.org	
Executive Director	info@twc-ca.org	909-797-8507	quoted in various news articles. purchased catellus lands. an architect of this whole thing. needs very advanced notice to travel
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Senior Director of Conservation	ryan@conservationlands.org	9709460506	
Executive Director	michael.brune@sierraclub.org; dassance	(b) (6)	
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President & CEO	wshafroth@nationalparks.org	(b) (6)	
		(b) (6)	
President & CEO	Jamie_williams@twc.org	or (b) (6)	
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President	johnb@migcom.com	510-845-7549	
Senior Policy Advisor	bbarnes@tnc.org		
Senior Attorney	lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org	510.844.7107, ext. 307	6/3/15 letter co-signer
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Vice President for Government Relations and Policy	TCassidy@savingplaces.org		
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Executive Director	patrick@amargosaconservancy.org		9/12/15 letter co-signer, 7/31/15 op-ed
President	gduncan@earthlink.net		
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Director	mar@azulproject.org	(b) (6)	
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Water Program Head	JHague@trcp.org	202-639-8727	
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	(b) (6)	(b) (6)	
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Vice President, Conservation Policy	lyon@nfwf.org		
Founder	MarkMagana@hispanicstrategygroup.com	202-230-2070	
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State Director		202-232-4418 X	
President & CEO	mcusic@wyssfoundation.org	12	
President, Board of Directors	diana.mead@corva.org		
Former President	bill_meadows@twc.org		
VP for Sustainable Programs	emeyers@conservationfund.org	703-525-6300	
President	gmiller@americanhiking.org	301-565-6704	
Senior Regional Conservation Rep, CA	sally_miller@twc.org	415-518-7679	9/12/15 letter co-signer
Director of Government Affairs	kmiller@tu.org	703-284-9426	
Geologist, Retired	emmoores@aol.com		
Executive Director	lchc@lchc.org	916-448-3234	10/28 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/latinos-want-more-access-to-open-space/
Chief Operating and Communications Officer	gmullins@trcp.org	202-639-8727	
Policy Director	danielle@conservationlands.org		NB met with on 7/7/15
Executive Director	nagelcatherine@cityparksalliance.org	202-974-5120	
Director of Communications	bnasta@funoutdoors.com	202-682-9530	
Executive Director	brian@conservationlands.org		
President and CEO	collin@nwf.org	202-797-6892	
Director, Western Renewable Energy Project, Land & Wildlife Progran	hoshea@nrdc.org		9/12/15 letter co-signer
President	kerry@alcnet.org	(b) (6)	
Government Relations	polsen@americanhiking.org	301-565-6704	
Director, U.S. Government Relations	konley@tnc.org		
Field Director, Environment America Action Fund	maryr@environmentamerica.org	202-683-1250 x325	
Executive Director	info@creationjustice.org	202-827-3975 703-525-6300 ext	
Director, Government Relations	kreed@conservationfund.org		
Executive Vice President	jreichert@pewtrusts.org	(b) (6)	
Rocky Mountain Director	repp@vetvoicefoundation.org		
Western Director/Senior Attorney	jreynolds@nrdc.org	3104342300	
Executive Director	srobinson@bgccc.org		5/14/15 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/valley-voice-our-young-benefit-from-parks-creation/
Junior Policy Analyst	lrodriguez@hispanicfederation.org	202-887-4977 x154	

Title	Email Address	Phone Number	Notes
President & CEO	willrogers@tpl.org	202-543-7552	
Senior Director of Government Relations	alan_rowsome@twos.org	202-429-2643	
Conservation Director	verve2006@comcast.net		
Senior Adviser	jshepard@sonoraninstitute.org	520-290-0828 ext 1108	11/3/15 meeting w/ NB
President	sssstr1@comcast.net	775-752-2130	
Program Director	Camilla Simon - (b) (6)		
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs	tiernan_sittenfeld@lcv.org	202-785-8683	
Sr. Regional Director, California	dan_smuts@twos.org	415-254-7271	
Director Wilderness Campaigns	paul_spiller@twos.org	406-586-1600	
President	msprenkel@corpsnetwork.org	202-737-6272	
Conservation Program Director	gsuba@cnps.org	916-447-2677 Ext. 206	9/12/15 letter co-signer
Deputy Legislative Director	alex_taurel@lcv.org	202-785-8683	12/15 Emails to list serves.
Program Manager, Colorado River	whitney@wcfnd.org	(b) (6)	
Calif/Nevada Desert Energy Chair	palmcanyon@mac.com	760-408-2488	
Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs	clifford.trafzer@ucr.edu		
Executive Director	jeff.trandahl@nfwf.org	(b) (6)	
Principal	pumhofer@e2strategic.com	202-824-1226	
CEO	cviek@microbiz.org		11/9/15 The Hill op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/the-small-business-case-to-designate-california-desert-monuments/
Advocacy Manager	jwaterman@cityparksalliance.org	202-974-5139	
Director of Government Relations for Lands	lydia_weiss@twos.org	202-429-2695	
President	rwentworth@lta.org		
Board Member			NB met with on 7/7/15
President & CEO	dyarnold@audubon.org	212-979-3088	
Executive Director	info@conservationalliance.com Laura Davis - (b) (6)	541-389-2424	9/10/15 letter Former DOI CoS

