

From: [Cynthia Martinez](#)
To: [D.M.Ashe](#); stephen_guertin@fws.gov; [Jim Kurth](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Matt Huggler](#); robert_dreher@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.
Date: Sunday, February 07, 2016 4:51:08 PM

Cynthia

Begin forwarded message:

From: Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>
Date: February 7, 2016 at 4:46:13 PM EST
To: Anna Munoz <anna_munoz@fws.gov>, Cynthia Martinez <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
Subject: **Fwd: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.**

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303(w)
720-541-0319 (c)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov>
Date: February 7, 2016 at 2:04:49 PM MST
To: Noreen Walsh <Noreen_Walsh@fws.gov>, Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>, Mike Blenden <mike_blenden@fws.gov>, Matt Hogan <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: **Fwd: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.**

Thanks

jk

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Reneau <bluemountain@montana.com>
Date: February 7, 2016 at 1:56:59 PM MST
To: <bluemountain@montana.com>
Subject: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dear Conservation, Hunting and Fishing Friends and Media,

Since 1994 and more intensely starting in February of 2003, I have been sending emails to you regarding the destruction of our beloved National Wildlife Refuge System by political appointees within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and people outside the USFWS in Republican and Democrat Administrations that wish to turn federal public lands over to special interest groups and/or state governmental organizations that have no business managing federal public lands in any fashion. My husband Jack and I hosted a public meeting where testimony was collected from individuals regarding their opinion about this issue at a high school gymnasium and I have traveled at my own expense to many wildlife conferences to speak to you and others about this issue, especially since the entire issue began with the destruction of the National Bison Range. This is a very national issue, not a local issue.

Some of you have risen to my cry for action but some of you have remained quiet because you could not imagine my prediction that the entire National Wildlife Refuge System would be in jeopardy, starting with what was going on at the National Bison Range in Montana when I predicted ten years ago that if annual funding agreements with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), sovereign Indian government of the Flathead Indian Reservation, would eventually lead to the complete abdication of the National Bison Range to the CSKT. Many

of you said to me, “This could not happen because no group like the CSKT could EVER be given a national wildlife refuge, a national park or any federal piece of land like this.”

Well, please **read an email below my comment to you from the current Refuge Chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge System, Cynthia Martinez**, who I met with more than a year ago before she was given this appointment when she assured me that any agreement with the CSKT would only involve a partnership and would “never” involve abdication of the entire National Bison Range being give to the CSKT, which is now being proposed.

You can now speak up LOUDLY and object in any fashion you wish and if you are media, please feel free to write about this new development at the National Bison Range because this is a violation of so many federal laws that this email memo from Refuge Chief Cynthia Martinez makes my head spin and it should make your head spin, too. It should also make your blood boil, as it makes my blood boil.

If your blood does not boil and if you remain calm, then you truly do not care about the protection of one of the world’s greatest gifts to everyone, given to us by President Theodore Roosevelt, Ding Darling, William T. Hornaday and the many men of the Boone and Crockett Club so many years ago when they and their friends established the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1901 as TR began his presidency, established the National Park System in 1916 just after TR’s presidency, established the U.S. Forest Service and many other federal land systems. If you do not speak up this time, my conservation friends, then you are part of the problem.

If you speak up or continue to speak up, Theodore Roosevelt and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Theodore, who did not like to be called Teddy, is pounding a very large stick up in Heaven right now over this, so you must help him speak. Start by forwarding the refuge chief’s memo to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees in the

National Wildlife Refuge System that was sent to me.

In the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt, Ding Darling, Horace Albright, Gifford Pinchot, Madison Grant, Prentice Gray, John Lacey, and the men of the 19th and early 20th century that saw the vision of an America with national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forest and other federal land systems managed by scientists and not political appointees or special interest groups, I say, the wildlife and its habitat cannot speak SO WE MUST, so help us GOD.

Today at my church, I lit ten candles in prayer that Ms. Martinez wish to abdicate one of America's first national wildlife refuges be turned over to a local special interest group not come true. Only you and I can make sure that her dream is dashed. This is your mission. Go for what really matters and speak up, once and for all. Do whatever you like but do it. Scream from the rafters. Scream to your U.S. Congressman. Scream to your U.S. Senator. Scream to your local media. Scream to your national organizations you belong to. But, remaining silent is not an option. Use social media. Use your FACEBOOK. Use your website. Forward this email to all your email friends.

If you are the media, it is your duty to interview both sides of this story and to investigate this from all angles. Feel free to start with me and I will give you phone numbers and emails of many people that are important to interview for a complete perspective on this story. My direct phone is 719-661-4037. That is my cell phone. You can also email me. I do not do FACEBOOK or TWITTER. I frankly hate both of those mediums and find them annoying but many people really love them and pay attention to them.

Susan Campbell Reneau
Author and editor of 22 books on big-game hunting, including Colorado's Biggest Bucks and Bulls
Life Member, National Rifle Association
(benefactor life member), Wild Sheep Foundation,
Rocky Mountain Foundation, National Wild

Turkey Federation, and more
Hunter and mother of three human sons that
hunt and two black Labrador retriever hunters
named Danni Boone and Betty Crockett
Theodore Roosevelt/Abraham Lincoln Republican
and Thomas Jefferson/Harry Truman Democrat
Wife of a hunter who has been a certified wildlife
biologist since 1973

From Refuge Chief

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

From: National Wildlife Refuge System, Chief
<chief_national_wildlife_refuge_system@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 5:37 PM
Subject: National Bison Range
To:

Today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began discussions with Indian Affairs and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) about the potential for the Service to support 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. While the transfer will require Congressional approval, the decision to move forward was not made lightly. The National Bison Range was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, home of the CSKT. It was established for a defined purpose: to prevent the extinction of bison. We have been hugely successful in meeting that mission. The Bison Range's conservation legacy will live on and we have confidence that the CSKT will maintain the high conservation standards that we established at the Bison Range. It is time for the Service to focus our efforts on landscape-scale conservation. I want you to know that every employee at the Bison Range will be taken care of. Employment options and opportunities are being discussed. Anyone who knows the history of the Bison Range knows that our employees have worked and lived with uncertainty regarding the Bison Range for many years now. I know that many of you will have varying thoughts, opinions and questions. This decision was not made lightly and does not represent a new direction for the Refuge System. Rather, it is a response to a specific set of circumstances in a specific location at a specific point in time.

Since 1999, the Service has established more than 40 new national wildlife refuges and national conservation areas. Service employees are justifiably proud of hitting new conservation milestones year after year. And we will continue to do so. We have a vibrant and strong National Wildlife Refuge System and we will continue to conserve and manage these wild lands and wild places for wildlife and future generations.

The expertise, creativity and dedication of Service employees are limitless. I thank you for all you do on behalf of wildlife conservation and the American people.

Cynthia Martinez

Chief

National Wildlife Refuge System

From: [Geoff Haskett](#)
To: [karen_clark@fws.gov](#); [Mitch Ellis](#); [jim_kurth@fws.gov](#); [cynthia_martinez@fws.gov](#); [d_m_ashe@fws.gov](#)
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:18:36 AM

Just FYI. I was surprised I didn't hear from Marv earlier. I see now I didn't because he can't spell my name still

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marvin Plenert <marvplenert@yahoo.com>
Date: February 10, 2016 at 7:23:16 PM EST
To: <geoff_haskett@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range
Reply-To: Marvin Plenert <marvplenert@yahoo.com>

From: Marvin Plenert <marvplenert@yahoo.com>

Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range

To: jeff_hasket@fws.gov

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 5:09 PM

Jeff Did your region

receive this email from C Martinez? If you

received it did you forward to all refuge managers in

Alaska? This idiotic proposal if allowed will have

broad precedent setting consequences to 30 or 40 lower

48

refuges, and the bulk in Alaska. I have a good

friend

in Montana that tells me that Tribal lawyers are

chomping at

the bit to see what happens to the proposed
legislation, if
it ever sees the light of day.
I would think the folks in Alaska would be really
concerned,
particularly those who worked to get all those refuges
and
Parks established. I know I am, as I worked darn
hard
to get the new refuges in the system when I was there
in the
70's. This is a battle that needs to be
fought if we are to keep a viable and functional
NWRS.

Thanks Marv

Plenert

----- Forwarded message

From: National Wildlife

Refuge System, Chief

[<chief_national_wildlife_refuge_system@fws.gov>](mailto:chief_national_wildlife_refuge_system@fws.gov)

Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 5:37 PM

Subject: National Bison Range

To:

Today the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service began discussions with

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The

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behalf

of

wildlife conservation and the American
people.

Cynthia Martinez

Chief

National Wildlife

Refuge System

From: [Dan Ashe](#)
To: [Noreen Walsh](#)
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range transfer
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 10:34:58 PM

Below is my draft note to Dave. Let me know if I should delete, send or modify it after you have talked to him. He's a great guy!

Hello Dave. Noreen forwarded your note to me. I am glad to hear you and Catherine are well, and to see that you are still engaged in conservation. Thank you!

And thank you for the tone and sincerity of your note. That was always a trait of yours, and why I so valued your advice and friendship when we worked together.

I don't think I need to prove to you my devotion to the refuge system, refuge employees, or retirees (like my dad!). And your note shows a respect for the years of consideration that have gone into this issue, as well as the decades of dedicated work by Service employees and partners. But all things have their time, and it is time that we moved along.

In this day, there is no longer a compelling reason for the Service to be managing a bison herd. We have bigger challenges to tackle. We should respect and value tradition, but not be bounded by it. The plain fact is, the Salish-Kootenai are very capable managers. They can manage this place and this herd. They very much want to do this. The land will be held in trust, by the BIA, on behalf of the CSKT, for the original purposes, so it will be protected, in perpetuity. The tribe will be a proud manager, and this will make them culturally richer and more capable as a people. They will be better.

The refuge system will be able to free resources and energy to work on broader landscape conservation. Our best managers, instead of working on and managing annual funding agreements (or defending them in court!) will be able to work on new and bold partnerships to conserve large landscapes that will support free-ranging bison, sage grouse, and other species. We will be better.

The voices of concern about "precedent" are voices of fear. Fear of change. But we need to ask ourselves that crucial question, "What would we do if we were not afraid?"

I remember you as a good and critical thinker, a listener, and a compassionate person. Your note to Noreen tells me that you haven't changed. There is only one reason that I am supporting this: It is the right thing to do! And sometimes, doing the right thing is scary. But as Martin Luther King taught us, "It is never the wrong time to do the right thing." I hope you agree.

So glad to hear from you!

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dave Heffernan [<mailto:deheffer248@yahoo.com>]

> Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 11:48 AM

> To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov

> Subject: National Bison Range transfer

>

> Hi Noreen. We worked together briefly in Atlanta before I transferred to
> Denver-Refuges in 2000 and subsequently retired in 2003. My wife Catherine
> and I still reside near Conifer just off of Hwy. 285. I was glad when you
> were selected the RD for Region 6 as your reputation is a good one. I
> received a copy of your all-employees memo (not shocking in this day, is
> it :) concerning the issue of simply transferring the National Bison Range
> to local CSK tribes since previous efforts to "co-manage" were
> ineffective. I have no doubt you are very familiar with that whole issue,
> and I for one do not envy you the position you find yourself in. Careers
> have been greatly impacted in several cases over this issue, and
> unfortunately politics seems to oftentimes rule instead of good sound
> science as well as the future of the Refuge System itself. I'm sure you
> are aware that I and many others in my situation would be much opposed to
> the idea of transferring the Bison Range, or any other unit of the NWRS,
> unless it made sound biological and scientific sense, and would make the
> Refuge System stronger in the long run. As I said, I do not envy you the
> position you are in, these are potentially dangerous waters. I would
> simply encourage you to continue doing what YOU believe is the right thing
> to do on the part of our resources, and then do your best to take each day
> as it unfolds. Thanks for listening, I wish you all the best in your
> position, and pray to the Good Lord that He blesses you with good and
> honest advisers. Sincerely, Dave Heffernan (retired after 35 years of
> service with the Refuge System :)

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: [Cynthia Martinez](mailto:Cynthia.Martinez@fws.gov)
To: cathey_willis@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Phone message
Date: Friday, April 08, 2016 6:39:33 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Martinez, Cynthia" <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
Date: February 26, 2016 at 4:35:50 PM AST
To: Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org>
Subject: Re: Phone message

Good Evening,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in discussions with the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) regarding the transfer of the lands comprising the National Bison Range to be held in federal trust for the benefit of the CSKT. This begins a new phase in a longstanding relationship between the Service and CSKT in the conservation of the land, bison, and other natural resources comprising the National Bison Range. The Service believes now is the right time to begin the transition in to trust of a refuge long ago carved out of tribal lands. This is an ongoing process that will require Congressional approval.

On Fri, Feb 26, 2016 at 2:35 PM, Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org> wrote:
Thank you Cynthia; this is helpful to know. If you could forward me a copy of the email, I'd really appreciate that as well.

I'll plan on touching base with you early next week.

-----Original Message-----

From: "Martinez, Cynthia" <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
To: brianu@cskt.org
Date: 02/26/16 12:17 PM
Subject: Phone message

mike.freeman@mail.house.gov, erica.rhoad@mail.house.gov, "Kimball, Spencer" <spencer.kimball@mail.house.gov>, kiel.weaver@mail.house.gov, "todd.ungerecht" <todd.ungerecht@mail.house.gov>, parish.braden@mail.house.gov,

Per my rambling voicemail, this is who we sent an email to in the House.

Thanks,
Cynthia

From: [Google Calendar](#) on behalf of [SRJ2@ios.doi.gov](#)
To: [d_m_ashe@fws.gov](#); [molly_click@ios.doi.gov](#); [katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov](#); [tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov](#); [emily_porcari@fws.gov](#); [kevin_washburn@bia.gov](#); [rasheedah_morgan@ios.doi.gov](#); [benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov](#); [thomas_irwin@fws.gov](#); [sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov](#); [ratana_warito@bia.gov](#); [roslyn_sellers@fws.gov](#); [craig_dorsett@ios.doi.gov](#); [dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov](#); [nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov](#); [michael_bean@ios.doi.gov](#)
Subject: National Bison Range Meeting (Staff: Dan Ashe, Tommy Beaudreau, Michael Bean, Kevin Washburn)
Start: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:30:00 PM
End: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 4:00:00 PM
Location: SJ's Office
Attachments: [invitu.js](#)

HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=VIEW&eid=MmQ4NGh0NmhtZDZmMDJibjF2a29yOTUuYWVhZGZlZmVldG&tok=MTYjc3IqMkIpb3MuZG9pLmdvdjQ0ZDZkOGY4ZmNiOWNhYThjYmRlYyZlNDkyM2YzZDZlZGUGUzNkYTl&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en"more details >

National Bison Range Meeting (Staff: Dan Ashe, Tommy Beaudreau, Michael Bean, Kevin Washburn)

When
Wed Oct 7, 2015 11am – 11:30am Eastern Time

Where
SJ's Office (HYPERLINK "<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=SFs+Office+&hl=en>")map

Video call

HYPERLINK "https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_doi.gov/srj2?heid=c3IqMkIpb3MuZG9pLmdvdG.2d84ht6hnd6f09cn1vkor99nac"https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_doi.gov/srj2

Calendar

d_m_ashe@fws.gov

Who

- SRJ2@ios.doi.gov
- organizer
- rosen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov
- creator
- molly_click@ios.doi.gov
- katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov
- tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov
- emily_porcari@fws.gov
- d_m_ashe@fws.gov
- kevin_washburn@bia.gov
- rasheedah_morgan@ios.doi.gov
- benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov
- thomas_irwin@fws.gov
- sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov
- ratana_warito@bia.gov
- roslyn_sellers@fws.gov
- craig_dorsett@ios.doi.gov
- dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov
- nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov
- michael_bean@ios.doi.gov

Going?

HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=RESPOND&eid=MmQ4NGh0NmhtZDZmMDJibjF2a29yOTUuYWVhZGZlZmVldG&rst=1&tok=MTYjc3IqMkIpb3MuZG9pLmdvdjQ0ZDZkOGY4ZmNiOWNhYThjYmRlYyZlNDkyM2YzZDZlZGUGUzNkYTl&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en"Yes -

HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=RESPOND&eid=MmQ4NGh0NmhtZDZmMDJibjF2a29yOTUuYWVhZGZlZmVldG&rst=3&tok=MTYjc3IqMkIpb3MuZG9pLmdvdjQ0ZDZkOGY4ZmNiOWNhYThjYmRlYyZlNDkyM2YzZDZlZGUGUzNkYTl&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en"Maybe -

HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=RESPOND&eid=MmQ4NGh0NmhtZDZmMDJibjF2a29yOTUuYWVhZGZlZmVldG&rst=2&tok=MTYjc3IqMkIpb3MuZG9pLmdvdjQ0ZDZkOGY4ZmNiOWNhYThjYmRlYyZlNDkyM2YzZDZlZGUGUzNkYTl&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en"No

HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=VIEW&eid=MmQ4NGh0NmhtZDZmMDJibjF2a29yOTUuYWVhZGZlZmVldG&tok=MTYjc3IqMkIpb3MuZG9pLmdvdjQ0ZDZkOGY4ZmNiOWNhYThjYmRlYyZlNDkyM2YzZDZlZGUGUzNkYTl&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en"more options >

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

You are receiving this email at the account [d_m_ashe@fws.gov](#) because you are subscribed for invitations on [calendar.d_m_ashe@fws.gov](#).

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

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. HYPERLINK "<https://support.google.com/calendar/answer/37135#forwarding>" Learn More.

From: [George Waters](#)
To: d_m_ashe@fws.gov; jim_kurth@fws.gov; anna_munoz@fws.gov; stephen_quertin@fws.gov; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov; robert_dreher@fws.gov; charisa_morris@fws.gov; sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov; scott_aikin@fws.gov; noreen_walsh@fws.gov; hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov; terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov; michael_bean@ios.doi.gov; karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov; lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov; [Freeman, Sharee](#)
Subject: Proposed transfer of Bison Range
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:10:08 PM

I thought you might be interested in this article and supportive editorial from the Missoulian, the second largest newspaper in Montana. Vince Devlin's articles also appear in the Billings Gazette.

So sorry to have missed the meeting on February 5th with Chairman Finley and Brian Upton. I was on travel and couldn't be there. I have been involved in this issue since the beginning so please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Thanks.

Article from Missoulian newspaper re proposal to transfer the National Bison Range to the CSKT:
http://missoulian.com/news/local/new-direction-for-bison-range-fws-proposal-catches-many-off/article_069afc12-92fa-5ce4-8b80-6b5e64b7044c.html

Editorial from Missoulian Editorial Board supporting the transfer:
http://missoulian.com/news/opinion/editorial/missoulian-editorial-tribes-should-manage-national-bison-range/article_325c9892-db0b-5851-ada0-2769ab5e2e54.html

*George Waters, President
George Waters Consulting Service
505 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 544-3044
(202) 544-3044 Fax
(202) 316-7851 Cell*

From: [Betsy Hildebrandt](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: Re: Better?
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 6:39:27 AM

Ok. I'll make edit and print out for meeting

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 4, 2016, at 8:39 PM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

Looks very good. In the first sentence, it should be "Confederated"
Salish_Kootenai.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Feb 4, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Betsy Hildebrandt <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov>
wrote:

Statement for tomorrow. Worked with Anna today and Noreen good
with this.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Munoz, Anna" <anna_munoz@fws.gov>
Date: February 4, 2016 at 4:18:55 PM EST
To: Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@fws.gov>
Subject: Better?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in discussions with the Confederate Salish-Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) regarding the transfer of the lands comprising the National Bison Range to be held in federal trust for the benefit of the CSKT. This begins a new phase in a longstanding relationship between the Service and CSKT in the conservation of the land, bison, and other natural resources comprising the National Bison Range. The Service has long relied on the Tribes' expertise and history with herd management and believe now is the right time to begin the transition into trust of a refuge long ago carved out of tribal lands. Any final decisions to transfer these lands will require Congressional

approval.

Anna Muñoz
Assistant Regional Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228
Office: 303-236-4510
Cell: 720-648-2542
Fax: 303-236-3815
anna_munoz@fws.gov

From: [Will Meeks](#)
To: [Anna Munoz](#); [Noreen Walsh](#); [Matt Hogan](#); [Jim Kurth](#); [Cynthia Martinez](#); [Mark Chase](#); [Dan Ashe](#)
Cc: [Maureen Gallagher](#)
Subject: RE: Bison range
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:37:31 PM

Thanks Anna . . . I let the Jeff King know.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Acting ARD External Affairs (through October 2015)
303-236-4510 (w)
720-541-0310 (c)

From: Munoz, Anna [mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:36 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; Matt Hogan; Jim Kurth; Cynthia Martinez; Mark Chase; Dan Ashe
Cc: Will Meeks; Maureen Gallagher
Subject: Fwd: Bison range

R6 Team:

Please see the note below that Hillary Tompkins will be visiting the National Bison Range tomorrow.

Anna

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

From: **Boling, Edward** <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2015
Subject: Fwd: Bison range
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>, Anna Munoz <anna_munoz@fws.gov>, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Cc: Hilary Tompkins <Hilary.Tompkins@sol.doi.gov>

Dan, Jim or Anna - could someone alert the National Bison Range that the Solicitor will be visiting there tomorrow morning, possibly with Martha Williams and several law students?

Thanks!

Ted Boling
Deputy Solicitor -- Parks & Wildlife
U.S Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-4423 (main)
202-208-3125 (direct)
202-208-5584 (fax)
Ted.Boling@sol.doi.gov

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

From: **Hilary Tompkins** <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>

Date: Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Bison range

To: Ted Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>

I am thinking of going to bison range tomorrow morning maybe with the law school group. Need to leave to meet on water issue before lunch at tribal headquarters of sKCT. Can u let FWS know? No need to see anyone there if too late notice but wanted to let you know. HT

--

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Muñoz
Chief of Staff
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3348
Washington, DC 20240
Work: 202-208-3843
Cell: 703-963-0339
anna_munoz@fws.gov

From: [Charisa Morris](#)
To: [Munoz, Anna](#)
Cc: [Cynthia Martinez](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Dan Ashe](#); scott_aikin@fws.gov; [Stephen Guertin](#); [Jim Kurth](#)
Subject: Re: Discussion with the CSKT about the National Bison Range
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 7:11:04 PM

Thank you, Anna!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 5, 2016, at 6:56 PM, Munoz, Anna <anna_munoz@fws.gov> wrote:

FYI

Anna Muñoz
Assistant Regional Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228
Office: 303-236-4510
Cell: 720-648-2542
Fax: 303-236-3815
anna_munoz@fws.gov

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

From: **Noreen Walsh** <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 4:12 PM
Subject: Discussion with the CSKT about the National Bison Range
To: FW6 All Employees <fw6_all_employees@fws.gov>

Dear Mountain-Prairie Region,

I want to inform you of a discussion the Service started today with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) regarding the National Bison Range. Many of you know that we have been working with the CSKT for about 20 years on the idea of a partnership at the National Bison Range that would be outlined in an Annual Funding Agreement which would allow them to manage and implement some of the activities on the refuge. This process has required much time and effort on the part of many, and despite valiant efforts all around, the parties have been unable to come to terms on a mutually-acceptable agreement.

In an effort to achieve the best, long-term solution for our many conservation priorities, the specific conservation goals of the National Bison Range, and to support the principles of Indian self-determination there was a discussion today

with the CSKT about the potential for the Service to support legislation that would transfer the lands comprising the National Bison Range to be held in trust by the United States for the CSKT.

I wanted you all to know why we entered into these discussions. The National Bison Range was established in 1908 within the boundaries of the Flathead Reservation, home of the CSKT, for the express purpose of conserving the American bison during a time when the species was on the verge of extinction. Since then, the Service as well as our federal, state, and tribal partners have made great strides in conserving bison and re-establishing herds throughout their historic range. Also, while we have desired a meaningful partnership with CSKT at the National Bison Range, a mutually-acceptable agreement has been elusive. Given that we are today in a much better place regarding the future of bison, that we have much work to do on landscape-scale conservation efforts, and that we want to strengthen our partnership with the CSKT, we believe that now is the right time to investigate the possibility of transferring the refuge, which was long ago carved out of tribal lands, into trust for the benefit of the CSKT.

Such a proposal would require Congressional approval and therefore, at this point, we don't know if or when such a transfer would occur. Today was our first discussion with the CSKT about the idea. As we go forward, my pledge is to ensure that wherever the discussion leads us, the talented and committed staff of the National Bison Range are taken care of. To this end, Will Meeks, Mike Blenden, and I spent the afternoon at the Refuge where we talked about the ideas under discussion. In our conversations, I emphasized that they will all remain valued employees of the Service, regardless of the outcome of these discussions.

I know that many of you will have thoughts and questions about this idea. This was not an easy decision to come by, nor one that was taken lightly, but in the end, I believe that this is a good path for the Service, the CSKT, and for the conservation of our fish and wildlife resources.

As always, I value your feedback and questions.

Noreen

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: RE: joint statement
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 9:23:21 PM

Thank you...

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 7:11 PM
To: Vernon Finley
Cc: Brian Upton; Noreen Walsh; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov; Betsy Hildebrandt; will_meeks@fws.gov
Subject: Re: joint statement

Hello Vernon and thank you for your kind note. I am very happy to hear that the CSKT Council is supportive, and we are anxious to begin working together. Our National Wildlife Refuge System Chief, Cynthia Martinez, has been meeting with the Montana delegation staff, and as you described from your visits, she is getting supportive responses.

We met today, with our DOI team, and the DOI Solicitor (Hilary Tomkins) is ready to begin work to draft legislation. Cynthia Martinez will be our point of contact on this effort and stands ready to work with Brian Upton and Hilary. I hope we can have a good draft by the end of next week, as I'm anticipating that the delegation may ask us for assistance in drafting legislation.

We also discussed convening the "Transition Team" that we agreed would be helpful. Our lead on this effort is Will Meeks (in Denver), and by copying him with this note, I'm asking him to take steps to convene this team, working with Brian Upton, and with Cynthia Martinez. As we discussed, we will need to involve BIA, and others from DOI. If you would like others to participate, from the tribal side, please let me know.

On the issue of a joint statement, we stand ready to do that. However, my communications team is suggesting that we hold off, for now, and work on a statement to issue when we have some news, like introduction of legislation. That makes sense to me, but if you feel differently, please let me know.

Thanks again. We are proud to be working with you on this, and look forward to progress and success!

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

> On Feb 17, 2016, at 7:34 PM, Vernon Finley <vernonf@cskt.org> wrote:
>
> Good day Dan:
>
> It was great meeting with you on our recent trip to DC. The news that you
> shared with Brian Upton and myself concerning the Bison Range couldn't
> have been greater appreciated by myself and the Council. I shared the
> meeting as well as the emails that went out to FWS staff with the rest of
> tribal council and they were all ecstatic as well. I also wanted to thank
> you for the phone call and agreement to provide a joint statement about
> the willingness and cooperation between the FWS and CSKT on the transfer.
> That statement will be useful when the time is appropriate.
>
> Again thank you for your hospitality and we are looking forward to working
> with FWS staff to pull the legislation together and presented to Congress.
>
> later,
> vernon

From: [Cynthia Martinez](#)
To: [D.M.Ashe](#); stephen_guertin@fws.gov; [Jim Kurth](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Matt Huggler](#); robert_dreher@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.
Date: Sunday, February 07, 2016 4:51:08 PM

Cynthia

Begin forwarded message:

From: Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>
Date: February 7, 2016 at 4:46:13 PM EST
To: Anna Munoz <anna_munoz@fws.gov>, Cynthia Martinez <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
Subject: **Fwd: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.**

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
Assistant Regional Director
National Wildlife Refuge System
303-236-4303(w)
720-541-0319 (c)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff King <jeff_king@fws.gov>
Date: February 7, 2016 at 2:04:49 PM MST
To: Noreen Walsh <Noreen_Walsh@fws.gov>, Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>, Mike Blenden <mike_blenden@fws.gov>, Matt Hogan <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: **Fwd: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.**

Thanks

jk

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Reneau <bluemountain@montana.com>
Date: February 7, 2016 at 1:56:59 PM MST
To: <bluemountain@montana.com>
Subject: Complete turnover of the National Bison Range to a special interest group and in violation of every federal law that started and protects the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dear Conservation, Hunting and Fishing Friends and Media,

Since 1994 and more intensely starting in February of 2003, I have been sending emails to you regarding the destruction of our beloved National Wildlife Refuge System by political appointees within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and people outside the USFWS in Republican and Democrat Administrations that wish to turn federal public lands over to special interest groups and/or state governmental organizations that have no business managing federal public lands in any fashion. My husband Jack and I hosted a public meeting where testimony was collected from individuals regarding their opinion about this issue at a high school gymnasium and I have traveled at my own expense to many wildlife conferences to speak to you and others about this issue, especially since the entire issue began with the destruction of the National Bison Range. This is a very national issue, not a local issue.

Some of you have risen to my cry for action but some of you have remained quiet because you could not imagine my prediction that the entire National Wildlife Refuge System would be in jeopardy, starting with what was going on at the National Bison Range in Montana when I predicted ten years ago that if annual funding agreements with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), sovereign Indian government of the Flathead Indian Reservation, would eventually lead to the complete abdication of the National Bison Range to the CSKT. Many

of you said to me, “This could not happen because no group like the CSKT could EVER be given a national wildlife refuge, a national park or any federal piece of land like this.”

Well, please **read an email below my comment to you from the current Refuge Chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge System, Cynthia Martinez**, who I met with more than a year ago before she was given this appointment when she assured me that any agreement with the CSKT would only involve a partnership and would “never” involve abdication of the entire National Bison Range being give to the CSKT, which is now being proposed.

You can now speak up LOUDLY and object in any fashion you wish and if you are media, please feel free to write about this new development at the National Bison Range because this is a violation of so many federal laws that this email memo from Refuge Chief Cynthia Martinez makes my head spin and it should make your head spin, too. It should also make your blood boil, as it makes my blood boil.

If your blood does not boil and if you remain calm, then you truly do not care about the protection of one of the world’s greatest gifts to everyone, given to us by President Theodore Roosevelt, Ding Darling, William T. Hornaday and the many men of the Boone and Crockett Club so many years ago when they and their friends established the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1901 as TR began his presidency, established the National Park System in 1916 just after TR’s presidency, established the U.S. Forest Service and many other federal land systems. If you do not speak up this time, my conservation friends, then you are part of the problem.

If you speak up or continue to speak up, Theodore Roosevelt and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Theodore, who did not like to be called Teddy, is pounding a very large stick up in Heaven right now over this, so you must help him speak. Start by forwarding the refuge chief’s memo to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees in the

National Wildlife Refuge System that was sent to me.

In the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt, Ding Darling, Horace Albright, Gifford Pinchot, Madison Grant, Prentice Gray, John Lacey, and the men of the 19th and early 20th century that saw the vision of an America with national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forest and other federal land systems managed by scientists and not political appointees or special interest groups, I say, the wildlife and its habitat cannot speak SO WE MUST, so help us GOD.

Today at my church, I lit ten candles in prayer that Ms. Martinez wish to abdicate one of America's first national wildlife refuges be turned over to a local special interest group not come true. Only you and I can make sure that her dream is dashed. This is your mission. Go for what really matters and speak up, once and for all. Do whatever you like but do it. Scream from the rafters. Scream to your U.S. Congressman. Scream to your U.S. Senator. Scream to your local media. Scream to your national organizations you belong to. But, remaining silent is not an option. Use social media. Use your FACEBOOK. Use your website. Forward this email to all your email friends.

If you are the media, it is your duty to interview both sides of this story and to investigate this from all angles. Feel free to start with me and I will give you phone numbers and emails of many people that are important to interview for a complete perspective on this story. My direct phone is 719-661-4037. That is my cell phone. You can also email me. I do not do FACEBOOK or TWITTER. I frankly hate both of those mediums and find them annoying but many people really love them and pay attention to them.

Susan Campbell Reneau
Author and editor of 22 books on big-game hunting, including Colorado's Biggest Bucks and Bulls
Life Member, National Rifle Association
(benefactor life member), Wild Sheep Foundation,
Rocky Mountain Foundation, National Wild

Turkey Federation, and more
Hunter and mother of three human sons that
hunt and two black Labrador retriever hunters
named Danni Boone and Betty Crockett
Theodore Roosevelt/Abraham Lincoln Republican
and Thomas Jefferson/Harry Truman Democrat
Wife of a hunter who has been a certified wildlife
biologist since 1973

From Refuge Chief

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

From: National Wildlife Refuge System, Chief
<chief_national_wildlife_refuge_system@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 5:37 PM
Subject: National Bison Range
To:

Today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began discussions with Indian Affairs and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) about the potential for the Service to support 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. While the transfer will require Congressional approval, the decision to move forward was not made lightly.

The National Bison Range was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, home of the CSKT. It was established for a defined purpose: to prevent the extinction of bison. We have been hugely successful in meeting that mission. The Bison Range's conservation legacy will live on and we have confidence that the CSKT will maintain the high conservation standards that we established at the Bison Range. It is time for the Service to focus our efforts on landscape-scale conservation.

I want you to know that every employee at the Bison Range will be taken care of. Employment options and opportunities are being discussed. Anyone who knows the history of the Bison Range knows that our employees have worked and lived with uncertainty regarding the Bison Range for many years now.

I know that many of you will have varying thoughts, opinions and questions. This decision was not made lightly and does not represent a new direction for the Refuge System. Rather, it is a response to a specific set of circumstances in a specific location at a specific point in time.

Since 1999, the Service has established more than 40 new national wildlife refuges and national conservation areas. Service employees are justifiably proud of hitting new conservation milestones year after year. And we will continue to do so. We have a vibrant and strong National Wildlife Refuge System and we will continue to conserve and manage these wild lands and wild places for wildlife and future generations.

The expertise, creativity and dedication of Service employees are limitless. I thank you for all you do on behalf of wildlife conservation and the American people.

Cynthia Martinez

Chief

National Wildlife Refuge System

From: [Geoff Haskett](mailto:Geoff.Haskett)
To: karen_clark@fws.gov; [Mitch Ellis](mailto:Mitch.Ellis); jim_kurth@fws.gov; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov; d_m_ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:18:36 AM

Just FYI. I was surprised I didn't hear from Marv earlier. I see now I didn't because he can't spell my name still

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marvin Plenert <marvplenert@yahoo.com>
Date: February 10, 2016 at 7:23:16 PM EST
To: <geoff_haskett@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range
Reply-To: Marvin Plenert <marvplenert@yahoo.com>

From: Marvin Plenert <marvplenert@yahoo.com>

Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range

To: jeff_hasket@fws.gov

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 5:09 PM

Jeff Did your region

receive this email from C Martinez? If you

received it did you forward to all refuge managers in

Alaska? This idiotic proposal if allowed will have

broad precedent setting consequences to 30 or 40 lower

48

refuges, and the bulk in Alaska. I have a good

friend

in Montana that tells me that Tribal lawyers are

chomping at

the bit to see what happens to the proposed
legislation, if
it ever sees the light of day.
I would think the folks in Alaska would be really
concerned,
particularly those who worked to get all those refuges
and
Parks established. I know I am, as I worked darn
hard
to get the new refuges in the system when I was there
in the
70's. This is a battle that needs to be
fought if we are to keep a viable and functional
NWRS.

Thanks Marv

Plenert

----- Forwarded message

From: National Wildlife

Refuge System, Chief

[<chief_national_wildlife_refuge_system@fws.gov>](mailto:chief_national_wildlife_refuge_system@fws.gov)

Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 5:37 PM

Subject: National Bison Range

To:

Today the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service began discussions with

Indian

Affairs

and the Confederated

Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) about
the

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Range in Montana to be held in trust by the

United

States

for the benefit of

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The
National Bison
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Theodore
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The Bison Range's conservation legacy will
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I
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Employment
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Anyone who knows the history of the Bison
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I
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This decision was not made lightly and does
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Rather, it is a response to a specific set of
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Since 1999, the
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and

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these wild lands and

wild places for wildlife and future
generations.

The

expertise,

creativity and dedication of Service
employees

are

limitless. I thank you for all you do on
behalf

of

wildlife conservation and the American
people.

Cynthia Martinez

Chief

National Wildlife

Refuge System

From: [Dan Ashe](#)
To: [Noreen Walsh](#)
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range transfer
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 10:34:58 PM

Below is my draft note to Dave. Let me know if I should delete, send or modify it after you have talked to him. He's a great guy!

Hello Dave. Noreen forwarded your note to me. I am glad to hear you and Catherine are well, and to see that you are still engaged in conservation. Thank you!

And thank you for the tone and sincerity of your note. That was always a trait of yours, and why I so valued your advice and friendship when we worked together.

I don't think I need to prove to you my devotion to the refuge system, refuge employees, or retirees (like my dad!). And your note shows a respect for the years of consideration that have gone into this issue, as well as the decades of dedicated work by Service employees and partners. But all things have their time, and it is time that we moved along.

In this day, there is no longer a compelling reason for the Service to be managing a bison herd. We have bigger challenges to tackle. We should respect and value tradition, but not be bounded by it. The plain fact is, the Salish-Kootenai are very capable managers. They can manage this place and this herd. They very much want to do this. The land will be held in trust, by the BIA, on behalf of the CSKT, for the original purposes, so it will be protected, in perpetuity. The tribe will be a proud manager, and this will make them culturally richer and more capable as a people. They will be better.

The refuge system will be able to free resources and energy to work on broader landscape conservation. Our best managers, instead of working on and managing annual funding agreements (or defending them in court!) will be able to work on new and bold partnerships to conserve large landscapes that will support free-ranging bison, sage grouse, and other species. We will be better.

The voices of concern about "precedent" are voices of fear. Fear of change. But we need to ask ourselves that crucial question, "What would we do if we were not afraid?"

I remember you as a good and critical thinker, a listener, and a compassionate person. Your note to Noreen tells me that you haven't changed. There is only one reason that I am supporting this: It is the right thing to do! And sometimes, doing the right thing is scary. But as Martin Luther King taught us, "It is never the wrong time to do the right thing." I hope you agree.

So glad to hear from you!

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dave Heffernan [<mailto:deheffer248@yahoo.com>]

> Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 11:48 AM

> To: noreen_walsh@fws.gov

> Subject: National Bison Range transfer

>

> Hi Noreen. We worked together briefly in Atlanta before I transferred to
> Denver-Refuges in 2000 and subsequently retired in 2003. My wife Catherine
> and I still reside near Conifer just off of Hwy. 285. I was glad when you
> were selected the RD for Region 6 as your reputation is a good one. I
> received a copy of your all-employees memo (not shocking in this day, is
> it :) concerning the issue of simply transferring the National Bison Range
> to local CSK tribes since previous efforts to "co-manage" were
> ineffective. I have no doubt you are very familiar with that whole issue,
> and I for one do not envy you the position you find yourself in. Careers
> have been greatly impacted in several cases over this issue, and
> unfortunately politics seems to oftentimes rule instead of good sound
> science as well as the future of the Refuge System itself. I'm sure you
> are aware that I and many others in my situation would be much opposed to
> the idea of transferring the Bison Range, or any other unit of the NWRS,
> unless it made sound biological and scientific sense, and would make the
> Refuge System stronger in the long run. As I said, I do not envy you the
> position you are in, these are potentially dangerous waters. I would
> simply encourage you to continue doing what YOU believe is the right thing
> to do on the part of our resources, and then do your best to take each day
> as it unfolds. Thanks for listening, I wish you all the best in your
> position, and pray to the Good Lord that He blesses you with good and
> honest advisers. Sincerely, Dave Heffernan (retired after 35 years of
> service with the Refuge System :)

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: [Cynthia Martinez](mailto:Cynthia.Martinez@fws.gov)
To: cathey_willis@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Phone message
Date: Friday, April 08, 2016 6:39:33 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Martinez, Cynthia" <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
Date: February 26, 2016 at 4:35:50 PM AST
To: Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org>
Subject: Re: Phone message

Good Evening,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in discussions with the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) regarding the transfer of the lands comprising the National Bison Range to be held in federal trust for the benefit of the CSKT. This begins a new phase in a longstanding relationship between the Service and CSKT in the conservation of the land, bison, and other natural resources comprising the National Bison Range. The Service believes now is the right time to begin the transition in to trust of a refuge long ago carved out of tribal lands. This is an ongoing process that will require Congressional approval.

On Fri, Feb 26, 2016 at 2:35 PM, Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org> wrote:
Thank you Cynthia; this is helpful to know. If you could forward me a copy of the email, I'd really appreciate that as well.

I'll plan on touching base with you early next week.

-----Original Message-----

From: "Martinez, Cynthia" <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
To: brianu@cskt.org
Date: 02/26/16 12:17 PM
Subject: Phone message

mike.freeman@mail.house.gov, erica.rhoad@mail.house.gov, "Kimball, Spencer" <spencer.kimball@mail.house.gov>, kiel.weaver@mail.house.gov, "todd.ungerecht" <todd.ungerecht@mail.house.gov>, parish.braden@mail.house.gov,

Per my rambling voicemail, this is who we sent an email to in the House.

Thanks,
Cynthia

From: [George Waters](#)
To: d_m_ashe@fws.gov; jim_kurth@fws.gov; anna_munoz@fws.gov; stephen_quertin@fws.gov; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov; robert_dreher@fws.gov; charisa_morris@fws.gov; sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov; scott_aikin@fws.gov; noreen_walsh@fws.gov; hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov; terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov; michael_bean@ios.doi.gov; karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov; lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov; [Freeman, Sharee](#)
Subject: Proposed transfer of Bison Range
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:10:08 PM

I thought you might be interested in this article and supportive editorial from the Missoulian, the second largest newspaper in Montana. Vince Devlin's articles also appear in the Billings Gazette.

So sorry to have missed the meeting on February 5th with Chairman Finley and Brian Upton. I was on travel and couldn't be there. I have been involved in this issue since the beginning so please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Thanks.

Article from Missoulian newspaper re proposal to transfer the National Bison Range to the CSKT:
http://missoulian.com/news/local/new-direction-for-bison-range-fws-proposal-catches-many-off/article_069afc12-92fa-5ce4-8b80-6b5e64b7044c.html

Editorial from Missoulian Editorial Board supporting the transfer:
http://missoulian.com/news/opinion/editorial/missoulian-editorial-tribes-should-manage-national-bison-range/article_325c9892-db0b-5851-ada0-2769ab5e2e54.html

*George Waters, President
George Waters Consulting Service
505 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 544-3044
(202) 544-3044 Fax
(202) 316-7851 Cell*

From: [Betsy Hildebrandt](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: Re: Better?
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 6:39:27 AM

Ok. I'll make edit and print out for meeting

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 4, 2016, at 8:39 PM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

Looks very good. In the first sentence, it should be "Confederated"
Salish_Kootenai.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Feb 4, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Betsy Hildebrandt <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov> wrote:

Statement for tomorrow. Worked with Anna today and Noreen good with this.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Munoz, Anna" <anna_munoz@fws.gov>
Date: February 4, 2016 at 4:18:55 PM EST
To: Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@fws.gov>
Subject: Better?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in discussions with the Confederate Salish-Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) regarding the transfer of the lands comprising the National Bison Range to be held in federal trust for the benefit of the CSKT. This begins a new phase in a longstanding relationship between the Service and CSKT in the conservation of the land, bison, and other natural resources comprising the National Bison Range. The Service has long relied on the Tribes' expertise and history with herd management and believe now is the right time to begin the transition into trust of a refuge long ago carved out of tribal lands. Any final decisions to transfer these lands will require Congressional

approval.

Anna Muñoz
Assistant Regional Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228
Office: 303-236-4510
Cell: 720-648-2542
Fax: 303-236-3815
anna_munoz@fws.gov

From: [Will Meeks](#)
To: [Anna Munoz](#); [Noreen Walsh](#); [Matt Hogan](#); [Jim Kurth](#); [Cynthia Martinez](#); [Mark Chase](#); [Dan Ashe](#)
Cc: [Maureen Gallagher](#)
Subject: RE: Bison range
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:37:31 PM

Thanks Anna . . . I let the Jeff King know.

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Acting ARD External Affairs (through October 2015)
303-236-4510 (w)
720-541-0310 (c)

From: Munoz, Anna [mailto:anna_munoz@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:36 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; Matt Hogan; Jim Kurth; Cynthia Martinez; Mark Chase; Dan Ashe
Cc: Will Meeks; Maureen Gallagher
Subject: Fwd: Bison range

R6 Team:

Please see the note below that Hillary Tompkins will be visiting the National Bison Range tomorrow.

Anna

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

From: **Boling, Edward** <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2015
Subject: Fwd: Bison range
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>, Anna Munoz <anna_munoz@fws.gov>, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Cc: Hilary Tompkins <Hilary.Tompkins@sol.doi.gov>

Dan, Jim or Anna - could someone alert the National Bison Range that the Solicitor will be visiting there tomorrow morning, possibly with Martha Williams and several law students?

Thanks!

Ted Boling
Deputy Solicitor -- Parks & Wildlife
U.S Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-4423 (main)
202-208-3125 (direct)
202-208-5584 (fax)
Ted.Boling@sol.doi.gov

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

From: **Hilary Tompkins** <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>

Date: Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Bison range

To: Ted Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>

I am thinking of going to bison range tomorrow morning maybe with the law school group. Need to leave to meet on water issue before lunch at tribal headquarters of sKCT. Can u let FWS know? No need to see anyone there if too late notice but wanted to let you know. HT

--

Sent from my iPhone

Anna Muñoz
Chief of Staff
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3348
Washington, DC 20240
Work: 202-208-3843
Cell: 703-963-0339
anna_munoz@fws.gov

From: [Charisa Morris](#)
To: [Munoz, Anna](#)
Cc: [Cynthia Martinez](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#); [Dan Ashe](#); scott_aikin@fws.gov; [Stephen Guertin](#); [Jim Kurth](#)
Subject: Re: Discussion with the CSKT about the National Bison Range
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 7:11:04 PM

Thank you, Anna!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 5, 2016, at 6:56 PM, Munoz, Anna <anna_munoz@fws.gov> wrote:

FYI

Anna Muñoz
Assistant Regional Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228
Office: 303-236-4510
Cell: 720-648-2542
Fax: 303-236-3815
anna_munoz@fws.gov

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

From: **Noreen Walsh** <noreen_walsh@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2016 at 4:12 PM
Subject: Discussion with the CSKT about the National Bison Range
To: FW6 All Employees <fw6_all_employees@fws.gov>

Dear Mountain-Prairie Region,

I want to inform you of a discussion the Service started today with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) regarding the National Bison Range. Many of you know that we have been working with the CSKT for about 20 years on the idea of a partnership at the National Bison Range that would be outlined in an Annual Funding Agreement which would allow them to manage and implement some of the activities on the refuge. This process has required much time and effort on the part of many, and despite valiant efforts all around, the parties have been unable to come to terms on a mutually-acceptable agreement.

In an effort to achieve the best, long-term solution for our many conservation priorities, the specific conservation goals of the National Bison Range, and to support the principles of Indian self-determination there was a discussion today

with the CSKT about the potential for the Service to support legislation that would transfer the lands comprising the National Bison Range to be held in trust by the United States for the CSKT.

I wanted you all to know why we entered into these discussions. The National Bison Range was established in 1908 within the boundaries of the Flathead Reservation, home of the CSKT, for the express purpose of conserving the American bison during a time when the species was on the verge of extinction. Since then, the Service as well as our federal, state, and tribal partners have made great strides in conserving bison and re-establishing herds throughout their historic range. Also, while we have desired a meaningful partnership with CSKT at the National Bison Range, a mutually-acceptable agreement has been elusive. Given that we are today in a much better place regarding the future of bison, that we have much work to do on landscape-scale conservation efforts, and that we want to strengthen our partnership with the CSKT, we believe that now is the right time to investigate the possibility of transferring the refuge, which was long ago carved out of tribal lands, into trust for the benefit of the CSKT.

Such a proposal would require Congressional approval and therefore, at this point, we don't know if or when such a transfer would occur. Today was our first discussion with the CSKT about the idea. As we go forward, my pledge is to ensure that wherever the discussion leads us, the talented and committed staff of the National Bison Range are taken care of. To this end, Will Meeks, Mike Blenden, and I spent the afternoon at the Refuge where we talked about the ideas under discussion. In our conversations, I emphasized that they will all remain valued employees of the Service, regardless of the outcome of these discussions.

I know that many of you will have thoughts and questions about this idea. This was not an easy decision to come by, nor one that was taken lightly, but in the end, I believe that this is a good path for the Service, the CSKT, and for the conservation of our fish and wildlife resources.

As always, I value your feedback and questions.

Noreen

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: RE: joint statement
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 9:23:21 PM

Thank you...

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 7:11 PM
To: Vernon Finley
Cc: Brian Upton; Noreen Walsh; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov; Betsy Hildebrandt; will_meeks@fws.gov
Subject: Re: joint statement

Hello Vernon and thank you for your kind note. I am very happy to hear that the CSKT Council is supportive, and we are anxious to begin working together. Our National Wildlife Refuge System Chief, Cynthia Martinez, has been meeting with the Montana delegation staff, and as you described from your visits, she is getting supportive responses.

We met today, with our DOI team, and the DOI Solicitor (Hilary Tomkins) is ready to begin work to draft legislation. Cynthia Martinez will be our point of contact on this effort and stands ready to work with Brian Upton and Hilary. I hope we can have a good draft by the end of next week, as I'm anticipating that the delegation may ask us for assistance in drafting legislation.

We also discussed convening the "Transition Team" that we agreed would be helpful. Our lead on this effort is Will Meeks (in Denver), and by copying him with this note, I'm asking him to take steps to convene this team, working with Brian Upton, and with Cynthia Martinez. As we discussed, we will need to involve BIA, and others from DOI. If you would like others to participate, from the tribal side, please let me know.

On the issue of a joint statement, we stand ready to do that. However, my communications team is suggesting that we hold off, for now, and work on a statement to issue when we have some news, like introduction of legislation. That makes sense to me, but if you feel differently, please let me know.

Thanks again. We are proud to be working with you on this, and look forward to progress and success!

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

> On Feb 17, 2016, at 7:34 PM, Vernon Finley <vernonf@cskt.org> wrote:
>
> Good day Dan:
>
> It was great meeting with you on our recent trip to DC. The news that you
> shared with Brian Upton and myself concerning the Bison Range couldn't
> have been greater appreciated by myself and the Council. I shared the
> meeting as well as the emails that went out to FWS staff with the rest of
> tribal council and they were all ecstatic as well. I also wanted to thank
> you for the phone call and agreement to provide a joint statement about
> the willingness and cooperation between the FWS and CSKT on the transfer.
> That statement will be useful when the time is appropriate.
>
> Again thank you for your hospitality and we are looking forward to working
> with FWS staff to pull the legislation together and presented to Congress.
>
> later,
> vernon

From: [Bulletin Intelligence](#)
To: Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 6:59:53 AM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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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, “seeyond 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’ 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 burea "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 Ellitsville 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, Mascaro, 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 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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DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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- + [Obama To Seek Permanent LWCF Reauthorization.](#)
- + [South Africa Receives High-tech Equipment To Help Fight Rhino Poaching.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of White House Earthquake Resiliency Summit And "ShakeAlert".](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Utah Files Lawsuit Over Sage Grouse.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Little Shell Band Remains Hopeful For Federal Recognition.](#)
- + [BIA Asks Court To Be Removed From Tribe Member's Trust Land Lease Suit.](#)
- + [Group Opposing Tribal Casino Seeks To Block Amicus Bid.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Website Shows Effects Of Drought In The Colorado River Basin.](#)
- + [Lawsuits Over Spotted Frog Trouble Farmers.](#)
- + [Lake Nighthorse Assessment To Be Released Soon.](#)
- + [House Committee Passes Bill To Expand Fontanelle Reservoir.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

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- + [BLM Reveals More Details Of Flaring, Venting Rules.](#)
- + [Group Pushes For Federal Coal Reform.](#)
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- + [BLM To Hold Public Meeting On Master Leasing Plan.](#)
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- + [Five-year Plan For Offshore Leasing Criticized.](#)

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- + [BLM Announces Horse Adoption Schedule.](#)
- + [BLM Grants Lease To Company Planning Condos Along Holter Lake.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Public Comments For Hermanas Upgrade.](#)
- + [BLM Seeking Volunteers For Raptor Nest Survey.](#)
- + [Mohave County Looking At Euthanasia As Last Resort To Deal With Burros.](#)

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- + [Historian Writing Theme Study Chapter For LGBTQ Heritage Initiative.](#)
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- + [NPS Awards \\$1.3M Toward C&O Canal Aqueduct Restoration.](#)
- + [Dinosaur National Monument Plans To Remove Rocky Mountain Goats.](#)
- + [Carnivores Around Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Exposed To Household Poisons.](#)
- + [Winners Of Olympic National Park Photo Contest Announced.](#)
- + [Preservation Group Promotes Designating Cahokia Mounds As National Park Site.](#)
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- + [Additional Coverage Of National Park Foundation Field Trip Grants.](#)
- + [Support Urged For National Park In Maine.](#)
- + [Development Near Great Falls National Historic Park Criticized.](#)
- + [Montana Gov. Bullock Lauded For Expanded Year-round Bison Range.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS Reveals Polar Bear Neck Camera Surveillance Findings.](#)

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- + [Obama To Seek \\$1.8 Billion To Combat Zika Virus.](#)
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DOI in the News:

OREGON OCCUPIER POSTS VIDEOS MOCKING FBI. The [AP](#) (2/8) reports that the last four occupiers of an Oregon wildlife refuge "have posted a series of defiant videos in which one of them calls FBI agents losers, shows a defensive perimeter they have built and takes a joyride in a government vehicle." The videos were posted Sunday on a YouTube channel called Defend Your Base, "which the armed group has been using to give live updates." The holdouts "are among 16 people charged with conspiracy to interfere with federal workers in the armed standoff over federal land policy that has surpassed five weeks." In one of the new videos, "occupier David Fry says the FBI told him he faces additional charges because of defensive barricades the four have built. 'We just got done talking with the FBI,' said the 27-year-old Blanchester, Ohio, resident. 'They consider fortifying a crime.'"

The [Oregonian](#) (2/8, Zarkhin, 864K) reports that in the videos, Fry "railed against people who destroyed a

memorial for a dead occupier, called for the FBI to leave Oregon, and took a joyride in a pickup truck with government plates.” Fry, “said that most communication to the refuge had been cut off, and that it was a ‘miracle’ that he was able to get the video out.” He “starts one of the videos by talking about those who destroyed the memorial for Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum, a former occupier who was killed by Oregon State Police on Jan. 26. ‘That’s the kind of people we’re dealing with nowadays. Just absolute trash, low-life scumbags, with no morals, no remorse for the dead,’ Fry said. ‘And that’s the people that we’re fighting against.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/9, Miller, 8.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/8, 442K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/8, Petty, Press, 1.99M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/8, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/8, Terrence Petty |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/8, Petty, 285K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/8, 2K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/8, 4.92M), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (2/8, 85K), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (2/8, 177K).

Bundy Calls On Elected Officials To Support Civil Disobedience. [Reuters](#) (2/9, Gonzales) reports that jailed Oregon occupation leader Ammon Bundy called on elected officials from several states to support civil disobedience and free speech and visit their constituents currently in custody. “It is your duty to hold federal agencies at bay, protecting the people in your state,” Bundy said, according to the transcript of a phone call released by his lawyers. Bundy and 10 alleged co-conspirators were arrested late last month.

The [AP](#) (2/8) reports that Nevada state Assembly member Michelle Fiore says she will travel to Portland, Oregon on Wednesday to protest the arrest of members of the armed occupation. “Fiore says the people jailed for seizing the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns, Oregon, last month were ‘exercising political free speech,’” the AP says.

Additional coverage was provided by [TIME](#) (2/8, 18.01M) and [Reuters](#) (2/9, Gonzales).

Supporters Attend Finicum’s Funeral. The [Greenwire](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “more than 1,000 people gathered late last week to pay their respects to LaVoy Finicum, whom family and supporters remembered as a God-fearing, family man who loved to compete, sing and play tricks.” According to the article, “shot by police last month, Finicum’s death has roused anti-federal lands activists who share a deep distrust of the federal government and a desire to challenge its authority.”

Cliven Bundy Remains Defiant. The [Greenwire](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM is “an illegitimate landlord that is not welcome on this scrubby patch of Mojave Desert lands, rancher Cliven Bundy said last week.” Bundy said, “You tell them [BLM] they’re not welcome here and they better not come around.” Bundy “insists the arid lands surrounding his ranch, including the 350,000-acre Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, do not belong to the federal government, even though a federal court has ruled multiple times that he’s wrong.”

In his column for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/8, 479K), Steve Sebelius writes that “Bundy patriarch Cliven Bundy is insisting (despite an FBI video released to the public) that Finicum was murdered in cold blood.” Bundy has “written to the sheriff, the governor of Oregon and President Barack Obama, saying that ‘we the people’ will keep the federal reserve property.” Sebelius says that “plenty of others still have not faced justice for the events of 2014.”

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge Reopens. The [AP](#) (2/8, 1.99M) reports that the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge has “reopened after being closed to the public last weekend because of the situation at a refuge near Burns, Oregon.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/8, 285K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/8, 113K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (2/8, 180K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/8, 2K), and [KREM-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (2/8, 54K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/8, 388K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (2/8, 196K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (2/8, 1.12M), and [Raw Story](#) (2/8, 1.24M).

OBAMA TO SEEK PERMANENT LWCF REAUTHORIZATION. [The Hill](#) (2/8, Henry, 862K) reports in its “Week Ahead” column that the Interior Department stated on Thursday that President Obama’s budget plan would “help sustain our nation’s public lands and waters for present and future generations.” Obama will reportedly “ask Congress to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), fully fund it in 2017 and make some of its spending mandatory.” While “parks and conservation supporters cheered the proposal,” The Hill points out “Congress would need to double its 2016 funding allotment for the LWCF.”

Ten Environmental Priorities Offered For Budget. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/8, 518K), Margie Alt, Executive director, Environment America, writes that “on Tuesday, February 9, the Obama administration will present its last budget to Congress.” Alt provides “ten priorities” that she hopes will be in the federal budget “to shape policy for our air, water, our lands and our climate.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the budget was provided by the [International Business Times](#) (2/8, 693K).

SOUTH AFRICA RECEIVES HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT TO HELP FIGHT RHINO POACHING. The [Defence Web \(ZAF\)](#) (2/9) reports that “South Africa’s stock of high-tech equipment to track down and apprehend poachers has been boosted to the tune of more than R12 million by US President Barack Obama’s national strategy to combat wildlife trafficking.” The donation was announced by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “when she met South African Environmental Affairs Minister, Edna Molewa, as part of strengthening co-operation in, among others, the illegal wildlife trade.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCY SUMMIT AND “SHAKEALERT”. Additional coverage of White House Earthquake Resiliency Summit and “ShakeAlert” was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (2/6, 211K), [Government Technology](#) (2/8, 7K), and [Sci-Tech Today](#) (2/8, 825).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: UTAH FILES LAWSUIT OVER SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed by Utah over federal sage grouse plans was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (2/8, 7K), [Utah Policy](#) (2/8), and the [New West](#) (2/8, 1K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

LITTLE SHELL BAND REMAINS HOPEFUL FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/8, 92K) reports that “the landless” Little Shell Band have “never been acknowledged under the federal tribal recognition rule, which outlines the criteria tribes must meet in order to establish a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States.” The article notes that “the state of Montana recognized the tribe in 2000, but the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs remains undecided — 36 years after the Little Shell Band first submitted its petition for recognition.” But “for the Little Shell and other unrecognized tribes...there may be hope on the horizon.” In April, President Barack Obama “fulfilled a promise to Indian Country when the BIA announced revisions to the acknowledgment process,” and “on Aug. 1, some of these revisions became law.”

BIA ASKS COURT TO BE REMOVED FROM TRIBE MEMBER’S TRUST LAND LEASE SUIT. [Law360](#) (2/8, 22K) reports that the BIA “urged a Nevada federal court on Friday to dismiss the agency from a suit by a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California over the lease of his trust land parcel for a housing development, arguing the claims came too late and the agency didn’t waive its sovereign immunity to suit.”

GROUP OPPOSING TRIBAL CASINO SEEKS TO BLOCK AMICUS BID. [Law360](#) (2/8, 22K) reports that “a nonprofit group challenging the U.S. Department of the Interior’s decision to take land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation of New York’s casino urged the Second Circuit on Friday to reject a proposed amicus brief on behalf of the government, saying a settlement between the state and the tribe wasn’t relevant to the group’s suit.”

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

WEBSITE SHOWS EFFECTS OF DROUGHT IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN. [KRCC-FM](#) Colorado Springs, CO (2/8, 2K) reports that “a new interactive website from the U.S. Department of the Interior looks to educate the public on the effects of drought in the Colorado River Basin.” The site is “a collaborative effort designed to show how the water supply in the Colorado River has declined as demand has increased.” Angela Adams, a project manager for the BOR, “says while the site contains a lot of complex data, it’s presented in a digestible way.”

LAWSUITS OVER SPOTTED FROG TROUBLE FARMERS. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/8, 98K) reports that farmers in Jefferson County are “busy calculating their costs for the spring planting season, and this year they’re factoring in a little bit of fear.” The article notes that “twin lawsuits filed in December in U.S. District Court in Eugene by environmental groups, if successful, would force the federal government to ensure that Oregon spotted frogs, a threatened species, have enough water to survive in the Upper Deschutes River Basin.” Farmers “fear the lawsuits could reduce their supply of irrigation water, which comes from the Deschutes River.”

LAKE NIGHTHORSE ASSESSMENT TO BE RELEASED SOON. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/6, 31K) reports that “an environmental assessment and other documentation on Lake Nighthorse may soon be available for public review and comment, bringing residents a step closer to recreational use, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials say.” Kathleen Ozga, resource division manager for the BOR’s Western Colorado Area Office, said, “We’re reviewing the documents internally and hoping by the end of the month, a draft of the EA will be available. Once that’s done, there would be construction at the entrance area, signage, an overflow parking lot and possibly improvements to the access road. Ideally, we’re looking at (opening recreation) sometime in 2017.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES BILL TO EXPAND FONTANELLE RESERVOIR. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (2/8) reports that “with drought and climate change creating water shortages in lower desert states, Wyoming is looking for more ways to store its share of Colorado River water.” Last week, a bill sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Lummis that “would expand the storage capacity of Fontanelle Reservoir on the Green River in southwest Wyoming passed the House Natural Resources Committee unanimously.” Lummis said, “Our communities need it, our agriculture needs it, our ability to produce power needs it. And if we are to grow in our industrial capacity or manufacturing capacity and to grow our cities, towns and counties, definitely water could be a limiting factor.”

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

[Onshore Energy Development:](#)

BLM REVEALS MORE DETAILS OF FLARING, VENTING RULES. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM “revealed more details of its proposed rules governing flaring and venting of associated natural gas on public and tribal lands in the Federal Register on Monday.” According to the article, “as proposed, operators would be required to deploy equipment and processes to limit the amount of flaring gas at oil wells on public and tribal lands, and to periodically inspect their wells for leaks.” Also, they would “be required to limit venting from storage tanks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Lexology](#) (2/8, 6K) and [JD Supra](#) (2/8, 5K).

GROUP PUSHES FOR FEDERAL COAL REFORM. [First Tracks](#) (2/7, 175) reports that “outdoor sports environmental advocacy group Protect Our Winters (POW) launched a new campaign this week in support of reforms to the federal coal leasing program that they say will make sure coal companies pay fair market value on coal mined on public lands.” According to the article, “the Close the Loop campaign aims to build awareness and rally the \$646 billion outdoor sports community around reform efforts recently proposed by President Barack Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell which would implement a comprehensive review of the federal coal program.”

Additional coverage was provided by [SportsOneSource](#) (2/8, 71).

BLM WITHDRAWS PROPOSED OIL, GAS LEASE SALE NEAR MCPHEE RESERVOIR. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/8, 31K) reports that the BLM has “withdrawn a proposed oil and gas lease sale over concerns that it was too close to McPhee dam, officials say.” The parcel was “listed in September for a Feb. 11 lease sale.”

BLM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON MASTER LEASING PLAN. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/5, 31K) reports that on Thursday, a BLM committee will “hold a public meeting in Durango to consider whether a master leasing plan is necessary to designate land for new gas wells in La Plata and Montezuma counties.” The bureau “estimates up to 2,000 new wells are destined for Southwest Colorado over the next 30 years, which will mean another wave of concerns for property owners who fear their land will soon about the noise, eyesores and hazards of hydraulic fracturing activity.”

BATTLE IN SOLENEX CASE CONTINUES. The [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (2/8) reports that “the battle of the barristers in the case of Solenex, LLC v. Sally Jewell continues in U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia.” According to the article, “on December 3, 2015 there was a 30 day stay of proceedings as the parties, Solenex, LLC of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) requested, and were granted, the beak by Judge Richard J. Leon.” On January 7, “an additional stay of seven days was requested, moving the deadline to January 15,” and “on that date, both parties requested that the stay be lifted.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR OFFSHORE LEASING CRITICIZED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/8, 518K), Michael Brune, Executive Director, The Sierra Club, writes that the Interior Department’s “new draft of a five-year plan (2017-2022) for oil and gas leases off our coastlines” would “actually add 10 new leases in the Gulf of Mexico and in America’s Arctic, while also offering a lease for drilling off of the mid-Atlantic coast from Virginia to Georgia.” Brune offers “reasons why that makes no sense in 2016.” He urges President Obama to “base our fossil fuel policy on the mandate to ‘keep it in the ground’ whenever and wherever possible.”

Additional coverage of the “Keep it in the Ground” movement was provided by the [American Spectator](#) (2/9, 152K) and the [Heartland Institute](#) (2/8, 4K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ANNOUNCES HORSE ADOPTION SCHEDULE. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/8, 22K) reports that the BLM “on Monday announced its 2016 horse and burro adoption schedule.” BLM Director Neil Kornze said, “I urge people from across the country to attend an adoption event this year and bring home one of these icons of the West. Giving a good home to a wild horse or burro has the double benefit of saving taxpayers nearly \$50,000 each time an animal gets adopted.” Kornze added, “Adopters are getting themselves a great companion and in the process are helping to sustain the health and productivity of Western public rangelands.”

BLM GRANTS LEASE TO COMPANY PLANNING CONDOS ALONG HOLTER LAKE. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (2/8, 37K) reports that the BLM “granted a 30-year lease to a Great Falls company that plans a 22-unit condominium project at Holter Lake.” The lease is “for about 3.9 acres, of which 1.1 acres is below the lake’s waterline.” The lease also “allows two redundant water supply wells to be located on BLM land to serve the condominiums.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR HERMANAS UPGRADE. The [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (2/5, 10K) reports that the BLM Las Cruces District is “seeking public comments on road improvements proposed by Luna County for County Road (CR) 003 located south of Deming.” The comments will be

“considered in an Environmental Assessment that will evaluate the potential impacts the improvements may have on public land the road traverses.” Comments will be accepted until March 1, 2016.

BLM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR RAPTOR NEST SURVEY. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/8, 402K) reports that the BLM’s Salt Lake field office is “seeking volunteers to help conduct the annual raptor inventory nest survey this spring in northern Utah.” According to the article, “the survey offers volunteers an opportunity to be involved as citizen scientists in a long-term monitoring project.” The objective of “the survey is to collect and manage data regarding the ecology of eagles, falcons, hawks, osprey and owls.”

MOHAVE COUNTY LOOKING AT EUTHANASIA AS LAST RESORT TO DEAL WITH BURROS. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (2/9, 27K) reports that “of all the possible solutions to controlling the wild burro population in Mohave County, euthanization is understandably the least palatable for the public, but it could be a last resort, County Supervisor Steve Moss said Monday at a public workshop.” The BLM has “been unable to maintain the burro population in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, and it’s creating a problem with public safety and desert wildlife habitat, Moss said.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GROUP RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT FWS PLAN TO GIVE BACK TRIBAL LANDS. The [Greenwire](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility on Monday “raised concerns about the Fish and Wildlife Service’s plan to push for the transfer of national wildlife refuge lands in western Montana to Native Americans – a move that PEER warned could throw into question the ownership of dozens of other refuges and national parks.” The National Bison Range is “within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, the home of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).” According to the article, “a century ago, Congress bought the 16,000 acres that makes up that national wildlife refuge from the reservation to conserve the American bison, which then numbered around 2,100 in the United States and Canada,” but “the tribes have pointed out that such sales at the time were often forced.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/8, 78K).

CONSERVATIONISTS OPPOSE SWAZILAND’S PLAN TO RELOCATE 18 ELEPHANTS TO U.S. ZOOS. [CNN](#) (2/7, Karimi, 3.96M) reports that “Swaziland’s plan to relocate 18 elephants to three American zoos is sparking condemnation from some conservationists.” Last month, the FWS “approved their relocation to three facilities: the Dallas Zoo, the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas, and the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska.” Conservationists “say relocating the giant animals to zoos half a world away is detrimental to their health.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/8, 442K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: \$20 MILLION ANNOUNCED UNDER COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM. Additional coverage that FWS Director Dan Ashe has “announced that more than \$20 million will be provided to 28 projects in 12 coastal states to protect, restore or enhance more than 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands and adjacent upland habitats under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program” was provided by [Point of Beginning](#) (2/8).

OP-ED: MANTEES’ FUTURE STILL UNCERTAIN, DESPITE DOWNLISTING. In an op-ed for the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (2/8, 313K), Katie Tripp, director of science and conservation for the Save the Manatee Club, writes that last month, the FWS announced “plans to downlist all West Indian manatees from ‘endangered’ to ‘threatened’ under the Endangered Species Act.” According to Tripp, “FWS’ announcement that it believes the risks and threats to manatees are pretty well under control indicates that they’re satisfied with the status quo that leaves manatees dying of boat strikes, poisoned by red tide and facing loss of winter habitat.” She concludes that “the manatees’ future is far from certain, which means the work is far from over.”

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARKS AWARDED \$48 MILLION FOR CENTENNIAL PROJECTS. [Nature World News](#) (2/5) reports that the NPS “turns 100 years old this summer, and the NPS has announced Centennial Challenge projects in honor of that century-long existence.” According to the article, “the aim is to improve visitor services and outreach, thereby boosting tourism to parks nationwide.” The NPS has “received a total of \$48 million for those projects, \$15 million of which is from the U.S. government.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) (2/8, 46K) and the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/9, 337K).

FOURTH-GRADERS RECEIVE PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS. The [Worthington \(MN\) Daily Globe](#) (2/8, 26K) reports that “Sept. 1, 2015, marked the start of a new national initiative to provide all American fourth-graders and their families with free admission to federal lands and waters for an entire year.” The initiative, Every Kid in a Park, provides “free access to more than 2,000 national parks, forests, monuments, wildlife refuges and seashores for an entire calendar year.”

HISTORIAN WRITING THEME STUDY CHAPTER FOR LGBTQ HERITAGE INITIATIVE. [ThisIsReno \(NV\)](#) (2/8) reports that “on May 30, 2014, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a new theme study to identify places and events associated with the story of LGBTQ Americans for inclusion in the parks and programs of the National Park Service.” The article notes that “along with this federal effort, a new Reno-based non-profit, the Nevada LGBT Archives, was recently formed.” According to the article, “one of the founders, a doctoral candidate in the History Department at the University of Nevada, was commissioned by the Park Service to write a theme study chapter for the LGBTQ Heritage Initiative.”

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON FEDERAL INTERACTIONS WITH STATE WILDLIFE OFFICIALS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “Senators will hear from state wildlife officials this week on their ‘interaction’ with federal agencies in a hearing that will likely skewer the National Park Service for a recent rule banning some hunting in Alaskan national preserves.” A subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold a hearing Tuesday , titled “Federal Interactions with State Management of Fish and Wildlife.”

HOUSE PANEL TO REVIEW FOUR HISTORICAL SITES BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “four bills that seek to promote the conservation of U.S. historical sites will be under review this week in the House Natural Resources subcommittee on federal lands.” H.R. 87, from Rep. Marsha Blackburn, would “modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park in southern Tennessee.” The NPS “site would be expanded to include Fallen Timbers Battlefield, Russell House Battlefield and Davis Bridge Battlefield – three sites where Union and Confederate soldiers clashed during the Civil War.”

ADKINS SAYS MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK WILL TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (2/8, Munger, 228K) reports that last November the Manhattan Project National Historical Park “was officially created” when “Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel put their signatures on the memorandum of agreement.” However, “the three-site park...is a long way from being finished” and actually “the process is just getting started.” The park’s interim superintendent Tracy Adkins said, “It’ll take three to five years, maybe a little longer.” One significant “hurdle will be getting access to some of the historic sites that are currently housed inside Department of Energy installations, including the high-security Y-12 nuclear weapons plant.” Atkins “visited Oak Ridge last week to look at some of the Manhattan Project sites and to gather public input on what should be included in the park and how the atomic bomb work should be presented to visitors.”

NATIONAL PARKS SAW INCREASE IN VISITORS LAST YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/8, 37K) reports that the NPS says “almost 1.1 million people took in the rugged landscapes of the park in 2015. That’s a nearly 14 percent increase compared to 2014.” Park Superintendent Mike Pflaum “says the increased visitation numbers show that people continue to find the park a great place to visit.”

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (2/8, 18K) also reports that “visitors flocked to Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park last year.” The NPS is “partly crediting the National Park Foundation’s “Find Your Park” campaign with the record number of total visitors to national

parks in 2015.”

NPS AWARDS \$1.3M TOWARD C&O CANAL AQUEDUCT RESTORATION. The [AP](#) (2/8, 51K) reports that the NPS is “providing \$1.3 million to help restore the Conococheague Aqueduct in the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park at Williamsport.” The federal agency “said in a statement Monday that the federal funds will be matched with nearly \$7.6 million from the state of Maryland.” Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt “says the project is the centerpiece of a plan to create a ‘premier historical attraction’ near the canal’s midpoint.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/8, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/8, Press, 8.98M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/8, 285K).

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT PLANS TO REMOVE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Denver Post](#) (2/9, Paul, 881K) reports that the NPS is “drafting plans to remove or restrict Rocky Mountain goats from Dinosaur National Monument either by capture or lethal means.” According to officials, “the invasive goats have been spotted in and around the park in the past several years and that they pose a risk to sensitive plant and animal species.”

CARNIVORES AROUND SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA EXPOSED TO HOUSEHOLD POISONS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/7, Sahagun, 4.1M) reports that NPS “scientists for years have documented widespread exposure in carnivores to common household poisons in and around the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.” According to the article, “during two decades of research in the region on carcasses and live animals, 88% of 140 bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions evaluated tested positive for one or more anticoagulant compounds.”

WINNERS OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCED. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (2/8, 41K) reports that “when the national park’s new annual pass is issued in June, it will feature an image of the Queets Basin taken by Jake Morrison of Quinalt.” Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said, “We are very proud to announce the top three winners in this year’s Olympic National Park – Discover Your Northwest photo contest.” She added, “The photo contest has been a great way to celebrate a new year at Olympic and kick off the National Park Service centennial.” The new Olympic National Park annual pass will go on sale June 1.

PRESERVATION GROUP PROMOTES DESIGNATING CAHOKIA MOUNDS AS NATIONAL PARK SITE. The [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (2/8, 166K) reports that the HeartLands Conservancy is “adapting to the changing metro-east landscape and declining visitorship to the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center by working to promote a handful of important regional mounds as a National Park unit.” According to Ed Weillbacher, director of the Mounds protection project for HeartLands, “the group hopes its efforts will also add a layer of protection for the more than 550 mounds across the St. Louis region, many of which are on private land.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS FACES MAINTENANCE BACKLOG OF \$12 BILLION. Additional coverage that the NPS is facing “a multibillion dollar maintenance backlog” was provided by the [New York Times](#) (2/5, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (2/8, 121K), and [KCSG-TV St. George \(UT\)](#) St. George, UT (2/8, 43).

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 [RiverBender \(IL\)](#) (2/8).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/8, 173K), Mary Foley, a former regional chief scientist for the Northeast Region of the NPS, and Michael Soukup, a former chief scientist for the NPS in Washington, D.C., support “the proposed donation of land by Roxanne Quimby to establish a national park in the Katahdin region of Maine.” They note that “Maine’s rich northern forest heritage...is not reflected in the national park system.” They argue that “in terms of adding representation, the Quimby property would provide an example of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Ecoregion, described as a transition zone between the boreal spruce-fir forest to the north and the

deciduous forest to the south.”

DEVELOPMENT NEAR GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Hunterdon County \(NJ\) News](#) (2/9), Michele S. Byers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, writes that the Great Falls National Historic Park is “unique in its juxtaposition of stunning natural beauty with gritty industrial development.” According to Byers, “park advocates were aghast in November when the city’s Planning Board approved a 156-unit apartment complex atop the ridge overlooking the historic district and falls.” He says that “to those who worked for the national historic park designation in 2009 – and who see the park as the centerpiece of the city’s redevelopment – it makes no sense to place an obtrusive apartment complex where it would detract from the park’s beauty.”

MONTANA GOV. BULLOCK LAUDED FOR EXPANDED YEAR-ROUND BISON RANGE. In an open letter to Montana Gov. Steve Bullock published by the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (2/8, 37K), Stan Frasier, president of the Helena Hunters and Anglers Association, thanks Bullock “for his decision to allow expansion of bison as a year-round component of wildlife populations north of Yellowstone Park.” He says that “this action asserts that buffalo, beyond the borders of a national park, are resident wildlife to be managed by the state as a public trust for all people.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS REVEALS POLAR BEAR NECK CAMERA SURVEILLANCE FINDINGS. The [Coastal Television \(AK\)](#) (2/8, 122) reports that “scientists placed cameras and surveillance mechanisms on Beaufort Sea polar bears, to analyze their daily patterns.” According to the USGS-administered analysis, “the study revealed that the Arctic animals spent about 70% of their day relaxing.” The USGS study found that “even with their low exercise activity, the polar bears need to consume a considerable amount of food.” The article notes that “the examination supports the hypothesis that it will be extremely tough for polar bears to transfer their eating sources to land-based meals.”

Top National News:

TRUMP, SANDERS MAINTAIN LEADS IN FINAL POLLS AS NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTING BEGINS. The final tracking polls in New Hampshire show Donald Trump maintaining his lead on the Republican side, with a four-way race for second. On the Democratic side, Sen. Bernie Sanders maintains a large lead, but the margin varies in the latest surveys. Reports say Hillary Clinton’s campaign seems to be anticipating defeat and is trying to minimize the size of the loss before the campaign moves on to the more hospitable ground of South Carolina.

[CNN](#) (2/8, Agiesta, 3.96M) reports on its website that the final CNN/WMUR tracking poll found Trump in the lead among Republicans at 31%, followed by Sen. Marco Rubio 17% support, Sen. Ted Cruz 14%, Gov. John Kasich 10%, Jeb Bush 7%, Carly Fiorina 5%, Gov. Chris Christie 4%, and Ben Carson 3%. On the Democratic side, Sanders led Clinton 61% to 35%.

[The Hill](#) (2/8, Byrnes, 862K) also reports on the CNN poll, while [WHDH-TV Boston](#) (2/8, Hiller, 56K) reports on its website that the 7NEWS/UMass Lowell tracking poll found Trump at 34%, Cruz 13%, Rubio 13%, Bush 10%, Kasich 10%, Christie 5%, Fiorina 4%, and Carson 3%. Among Democrats, Sanders led Clinton 56% to 40%. [Politico](#) (2/8, Shepard, 1.07M) headlines its story on the GOP surveys “New Hampshire Polls Show A Tossup For Second Place.” [ABC World News](#) (2/8, story 3, 2:45, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Sanders has “double-digit lead,” with Clinton “hoping to at least close that gap to single digits here in Sanders’ neighboring state.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/8, story 4, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Clinton trails after winning Iowa “by the narrowest of margins.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says “a rambunctious herd of presidential candidates dashed across” the state Monday, “making last-ditch efforts to persuade undecided voters.” With the state’s “history of defying polls and the sense of confusion that Trump’s candidacy has imposed on the race, a glut of contenders clung to the idea that anything could be possible.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, Balz, Rucker, 8.98M) says “with a snowstorm bearing down,”

candidates “scurried across” the state “leveling inflammatory attacks against one another while pleading with voters for their support.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/8, lead story, 2:45, Holt, 7.86M) opened by saying that the snow provides “just one more challenge for the presidential candidates.” Between them, the candidates “hit 30 events across this state today, hoping to move the needle in their direction.” The [Keene \(NH\) Sentinel](#) (2/8, Nanci, 23K) reports New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner “has predicted a record turnout of 550,000 voters due to high enthusiasm,” estimating 282,000 votes in the Republican primary and 268,000 on the Democratic side.

The small towns of Dixville Notch, Hart’s Location, and Millfield all voted at midnight as per tradition. [Politico](#) (2/9, Strauss, 1.07M) reports Cruz, Kasich, and Trump received a total of nine votes each, Christie three, Bush two, Rubio two, Carson one, and Fiorina one. Sanders received 17 votes to Clinton’s nine.

The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Parker, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on what it describes as “a highly coveted and unpredictable species – the undeclared New Hampshire primary voter – that makes up about 40 percent of the primary electorate, and that has the potential to propel one candidate to victory or tip another to defeat.”

Clintons Make Final Pitches. [Foster’s Daily Democrat \(NH\)](#) (2/8, Andrews, 5K) reports that ex-President Clinton said in the town of Rochester Monday that it is “not too late to turn New Hampshire’s and young voters’ favor” toward his wife. He said Sanders’ promises were unrealistic, saying, “When I was here, I got 60% of the vote here because our numbers added up. New Hampshire expected us to follow the basic rules of arithmetic. And if you follow anything your mama told you, it was that if something sounds too good to be true, it might be.” [The Hill](#) (2/8, Stanage, Parnes, 862K) says “a lot of unaligned Democrats” are concerned by the Clinton campaign’s new negative tone, worrying “that history might be repeating itself, and that the former president’s attacks could boomerang on his wife by turning off large swathes of the Democratic electorate.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Nelson, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Hillary Clinton herself made her final appeal in Manchester, saying, “To all of the young people who are supporting my opponent, I thank you too – I thank you for being part of this process. You may not support me now, but I will always support you.”

The [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (2/8, 358K) reports that even a big win for Sanders “will offer little insight” into the February 27 South Carolina primary, “where more than half of voters will be black.” Democrats in the state “also are more conservative and religious than their New Hampshire counterparts. But the winner can claim a victory that could build momentum as the contest moves South.”

Clintons Reportedly Planning Changes To Campaign. [Politico](#) (2/8, Thrush, Karni, 1.07M) reports that the Clintons “are so dissatisfied with their campaign’s messaging and digital operations they are considering staffing and strategy changes after what’s expected to be a loss” in New Hampshire. [CNN](#) (2/8, Zeleny, Borger, Johns, Merica, 3.96M) reports on its website that “several people close to the campaign, particularly in Bill Clinton’s orbit and among donors, acknowledged discontent within the operation.”

[TIME](#) (2/8, Newton-Small, 18.01M) reports on its website that Clinton told MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow, “We’re going to take stock, what works, what doesn’t work. We’re moving into a different phase of the campaign. ... So, of course it would be malpractice not to say, ‘OK, what worked? What can we do better? What do we have to do new and different that we have to pull out?’”

State Department Confirms FBI Is Investigating Clinton’s Email Server. The [Washington Times](#) (2/8, Dinan, 285K) reports the State Department has confirmed that the FBI is looking into Clinton’s email server, “filing a notice with a federal judge laying out the vague outlines of the investigation.” [The Hill](#) (2/8, Hattem, 862K) reports some conservatives say Attorney General Lynch “should be disqualified from overseeing the investigation into Hillary Clinton’s email server because of the more than \$10,000 she has

given to Democrats in recent years.”

Trump Appears Poised To Score Win. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/8, lead story, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported “polls show that...Trump has a very good chance of getting the comeback win he needs after finishing second in Iowa. He leads his closest rivals better than 2-1.”

On [ABC World News](#) (2/8, lead story, 4:15, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported that “Trump has a simple goal in New Hampshire – prove he can win as presidential candidate.” Karl asked Trump, “You got a big lead – is any part of you a little nervous? I mean, New Hampshire voters tend to be so independent – change at the last minute.” Trump replied, “Totally, I mean, you have to think that. Who knows what’s going to happen. We have good poll numbers, but I would be happy to win by one vote. I just want to win.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/8, story 2, 2:00, Tur, 7.86M), Katy Tur reported that in New Hampshire, “historically voters make up their minds late,” adding, “That means second and even first place could be up for grabs, after what many saw as Marco Rubio’s dismal debate performance” on Saturday. The [Daily Caller](#) (2/8, Pappas, 443K) reports that during a Monday campaign rally in Manchester, Trump urged voters “to help him rebound with a big win on Tuesday.”

[Reuters](#) (2/8, Holland, Becker) reports that Jeb Bush and Trump on Monday traded barbs while campaigning in New Hampshire. Speaking at an event, Trump, unhappy that Bush attacked him during Saturday’s GOP debate, said of the former Florida governor, “He’s a total stiff. ... If you had a company, you wouldn’t even hire him. He’s like a child, like a spoiled child.” Firing back, Bush said via Twitter, “@realDonaldTrump, you aren’t just a loser, you are a liar and a whiner.”

[McClatchy](#) (2/8, Recio, 22K) reports that in the wake of Bush – during Saturday’s debate – having taken “issue with billionaire developer Trump benefiting from eminent domain,” Trump has worked to turn the tables on his rival by arguing “the Bush family” did “the same thing.” Trump has pointed out that when former President George W. Bush was the managing partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team in the early 1990s, eminent domain was used to build the team’s stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Tau, Leubsdorf, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that Trump’s support for eminent domain could hurt him both in New Hampshire and nationally, as many conservatives oppose the practice.

In his [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) column, Michael Gerson criticizes Trump for using profanities on the campaign trail, saying the billionaire “identifies crudity with populism, as if using words of four letters were a protest against prim elites. Rough language is intended to convey strength and authenticity. On both counts, it amounts to deception.” Gerson adds that “a foul mouth is meant to cover up for Trump’s ignorance and weakness.”

OBAMA TO SEEK \$1.8 BILLION TO COMBAT ZIKA VIRUS. While much of the media coverage of the announcement that the President will seek \$1.8 billion in emergency funding from Congress to combat the Zika virus focuses on how those funds will be used, many reports point out that the requests comes as the President seeks to avoid a repeat of 2014, when the Administration was criticized for its response to the Ebola outbreak.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/9, A3, Armour, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says it is not clear when the request will be sent, noting that the White House said in a statement it will be submitted shortly. [USA Today](#) (2/8, Korte, Szabo, 5.56M) reports the emergency funding will be used for “mosquito control programs, vaccine research, education and improving health care for low-income pregnant women, the White House said Monday.” In addition, the proposal “includes \$355 million in foreign aid to South America, Central America, the Caribbean, where the Zika virus is spreading most rapidly.” [Politico](#) (2/8, Karlin, 1.07M) reported Administration officials “said it’s possible a vaccine could be ready as soon as late next year.” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci told a White House press briefing Monday NIH “has a Zika vaccine in the early stages of development and should be ready [for] the first stage of safety testing in humans by the end of this summer.” the testing, he added, “should

be completed by the end of the year.” On its website, [Voice of America](#) (2/8, 60K) noted that while “there is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available,” drug companies “in India, Japan and France announced that they are working to develop possible vaccines.”

The [AP](#) (2/8) notes the President “says ‘there shouldn’t be a panic on this.’” In an interview with CBS on Monday, [Reuters](#) (2/8, Rampton, Hirschler) reports, the President said, “The good news is this is not like Ebola; people don’t die of Zika. A lot of people get it and don’t even know that they have it. ... This is not something where people are going to die from it. It is something we have to take seriously.” Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the CDC echoed that sentiment Monday, stressing “that while the CDC is taking Zika seriously, the virus shouldn’t change everyday life for the average American,” the [Huffington Post](#) (2/8, 518K) reported.

[The Hill](#) (2/8, Fabian, Ferris, 862K) noted the President “is hoping to avoid a repeat of 2014, when he faced a torrent of criticism for the government’s sluggish response to the threat posed by a deadly outbreak of Ebola virus in Africa.” The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Landler, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the White House is “trying to strike a balance between being responsive to the outbreak and not provoking alarm,” noting that two years ago, the Administration “initially played down the risk that the Ebola virus would spread to the United States, only to reverse course after the diagnosis of several cases here.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/8, Howell, 285K) said the request “comes after lawmakers on key congressional committees prodded the administration to proactively fight and research Zika.” On its website, [TIME](#) (2/8, Rhodan, 18.01M) said that while congressional Democrats have “pushed the president to formulate a proper response plan for the virus and called for additional resources and an interagency response to fighting the virus,” the White House “has been insistent that the administration is responding aggressively to the virus.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/8, story 10, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) said the President’s request came as “at least 57 cases have been reported in the US” and the CDC “moved to its highest alert level.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/8, story 7, 1:45, Costello, 7.86M) reported that in south Florida, there is “a proactive push to wipe out mosquitoes that could soon arrive carrying the Zika virus.” This, as researchers say they still don’t know whether Zika can be transmitted through saliva and urine and also continue to believe mosquito control efforts should prevent a widespread outbreak in the US.