Title	Email Address	Phone Number	Notes
			On CLF list
Manager, Government Affairs	bebaker@semprautilities.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Manager, Natural Resources & Public Lands	smackay@sempra.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Manager, Federal Affairs	nino.mascolo@sce.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Manager, Federal Affairs	mqm9@pge.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Manager, Federal Affairs	matthew.miller@edisonintl.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Director, Environmental Policy	dpr5@pge.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Environmental Policy Specialist	j8s2@pge.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
Director, Environmental Policy & Affairs	kathy.yhip@sce.com		11/17/15 meeting w/ NB
CEO	dadamson@newcastlegold.ca		numerous letters to Sen. Feinstein's office
	info@mdhca.org	760-733-4482	Dec. '15 meeting w/ NB
Vice President	gpm@wildblue.net		10/5 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/valley-voice-preserve-pattons-local-desert-history/
	dan@potomacpartnersdc.com	(b) (6)	11/19/15 meeting w/ NB
Associate Professor	dustin.mulvaney@gmail.com		1/6/16 email to DOI; late Dec. op-ed
CIO	Joe@cvep.com	760-340 1575	
Teacher			meeting with nikki. teacher in the desert. teaches high school kids about conservation
	info@chinaranch.com	760-852-4415	
			7/10/15 Desert Dispatch Op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/valley-voices-feinstein-bill-will-protect-streams-and-rivers-too/
Volunteer			
DC Representative	katie.wheelermathews@wdc.ca.gov	202-624-5270	
Secretary	john.laird@resources.ca.gov		This is a call with John himself, not his staff
Commissioner	Karen.Douglas@energy.ca.gov	916-654-4001	
Chief Deputy Director	Kevin.hunting@wildlife.ca.gov	916.653.1070	
DRECP/RE Coordinator	connie.latham@parks.ca.gov	(b) (6)	
Executive Director	jennifer.luchesi@slc.ca.gov		
			This is a call to the Governor himself, not his staff
Governor	n/a		
DC Rep. for Gov. Brown	katie.wheelermathews@wdc.ca.gov		

Title	Email Address	Phone Number	Notes
Vice-Chair	vicechair@lppsr.org	760-876-1034	
Vice-Cair	earl.frank@timbisha.com	760-258-5919	
Chairperson	george@timbisha.com	760-258-5620	
President	info@nalc4all.com		11/16/15 op-ed: http://californiadesert.org/valley-voice-monuments-protect-native-american-legacy/
Chairman		951-849-4697	10/20/15 letter of concern to Dep. Sec
Chairman		928-669-1220	10/30/15 letter of concern to USDA
Tribal Administrator	t.stone@timbisha.com	760-872-3614	
Chairman	VictoriaHernandez@fortmojave.com	(760) 629-4591	spoke at the public meeting. CLF will provide name
Chairperson	chair@lppsr.org	760-876-1034	
		909-864-8933	
Brigadier General (Retired)	sanderson@gorelyant.com	202-450-0848	1/21/15 letter co-signer; 1/21/15 email to DOI

Subject Line: Join Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary Tom Vilsack on **[INSERT DAY]**, **[INSERT DATE]** to Celebrate the Designation of Three New CA Monuments

[INSERT INTERIOR LOGO AND USDA LOGO]

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on **[INSERT DAY]**, **[INSERT DATE]** to celebrate the designation of three new California monuments.