[Roll Call](#) (2/8, Bennett, 126K) said the Administration “bluntly acknowledged ‘there is much that we do not yet know about Zika and its relationship to the poor health outcomes that are being reported in Zika-affected areas.’” The White House said we must “work aggressively to investigate these outbreaks, and mitigate, to the best extent possible, the spread of the virus,” which is why the Administration “wants lawmakers to act quickly.” [Politico](#) (2/8, Karlin, 1.07M) also said while White House press secretary Josh Earnest “said the administration is ‘hopeful that Congress will recognize the urgency’ of its funding request,” Senate Majority Leader McConnell “was noncommittal.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, Mufson, Sun, 8.98M) says some Republicans oppose “that much funding,” adding that Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) introduced legislation last week to “let federal agencies use unused funds allocated to fight the Ebola virus.” According to Stewart, “as of September 2015, there was approximately \$1.4 billion in remaining funds.” Similarly, [The Hill](#) (2/8, Fabian, Ferris, 862K) said “leaders of the health and national security committees were noncommittal about the funding package, saying they will wait to hear directly from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in a Tuesday briefing,” while other lawmakers, including Senate Minority Leader Reid, “were quick to support the White House’s emergency funding request.” [The Hill](#) (2/8, Carney, 862K) reported Reid on Monday “urg[ed] his colleagues to support the Obama administration’s request,” saying, “It’s critical that we approve the funds now immediately and give our government the resources it needs to fight the virus.”

[ABC World News](#) (2/8, story 6, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) reported there are questions about “whether the US Olympic athletes should be traveling to Rio.” Fauci: “It is difficult to give advice to people who have devoted the last x number of years training for that. The CDC and the NIH could give them the facts and the evidence based information.” ABC (Davis) added the US Olympic committee “is advising athletes to

listen to the CDC, while Olympic officials in Rio are trying to downplay the threat.”

OBAMA TO SEEK “DRAMATIC BOOST” IN CYBERSECURITY FUNDING. [The Hill](#) (2/8, Bennett, 862K) cited “multiple Hill offices, industry representatives and digital privacy advocates,” who said the President “is expected to request a dramatic boost in federal funding for cybersecurity.” As part of his budget proposal, the President will seek “over \$19 billion in cyber spending, a 35 percent increase over last year’s allotment [sic] of roughly \$14 billion.” The Hill noted it would be “a big jump for the White House after only asking for an additional \$1 billion last year, a roughly 10 percent increase.”

Hacker Obtains Employee Records From Justice, DHS. The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that “in the latest cyberattack targeting the federal government, an intruder gained access to information for thousands of employees at the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security, but officials said Monday that there was no indication that sensitive information had been stolen.” According to the Times, most of the information “appeared to have been culled from internal government directories, including employees’ email addresses, phone numbers and job titles.” Meanwhile, on Sunday the technology news site Motherboard reported “it had been approached by a hacker who claimed to have obtained employee information on about 20,000 people at the F.B.I. and 9,000 at the Department of Homeland Security.” The hacker “professed support for pro-Palestinian groups and vowed to make the information public in an apparent attempt to embarrass federal agencies that play a part in cybersecurity operations.”

Hacker Dumps Data On 30,000 FBI, DHS Employees. The [New York Daily News](#) (2/8, Silverstein, 3.7M) reports that the “unknown hacker published contact information for about 20,000 FBI employees Monday – just a day after leaking data from the Department of Homeland Security and threatening a Justice Department breach.” The data dump “appeared on a week-old Twitter account, @DotGovs, claiming to be an anti-Israel hacker,” and the user “tweeted an encrypted list of names, phone numbers and email addresses for DHS employees.” The Daily News “dialed more than 20 numbers published on the list,” and while “several calls went to the wrong person or disconnected lines,” most “connected to the respective person named in the data dump, either directly or through voicemail.” The FBI “referred questions to the Justice Department, which said it is ‘looking into the unauthorized access’ of its system but does not believe any ‘sensitive personally identifiable information’ was stolen.”

[The Hill](#) (2/8, Williams, 862K) reports that the hacker “told Motherboard that he obtained the data by first compromising a Department of Justice email account, then tricking an agency representative into giving him a token code that allowed him to gain access to the work computer of the email account owner.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “Winnowing Out In New Hampshire.” A [New York Times](#) (2/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says that under “the Darwinian efficiency that characterizes our modern electoral system, voters representing less than 1 percent of the American electorate may by Wednesday have effectively spoiled the chances of a half-dozen people who hoped they’d be the next American president.” Today’s primary in New Hampshire “will almost certainly narrow the field — but still not produce anyone with a surefire winning formula.”

“Evidence Of Prisoner Abuse, Still Hidden.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Pentagon’s release last week of 198 photos “added little to our understanding of the shameful period after the Sept. 11 attacks during which American troops systematically abused detainees,” and urges it to release “roughly 1,800 photos gathered as part of criminal investigations into allegations of prisoner mistreatment by American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

WASHINGTON POST. “North Korea’s Rocket Launch Shows That Mr. Obama’s ‘Strategic Patience’ Has Failed.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) editorializes that President Obama’s policy of strategic patience “has failed,” and the US needs a more effective strategy in response to recent North Korean provocations. Specifically, the US needs to implement sanctions “that strike at the regime’s inner circle.”

This could be done by designating China a money launderer and putting sanctions “on Chinese banks and other businesses that supply weapons and luxury goods.”

“Haiti Avoids Crisis At The Last Minute, But What Happens Next?” The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) editorializes that “Haiti wants and deserves a democratically elected new government on the prompt timetable set by the new agreement,” which is why there is a “pressing need for international vigilance” as the country moves forward with a new presidential runoff election “with so many potential disputes left unresolved.”

“DC Needs To Study Paid Family Leave More Carefully.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) hopes that the District of Columbia Council considers Mayor Muriel Bowser’s “sensible” suggestion for a “more careful study” of the “complicated” issue of paid family leave. The Post also says that any proposal should avoid taxing companies that already offer leave packages to their employees, as “imposing a tax on those companies would penalize them or encourage them to withdraw benefits.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Clinton’s UN Candidate?” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) argues for Congress to examine the record of Unesco head Irina Bokova, who may be nominated to be the next UN secretary-general. The Journal says Bokova was a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party during the Cold War. The Journal also wishes to know Hillary Clinton’s opinion on Bokova’s potential candidacy, as Bokova has participated in Clinton Global Initiative events and is friends with Marjorie Margolies, Chelsea Clinton’s mother-in-law.

“Chesapeake At Bay.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial notes that shares in Chesapeake Energy fell by a third Monday and says the recent market volatility is just the beginning of what will be a difficult year for American energy companies. The Journal says energy markets are already in recession and the situation will continue to deteriorate as long as oil prices hover around \$30 a barrel or lower. Given that, the Journal criticizes the President for using last week’s jobs report to claim an economic victory.

“Bush, Trump And The Super PACs.” An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says while Jeb Bush’s criticism of super PACs, his claim that a constitutional amendment would be needed to change the system is incorrect. Congress, the Journal argues, could fix the system and eliminate the need for super PACs by repealing McCain-Feingold, removing donation limits, and allowing candidates to raise funds from American donors in any amount.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

At Heart Of Coastal Panel Showdown, A Wider Debate
Former Murder Capital Of Mexico Awaits Pope
Hot, Dry: Where Are You, El Nino?
[Old Towns, New Political Turf In New Hampshire](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Global Growth Fears Hit Bank Stocks](#)
[GOP Race For Second In NH Intensifies](#)
[The Thorny Economics Of Illegal Immigration](#)
[Legal Fees Cross New Mark: \\$1,500 An Hour](#)

New York Times:

[New Hampshire Voters Hear Candidates’ Final Appeals Before Primary](#)
[Unsafe Lead Levels In Tap Water Not Limited To Flint](#)
[Undeclared In New Hampshire: “I Might Be Able To Bring Trump And Cruz Down”](#)
[Officer Peter Liang, On Stand, Breaks Down As He Recalls Brooklyn Killing](#)

[New, Reading-Heavy SAT Has Students Worried](#)

Washington Post:

[With Anti-Gun-Violence Ad, NBA Acts On Polarizing Issue](#)

[In Latin America, Zika Stirs Debate On Abortion](#)

[Barbs And Pleas Before NH Vote](#)

[Tough-On-Crime California Does A U-Turn](#)

["I Won't Put You In A Nursing Home": A Vow That Sometimes Can't Be Kept](#)

Washington Times:

[Hillary Counting On Bill To Blast Sanders In NH](#)

[Trump Confident He'll Win In New Hampshire](#)

[Ferguson To Decide On Feds' Justice Reform Plan](#)

[Virginia GOP Pushes Bill To Ban Funds For Sanctuaries](#)

[Nuke Clash Stymies EU Energy Policy](#)

[Obama To Earmark \\$1.8 Billion For Zika Fight As Outbreak Worsens](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Zika Virus-Spread; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Somalia-Airplane Explosion; India-Meteorite Death; 2016 Politics-Michael Bloomberg.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Republican Debate; 2016 Politics-Michael Bloomberg; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Syrian Civil War; North Korea-Missile Test; President Obama-Interview; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Zika Virus Spread; Chipotle-Health And Safety Training.

NBC: 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Analysis; Severe Weather; Cruise Ship-Severe Storm; Zika Virus Spread; Somalia-Plane Explosion; Heartburn Drug Warning; Taiwan Earthquake Damage.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 22 minutes, 25 seconds

Zika Virus Spread – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Cruise Ship-Severe Weather – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-New Hampshire Primary; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Blizzard; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Michael Bloomberg Potential Campaign.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Trump Bush Feud; North Korea-Missile Test; Zika Virus-US Funding Requests; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Blizzard.

NPR: 2016 Politics-New Hampshire Primary; 2016 Politics-Trump Bush Feud; Zika Virus-US Funding Requests; Saudi Arabia Special Forces-Syria; Asian Stock Markets; Oregon-Wildlife Refuge Protesters; New York Art Gallery-Forgeries; Los Angeles Mistaken Prisoner Release.

[Washington Schedule:](#)

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Representative Steve Israel; releases Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing; attends meeting with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Representative Steve Israel.

US Senate: 10:30 AM Sens. Markey; Franken join Sheriffs on health coverage for pretrial inmates –

Senators Edward J. Markey (D–Mass.) and Al Franken (D–Minn.) will be joined by Middlesex, Massachusetts Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Hennepin County, Minnesota Sheriff Richard W. Stanek for a press conference to discuss Medicaid coverage and continuity of care for pretrial inmates. Participants: Senator Edward J. Markey (D – Mass.); U.S. Senator Al Franken (D – Minn.); Middlesex, Massachusetts Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian; Hennepin County, Minnesota Sheriff Richard W. Stanek; Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA). Contact: Giselle Barry (Markey) 202-224-2742; Michael Dale-Stein, 202-224-2916.

8:30 AM Senate Budget Committee photo availability for President Barack Obama's Federal Year 2017 Budget Location: Rm 608 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on worldwide threats – Hearing on 'Worldwide Threats', with testimony from Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider 'S. 2030, The Advancing Targeted Therapies for Rare Diseases Act of 2015', 'S. 1622, The FDA Device Accountability Act of 2015', 'S. 2014, Next Generation Researchers Act', 'S. 800, The Enhancing the Stature and Visibility of Medical Rehabilitation Research at NIH Act', 'S. 849, Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act of 2015', 'S. XXXX, Preventing Superbugs and Protecting Patients Act', and 'S. XXXX, Improving Health Information Technology' Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

11:30 AM 'Japan and the United States: Local Partners, Global Allies' event at EWC – East West Center event entitled 'Japan and the United States: Local Partners, Global Allies', to discuss the social and economic impact of the United-States-Japan relationship and launch of Japan Matters for America / America Matters for Japan, featuring State Department Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kurt Tong, and Embassy of Japan in the United States Minister for Economic Affairs Kanji Yamanouchi. Special Guests include Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono, Democratic Reps. Mark Takai and Mark Takano, and Japan Ambassador to the U.S. Kenichiro Sasae Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/EastWestCenter>

2:30 PM Senate Environment subcommittee oversight hearing on federal-state fish and wildlife management – Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Federal Interactions with State Management of Fish and Wildlife' Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on DoD nuclear acquisition programs – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of Defense Nuclear Acquisition Programs and the Nuclear Doctrine', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities Robert Scher, and Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs Dr Arthur Hopkins; U.S. Navy Director of Strategic Systems Programs Vice Adm. Terry Benedict; and Air Force Global Strike Command Commander Gen. Robin Rand Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM GOP Sens. Lee and Grassley and law enforcement discuss the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act – Republican Sens. Mike Lee and Chuck Grassley join members of law enforcement to discuss their perspectives on the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015 – a briefing held following a pair of letters Republican leaders circulated to colleagues in which over 130 law enforcement leaders urged Congress to pass the measure 'because federal sentencing reform will reduce both crime and unnecessary incarceration'. Participants include former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration Chairman (and former New Orleans Police Superintendent) Ronal Serpas, San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada Richard Pocker Location: Rm 224, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

www.lee.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenMikeLee>

5:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on Syria and Iraq – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on 'Administration Update on the Way Forward in Syria and Iraq', given by Special Presidential Envoy For The Global Coalition To Counter ISIL Brett McGurk Location: SVC-217, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

8:00 AM 'Africa Policy Breakfast 2016: Boko Haram and its Regional Impact' – Africa Policy Breakfast 2016: Boko Haram and its Regional Impact, hosted by Democratic Reps. Karen Bass, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Gregory Meeks and Frederica Wilson, with keynote from Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who discusses the U.S. foreign policy as it relates to Boko Haram. Other speakers include George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs Dean Amb. Reuben Brigety II, and National Defense University Africa Center for Strategic Studies Dean Dr Raymond Gilpin Location: HVC 201AB, Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC bass.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepKarenBass>

2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including: 'H.R. 3016, Veterans Employment, Education, and Healthcare Improvement Act'; 'H.R. 3106, Construction Reform Act of 2016'; 'H.R. 2360, Career-Ready Student Veterans Act'; 'H.R. 4056, To Authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs all right, title, and interest of the United States to the property known as 'The Community Living Center' at the Lake Baldwin Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, Orlando, Florida; 'H.R. 677, American Heroes COLA Act of 2015'; 'H.R. 3234, VA Medical Center Recovery Act'; 'H.R. 2915, Female Veteran Suicide Prevention'; 'H.R. 3894, To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the prompt notification of State Child Protective Services by military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense required by law to report suspected instances of child abuse and neglect' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 8:30 AM CTIA 5G Leadership Forum – CTIA 5G Leadership Forum – 'The Next Generation of Wireless', with keynotes from Republican Sen. John Thune and FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel Location: Reserve Officers Association – Top of the Hill, 1 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC www.ctia.org [#CTIA5G](https://twitter.com/CTIA)

1:30 PM Agriculture Secretary Vilsack discusses FY 2017 Budget request – Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack discusses President Barack Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget request for USDA programs via national media call Location: TBD www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

2:00 PM DOJ press briefing on FY2017 Budget proposal – Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and Assistant Attorney General for Administration Lee Lofthus press briefing on the Department of Justice funding proposal in President Barack Obama's Federal Year 2017 Budget proposal Location: Dept of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.usdoj.gov> <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Senior Treasury official background briefing on Budget Greenbook – Department of the Treasury release the General Explanations of the Administration's FY 2017 Revenue Proposals, the 'Greenbook', a companion document to the Administration's Federal Year 2017 Budget Proposal. Senior Treasury official hosts background briefing for media Location: Media Room A, Dept of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC www.treas.gov <https://twitter.com/USTreasury>

11:00 AM GPO and OMB release President Obama's FY'17 budget – Government Printing Office and Office of Management and Budget release President Barack Obama's 'Budget for the U.S. Government, FY 2017', available in both printed copies or electronically via a mobile web app or online Location: Government Publishing Office, 710 N Capitol St NW, Washington, DC www.gpo.gov <https://twitter.com/USGPO>

1:30 PM Major County Sheriffs' Association / Major Cities Chiefs Association joint meeting – Major

County Sheriffs' Association / Major Cities Chiefs Association 2016 Joint Winter Meeting. Speakers include Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, FBI Director James Comey, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, and MCSA President Sheriff Sandra Hutchens Location: JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC www.mcsheriffs.com

2:30 PM Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz media briefing on the Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget request Location: Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC www.energy.gov <https://twitter.com/ENERGY>

6:30 PM Annual Friends of National Service Awards Reception – Friends of National Service Awards Reception, honor leaders in government, business and journalism, based on 'recognition and support for national service as a solution to some of the nation's most pressing challenges'. Honorees include Sens. John McCain, Michael Bennet, Kirsten Gillibrand and Kelly Ayotte and Reps, Joe Kennedy III, Robert Dold, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Rosa DeLauro, Garret Graves, Seth Moulton, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Virginia First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe, CSX Corp Chairman and CEO Michael Ward, and Mayors Richard Berry (Albuquerque), Sly James (Kansas City, MO), and Francis Slay (St. Louis, MO) Location: East Hall at Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC www.voicesforservice.org <https://twitter.com/Voices4Service>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that the unemployment rate in the US just fell below five percent, which is the lowest it's been in eight years. When asked for a comment on the number of unemployed Americans, [President] Obama said, 'I can't wait to be one of them.'"

Seth Meyers: "Chris Christie, in a new interview, continued to criticize Marco Rubio for his performance in this weekend's debate. And said Rubio is scripted and not spontaneous. To which Marco Rubio replied, 'That's not true, comma. I speak from the heart, exclamation point.'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump said this weekend he feels the Iowa caucus results were very unfair, to himself and Dr. Ben Carson. Other things Trump considers unfair to him include Google, sidewalks, shoe laces, oxygen, and dame Judy Dench."

Seth Meyers: "Considering this was the eighth Republican debate, you may have expected things to be running like a well-oiled machine by now. Instead, the night began with the precision of a kindergarten holiday pageant, led by Ben Carson, who somehow missed his cue to take the stage. Is Ben Carson really a brain surgeon, or did people start calling him that sarcastically, and it just stuck? 'Oh, yeah, that guy's a real brain surgeon.'"

Stephen Colbert: "There is a real excitement in the air because the presidential race has truly become a flaming toboggan ride toward dead man's curve, otherwise known as the New Hampshire primary. Tomorrow, the Granite State weighs in and all eyes have been on Marco Rubio, who stunned all the politicians when he won Iowa by coming in third. ... But despite the 'Rube-mentum,' the senator may have tripped up in Saturday's debate by sticking too closely to his talking points. ... Rubio repeated the same phrase so many times he summoned Candyman, who appeared behind him and killed his campaign."

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DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS PARTNERSHIP AT WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT

DEDICATION. The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "headlined the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday, marveling at the local partnership that developed it and persevered to win the site national park status." She said, "From this point forward, Waco will be known for its mammoths, which it should be known for, and for its community stewardship and philanthropy that has been so well demonstrated." Jewell added, "I haven't ever been to an event like this where the community pulled together and recognized that the future is about partnerships. It's not about the federal government coming in and deciding everything and paying for everything." Jewell "joined former First Lady Laura Bush at the event, along with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, city and state elected officials, former U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, and current U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-College Station."

The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) editorializes that while Jewell and Jarvis “touted the prehistoric story of the site — the almost human behavior of a nursery herd of Columbian mammoths caught in a flood or mudslide, with some apparently trying to save their babies — they also savored the story of commitment and homegrown ingenuity by local folks who recognized the treasure in their midst and worked in unison to preserve and champion it.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXXV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 30K), [KWTX-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 85K), and [KCEN-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 98K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT WITH OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATIONS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 344K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “planning to visit with leaders of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in Oklahoma to participate in a ceremonial signing of an agreement over tribal lands.” Jewell will “visit Durant on Tuesday to recognize the settlement of a nine-year lawsuit alleging the federal government mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands in southeastern and south-central Oklahoma.” The article notes that “the case had been scheduled to go to trial in July, but all sides entered into a settlement agreement approved by a federal judge last month in which the tribal nations agreed to receive a cash payment of \$186 million.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXII-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 46K), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (10/6, 81K), and [KTEN-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SUPPORTS TPP AGREEMENT. [Grist](#) (10/6, 6K) reports that “last night, the United States and 11 other countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore) finished drawing up what is now the largest trade agreement in history — covering 40 percent of the world’s economy.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “posted a photo of a cute elephant family on Twitter this morning with this message: Our kids should have a chance to see elephants & rhinos roaming the wild; trade deal can help that happen.”

US ANNOUNCES PLANS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FISHING, PROTECT OCEANS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Urbina, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the Administration on Monday announced plans to “step up the fight against illegal fishing, pollution and other crimes at sea,” including the creation of two new national marine sanctuaries – one in Maryland and the other in Lake Michigan. According to Administration officials, they also plan to “expand the use of satellites that track illegal activity.” Stressing the “urgency of the crisis,” Secretary of State Kerry told an international conference in Chile “that the sea was acidifying 10 times faster than at any other point in history, and that one-third of the world’s fish stocks were overexploited.”

[AFP](#) (10/6, Clark) quotes Kerry as saying, “The problem is there are people fishing illegally, unregulated, vast areas of the ocean where people use fishing methods that have been prohibited.”

[McClatchy](#) (10/6, Adams, 28K) reports that in a video message to conference participants, the President launched a program called “Sea Scout,” which is “designed to increase cooperation among nations seeking to identify and prosecute illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing around the globe.” The [AP](#) (10/6) reports Obama also recalled his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia and said he always maintained “a special love for the ocean,” and “said he would seek to protect more American waters in the coming months.” The AP notes that Chile “made its own ambitious declaration, cordoning off a vast expanse of the South Pacific Ocean” near Easter Island. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Wroughton, Slattery) reports Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said the protected area would include some 3,800 km (2,361 miles) in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

According to the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Harvey, 6.76M), the two areas designated US sanctuaries “were nominated...last year after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reopened the public nomination process for the first time in 20 years.”

TRIBES PUSH FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/5, 32K) reports that “five Four Corners-area tribes have united to propose a 1.9 million-acre Bears

Ears National Monument that would be the first truly collaborative land management effort between Native Americans and the federal government.” According to the article, “the Coalition is minting a blueprint for a degree of co-management that has never been tried before.” The plan “embodies true government-to-government relations and truly collaborative decision-making on all aspects of running a protected mass of land.”

RESEARCHER FINDS WAY TO FIGHT CHEATGRASS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the “profusion” of cheatgrass is “a big reason today’s Western fires burn more land, more frequently and with more ferocity than in the past, scientists say.” Now, “after more than a half-century of largely failed efforts to thwart the Sherman’s march of cheatgrass, a researcher may have a powerful new weapon against it.” Ann Kennedy, a soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, has “discovered naturally occurring soil bacteria that inhibit the growth of the weed’s deep root system, its competitive advantage, even as those bacteria leave native plants untouched.”

HAWAII SECESSIONISTS DEMAND NEW NAME FOR HONOLULU’S MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/6, Owens, 375K) reports that “now that President Barack Obama has decided to call Mount McKinley by the name Denali instead, NBC News has seen fit to call attention to an obscure MoveOn.org petition seeking to change the name of President William McKinley High School in Honolulu, Hawaii.” The creator of the petition, Aoloo Patao, says that “the name of McKinley High must be changed because it is a sad reminder of ‘the prolonged illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States.’” The article notes that “the online petition to rename McKinley High hosted by Moveon.org — a progressive advocacy group and political action committee — has garnered 1,080 signatures as of early Monday morning.”

Additional coverage of the Denali name change was provided by the [National Review](#) (10/6, 504K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARTHON. Additional coverage of the GRID Alternatives’ Tribal Solarthon was provided by the [East Hampton \(NY\) Press](#) (10/6, 21K).

EXPIRATION OF LWCF CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (10/6, Simon, Arce, 471K), Camilla Simon and Maite Arce, co-chairs of the Latino Conservation Alliance, criticizes Congress for allowing the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. They note that “the LWCF has also been an important economic driver supporting jobs and the revitalization of local communities.” They are also “concerned about the playgrounds, recreation centers, ball fields, and state park projects for future generations that hang in the balance.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/5, 41K) and the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/6, 54K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO ESTABLISH MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENTS. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/5, 99K), Margit Chiriaco Rusche, vice president and founder of the General Patton Museum, writes that “the lands in the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument hold a significant piece of our nation’s World War II history, which is still marked on these desert landscapes.” Rusche wants “to protect the stories and artifacts in this unique expanse of California desert I call home so that we can share this piece of our heritage.” She encourages “President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to establish the Mojave Trails National Monuments.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBE SUES OVER BIE RESTRUCTURING. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that “the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on Friday sued the U.S. Department of the Interior over a planned restructuring of the Bureau of Indian Education, claiming the proposal violates a settlement agreement and will disrupt essential education services provided to Native American schools.” The South Dakota tribe claimed that “the BIE decided to reduce the number of educational line offices under its Blueprint for Reform without

'meaningfully consulting' with affected tribes and failed to secure congressional appropriations or authorization."

BIA SAYS COMPLAINT BY TRIBE MEMBER IS PREMATURE. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that the BIA "told a federal court Friday that a Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma member who is trying to revive her petition to change the tribe's constitution brought her suit prematurely, since her administrative appeal challenging the BIA's denial of the petition is still being considered." According to the article, "the government told an Oklahoma federal court that it lacks jurisdiction to consider Anita Onco Johnson's complaint until the Interior Board of Indian Appeals finishes evaluating her appeal."

TRUMP SAYS WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM SHOULD KEEP THEIR NAME. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, Rushing, 5.59M) reports that "Donald Trump and Jeb Bush have agreed on precious little throughout the 2016 Republican presidential primary race, but on this they agree: The Washington Redskins team name should stay where it is." Trump on Monday said that "he disagreed with calls for the removal and retirement of the team name, as the former Florida governor had said last week on a new SiriusXM show intended to combine sports with politics." Trump said "any controversy over the team name was simply an issue of political correctness run amok."

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

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT WORKING TO AVOID WATER SHORTAGE. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/5, 1.12M), Lisa Atkins, president of the Central Arizona Project Board of Directors, writes that the Central Arizona Project has "stored enough water underground to fill Yankee Stadium more than 500 times." According to Atkins, "anticipating a shortage, CAP and the Arizona Department of Water Resources is now working with others to store an additional 740,000 acre-feet of new water in Lake Mead." She argues that "storing extra water in Lake Mead is critical in our efforts to avert a potential shortage in 2017."

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

[Onshore Energy Development:](#)

INTERIOR OPPOSES NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/6, 65K) reports that "House Democrats are expected to oppose legislation this week that would remove regulatory burdens for energy production on Native American land that tribes say have cost them tens of millions of dollars." The Native American Energy Act would "vest more regulatory authority over tribal energy production with the tribes themselves, rather federal regulators that have recently sought more stringent regulations on oil and gas production on federal land." The article notes that "among its provisions is language that would exempt tribal land from new Interior Department regulations on hydraulic fracturing, an innovative oil and gas extraction technique commonly known as fracking." Interior "opposes the bill in part due to that language."

BLM PROPOSES TO UPDATE RULES AND FEES ON OIL AND GAS. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (10/5, 44K) reports that the BLM has announced that it is updating the rules and fees governing oil and natural gas extraction in an effort to catch up to advances in technology used by the energy industries." Last week, the BLM announced a proposed rule updating and replacing its regulations, which have not been revised since 1989, related to the measurement of oil produced from federal and Indian onshore leases." The article notes that "the proposed rule would replace Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 4 (Order 4), which sets minimum standards for the measurement of oil extracted from public lands."

MURRAY SUING OVER FOIA REQUEST. The [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (10/6, 55K) reports that "Murray Energy Corp. is suing the federal government over alleged failure to comply with the Freedom of Information Act." The firm says the Interior Department and the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement "have completely ignored" its "request for information about a new rule opponents have said will be detrimental to underground coal mines such as those the firm operates in

West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Utah.” According to the article, “in revealing its lawsuit, Murray stated that it filed an FOIA request on Sept. 4, seeking information about the OSMRE’s Stream Protection Rule.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Morgantown \(WV\) Dominion Post](#) (10/6, 52K), [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K), [WAJR-AM Morgantown \(WV\)](#) Morgantown, WV (10/6), and [WBKO-TV Bowling Green \(KY\)](#) Bowling Green, KY (10/6, 45K).

GREEN GROUP STUDY: GAS PRODUCERS BENEFIT FROM BLM SUBSIDIES. [Inside Climate News](#) (10/6, McKenna) reports that according to a new study by Friends of the Earth, natural gas producers in North Dakota essentially receive a hidden federal subsidy worth tens of millions of dollars from “royalty-free flaring of natural gas from wells on public and tribal lands.” The article said the group’s study shows that over a six year period, “BLM subsidized the burning of \$524 million of natural gas by oil and gas companies operating on public and tribal lands in North Dakota.” Continental Resources, however, criticized the research, with Jeff Hume, the company’s vice chairman of strategic growth initiatives, saying the group had “obtained flare volume reports which are accurate, [but] what they don’t realize is the majority of gas that is reported as flared is inert gas, not hydrocarbons.” BLM spokesman Bradford Purdy also challenged the group’s claims, “saying producers that wish to flare must prove that capturing the gas would lead to a premature abandonment of recoverable oil reserves. Companies must also submit a plan that eliminates flaring within one year.”

WSJOURNAL BLASTS EPA’S REJECTION OF PEBBLE MINE PROJECT. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA’s rejection of Alaska’s proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency’s inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

Offshore Energy Development:

DOJ ANNOUNCES RECORD \$20.8 BILLION SETTLEMENT WITH BP OVER GULF OIL SPILL. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Johnson, 5.23M) reports that the Justice Department announced a record \$20.8 billion settlement on Monday “with British energy giant BP Monday, more than five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill stained more than 1,300 miles of the Gulf of Mexico’s coastline in the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history.” Attorney General Loretta Lynch said “the resolution marks the largest settlement against a single entity in U.S. history and will finance an unprecedented project to restore plant and wildlife habitats that were fouled by the spill of 3 million barrels of oil into the Gulf.” BP has agreed to pay a \$5.5 billion civil penalty, “the largest such penalty in the history of environmental law, and \$7.1 billion in damage claims under the Oil Pollution Act.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the final settlement of \$20.8 billion raises the total from the initial \$18.7 billion settlement announced in July, and notes that “at either amount, it is the largest environmental settlement – and the largest civil settlement with any single entity – in the nation’s history.” Lynch called the final settlement “a major step forward in our effort to deliver justice to the Gulf region in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy – the largest environmental disaster our nation has ever endured.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that “the highlights of the settlement include \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages, including \$1 billion BP agreed to pay earlier; \$5.5 billion plus interest for Clean Water Act penalties; and \$5.9 billion under a separate agreement to cover state and local government claims.” In July, “when the outlines of the deal were announced, BP put the cost of the settlement at \$18.7 billion,” and Attorney General Lynch “said the government was counting some coastline restoration money that BP did not count.” The Post notes that the settlement “does not, however, include \$4 billion BP agreed to pay earlier to settle criminal charges or the billions more it has spent cleaning up the oil spill and settling separate civil claims with private individuals.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) adds that a number of civil suits against BP remain pending, including a securities fraud trial set for January in which investors who bought BP shares claim that the company underestimated how much oil was spilled into the Gulf of

Mexico, an estimate used to determine the fines BP would later pay.

The [AP](#) (10/5, Tucker) reports that the settlement, “once approved by a judge, would resolve all civil claims against BP and end five years of legal fighting over a 134-million gallon spill that affected 1,300 miles of shoreline,” and also “would bind the company to a massive cleanup project in the Gulf Coast area aimed at restoring wildlife, habitat and water quality. ‘BP is receiving the punishment it deserves, while also providing critical compensation for the injuries that it caused to the environment and the economy of the Gulf region,’” Lynch said.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, Katakey, 2.66M) reports that the settlement “takes BP’s total budget for the spill to more than \$54 billion, five years after an explosion at the Macondo well polluted the Gulf of Mexico and forced the company to shed more than third of its market value and assets to pay for the accident.” [AFP](#) (10/5, Oberman) reports that Lynch said “she hopes the settlement will serve as a warning to companies about the need to operate ‘in as safe a manner as possible.’”

[The Hill](#) (10/5, Henry, 471K) reports that BP “will pay \$4.9 million to Gulf Coast states affected by the spill, as well as \$1 billion to local communities there.” The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (10/5, 769K) reports that Florida “stands to receive \$2 billion for economic damages, the most of any Gulf Coast state, and \$680 million for restoration projects.” The state “is also in line for \$572 million as part of the 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act, with that figure potentially growing to \$1.25 billion.”

In his “The Economic Hub” column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, 4.07M), Michael Hiltzik writes that “the estimate that more than \$15 billion of the final settlement will be tax deductible sounds correct to University of Michigan law professor David Uhlmann, former chief of the Justice Department’s environmental crimes section.” Restitution “on damage claims and restoration of the damaged environment have long been designated by the IRS as deductible charges. ‘That makes sense,’ he told me. ‘They’re business expenses.’”

The [Financial Times](#) (10/5, Chon, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Wolfgang, 344K), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/6, Alpert, 718K), [Reuters](#) (10/5, Heavey, Rucker, Stephenson) and [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/5, Eaton, 7K) also report.

NOAA To Hold Public Meetings On BP Oil Spill Restoration Plan. The [AP](#) (10/6) reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released an \$8.8 billion plan to restore Gulf of Mexico areas damaged by the BP oil spill. Public meetings seeking comment “are scheduled across the Gulf and in Washington for public comment on the 690-page plan,” the AP reports.

DESPITE SHELL’S DEPARTURE, OBAMA ADMINISTRATION STILL PLANS TO ISSUE ARCTIC DRILLING REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Cama, 471K) reported that the Obama Administration “still plans to issue regulations for oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean despite Royal Dutch Shell’s decision to abandon its drilling efforts ‘for the foreseeable future.’” Brian Salerno, director of the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, “said regulators are moving forward with their rules, even though drilling is not likely to return to the Arctic for years, or even decades.” The agency “wants to require drillers to keep a backup rig nearby to drill relief wells for blowouts, be able to contain spills through mechanical means and restrict the drilling season based on ice cover, among other provisions.” The oil industry and Republicans “have sharply criticized the proposal as overly prescriptive, expensive and unnecessary, while Democrats and environmentalists say the rules don’t go nearly far enough to prevent oil spills.”

Additional coverage of Shell’s exit was provided by [Platts](#) (10/6, 1K) and [Knowledge@Wharton](#) (10/5, 4K).

Moody’s: Shell’s Departure Could Have Negative Impact On Alaska’s Economy. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Carroll) reported that in a note released on Monday, Moody’s said that Shell’s departure from its Arctic oil exploration could have a negative impact on Alaska’s economy. Shell’s decision is considered credit negative for Alaska, despite the project occurring in federal waters, because it would have had indirect

benefits to Alaska's economy, including job generation and improving the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System's economic viability.

Seattle Times Endorses Yoshino For Port of Seattle Commission Position. In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (10/5, 962K) endorsed Marion Yoshino for Port of Seattle Commission Position 5. While presenting its reasons for the endorsement, the Times wrote that while both candidates "say the Port should have been more transparent regarding Shell," Yoshino "is more pragmatic, suggesting that revenue from today's oil projects can be used to research and invest in alternatives."

Commentary. In commentary carried by [The Hill](#) (10/5, Shogan, 471K), Cindy Shogan, executive director of the Alaska Wilderness League, praised Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) for introducing the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act in the House and urged Congress to support the bill. Shogan mentioned Shell's press release explaining the company's withdrawal from the Arctic, adding that "what Shell didn't mention in its statement was the growing opposition to Arctic drilling and the beating the company was taking in the court of public opinion."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE UNVEILS NEW INTERACTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE MAPS AT OUTERBIKE 2015. [KCSG-TV](#) St. George, UT (10/6, 43) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze "attended one of the nation's most important mountain bike events to introduce a new access tool for trail riders all across the country." According to the article, "developed by the BLM, in partnership with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and the MTB Project, the mobile-friendly online tool features interactive maps for 20 of the nation's most popular trails on public lands." Kornze said, "The BLM is proud to manage some of the world's best mountain bike trails. This new, mobile-friendly tool will help the public get a glimpse of these amazing places and plan their rides."

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ PLAN TO SELL MOJAVE GROUNDWATER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, 4.07M) reports that "Cadiz Inc.'s plans to sell Mojave Desert groundwater to Southern California communities have hit a major federal roadblock." The BLM says "Cadiz cannot use an existing railroad right-of-way for a new water pipeline that would carry supplies from the project's proposed well field to the Colorado River Aqueduct." According to the article, "by using the railroad right-of-way, Cadiz had hoped to escape federal environmental review of the 43-mile pipeline, one of the project's most expensive components." However, "in a letter to Cadiz on Friday, BLM's California director informed the company that it needs U.S. approval for a separate pipeline right-of-way over federal land," and "that would trigger review under federal environmental law, a potentially lengthy and costly process that could impose new conditions on the project."

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/6, 15K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HALT GRAZING ON CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups has forced public land managers to delay a permit for grazing on Canyons of the Ancients National Monument." According to the article, "the seven groups collectively filed a protest against proposed grazing allotments in the Flodine and Yellow Jacket areas." They claim "drought condition data is out of date and that grazing doesn't fit with the monument's mission to protect ancient ruins."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, 344K) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K).

PLAN TO LIMIT GRAZING TRIGGERS BACKLASH IN UTAH. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "a proposal from the federal government to limit livestock grazing in parts of southern Utah's Washington County is triggering backlash from local officials." The proposed plan from the BLM is "intended to restore native vegetation and create habitat for the protected Mojave Desert Tortoise on two national

conservation areas in the county.” But “government officials argue the plan unfairly hurts ranchers, and could damage the economy.”

BLM RANGERS FIND TWO MARIJUANA GROWS IN COLORADO. The [AP](#) Salt Lake City (10/6, 494K) reports that “authorities have arrested 10 people after the discovery of two large, unrelated marijuana grows on public land in western Colorado.” The Department of Justice announced Monday that BLM rangers “acting on two separate tips found the grows south of Gateway near the Utah border.” The rangers discovered “more than 1,200 fully mature marijuana plants, 211 kilograms of dried marijuana and a rifle at a site on the Dolores River corridor between Gateway and Naturita on Sept. 15.” Also, “a second illegal grow was discovered nearby on Sept. 30.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Paul, 787K), [KXRM-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/6, Case, 2K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 79K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE DECISION REFLECTS SHIFTING APPROACH TO SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Goode, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that “to many conservationists,” the Interior Department’s “decision to avoid listing the grouse reflects a larger shift in thinking that is taking hold in academic departments and advocacy circles around the country, even as it stirs controversy.” Some conservationists call “traditional approaches to species conservation have focused on saving individual animals or plants in specific locations” as “too narrow,” and they argue that conservation efforts “must work on a larger scale, focusing not on preserving single species in small islands of wilderness but on large landscapes and entire ecosystems, and the benefits that nature provides to humans.” According to this view, conservation efforts will “be more effective if they accept humans as a part of nature and come to terms with the fact that they have irrevocably altered the landscape.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K).

FWS RELEASES RARE FERRETS AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “rare black-footed ferrets chattered angrily before dashing out of pet carriers and ducking into burrows Monday at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge — a milestone for the highly endangered animals and for the former toxic waste site on the industrial edge of Denver.” The FWS “released 30 ferrets at the site, part of a program to reintroduce them in 12 states where they once thrived, from Montana to Texas.” The article notes that “chemical weapons and pesticides were once manufactured there, but it became a wildlife refuge in 2010 after a \$2.1 billion cleanup.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “This remarkable place shows that nature will recover and will thrive if given a chance.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 6.76M), [NPR](#) (10/5, 1.85M), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (10/5, 59K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/6, 962K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Press, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Elliott, 344K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/6, 99K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/6, Elliott, 5.98M), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 222K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR BLACK PINESNAKES, MUSSELS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is “moving forward with new protections for black pinesnakes.” The service is “listing the black pinesnake, which is endemic to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as a threatened species.” The agency is also “proposing to protect certain freshwater mussels.” The agency “proposed Monday listing the Suwannee moccasinshell, which is endemic to Florida and Georgia, as a threatened species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, 2.28M), the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (10/5, 129K), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, McConnaughey, 344K), and the [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (10/5, 34K).

FWS SAYS DESERT TORTOISE NO LONGER CANDIDATE FOR PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “the Sonoran desert tortoise is not at risk for extinction and will no longer be listed as a candidate for Endangered Species Act protections, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Monday.” The service says “the decision is partly because of the commitments various government agencies have made to protect the animal in Arizona.” Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, “We and our federal and state partners will continue to monitor the tortoises. However the current modeling in science demonstrates that there’s virtually no probability of extinction over the next decade.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (10/6, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5.59M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Astrid Galvan |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Galvan, 344K).

FWS PROPOSE DOWNGRADING PROTECTION FOR COLUMBIAN WHITETAILED DEER. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/6, 20K) reports that “one of the original endangered species – the Columbian white-tailed deer – is slowly making its way toward recovery.” On Tuesday, the FWS “proposed downgrading its protected status from endangered to threatened.” The article notes that “their numbers along the Columbia River were down to around 450 back in 1967 when they joined the bald eagle and California condor in the first group of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act,” and “now there are more than 900 deer in the lower Columbia River area.”

TRIBES CONTINUE PUSH TO MANAGE, OPERATE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (10/6, 19K) reports that “the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes continue to talk with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about another annual funding agreement that would transfer various degrees of management and operation of the National Bison Range to them, one of their attorneys said Thursday.” However, “a group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has opposed CSKT’s efforts at the Bison Range at every turn, saying it opens up 80 percent of the National Wildlife Refuge System and 57 national parks in 19 states to similar agreements with other Indian tribes.”

SURVEY FINDS FWS SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL MEDDLING IN WILDLIFE DECISIONS. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/6, Greenwald, 164K), Noah Greenwald writes that “a survey issued this week by the Union of Concerned Scientists finds that 74 percent of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists reported that consideration of political interests was too high at the agency.” He says that “the survey comes as no surprise” as “we’ve witnessed a score of politically driven decisions by the Fish and Wildlife Service in recent years to deny or weaken protections for endangered species.” He argues that “the Endangered Species Act is clear that decisions about how best to protect wildlife on the verge of extinction must be based solely on the best available science,” but “time and again, political and economic interests worm their way in and influence decisions to the detriment of our most at risk plants and animals.” Greenwald hopes that President Obama will “take this survey to heart – after all, it’s his administration’s own scientists raising the alarm – and use his time left in office to reform the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies being unduly influenced.”

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT ULM. The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star](#) (10/5, 67K) reports that NPS Director Jarvis will “visit ULM on Oct. 6th and attend a variety of local events while sharing the importance of preservation.” Jarvis said, “Leading up to the National Park centennial anniversary in 2016, my visit to Monroe is a great opportunity to invite a new generation of Americans to visit their national parks and historic sites, as well as highlight the relevance of the park system in our nation. The centennial goal of the National Park Service is to create and connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. I am looking forward to spending time with several classes of students from the area at a local park and Natural History Museum, amplifying the message of the Every Kid in the Park initiative and later speaking with college students and community members, inviting them all to learn, explore and engage with the natural and cultural resources of the park system. The National Park Service has something to offer everyone, in every corner of the country. We want everyone to know that and to benefit from America’s public lands.”

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION UNVEILS AD CAMPAIGN. [Fast CoCreate](#) (10/6, 100K) reports that “to show Americans that they are personally part of the country’s more than 400 national parks, the National Park Foundation and agency Grey New York enlisted the stunning work of body painter Natalie Fletcher.” According to the article, “in a new PSA and ad campaign, the official charity of America’s national parks shows visitors blending seamlessly into the incredible landscapes of national parks like Zion National Park to Federal Hall National Memorial.” The campaign seeks “to be a companion to the ‘Find Your Park’ movement for the upcoming National Park Service Centennial.”