President Obama designated the Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument, and the Castle Mountains National Monument as national monuments using his authority under the Antiquities Act. Spanning 1.6 million acres, the Mojave Trails National Monument is comprised of a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. Encompassing 154,000 acres, Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure, supporting more than 240 species of birds and twelve threatened and endangered wildlife species. The Castle Mountains National Monument is an integral piece of the Mojave Desert with important natural resources and historic sites, including Native American archeological sites.

We also anticipate holding local events celebrating these monuments in the coming weeks.

We hope you are able to join us on **[INSERT DAY]**, **[INSERT DATE]**, and ask that you **RSVP no later than [INSERT DAY], [INSERT DATE], by 5:00PM** by clicking [HERE](#).

Celebration of the Three New California Monuments

[INSERT DAY], [INSERT DATE]

[INSERT TIME]

**Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW Washington D.C. 20240**

This invitation is non-transferable



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

DTS Assignment--Thanks the Secretary for work to secure designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

1 message

DTS@fws.gov <DTS@fws.gov>

Mon, Feb 29, 2016 at 3:16 PM

To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov, kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov, liz_pardue@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, steven_avila@ios.doi.gov, valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov, vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov

Hello and welcome to the DTS automated email alert!

Your office (OIEA) has a task assigned.

Please log on to the Data Tracking System at the following URL Address: <https://dts.fws.gov> and review Document Control Number (DCN)** ESO-00068355.

To move the document to the next office in the routing process:
Enter the task completed date for your office's routing in the routing screen and save the record.
Then, add a task assigned date on the task you would like to send the record to next and save the record.

Document Subject: Thanks the Secretary for work to secure designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Action Required: 14-File

Assigned By Office: OES-Cannuscio/202-208-2443 User: Lisa Cannuscio

Thank you.



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Gratitude for CA Desert Monument Designations

4 messages

Shantha Ready Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 8:00 AM

Reply-To: shantha@creationjustice.org

To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov, Kimberly Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Dear Kim, Nikki, John, and Terri,

Greetings from Creation Justice Ministries. I wanted to call to your attention to a letter signed by 20 Christian judicatory leaders who represent 1,885 churches in and near California. The letter is also endorsed by Christian camp/retreat center directors as well as Presbyterian Church (USA) Earth Care congregation leaders.

A few more signatures may still roll in, and if they do, I'll update them at this link:

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/religious_leaders_thank_you_letter_for_ca_desert_designations_2.26.16.pdf

I'm working on sharing the letter in faith-based news outlets. Presbyterian Church (USA) denominational press was first to pick it up, and you can find their story here:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/2/26/california-desert-treasures-designated-protection/>

If appropriate, I invite anyone at Interior who would like to share the news on Twitter to do so. Feel free to use an example tweet:

CA faith leaders who rep 1,800+ churches thankful for #SandtoSnow, #MojaveTrails & #CastleMountains
bit.ly/1pmyZbb #monumentsforall

Grace and Peace,

Shantha Ready Alonso

Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

www.creationjustice.org * [@CreationJustice](https://twitter.com/CreationJustice) * [facebook.com/CreationJustice](https://www.facebook.com/CreationJustice)

110 Maryland Ave. NE #203 * Washington, DC 20002

202.827.3975 (office) 760.408.0688 (mobile)

Justice for God's Planet and God's People

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Sally Jewell

US Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Tom Vilsack

US Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Senator Diane Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

February 26, 2016

Dear President Obama, Secretary Jewell, Secretary Vilsack, and Senator Feinstein,

As Christian leaders committed to answering our Genesis call to steward God's earth, we thank you for your efforts that recently culminated with President Obama's designation of three new national monuments in California: Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains.

Protecting these places is important to our communities' spiritual life. Out of reverence for the dignity and culture of those who have answered the divine call to till and keep this land for generations before, we are grateful for preservation of Native American cultural sites in these monuments.

We also value wild places to encounter God. Numerous biblical accounts tell us of many people of faith, including Jesus, who sought respite and rejuvenation in the desert wildernesses. These wild places are hard to come by in our modern bustling world. We now have the confidence that for generations to come, people can practice their faith and draw inspiration from the beauty, solitude, dark night skies, and wild nature of the desert.