NPS UNDER PRESSURE TO RENAME WASHINGTON’S “COON LAKE”. The [Raw Story](#) (10/6, 896K) reports that “the federal government is under pressure to rename a Washington lake for a black prospector instead of the racial slur that likely refers to him.” According to the article, “state officials agreed to change the name of Coon Lake and Coon Creek after a Seattle man convinced them the designation was intended as a racial slur against Wilson Howard, who worked claims and lived in the area in the 1890s.” The article notes that “the state’s board of geographic names officially changed the names to Howard Lake and Howard Creek in 2008, but the National Park Service continues to oppose the changes.” NPS officials said “they aren’t certain ‘coon’ referred to a black miner in an almost entirely white community more than 100 years ago — when newspapers regularly used the racial slur in reference to black people.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Mic](#) (10/6, 1.5M) and [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (10/6).

NPS RESTORING PAINTING OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Ruane, 6.76M) reports that the NPS is having Carl Bersch’s 1865 painting of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln “cleaned and restored for the first time in 35 years.” According to Laura Anderson, a NPS museum curator, “the piece, which depicts Lincoln being carried out of Ford’s Theatre in Washington after being shot by John Wilkes Booth, is thought to be the only image of the assassination painted by an eyewitness.” The painting eventually will be exhibited in the Ford’s Theatre complex.

ZION NATIONAL PARK INVESTIGATES CIRCUMSTANCES OF FLOODING DEATHS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that Zion National Park officials are “retracing what led up to the deaths of seven people in a flooded canyon last month before a panel convenes to assess what can be done to keep a growing number of visitors safe when spectacular natural settings turn perilous.” According to Zion National Park Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh, “investigators are talking to family members and examining the communications the group made in the hours before they canyon filled with fast-moving water from a powerful storm on Sept. 14.” The article notes that “the investigation could lead to changes in the permit system that controls who enters the park’s 21 narrow slot canyons, whose unique geological quirks also make them deadly.”

FLASH FLOODING CLOSSES DEATH VALLEY ROADS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “authorities say an intense wet rainstorm created flash flooding that closed roads in Death Valley National Park in California.” Death Valley National Park spokeswoman Linda Slater said Monday that “rangers toured remote roads and campsites and no injuries were reported after cloudbursts Sunday in the vast park near the Nevada-California state line.” The article notes that “all dirt roads in the park remained closed Monday, along with paved roads including Highway 178, or Badwater Road, between Furnace Creek and Shoshone, Dantes View Road, Greenwater Road and Scotty’s Castle Road.”

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERS USING BEETLES TO FIGHT DESTRUCTIVE INSECT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “predatory beetles could become a new tool in Shenandoah National Park’s effort to combat a destructive insect.” The park “plans to release predatory beetles at four locations within its boundaries.” Public input on the plan will be accepted through Oct. 15.

NPS APPROVES YELLOWSTONE TRAIL AND OVERLOOK IMPROVEMENTS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has “approved a project to repair and improve many of the overlooks and trails located along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park.” The NPS “found that the project would not cause any harm to historic and cultural resources in the area.” The project will improve overlooks and trails “as well as improve accessibility, pedestrian flow and safety.”

PYTHON CHALLENGE 2016 WON'T BE HELD EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (10/5, 651K) reports that “despite earlier reports to the contrary, Python Challenge 2016 will not be coming to Everglades National Park.” According to the article, “only a handful of authorized python removal agents will be participating in the park come January 16, when the Python Challenge is set to begin.”

ALCATRAZ ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE REHABILITATION PLANNED. The [Inside Bay Area \(CA\)](#) (10/6, 42K) reports that the NPS, “Coast Guard, the United States Lighthouse Society and the Land’s End clothing company jointly announced Monday the first step toward restoring the lighthouse” on Alcatraz Island. The article notes that “lighthouse backers commissioned a \$25,000 architectural study to determine the scope and cost of the work – laying the groundwork for a major fundraising campaign to pay for it.”

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SETS RECORD YEAR FOR VISITATION. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Prevost) reports that Yellowstone National Park has set a new annual visitation record. According to data compiled by the NPS, more than 3.8 million people have visited Yellowstone through the end of September. The figure breaks the previous annual record of 3.6 million visitors set in 2010.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “Sterling Fisher started volunteering at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park when he was only 6 years old.” On Friday, Fisher, now 18 year-old was “recognized as the recipient of the National Park Service’s Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award.” Fisher had “already contributed 300 hours of service to the park by the time he was 16,” and “in high school, he organized a junior chapter of Friends of the Smokies whose 20 members have completed more than 400 hours of volunteer service.” Also recognized on Friday was “longtime volunteer Tom Harrington.” Harrington has “been a park volunteer for 17 years and has contributed more than 20,000 hours of service.” He was “selected as the southeast regional winner for the Enduring Service Award.”

[US Geological Survey:](#)

USGS, SIOUX FALLS SURVEYING GROUNDWATER. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/6, 126K) reports that “the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey this week.” Sioux Falls has “contracted with CGG Canada Services to be flying a helicopter over the Big Sioux Aquifer to collect, record and map its geophysical measurements.” Officials say “the study will determine groundwater, soil, and sand characteristics to help in the future planning of water access points.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: PENDING HILL DEBATE, TPP DEAL A “LEGACY-MAKING” WIN FOR OBAMA. While much of the reporting on the TPP agreement cautions about a potentially bruising fight ahead on Capitol Hill, media coverage overwhelmingly casts yesterday’s announcement as historic, and as a major victory for President Obama. All three network newscasts, however, ignored the story last night.

This morning, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, A1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) refers on its front page to a “potentially legacy-making achievement for...Obama,” the “capstone for his foreign policy ‘pivot’ toward closer relations with fast-growing eastern Asia.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M) similarly states the pact brings the President closer to his “legacy-making goal to expand America’s influence in the Asia-Pacific region,” and the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports in a front-page piece that the deal “potentially” handed him “a legacy-defining victory late in his presidency.”

Along similar lines, [Foreign Policy](#) (10/5, Francis, Hudson, 364K) indicated on its website that the TPP “could become the most significant foreign-policy legacy” of the Obama Administration, while the [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) calls the agreement “the biggest free trade triumph of...Obama’s presidency,” and the [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) terms it “a major victory on a centerpiece of” his “international agenda.”

[AFP](#) (10/6, Handley) reports that “Obama, who made the TPP a priority of his second term,” said yesterday that the accord “reflects America’s values and gives our workers the fair shot at success they deserve.” Added Obama, “When more than 95 percent of our potential customers live outside our borders, we can’t let countries like China write the rules of the global economy. ... We should write those rules, opening new markets to American products while setting high standards for protecting workers and preserving our environment.”

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) reports that Obama “plans to sell the deal in person Tuesday at a meeting with business leaders who will gather at the Agriculture Department in Washington.” Yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack said the agreement “would ‘eliminate or significantly reduce tariffs on our products and deter non-science based sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that have put American agriculture at a disadvantage’ to other countries.” In a statement yesterday, the President said the TPP “levels the playing field for our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers by eliminating more than 18,000 taxes that various countries put on our products,” even as it “puts American workers first and will help middle-class families get ahead.”

The [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) quotes USTR Froman as saying of the deal, “We think it helps define the rules of the road for the Asia-Pacific region.” [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) notes that Froman also said the deal “will ‘promote economic growth’ and ‘support higher paying jobs.’”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/5, Fredrikson, 455K) said that for the President, “the deal could represent a historic effort to protect not only commerce, but the economy and the environment as well and specifically ensure US competitiveness amid a growing China.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Makinen, 4.07M) notes that China “has been pursuing its own bilateral trade deals with countries including Australia and South Korea,” and “is also participating in talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which would link the 10 members of the Assn. of Southeast Asian Nations with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, accounting for about 30% of global gross domestic product.”

Ian Bremmer, in an online analysis for [TIME](#) (10/5, 19.55M), indicated that in addition to the US, “all the other countries” involved “are expected to pass it, as well,” though “the main remaining question is Canada, where the matter might be decided by an upcoming election.” Bremmer concludes that “on balance, this is a good deal for the United States and an important win for the Obama administration.”

The debate now moves to the US Congress, where, according to [Politico](#) (10/5, Gass, 942K), the “dysfunction and unpredictable nature of the US political system” mean the pact “could still conceivably unravel.” For one thing, “with populism animating the base of both parties, a trade pact is bound to be unpopular with many early primary voters.” The [Boston Globe](#) (10/6, Horowitz, 1.1M) sees “no guarantee” Congress “will pass” the agreement, as “Democratic support...has always been weak” and Republicans would have “to have to line up behind Obama, burnishing his legacy in the run-up to the 2016 presidential contest.”

As the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes, Obama “has to wait 90 days after agreement before signing the pact, and only then will Congress begin to debate it,” and “as a result, a vote on the agreement likely will not happen until well into 2016.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) also reports that “the vote will come during the presidential primary nominating contests,” and notes that “opponents of the deal, including labor unions, environmental groups and liberal Democrats, have pledged to mount a final campaign to block the accord.”

More optimistic is the [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/6, Lindenberger, 1.15M), which indicates in an analysis piece that the President “has the upper hand in the negotiations in Congress, as that body has already renewed presidential fast-track negotiation authority,” and concludes that “the weight of the momentum, after years of negotiations, will likely be in favor of ratifying the agreement.” Congressional approval, however, won’t come “without significant opposition.” On its website, [The Atlantic](#) (10/5, Berman, 2.69M) reported that “Administration officials sounded confident that Congress would ultimately ratify” the deal it, pointing out that the Administration “would be spending months going over it with lawmakers point by

point.”

According to [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), “the White House began lobbying Democrats” yesterday. Said press secretary Josh Earnest, “Our goal here is to talk about the benefits of the agreement. ... There are well-known differences of opinion on this and I don’t anticipate we are going to persuade every member of Congress.” In fact, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Granville, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports, “many Democrats said the president would have to address their concerns over labor and environmental standards and investor protections when he returns to Congress seeking approval of the trade deal.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Carter, 164K), meanwhile, said that when it comes to the TPP, “Obama has the Senate sewn up,” but cautioned that “Congressional Democrats...loathe the agreement” and that yesterday, “Republican leaders didn’t exactly celebrate the administration’s announcement.” [The Hill](#) (10/5, Carney, 471K) noted on its website that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “warned...that Congress will give ‘intense scrutiny’” to the deal, and said, “Serious concerns have been raised on a number of key issues.” [Roll Call](#) (10/5, Lesniewski, Flemming, 113K) reported that McConnell also said, “In the months ahead, the Senate will review this agreement to determine if it meets the high standards Congress and the American people have demanded.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Reilly, 164K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Paul Ryan, “who co-sponsored legislation earlier this year to give Obama fast-track authority to expedite trade negotiations,” yesterday “were hesitant to praise the agreement.” Hatch “expressed concern that the deal squanders a ‘historic opportunity to break down trade barriers for American-made products,” and Ryan “said he is reserving judgment’ on the deal until he can further review the agreement.” [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cowan, Lawder) quotes Hatch as saying, “I am afraid this deal appears to fall woefully short.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that Hatch also said, “I will carefully scrutinize it to see whether my concerns about rushing into a deal before meeting all US objectives are justified.”

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes that National Council of Textile Organizations President Augustine Tantillo said yesterday, “Though we are waiting to examine the final details, our briefings at the Atlanta TPP round lead us to believe that US negotiators were able to achieve a well-balanced and reasonable outcome.” The AFL-CIO, however, said in a statement, “We ask the Administration to release the text immediately, and urge legislators to exercise great caution in evaluating the TPP.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports that the Sierra Club’s Ilana Solomon charged that the Administration “is pursuing policies under extreme secrecy,” adding, “The entire TPP has been negotiated behind closed doors. ... The lack of dialogue is abysmal.” The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Nixon, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), however, says “environmentalists praised wildlife protections included in the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal announced Monday, calling them groundbreaking.” The Times quotes the World Wildlife Fund’s David McCauley as saying, “The provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership go beyond what we have seen in other trade agreements.”

The [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#) (10/5, Williams, Subscription Publication, 118K) reports that Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed came out in favor of the agreement, while UPS CEO David Abney called it “a historic agreement that represents real market opportunities for US companies of all sizes and a chance to compete on a more level playing field.”

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Davidson, 5.23M) reports that the deal “should boost the US economy and lower consumer prices on some imports,” according to experts such as “Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M), meanwhile, reports that “private studies suggest that the Pacific accord would add only modestly to US economic growth and have little overall effect on jobs,” but “would have a proportionately larger effect in California.” [McClatchy](#) (10/5, Hall, 28K) similarly indicates that “the immediate trade benefits are likely to fall largely on the West Coast because of geography and existing rail and port connections.” However, “the agreement has broader importance because it encompasses countries that together account for about 40 percent of the global

economy.”

Sanders Blasts “Disastrous” TPP Amid Media Speculation About Clinton’s Stance. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Needham, 471K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders yesterday called the pact “disastrous,” and declared himself “disappointed but not surprised” by it. Added Sanders, “Wall Street and other big corporations have won again.” The [New York Observer](#) (10/5, Barkan, 203K) further quotes Sanders as saying, “It is time for the rest of us to stop letting multi-national corporations rig the system to pad their profits at our expense.” [Politico](#) (10/5, Strauss, 942K) also notes Sanders’ comments.

According to [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M), “Sanders’ opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership could put political pressure on Hillary Clinton.” In the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, 3.75M), Cameron Joseph writes, “It will be interesting to see what stance...Clinton takes on the deal.” Clinton “originally praised early versions as the ‘gold standard’ of trade agreements but has been more critical of it since she became a candidate – and it became an issue on the campaign trail.” [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), meanwhile, indicated that “a key determining factor in whether TPP does pass Congress is likely to be...Clinton.”

[Politico](#) (10/5, Guida, 942K) reports that “if Clinton supports the pact, she is sure to anger her party’s base, especially labor and environmental groups.” However, “opposing the deal is also a problem because it opens her to charges of flip-flopping.”

Many Industries Back Deal, But Some Point To Shortcomings. In an analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A2, Kesmodel, Mauldin, Rockoff, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) breaks down industries seen as winning and potentially losing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. On the winning side are agriculture, aerospace, and apparel, while the pharma and tobacco industries pointed to shortfalls in the agreement. The Journal says that the agriculture sector strongly backs the deal, as do some industry groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers. Boeing and Intel also voiced support. Meanwhile, Ford raised concerns about currency manipulation, and the pharmaceutical trade group PhRMA pointed to what it said were insufficient intellectual property provisions.

The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Bradsher, Pollack, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports, “Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania. Auto-parts workers in the Midwest. Pharmaceutical companies concentrated around New Jersey.” These are the “pivotal groups, not to mention consumers across the country,” who “can expect a wide range of changes in the years ahead from the newly concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, 2.66M), meanwhile, reports that Darci Vetter, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the USTR, said the accord “will boost sales by ‘billions,’” and added, “Our meat industry is a big winner.”

The [Detroit News](#) (10/6, Shepardson, 493K) reports that it “has learned that under the deal, America’s 25 percent tariffs on imported light trucks would remain in place for 30 years.” Meanwhile, “the 2.5 percent tariffs on cars would be in place for 25 years, and begin to be phased out after 15 years – falling first to 2.25 percent, and then to 1.25 percent in year 20.” [Reuters](#) (10/6, Hughes, Krolicki), meanwhile, says the pact will give Japan more flexibility to purchase parts from Asia for cars sold in the US.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/6, 2.66M) indicates that “US lawmakers sought strong and enforceable language on currency manipulation, but that wasn’t in the TPP agreement and will have to be negotiated separately, Representative Sander Levin of Michigan said in a memo to fellow Democrats in the House Advisory Group for Negotiations prior to the deal’s announcement.” Bloomberg adds that the Treasury Department “will handle those talks.”

WPost Praises TPP Deal. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that “what’s emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama’s promise of a ‘21st-century’ agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs.” Looking at the upcoming congressional debate, the Post concludes that “it’s enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that.”

White House Hopeful About TTIP Talks. The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) reports that the TPP agreement “could provide a boost for a second major trade deal with the European Union that is still being negotiated.” Earnest, notes [Reuters](#) (10/6, Edwards), said of the European trade deal, or TTIP, “The negotiations around TTIP are not quite as advanced, but if there is an opportunity for us, based on our consultations with our friends in Europe, to reach an agreement that would have the same kind of economic potential for American businesses and American workers, then we wouldn’t hesitate to pursue it.”

OBAMA WILL MEET WITH SHOOTING VICTIMS’ FAMILIES IN OREGON FRIDAY. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the White House said Monday that President Obama will travel to Roseburg, Oregon on Friday to meet privately with the families of those shot at Umpqua Community College last week. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Eilperin, 6.76M) reports that “according to one White House official, who asked for anonymity to discuss the event in advance, ‘further details about the president’s travel to Oregon will be made available in the coming days.’” The President “was headed to the Pacific Northwest already on Friday” for a Seattle fundraiser for Sen. Patty Murray. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Korte, 5.23M) says it will be Obama’s second visit to the town; “in 2008, he made an unscheduled campaign stop” there.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), John Blackstone reported that “students and staff returned to the community college campus today not for classes but for counseling and to retrieve things left behind in the rush to escape.” CBS, as well as [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 5, 1:35, Holt, 7.86M), profiled some of the victims and spoke to family members.

Earnest Says White House Looking Into Executive Action On Guns. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/5, Ross, 375K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Monday that the White House “is considering whether President Obama can take executive action to enforce stronger gun control measures.” Earnest said, “The President has frequently pushed his team to consider a range of executive actions that could more effectively keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who shouldn’t have access to them. That’s something that is ongoing here.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Wolfgang, 344K) reports Earnest also said “voters who feel passionately about the issue may have to cast their ballots solely based on a candidate’s position on guns.” He said, “It may be time for some voters to decide they’re single-issue voters.”

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Reynolds, 5.23M) contributor Glenn Harlan Reynolds writes that President Obama “issued a bold call” in saying it is time “to ‘politicize’” mass shootings “in service of getting rid of guns.” But “no significant gun legislation” will make it through Congress, and gun control is “a bad electoral issue for Democrats.” Reynolds says Obama is stressing the issue to draw attention away from other matters like foreign policy troubles and Hillary Clinton’s campaign difficulties.

Bloomberg Group Proposes Five Gun-Control Executive Actions. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports Everytown for Gun Safety, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s gun control group, “is pushing President Obama to issue new gun regulations in the absence of congressional action.” The group “released a list of five executive actions it says Obama could take to reduce gun violence.”

According to the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, Siemaszko, 3.75M), the proposals include “enforcing the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act by barring people from carrying guns within 1,000 feet of a school,” requiring all “all high-volume gun sellers – including private sellers” – to “obtain dealer licenses and comply with applicable laws, including background checks” on all sales, reporting “every would-be gun purchaser who fails a federal background check to local law enforcement for follow-up,” helping states that currently require background checks “by giving them access to FBI data,” and “barring anybody convicted of domestic abuse...from owning a gun.”

Reid Pushes For Background Checks, Calls Republicans “Puppets Of The NRA.” [Politico](#) (10/5, Kim, Everett, 942K) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid said Monday “that he is reaching out to other Democratic senators on moving background checks legislation,” and criticized Republicans. He said,

“One thing is clear: To pass background checks, we need Republicans to stop acting as puppets of the NRA.”

Clinton Says She Would Seek Tighter Gun Restrictions As President. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Hillary Clinton “added her voice to the conversation about gun violence” Monday. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Becker) reports Clinton said in New Hampshire Monday that she would seek expanded background checks for gun buyers as president, and would also take steps to hold gun manufacturers accountable for crimes committed with their products. Clinton asked a community college audience, “How many people have to die before we actually act, before we come together as a nation?”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Rappeport, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says for Clinton, “the issue is an opportunity to present herself as the most proactive Democratic candidate on gun control.” [USA Today](#) (10/6, Przybyla, 5.23M) says Clinton’s remarks set up “a contrast with Bernie Sanders on one of the few issues where she has a more liberal record.” Sanders, “who represents a state with a large number of gun owners, has a history of gun control opposition.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Miller, Riddell, 344K) also reports on Clinton’s remarks.

Shooter’s Mother Wrote Online About Keeping Guns At Home. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Healy, Mcintire, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Laurel Harper, mother of shooter Christopher Harper-Mercer, said in a series of online posts over the years that “she kept numerous firearms in her home and expressed pride in her knowledge about them, as well as in her son’s expertise on the subject.” She wrote at one point, “I keep two full mags in my Glock case. And the ARs & AKs all have loaded mags. No one will be ‘dropping’ by my house uninvited without acknowledgment.”

CITING MCCARTHY REMARKS, CLINTON CALLS BENGHAZI PANEL “POLITICAL PARTISAN COMMITTEE.” On [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 8, 2:10, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir reported that Hillary Clinton “came out swinging” on Monday “at the Benghazi committee.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega added, “With her sagging polls in” New Hampshire, Clinton – visiting the state on Monday – went “after the Republican led Benghazi committee investigating her private email server.” Referring to House Majority Leader McCarthy’s comments last week that the panel’s probe had damaged her standing in the polls, Clinton was shown saying of Republicans, “Look at the situation they chose to exploit to go after me for political reasons, the death of four Americans in Benghazi. I knew the ambassador. I identified him. I asked him to go there.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 6, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported Clinton on Monday “appeared to have new wind in her sails, given an opening after a political gaffe by” McCarthy. NBC’s Andrea Mitchell reported that “Clinton was on fire today, lashing out at the House Benghazi committee during a ‘Today’ show town hall.” Mitchell added that Clinton seized “on Kevin McCarthy’s damaging admission that [the Benghazi panel’s probe] was politically motivated.” Mitchell also reported that Clinton went “after Republicans for their response to [last week’s deadly shooting spree in] Oregon,” criticizing Jeb Bush and Donald Trump by name.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Miller, 344K) reports that Clinton argued McCarthy’s comments “proved the panel was [a] political hit job aimed solely at her.” Clinton, however, “stopped short of backing calls by other top Democrats to shut down the committee, saying that is up to Congress.” Of the Republicans, Clinton said, “Now that they have admitted that it is a political partisan committee for the sole purpose of going after me, not trying to make our diplomats who serve in dangerous areas safer, that’s up to the Congress.”

Clinton Ad Highlights McCarthy Comments. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Clinton aides are launching a TV ad highlighting McCarthy’s remarks. In the ad, a narrator says, “The Republicans finally admit it.” The spot “then cuts to footage of Mr. McCarthy, with the voice of the NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell saying during one of her broadcasts: ‘Republican Kevin McCarthy saying the committee investigating Benghazi and Clinton’s emails was created to destroy her candidacy.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Gearan, 6.76M) reports that in the spot, which will “begin airing Tuesday on

CNN and MSNBC,” a narrator says, “The Republicans have spent millions attacking Hillary because she’s fighting for everything they oppose. From affordable health care to equal pay, she’ll never stop fighting for you and the Republicans know it.”

Democrats On Benghazi Panel Say They’ll Begin Releasing Witness Transcripts. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cornwell, Allen) reports that Democrats on the Benghazi Committee on Monday said that they – in defiance of the Republicans on the GOP-led panel – will release a transcript of an interview the committee conducted with Cheryl Mills, who served as Clinton’s chief of staff at the State Department when the Libya terror attacks occurred – a move that comes in the wake of McCarthy’s comments last week. In a Monday letter to Benghazi panel chairman Trey Gowdy, the Democrats on the committee said that they would, starting with the testimony of Mills, begin releasing interviews of various witnesses in order “to correct the record” over what the Democrats said had been “a series of selective leaks of inaccurate and incomplete information” by Republicans aimed at hurting Clinton.

Asked About FBI Probe Of Clinton Email System, Lynch Says All “Leaks Are Detrimental.” In a blog post, [Politico](#) (10/5, Gerstein, 942K) reported that Attorney General Lynch, asked “about leaks in the FBI inquiry into potential classified information breaches in...Clinton’s private email system,” on Monday offered “a broadside against improper public discussions of law enforcement matters,” though she made no “direct reference to the ongoing probe into the former secretary of state’s private email setup.” Lynch, speaking at a news conference unrelated to the FBI probe, said, “I think leaks are detrimental to any matter, no matter what it is, no matter who is involved because everyone wants to have matters conducted in the way the department always does, which is thoroughly, fairly, efficiently and with a view towards whatever the ultimate resolution is going to be.”

WPost Examines Clinton’s Interactions With Wealthy Donors While At State. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Hamburger, 6.76M) reports on emails released last week by the State Department that show how Clinton, during her tenure as secretary of state, “interacted with major donors to her family’s causes,” remaining “in touch with her political network before her 2016” White House bid. The emails also “show how these donors, some of them with interests before the US government, gained high-level access to press policy concerns inside the Clinton-led State Department.” As examples of the donors, the Post mentions George Soros, “a top contributor to the Clinton Foundation,” media mogul Haim Saban, and Bill Gates of Microsoft, among others, and the Post adds of Clinton, “Because she and her family have raised so much money over the years from wealthy individuals and major corporations,” the Democratic presidential frontrunner’s “public business as secretary inevitably brought her in contact with private interests that helped boost her family’s philanthropy and income.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*The Aftermath Of A Deadly Airstrike In Afghanistan.*” An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says Gen. John Campbell’s promise of a “through investigation” of the US airstrike which hit a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz is “not sufficient.” The Times argues that “an independent panel should quickly be empowered to obtain all the information needed to produce a credible conclusion about what went so horribly wrong.”

“President Obama Needs To Make Case For Pacific Trade Deal.” A [New York Times](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial calls on the President to “persuade the public and Congress...that this is a good deal.” The Times argues that “done right, an agreement tying these countries together should bolster everyone’s economy and help raise labor, environment and other standards.”

“Foreclosure Abuses, Revisited.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) argues that the “promise of widespread relief for homeowners facing foreclosure in the wake of the housing bust has never been realized,” because the government “did not require the banks to rework bad loans, which in many cases the banks offloaded on the federal agencies that insured them.” The Times says that “federal mortgage sales are apparently occurring before all borrowers have been given a chance to apply for and receive help that was promised,” and “for that

reason...should be suspended until the government has procedures in place to protect the rights of homeowners.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is A Trade Deal Worth Celebrating.”* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that “what’s emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama’s promise of a ‘21st-century’ agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs.” Looking at the upcoming Congressional debate, the Post concludes that “it’s enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that.”

“The EPA’s New Smog Limits May Be Late, But They Are A Start.” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) says the Administration’s “push to change ozone regulations” is late, considering that under the Clean Air Act, the EPA “must reevaluate its ozone regulations every five years and update them according to current science.” The Post adds that at the new standards issued by the EPA last week, “health complications from dirty air would still occur, but they would decrease,” and notes that “the level the EPA chose is at the high end of the range of options it was considering, which is a significant concession to industry.”

“Texas’s War On Birthright Babies.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) argues in an editorial that “Texas, blinded to the law by its antipathy to illegal immigrants, has determined that it is somehow exempt” from the 14th Amendment, which “states plainly that citizenship is automatically conferred on anyone born in the United States.” The Post calls the states refusal to issue birth certificates to children whose parents are undocumented immigrants, an “act of stunning official arrogance,” adding that it is “not governance; it’s harassment and oppression.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“More Proof On Pebble.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA’s rejection of Alaska’s proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency’s inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

“Bharara’s Supreme Court Miss.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) laments the fact that in declining to hear an appeal of a decision which overturned two insider-trading convictions, the Supreme Court did not take the opportunity to clarify insider-trading law, but lauds the court for letting stand the ruling that overturned the convictions, and repeated its argument that insider-trading prosecutions are too often the result of prosecutorial overreach.

“The Lost Education Opportunity.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues that while John King is a good choice to replace outgoing Education Secretary Duncan, he is unlikely to achieve much in the last days of the Administration. The Journal editorial focuses primarily on Duncan’s tenure, criticizing his unwillingness to stand up to the unions and the Administration’s actions concerning for-profit higher education.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Governor Signs End-Of-Life Act](#)

Bumper Crop Of Squalor

A Last-Ditch Effort To Save LA Firm

[Trade Deal Puts A US Stamp On Asian Economy](#)

[US Changes Its Account On Bombing Of Hospital](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman Steps Down](#)

[Activist Investors: Helping Or Hindering?](#)

[US Sees Russian Drive Against CIA-Backed Rebels](#)
[Price Increases Drive Drug Firms' Revenue](#)

New York Times:

[Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal Is Reached](#)
[Russian Soldiers To Join Fight In Syria](#)
[US General Says Afghans Requested Airstrike That Hit Kunduz Hospital](#)
[Oregon Killer's Mother Wrote Of Troubled Son And Gun Rights](#)
[A Missing Ship With No Signs Of Survivors](#)
[Scandal Erupts In Unregulated World Of Fantasy Sports](#)

Washington Post:

[Bernie Sanders's Red-State Appeal](#)
[Coast Guard Thinks Cargo Ship Sank In Hurricane](#)
[New Nationals Manager Must Take A Leading Role](#)
[Nations Agree To Pacific Pact](#)
[Pentagon Admits US Gunship Hit Hospital](#)
[DC Seeks To Offer Best Family-Leave Policy In US](#)

Financial Times:

[US And 11 Nations Seal Pacific Trade Deal](#)
[Jack Dorsey Back As Twitter CEO](#)

Washington Times:

[Clinton White House Suppressed Evidence Of Iranians' Terrorism](#)
[Following Oregon, Clinton On Anti-Gun Warpath](#)
["It Was Not Our Best Year"](#)
[Lawmakers, Candidates Are Skeptical Of Trade Deal](#)
[Pakistani Denies Armed Drones Made In China](#)
[Houston Debates Gender ID, Public Restrooms Before Vote](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: US Cargo Ship-Sunk; Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Rescues; American Airlines Flight-Pilot Death; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Ignition Switches-Carbon Monoxide; Airline Ticket Pricing.

CBS: Severe Weather; US Cargo Ship Sunk; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; American Airlines-Pilot Death; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Syria-Russian Military; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombed; Former US Congressman-Gun Violence Discussion; Air France-Union Strikes.

NBC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; US Cargo Ship Sunk; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombed; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; 2016 Politics-Carly Fiorina; American Airlines-Pilot Death; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; Air France-Union Strikes.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 10 minutes, 50 seconds
US Cargo Ship Stranded – 7 minutes, 25 seconds
Afghanistan Hospital Bombing – 6 minutes, 20 seconds
Oregon College Shooting – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
2016 Politics – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
American Airlines-Pilot Death – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-South Carolina; Oregon College Shooting; American Airlines-Pilot Death; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; US Cargo Ship Sunk.

CBS: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Sunk; California Governor-Right To Die Bill; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing;

NPR: California Governor-Right To Die Bill; Severe Weather-South Carolina; Justice Department-BP Oil Spill Costs; Bethlehem Violence-Palestinian Boy Killed; Asian Markets; Russia-Turkish Air Space

Violation; Nevada-Mental Health Budget.

FOX: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Sunk; California Governor-Right To Die Bill.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No public schedule announced.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 11:30 AM Senators Offer Measure to Help Military Families – – U.S. Senators Roy Blunt (Mo.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y) will hold a press conference along with military families and support groups to announce the introduction of the Military Family Stability Act of 2015. Speakers include: Senators Roy Blunt and Kirsten Gillibrand; Members, National Military Family Association; Mia Reisweber – military spouse, Ph.D. student; Liz O'Brien – military spouse, former Division 1 college basketball coach. Contact: Press Office, (202) 224-1403. Location: SVC 209

2:30 PM Fired California nurse; Sen. Bernie Sanders – Workers Rights Bill – Allysha Almada, RN will also join Sen. Bernie Sanders for a press conference to introduction of a new bill by Sanders and colleagues to strengthen the right of workers to form a union. Speakers: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Mark Pocan, introduction of Workplace Democracy Act, Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office Building, 216) NOTE: Allysha will also speak at a press event at 1 p.m. with leaders of the AFL-CIO in advance of the White House Summit. Location for that event: AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St NW. Location: Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office.

2:30 PM Fired California nurse; Sen. Bernie Sanders – Workers Rights Bill – Allysha Almada, RN will also join Sen. Bernie Sanders for a press conference to introduction of a new bill by Sanders and colleagues to strengthen the right of workers to form a union. Speakers: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Mark Pocan, introduction of Workplace Democracy Act, Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office Building, 216) Contact: Senator Sander's office – (202) 224-5141. NOTE: Allysha will also speak at a press event at 1 p.m. with leaders of the AFL-CIO in advance of the White House Summit. Location for that event: AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St NW. Location: Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office. www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the NLRB joint employer decision – Hearing on 'Stealing the American Dream of Business Ownership: The NLRB's Joint Employer Decision', with testimony from MODE Stores owner and founder Ciara Stockeland; Tilson Home Corporation President/CEO Edward Martin; Ogletree Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart shareholder Mark Kisicki; and Altshuler Berzon partner Michael Rubin Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

2:15 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on 'how overregulation harms minorities' – Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts Subcommittee hearing on 'Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities', with testimony from National Black Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Harry Alford; The LIBRE Institute National Economic Prosperity Manager Michael Barrera; Loving Tax Services owner and operator Sabina Loving; Sierra Club President Aaron Mair; Public Citizen Regulation Policy Advocate Amit Narang; Pacific Legal Foundation Principal Attorney Timothy Sandefur; and Emerging ChangeMakers Network Soul'utions Business Accelerator William Scott Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Afghanistan – Hearing on 'The Situation in Afghanistan', with testimony from United States Forces-Afghanistan Resolute Support Mission Commander Gen. John Campbell Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Energy Secretary Moniz testifies to Senate Energy Committee on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues, with testimony from Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz; Securing America's Future Energy Commission on Energy and Geopolitics Co-Chair (and former Director of National Intelligence) Adm. (Ret.) Dennis Blair; Columbia University Center for Global Energy Policy Founding Director Jason Bordoff; ClearView Energy Partners Managing Director Kevin Brook; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program Director Sarah Ladislaw Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

11:00 AM Dem Sen. Tom Udall calls for passage of chemical safety reform – Democratic Sen. Tom Udall calls on Congress to pass the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, via press conference with Bonnie Lautenberg – widow of former Sen. Frank Lautenberg – and supporters of chemical safety reform, including fellow Democratic Sens. Cory Booker, Tom Carper, Chris Coons, Jeff Merkley, and Sheldon Whitehouse, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, Humane Society Legislative Fund executive director Sara Amundson, March of Dimes Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs Cynthia Pellegrini, and Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine President Dr Neal Barnard Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorTomUdall>

2:15 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider the nomination of Michael Michaud to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S. in the Middle East – Hearing on 'The U.S. Role and Strategy in the Middle East: Yemen and the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council', with testimony from Metis Solutions founder and CEO Mary Beth Long; and Arab Gulf States Institute Executive Vice President Stephen Seche Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, with testimony from Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health Clinical Operations Thomas Lynch; Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Special Assistant Vince Kane; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel Staff Attorney Jennifer Gray; Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Legislative Associate Lauren Augustine; The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Director Lou Celli; National League of Cities Principal Associate for Housing (Veterans and Special Needs) Elisha Harig-Blaine; and Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Committee Vice-Chairman David Norris Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

US House: 11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 2091 – Child Support Assistance Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1553 – Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1525 – Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3032 – Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1839 – Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3102 – Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3510 – Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015', 'S. 1300 – Adoptive Family Relief Act', 'S. 2078 – United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015', 'H.R. 2168 – West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act, as amended', and 'S. 986 – Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act’
Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:00 PM Closed hearing on ‘Access Request’ Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

Tuesday, Oct. 06 – Thursday, Oct. 08 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference
– Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference, featuring national leaders, elected officials, corporate executives, community activists, educators, entertainers, and media personalities.
Day one includes CHCI Leadership Luncheon, featuring remarks from Attorney General Loretta Lynch *
Part of the Caucus’ Hispanic Heritage Month event Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center,
Washington, DC hcm.chci.org [#2015HHM](https://twitter.com/CHCI)

Other: 8:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce Cybersecurity Summit – U.S. Chamber of Commerce 4th
Annual Cybersecurity Summit, held in conjunction with American Express, Dell, and Southern Company,
with experts from the business community, federal agencies, and the executive and legislative branches
addressing international concerns, information sharing, and insurance issue. Speakers include bipartisan
Sens. Richard Burr and Dianne Feinstein, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas
and Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Secretary
of Energy Liz Sherwood-Randall, U.S. Cyber Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Kevin McLaughlin,
Southern Company Chair, President, and CEO Tom Fanning, former National Security Advisor Gen.
(Ret.) James Jones, and USCC Senior Vice President for National Security and Emergency
Preparedness Ann Beauchesne Location: USCC, H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:00 AM Mexican state governor speaks at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce
hosts roundtable discussion with Guanajuato (Mexico) Governor Miguel Marquez, on his state’s role as a
key logistics hub for Mexico’s growing manufacturing and services industries. Business leaders and
policy experts hear about investment opportunities and his plans for future development of the state
Location: USCC, H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:30 AM 2015 Index of Culture and Opportunity contributors at Heritage Foundation event – ‘The 2015
Index of Culture and Opportunity: Sound Solutions Begin with Accurate Assessment of the Challenges’
Heritage Foundation event, with Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, Heritage Foundation Fellow in
Education Policy Lindsey Burke and B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics Director David
Azerrad, and contributors to the 2015 Index – Ethics and Public Policy Center Fellow Yuval Levin, Center
for Neighborhood Enterprise founder and President Robert Woodson, Sr., and North Carolina State
University Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Human Development Assistant Professor
Anna Egalite – discussing ‘the nature of the challenges facing our communities today’ * Index, from the
Heritage Foundation Institute of Family, Culture, and Opportunity, tracks trends from marriage to
volunteering to welfare dependence to student loan debt, pairing data on 31 indicators with commentary
from 21 contributors Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC
www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:00 PM CDC telebriefing on Vital Signs report on hospital support for breastfeeding – CDC Director
Tom Frieden discusses new Vital Signs report on ‘What more can hospitals do to encourage and support
breastfeeding?’, which says that hospital support for breastfeeding has largely improved since 2007, via
media telebriefing * Embargoed until 1:00 PM EDT Location: TBD www.cdc.gov
<https://twitter.com/CDCgov>

1:00 PM House Republican Policy Committee Law Enforcement Task Force hearing – Republican
Representative Dave Reichert holds a hearing titled ‘Examining the State of Relations Between the
People and Their Protectors’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC
<http://reichert.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/davereichert>

2:00 PM ‘Chinese Political Warfare in East Asia and Beyond’ conference at Heritage Foundation –
‘Influence Operations: Chinese Political Warfare in East Asia and Beyond’ conference, hosted by

Heritage Foundation and Project 2049 Institute, bringing together experts to focus on the characteristics of Chinese political warfare and identify key political goals and tactics in its influence operations towards specific targets in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Republican Rep. J. Randy Forbes keynotes, with panelists including Shih-Chung Liu (Tainan City Government in Taiwan), Dean Cheng (Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center), and Randy Schriver (Project 2049 Institute) Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Energy Secretary Moniz speaks at Minorities in Energy Initiative forum – Second Department of Energy Minorities in Energy Initiative (MEI) forum, aimed at increasing minority participation in the energy sector through engagement in STEM education, energy economic development, and climate change. Speakers include Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Advisor Dr Marvin Carr, DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity Director Dot Harris, Lockheed Martin Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin Energy Vice President Frank Armijo, SoCalGas President and CEO Dennis Arriola, and SUNY College at Old Westbury President Dr Calvin Butts Location: Lockheed Martin Global Vision Center, 2121 Crystal City Dr, Arlington VA Arlington www.energy.gov <https://twitter.com/ENERGY>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “Some more trouble for Hillary Clinton. Last week the firefighters union announced that it was no longer supporting Hillary for president. You know your campaign’s in trouble when firefighters are like, ‘Even we can’t put out that many fires.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “In an interview with Al Sharpton this weekend, Hillary Clinton said that, ‘Donald Trump just says whatever he needs to in order to stir up the passions of the people.’ And Al Sharpton was like, ‘You know you’re talking to me, right?’”

Jimmy Fallon: “In a speech in Tennessee, Trump talked about his decision to run for president and said, ‘I didn’t want to do this. I had to do this.’ And he was immediately sued by Jeb Bush for stealing his campaign slogan.”

Jimmy Fallon: “A new report found that Donald Trump is no longer the most liked candidate on Facebook, and Ben Carson now has the most likes with over four million. You could tell that Carson is pretty excited ‘cause when he found out he actually opened both eyes.”

Jimmy Fallon: “On Friday, Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced that he has plans to step down from his position in December. Until his replacement starts, [President] Obama’s gonna have a substitute education secretary who just shows videos all day.”

Conan O’Brien: “Speaking of presidential candidates, Carly Fiorina said that her degree in medieval history will help her defeat ISIL. She said knowledge of the medieval world also helps her when making policy on birth control.”

Seth Meyers: “Hillary Clinton said this weekend that the record turnout for Bernie Sanders’ rallies is great for the Democratic Party. And it wasn’t easy for her to say that, because at the time, she was biting a cinder block in half.”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump said in an interview this weekend that he has a license to carry a concealed firearm in New York, and added that if someone ever attacked him, they’re going to be shocked, especially when they see where he keeps it. ‘I’ll happily turn over my wallet. Just let me straighten my hair.’”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump confirmed in an interview today that he operates his own Twitter account. However, his mouth and his brain are run by interns.”

Seth Meyers: “Republican presidential hopeful Chris Christie said this weekend that he would rather jump off the Brooklyn Bridge than be in Congress. And just to be safe, [New York City] Mayor [Bill] de Blasio issued a tsunami warning for lower Manhattan.”

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DOI in the News:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SUBPOENA SECRETARY JEWELL OVER REVIEW OF GOLD KING MINE.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/17, Richardson, 285K) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee "issued a subpoena Wednesday ordering Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to produce a critical peer review and other documents related to the Environmental Protection Agency's spill at the Gold King Mine." The committee subpoena calls for Jewell "to produce by Feb. 26 a peer review conducted last year by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Interior Department's technical evaluation of the accident." The Interior Department "released a statement late Wednesday confirming that the subpoena had been served but denying that the department had been uncooperative."

Opinion: EPA Needs To Explain Gold King Mine Spill Response, Spending Habits. Columnist Ed Feulner writes in [Townhall](#) (2/18, Feulner, 132K) that the EPA "has some serious explaining" to do about how the EPA accidentally dumped a "flood of toxic waste water" into Colorado's Animas River while trying to clean up the Gold King mine spill. A new report by the House Committee on Natural Resources revealed that the 3 million gallons of released waste water contained "toxic heavy metals," polluting a river that "serves as a drinking-water source for thousands of residents in Colorado and other states." Feulner accuses the EPA of spending money "like it's running its own printing press" and that it has spent "millions of dollars in the last decade" on guns, ammo, body army, and other "military-style weaponry and surveillance activities" for "commando-style raids against environmental offenders."

SCALIA'S DEATH COULD IMPACT UPCOMING CASES. [Politico Pro](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Supreme Court lost one of its most forceful critics of federal wetlands regulations with Justice Antonin Scalia's death, a loss that could shift the balance on how the court approaches some of the most significant water rules of President Barack Obama's tenure." According to the article, "Scalia heavily influenced a more critical approach to wetlands rules among his fellow justices, once famously comparing the government to 'an enlightened despot' in its implementation of regulations that sought to protect rivers and streams by regulating what individuals and businesses could do on soggy patches of land miles away." the article notes that "the court is now seen as likely to reject a petition from the American Farm Bureau Federation when the eight remaining justices meet Friday, leaving in place a controversial, multi-state cleanup plan EPA is imposing in the Chesapeake Bay." According to Harvard Law Professor Richard Lazarus, "its decision on whether to take up the Chesapeake Bay case will be an

early sign of how the court will approach environmental cases with an evenly divided eight justices.”

Also, the [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “an Alaska case about whether hovercraft can be used on waterways in federal parks is the last one that Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia heard before his death Saturday” Since “Scalia’s view on the case will have no bearing on it,” the case will be considered by “the eight remaining Supreme Court justices in June,” and “if the vote is split, the lower court’s decision would be upheld.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K) and the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (2/17).

Also providing coverage is the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (2/18, 15K).

FBI DISCOVERS FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, FECES AT MALHEUR REFUGE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “the FBI has discovered ‘significant amounts’ of human feces in an outdoor trench as well as spoiled food, firearms and explosives at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge as it assesses the scene of the 40-day occupation, federal attorneys disclosed yesterday in a court filing.” The FBI’s Evidence Response Team started “combing the scene last Saturday and estimates it will take three weeks to complete its work, prosecutors told the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.” Authorities said they are concerned “about booby traps on the property and fear that American Indian artifacts may have been damaged.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Berman, 8.98M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/18, 290K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Services, 2.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, Dubois), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/17, 3.7M), the [New York Post](#) (2/17, 2.92M), [RT](#) (2/18, 350K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/17, Levin, 3.71M), [TIME](#) (2/17, 18.01M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Dubois, 285K), [NBC News](#) (2/17, 3.58M), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (2/18, 85K), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (2/18, 177K).

Oregon House Votes To Shield ID Of Cop Who Shot Refuge Occupier. The [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “the Oregon House has passed a bill to protect the identity of the officer who fatally shot refuge standoff spokesman Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum in January.” According to the article, “representatives voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to approve allowing a judge to bar for 90 days the disclosure of the name of an officer who uses deadly force.” The measure now heads to the Senate.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Richardson, 285K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/18, 4.92M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K), [Reuters](#) (2/18, Bernstein), the [Blue Mountain \(OR\) Eagle](#) (2/17, 7K), and the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/18, 78K).

CLIVEN BUNDY DENIED BAIL IN 2014 STANDOFF CASE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that Cliven Bundy was ordered “to remain behind bars” by judge on Tuesday. The US attorneys in Oregon and Nevada accused Bundy of “mustering more than 60 firearms to intimidate federal law enforcement officers during the Bureau of Land Management’s April 2014 roundup of his cattle, ‘nearly causing catastrophic loss of life or injury to others.’” Federal prosecutors argued, “Bundy is lawless and violent. He does not recognize federal courts – claiming they are illegitimate – does not recognize federal law, refuses to obey federal court orders [and] has already used force and violence against federal law enforcement officers while they were enforcing federal court orders.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Moyer, 8.98M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/17, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, Baumann, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Baumann, 285K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/18, 518K), [TIME](#) (2/18, 18.01M), [USA Today](#) (2/18, 5.45M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, Dubois, Ritter, 1.99M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/17, Levin, 3.71M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), [NBC News](#) (2/18, 3.58M), [Reuters](#) (2/18, Skinner, Edwards), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Services, 2.17M), the [Oregonian](#) (2/17, 864K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, 518K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/17, 2K), [Raw](#)

[Story](#) (2/17, 1.24M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/18, 6.31M), and [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (2/17, 256K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO MEET WITH HAWAII GOV. DAVID IGE. [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (2/17) reports that Hawaii Gov. David Ige will meet with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Washington “regarding the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s World Conservation Congress, which Hawai’i will be hosting in September.”

BEARS EARS REGION IS CENTER OF PUBLIC LANDS DEBATE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/17, 44K) reports that an area in the Four Corners known as “Bears Ears” is “taking its place in the spotlight” in the debate over public lands. In October, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition “petitioned President Barack Obama to designate the nearly 2 million acres as a national monument.” However, “while the petition to create a national monument has garnered support from dozens of tribes as well as environmentalists, some Navajo residents of the Aneth, Utah, area are concerned that the designation would hurt their ability to use the land for ceremonies and plant gathering.”

DECLINING GLOBAL COAL USE SAID SEEN IN SUPPLY GLUTS. Daniel Cohan at Rice University writes for [The Hill](#) (2/18, Cohan, Contributor, 862K) that “coal is piling higher even as it’s mined less” in the US, China and perhaps India. “The shuttered coal capacity in China nearly matches total U.S. coal production in 2015,” and India’s energy minister says solar power is cheaper than coal and acknowledges a coal supply glut. The article notes that the Interior Department “mirrored China’s three-year new mine ban with its own three-year moratorium on coal leases on federal lands.”

Additional coverage of the federal coal leasing moratorium was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (2/17, 109K), the [Waterbury \(CT\) Republican-American](#) (2/17, 121K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/17, 2K), [Real Clear Energy](#) (2/17), and [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (2/17, 671).

NYTIMES MAGAZINE: PALAU’S “AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE” TO POACHERS ABOUT “SELF-PRESERVATION.” A 5,488-world preview of a [New York Times Magazine](#) (2/21, Urbina, 782K) story says Palau “has mounted an aggressive response” to the challenge of being “responsible for patrolling a swath of ocean about the size of France, in a region teeming with supertrawlers, state-subsidized poacher fleets, mile-long drift nets and the floating fish attracters known as FADs.” The Times says while Palau’s “work suggests a hopeful future,” it’s “conservation efforts are really motivated by a more immediate sense of self-preservation.”

CONSERVATION FUND WORKING WITH RANCHERS ON SAGE GROUSE IN THE WEST. In a press release, the [Conservation Fund](#) (2/17), “in partnership with local ranchers and federal, state and private partners, celebrates the protection of over 100,000 acres of sage grouse habitat in Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado.” According to the release, “over the last decade, The Conservation Fund has worked together with local communities in Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado to bring landowners, federal, state and private partners together to implement conservation easements on private working ranchlands with sage grouse habitat.” Mark Elsbree, Senior Vice President and Western Director of The Conservation Fund, said, “Our goal is to help ranchers sustain and enhance their operations while preventing loss and fragmentation of sage grouse habitat. Partnerships are key to accomplishing this, and we are grateful to the remarkable vision of the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and their Sage Grouse Initiative, as well as our local partners like the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust who work together to balance these environmental and economic goals.”

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE VANDALISM AT COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “actress Vanessa Hudgens posted a photo on her Instagram account of a heart carved into red rock, and now authorities in Arizona are investigating whether the rock belongs to the protected Coconino National Forest, which manages land around Sedona.” According to the article, “while the photo of the carving, which bears the names Vanessa and Austin, was removed from Instagram, the hashtag #sedonadreams still appears on the site.” Spokesman Brady Smith said that “law enforcement has not yet located a heart carving that matches Hudgens’ in the forest’s 250-square-mile Red Rock Ranger District.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/17, Saad, 4.1M) and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/17, 442K).

TEACHER FOCUSES ON GETTING YOUNG LATINOS INTERESTED IN THE OURDOORS. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/17, Ortiz, 569K) reports on how Xino Gonzalez, a teacher at the Met Sacramento charter school, has led more than 40 trips to the outdoors with the goal of getting “other young Latinos to discover” the pleasures of the outdoors and “encourage more environmental awareness.” He said, “Becoming politically aware about environmental issues is an important offshoot of participating in the outdoors.” Gonzalez’s advocacy is a “telling example of how some urban Latinos are changing their relationship to such areas” as well as how the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Services “are courting them.” The Bee says a recent NPS study found just 11 percent of visitors to Yosemite National Park were Latino, “despite the ethnic group making up 39 percent of the state’s population.”

INTERIOR’S 2007 BATHROOM RENOVATION INCURRED \$222,000 IN EXPENSES. The [Daily Newswatch \(NGA\)](#) (2/18) reports that the Interior Department has spent as much as \$222,000 in renovating the bathroom “located at the interior secretary’s office.” The job was “done under the administration of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and George W. Bush.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. Additional coverage of “President Barack Obama’s designation last week of three new national monuments in the California desert” was provided by the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (2/17, 2K).

PUBLIC TRUST IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SAID TO CONTINUE TO DECLINE. The [Burlington \(NC\) Times-News](#) (2/17, 53K) editorializes on the public’s declining trust in the public sector. The most recent annual report on federal government agencies by the American Customer Satisfaction Index recorded 63.9 out of 100, “the lowest score since ACSI started evaluating government agencies in 1999,” down from the previous record low of 64.4 set last year. The worst scores went to the Treasury Department (55) and the Justice Department (59), and the highest scores went to the Department of the Interior (75) and the Department of State (71). The Times-News attributes the decline as the “almost inevitable result when” the government “is influenced by political partisanship or influence as opposed to serving taxpayers.”

“COLORFUL” ARGUMENTS AGAINST NATIONAL PARKS HASN’T CHANGED OVER THE PAST CENTURY PROFILED. In an op-ed for the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (2/17), Aaron Weiss writes that the “ink wasn’t dry” on President Obama’s use of the Antiquities Act last week to protect three new national monuments in California when Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, decried the “authoritarian” move as “presidential bullying.” Weiss points out the measure had “broad-based, bipartisan local support.” George Zimmerman, policy director at the Center for Western Priorities (CWP), said, “Chairman Bishop is carrying on a proud tradition of anti-park naysayers that dates back to the founding of our first national parks.” Fittingly, the CWO released a new report that documents the how the “often colorful language used by opponents of new parks and monuments has changed little over the last century.”

COLUMNIST RECOMMENDS PEOPLE REMAIN GOOD PARK STEWARDS. C. Douglas Nielsen writes in his “In The Outdoors” column for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/17, 479K) that the multitude of people who use public lands, “representing a variety of interests,” can create user conflicts if they don’t clean up after themselves. Nielsen admits “some conflict is inevitable in a multiple-use arena,” but leaving trash on public land impacts other visitors and the wildlife. Nielsen writes, “Though we can’t control what others choose to do, we can and should control our own actions.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES, FLORIDA INTERESTS COOPERATION TOUTED ON MOVING LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER SOUTH. Former Martin County commissioner Maggy Hurchalla writes in [TC Palm \(FL\)](#) (2/17, 185K) that Florida Gov. Rick Scott, the Department of Interior, the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District “all deserve to be congratulated” for moving more Lake Okeechobee water south. They “cooperated instead of blaming each other” and worked to remove the “constraints to implementing the Modified Water Delivery

Schedule, a plan that has been in the works for decades.” Hurchalla still advocates for purchasing the land south of the lake to make comprehensive Everglades restoration a reality.

THE NATURE CONSERVATORY CEO PRAISES WORK BY VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES. Mark Tercek, President and CEO of the Nature Conservatory, writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, 518K) blog that the success of his organization is its global network of 1,325 volunteer trustees. He says they are “committed community leaders...who open doors and build relationships with the diverse private and public institutions with which we work.” At TNC’s annual Advocacy Day last fall, Tercek engaged with “hundreds of trustees” on Capitol Hill to “engage more than 100 members of Congress on such topics as practical climate change solutions and resurrecting the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” Tercek says the work of TNC’s trustees were “instrumental in the success of 27 US ballot measures that TNC supported” in 2014.

Empowering Native American Communities:

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.”

COURT ASKED TO TOSS SUIT OVER DUG-UP GRAVES AT CASINO SITE. [Law360](#) (2/17, 22K) reports that “the U.S. government urged a California federal court Tuesday to toss a suit against two federal officials from former leaders of a half-blood Native American community over the alleged disinterment of their deceased family members’ remains in the planned construction of a \$360 million casino.” The government argued that “Walter Rosales and Karen Toggery have failed to state a claim against Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific regional director Amy Dutschke and division of environmental, cultural resources management and safety chief John Rydzik.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: EFFORT TARGETS DRUG OVERDOSES IN INDIAN COUNTY. Additional coverage of the “new effort to tackle drug overdoses in Indian Country” was provided by [Al Jazeera America](#) (2/17, 209K).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

EL NIÑO DISAPPOINTS HOPES OF REPLENISHING WATER SUPPLY. The [Cache Valley \(UT\) Daily](#) (2/17, 639) reports that “so far this winter, El Nino has not delivered the predicted rains needed to replenish the parched Colorado River Basin, conservationists say.” According to the article, “15-year drought in the region – which includes Utah, Arizona, California, Colorado and other western states – has left storage reservoirs Lake Mead and Lake Powell at historic low levels.” Gary Wockner, executive director of the environmental advocacy group Save the Colorado, said the BOR is “projecting below-average rainfall in the lower basin through June.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lake Powell Life](#) (2/17) and the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/17, 479K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAWSUITS FILED OVER SPOTTED FROG. Additional coverage of the lawsuits filed over “the way the Deschutes River’s water is managed” was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Source](#) (2/17) and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (2/18, 32K).

EX-SENATOR ADVOCATES FOR COMPLETION OF CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT. Former US Senator Jake Garn opines in favor of completing the remaining portion of the Central Utah District in the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/17, 388K). He says the main reason why Utah has water is because of the Central Utah Project, which was authorized by Congress on April 11, 1956, and subsequently implemented by the

Bureau of Reclamation. About 62 percent of Utahns live in the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and completing the remaining 5 percent of the CUP “is very important to those who await water from the project.” Garn is seeking federal funding to finish the project.

NATIVE AMERICAN WATER COMPACT MAY HURT IRRIGATORS. Former Montana state Sen. Verdell Jackson writes in [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/17, 78K) that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes water compact “does not provide more water to off-reservation irrigators during a drought by sharing the shortage.” A water shortage is more likely to be caused by water control than drought, but 19 reservoirs on the CKST reservation “were not filled last year and irrigation was cut off on the reservation in August.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the CSKT are responsible for managing the water.

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE 10 MILLION ACRES IN THE MOJAVE DESERT. David J. Hayes, ex-deputy secretary of the Interior Department, opines in the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (2/17, 534K) about the importance of protecting 10 million acres of public lands in the California’s Mojave Desert for the common good. Following “scores of formal and informal meetings over a five-year period,” federal and state government officials released a final environmental report last November detailing a “preferred alternative” for the public lands that is “breathtaking in its scope and ambition.” Hayes says the BLM appears “poised to make a well-informed decision to protect millions of acres.” Hayes offers praise and critiques of how the Desert Plan came together, but says California “deserves applause for leading the way in its embrace of new ways to ensure that are public lands are being used in sensible, sustainable ways.”

San Bernardino County Supervisors Mull Own Renewable Energy Initiative, Approve BLM Desert Plan. The [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (2/17, Johnson, 2K) reports the San Bernardino County Supervisors “unanimously voted to establish a position on the BLM’s proposed land use plan amendment in Phase 1 of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.” County leaders reiterated Wednesday that they intend to “finish work on their own Renewable Energy Element before recommending alignment revisions to the land use plan amendment pertaining to DRECP’s first phase.” Two desert conservationists “commended the board’s resolution” at the meeting.

TRENDS INDICATE WIND POWER IS A BETTER BET THAN CHEAP OIL. The [Coastal Review](#) (2/17, Kozak) reports that Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will offer leases for wind power off North Carolina at the same time that oil prices are low. Offshore wind development comes with “steep upfront costs,” but trends in renewable energy suggest that it is a good bet that costs will decline as the industry matures.

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWSUITS CHALLENGING COAL MINING PROJECTS SUSPENDED TO ALLOW FOR NEGOTIATIONS. The [AP](#) (2/17) reports that “federal judges have suspended lawsuits that challenged coal mining projects in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico after government attorneys asked for time to negotiate potential settlements.” The judges’ holdings “give the U.S. Justice Department until April 1 to negotiate with New Mexico-based environmental group WildEarth Guardians.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/18, 881K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, 1.99M), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/17, 78K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (2/17, NBCMontana, 1K).

SELF-BONDING ISSUE COULD DRIVE PEABODY INTO BANKRUPTCY. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/17, Loh, 2.92M) reports that, despite “months negotiating its debt with lenders,” Peabody Energy Corp. could be forced into bankruptcy by groups protesting its self-bonding, arguing the company needs to post collateral or obtain surety bonds to make sure there is money for future mine clean-up costs. Spencer

Cutter, a credit analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, said that self-bonding “could be the catalyst that impales Peabody and pushes them over the edge.” [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (2/17) reports the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sent out notices in response to a complaint over the company’s self-bonding.

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/17, 5K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Loh(c), 2016, Bloomberg, 2.17M), the [St. Louis \(MO\) Post-Dispatch](#) (2/17, 808K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/17, 77K), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/17, 131K), and [WyoFile](#) (2/17).

Wyoming Defends Handling Of Self-Bonding. [Reuters](#) (2/18) reports Wyoming’s Department of Environmental Quality, in a letter to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), defending their handling of coal bankruptcies after federal officials warned that taxpayers could be on the hook for \$3.6 billion in liabilities due to self-bonding companies going bankrupt. Still the letter admitted to “systemic problems.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (2/17, 19K) and [Inside Energy](#) (2/15).

BLM MEETING ON METHANE RULES DRAWS LARGE CROWD, BROADLY OPPOSED. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/17, 290K) reports that a public meeting by the Bureau of Land Management over a proposed change to federal regulations governing methane leaks drew so many people on Tuesday it had to be halted and moved to a larger space. “The clear majority of those in attendance was there to push back against the federal agency’s aim to update the proposed rule over the oil and gas industry.” San Juan County Commission Chairman Scott Eckstein told BLM officials, “I don’t want to see one more of our constituents out of their work, out of a job,” adding that the rule “is going to be a knockout vote to an already crippled community.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K).

GREEN ACTIVISTS DISRUPT UTAH OIL AND GAS AUCTION. The [AP](#) (2/17, McCombs) reports that Utah environmentalists hoped to disrupt a BLM oil and gas auction, but industry officials say the moves will push them to press for online auction in the future. Environmental writer Terry Tempest Williams bid on at least 800 acres of development rights with several thousand more acres pending approval.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, McCombs, Press, 1.99M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, McCombs, 285K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/17, 402K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/17, 4.92M).

COLOWYO COAL MINE EXPANSION CLEARS KEY HURDLE. The [Electric Co-op Today](#) (2/17) reports that “a proposed development at the Colowyo coal mine that would sustain 220 jobs through 2030 and provide new habitat for the greater sage grouse cleared a key hurdle.” Working with the BLM, the OSMRE has “proposed to issue a ‘finding of no significant impact’ on the proposed mine project, known as the Collom Area Development Project, in northwest Colorado.” According to the article, “a final decision from the assistant secretary for land and minerals management is expected sometime this year.”

BLM LAUNCHES PLAN TO CLEAN UP LEGACY WELLS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/17, 2K) reports that “more than one hundred abandoned oil wells dot the tundra on federal land on the North Slope, and efforts to clean them up have been delayed for decades.” Now, the BLM has “launched an ambitious plan to remediate many of the wells that are the highest priority hazards.” The bureau “on Wednesday announced continued efforts to cleanup about fifty of the abandoned wells with federal money secured in 2013.”

PLANS FOR LEASING NEAR LAKE LEWISVILLE PROMPTS PROTEST. The [Athens \(TX\) Review](#) (2/17, 1K) reports that North Texas cities are “protesting plans to auction federal lands for gas-well exploration around a lake that supplies drinking water to millions.” According to the article, “the plans to

auction several hundred acres around and under Lake Lewisville, about 35 miles northwest of Dallas, threaten both drinking water for about 2 million consumers and the integrity of the earthen dam that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers consider the nation's eighth-most-hazardous, local officials and environmental groups say."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Goshen \(IN\) News](#) (2/17, 962).

ATTORNEYS COMPARE CALIFORNIA GAS LEAK TO BP SPILL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "with the plugging of a monthslong methane leak at a natural gas well in Los Angeles last week, lawyers have turned their attention to litigation stemming from the environmental debacle." According to the article, "they are comparing Southern California Gas Co.'s handling of the gas leak to another environmental disaster: the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." The article says that "the Aliso Canyon leak spewed more than 80,000 metric tons of methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – since it began on Oct. 23, 2015."

OKLAHOMA HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BILL GIVING OCC EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

AUTHORITY. The [AP](#) (2/17, Talley) reported that a bill approved by Oklahoma's House Rules Committee on Wednesday would give the Oklahoma Corporation Commission the authority to impose restrictions in an emergency. The bill was introduced by House Speaker Jiff Hickman "after some had questioned whether the agency had the right to restrict how much oilfield wastewater could be disposed underground in potentially shaky geologic formations."

SIERRA CLUB FILES SUIT AGAINST OKLAHOMA ENERGY COMPANIES OVER EARTHQUAKES.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/17, 1.24M) reported that the Sierra Club on Tuesday filed suit against Devon Energy Production Co., Chesapeake Operating LLC and New Dominion LLC, seeking to hold the companies responsible for the uptick in earthquakes in Oklahoma. The Sierra Club's notice of intent to sue also named Sandridge Exploration and Production LLC, which could be later added as a defendant. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/18, 5K) added that lawsuits arrives on the heels of Oklahoma's third-strongest recorded earthquake, a 5.1 magnitude that struck on February 13. The lawsuit "demands the companies, as a first step, 'reduce, immediately and substantially, the amounts of production wastes they are injecting into the ground.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FLARING RULE. Additional coverage of the flaring rule was provided by [Industrial Info Resources](#) (2/18).

Offshore Energy Development:

SURFBOARD CONTAINING SIGNATURES OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING GOES TO

WASHINGTON. The [Wrightsville \(NC\) Lumina News](#) (2/17, 16K) reports that "a surfboard containing hundreds of signatures from businesses up and down the East Coast, including several area businesses, opposing offshore drilling in the Atlantic traveled to its final destination in Washington, D.C., last weekend." The surfboard went to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Administration at the White House, according to Mary Baggett, co-owner of the Blockade Runner Resort in Wrightsville Beach. The Surf rider Foundation "orchestrated the event called Coastal Lobby Day over Feb. 12 – 13 weekend to campaign against the newly passed bill to drill off of the Atlantic Coast."

FORMER BP MANAGER ON TRIAL FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/17, Fisk, 2.92M) reports that federal prosecutors have one final "chance to send someone to jail over the deadly 2010 BP Plc Gulf of Mexico well blowout and the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history." Former BP manager Robert Kaluza "faces as long as a year in prison plus fines if he's convicted." Kaluza "faces a lone misdemeanor count of violating the US Clean Water Act" after already beating "more serious charges." Bloomberg adds that "a co-defendant charged with the same crime pleaded guilty and reached a deal with the U.S. that calls for a sentence of 10 months' probation, 100 hours of community service and \$50,000 in restitution for fouling the water in the gulf." The company "pleaded guilty and agreed in 2012 to pay \$4 billion for multiple counts including 11 for manslaughter." Only four employees of BP, "including Kaluza, were prosecuted."

LAPLACE MAN RECEIVES YEAR IN PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING BP CLAIMS FACILITY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/17, 625K) reports “one of two defendants” involved in a scheme “to defraud BP following the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster was sentenced Wednesday (Feb. 17) to one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay \$65,300 restitution, U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite’s office announced.” Hardell Mack of LaPlace “pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, which BP set up to compensate individuals and businesses who suffered economic losses resulting from the disaster.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM KICKS OFF 2016 WILD HORSE, BURRO ADOPTIONS. The [Pahrump \(NV\) Valley Times](#) (2/17, 23K) reports that “in order to alleviate an excess of wild horses and burros in the region, an adoption event is being held to get those animals to people who can tend to them.” The BLM “kicked off its 2016 wild horse and burro adoption last week as Internet adoptions began on Feb. 9.” BLM Director Neil Kornze said, “I urge people from across the country to attend an adoption event this year and bring home one of these icons of the West. Giving a good home to a wild horse or burro has the double benefit of saving taxpayers nearly \$50,000 each time an animal gets adopted.”

GROUP PUSHING FOR UTAH CONTROL OF BLM LAND. [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (2/17, 5K) reports that the American Land Council is “advocating for the Transfer of Land Act, signed into Utah law in 2012, but not recognized by the federal government.” The measure would give Utah “control of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.”

ORGANIZATION FILES AMENDED LAWSUIT IN RED RIVER DISPUTE. The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (2/17, 65K) reports that “the organization representing Texas landowners, counties and a local sheriff have filed an amended lawsuit in the group’s bid to resolve the Red River land dispute.” Robert Henneke, general counsel and director of the Center for the American Future at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, said Wednesday that “the amended lawsuit was in response to a 30-page motion by the Bureau of Land Management to have the case dismissed.”

POSSIBLE SITES FOR IDAHO AIRPORT RULED ABOUT BECAUSE OF SAGE GROUSE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (2/17) reports that “seven places identified as possible long-term replacement sites for the Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey are smack-dab in the middle of sage grouse country.” According to the article, “loud airport noise, roads, buildings and towers are all things that could disturb the bird, which is famously particular about its habitat.” BLM Shoshone Field Manager Codie Martin said, “Commercial airports are not allowed within any of the of the priority habitat management areas according to our new land use plan. So we had to inform [the airport board members] that approximately seven of their sites will no longer be allowed for consideration.”

BLM INVITES PUBLIC TO BROWN BAG LECTURE FROM EAC STUDENTS. The [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (2/17, 18K) reports that the BLM, Safford Field Office, is “partnering with local community organizations to host a series of brown bag lectures.” On Thursday, Feb. 18 at BLM’s Safford Field Office, “six students from Eastern Arizona College will discuss their recent conservation work in Arizona.” They will “discuss ongoing work to assess the condition and effectiveness of water catchment structures in the Peloncillo Mountains southeast of Safford.”

UTAH OFFICIALS MEET WITH RANCHERS TO REACH MUTUAL SOLUTION ABOUT PUBLIC LAND GRAZING. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Maffly, 388K) reports Tony Rampton, the Utah attorney general office’s “public-lands point man,” will tell ranchers at a conference hosted by the Utah Farm Bureau Federation that by disavowing their contracts with federal land management agencies, ranchers “risk losing their grazing allotments” and embolden environmentalists “seeking severe limits on public land grazing.” The bureau and the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office contend the US Forest Service and BLM are engaged in “a systematic dismantling of livestock grazing.” Thursday’s conference will touch on “proactive” solutions, rather than the “reactive” solutions recently seen by the Oregon

standoff and the shooting death of Arizona rancher LaVoy Finicum.

BLM HELPS GEOLOGIST DISCOVER RAPTOR TRACKS IN COLORADO. The [Denver Post](#) (2/18, Hernandez, 881K) reports University of Colorado geologist Martin Lackey uncovered evidence that velociraptors and “other two-toed relatives” once roamed Colorado. Lockley and his team discovered raptor tracks, “the first in Colorado and the second in North America,” in a layer of rock that dates back 105 million years. Lockley worked with BLM officials to document the site, “determining the tracks represent the first trail of raptor imprints ever found in North America.”

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ALONG COLORADO-NEW MEXICO BORDER FIGHT FOR CONSERVATION. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/17, Langlois, 31K) reports on how the 500,000 acres of private property along the Colorado-New Mexico border help preserve land. The acres are “surrounded by three national forests and the Jicarilla Apache reservation.” The Herald says it is becoming “increasingly tough” for ranchers to “hang onto land that’s been in their families for generations.” A group of landowners near the border organized the Chama Peak Land Alliance in 2010 to ensure that the open spaces near the borderlands “are managed not as a hodgepodge of private, state, federal and tribal interests, but as a whole, intact ecosystem.” The members own about 250,000 acres, nearly half the private land in the area. The group has so far “successfully deferred Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases near community drinking water sources,” among other reforms.

ARIZONA HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES BILL ASSERTING STATE CONTROL OVER WILD HORSES. The [Arizona Republic](#) (2/17, Loomis, 975K) reports an Arizona House committee advanced a bill that asserts the state’s ownership of the Salt River wild horse herd. The US Forest Service announced last summer “it would round up the horses and sell them to protect the river and forest environment near Mesa.” Protests that included calls from Arizona’s congressional delegation caused federal land managers to back down. State Rep. Kelly Townsend said she introduced the bill to “ensure federal agents won’t remove the horses...and that the state’s livestock experts can manage them” according to the Arizona Republic. She wants to avoid “federal roundups such as what the Bureau of Land Management conducts across the West.”

REFORM OF BLM’S WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT NEEDED. Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, opines in the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (2/17, 160K) that BLM’s current scheme for how it manages wild horses and burros on public lands “is an unmitigated failure.” She disagrees with the Western Governors Association’s belief that the “current, unworkable system can somehow be made to function.” Instead, Roy advocates for “land use policy and wildlife management based on common sense and science.” Roy dismisses the belief there is an overpopulation of wild horses and burros on public land, and increasing room for livestock at the expense of wild horses “doesn’t provide much benefit to taxpayers.” Roy recommends managing the animals “humanely via the PZP fertility control vaccine” and revising the “number of wild horses and burros permitted to live on our public lands.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS TO FINALIZE FEDERAL WATERFOWL STRUCTURE. [AmmoLand](#) (2/17, 9K) reports that in the upcoming weeks, the FWS will “finalize the annual federal waterfowl structure under which states within the Mississippi Flyway may establish waterfowl hunting seasons.” According to the article, “these federal season proposals will be the subject of a series of public meetings throughout Wisconsin in mid-March.”

FWS CREATES IVORY REPOSITORY. The [International Diamond Exchange](#) (2/18) reports that the FWS has “announced the creation of a repository for donations of legally-owned ivory products.” According to the article, “the facility, based at the USFWS’s Office of Law Enforcement’s National Wildlife Repository in Commerce City, Colorado, has responded to a demand from ivory owners, who wish to safely and legally dispose of items made from the material and reduce the overall ivory market.”

FWS RELEASES ENDANGERED SALMON INTO SACRAMENTO RIVER. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/18, Arthur, 65K) reports the US Fish and Wildlife Service released nearly 200,000 “fingerling-size” endangered salmon into the Sacramento River “to compensate for a massive summer

fish die-off.” Wednesday’s release was the first of two batches set to be let go this week. This year’s release is nearly double the amount the FWS typically releases into the river annually. Considering Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery had a bad year last year, assistant hatchery manager John REuth said, “If we have a third” straight year with a poor showing, “we could see real bad numbers with the fish.” He doubts it will ever go extinct, however.

HASKILL BASIN CONSERVATION EASEMENT FINALIZED. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/17, 15K) reports “an agreement to furnish permanent protections on 3,020 acres of land in the Haskill Creek watershed” was finalized on Wednesday. According to the article, “closing the deal means the land will be permanently protected to support local timber jobs and important fish and wildlife habitat, while also providing the City of Whitefish with the majority of their water supply and the public with continued opportunities for close-to-home outdoor recreation.” The article notes that “the \$16.7 million necessary to pay for the easement came from a hodge-podge of sources, including the City of Whitefish and two federal programs – the U.S. Forest Service’s Forest Legacy Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Program.”

WILDFIRE AT GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 90 PERCENT CONTAINED. The [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (2/17, 51K) reports that “federal officials say a wildfire that began near a Mississippi nature preserve and spread to Alabama is nearly contained.” FWS spokeswoman Brittany Petersen said in a statement that “the fire has burned roughly 4,250 acres and was 90 percent contained as of Tuesday night.” According to the article, “officials have said the fire began on private property and has burned 2,208 acres of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17) and [WDAM-TV Hattiesburg \(MS\)](#) Hattiesburg, MS (2/17, 33K).

CANADA OPPOSES US LOBBYING TO CLASSIFY POLAR BEARS AS EXTREMELY ENDANGERED. [Vice](#) (2/17, 1.65M) reports the American government is expected to lobby members of a global animal protection pact to classify polar bears “among the world’s most dangerous species,” which would outlaw the international sale of bear hides. “The decline of sea ice habitat due to changing climate is the primary threat to polar bears,” states the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) draft conservation plan. “Short of action that effectively addresses the primary cause of diminishing sea ice, it is unlikely that polar bears will be recovered.” The Canadian government opposes the measure because they say its northern communities claim the “polar bear trade is vital for their communities” and the bear’s fur “continues to be sustainable.” The article notes the US failed to change the bears’ classification in 2010 and 2013.

HUNTERS BAG RECORD 102 SNAKES DURING FLORIDA PYTHON CHALLENGE. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/17, 803K) reports that “record rain that closed off some hunting grounds doesn’t appear to have hurt Florida’s second Python Challenge.” Hunters “set a new record, bagging 102 snakes as of Thursday, far outpacing the 68 snakes caught in the first hunt in 2012.”

ANTIQUES DEALER ADMITS BUYING ELEPHANT TUSKS. The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (2/17, 535K) reports that an antiques dealer pleaded guilty Wednesday “in U. S. District Court in Buffalo to trafficking prohibited wildlife – specifically, the buying and selling of elephant tusks.” Ferdinand E. Krizan, 77, “entered the plea before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Frank P. Geraci.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (2/17, 473K).

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING FEDERALLY-PROTECTED HAWKS. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/17, 1.23M) reports that “a Westbury man who races pigeons pleaded guilty Wednesday to trapping and killing federally protected hawks that he viewed as a threat to his birds, said federal prosecutors and wildlife officials.” According to the article, “Thomas Kapusta, 63, could get up to 30 months in prison and a fine of up to \$75,000 at his May 13 sentencing on one count of conspiracy to take, capture and kill red-tailed hawks and Cooper’s hawks and on four counts of taking, capturing and killing those hawks.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Connecticut Post](#) (2/18, 293K) and the [East Meadow \(NY\) Patch](#)

(2/17, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAN ON TRADE OF SALAMANDERS. Additional coverage of the ban on “the interstate and international trade of about 200 species of salamanders to protect them from a fungus” was provided by [The Verge](#) (2/17, 669K).

TRIBES CALLED ON TO MANAGE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The [Montana Standard](#) (2/18, 35K) editorializes that last week the FWS “showed signs it is finally coming to its senses with regard to the National Bison Range.” The paper supports the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes assuming management. The paper concludes that “it ought to be the CSKT that holds the bison range in trust for the people of the United States — including its original inhabitants.”

National Park Service:

NPS ANNOUNCES 2015 VISITOR TOTALS. [CNN](#) (2/17, Hetter, 3.96M) reports that as the NPS “celebrates its centennial anniversary this year, new numbers show that more people visited America’s national park sites in 2015 than ever before.” The agency’s “sites around the country hosted a record-breaking 307.2 million visits, according to NPS data released Wednesday.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “That kind of takes your breath away for a second. But we’re also getting ready to welcome even more people – the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates – in this, the centennial year of the National Park Service.”

Additional coverage was provided by [TIME](#) (2/17, 18.01M), the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (2/17, 50K), the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/17, 431), [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (2/17, 154K), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (2/18, 2K).

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT XENIA. The [Xenia \(OH\) Daily Gazette](#) (2/17, 243) reports that NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will be “in the Xenia area Thursday, Feb. 18 to participate in some Black History Month events.” Jarvis is scheduled “to visit Wilberforce’s Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument and Cox Elementary School, to highlight the National Park Service Centennial and the ‘Every Kid in A Park’ initiative.” According to the article, “Jarvis’ visit is part of a larger, month-long campaign by United States Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the National Park Service to travel to multiple national park sites to help tell diverse American stories and to distribute passes to local fourth graders for free entry to federal lands and waters.”

WINNERS OF NPS’ FIND YOUR PARKS CENTENNIAL PROJECT CONTEST ANNOUNCED. The [St. Augustine \(FL\) Record](#) (2/17, 33K) reports that “local photographer and graphic designer Stacey Sather had her photo of the Castillo de San Marcos chosen as one of the winners in the National Park Service’s Find Your Parks Centennial Project contest.” According to the article, “Sather’s Castillo shot is one of 45 first prize winners in the National Park Service Centennial Project contest and is featured in the Find Your Park national campaign and on its website.” Sather will be recognized in August in Washington at the National Park Service’s Centennial Celebration.

NPS VOWS REFORMS AFTER REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT. The [AP](#) (2/18, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 8.98M) reports that the NPS has “outlined a series of actions in response to a federal report that found employees at the Grand Canyon preyed on their female colleagues and retaliated against them for refusing sexual advances.” The park service’s Intermountain Region director, Sue Masica, said “employees will be disciplined appropriately and she will push a message of zero tolerance for sexual harassment and hostile work environments.” Masica wrote in a response to the report this week, “While dismayed at the work environment described in the report, I am committed to working to change the situation and keep similar situations from happening again. The employees of Grand Canyon National Park deserve nothing less than that.”

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (2/18, 853K), [ABC News](#) (2/18, 4M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/18, 4.92M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/18, Fonseca, 6.31M).

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES DESIGNATION OF OCMULGEE MOUNDS NATIONAL

HISTORICAL PARK. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/17, 1.1M) reports that “a U.S House committee unanimously approved earlier this month designating the Ocmulgee National Monument, near Macon, as the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park.” Rep. Sanford Bishop said in a statement, “Passage of our bill in the House Natural Resources Committee is an important step, bringing us closer to strengthening the current Ocmulgee National Monument; bolstering the economy and cultural life of Georgia; and realizing a lasting memorial, enduring for generations.” The legislation “seeks to expand the 702-acre National Monument into a 2,800-acre park and, eventually, create a greenway-water corridor with the Bond Swamp Wildlife Refuge and the Ocmulgee River.”

HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL PARK MOVING FORWARD. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (2/17, 50K) reports that “more than a year after President Barack Obama signed legislation designating the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn and Fleming, U.S. Rep. John Katko says the project is moving forward after a land ownership issue was addressed.” In an interview, Katko said “he’s been in contact with officials representing the National Park Service and the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn.” He said, “I think it’s going to start moving along. The big hurdle, I think, is being cleared.”

PENNDISIGN RECEIVES FUNDING TO SUPPORT NPS’ VANISHING TREASURES PROGRAM. The [University of Pennsylvania](#) (2/18) announced that “the Architectural Conservation Laboratory at PennDesign has received funding to support the National Park Service’s Vanishing Treasures Program—a leader in the preservation of traditionally built architecture—in meeting its future education and training goals.” According to the article, “under the partnership, Frank Matero, a professor of architecture at PennDesign, and his team will review current education and training programs, projects, and past studies related to technical heritage preservation/conservation both in the United States and abroad, and undertake a needs-based survey and assessment of all parks and regional offices within the Vanishing Treasures Program.”

DEATH VALLEY EXPECTED TO BE COVERED IN “SUPER BLOOM” OF WILDFLOWERS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Fritz, 8.98M) reports that Death Valley is “awash in yellow and pink wildflowers this month.” According to the article, “park rangers suspect that, given the torrential autumn rainfall that Death Valley experienced, the park may be due for a rare ‘super bloom,’ after years of drought and barren bloom seasons.” Park Ranger Alan Van Valkenburg said, “It’s very rare to have a good bloom in Death Valley. To have a big bloom like this — which we hope will become a super bloom, which is beyond all your expectations, those are quite rare, maybe once a decade or so.”

NPS: CATOCTIN DEER HERD REDUCED TO TARGET DENSITY. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that “managers of Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont say that after seven years of sharpshooting, the white-tailed deer herd has reached a sustainable size.” According to acting Superintendent Ed Wenschhof, “federal sharpshooters killed 76 deer in the national park this season.” The article notes that “nearly 1,200 have been killed since the program began in early 2010, producing more than 15 tons of venison for food banks.”

OFFICIALS RECOVER ANTIQUES STOLEN FROM HISTORIC CHURCH. The [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “officials have recovered antique furnishings that were stolen from a historic African American church within the New River Gorge National River.” The NPS “announced Tuesday that pews, choir benches, wooden chairs and tables stolen from the Quinnimont Baptist Church on Feb. 7 were recovered after being sold to an antique store.” According to park spokeswoman Julena Campbell, “the antiques are safely back at the park after tips from the public helped officials recover the antiques.”

OFFICIALS PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “while wildlife watchers were thrilled when a mountain goat appeared at Dinosaur National Monument nearly two years ago, service officials now are looking to kill it before the animal – and others from artificially established herds – damage resources and disturb bighorn sheep populations.” According to the article, “under a Feb. 8 draft plan, the park says it intends to shoot wild goats that cross into its boundaries on the Utah-Colorado line.” Public comments are being accepted through March 9.

WYOMING LEGISLATORS HAGGLE WITH FEDS OVER TETON PARK LAND. The [Jackson Hole](#)

[\(WY\) News & Guide](#) (2/17, 1K) reports that “Wyoming legislators preliminarily agreed Tuesday night to adjust a bill that would facilitate a sale of state lands in Grand Teton National Park to the federal government.” According to the article, “both sides have been haggling about the price of the lands and the terms of the deal.”

NPS SCIENTIST OFFERS VISION OF FUTURE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “personal sensors, miniature satellite boxes and big data are a few of the technological advances that could transform and challenge the National Park Service in its second century, the agency’s first science adviser told an overflowing crowd at last week’s American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting.” Gary Machlis, a Clemson University environmental sustainability professor, said, “The boundary between sci-fi parks and real parks is less than you might imagine.” NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, “a biologist by training, created Machlis’ position at the agency during the Obama administration’s first year in office.” Machlis, “who repeatedly cautioned that his comments did ‘not represent the official views of the U.S. government,’ predicted NPS would soon be able to get instant updates on park air quality by wearing Bluetooth-enabled personal sensors that can send data from users’ cellphones to agency scientists.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS BEGINS SELLING PASSES ONLINE. Additional coverage that “Acadia National Park is testing the online sale of entrance passes” was provided by the [National Parks Traveler](#) (2/17, 989), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/16, 173K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (2/17), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/16, 1.99M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” FILM. Additional coverage of “National Parks Adventure” was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/17, 244K) and the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/17, 1.1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SUPERDOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. Additional coverage of the addition of the Superdome to the National Register of Historic Places was provided by [CNN](#) (2/17, Sayers, 3.96M), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Advocate](#) (2/17, 179K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, 1.99M), the [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (2/17, 96K), [KTXL-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (2/17, 70K), [WCVB-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (2/17, 418K), and [KTVI-TV St. Louis \(MO\)](#) St. Louis (2/17, 236K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YELLOWSTONE BISON CULL. Additional coverage of the Yellowstone bison cull was provided by [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (2/17, 1.13M) and the [Examiner](#) (2/17, 825K).

PARK RANGERS SHOULD STAFF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL. In The [Washington Informer](#) (2/17, 55K), DC-based speaker/writer Lyndia Grant seeks support for adding permanent park rangers to The African-American Civil War Memorial. She believes the monument “is deserving of a federal visitor’s center staffed by park rangers.” Councilman Frank Smith, the founder and director of the museum, and his team “have done an outstanding job, with support from the District of Columbia government,” the museum is in “desperate need” for permanent funding and support.

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS ALGAE TOXINS COMMON IN SOUTHEASTERN STREAMS. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “toxic byproducts of a type of algae are commonly found throughout Southeastern streams, a new analysis from the U.S. Geological Survey finds.” According to the study, “microcystins, produced by certain algae, were found in 39 percent of small streams across Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.” Keith Loftin, a USGS research chemist and lead author of the report, said, “This is the first systematic stream survey of algal toxins in the southeastern United States. It’s important, because it provides a better understanding of the occurrence of these microcystins in aquatic ecosystems with flowing waters.”

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA REGRETS ALITO FILIBUSTER, BUT IT DIFFERED FROM CURRENT STANDOFF. The White House said Wednesday that President Obama regretted his role in a filibuster of the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court when Obama was a senator, but said that circumstance differed from Republican threats to block consideration of any Obama Supreme Court nominee. Coverage of the vacancy has slowed since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia – down to a mere 20 seconds on the network newscasts. With no word on a nominee expected for some time, reports and analyses point to some weakening of GOP solidarity on obstructing any nominee outright, with several more senators including Senate Majority Whip Cornyn expressing some misgivings.

[USA Today](#) (2/17, Korte, 5.45M) reports the White House says the President “has come to regret his decade-old filibuster” of Alito. The 2006 nomination “has become one of many historical footnotes that have taken on new relevance as Obama and the Republican-controlled Senate jockey for high ground in their battle over the election-year Supreme Court nomination.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/17, Boyer, 285K) reports White House press secretary Josh Earnest “said Mr. Obama ‘regrets the vote that he made’ and believes he ‘should have followed his own advice’ to make a substantive argument against the Alito nomination.”

[Roll Call](#) (2/17, Bennett, 126K) says that “it is rare for Obama or his top aides to publicly admit he has regrets.” However, [The Hill](#) (2/17, Fabian, 862K) reports Earnest “said the GOP is going further than Obama did in pledging to not consider any nominee the president puts forward...and he said Obama’s decision to filibuster was ‘based on substance’ whereas the GOP’s blanket opposition to any Obama nominee is purely political.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that “the dirty little not-so-secret fact about the Senate is that both sides have engaged in ruthless tactics to deny presidents not of their party the chance to make lifetime appointments to courts where they could influence public policy long after that president is gone.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/17, Richardson, 285K) similarly writes that “for Democrats railing against the Senate’s threat to mothball” an Obama Supreme Court nominee, “Republicans have three words: You started it.”

Sam Stein of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, 518K) says Democrats “have little to no leverage” if Republicans do proceed with threats to block a nominee, so they are “turning to a shaming campaign, seeking to badger Senate Republicans and label them obstructionists, in hopes that a few of them – presumably those with uphill re-election battles – will stop echoing the party line.” [Vox](#) (2/17, Hitt, 758K) says “research shows that in general, the more public statements a president makes in favor of a nominee, the more ‘yes’ votes that nominee receives,” so an active campaign for a nominee on Obama’s part could influence some of those senators.