With the designation of these monuments, we have also improved chances of survival for many of God's beautiful and unique creatures. We want future generations to experience wonder and awe at the bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, golden eagles, mountain lions, and bobcats, among others. We are also just barely beginning to



understand the intricate ways God's web of life is interconnected, and we know our own human lives are mysteriously bound up with a diversity of creatures. As Ecclesiastes 3:19 reminds us: "the fate of humans and the fate of the animals are the same: as one dies so does the other; both have the same breath."

As religious leaders, we resolve to do our part to foster appreciation for the treasures of our national parks and monuments. We will call on Christian communities to deepen appreciation of the ecological and cultural wonders of the California desert, as well as celebrate God's beautiful creation, by visiting these newly designated monuments.

With profound gratitude,

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Resident Bishop, San Francisco Area, the United Methodist Church

and

President of the Council of Bishops for the United Methodist Church

West Sacramento, CA

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

The Los Angeles Area of the United Methodist Church

Pasadena, CA

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

Ecumenical Officer, the United Methodist Church

Pasadena, CA

Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop

Sierra Pacific Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sacramento, Burlingame, and Fresno, CA

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop

Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Santa Ana, CA

The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, Ph.D., Bishop

Southwest California Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Glendale, CA

Bishop David Rice

Diocese of San Joaquin, The Episcopal Church

Modesto, CA

Bishop Barry Beisner

Diocese of Northern California, The Episcopal Church

Sacramento, CA

Bishop Marc Handley Andrus

Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church

San Francisco, CA

Diane L. Weible, Conference Minister

Northern California Nevada Conference, the United Church of Christ

Oakland, California

Rev. Felix C. Villanueva, Ed.D., Conference Minister

The United Church of Christ in Southern California and Nevada

Alameda, CA

Rev. Steve Bills, Executive Minister

American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast

Portland, OR

Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

Pacific Southwest District, Church of the Brethren

LaVerne, CA

The Rev. Marilyn S. Gamm, Transitional Executive Presbyter

Presbytery of Riverside, Presbyterian Church (USA)

San Bernardino, CA

The Rev. Linda L. Culbertson, General Presbyter

Presbytery of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Robert M. Watkins, Transitional Presbyter

Presbytery of Sacramento, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Sacramento, CA

The Rev. Joseph S. Lee, Executive Presbyter

Presbytery of San Jose, Presbyterian Church (USA)

San Jose, CA

The Rev. Nancy M. Clegg, Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Stockton, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Manteca, CA

Rev. Jeff Hutcheson, Presbytery Pastor for Mission and Vision

Presbytery of San Francisco, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Berkeley, CA

Rev. Tom Cramer, Presbytery Leader for Vision and Mission

Presbytery of Los Ranchos, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Anaheim, CA

Outdoor ministry leaders are also celebrating the three new monuments:

Sloan Hamilton, Operations Manager

Loch Leven Christian Camp and Conference Center

Mentone, CA

Steve Solberg, Executive Director

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Northern California

Ben Lomond, CA

This letter is also endorsed by members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Earth Care Congregations network in

California, including:

Dr. Tom English, Creation Care Educator for Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
Member, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church
Carlsbad, CA

Mark Adelson, First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino
San Bernardino, California

Jewel Payne, Davis Community Church
Davis, CA

Patricia Kinney, First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA

Ecophilians of St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Newport Beach, CA


Nancy Wiens, First Presbyterian Church San Rafael
San Rafael, CA

Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptist conventions, mainline Protestant, Historically Black Churches, Peace Church, and Orthodox communions. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org

2 attachments



image001.png
47K

 Religious Leaders Thank You Letter for CA Desert Designations 2.26.16.pdf
401K

John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: shantha@creationjustice.org

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 5:15 PM

Thanks, Shantha!! johnblair

From: Shantha Ready Alonso [mailto:shantha@creationjustice.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:00 AM
To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov; john_blair@ios.doi.gov; teri_johnson@ios.doi.gov; 'Kimberly Jensen'
Subject: Gratitude for CA Desert Monument Designations

[Quoted text hidden]



image001.png
47K

John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 5:16 PM

Hey there: just FYI that we're setting up a stakeholder meeting with some of their leadership. It's part of our effort to expand the diversity of our stakeholder outreach.
johnblair

From: Shantha Ready Alonso [mailto:shantha@creationjustice.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:00 AM

To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov; john_blair@ios.doi.gov; terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov; 'Kimberly Jensen'
Subject: Gratitude for CA Desert Monument Designations

Dear Kim, Nikki, John, and Terri,

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



image001.png
47K



Religious Leaders Thank You Letter for CA Desert Designations 2.26.16.pdf
401K

Shantha Ready Alonso, Creation Justice Ministries <shantha@creationjustice.org> Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 5:40 PM
To: John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you, and I am working with Kim to schedule a meeting with DOI on a number of issues. I hope to have an opportunity to greet you.

Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director
Creation Justice Ministries
www.creationjustice.org
@CreationJustice

Sent from my thumbs. Please excuse brevity and type-os.

On Mar 1, 2016, at 5:15 PM, John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Shantha!! johnblair

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Grace and Peace,

Shantha Ready Alonso

Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

www.creationjustice.org * [@CreationJustice](https://twitter.com/CreationJustice) * [facebook.com/CreationJustice](https://www.facebook.com/CreationJustice)

110 Maryland Ave. NE #203 * Washington, DC 20002

202.827.3975 (office) 760.408.0688 (mobile)

Justice for God's Planet and God's People

President Barack Obama

<image002.png>The White House

[Quoted text hidden]

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

Secretary Tom Vilsack
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Senator Diane Feinstein
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The Los Angeles Area of the United Methodist Church
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Glendale, CA

Bishop David Rice
Diocese of San Joaquin, The Episcopal Church
Modesto, CA

Bishop Barry Beisner
Diocese of Northern California, The Episcopal Church
Sacramento, CA

Bishop Marc Handley Andrus
Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church
San Francisco, CA

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Northern California Nevada Conference, the United Church of Christ
Oakland, California

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Jewel Payne, Davis Community Church
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Patricia Kinney, First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA

Ecophilians of St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Newport Beach, CA

Nancy Wiens, First Presbyterian Church San Rafael
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As Christian leaders committed to answering our Genesis call to steward God's earth, we thank you for your efforts that recently culminated with President Obama's designation of three new national monuments in California: Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains.

Protecting these places is important to our communities' spiritual life. Out of reverence for the dignity and culture of those who have answered the divine call to till and keep this land for generations before, we are grateful for preservation of Native American cultural sites in these monuments.

We also value wild places to encounter God. Numerous biblical accounts tell us of many people of faith, including Jesus, who sought respite and rejuvenation in the desert wildernesses. These wild places are hard to come by in our modern bustling world. We now have the confidence that for generations to come, people can practice their faith and draw inspiration from the beauty, solitude, dark night skies, and wild nature of the desert.

With the designation of these monuments, we have also improved chances of survival for many of God's beautiful and unique creatures. We want future generations to experience wonder and awe at the bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, golden eagles, mountain lions, and bobcats, among others. We are also just barely beginning to understand the intricate ways God's web of life is interconnected, and we know our own human lives are mysteriously bound up with a diversity of creatures. As Ecclesiastes 3:19 reminds us: "the fate of humans and the fate of the animals are the same: as one dies so does the other; both have the same breath."

As religious leaders, we resolve to do our part to foster appreciation for the treasures of our national parks and monuments. We will call on Christian communities to deepen appreciation of the ecological and cultural wonders of the California desert, as well as celebrate God's beautiful creation, by visiting these newly designated monuments.

With profound gratitude,



Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop, San Francisco Area, the United Methodist Church
and
President of the Council of Bishops for the United Methodist Church
West Sacramento, CA

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño
The Los Angeles Area of the United Methodist Church
Pasadena, CA

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
Ecumenical Officer, the United Methodist Church
Pasadena, CA

Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop
Sierra Pacific Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Sacramento, Burlingame, and Fresno, CA

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop
Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Santa Ana, CA

The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, Ph.D., Bishop
Southwest California Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Glendale, CA

Bishop David Rice
Diocese of San Joaquin, The Episcopal Church
Modesto, CA

Bishop Barry Beisner
Diocese of Northern California, The Episcopal Church
Sacramento, CA

Bishop Marc Handley Andrus
Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church
San Francisco, CA

Diane L. Weible, Conference Minister
Northern California Nevada Conference, the United Church of Christ
Oakland, California

Rev. Felix C. Villanueva, Ed.D., Conference Minister
The United Church of Christ in Southern California and Nevada
Altadena, CA

Rev. Steve Bills, Executive Minister
American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast
Portland, OR

Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister
Pacific Southwest District, Church of the Brethren
LaVerne, CA