The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that in a strategy call “that one participant described as part pep rally and part planning session,” Senior Adviser to the President Valerie Jarrett and White House Chief Counsel Neil Eggleston “urged dozens of the president’s allies not to hold back in their condemnation of Republicans for refusing to hold hearings.” But “the White House hardly needed to prod the interest groups” on the Tuesday call, since “the outcome of this battle could determine the fate of a vast array of contentious issues for decades to come: immigration, climate change, gun rights, campaign finance, health care, affirmative action, gay rights and abortion.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Bravin, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a court with just eight members for an extended period could leave such critical issues up in the air.

Media Analyses: GOP Divide Over Acting On Nominee Widens. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, DeBonis, Eilperin, 8.98M) says there is a “sharp divide between GOP senators who favor completely blocking any action on a potential nominee and those who have left open the possibility of at least holding hearings and perhaps even votes.” The [AP](#) (2/17, Lederman, Fram) reports that “concerted Republican opposition” to considering an Obama nominee “showed early signs of splintering” Wednesday, with Cornyn refusing to rule out a committee hearing, and Judiciary Committee member Sen. Orrin Hatch saying he “opposes a filibuster to prevent a vote, as some Republicans have suggested.”

In addition, the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, Terkel, 518K) reports Sen. Dean Heller said “he would welcome the chance to vote on a candidate put forward” by Obama, but said confirmation would be unlikely. [Politico](#) (2/17, Everett, 1.07M) reports Heller urged Obama “to put forward a consensus candidate” and “nodded to Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, who many in Washington believe wants a judicial appointment after his term is over.”

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) column, “The skittishness among Republican senators is well-grounded,” since any “decision to keep the Supreme Court seat vacant for what would be more than a year requires both logical leaps and political risk.”

[The Hill](#) (2/17, Carney, 862K) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid said Wednesday that Republicans “will relent and eventually take up” Obama’s nominee. [Reuters](#) (2/17, Rascoe, Hurley) reports Reid said Wednesday, “I, first of all, think that they’re going to cave in. I think the President’s going to give us a nominee that’s a good one, and I think they’re going to have to hold hearings and have a vote.”

Poll Shows Nation Divided Over Who Should Make Pick. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll finds that 43% of registered voters want the Senate to act this year, while 42% want the seat to remain vacant until the next president has taken office. Kevin Quealy writes in the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) “The Upshot” blog that though polls show that “Americans are divided by political party about whether Mr. Obama should be the one to nominate the replacement,” the more people “are told about the history of Supreme Court nominations, the more they tend to agree that the Senate should consider the president’s nomination, not delay it.”

Some African Americans See Obama’s Race As Reason For Obstruction. The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Haberman, Martin, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that “some African-Americans” see the GOP moves “as another attempt to deny the legitimacy of the country’s first black president,” and “leading African-American Democrats are trying to use it to motivate rank-and-file blacks to vote in November.”

Election-Related Court Decisions Loom. [Politico](#) (2/17, Gerstein, 1.07M) reports that the court vacancy could impact this fall’s House elections, since “there are numerous challenges to Republican-led congressional redistricting plans.” In addition, “new voter ID laws likely to come under Supreme Court scrutiny.”

Saletan Sees Srinivasan As Most Likely Nominee. William Saletan writes at [Slate](#) (2/17, 1.48M) that Obama has multiple options in considering a nominee, including selecting the “most qualified” option, the “least partisan,” the “most potent minority,” and the “most neglected minority.” In the end, Saletan says his “money is on” District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sri Srinivasan.

Obama Will Not Attend Scalia Funeral. [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/17, story 9, 0:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported, “The White House has announced that President Obama will not attend the funeral for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on Saturday. Instead, the President will pay his respects on Friday when the late justice lies in repose in the Court’s Great Hall. Vice President Joe Biden, however, is scheduled to attend Scalia’s funeral.” [USA Today](#) (2/17, Korte, 5.45M) reports Earnest said of the President’s planned Friday visit, “It will be an opportunity for the President and Mrs. Obama to pay their respects to Justice Scalia, who will be lying in repose at the Supreme Court.” [Politico](#) (2/17, Collins, 1.07M) also reports the White House’s announcement.

Scalia Did Not Pay For Trip To Ranch Where He Died. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Berman, Markon, 8.98M) reports that Scalia’s death at the Cibolo Creek Ranch resort in Texas has raised questions over who financed the trip. Ranch owner John Poindexter said Scalia “was not charged for his stay, something he described as a policy for all guests at the ranch.” Poindexter, who owns several companies “combined annual revenue of nearly \$1 billion,” said he did not pay for Scalia’s visit. The Post says “one of Poindexter’s companies was involved in a case that made it” to the Supreme Court last year, and “the nature of Poindexter’s relationship with Scalia” remains unclear.

MEDIA ANALYSIS: POPE SHOWS SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS AT US-MEXICO BORDER. Terry Moran reported on [ABC World News](#) (2/17, story 4, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M) that Pope Francis visited the Mexico-US border on Wednesday on the banks of the Rio Grande. On the US side just a “few feet away,” Americans, “including some undocumented immigrants,” prayed with the Pope. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/17, story 8, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M), Manuel Bojorquez said the “choice of locations here along the border is a clear message, not only to Mexico, but the US.” More than 200,000 in Juarez and roughly 30,000 in El Paso attended the mass, which Bojorquez said was Francis’ “strongest stand yet in solidarity with migrants.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/17, story 6, 1:50, Holt, 7.86M), Anne Thompson said Francis was “seeking to put a human face on the people fleeing what he calls grave injustices: poverty, exploitation and violence.” Similarly, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Wilkinson, Hennessy-Fiske, Carcamo, 4.1M) adds that Francis assailed the global “human tragedy” that forces unwilling migration. The Pope said injustice “is radicalized in the young; they are ‘cannon fodder,’ persecuted and threatened when they try to flee the spiral of violence and the hell of drugs.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, A1, Partlow, Martinez, 8.98M) says Francis’ trip to Juarez was “expected to be a not-so-subtle repudiation” of the rhetoric of GOP presidential candidates. Likewise, [Politico](#) (2/17, Toosi, 1.07M) says Francis’ border visit is “an unofficial, but epic, rebuttal to [Donald] Trump and other Republican immigration hardliners.” Politico notes Trump last week alleged that Mexico urged Francis to visit “because Mexico wants to keep the border just the way it is because they’re making a fortune and we’re losing.” However, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, A1, Yardley, Ahmed, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says a Vatican spokesman “scoffed” at the suggestion that the Pope “was acting at the behest of Mexican officials,” while the Times adds that Francis has “sought to focus global attention on the plight of migrants since the earliest months of his papacy.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (2/17, Pullella, Stargardter) reports that Francis also spoke to business leaders and labor representatives, where he criticized capitalism, specifically berating the “slave drivers” who exploit workers “as if they were objects to be used and discarded.”

The [AP](#) (2/17, Winfield, Sherman) adds that the Pope’s “politically charged” border visit came after a trip to Ciudad Juarez’s Prison No. 3, a week after a riot at Monterrey’s Topo Chico prison left 49 inmates dead. Francis, according to the AP, “urged the inmates to use their experience in prison for good” and called on them to end the “cycle of violence.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on the impact the Pope’s visit had on El Paso, where the mass was broadcast to nearly 30,000 people at Sun Bowl football stadium. The Times says that for a city “dominated by” Mexican immigrants, Francis’ arrival “was a validation” and “served as an antidote to what they described as the negative portrayal of the border in general and Mexican immigrants in particular” by GOP presidential candidates.

NYTimes: GOP Candidates Stoke Migrant Fears For Votes. In an editorial applauding Francis’ message of “decency” and “human worth” as it applies to migrants, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) argues that the “Republican fear” about foreigners is so deep “that a once-feasible campaign for immigration reform now lies damaged beyond hope and recognition.” The Times particularly criticizes GOP presidential candidates, concluding that it “takes no courage at all to demonize immigrants from the safety of the United States, and to stoke fear, for the sake of votes and power.”

COOK VOWS TO FIGHT ORDER TO HELP UNLOCK SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTER’S IPHONE.

Apple CEO Tim Cook said Wednesday his company will oppose US Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym’s order to assist the FBI in gaining access to the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters. [ABC World News](#) (2/17, story 3, 3:15, Muir, 5.84M) reported the FBI requested that Apple design software to allow agents to guess Syed Farook’s pass code “as many times as possible to get in.” Pierre Thomas explained that without the software, if agents guess the wrong code ten times, a self-destruct mechanism would render “all data on the phone permanently inaccessible.”

In its lead story, [CBS Evening News](#) (2/17, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Cook called Pym's order "chilling," because there is "no way to guarantee" that developing technology to create a "backdoor" wouldn't lead to Apple being forced to "build surveillance software to intercept your messages." Jeff Pegues mentioned that Apple says it is "ready to appeal this ruling and take the fight all the way to the Supreme Court."

Cook, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Queally, Bennett, 4.1M) reports, said in a statement Wednesday that building the software "would undermine encryption by creating a backdoor that could potentially be used on other future devices." In the statement, which calls the order an "overreach by the US government," Cook said, "In the wrong hands, this software – which does not exist today – would have the potential to unlock any iPhone in someone's physical possession." The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Nakashima, 8.98M) says in the "strongly worded statement" posted on Apple's website, Cook said, "Up to this point, we have done everything that is both within our power and within the law to help them. ... But now the US government has asked us for something we simply do not have, and something we consider too dangerous to create. They have asked us to build a backdoor to the iPhone."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Wakabayashi, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says Cook called the order an "unprecedented step which threatens the security of our customers," adding that it has "implications far beyond the legal case at hand." [USA Today](#) (2/16, Diblasio, 5.45M) says Cook "dismissed the notion that iPhone users should swap privacy for security," saying, "We're America. We should have both." USA Today notes the situation "could push the tech companies to give users access to unbreakable encryption."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/17, Wang, 289K) says the case highlights "a seldom-discussed aspect of the debate over encrypted communications," noting that Apple "could, if forced, write software that would give authorities the ability to unlock an iPhone," which would enable investigators to "use relatively simple technical workarounds to obtain call records, text messages and other data."

The [AP](#) (2/17, Tucker, Abdollah) says Pym's ruling "represents a significant victory for the Justice Department," but adds that the "early arguments set the stage for what will likely be a protracted policy and public relations fight in the courts, on Capitol Hill, on the Internet and elsewhere." [Politico](#) (2/17, Romm, Starks, 1.07M) said the dispute "has put the entire industry on the defensive and prompted new calls, from the 2016 campaign trail to Capitol Hill, for tech companies to cooperate in terrorism investigations."

Several analyses consider the long-term implications of the case and its potential consequences on the tech industry as a whole. A [New York Times](#) (2/17, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis calls the case "perhaps the perfect test case" for the Administration as it "put[s] Apple on the side of keeping secrets for a terrorist." A [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Lien, Queally, Bennett, Dave, Winton, 4.1M) analysis, meanwhile, cites Robert Cattanch, a cybersecurity attorney and former Department of Justice special counsel to the secretary of the Navy, who said "the government's request leaves Apple in a difficult position as the company is now thrust into the center of the battle to balance privacy needs against counterterrorism efforts." The Times adds that cybersecurity experts say the case "will have far-reaching consequences for the tech industry." According to Gregory T. Nojeim, director of the Freedom, Security and Technology Project at the Center for Democracy & Technology, "If this decision is upheld, it would mean the FBI could get a judicially mandated back door into any device to get access to its content, and it would mean a weakening of encryption in all those devices."

In an analysis for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Christopher Mims makes a similar point, arguing that Cook's efforts could touch off political and judicial processes that will endanger the security of all mobile devices. Mims writes that Cook's efforts may result in Congress or the courts forcing Apple to do greater damage to personal devices than would have been required by relenting in this case. However, Eamon James of CNBC told [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/17, story 4, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) that if Apple gives "this kind of access to the US government, they may have to give it to the Russians. They may have to give it to the Chinese, and Apple simply doesn't want to do that."

The Administration, according to [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/17, 1.53M), "says this is a one-time

request,” though Apple reportedly said that is “just not possible.” FBI agents told Fox they believe unlocking the device “will likely lead to people who helped” Farook and his wife carry out the attack. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Nakashima, 8.98M) says New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton “said the government’s demands are reasonable and justified, especially in a case that has ties’ to ISIL.” Bratton said, “No device, no car and no apartment should be beyond the reach of a court-ordered search warrant. ... As the threats from ISIL become more divergent and complex, we cannot give those seeking to harm us additional tools to keep their activity secret.” Later in the broadcast, the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/17, story 2, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that if the case goes to the Supreme Court, “it could define privacy for a generation.” CBS added that FBI Director Comey spoke with CBS “60 Minutes,” where he said that while he wants to “make sure, as [Apple does], that people’s privacy is protected,” he also doesn’t “want to live in a country where the bad guys know there’s a way for them to be absolutely beyond the law.” However, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (2/17, 554K) reported law enforcement experts say that even if Apple unlocks the phone, investigators “may still not be able to read” Farook’s texts.

Snowden Voices Support For Apple. [USA Today](#) (2/17, Guynn, 5.45M) reports Edward Snowden has voiced support for Apple in the dispute, writing in a tweet, “The @FBI is creating a world where citizens rely on #Apple to defend their rights, rather than the other way around.” Snowden also called on Google “to stand with Apple, saying ‘this is the most important tech case in a decade. ... Silence means @google picked a side, but it’s not the public’s.”

Case Could Spur New Push For Congressional Action. [USA Today](#) (2/17, Kelly, Johnson, 5.45M) says the case “brought a new urgency Wednesday to the debate between privacy advocates and security hawks and could spark a renewed push for action by Congress.” Heretofore, the debate “had been somewhat theoretical” as federal officials “had been unable to give members of Congress or the public a specific example of a case in which encrypted communications...hampered an actual investigation.” One proposal from House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul and Sen. Mark Warner “would create a commission of tech executives, law enforcement officials and encryption experts to try to find a solution that would protect privacy and catch criminals.” In the Senate, Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and Vice Chairman Dianne Feinstein “are looking to offer legislation that would require companies to comply with court orders to give the government access to encrypted information.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “China’s Missile Provocation.” A [New York Times](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial calls China’s deployment of surface-to-air missiles on a disputed island in the South China Sea an “unwise move” that represents “the latest in a series of provocative acts that is fueling regional tensions.” The Times also argues that “the timing of the deployment and the way in which it was done makes it impossible to blindly accept a self-defense rationale.” The US, it says, should work with its allies “to ensure the free flow of navigation and to continue sending ships and planes across the sea, in accord with international law.”

“Racial Gerrymandering In North Carolina.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) criticizes what it calls the North Carolina legislature’s “hurried” attempt to redraw “the lines of two congressional districts that had been gerrymandered along racial lines and ruled unconstitutional by a Federal District Court.” It warns that “unless the Supreme Court steps in, the Republican-controlled legislature must draw new maps by Friday, in time for the March 15 state primary, under an order from the district court.”

“Pope Francis At The Border.” In an editorial applauding Pope Francis’ message of “decency” and “human worth” as it applies to migrants, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) argues that the “Republican fear” about foreigners is so deep “that a once-feasible campaign for immigration reform now lies damaged beyond hope and recognition.” The Times particularly criticizes GOP presidential candidates, concluding that it “takes no courage at all to demonize immigrants from the safety of the United States, and to stoke fear, for the sake of votes and power.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“Montgomery County Schools Get A Respected New Leader.”* The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of the Montgomery County school board’s selection of Jack Smith as new superintendent, arguing that Smith is a “respected educator” with a history at both the state and local level in bringing improvements to school systems. However, for Smith to succeed, the Post says it is important that board members give him “the space and support he will need to” meet the system’s continuing challenges.

“A Blackout In Ukraine Is A Reminder Of The Dangers Of Cyberattacks.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) editorializes the probable use of malware to cause a December blackout in western Ukraine “is a cautionary signal that a new type of destructive conflict is possible – and probable.”

“The US Must Act In Libya Before The Islamic State Grabs More Territory.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) editorializes that “a Libyan political solution should not be a prerequisite for action” against ISIL in the country. Referring to President Obama’s Tuesday statement that the US and its allies will take “opportunities” to prevent ISIL from “digging in in Libya,” the Post says “those opportunities exist now.” According to the Post, the US-led coalition “could conduct airstrikes against Sirte and help a Libyan protection force that has been trying to guard oil facilities.” The Post says Obama “has tried waiting on the sidelines in Iraq and Syria,” but he “should not make the same mistake in Libya.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Political War On Cash.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against the recent push by ECB President Mario Draghi and Harvard Economist Larry Summers to ban €500 notes and the \$100 bill. The Journal says that while those favoring this push claim it is because only criminals and terrorists use large-denomination bills, the real reason is that politicians and central bankers fear their goal of establishing negative interest rates will be undermined if citizens hoard cash, which is easier to do by withdrawing large-denomination bills. This notion, according to the Journal, ignores the benefits cash gives to law-abiding citizens, and eliminating larger bills could destroy businesses and millions of jobs.

“Hillary And Black Opportunity.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says that while Hillary Clinton is aggressively wooing African-American voters, she has failed to address a key reason why large numbers of black children are unable to obtain a good education: sub-par public schools, with no opportunity to move to a stronger one. The Journal says Clinton’s criticism of charter schools and her opposition to private voucher programs is a position that would see African-American children continue to be forced to attend sub-par schools.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[US, Apple Dig In For Court Fight Over Encryption](#)

[Cruz Overtakes Trump In Latest Republican Poll](#)

[Overproduction Swamps Smaller Chinese Cities, Revealing Depth Of Crisis](#)

[Iran Balks At Committing To Oil Production Cap](#)

New York Times:

[As Apple Resists, Encryption Fray Erupts In Battle](#)

[In This Standoff, Tech Firms Have A Long-Term Advantage](#)

[Interest Groups Are Mobilizing For Court Fight](#)

[Blacks See Bias In Delay On A Scalia Successor](#)

[Haley Backs Rubio And Vision Of A GOP ‘To Win The Future’](#)

[French Muslims Say Emergency Powers Come At Too High A Cost](#)

Washington Post:

[GOP Is Divided On Court Strategy](#)

[Apple Vows To Fight Order](#)

[Did US Forces Actually Catch 'The Uncatchable'?](#)
[Experts Say Onus On Adults At School To Stop Predators](#)
[To Address Rising Migrant Crisis, Pope Goes Right To The Border](#)

Financial Times:

[Fed Frets Over Growing Risks To US Economy Amid Market Turmoil](#)
[Defiant Apple Says Unblocking iPhone For FBI IS 'Too Dangerous' A Precedent](#)

Washington Times:

[How Democrats Stoked Partisanship In Supreme Court Confirmation Process](#)
[Ted Cruz Breaks From Republican Rivals On Draft Registration For Women](#)
[Nikki Haley Endorses Marco Rubio As Establishment Embraces Onetime Insurgent](#)
[US-China Clash Over South China Sea Intensifies After Missile Deployment](#)
[Apple Hack Order Potential Tipping Point In Privacy Vs. Security Battle](#)
[EU Warms To Belarus Despite Its 'Dismal' Human Rights Record](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Turkey-Car Bomb Attack; LAPD-Sexual Assault Case; South Carolina-Police Shootout Video; Michigan-Flint Water Rates; Florida-Fake Doctor Arrested; Washington DC-Mansion Murder Case; Detroit-Airplanes Collide; Thailand-Cargo Ship Loses Control; Tennessee Sheriff Blames Beyoncé.

CBS: FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; California-Hospital Hacked; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Turkey-Car Bomb Attack; Syria Civil War; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; California-Exide Plant Cleanup; Military-In Vitro Fertilization Coverage.

NBC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Analysis; 2016 Politics-Democrats; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Turkey-Car Bomb Attack; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Testosterone Replacement Therapy Research; FDA-Castle Cheese Investigation; Justice Scalia Funeral.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 15 minutes, 5 seconds
FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute – 10 minutes, 20 seconds
Pope Francis-Mexico Visit – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
Turkey-Car Bomb Attack – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Bill Cosby Case; Toyota-SUV Recalls.

CBS: Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Nike Ends Contract With Manny Pacquiao.

FOX: Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Chicago-Hillary Clinton Speech; 2016 Politics-Democratic Polls; Mississippi-Church Protection Act; Texas-Campus Gun Law; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute.

NPR: South Carolina-GOP Town Hall; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; LAPD-Sexual Assault Case; Number Of Hate Groups Increase; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama honors NHL champions Chicago Blackhawks at White House, open press; President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama host reception at the White House celebrating Black History Month.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden concludes two-day, three-state trip to mark the seventh anniversary of the Recovery Act.

US Senate: Senate on recess from Feb. 12 – Feb. 22.

US House: 10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission co-hosts briefing with Colombian human rights defenders – ‘Colombia’s Human Rights Defenders: Protecting Rights, Building Peace’ briefing, hosted by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in conjunction with Latin America Working Group Education Fund and Washington Office on Latin America, with four of the five recipients of the 2015 National Award for the Defense of Human Rights in Colombia – Francia Elena Marquez Mina (Mobilization of Women for Care for Life and Ancestral Territories), Luz Elena Marquez Mina (Women Walking for Truth), Fabian Laverde (Social Corporation for Community Advising and Training), and William Rivas (Community Council of the Peasant Association of the Atrato) – discussing the challenges they and their fellow advocates face in regions deeply scarred by the conflict, and the role they hope to play in building a just and sustainable peace in Colombia. Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>. Contacts: Kimberly Stanton Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Kimberly. Stanton@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 3599. The briefing will be open to members of Congress, congressional staff, the interested public and the media.

House of Representatives on recess from Feb. 12 – Feb. 22.

Other: Thursday, Feb. 18 – Friday, Feb. 19 7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues. Day three speakers include National Nuclear Security Administration Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Anne Harrington, Assistant Deputy Administrator Philip Calbos, and Assistant Deputy Administrator for Stockpile Management W. Stephen Goodrum, Government Accountability Office Assistant Director David Trimble, and US Air Force HQ Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration Lt. Gen. Jack Weinstein. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>. Contacts: Exchange Monitor Forum Services forums@exchangemonitor.com 1 877 303 7367 x 109.

8:30 AM Indonesia National Defense Forces commander lays wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns – Indonesia National Defense Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo lays wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, in honor of his official visit to the US Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA www.arlingtoncemetery.org <https://twitter.com/ArlingtonNatl>. Contacts: Military District of Washington public affairs usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil 1 202 497 2011.

9:00 AM FHFA Director Watt speaks at Bipartisan Policy Center – Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mel Watt delivers keynote address at Bipartisan Policy Center, featuring an update on FHFA’s work as regulator of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and as regulator and conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan. Contacts: Bipartisan Policy Center press@bipartisanpolicy.org.

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Sander Levin speaks on TPP at Christian Science Monitor Breakfast – Christian Science Monitor Breakfast with Democratic Rep. Sander Levin speaking on trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Location: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th St NW, Washington, DC www.csmonitor.com <https://twitter.com/CSMonitor>. Contacts: Monitor Breakfasts breakfast@csp.com Kevin Parker Office of Rep. Levin kevin.parker@mail.house.gov 1 202 226 3354.

10:30 AM FCC monthly open meeting – Federal Communications Commission monthly open meeting. Agenda includes the current state of programming diversity and the principal obstacles that independent programmers face in obtaining carriage on video distribution platforms; a framework for providing innovators, device manufacturers, and app developers with the information they need to develop new technologies to access video content; and allocating responsibilities for the delivery of closed captions on video programming and the handling of captioning complaints. Location: FCC, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC <http://www.fcc.gov/> <https://twitter.com/FCC>. Contacts: FCC media relations MediaRelations@fcc.gov.

2:00 PM USIP Colombia Peace Forum Series continues – ‘Colombia: Human Rights Defenders Building

Sustainable Peace' – latest in the US Institute of Peace Colombia Peace Forum Series – with the winners of last year's National Prize for the Defense of Human Rights in Colombia discussing the challenges they and their fellow advocates face in their regions, and the role of human rights defenders in building sustainable peace in Colombia. Event co-sponsored by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and Latin America Working Group Education Fund. Participants include Francia Elena Marquez Mina (Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN) and Consejo Nacional de Paz Afrocolombiano (CONPA)), Luz Elena Galeano (Mujeres Caminando por la Verdad), Fabian Laverde (Corporacion Social para la Asesoría y Capacitación Comunitaria (COS-PACC)), William Rivas (El Consejo Comunitario Mayor de la Asociación Campesina Integral de Atrato (COCOMACIA) and Foro Interétnico Solidaridad Choco (FISCH)), Lisa Haugaard (Latin America Working Group Education Fund), and Gimena Sanchez (WOLA). Location: USIP, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usip.org [#twitter.com/USIP](https://twitter.com/USIP) #ColombiaPeaceForum. Contacts: US Institute of Peace interviews@usip.org 1 202 429 3869.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: “Bernie Sanders has been fighting an uphill battle against Hillary Clinton. And Donald Trump is battling with anyone who makes eye contact with him, which means the only one who's safe is Ben Carson.”

James Corden: “Ladies and gentlemen, the South Carolina primary is on Saturday and the candidates are doing everything they can to get noticed. Now Jeb Bush hasn't been doing too well in the primaries. He finished fourth in New Hampshire, but yesterday it seemed like he had finally changed his image and summed up his vision for America in a single tweet. Here's the tweet. It is a gun with his name on it, and the caption just says 'America.' Although he could have just captioned it, 'Now will you like me?'”

James Corden: “But I mean Jeb is making a lot of changes. His new gun-toting image isn't the only change because after saying he would never ditch his glasses, this week Jeb appeared wearing contact lenses. And I have to say, the new look really suits his tougher image. Most people actually do look cooler without glasses. Jeb looks like a turtle who has lost his shell.”

James Corden: “Also, like is anyone else worried that Jeb got rid of his glasses the same week he got a gun? It feels like someone is about to get shot.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Hillary Clinton had a coughing fit during a speech and the crowd actually chanted her name as she opened a cough drop. She got applause for choking, or as Jeb put it, 'Must be nice.'”

Jay Leno: “Got my first robo-call this week. Said, 'Hi, this is Bill Clinton. Can Hillary count on you?' Count on me? She can't even count on Bill. Don't drag me into your marital problems, pal.”

Jay Leno: “This email problem continues to dog Hillary, but she says it's just an honest mistake. You ever notice the only time people in Washington are honest is when they make a mistake? Why is that?”

Jay Leno: “Well, after his big win in New Hampshire, they say Hillary's team is trying to dig up dirt on Bernie Sanders. You know what you call someone who digs up dirt on Bernie Sanders? An archaeologist.”

Jay Leno: “But the big decision for Sanders will be picking a vice president. It's important because whoever he chooses is just a prostate away from being the next president of the United States.”

Seth Meyers: “Pope Francis loudly scolded a fan in Mexico yesterday after the man grabbed his arm and pulled him down. And after hearing that the Pope yelled at a Mexican, Donald Trump converted to Catholicism.”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump supporters have filed a lawsuit challenging Ted Cruz’s eligibility to become president because they claim he is not a natural born citizen. Okay, that’s fair, but just please point to one thing on this guy [referring to Donald Trump] that’s natural.”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump, at a recent campaign rally, said that he has never met a human being who has lied as much as Ted Cruz. Then [Trump’s wife] Melania said, ‘You tell him handsome.’”

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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, “seeyond 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’ 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 burea "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 breathe, 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 Ellitsville 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, Mascaro, 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](#)

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[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](#)

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[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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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

OREGON OCCUPIER POSTS VIDEOS MOCKING FBI. The [AP](#) (2/8) reports that the last four occupiers of an Oregon wildlife refuge "have posted a series of defiant videos in which one of them calls FBI agents losers, shows a defensive perimeter they have built and takes a joyride in a government vehicle." The videos were posted Sunday on a YouTube channel called Defend Your Base, "which the armed group has been using to give live updates." The holdouts "are among 16 people charged with conspiracy to interfere with federal workers in the armed standoff over federal land policy that has surpassed five weeks." In one of the new videos, "occupier David Fry says the FBI told him he faces additional charges because of defensive barricades the four have built. 'We just got done talking with the FBI,' said the 27-year-old Blanchester, Ohio, resident. 'They consider fortifying a crime.'"

The [Oregonian](#) (2/8, Zarkhin, 864K) reports that in the videos, Fry "railed against people who destroyed a

memorial for a dead occupier, called for the FBI to leave Oregon, and took a joyride in a pickup truck with government plates.” Fry, “said that most communication to the refuge had been cut off, and that it was a ‘miracle’ that he was able to get the video out.” He “starts one of the videos by talking about those who destroyed the memorial for Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum, a former occupier who was killed by Oregon State Police on Jan. 26. ‘That’s the kind of people we’re dealing with nowadays. Just absolute trash, low-life scumbags, with no morals, no remorse for the dead,’ Fry said. ‘And that’s the people that we’re fighting against.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/9, Miller, 8.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/8, 442K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/8, Petty, Press, 1.99M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/8, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/8, Terrence Petty |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/8, Petty, 285K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/8, 2K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/8, 4.92M), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (2/8, 85K), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (2/8, 177K).

Bundy Calls On Elected Officials To Support Civil Disobedience. [Reuters](#) (2/9, Gonzales) reports that jailed Oregon occupation leader Ammon Bundy called on elected officials from several states to support civil disobedience and free speech and visit their constituents currently in custody. “It is your duty to hold federal agencies at bay, protecting the people in your state,” Bundy said, according to the transcript of a phone call released by his lawyers. Bundy and 10 alleged co-conspirators were arrested late last month.

The [AP](#) (2/8) reports that Nevada state Assembly member Michelle Fiore says she will travel to Portland, Oregon on Wednesday to protest the arrest of members of the armed occupation. “Fiore says the people jailed for seizing the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns, Oregon, last month were ‘exercising political free speech,’” the AP says.

Additional coverage was provided by [TIME](#) (2/8, 18.01M) and [Reuters](#) (2/9, Gonzales).

Supporters Attend Finicum’s Funeral. The [Greenwire](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “more than 1,000 people gathered late last week to pay their respects to LaVoy Finicum, whom family and supporters remembered as a God-fearing, family man who loved to compete, sing and play tricks.” According to the article, “shot by police last month, Finicum’s death has roused anti-federal lands activists who share a deep distrust of the federal government and a desire to challenge its authority.”

Cliven Bundy Remains Defiant. The [Greenwire](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM is “an illegitimate landlord that is not welcome on this scrubby patch of Mojave Desert lands, rancher Cliven Bundy said last week.” Bundy said, “You tell them [BLM] they’re not welcome here and they better not come around.” Bundy “insists the arid lands surrounding his ranch, including the 350,000-acre Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, do not belong to the federal government, even though a federal court has ruled multiple times that he’s wrong.”

In his column for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/8, 479K), Steve Sebelius writes that “Bundy patriarch Cliven Bundy is insisting (despite an FBI video released to the public) that Finicum was murdered in cold blood.” Bundy has “written to the sheriff, the governor of Oregon and President Barack Obama, saying that ‘we the people’ will keep the federal reserve property.” Sebelius says that “plenty of others still have not faced justice for the events of 2014.”

Turnbull Wildlife Refuge Reopens. The [AP](#) (2/8, 1.99M) reports that the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge has “reopened after being closed to the public last weekend because of the situation at a refuge near Burns, Oregon.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/8, 285K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/8, 113K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (2/8, 180K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/8, 2K), and [KREM-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (2/8, 54K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/8, 388K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (2/8, 196K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (2/8, 1.12M), and [Raw Story](#) (2/8, 1.24M).

OBAMA TO SEEK PERMANENT LWCF REAUTHORIZATION. [The Hill](#) (2/8, Henry, 862K) reports in its “Week Ahead” column that the Interior Department stated on Thursday that President Obama’s budget plan would “help sustain our nation’s public lands and waters for present and future generations.” Obama will reportedly “ask Congress to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), fully fund it in 2017 and make some of its spending mandatory.” While “parks and conservation supporters cheered the proposal,” The Hill points out “Congress would need to double its 2016 funding allotment for the LWCF.”

Ten Environmental Priorities Offered For Budget. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/8, 518K), Margie Alt, Executive director, Environment America, writes that “on Tuesday, February 9, the Obama administration will present its last budget to Congress.” Alt provides “ten priorities” that she hopes will be in the federal budget “to shape policy for our air, water, our lands and our climate.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the budget was provided by the [International Business Times](#) (2/8, 693K).

SOUTH AFRICA RECEIVES HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT TO HELP FIGHT RHINO POACHING. The [Defence Web \(ZAF\)](#) (2/9) reports that “South Africa’s stock of high-tech equipment to track down and apprehend poachers has been boosted to the tune of more than R12 million by US President Barack Obama’s national strategy to combat wildlife trafficking.” The donation was announced by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “when she met South African Environmental Affairs Minister, Edna Molewa, as part of strengthening co-operation in, among others, the illegal wildlife trade.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCY SUMMIT AND “SHAKEALERT”. Additional coverage of White House Earthquake Resiliency Summit and “ShakeAlert” was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (2/6, 211K), [Government Technology](#) (2/8, 7K), and [Sci-Tech Today](#) (2/8, 825).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: UTAH FILES LAWSUIT OVER SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed by Utah over federal sage grouse plans was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (2/8, 7K), [Utah Policy](#) (2/8), and the [New West](#) (2/8, 1K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

LITTLE SHELL BAND REMAINS HOPEFUL FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/8, 92K) reports that “the landless” Little Shell Band have “never been acknowledged under the federal tribal recognition rule, which outlines the criteria tribes must meet in order to establish a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States.” The article notes that “the state of Montana recognized the tribe in 2000, but the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs remains undecided — 36 years after the Little Shell Band first submitted its petition for recognition.” But “for the Little Shell and other unrecognized tribes...there may be hope on the horizon.” In April, President Barack Obama “fulfilled a promise to Indian Country when the BIA announced revisions to the acknowledgment process,” and “on Aug. 1, some of these revisions became law.”

BIA ASKS COURT TO BE REMOVED FROM TRIBE MEMBER’S TRUST LAND LEASE SUIT. [Law360](#) (2/8, 22K) reports that the BIA “urged a Nevada federal court on Friday to dismiss the agency from a suit by a member of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California over the lease of his trust land parcel for a housing development, arguing the claims came too late and the agency didn’t waive its sovereign immunity to suit.”

GROUP OPPOSING TRIBAL CASINO SEEKS TO BLOCK AMICUS BID. [Law360](#) (2/8, 22K) reports that “a nonprofit group challenging the U.S. Department of the Interior’s decision to take land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation of New York’s casino urged the Second Circuit on Friday to reject a proposed amicus brief on behalf of the government, saying a settlement between the state and the tribe wasn’t relevant to the group’s suit.”

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

WEBSITE SHOWS EFFECTS OF DROUGHT IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN. [KRCC-FM](#) Colorado Springs, CO (2/8, 2K) reports that “a new interactive website from the U.S. Department of the Interior looks to educate the public on the effects of drought in the Colorado River Basin.” The site is “a collaborative effort designed to show how the water supply in the Colorado River has declined as demand has increased.” Angela Adams, a project manager for the BOR, “says while the site contains a lot of complex data, it’s presented in a digestible way.”

LAWSUITS OVER SPOTTED FROG TROUBLE FARMERS. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/8, 98K) reports that farmers in Jefferson County are “busy calculating their costs for the spring planting season, and this year they’re factoring in a little bit of fear.” The article notes that “twin lawsuits filed in December in U.S. District Court in Eugene by environmental groups, if successful, would force the federal government to ensure that Oregon spotted frogs, a threatened species, have enough water to survive in the Upper Deschutes River Basin.” Farmers “fear the lawsuits could reduce their supply of irrigation water, which comes from the Deschutes River.”

LAKE NIGHTHORSE ASSESSMENT TO BE RELEASED SOON. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/6, 31K) reports that “an environmental assessment and other documentation on Lake Nighthorse may soon be available for public review and comment, bringing residents a step closer to recreational use, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials say.” Kathleen Ozga, resource division manager for the BOR’s Western Colorado Area Office, said, “We’re reviewing the documents internally and hoping by the end of the month, a draft of the EA will be available. Once that’s done, there would be construction at the entrance area, signage, an overflow parking lot and possibly improvements to the access road. Ideally, we’re looking at (opening recreation) sometime in 2017.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES BILL TO EXPAND FONTANELLE RESERVOIR. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (2/8) reports that “with drought and climate change creating water shortages in lower desert states, Wyoming is looking for more ways to store its share of Colorado River water.” Last week, a bill sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Lummis that “would expand the storage capacity of Fontanelle Reservoir on the Green River in southwest Wyoming passed the House Natural Resources Committee unanimously.” Lummis said, “Our communities need it, our agriculture needs it, our ability to produce power needs it. And if we are to grow in our industrial capacity or manufacturing capacity and to grow our cities, towns and counties, definitely water could be a limiting factor.”

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

[Onshore Energy Development:](#)

BLM REVEALS MORE DETAILS OF FLARING, VENTING RULES. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM “revealed more details of its proposed rules governing flaring and venting of associated natural gas on public and tribal lands in the Federal Register on Monday.” According to the article, “as proposed, operators would be required to deploy equipment and processes to limit the amount of flaring gas at oil wells on public and tribal lands, and to periodically inspect their wells for leaks.” Also, they would “be required to limit venting from storage tanks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Lexology](#) (2/8, 6K) and [JD Supra](#) (2/8, 5K).

GROUP PUSHES FOR FEDERAL COAL REFORM. [First Tracks](#) (2/7, 175) reports that “outdoor sports environmental advocacy group Protect Our Winters (POW) launched a new campaign this week in support of reforms to the federal coal leasing program that they say will make sure coal companies pay fair market value on coal mined on public lands.” According to the article, “the Close the Loop campaign aims to build awareness and rally the \$646 billion outdoor sports community around reform efforts recently proposed by President Barack Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell which would implement a comprehensive review of the federal coal program.”

Additional coverage was provided by [SportsOneSource](#) (2/8, 71).

BLM WITHDRAWS PROPOSED OIL, GAS LEASE SALE NEAR MCPHEE RESERVOIR. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/8, 31K) reports that the BLM has “withdrawn a proposed oil and gas lease sale over concerns that it was too close to McPhee dam, officials say.” The parcel was “listed in September for a Feb. 11 lease sale.”

BLM TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON MASTER LEASING PLAN. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/5, 31K) reports that on Thursday, a BLM committee will “hold a public meeting in Durango to consider whether a master leasing plan is necessary to designate land for new gas wells in La Plata and Montezuma counties.” The bureau “estimates up to 2,000 new wells are destined for Southwest Colorado over the next 30 years, which will mean another wave of concerns for property owners who fear their land will soon about the noise, eyesores and hazards of hydraulic fracturing activity.”

BATTLE IN SOLENEX CASE CONTINUES. The [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (2/8) reports that “the battle of the barristers in the case of Solenex, LLC v. Sally Jewell continues in U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia.” According to the article, “on December 3, 2015 there was a 30 day stay of proceedings as the parties, Solenex, LLC of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) requested, and were granted, the beak by Judge Richard J. Leon.” On January 7, “an additional stay of seven days was requested, moving the deadline to January 15,” and “on that date, both parties requested that the stay be lifted.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR OFFSHORE LEASING CRITICIZED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/8, 518K), Michael Brune, Executive Director, The Sierra Club, writes that the Interior Department’s “new draft of a five-year plan (2017-2022) for oil and gas leases off our coastlines” would “actually add 10 new leases in the Gulf of Mexico and in America’s Arctic, while also offering a lease for drilling off of the mid-Atlantic coast from Virginia to Georgia.” Brune offers “reasons why that makes no sense in 2016.” He urges President Obama to “base our fossil fuel policy on the mandate to ‘keep it in the ground’ whenever and wherever possible.”

Additional coverage of the “Keep it in the Ground” movement was provided by the [American Spectator](#) (2/9, 152K) and the [Heartland Institute](#) (2/8, 4K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ANNOUNCES HORSE ADOPTION SCHEDULE. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (2/8, 22K) reports that the BLM “on Monday announced its 2016 horse and burro adoption schedule.” BLM Director Neil Kornze said, “I urge people from across the country to attend an adoption event this year and bring home one of these icons of the West. Giving a good home to a wild horse or burro has the double benefit of saving taxpayers nearly \$50,000 each time an animal gets adopted.” Kornze added, “Adopters are getting themselves a great companion and in the process are helping to sustain the health and productivity of Western public rangelands.”

BLM GRANTS LEASE TO COMPANY PLANNING CONDOS ALONG HOLTER LAKE. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (2/8, 37K) reports that the BLM “granted a 30-year lease to a Great Falls company that plans a 22-unit condominium project at Holter Lake.” The lease is “for about 3.9 acres, of which 1.1 acres is below the lake’s waterline.” The lease also “allows two redundant water supply wells to be located on BLM land to serve the condominiums.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR HERMANAS UPGRADE. The [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (2/5, 10K) reports that the BLM Las Cruces District is “seeking public comments on road improvements proposed by Luna County for County Road (CR) 003 located south of Deming.” The comments will be

“considered in an Environmental Assessment that will evaluate the potential impacts the improvements may have on public land the road traverses.” Comments will be accepted until March 1, 2016.

BLM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR RAPTOR NEST SURVEY. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/8, 402K) reports that the BLM’s Salt Lake field office is “seeking volunteers to help conduct the annual raptor inventory nest survey this spring in northern Utah.” According to the article, “the survey offers volunteers an opportunity to be involved as citizen scientists in a long-term monitoring project.” The objective of “the survey is to collect and manage data regarding the ecology of eagles, falcons, hawks, osprey and owls.”

MOHAVE COUNTY LOOKING AT EUTHANASIA AS LAST RESORT TO DEAL WITH BURROS. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (2/9, 27K) reports that “of all the possible solutions to controlling the wild burro population in Mohave County, euthanization is understandably the least palatable for the public, but it could be a last resort, County Supervisor Steve Moss said Monday at a public workshop.” The BLM has “been unable to maintain the burro population in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, and it’s creating a problem with public safety and desert wildlife habitat, Moss said.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GROUP RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT FWS PLAN TO GIVE BACK TRIBAL LANDS. The [Greenwire](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility on Monday “raised concerns about the Fish and Wildlife Service’s plan to push for the transfer of national wildlife refuge lands in western Montana to Native Americans – a move that PEER warned could throw into question the ownership of dozens of other refuges and national parks.” The National Bison Range is “within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, the home of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).” According to the article, “a century ago, Congress bought the 16,000 acres that makes up that national wildlife refuge from the reservation to conserve the American bison, which then numbered around 2,100 in the United States and Canada,” but “the tribes have pointed out that such sales at the time were often forced.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/8, 78K).

CONSERVATIONISTS OPPOSE SWAZILAND’S PLAN TO RELOCATE 18 ELEPHANTS TO U.S. ZOOS. [CNN](#) (2/7, Karimi, 3.96M) reports that “Swaziland’s plan to relocate 18 elephants to three American zoos is sparking condemnation from some conservationists.” Last month, the FWS “approved their relocation to three facilities: the Dallas Zoo, the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas, and the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska.” Conservationists “say relocating the giant animals to zoos half a world away is detrimental to their health.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/8, 442K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: \$20 MILLION ANNOUNCED UNDER COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM. Additional coverage that FWS Director Dan Ashe has “announced that more than \$20 million will be provided to 28 projects in 12 coastal states to protect, restore or enhance more than 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands and adjacent upland habitats under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program” was provided by [Point of Beginning](#) (2/8).

OP-ED: MANTEES’ FUTURE STILL UNCERTAIN, DESPITE DOWNLISTING. In an op-ed for the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (2/8, 313K), Katie Tripp, director of science and conservation for the Save the Manatee Club, writes that last month, the FWS announced “plans to downlist all West Indian manatees from ‘endangered’ to ‘threatened’ under the Endangered Species Act.” According to Tripp, “FWS’ announcement that it believes the risks and threats to manatees are pretty well under control indicates that they’re satisfied with the status quo that leaves manatees dying of boat strikes, poisoned by red tide and facing loss of winter habitat.” She concludes that “the manatees’ future is far from certain, which means the work is far from over.”

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARKS AWARDED \$48 MILLION FOR CENTENNIAL PROJECTS. [Nature World News](#) (2/5) reports that the NPS “turns 100 years old this summer, and the NPS has announced Centennial Challenge projects in honor of that century-long existence.” According to the article, “the aim is to improve visitor services and outreach, thereby boosting tourism to parks nationwide.” The NPS has “received a total of \$48 million for those projects, \$15 million of which is from the U.S. government.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) (2/8, 46K) and the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/9, 337K).

FOURTH-GRADERS RECEIVE PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS. The [Worthington \(MN\) Daily Globe](#) (2/8, 26K) reports that “Sept. 1, 2015, marked the start of a new national initiative to provide all American fourth-graders and their families with free admission to federal lands and waters for an entire year.” The initiative, Every Kid in a Park, provides “free access to more than 2,000 national parks, forests, monuments, wildlife refuges and seashores for an entire calendar year.”

HISTORIAN WRITING THEME STUDY CHAPTER FOR LGBTQ HERITAGE INITIATIVE. [ThisIsReno \(NV\)](#) (2/8) reports that “on May 30, 2014, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a new theme study to identify places and events associated with the story of LGBTQ Americans for inclusion in the parks and programs of the National Park Service.” The article notes that “along with this federal effort, a new Reno-based non-profit, the Nevada LGBT Archives, was recently formed.” According to the article, “one of the founders, a doctoral candidate in the History Department at the University of Nevada, was commissioned by the Park Service to write a theme study chapter for the LGBTQ Heritage Initiative.”

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON FEDERAL INTERACTIONS WITH STATE WILDLIFE OFFICIALS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “Senators will hear from state wildlife officials this week on their ‘interaction’ with federal agencies in a hearing that will likely skewer the National Park Service for a recent rule banning some hunting in Alaskan national preserves.” A subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold a hearing Tuesday , titled “Federal Interactions with State Management of Fish and Wildlife.”

HOUSE PANEL TO REVIEW FOUR HISTORICAL SITES BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “four bills that seek to promote the conservation of U.S. historical sites will be under review this week in the House Natural Resources subcommittee on federal lands.” H.R. 87, from Rep. Marsha Blackburn, would “modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park in southern Tennessee.” The NPS “site would be expanded to include Fallen Timbers Battlefield, Russell House Battlefield and Davis Bridge Battlefield – three sites where Union and Confederate soldiers clashed during the Civil War.”

ADKINS SAYS MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK WILL TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (2/8, Munger, 228K) reports that last November the Manhattan Project National Historical Park “was officially created” when “Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel put their signatures on the memorandum of agreement.” However, “the three-site park...is a long way from being finished” and actually “the process is just getting started.” The park’s interim superintendent Tracy Adkins said, “It’ll take three to five years, maybe a little longer.” One significant “hurdle will be getting access to some of the historic sites that are currently housed inside Department of Energy installations, including the high-security Y-12 nuclear weapons plant.” Atkins “visited Oak Ridge last week to look at some of the Manhattan Project sites and to gather public input on what should be included in the park and how the atomic bomb work should be presented to visitors.”

NATIONAL PARKS SAW INCREASE IN VISITORS LAST YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/8, 37K) reports that the NPS says “almost 1.1 million people took in the rugged landscapes of the park in 2015. That’s a nearly 14 percent increase compared to 2014.” Park Superintendent Mike Pflaum “says the increased visitation numbers show that people continue to find the park a great place to visit.”

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (2/8, 18K) also reports that “visitors flocked to Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park last year.” The NPS is “partly crediting the National Park Foundation’s “Find Your Park” campaign with the record number of total visitors to national

parks in 2015.”

NPS AWARDS \$1.3M TOWARD C&O CANAL AQUEDUCT RESTORATION. The [AP](#) (2/8, 51K) reports that the NPS is “providing \$1.3 million to help restore the Conococheague Aqueduct in the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park at Williamsport.” The federal agency “said in a statement Monday that the federal funds will be matched with nearly \$7.6 million from the state of Maryland.” Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt “says the project is the centerpiece of a plan to create a ‘premier historical attraction’ near the canal’s midpoint.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/8, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/8, Press, 8.98M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/8, 285K).

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT PLANS TO REMOVE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Denver Post](#) (2/9, Paul, 881K) reports that the NPS is “drafting plans to remove or restrict Rocky Mountain goats from Dinosaur National Monument either by capture or lethal means.” According to officials, “the invasive goats have been spotted in and around the park in the past several years and that they pose a risk to sensitive plant and animal species.”

CARNIVORES AROUND SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA EXPOSED TO HOUSEHOLD POISONS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/7, Sahagun, 4.1M) reports that NPS “scientists for years have documented widespread exposure in carnivores to common household poisons in and around the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.” According to the article, “during two decades of research in the region on carcasses and live animals, 88% of 140 bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions evaluated tested positive for one or more anticoagulant compounds.”

WINNERS OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCED. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (2/8, 41K) reports that “when the national park’s new annual pass is issued in June, it will feature an image of the Queets Basin taken by Jake Morrison of Quinalt.” Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said, “We are very proud to announce the top three winners in this year’s Olympic National Park – Discover Your Northwest photo contest.” She added, “The photo contest has been a great way to celebrate a new year at Olympic and kick off the National Park Service centennial.” The new Olympic National Park annual pass will go on sale June 1.

PRESERVATION GROUP PROMOTES DESIGNATING CAHOKIA MOUNDS AS NATIONAL PARK SITE. The [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (2/8, 166K) reports that the HeartLands Conservancy is “adapting to the changing metro-east landscape and declining visitorship to the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center by working to promote a handful of important regional mounds as a National Park unit.” According to Ed Weillbacher, director of the Mounds protection project for HeartLands, “the group hopes its efforts will also add a layer of protection for the more than 550 mounds across the St. Louis region, many of which are on private land.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS FACES MAINTENANCE BACKLOG OF \$12 BILLION. Additional coverage that the NPS is facing “a multibillion dollar maintenance backlog” was provided by the [New York Times](#) (2/5, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (2/8, 121K), and [KCSG-TV St. George \(UT\)](#) St. George, UT (2/8, 43).

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 [RiverBender \(IL\)](#) (2/8).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/8, 173K), Mary Foley, a former regional chief scientist for the Northeast Region of the NPS, and Michael Soukup, a former chief scientist for the NPS in Washington, D.C., support “the proposed donation of land by Roxanne Quimby to establish a national park in the Katahdin region of Maine.” They note that “Maine’s rich northern forest heritage...is not reflected in the national park system.” They argue that “in terms of adding representation, the Quimby property would provide an example of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Ecoregion, described as a transition zone between the boreal spruce-fir forest to the north and the

deciduous forest to the south.”

DEVELOPMENT NEAR GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Hunterdon County \(NJ\) News](#) (2/9), Michele S. Byers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, writes that the Great Falls National Historic Park is “unique in its juxtaposition of stunning natural beauty with gritty industrial development.” According to Byers, “park advocates were aghast in November when the city’s Planning Board approved a 156-unit apartment complex atop the ridge overlooking the historic district and falls.” He says that “to those who worked for the national historic park designation in 2009 – and who see the park as the centerpiece of the city’s redevelopment – it makes no sense to place an obtrusive apartment complex where it would detract from the park’s beauty.”

MONTANA GOV. BULLOCK LAUDED FOR EXPANDED YEAR-ROUND BISON RANGE. In an open letter to Montana Gov. Steve Bullock published by the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (2/8, 37K), Stan Frasier, president of the Helena Hunters and Anglers Association, thanks Bullock “for his decision to allow expansion of bison as a year-round component of wildlife populations north of Yellowstone Park.” He says that “this action asserts that buffalo, beyond the borders of a national park, are resident wildlife to be managed by the state as a public trust for all people.”

[US Geological Survey:](#)

USGS REVEALS POLAR BEAR NECK CAMERA SURVEILLANCE FINDINGS. The [Coastal Television \(AK\)](#) (2/8, 122) reports that “scientists placed cameras and surveillance mechanisms on Beaufort Sea polar bears, to analyze their daily patterns.” According to the USGS-administered analysis, “the study revealed that the Arctic animals spent about 70% of their day relaxing.” The USGS study found that “even with their low exercise activity, the polar bears need to consume a considerable amount of food.” The article notes that “the examination supports the hypothesis that it will be extremely tough for polar bears to transfer their eating sources to land-based meals.”

Top National News:

TRUMP, SANDERS MAINTAIN LEADS IN FINAL POLLS AS NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTING BEGINS. The final tracking polls in New Hampshire show Donald Trump maintaining his lead on the Republican side, with a four-way race for second. On the Democratic side, Sen. Bernie Sanders maintains a large lead, but the margin varies in the latest surveys. Reports say Hillary Clinton’s campaign seems to be anticipating defeat and is trying to minimize the size of the loss before the campaign moves on to the more hospitable ground of South Carolina.

[CNN](#) (2/8, Agiesta, 3.96M) reports on its website that the final CNN/WMUR tracking poll found Trump in the lead among Republicans at 31%, followed by Sen. Marco Rubio 17% support, Sen. Ted Cruz 14%, Gov. John Kasich 10%, Jeb Bush 7%, Carly Fiorina 5%, Gov. Chris Christie 4%, and Ben Carson 3%. On the Democratic side, Sanders led Clinton 61% to 35%.

[The Hill](#) (2/8, Byrnes, 862K) also reports on the CNN poll, while [WHDH-TV Boston](#) (2/8, Hiller, 56K) reports on its website that the 7NEWS/UMass Lowell tracking poll found Trump at 34%, Cruz 13%, Rubio 13%, Bush 10%, Kasich 10%, Christie 5%, Fiorina 4%, and Carson 3%. Among Democrats, Sanders led Clinton 56% to 40%. [Politico](#) (2/8, Shepard, 1.07M) headlines its story on the GOP surveys “New Hampshire Polls Show A Tossup For Second Place.” [ABC World News](#) (2/8, story 3, 2:45, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Sanders has “double-digit lead,” with Clinton “hoping to at least close that gap to single digits here in Sanders’ neighboring state.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/8, story 4, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Clinton trails after winning Iowa “by the narrowest of margins.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says “a rambunctious herd of presidential candidates dashed across” the state Monday, “making last-ditch efforts to persuade undecided voters.” With the state’s “history of defying polls and the sense of confusion that Trump’s candidacy has imposed on the race, a glut of contenders clung to the idea that anything could be possible.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, Balz, Rucker, 8.98M) says “with a snowstorm bearing down,”

candidates “scurried across” the state “leveling inflammatory attacks against one another while pleading with voters for their support.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/8, lead story, 2:45, Holt, 7.86M) opened by saying that the snow provides “just one more challenge for the presidential candidates.” Between them, the candidates “hit 30 events across this state today, hoping to move the needle in their direction.” The [Keene \(NH\) Sentinel](#) (2/8, Nanci, 23K) reports New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner “has predicted a record turnout of 550,000 voters due to high enthusiasm,” estimating 282,000 votes in the Republican primary and 268,000 on the Democratic side.

The small towns of Dixville Notch, Hart’s Location, and Millfield all voted at midnight as per tradition. [Politico](#) (2/9, Strauss, 1.07M) reports Cruz, Kasich, and Trump received a total of nine votes each, Christie three, Bush two, Rubio two, Carson one, and Fiorina one. Sanders received 17 votes to Clinton’s nine.

The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Parker, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on what it describes as “a highly coveted and unpredictable species – the undeclared New Hampshire primary voter – that makes up about 40 percent of the primary electorate, and that has the potential to propel one candidate to victory or tip another to defeat.”

Clintons Make Final Pitches. [Foster’s Daily Democrat \(NH\)](#) (2/8, Andrews, 5K) reports that ex-President Clinton said in the town of Rochester Monday that it is “not too late to turn New Hampshire’s and young voters’ favor” toward his wife. He said Sanders’ promises were unrealistic, saying, “When I was here, I got 60% of the vote here because our numbers added up. New Hampshire expected us to follow the basic rules of arithmetic. And if you follow anything your mama told you, it was that if something sounds too good to be true, it might be.” [The Hill](#) (2/8, Stanage, Parnes, 862K) says “a lot of unaligned Democrats” are concerned by the Clinton campaign’s new negative tone, worrying “that history might be repeating itself, and that the former president’s attacks could boomerang on his wife by turning off large swathes of the Democratic electorate.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Nelson, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Hillary Clinton herself made her final appeal in Manchester, saying, “To all of the young people who are supporting my opponent, I thank you too – I thank you for being part of this process. You may not support me now, but I will always support you.”

The [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (2/8, 358K) reports that even a big win for Sanders “will offer little insight” into the February 27 South Carolina primary, “where more than half of voters will be black.” Democrats in the state “also are more conservative and religious than their New Hampshire counterparts. But the winner can claim a victory that could build momentum as the contest moves South.”

Clintons Reportedly Planning Changes To Campaign. [Politico](#) (2/8, Thrush, Karni, 1.07M) reports that the Clintons “are so dissatisfied with their campaign’s messaging and digital operations they are considering staffing and strategy changes after what’s expected to be a loss” in New Hampshire. [CNN](#) (2/8, Zeleny, Borger, Johns, Merica, 3.96M) reports on its website that “several people close to the campaign, particularly in Bill Clinton’s orbit and among donors, acknowledged discontent within the operation.”

[TIME](#) (2/8, Newton-Small, 18.01M) reports on its website that Clinton told MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow, “We’re going to take stock, what works, what doesn’t work. We’re moving into a different phase of the campaign. ... So, of course it would be malpractice not to say, ‘OK, what worked? What can we do better? What do we have to do new and different that we have to pull out?’”

State Department Confirms FBI Is Investigating Clinton’s Email Server. The [Washington Times](#) (2/8, Dinan, 285K) reports the State Department has confirmed that the FBI is looking into Clinton’s email server, “filing a notice with a federal judge laying out the vague outlines of the investigation.” [The Hill](#) (2/8, Hattem, 862K) reports some conservatives say Attorney General Lynch “should be disqualified from overseeing the investigation into Hillary Clinton’s email server because of the more than \$10,000 she has

given to Democrats in recent years.”

Trump Appears Poised To Score Win. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/8, lead story, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported “polls show that...Trump has a very good chance of getting the comeback win he needs after finishing second in Iowa. He leads his closest rivals better than 2-1.”

On [ABC World News](#) (2/8, lead story, 4:15, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported that “Trump has a simple goal in New Hampshire – prove he can win as presidential candidate.” Karl asked Trump, “You got a big lead – is any part of you a little nervous? I mean, New Hampshire voters tend to be so independent – change at the last minute.” Trump replied, “Totally, I mean, you have to think that. Who knows what’s going to happen. We have good poll numbers, but I would be happy to win by one vote. I just want to win.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/8, story 2, 2:00, Tur, 7.86M), Katy Tur reported that in New Hampshire, “historically voters make up their minds late,” adding, “That means second and even first place could be up for grabs, after what many saw as Marco Rubio’s dismal debate performance” on Saturday. The [Daily Caller](#) (2/8, Pappas, 443K) reports that during a Monday campaign rally in Manchester, Trump urged voters “to help him rebound with a big win on Tuesday.”

[Reuters](#) (2/8, Holland, Becker) reports that Jeb Bush and Trump on Monday traded barbs while campaigning in New Hampshire. Speaking at an event, Trump, unhappy that Bush attacked him during Saturday’s GOP debate, said of the former Florida governor, “He’s a total stiff. ... If you had a company, you wouldn’t even hire him. He’s like a child, like a spoiled child.” Firing back, Bush said via Twitter, “@realDonaldTrump, you aren’t just a loser, you are a liar and a whiner.”

[McClatchy](#) (2/8, Recio, 22K) reports that in the wake of Bush – during Saturday’s debate – having taken “issue with billionaire developer Trump benefiting from eminent domain,” Trump has worked to turn the tables on his rival by arguing “the Bush family” did “the same thing.” Trump has pointed out that when former President George W. Bush was the managing partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team in the early 1990s, eminent domain was used to build the team’s stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Tau, Leubsdorf, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that Trump’s support for eminent domain could hurt him both in New Hampshire and nationally, as many conservatives oppose the practice.

In his [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) column, Michael Gerson criticizes Trump for using profanities on the campaign trail, saying the billionaire “identifies crudity with populism, as if using words of four letters were a protest against prim elites. Rough language is intended to convey strength and authenticity. On both counts, it amounts to deception.” Gerson adds that “a foul mouth is meant to cover up for Trump’s ignorance and weakness.”

OBAMA TO SEEK \$1.8 BILLION TO COMBAT ZIKA VIRUS. While much of the media coverage of the announcement that the President will seek \$1.8 billion in emergency funding from Congress to combat the Zika virus focuses on how those funds will be used, many reports point out that the requests comes as the President seeks to avoid a repeat of 2014, when the Administration was criticized for its response to the Ebola outbreak.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/9, A3, Armour, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says it is not clear when the request will be sent, noting that the White House said in a statement it will be submitted shortly. [USA Today](#) (2/8, Korte, Szabo, 5.56M) reports the emergency funding will be used for “mosquito control programs, vaccine research, education and improving health care for low-income pregnant women, the White House said Monday.” In addition, the proposal “includes \$355 million in foreign aid to South America, Central America, the Caribbean, where the Zika virus is spreading most rapidly.” [Politico](#) (2/8, Karlin, 1.07M) reported Administration officials “said it’s possible a vaccine could be ready as soon as late next year.” National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci told a White House press briefing Monday NIH “has a Zika vaccine in the early stages of development and should be ready [for] the first stage of safety testing in humans by the end of this summer.” the testing, he added, “should

be completed by the end of the year.” On its website, [Voice of America](#) (2/8, 60K) noted that while “there is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available,” drug companies “in India, Japan and France announced that they are working to develop possible vaccines.”

The [AP](#) (2/8) notes the President “says ‘there shouldn’t be a panic on this.’” In an interview with CBS on Monday, [Reuters](#) (2/8, Rampton, Hirschler) reports, the President said, “The good news is this is not like Ebola; people don’t die of Zika. A lot of people get it and don’t even know that they have it. ... This is not something where people are going to die from it. It is something we have to take seriously.” Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the CDC echoed that sentiment Monday, stressing “that while the CDC is taking Zika seriously, the virus shouldn’t change everyday life for the average American,” the [Huffington Post](#) (2/8, 518K) reported.

[The Hill](#) (2/8, Fabian, Ferris, 862K) noted the President “is hoping to avoid a repeat of 2014, when he faced a torrent of criticism for the government’s sluggish response to the threat posed by a deadly outbreak of Ebola virus in Africa.” The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Landler, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the White House is “trying to strike a balance between being responsive to the outbreak and not provoking alarm,” noting that two years ago, the Administration “initially played down the risk that the Ebola virus would spread to the United States, only to reverse course after the diagnosis of several cases here.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/8, Howell, 285K) said the request “comes after lawmakers on key congressional committees prodded the administration to proactively fight and research Zika.” On its website, [TIME](#) (2/8, Rhodan, 18.01M) said that while congressional Democrats have “pushed the president to formulate a proper response plan for the virus and called for additional resources and an interagency response to fighting the virus,” the White House “has been insistent that the administration is responding aggressively to the virus.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/8, story 10, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) said the President’s request came as “at least 57 cases have been reported in the US” and the CDC “moved to its highest alert level.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/8, story 7, 1:45, Costello, 7.86M) reported that in south Florida, there is “a proactive push to wipe out mosquitoes that could soon arrive carrying the Zika virus.” This, as researchers say they still don’t know whether Zika can be transmitted through saliva and urine and also continue to believe mosquito control efforts should prevent a widespread outbreak in the US.

[Roll Call](#) (2/8, Bennett, 126K) said the Administration “bluntly acknowledged ‘there is much that we do not yet know about Zika and its relationship to the poor health outcomes that are being reported in Zika-affected areas.’” The White House said we must “work aggressively to investigate these outbreaks, and mitigate, to the best extent possible, the spread of the virus,” which is why the Administration “wants lawmakers to act quickly.” [Politico](#) (2/8, Karlin, 1.07M) also said while White House press secretary Josh Earnest “said the administration is ‘hopeful that Congress will recognize the urgency’ of its funding request,” Senate Majority Leader McConnell “was noncommittal.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, Mufson, Sun, 8.98M) says some Republicans oppose “that much funding,” adding that Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) introduced legislation last week to “let federal agencies use unused funds allocated to fight the Ebola virus.” According to Stewart, “as of September 2015, there was approximately \$1.4 billion in remaining funds.” Similarly, [The Hill](#) (2/8, Fabian, Ferris, 862K) said “leaders of the health and national security committees were noncommittal about the funding package, saying they will wait to hear directly from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in a Tuesday briefing,” while other lawmakers, including Senate Minority Leader Reid, “were quick to support the White House’s emergency funding request.” [The Hill](#) (2/8, Carney, 862K) reported Reid on Monday “urg[ed] his colleagues to support the Obama administration’s request,” saying, “It’s critical that we approve the funds now immediately and give our government the resources it needs to fight the virus.”

[ABC World News](#) (2/8, story 6, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) reported there are questions about “whether the US Olympic athletes should be traveling to Rio.” Fauci: “It is difficult to give advice to people who have devoted the last x number of years training for that. The CDC and the NIH could give them the facts and the evidence based information.” ABC (Davis) added the US Olympic committee “is advising athletes to

listen to the CDC, while Olympic officials in Rio are trying to downplay the threat.”

OBAMA TO SEEK “DRAMATIC BOOST” IN CYBERSECURITY FUNDING. [The Hill](#) (2/8, Bennett, 862K) cited “multiple Hill offices, industry representatives and digital privacy advocates,” who said the President “is expected to request a dramatic boost in federal funding for cybersecurity.” As part of his budget proposal, the President will seek “over \$19 billion in cyber spending, a 35 percent increase over last year’s allotment [sic] of roughly \$14 billion.” The Hill noted it would be “a big jump for the White House after only asking for an additional \$1 billion last year, a roughly 10 percent increase.”

Hacker Obtains Employee Records From Justice, DHS. The [New York Times](#) (2/8, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that “in the latest cyberattack targeting the federal government, an intruder gained access to information for thousands of employees at the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security, but officials said Monday that there was no indication that sensitive information had been stolen.” According to the Times, most of the information “appeared to have been culled from internal government directories, including employees’ email addresses, phone numbers and job titles.” Meanwhile, on Sunday the technology news site Motherboard reported “it had been approached by a hacker who claimed to have obtained employee information on about 20,000 people at the F.B.I. and 9,000 at the Department of Homeland Security.” The hacker “professed support for pro-Palestinian groups and vowed to make the information public in an apparent attempt to embarrass federal agencies that play a part in cybersecurity operations.”

Hacker Dumps Data On 30,000 FBI, DHS Employees. The [New York Daily News](#) (2/8, Silverstein, 3.7M) reports that the “unknown hacker published contact information for about 20,000 FBI employees Monday – just a day after leaking data from the Department of Homeland Security and threatening a Justice Department breach.” The data dump “appeared on a week-old Twitter account, @DotGovs, claiming to be an anti-Israel hacker,” and the user “tweeted an encrypted list of names, phone numbers and email addresses for DHS employees.” The Daily News “dialed more than 20 numbers published on the list,” and while “several calls went to the wrong person or disconnected lines,” most “connected to the respective person named in the data dump, either directly or through voicemail.” The FBI “referred questions to the Justice Department, which said it is ‘looking into the unauthorized access’ of its system but does not believe any ‘sensitive personally identifiable information’ was stolen.”

[The Hill](#) (2/8, Williams, 862K) reports that the hacker “told Motherboard that he obtained the data by first compromising a Department of Justice email account, then tricking an agency representative into giving him a token code that allowed him to gain access to the work computer of the email account owner.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “Winnowing Out In New Hampshire.” A [New York Times](#) (2/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says that under “the Darwinian efficiency that characterizes our modern electoral system, voters representing less than 1 percent of the American electorate may by Wednesday have effectively spoiled the chances of a half-dozen people who hoped they’d be the next American president.” Today’s primary in New Hampshire “will almost certainly narrow the field — but still not produce anyone with a surefire winning formula.”

“Evidence Of Prisoner Abuse, Still Hidden.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Pentagon’s release last week of 198 photos “added little to our understanding of the shameful period after the Sept. 11 attacks during which American troops systematically abused detainees,” and urges it to release “roughly 1,800 photos gathered as part of criminal investigations into allegations of prisoner mistreatment by American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

WASHINGTON POST. “North Korea’s Rocket Launch Shows That Mr. Obama’s ‘Strategic Patience’ Has Failed.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) editorializes that President Obama’s policy of strategic patience “has failed,” and the US needs a more effective strategy in response to recent North Korean provocations. Specifically, the US needs to implement sanctions “that strike at the regime’s inner circle.”

This could be done by designating China a money launderer and putting sanctions “on Chinese banks and other businesses that supply weapons and luxury goods.”

“Haiti Avoids Crisis At The Last Minute, But What Happens Next?” The [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) editorializes that “Haiti wants and deserves a democratically elected new government on the prompt timetable set by the new agreement,” which is why there is a “pressing need for international vigilance” as the country moves forward with a new presidential runoff election “with so many potential disputes left unresolved.”

“DC Needs To Study Paid Family Leave More Carefully.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/8, 8.98M) hopes that the District of Columbia Council considers Mayor Muriel Bowser’s “sensible” suggestion for a “more careful study” of the “complicated” issue of paid family leave. The Post also says that any proposal should avoid taxing companies that already offer leave packages to their employees, as “imposing a tax on those companies would penalize them or encourage them to withdraw benefits.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Clinton’s UN Candidate?” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) argues for Congress to examine the record of Unesco head Irina Bokova, who may be nominated to be the next UN secretary-general. The Journal says Bokova was a member of the Bulgarian Communist Party during the Cold War. The Journal also wishes to know Hillary Clinton’s opinion on Bokova’s potential candidacy, as Bokova has participated in Clinton Global Initiative events and is friends with Marjorie Margolies, Chelsea Clinton’s mother-in-law.

“Chesapeake At Bay.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial notes that shares in Chesapeake Energy fell by a third Monday and says the recent market volatility is just the beginning of what will be a difficult year for American energy companies. The Journal says energy markets are already in recession and the situation will continue to deteriorate as long as oil prices hover around \$30 a barrel or lower. Given that, the Journal criticizes the President for using last week’s jobs report to claim an economic victory.

“Bush, Trump And The Super PACs.” An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says while Jeb Bush’s criticism of super PACs, his claim that a constitutional amendment would be needed to change the system is incorrect. Congress, the Journal argues, could fix the system and eliminate the need for super PACs by repealing McCain-Feingold, removing donation limits, and allowing candidates to raise funds from American donors in any amount.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

At Heart Of Coastal Panel Showdown, A Wider Debate
Former Murder Capital Of Mexico Awaits Pope
Hot, Dry: Where Are You, El Nino?
[Old Towns, New Political Turf In New Hampshire](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Global Growth Fears Hit Bank Stocks](#)
[GOP Race For Second In NH Intensifies](#)
[The Thorny Economics Of Illegal Immigration](#)
[Legal Fees Cross New Mark: \\$1,500 An Hour](#)

New York Times:

[New Hampshire Voters Hear Candidates’ Final Appeals Before Primary](#)
[Unsafe Lead Levels In Tap Water Not Limited To Flint](#)
[Undeclared In New Hampshire: “I Might Be Able To Bring Trump And Cruz Down”](#)
[Officer Peter Liang, On Stand, Breaks Down As He Recalls Brooklyn Killing](#)

[New, Reading-Heavy SAT Has Students Worried](#)

Washington Post:

[With Anti-Gun-Violence Ad, NBA Acts On Polarizing Issue](#)

[In Latin America, Zika Stirs Debate On Abortion](#)

[Barbs And Pleas Before NH Vote](#)

[Tough-On-Crime California Does A U-Turn](#)

[“I Won’t Put You In A Nursing Home”: A Vow That Sometimes Can’t Be Kept](#)

Washington Times:

[Hillary Counting On Bill To Blast Sanders In NH](#)

[Trump Confident He’ll Win In New Hampshire](#)

[Ferguson To Decide On Feds’ Justice Reform Plan](#)

[Virginia GOP Pushes Bill To Ban Funds For Sanctuaries](#)

[Nuke Clash Stymies EU Energy Policy](#)

[Obama To Earmark \\$1.8 Billion For Zika Fight As Outbreak Worsens](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Zika Virus-Spread; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Somalia-Airplane Explosion; India-Meteorite Death; 2016 Politics-Michael Bloomberg.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Republican Debate; 2016 Politics-Michael Bloomberg; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Syrian Civil War; North Korea-Missile Test; President Obama-Interview; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Zika Virus Spread; Chipotle-Health And Safety Training.

NBC: 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Analysis; Severe Weather; Cruise Ship-Severe Storm; Zika Virus Spread; Somalia-Plane Explosion; Heartburn Drug Warning; Taiwan Earthquake Damage.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 22 minutes, 25 seconds

Zika Virus Spread – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Cruise Ship-Severe Weather – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-New Hampshire Primary; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Blizzard; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; 2016 Politics-Michael Bloomberg Potential Campaign.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Trump Bush Feud; North Korea-Missile Test; Zika Virus-US Funding Requests; Cruise Ship-Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Blizzard.

NPR: 2016 Politics-New Hampshire Primary; 2016 Politics-Trump Bush Feud; Zika Virus-US Funding Requests; Saudi Arabia Special Forces-Syria; Asian Stock Markets; Oregon-Wildlife Refuge Protesters; New York Art Gallery-Forgeries; Los Angeles Mistaken Prisoner Release.

[Washington Schedule:](#)

TODAY’S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Representative Steve Israel; releases Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing; attends meeting with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Representative Steve Israel.

US Senate: 10:30 AM Sens. Markey; Franken join Sheriffs on health coverage for pretrial inmates –

Senators Edward J. Markey (D–Mass.) and Al Franken (D–Minn.) will be joined by Middlesex, Massachusetts Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Hennepin County, Minnesota Sheriff Richard W. Stanek for a press conference to discuss Medicaid coverage and continuity of care for pretrial inmates. Participants: Senator Edward J. Markey (D – Mass.); U.S. Senator Al Franken (D – Minn.); Middlesex, Massachusetts Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian; Hennepin County, Minnesota Sheriff Richard W. Stanek; Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA). Contact: Giselle Barry (Markey) 202-224-2742; Michael Dale-Stein, 202-224-2916.

8:30 AM Senate Budget Committee photo availability for President Barack Obama's Federal Year 2017 Budget Location: Rm 608 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on worldwide threats – Hearing on 'Worldwide Threats', with testimony from Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider 'S. 2030, The Advancing Targeted Therapies for Rare Diseases Act of 2015', 'S. 1622, The FDA Device Accountability Act of 2015', 'S. 2014, Next Generation Researchers Act', 'S. 800, The Enhancing the Stature and Visibility of Medical Rehabilitation Research at NIH Act', 'S. 849, Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act of 2015', 'S. XXXX, Preventing Superbugs and Protecting Patients Act', and 'S. XXXX, Improving Health Information Technology' Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

11:30 AM 'Japan and the United States: Local Partners, Global Allies' event at EWC – East West Center event entitled 'Japan and the United States: Local Partners, Global Allies', to discuss the social and economic impact of the United-States-Japan relationship and launch of Japan Matters for America / America Matters for Japan, featuring State Department Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kurt Tong, and Embassy of Japan in the United States Minister for Economic Affairs Kanji Yamanouchi. Special Guests include Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono, Democratic Reps. Mark Takai and Mark Takano, and Japan Ambassador to the U.S. Kenichiro Sasae Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/EastWestCenter>

2:30 PM Senate Environment subcommittee oversight hearing on federal-state fish and wildlife management – Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Federal Interactions with State Management of Fish and Wildlife' Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on DoD nuclear acquisition programs – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of Defense Nuclear Acquisition Programs and the Nuclear Doctrine', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities Robert Scher, and Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs Dr Arthur Hopkins; U.S. Navy Director of Strategic Systems Programs Vice Adm. Terry Benedict; and Air Force Global Strike Command Commander Gen. Robin Rand Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM GOP Sens. Lee and Grassley and law enforcement discuss the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act – Republican Sens. Mike Lee and Chuck Grassley join members of law enforcement to discuss their perspectives on the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015 – a briefing held following a pair of letters Republican leaders circulated to colleagues in which over 130 law enforcement leaders urged Congress to pass the measure 'because federal sentencing reform will reduce both crime and unnecessary incarceration'. Participants include former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration Chairman (and former New Orleans Police Superintendent) Ronal Serpas, San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada Richard Pocker Location: Rm 224, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

www.lee.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenMikeLee>

5:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on Syria and Iraq – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on 'Administration Update on the Way Forward in Syria and Iraq', given by Special Presidential Envoy For The Global Coalition To Counter ISIL Brett McGurk Location: SVC-217, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

8:00 AM 'Africa Policy Breakfast 2016: Boko Haram and its Regional Impact' – Africa Policy Breakfast 2016: Boko Haram and its Regional Impact, hosted by Democratic Reps. Karen Bass, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Gregory Meeks and Frederica Wilson, with keynote from Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who discusses the U.S. foreign policy as it relates to Boko Haram. Other speakers include George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs Dean Amb. Reuben Brigety II, and National Defense University Africa Center for Strategic Studies Dean Dr Raymond Gilpin Location: HVC 201AB, Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC bass.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepKarenBass>

2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including: 'H.R. 3016, Veterans Employment, Education, and Healthcare Improvement Act'; 'H.R. 3106, Construction Reform Act of 2016'; 'H.R. 2360, Career-Ready Student Veterans Act'; 'H.R. 4056, To Authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs all right, title, and interest of the United States to the property known as 'The Community Living Center' at the Lake Baldwin Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, Orlando, Florida; 'H.R. 677, American Heroes COLA Act of 2015'; 'H.R. 3234, VA Medical Center Recovery Act'; 'H.R. 2915, Female Veteran Suicide Prevention'; 'H.R. 3894, To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the prompt notification of State Child Protective Services by military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense required by law to report suspected instances of child abuse and neglect' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 8:30 AM CTIA 5G Leadership Forum – CTIA 5G Leadership Forum – 'The Next Generation of Wireless', with keynotes from Republican Sen. John Thune and FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel Location: Reserve Officers Association – Top of the Hill, 1 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC www.ctia.org [#CTIA5G](https://twitter.com/CTIA)

1:30 PM Agriculture Secretary Vilsack discusses FY 2017 Budget request – Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack discusses President Barack Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget request for USDA programs via national media call Location: TBD www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

2:00 PM DOJ press briefing on FY2017 Budget proposal – Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and Assistant Attorney General for Administration Lee Lofthus press briefing on the Department of Justice funding proposal in President Barack Obama's Federal Year 2017 Budget proposal Location: Dept of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.usdoj.gov> <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Senior Treasury official background briefing on Budget Greenbook – Department of the Treasury release the General Explanations of the Administration's FY 2017 Revenue Proposals, the 'Greenbook', a companion document to the Administration's Federal Year 2017 Budget Proposal. Senior Treasury official hosts background briefing for media Location: Media Room A, Dept of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC www.treas.gov <https://twitter.com/USTreasury>

11:00 AM GPO and OMB release President Obama's FY'17 budget – Government Printing Office and Office of Management and Budget release President Barack Obama's 'Budget for the U.S. Government, FY 2017', available in both printed copies or electronically via a mobile web app or online Location: Government Publishing Office, 710 N Capitol St NW, Washington, DC www.gpo.gov <https://twitter.com/USGPO>

1:30 PM Major County Sheriffs' Association / Major Cities Chiefs Association joint meeting – Major

County Sheriffs' Association / Major Cities Chiefs Association 2016 Joint Winter Meeting. Speakers include Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, FBI Director James Comey, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, and MCSA President Sheriff Sandra Hutchens Location: JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC www.mcsheriffs.com

2:30 PM Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz media briefing on the Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget request Location: Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC www.energy.gov <https://twitter.com/ENERGY>

6:30 PM Annual Friends of National Service Awards Reception – Friends of National Service Awards Reception, honor leaders in government, business and journalism, based on 'recognition and support for national service as a solution to some of the nation's most pressing challenges'. Honorees include Sens. John McCain, Michael Bennet, Kirsten Gillibrand and Kelly Ayotte and Reps, Joe Kennedy III, Robert Dold, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Rosa DeLauro, Garret Graves, Seth Moulton, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Virginia First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe, CSX Corp Chairman and CEO Michael Ward, and Mayors Richard Berry (Albuquerque), Sly James (Kansas City, MO), and Francis Slay (St. Louis, MO) Location: East Hall at Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC www.voicesforservice.org <https://twitter.com/Voices4Service>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that the unemployment rate in the US just fell below five percent, which is the lowest it's been in eight years. When asked for a comment on the number of unemployed Americans, [President] Obama said, 'I can't wait to be one of them.'"

Seth Meyers: "Chris Christie, in a new interview, continued to criticize Marco Rubio for his performance in this weekend's debate. And said Rubio is scripted and not spontaneous. To which Marco Rubio replied, 'That's not true, comma. I speak from the heart, exclamation point.'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump said this weekend he feels the Iowa caucus results were very unfair, to himself and Dr. Ben Carson. Other things Trump considers unfair to him include Google, sidewalks, shoe laces, oxygen, and dame Judy Dench."

Seth Meyers: "Considering this was the eighth Republican debate, you may have expected things to be running like a well-oiled machine by now. Instead, the night began with the precision of a kindergarten holiday pageant, led by Ben Carson, who somehow missed his cue to take the stage. Is Ben Carson really a brain surgeon, or did people start calling him that sarcastically, and it just stuck? 'Oh, yeah, that guy's a real brain surgeon.'"

Stephen Colbert: "There is a real excitement in the air because the presidential race has truly become a flaming toboggan ride toward dead man's curve, otherwise known as the New Hampshire primary. Tomorrow, the Granite State weighs in and all eyes have been on Marco Rubio, who stunned all the politicians when he won Iowa by coming in third. ... But despite the 'Rube-mentum,' the senator may have tripped up in Saturday's debate by sticking too closely to his talking points. ... Rubio repeated the same phrase so many times he summoned Candyman, who appeared behind him and killed his campaign."

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

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS PARTNERSHIP AT WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION.

The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "headlined the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday, marveling at the local partnership that developed it and persevered to win the site national park status." She said, "From this point forward, Waco will be known for its mammoths, which it should be known for, and for its community stewardship and philanthropy that has been so well demonstrated." Jewell added, "I haven't ever been to an event like this where the community pulled together and recognized that the future is about partnerships. It's not about the federal government coming in and deciding everything and paying for everything." Jewell "joined former First Lady Laura Bush at the event, along with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, city and state elected officials, former U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, and current U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-College Station."

The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) editorializes that while Jewell and Jarvis “touted the prehistoric story of the site — the almost human behavior of a nursery herd of Columbian mammoths caught in a flood or mudslide, with some apparently trying to save their babies — they also savored the story of commitment and homegrown ingenuity by local folks who recognized the treasure in their midst and worked in unison to preserve and champion it.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXXV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 30K), [KWTX-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 85K), and [KCEN-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 98K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT WITH OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATIONS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 344K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “planning to visit with leaders of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in Oklahoma to participate in a ceremonial signing of an agreement over tribal lands.” Jewell will “visit Durant on Tuesday to recognize the settlement of a nine-year lawsuit alleging the federal government mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands in southeastern and south-central Oklahoma.” The article notes that “the case had been scheduled to go to trial in July, but all sides entered into a settlement agreement approved by a federal judge last month in which the tribal nations agreed to receive a cash payment of \$186 million.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXII-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 46K), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (10/6, 81K), and [KTEN-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SUPPORTS TPP AGREEMENT. [Grist](#) (10/6, 6K) reports that “last night, the United States and 11 other countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore) finished drawing up what is now the largest trade agreement in history — covering 40 percent of the world’s economy.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “posted a photo of a cute elephant family on Twitter this morning with this message: Our kids should have a chance to see elephants & rhinos roaming the wild; trade deal can help that happen.”

US ANNOUNCES PLANS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FISHING, PROTECT OCEANS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Urbina, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the Administration on Monday announced plans to “step up the fight against illegal fishing, pollution and other crimes at sea,” including the creation of two new national marine sanctuaries – one in Maryland and the other in Lake Michigan. According to Administration officials, they also plan to “expand the use of satellites that track illegal activity.” Stressing the “urgency of the crisis,” Secretary of State Kerry told an international conference in Chile “that the sea was acidifying 10 times faster than at any other point in history, and that one-third of the world’s fish stocks were overexploited.”

[AFP](#) (10/6, Clark) quotes Kerry as saying, “The problem is there are people fishing illegally, unregulated, vast areas of the ocean where people use fishing methods that have been prohibited.”

[McClatchy](#) (10/6, Adams, 28K) reports that in a video message to conference participants, the President launched a program called “Sea Scout,” which is “designed to increase cooperation among nations seeking to identify and prosecute illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing around the globe.” The [AP](#) (10/6) reports Obama also recalled his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia and said he always maintained “a special love for the ocean,” and “said he would seek to protect more American waters in the coming months.” The AP notes that Chile “made its own ambitious declaration, cordoning off a vast expanse of the South Pacific Ocean” near Easter Island. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Wroughton, Slattery) reports Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said the protected area would include some 3,800 km (2,361 miles) in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

According to the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Harvey, 6.76M), the two areas designated US sanctuaries “were nominated...last year after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reopened the public nomination process for the first time in 20 years.”

TRIBES PUSH FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/5, 32K) reports that “five Four Corners-area tribes have united to propose a 1.9 million-acre Bears

Ears National Monument that would be the first truly collaborative land management effort between Native Americans and the federal government.” According to the article, “the Coalition is minting a blueprint for a degree of co-management that has never been tried before.” The plan “embodies true government-to-government relations and truly collaborative decision-making on all aspects of running a protected mass of land.”

RESEARCHER FINDS WAY TO FIGHT CHEATGRASS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the “profusion” of cheatgrass is “a big reason today’s Western fires burn more land, more frequently and with more ferocity than in the past, scientists say.” Now, “after more than a half-century of largely failed efforts to thwart the Sherman’s march of cheatgrass, a researcher may have a powerful new weapon against it.” Ann Kennedy, a soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, has “discovered naturally occurring soil bacteria that inhibit the growth of the weed’s deep root system, its competitive advantage, even as those bacteria leave native plants untouched.”

HAWAII SECESSIONISTS DEMAND NEW NAME FOR HONOLULU’S MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/6, Owens, 375K) reports that “now that President Barack Obama has decided to call Mount McKinley by the name Denali instead, NBC News has seen fit to call attention to an obscure MoveOn.org petition seeking to change the name of President William McKinley High School in Honolulu, Hawaii.” The creator of the petition, Aoloa Patao, says that “the name of McKinley High must be changed because it is a sad reminder of ‘the prolonged illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States.’” The article notes that “the online petition to rename McKinley High hosted by Moveon.org — a progressive advocacy group and political action committee — has garnered 1,080 signatures as of early Monday morning.”

Additional coverage of the Denali name change was provided by the [National Review](#) (10/6, 504K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARTHON. Additional coverage of the GRID Alternatives’ Tribal Solarthon was provided by the [East Hampton \(NY\) Press](#) (10/6, 21K).

EXPIRATION OF LWCF CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (10/6, Simon, Arce, 471K), Camilla Simon and Maite Arce, co-chairs of the Latino Conservation Alliance, criticizes Congress for allowing the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. They note that “the LWCF has also been an important economic driver supporting jobs and the revitalization of local communities.” They are also “concerned about the playgrounds, recreation centers, ball fields, and state park projects for future generations that hang in the balance.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/5, 41K) and the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/6, 54K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO ESTABLISH MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENTS. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/5, 99K), Margit Chiriaco Rusche, vice president and founder of the General Patton Museum, writes that “the lands in the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument hold a significant piece of our nation’s World War II history, which is still marked on these desert landscapes.” Rusche wants “to protect the stories and artifacts in this unique expanse of California desert I call home so that we can share this piece of our heritage.” She encourages “President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to establish the Mojave Trails National Monuments.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBE SUES OVER BIE RESTRUCTURING. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that “the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on Friday sued the U.S. Department of the Interior over a planned restructuring of the Bureau of Indian Education, claiming the proposal violates a settlement agreement and will disrupt essential education services provided to Native American schools.” The South Dakota tribe claimed that “the BIE decided to reduce the number of educational line offices under its Blueprint for Reform without

'meaningfully consulting' with affected tribes and failed to secure congressional appropriations or authorization."

BIA SAYS COMPLAINT BY TRIBE MEMBER IS PREMATURE. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that the BIA "told a federal court Friday that a Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma member who is trying to revive her petition to change the tribe's constitution brought her suit prematurely, since her administrative appeal challenging the BIA's denial of the petition is still being considered." According to the article, "the government told an Oklahoma federal court that it lacks jurisdiction to consider Anita Onco Johnson's complaint until the Interior Board of Indian Appeals finishes evaluating her appeal."