The Rev. Marilyn S. Gamm, Transitional Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Riverside, Presbyterian Church (USA)
San Bernardino, CA

The Rev. Linda L. Culbertson, General Presbyter
Presbytery of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Los Angeles, CA

The Rev. Robert M. Watkins, Transitional Presbyter
Presbytery of Sacramento, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Sacramento, CA

The Rev. Joseph S. Lee, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of San Jose, Presbyterian Church (USA)
San Jose, CA

The Rev. Nancy M. Clegg, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Stockton, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Manteca, CA

Rev. Jeff Hutcheson, Presbytery Pastor for Mission and Vision
Presbytery of San Francisco, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Berkeley, CA

Rev. Tom Cramer, Presbytery Leader for Vision and Mission
Presbytery of Los Ranchos, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Anaheim, CA

Outdoor ministry leaders are also celebrating the three new monuments:

Sloan Hamilton, Operations Manager
Loch Leven Christian Camp and Conference Center
Mentone, CA

Steve Solberg, Executive Director
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Northern California
Ben Lomond, CA

This letter is also endorsed by members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Earth Care Congregations network in California, including:

Dr. Tom English, Creation Care Educator for Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
Member, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church
Carlsbad, CA

Mark Adelson, First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino
San Bernardino, California

Jewel Payne, Davis Community Church
Davis, CA

Patricia Kinney, First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA

Ecophilians of St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Newport Beach, CA

Nancy Wiens, First Presbyterian Church San Rafael
San Rafael, CA

Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptist conventions, mainline Protestant, Historically Black Churches, Peace Church, and Orthodox communions.
Learn more at www.creationjustice.org



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Is USFS in charge of any of the CA Desert Monument?

5 messages

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

Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 10:17 AM

Thanks!!

Sent from my iPhone

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

Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 10:19 AM

Yep. That's why I mentioned them in the email with Ken. They comanage sand to snow.

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 10:36 AM

Great. Just want to make sure we engage on invite. Will do! Thanks!!

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 10:37 AM

We'll need to include USDA logo and we'll touch them today for names to include. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Date: March 7, 2016 at 10:19:26 AM EST
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Is USFS in charge of any of the CA Desert Monument?

[Quoted text hidden]

Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 11:13 AM

Yep! I have a note to include the DOI logo and the USDA logo. I didn't include them in the draft email because one of the logos didn't transfer well to google docs.

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Kimberly Jensen
Special Assistant, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

5/13/2016

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Is USFS in charge of any of the CA Desert Monument?

Department of the Interior
202-208-5541 (Desk)
202-573-0305 (Cell)

Confidential



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary Tom Vilsack Invite you to Celebrate the Designation of Three New CA Monuments on Monday, March 14th

1 message

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Bcc: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 11:53 AM



Friends:

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack invite you to a reception on **Monday, March 14th, at 5:30pm ET** to celebrate the designation of three new California monuments.

President Obama designated the Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument, and the Castle Mountains National Monument as national monuments using his authority under the Antiquities Act. Spanning 1.6 million acres, the Mojave Trails National Monument is comprised of a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes. Encompassing 154,000 acres, Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure, supporting more than 240 species of birds and twelve threatened and endangered wildlife species. The Castle Mountains National Monument is an integral piece of the Mojave Desert with important natural resources and historic sites, including Native American archaeological sites.

In the coming months, we also anticipate holding an event in California to celebrate these monuments.

We hope you are able to join us on **Monday, March 14th**, and ask that you **RSVP no later than Friday, March 11, by 5pm ET** by clicking [HERE](#).

Celebration of the Three New California Monuments

Monday, March 14, 2016

5:30pm ET

**Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW Washington D.C. 20240**

This invitation is non-transferable

**Please note that this is an official event with the U.S. Department of the Interior. As such, no political activity may take place at the announcement, including the distribution of literature, placing signs at the venue or fundraising.*

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-5541

Confidential



Blair, John <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

REMINDER: Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary Tom Vilsack Invite you to Celebrate the Designation of Three New CA Monuments on Monday, March 14th

1 message

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>
To: Office of the Secretary OS <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Bcc: john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Mar 11, 2016 at 11:52 AM

We look forward to seeing you on **Monday, March 14th, at 5:30pm ET. Please RSVP no later than 5pm today if you haven't already done so.**

Thank you!



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Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-5541

Confidential