TRUMP SAYS WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM SHOULD KEEP THEIR NAME. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, Rushing, 5.59M) reports that "Donald Trump and Jeb Bush have agreed on precious little throughout the 2016 Republican presidential primary race, but on this they agree: The Washington Redskins team name should stay where it is." Trump on Monday said that "he disagreed with calls for the removal and retirement of the team name, as the former Florida governor had said last week on a new SiriusXM show intended to combine sports with politics." Trump said "any controversy over the team name was simply an issue of political correctness run amok."

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

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT WORKING TO AVOID WATER SHORTAGE. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/5, 1.12M), Lisa Atkins, president of the Central Arizona Project Board of Directors, writes that the Central Arizona Project has "stored enough water underground to fill Yankee Stadium more than 500 times." According to Atkins, "anticipating a shortage, CAP and the Arizona Department of Water Resources is now working with others to store an additional 740,000 acre-feet of new water in Lake Mead." She argues that "storing extra water in Lake Mead is critical in our efforts to avert a potential shortage in 2017."

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

[Onshore Energy Development:](#)

INTERIOR OPPOSES NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/6, 65K) reports that "House Democrats are expected to oppose legislation this week that would remove regulatory burdens for energy production on Native American land that tribes say have cost them tens of millions of dollars." The Native American Energy Act would "vest more regulatory authority over tribal energy production with the tribes themselves, rather federal regulators that have recently sought more stringent regulations on oil and gas production on federal land." The article notes that "among its provisions is language that would exempt tribal land from new Interior Department regulations on hydraulic fracturing, an innovative oil and gas extraction technique commonly known as fracking." Interior "opposes the bill in part due to that language."

BLM PROPOSES TO UPDATE RULES AND FEES ON OIL AND GAS. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (10/5, 44K) reports that the BLM has announced that it is updating the rules and fees governing oil and natural gas extraction in an effort to catch up to advances in technology used by the energy industries." Last week, the BLM announced a proposed rule updating and replacing its regulations, which have not been revised since 1989, related to the measurement of oil produced from federal and Indian onshore leases." The article notes that "the proposed rule would replace Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 4 (Order 4), which sets minimum standards for the measurement of oil extracted from public lands."

MURRAY SUING OVER FOIA REQUEST. The [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (10/6, 55K) reports that "Murray Energy Corp. is suing the federal government over alleged failure to comply with the Freedom of Information Act." The firm says the Interior Department and the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement "have completely ignored" its "request for information about a new rule opponents have said will be detrimental to underground coal mines such as those the firm operates in

West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Utah.” According to the article, “in revealing its lawsuit, Murray stated that it filed an FOIA request on Sept. 4, seeking information about the OSMRE’s Stream Protection Rule.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Morgantown \(WV\) Dominion Post](#) (10/6, 52K), [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K), [WAJR-AM Morgantown \(WV\)](#) Morgantown, WV (10/6), and [WBKO-TV Bowling Green \(KY\)](#) Bowling Green, KY (10/6, 45K).

GREEN GROUP STUDY: GAS PRODUCERS BENEFIT FROM BLM SUBSIDIES. [Inside Climate News](#) (10/6, McKenna) reports that according to a new study by Friends of the Earth, natural gas producers in North Dakota essentially receive a hidden federal subsidy worth tens of millions of dollars from “royalty-free flaring of natural gas from wells on public and tribal lands.” The article said the group’s study shows that over a six year period, “BLM subsidized the burning of \$524 million of natural gas by oil and gas companies operating on public and tribal lands in North Dakota.” Continental Resources, however, criticized the research, with Jeff Hume, the company’s vice chairman of strategic growth initiatives, saying the group had “obtained flare volume reports which are accurate, [but] what they don’t realize is the majority of gas that is reported as flared is inert gas, not hydrocarbons.” BLM spokesman Bradford Purdy also challenged the group’s claims, “saying producers that wish to flare must prove that capturing the gas would lead to a premature abandonment of recoverable oil reserves. Companies must also submit a plan that eliminates flaring within one year.”

WSJOURNAL BLASTS EPA’S REJECTION OF PEBBLE MINE PROJECT. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA’s rejection of Alaska’s proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency’s inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

Offshore Energy Development:

DOJ ANNOUNCES RECORD \$20.8 BILLION SETTLEMENT WITH BP OVER GULF OIL SPILL. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Johnson, 5.23M) reports that the Justice Department announced a record \$20.8 billion settlement on Monday “with British energy giant BP Monday, more than five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill stained more than 1,300 miles of the Gulf of Mexico’s coastline in the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history.” Attorney General Loretta Lynch said “the resolution marks the largest settlement against a single entity in U.S. history and will finance an unprecedented project to restore plant and wildlife habitats that were fouled by the spill of 3 million barrels of oil into the Gulf.” BP has agreed to pay a \$5.5 billion civil penalty, “the largest such penalty in the history of environmental law, and \$7.1 billion in damage claims under the Oil Pollution Act.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the final settlement of \$20.8 billion raises the total from the initial \$18.7 billion settlement announced in July, and notes that “at either amount, it is the largest environmental settlement – and the largest civil settlement with any single entity – in the nation’s history.” Lynch called the final settlement “a major step forward in our effort to deliver justice to the Gulf region in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy – the largest environmental disaster our nation has ever endured.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that “the highlights of the settlement include \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages, including \$1 billion BP agreed to pay earlier; \$5.5 billion plus interest for Clean Water Act penalties; and \$5.9 billion under a separate agreement to cover state and local government claims.” In July, “when the outlines of the deal were announced, BP put the cost of the settlement at \$18.7 billion,” and Attorney General Lynch “said the government was counting some coastline restoration money that BP did not count.” The Post notes that the settlement “does not, however, include \$4 billion BP agreed to pay earlier to settle criminal charges or the billions more it has spent cleaning up the oil spill and settling separate civil claims with private individuals.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) adds that a number of civil suits against BP remain pending, including a securities fraud trial set for January in which investors who bought BP shares claim that the company underestimated how much oil was spilled into the Gulf of

Mexico, an estimate used to determine the fines BP would later pay.

The [AP](#) (10/5, Tucker) reports that the settlement, “once approved by a judge, would resolve all civil claims against BP and end five years of legal fighting over a 134-million gallon spill that affected 1,300 miles of shoreline,” and also “would bind the company to a massive cleanup project in the Gulf Coast area aimed at restoring wildlife, habitat and water quality. ‘BP is receiving the punishment it deserves, while also providing critical compensation for the injuries that it caused to the environment and the economy of the Gulf region,’” Lynch said.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, Katakey, 2.66M) reports that the settlement “takes BP’s total budget for the spill to more than \$54 billion, five years after an explosion at the Macondo well polluted the Gulf of Mexico and forced the company to shed more than third of its market value and assets to pay for the accident.” [AFP](#) (10/5, Oberman) reports that Lynch said “she hopes the settlement will serve as a warning to companies about the need to operate ‘in as safe a manner as possible.’”

[The Hill](#) (10/5, Henry, 471K) reports that BP “will pay \$4.9 million to Gulf Coast states affected by the spill, as well as \$1 billion to local communities there.” The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (10/5, 769K) reports that Florida “stands to receive \$2 billion for economic damages, the most of any Gulf Coast state, and \$680 million for restoration projects.” The state “is also in line for \$572 million as part of the 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act, with that figure potentially growing to \$1.25 billion.”

In his “The Economic Hub” column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, 4.07M), Michael Hiltzik writes that “the estimate that more than \$15 billion of the final settlement will be tax deductible sounds correct to University of Michigan law professor David Uhlmann, former chief of the Justice Department’s environmental crimes section.” Restitution “on damage claims and restoration of the damaged environment have long been designated by the IRS as deductible charges. ‘That makes sense,’ he told me. ‘They’re business expenses.’”

The [Financial Times](#) (10/5, Chon, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Wolfgang, 344K), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/6, Alpert, 718K), [Reuters](#) (10/5, Heavey, Rucker, Stephenson) and [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/5, Eaton, 7K) also report.

NOAA To Hold Public Meetings On BP Oil Spill Restoration Plan. The [AP](#) (10/6) reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released an \$8.8 billion plan to restore Gulf of Mexico areas damaged by the BP oil spill. Public meetings seeking comment “are scheduled across the Gulf and in Washington for public comment on the 690-page plan,” the AP reports.

DESPITE SHELL’S DEPARTURE, OBAMA ADMINISTRATION STILL PLANS TO ISSUE ARCTIC DRILLING REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Cama, 471K) reported that the Obama Administration “still plans to issue regulations for oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean despite Royal Dutch Shell’s decision to abandon its drilling efforts ‘for the foreseeable future.’” Brian Salerno, director of the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, “said regulators are moving forward with their rules, even though drilling is not likely to return to the Arctic for years, or even decades.” The agency “wants to require drillers to keep a backup rig nearby to drill relief wells for blowouts, be able to contain spills through mechanical means and restrict the drilling season based on ice cover, among other provisions.” The oil industry and Republicans “have sharply criticized the proposal as overly prescriptive, expensive and unnecessary, while Democrats and environmentalists say the rules don’t go nearly far enough to prevent oil spills.”

Additional coverage of Shell’s exit was provided by [Platts](#) (10/6, 1K) and [Knowledge@Wharton](#) (10/5, 4K).

Moody’s: Shell’s Departure Could Have Negative Impact On Alaska’s Economy. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Carroll) reported that in a note released on Monday, Moody’s said that Shell’s departure from its Arctic oil exploration could have a negative impact on Alaska’s economy. Shell’s decision is considered credit negative for Alaska, despite the project occurring in federal waters, because it would have had indirect

benefits to Alaska's economy, including job generation and improving the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System's economic viability.

Seattle Times Endorses Yoshino For Port of Seattle Commission Position. In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (10/5, 962K) endorsed Marion Yoshino for Port of Seattle Commission Position 5. While presenting its reasons for the endorsement, the Times wrote that while both candidates "say the Port should have been more transparent regarding Shell," Yoshino "is more pragmatic, suggesting that revenue from today's oil projects can be used to research and invest in alternatives."

Commentary. In commentary carried by [The Hill](#) (10/5, Shogan, 471K), Cindy Shogan, executive director of the Alaska Wilderness League, praised Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) for introducing the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act in the House and urged Congress to support the bill. Shogan mentioned Shell's press release explaining the company's withdrawal from the Arctic, adding that "what Shell didn't mention in its statement was the growing opposition to Arctic drilling and the beating the company was taking in the court of public opinion."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE UNVEILS NEW INTERACTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE MAPS AT OUTERBIKE 2015. [KCSG-TV](#) St. George, UT (10/6, 43) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze "attended one of the nation's most important mountain bike events to introduce a new access tool for trail riders all across the country." According to the article, "developed by the BLM, in partnership with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and the MTB Project, the mobile-friendly online tool features interactive maps for 20 of the nation's most popular trails on public lands." Kornze said, "The BLM is proud to manage some of the world's best mountain bike trails. This new, mobile-friendly tool will help the public get a glimpse of these amazing places and plan their rides."

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ PLAN TO SELL MOJAVE GROUNDWATER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, 4.07M) reports that "Cadiz Inc.'s plans to sell Mojave Desert groundwater to Southern California communities have hit a major federal roadblock." The BLM says "Cadiz cannot use an existing railroad right-of-way for a new water pipeline that would carry supplies from the project's proposed well field to the Colorado River Aqueduct." According to the article, "by using the railroad right-of-way, Cadiz had hoped to escape federal environmental review of the 43-mile pipeline, one of the project's most expensive components." However, "in a letter to Cadiz on Friday, BLM's California director informed the company that it needs U.S. approval for a separate pipeline right-of-way over federal land," and "that would trigger review under federal environmental law, a potentially lengthy and costly process that could impose new conditions on the project."

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/6, 15K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HALT GRAZING ON CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups has forced public land managers to delay a permit for grazing on Canyons of the Ancients National Monument." According to the article, "the seven groups collectively filed a protest against proposed grazing allotments in the Flodine and Yellow Jacket areas." They claim "drought condition data is out of date and that grazing doesn't fit with the monument's mission to protect ancient ruins."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, 344K) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K).

PLAN TO LIMIT GRAZING TRIGGERS BACKLASH IN UTAH. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "a proposal from the federal government to limit livestock grazing in parts of southern Utah's Washington County is triggering backlash from local officials." The proposed plan from the BLM is "intended to restore native vegetation and create habitat for the protected Mojave Desert Tortoise on two national

conservation areas in the county.” But “government officials argue the plan unfairly hurts ranchers, and could damage the economy.”

BLM RANGERS FIND TWO MARIJUANA GROWS IN COLORADO. The [AP](#) Salt Lake City (10/6, 494K) reports that “authorities have arrested 10 people after the discovery of two large, unrelated marijuana grows on public land in western Colorado.” The Department of Justice announced Monday that BLM rangers “acting on two separate tips found the grows south of Gateway near the Utah border.” The rangers discovered “more than 1,200 fully mature marijuana plants, 211 kilograms of dried marijuana and a rifle at a site on the Dolores River corridor between Gateway and Naturita on Sept. 15.” Also, “a second illegal grow was discovered nearby on Sept. 30.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Paul, 787K), [KXRM-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/6, Case, 2K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 79K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE DECISION REFLECTS SHIFTING APPROACH TO SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Goode, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that “to many conservationists,” the Interior Department’s “decision to avoid listing the grouse reflects a larger shift in thinking that is taking hold in academic departments and advocacy circles around the country, even as it stirs controversy.” Some conservationists call “traditional approaches to species conservation have focused on saving individual animals or plants in specific locations” as “too narrow,” and they argue that conservation efforts “must work on a larger scale, focusing not on preserving single species in small islands of wilderness but on large landscapes and entire ecosystems, and the benefits that nature provides to humans.” According to this view, conservation efforts will “be more effective if they accept humans as a part of nature and come to terms with the fact that they have irrevocably altered the landscape.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K).

FWS RELEASES RARE FERRETS AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “rare black-footed ferrets chattered angrily before dashing out of pet carriers and ducking into burrows Monday at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge — a milestone for the highly endangered animals and for the former toxic waste site on the industrial edge of Denver.” The FWS “released 30 ferrets at the site, part of a program to reintroduce them in 12 states where they once thrived, from Montana to Texas.” The article notes that “chemical weapons and pesticides were once manufactured there, but it became a wildlife refuge in 2010 after a \$2.1 billion cleanup.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “This remarkable place shows that nature will recover and will thrive if given a chance.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 6.76M), [NPR](#) (10/5, 1.85M), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (10/5, 59K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/6, 962K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Press, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Elliott, 344K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/6, 99K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/6, Elliott, 5.98M), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 222K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR BLACK PINESNAKES, MUSSELS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is “moving forward with new protections for black pinesnakes.” The service is “listing the black pinesnake, which is endemic to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as a threatened species.” The agency is also “proposing to protect certain freshwater mussels.” The agency “proposed Monday listing the Suwannee moccasinshell, which is endemic to Florida and Georgia, as a threatened species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, 2.28M), the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (10/5, 129K), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, McConnaughey, 344K), and the [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (10/5, 34K).

FWS SAYS DESERT TORTOISE NO LONGER CANDIDATE FOR PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “the Sonoran desert tortoise is not at risk for extinction and will no longer be listed as a candidate for Endangered Species Act protections, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Monday.” The service says “the decision is partly because of the commitments various government agencies have made to protect the animal in Arizona.” Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, “We and our federal and state partners will continue to monitor the tortoises. However the current modeling in science demonstrates that there’s virtually no probability of extinction over the next decade.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (10/6, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5.59M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Astrid Galvan |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Galvan, 344K).

FWS PROPOSE DOWNGRADING PROTECTION FOR COLUMBIAN WHITETAILED DEER. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/6, 20K) reports that “one of the original endangered species – the Columbian white-tailed deer – is slowly making its way toward recovery.” On Tuesday, the FWS “proposed downgrading its protected status from endangered to threatened.” The article notes that “their numbers along the Columbia River were down to around 450 back in 1967 when they joined the bald eagle and California condor in the first group of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act,” and “now there are more than 900 deer in the lower Columbia River area.”

TRIBES CONTINUE PUSH TO MANAGE, OPERATE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (10/6, 19K) reports that “the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes continue to talk with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about another annual funding agreement that would transfer various degrees of management and operation of the National Bison Range to them, one of their attorneys said Thursday.” However, “a group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has opposed CSKT’s efforts at the Bison Range at every turn, saying it opens up 80 percent of the National Wildlife Refuge System and 57 national parks in 19 states to similar agreements with other Indian tribes.”

SURVEY FINDS FWS SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL MEDDLING IN WILDLIFE DECISIONS. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/6, Greenwald, 164K), Noah Greenwald writes that “a survey issued this week by the Union of Concerned Scientists finds that 74 percent of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists reported that consideration of political interests was too high at the agency.” He says that “the survey comes as no surprise” as “we’ve witnessed a score of politically driven decisions by the Fish and Wildlife Service in recent years to deny or weaken protections for endangered species.” He argues that “the Endangered Species Act is clear that decisions about how best to protect wildlife on the verge of extinction must be based solely on the best available science,” but “time and again, political and economic interests worm their way in and influence decisions to the detriment of our most at risk plants and animals.” Greenwald hopes that President Obama will “take this survey to heart – after all, it’s his administration’s own scientists raising the alarm – and use his time left in office to reform the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies being unduly influenced.”

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT ULM. The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star](#) (10/5, 67K) reports that NPS Director Jarvis will “visit ULM on Oct. 6th and attend a variety of local events while sharing the importance of preservation.” Jarvis said, “Leading up to the National Park centennial anniversary in 2016, my visit to Monroe is a great opportunity to invite a new generation of Americans to visit their national parks and historic sites, as well as highlight the relevance of the park system in our nation. The centennial goal of the National Park Service is to create and connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. I am looking forward to spending time with several classes of students from the area at a local park and Natural History Museum, amplifying the message of the Every Kid in the Park initiative and later speaking with college students and community members, inviting them all to learn, explore and engage with the natural and cultural resources of the park system. The National Park Service has something to offer everyone, in every corner of the country. We want everyone to know that and to benefit from America’s public lands.”

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION UNVEILS AD CAMPAIGN. [Fast CoCreate](#) (10/6, 100K) reports that “to show Americans that they are personally part of the country’s more than 400 national parks, the National Park Foundation and agency Grey New York enlisted the stunning work of body painter Natalie Fletcher.” According to the article, “in a new PSA and ad campaign, the official charity of America’s national parks shows visitors blending seamlessly into the incredible landscapes of national parks like Zion National Park to Federal Hall National Memorial.” The campaign seeks “to be a companion to the ‘Find Your Park’ movement for the upcoming National Park Service Centennial.”

NPS UNDER PRESSURE TO RENAME WASHINGTON’S “COON LAKE”. The [Raw Story](#) (10/6, 896K) reports that “the federal government is under pressure to rename a Washington lake for a black prospector instead of the racial slur that likely refers to him.” According to the article, “state officials agreed to change the name of Coon Lake and Coon Creek after a Seattle man convinced them the designation was intended as a racial slur against Wilson Howard, who worked claims and lived in the area in the 1890s.” The article notes that “the state’s board of geographic names officially changed the names to Howard Lake and Howard Creek in 2008, but the National Park Service continues to oppose the changes.” NPS officials said “they aren’t certain ‘coon’ referred to a black miner in an almost entirely white community more than 100 years ago — when newspapers regularly used the racial slur in reference to black people.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Mic](#) (10/6, 1.5M) and [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (10/6).

NPS RESTORING PAINTING OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Ruane, 6.76M) reports that the NPS is having Carl Bersch’s 1865 painting of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln “cleaned and restored for the first time in 35 years.” According to Laura Anderson, a NPS museum curator, “the piece, which depicts Lincoln being carried out of Ford’s Theatre in Washington after being shot by John Wilkes Booth, is thought to be the only image of the assassination painted by an eyewitness.” The painting eventually will be exhibited in the Ford’s Theatre complex.

ZION NATIONAL PARK INVESTIGATES CIRCUMSTANCES OF FLOODING DEATHS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that Zion National Park officials are “retracing what led up to the deaths of seven people in a flooded canyon last month before a panel convenes to assess what can be done to keep a growing number of visitors safe when spectacular natural settings turn perilous.” According to Zion National Park Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh, “investigators are talking to family members and examining the communications the group made in the hours before they canyon filled with fast-moving water from a powerful storm on Sept. 14.” The article notes that “the investigation could lead to changes in the permit system that controls who enters the park’s 21 narrow slot canyons, whose unique geological quirks also make them deadly.”

FLASH FLOODING CLOSSES DEATH VALLEY ROADS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “authorities say an intense wet rainstorm created flash flooding that closed roads in Death Valley National Park in California.” Death Valley National Park spokeswoman Linda Slater said Monday that “rangers toured remote roads and campsites and no injuries were reported after cloudbursts Sunday in the vast park near the Nevada-California state line.” The article notes that “all dirt roads in the park remained closed Monday, along with paved roads including Highway 178, or Badwater Road, between Furnace Creek and Shoshone, Dantes View Road, Greenwater Road and Scotty’s Castle Road.”

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERS USING BEETLES TO FIGHT DESTRUCTIVE INSECT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “predatory beetles could become a new tool in Shenandoah National Park’s effort to combat a destructive insect.” The park “plans to release predatory beetles at four locations within its boundaries.” Public input on the plan will be accepted through Oct. 15.

NPS APPROVES YELLOWSTONE TRAIL AND OVERLOOK IMPROVEMENTS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has “approved a project to repair and improve many of the overlooks and trails located along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park.” The NPS “found that the project would not cause any harm to historic and cultural resources in the area.” The project will improve overlooks and trails “as well as improve accessibility, pedestrian flow and safety.”

PYTHON CHALLENGE 2016 WON'T BE HELD EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (10/5, 651K) reports that “despite earlier reports to the contrary, Python Challenge 2016 will not be coming to Everglades National Park.” According to the article, “only a handful of authorized python removal agents will be participating in the park come January 16, when the Python Challenge is set to begin.”

ALCATRAZ ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE REHABILITATION PLANNED. The [Inside Bay Area \(CA\)](#) (10/6, 42K) reports that the NPS, “Coast Guard, the United States Lighthouse Society and the Land’s End clothing company jointly announced Monday the first step toward restoring the lighthouse” on Alcatraz Island. The article notes that “lighthouse backers commissioned a \$25,000 architectural study to determine the scope and cost of the work – laying the groundwork for a major fundraising campaign to pay for it.”

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SETS RECORD YEAR FOR VISITATION. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Prevost) reports that Yellowstone National Park has set a new annual visitation record. According to data compiled by the NPS, more than 3.8 million people have visited Yellowstone through the end of September. The figure breaks the previous annual record of 3.6 million visitors set in 2010.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “Sterling Fisher started volunteering at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park when he was only 6 years old.” On Friday, Fisher, now 18 year-old was “recognized as the recipient of the National Park Service’s Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award.” Fisher had “already contributed 300 hours of service to the park by the time he was 16,” and “in high school, he organized a junior chapter of Friends of the Smokies whose 20 members have completed more than 400 hours of volunteer service.” Also recognized on Friday was “longtime volunteer Tom Harrington.” Harrington has “been a park volunteer for 17 years and has contributed more than 20,000 hours of service.” He was “selected as the southeast regional winner for the Enduring Service Award.”

[US Geological Survey:](#)

USGS, SIOUX FALLS SURVEYING GROUNDWATER. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/6, 126K) reports that “the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey this week.” Sioux Falls has “contracted with CGG Canada Services to be flying a helicopter over the Big Sioux Aquifer to collect, record and map its geophysical measurements.” Officials say “the study will determine groundwater, soil, and sand characteristics to help in the future planning of water access points.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: PENDING HILL DEBATE, TPP DEAL A “LEGACY-MAKING” WIN FOR OBAMA. While much of the reporting on the TPP agreement cautions about a potentially bruising fight ahead on Capitol Hill, media coverage overwhelmingly casts yesterday’s announcement as historic, and as a major victory for President Obama. All three network newscasts, however, ignored the story last night.

This morning, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, A1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) refers on its front page to a “potentially legacy-making achievement for...Obama,” the “capstone for his foreign policy ‘pivot’ toward closer relations with fast-growing eastern Asia.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M) similarly states the pact brings the President closer to his “legacy-making goal to expand America’s influence in the Asia-Pacific region,” and the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports in a front-page piece that the deal “potentially” handed him “a legacy-defining victory late in his presidency.”

Along similar lines, [Foreign Policy](#) (10/5, Francis, Hudson, 364K) indicated on its website that the TPP “could become the most significant foreign-policy legacy” of the Obama Administration, while the [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) calls the agreement “the biggest free trade triumph of...Obama’s presidency,” and the [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) terms it “a major victory on a centerpiece of” his “international agenda.”

[AFP](#) (10/6, Handley) reports that “Obama, who made the TPP a priority of his second term,” said yesterday that the accord “reflects America’s values and gives our workers the fair shot at success they deserve.” Added Obama, “When more than 95 percent of our potential customers live outside our borders, we can’t let countries like China write the rules of the global economy. ... We should write those rules, opening new markets to American products while setting high standards for protecting workers and preserving our environment.”

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) reports that Obama “plans to sell the deal in person Tuesday at a meeting with business leaders who will gather at the Agriculture Department in Washington.” Yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack said the agreement “would ‘eliminate or significantly reduce tariffs on our products and deter non-science based sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that have put American agriculture at a disadvantage’ to other countries.” In a statement yesterday, the President said the TPP “levels the playing field for our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers by eliminating more than 18,000 taxes that various countries put on our products,” even as it “puts American workers first and will help middle-class families get ahead.”

The [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) quotes USTR Froman as saying of the deal, “We think it helps define the rules of the road for the Asia-Pacific region.” [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) notes that Froman also said the deal “will ‘promote economic growth’ and ‘support higher paying jobs.’”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/5, Fredrikson, 455K) said that for the President, “the deal could represent a historic effort to protect not only commerce, but the economy and the environment as well and specifically ensure US competitiveness amid a growing China.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Makinen, 4.07M) notes that China “has been pursuing its own bilateral trade deals with countries including Australia and South Korea,” and “is also participating in talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which would link the 10 members of the Assn. of Southeast Asian Nations with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, accounting for about 30% of global gross domestic product.”

Ian Bremmer, in an online analysis for [TIME](#) (10/5, 19.55M), indicated that in addition to the US, “all the other countries” involved “are expected to pass it, as well,” though “the main remaining question is Canada, where the matter might be decided by an upcoming election.” Bremmer concludes that “on balance, this is a good deal for the United States and an important win for the Obama administration.”

The debate now moves to the US Congress, where, according to [Politico](#) (10/5, Gass, 942K), the “dysfunction and unpredictable nature of the US political system” mean the pact “could still conceivably unravel.” For one thing, “with populism animating the base of both parties, a trade pact is bound to be unpopular with many early primary voters.” The [Boston Globe](#) (10/6, Horowitz, 1.1M) sees “no guarantee” Congress “will pass” the agreement, as “Democratic support...has always been weak” and Republicans would have “to have to line up behind Obama, burnishing his legacy in the run-up to the 2016 presidential contest.”

As the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes, Obama “has to wait 90 days after agreement before signing the pact, and only then will Congress begin to debate it,” and “as a result, a vote on the agreement likely will not happen until well into 2016.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) also reports that “the vote will come during the presidential primary nominating contests,” and notes that “opponents of the deal, including labor unions, environmental groups and liberal Democrats, have pledged to mount a final campaign to block the accord.”

More optimistic is the [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/6, Lindenberger, 1.15M), which indicates in an analysis piece that the President “has the upper hand in the negotiations in Congress, as that body has already renewed presidential fast-track negotiation authority,” and concludes that “the weight of the momentum, after years of negotiations, will likely be in favor of ratifying the agreement.” Congressional approval, however, won’t come “without significant opposition.” On its website, [The Atlantic](#) (10/5, Berman, 2.69M) reported that “Administration officials sounded confident that Congress would ultimately ratify” the deal it, pointing out that the Administration “would be spending months going over it with lawmakers point by

point.”

According to [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), “the White House began lobbying Democrats” yesterday. Said press secretary Josh Earnest, “Our goal here is to talk about the benefits of the agreement. ... There are well-known differences of opinion on this and I don’t anticipate we are going to persuade every member of Congress.” In fact, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Granville, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports, “many Democrats said the president would have to address their concerns over labor and environmental standards and investor protections when he returns to Congress seeking approval of the trade deal.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Carter, 164K), meanwhile, said that when it comes to the TPP, “Obama has the Senate sewn up,” but cautioned that “Congressional Democrats...loathe the agreement” and that yesterday, “Republican leaders didn’t exactly celebrate the administration’s announcement.” [The Hill](#) (10/5, Carney, 471K) noted on its website that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “warned...that Congress will give ‘intense scrutiny’” to the deal, and said, “Serious concerns have been raised on a number of key issues.” [Roll Call](#) (10/5, Lesniewski, Flemming, 113K) reported that McConnell also said, “In the months ahead, the Senate will review this agreement to determine if it meets the high standards Congress and the American people have demanded.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Reilly, 164K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Paul Ryan, “who co-sponsored legislation earlier this year to give Obama fast-track authority to expedite trade negotiations,” yesterday “were hesitant to praise the agreement.” Hatch “expressed concern that the deal squanders a ‘historic opportunity to break down trade barriers for American-made products,” and Ryan “said he is reserving judgment’ on the deal until he can further review the agreement.” [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cowan, Lawder) quotes Hatch as saying, “I am afraid this deal appears to fall woefully short.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that Hatch also said, “I will carefully scrutinize it to see whether my concerns about rushing into a deal before meeting all US objectives are justified.”

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes that National Council of Textile Organizations President Augustine Tantillo said yesterday, “Though we are waiting to examine the final details, our briefings at the Atlanta TPP round lead us to believe that US negotiators were able to achieve a well-balanced and reasonable outcome.” The AFL-CIO, however, said in a statement, “We ask the Administration to release the text immediately, and urge legislators to exercise great caution in evaluating the TPP.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports that the Sierra Club’s Ilana Solomon charged that the Administration “is pursuing policies under extreme secrecy,” adding, “The entire TPP has been negotiated behind closed doors. ... The lack of dialogue is abysmal.” The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Nixon, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), however, says “environmentalists praised wildlife protections included in the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal announced Monday, calling them groundbreaking.” The Times quotes the World Wildlife Fund’s David McCauley as saying, “The provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership go beyond what we have seen in other trade agreements.”

The [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#) (10/5, Williams, Subscription Publication, 118K) reports that Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed came out in favor of the agreement, while UPS CEO David Abney called it “a historic agreement that represents real market opportunities for US companies of all sizes and a chance to compete on a more level playing field.”

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Davidson, 5.23M) reports that the deal “should boost the US economy and lower consumer prices on some imports,” according to experts such as “Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M), meanwhile, reports that “private studies suggest that the Pacific accord would add only modestly to US economic growth and have little overall effect on jobs,” but “would have a proportionately larger effect in California.” [McClatchy](#) (10/5, Hall, 28K) similarly indicates that “the immediate trade benefits are likely to fall largely on the West Coast because of geography and existing rail and port connections.” However, “the agreement has broader importance because it encompasses countries that together account for about 40 percent of the global

economy.”

Sanders Blasts “Disastrous” TPP Amid Media Speculation About Clinton’s Stance. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Needham, 471K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders yesterday called the pact “disastrous,” and declared himself “disappointed but not surprised” by it. Added Sanders, “Wall Street and other big corporations have won again.” The [New York Observer](#) (10/5, Barkan, 203K) further quotes Sanders as saying, “It is time for the rest of us to stop letting multi-national corporations rig the system to pad their profits at our expense.” [Politico](#) (10/5, Strauss, 942K) also notes Sanders’ comments.

According to [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M), “Sanders’ opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership could put political pressure on Hillary Clinton.” In the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, 3.75M), Cameron Joseph writes, “It will be interesting to see what stance...Clinton takes on the deal.” Clinton “originally praised early versions as the ‘gold standard’ of trade agreements but has been more critical of it since she became a candidate – and it became an issue on the campaign trail.” [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), meanwhile, indicated that “a key determining factor in whether TPP does pass Congress is likely to be...Clinton.”

[Politico](#) (10/5, Guida, 942K) reports that “if Clinton supports the pact, she is sure to anger her party’s base, especially labor and environmental groups.” However, “opposing the deal is also a problem because it opens her to charges of flip-flopping.”

Many Industries Back Deal, But Some Point To Shortcomings. In an analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A2, Kesmodel, Mauldin, Rockoff, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) breaks down industries seen as winning and potentially losing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. On the winning side are agriculture, aerospace, and apparel, while the pharma and tobacco industries pointed to shortfalls in the agreement. The Journal says that the agriculture sector strongly backs the deal, as do some industry groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers. Boeing and Intel also voiced support. Meanwhile, Ford raised concerns about currency manipulation, and the pharmaceutical trade group PhRMA pointed to what it said were insufficient intellectual property provisions.

The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Bradsher, Pollack, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports, “Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania. Auto-parts workers in the Midwest. Pharmaceutical companies concentrated around New Jersey.” These are the “pivotal groups, not to mention consumers across the country,” who “can expect a wide range of changes in the years ahead from the newly concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, 2.66M), meanwhile, reports that Darci Vetter, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the USTR, said the accord “will boost sales by ‘billions,’” and added, “Our meat industry is a big winner.”

The [Detroit News](#) (10/6, Shepardson, 493K) reports that it “has learned that under the deal, America’s 25 percent tariffs on imported light trucks would remain in place for 30 years.” Meanwhile, “the 2.5 percent tariffs on cars would be in place for 25 years, and begin to be phased out after 15 years – falling first to 2.25 percent, and then to 1.25 percent in year 20.” [Reuters](#) (10/6, Hughes, Krolicki), meanwhile, says the pact will give Japan more flexibility to purchase parts from Asia for cars sold in the US.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/6, 2.66M) indicates that “US lawmakers sought strong and enforceable language on currency manipulation, but that wasn’t in the TPP agreement and will have to be negotiated separately, Representative Sander Levin of Michigan said in a memo to fellow Democrats in the House Advisory Group for Negotiations prior to the deal’s announcement.” Bloomberg adds that the Treasury Department “will handle those talks.”

WPost Praises TPP Deal. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that “what’s emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama’s promise of a ‘21st-century’ agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs.” Looking at the upcoming congressional debate, the Post concludes that “it’s enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that.”

White House Hopeful About TTIP Talks. The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) reports that the TPP agreement “could provide a boost for a second major trade deal with the European Union that is still being negotiated.” Earnest, notes [Reuters](#) (10/6, Edwards), said of the European trade deal, or TTIP, “The negotiations around TTIP are not quite as advanced, but if there is an opportunity for us, based on our consultations with our friends in Europe, to reach an agreement that would have the same kind of economic potential for American businesses and American workers, then we wouldn’t hesitate to pursue it.”

OBAMA WILL MEET WITH SHOOTING VICTIMS’ FAMILIES IN OREGON FRIDAY. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the White House said Monday that President Obama will travel to Roseburg, Oregon on Friday to meet privately with the families of those shot at Umpqua Community College last week. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Eilperin, 6.76M) reports that “according to one White House official, who asked for anonymity to discuss the event in advance, ‘further details about the president’s travel to Oregon will be made available in the coming days.’” The President “was headed to the Pacific Northwest already on Friday” for a Seattle fundraiser for Sen. Patty Murray. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Korte, 5.23M) says it will be Obama’s second visit to the town; “in 2008, he made an unscheduled campaign stop” there.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), John Blackstone reported that “students and staff returned to the community college campus today not for classes but for counseling and to retrieve things left behind in the rush to escape.” CBS, as well as [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 5, 1:35, Holt, 7.86M), profiled some of the victims and spoke to family members.

Earnest Says White House Looking Into Executive Action On Guns. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/5, Ross, 375K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Monday that the White House “is considering whether President Obama can take executive action to enforce stronger gun control measures.” Earnest said, “The President has frequently pushed his team to consider a range of executive actions that could more effectively keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who shouldn’t have access to them. That’s something that is ongoing here.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Wolfgang, 344K) reports Earnest also said “voters who feel passionately about the issue may have to cast their ballots solely based on a candidate’s position on guns.” He said, “It may be time for some voters to decide they’re single-issue voters.”

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Reynolds, 5.23M) contributor Glenn Harlan Reynolds writes that President Obama “issued a bold call” in saying it is time “to ‘politicize’” mass shootings “in service of getting rid of guns.” But “no significant gun legislation” will make it through Congress, and gun control is “a bad electoral issue for Democrats.” Reynolds says Obama is stressing the issue to draw attention away from other matters like foreign policy troubles and Hillary Clinton’s campaign difficulties.

Bloomberg Group Proposes Five Gun-Control Executive Actions. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports Everytown for Gun Safety, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s gun control group, “is pushing President Obama to issue new gun regulations in the absence of congressional action.” The group “released a list of five executive actions it says Obama could take to reduce gun violence.”

According to the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, Siemaszko, 3.75M), the proposals include “enforcing the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act by barring people from carrying guns within 1,000 feet of a school,” requiring all “all high-volume gun sellers – including private sellers” – to “obtain dealer licenses and comply with applicable laws, including background checks” on all sales, reporting “every would-be gun purchaser who fails a federal background check to local law enforcement for follow-up,” helping states that currently require background checks “by giving them access to FBI data,” and “barring anybody convicted of domestic abuse...from owning a gun.”

Reid Pushes For Background Checks, Calls Republicans “Puppets Of The NRA.” [Politico](#) (10/5, Kim, Everett, 942K) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid said Monday “that he is reaching out to other Democratic senators on moving background checks legislation,” and criticized Republicans. He said,

“One thing is clear: To pass background checks, we need Republicans to stop acting as puppets of the NRA.”

Clinton Says She Would Seek Tighter Gun Restrictions As President. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Hillary Clinton “added her voice to the conversation about gun violence” Monday. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Becker) reports Clinton said in New Hampshire Monday that she would seek expanded background checks for gun buyers as president, and would also take steps to hold gun manufacturers accountable for crimes committed with their products. Clinton asked a community college audience, “How many people have to die before we actually act, before we come together as a nation?”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Rappeport, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says for Clinton, “the issue is an opportunity to present herself as the most proactive Democratic candidate on gun control.” [USA Today](#) (10/6, Przybyla, 5.23M) says Clinton’s remarks set up “a contrast with Bernie Sanders on one of the few issues where she has a more liberal record.” Sanders, “who represents a state with a large number of gun owners, has a history of gun control opposition.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Miller, Riddell, 344K) also reports on Clinton’s remarks.

Shooter’s Mother Wrote Online About Keeping Guns At Home. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Healy, Mcintire, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Laurel Harper, mother of shooter Christopher Harper-Mercer, said in a series of online posts over the years that “she kept numerous firearms in her home and expressed pride in her knowledge about them, as well as in her son’s expertise on the subject.” She wrote at one point, “I keep two full mags in my Glock case. And the ARs & AKs all have loaded mags. No one will be ‘dropping’ by my house uninvited without acknowledgment.”

CITING MCCARTHY REMARKS, CLINTON CALLS BENGHAZI PANEL “POLITICAL PARTISAN COMMITTEE.” On [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 8, 2:10, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir reported that Hillary Clinton “came out swinging” on Monday “at the Benghazi committee.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega added, “With her sagging polls in” New Hampshire, Clinton – visiting the state on Monday – went “after the Republican led Benghazi committee investigating her private email server.” Referring to House Majority Leader McCarthy’s comments last week that the panel’s probe had damaged her standing in the polls, Clinton was shown saying of Republicans, “Look at the situation they chose to exploit to go after me for political reasons, the death of four Americans in Benghazi. I knew the ambassador. I identified him. I asked him to go there.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 6, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported Clinton on Monday “appeared to have new wind in her sails, given an opening after a political gaffe by” McCarthy. NBC’s Andrea Mitchell reported that “Clinton was on fire today, lashing out at the House Benghazi committee during a ‘Today’ show town hall.” Mitchell added that Clinton seized “on Kevin McCarthy’s damaging admission that [the Benghazi panel’s probe] was politically motivated.” Mitchell also reported that Clinton went “after Republicans for their response to [last week’s deadly shooting spree in] Oregon,” criticizing Jeb Bush and Donald Trump by name.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Miller, 344K) reports that Clinton argued McCarthy’s comments “proved the panel was [a] political hit job aimed solely at her.” Clinton, however, “stopped short of backing calls by other top Democrats to shut down the committee, saying that is up to Congress.” Of the Republicans, Clinton said, “Now that they have admitted that it is a political partisan committee for the sole purpose of going after me, not trying to make our diplomats who serve in dangerous areas safer, that’s up to the Congress.”

Clinton Ad Highlights McCarthy Comments. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Clinton aides are launching a TV ad highlighting McCarthy’s remarks. In the ad, a narrator says, “The Republicans finally admit it.” The spot “then cuts to footage of Mr. McCarthy, with the voice of the NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell saying during one of her broadcasts: ‘Republican Kevin McCarthy saying the committee investigating Benghazi and Clinton’s emails was created to destroy her candidacy.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Gearan, 6.76M) reports that in the spot, which will “begin airing Tuesday on

CNN and MSNBC,” a narrator says, “The Republicans have spent millions attacking Hillary because she’s fighting for everything they oppose. From affordable health care to equal pay, she’ll never stop fighting for you and the Republicans know it.”

Democrats On Benghazi Panel Say They’ll Begin Releasing Witness Transcripts. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cornwell, Allen) reports that Democrats on the Benghazi Committee on Monday said that they – in defiance of the Republicans on the GOP-led panel – will release a transcript of an interview the committee conducted with Cheryl Mills, who served as Clinton’s chief of staff at the State Department when the Libya terror attacks occurred – a move that comes in the wake of McCarthy’s comments last week. In a Monday letter to Benghazi panel chairman Trey Gowdy, the Democrats on the committee said that they would, starting with the testimony of Mills, begin releasing interviews of various witnesses in order “to correct the record” over what the Democrats said had been “a series of selective leaks of inaccurate and incomplete information” by Republicans aimed at hurting Clinton.

Asked About FBI Probe Of Clinton Email System, Lynch Says All “Leaks Are Detrimental.” In a blog post, [Politico](#) (10/5, Gerstein, 942K) reported that Attorney General Lynch, asked “about leaks in the FBI inquiry into potential classified information breaches in...Clinton’s private email system,” on Monday offered “a broadside against improper public discussions of law enforcement matters,” though she made no “direct reference to the ongoing probe into the former secretary of state’s private email setup.” Lynch, speaking at a news conference unrelated to the FBI probe, said, “I think leaks are detrimental to any matter, no matter what it is, no matter who is involved because everyone wants to have matters conducted in the way the department always does, which is thoroughly, fairly, efficiently and with a view towards whatever the ultimate resolution is going to be.”

WPost Examines Clinton’s Interactions With Wealthy Donors While At State. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Hamburger, 6.76M) reports on emails released last week by the State Department that show how Clinton, during her tenure as secretary of state, “interacted with major donors to her family’s causes,” remaining “in touch with her political network before her 2016” White House bid. The emails also “show how these donors, some of them with interests before the US government, gained high-level access to press policy concerns inside the Clinton-led State Department.” As examples of the donors, the Post mentions George Soros, “a top contributor to the Clinton Foundation,” media mogul Haim Saban, and Bill Gates of Microsoft, among others, and the Post adds of Clinton, “Because she and her family have raised so much money over the years from wealthy individuals and major corporations,” the Democratic presidential frontrunner’s “public business as secretary inevitably brought her in contact with private interests that helped boost her family’s philanthropy and income.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*The Aftermath Of A Deadly Airstrike In Afghanistan.*” An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says Gen. John Campbell’s promise of a “through investigation” of the US airstrike which hit a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz is “not sufficient.” The Times argues that “an independent panel should quickly be empowered to obtain all the information needed to produce a credible conclusion about what went so horribly wrong.”

“President Obama Needs To Make Case For Pacific Trade Deal.” A [New York Times](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial calls on the President to “persuade the public and Congress...that this is a good deal.” The Times argues that “done right, an agreement tying these countries together should bolster everyone’s economy and help raise labor, environment and other standards.”

“Foreclosure Abuses, Revisited.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) argues that the “promise of widespread relief for homeowners facing foreclosure in the wake of the housing bust has never been realized,” because the government “did not require the banks to rework bad loans, which in many cases the banks offloaded on the federal agencies that insured them.” The Times says that “federal mortgage sales are apparently occurring before all borrowers have been given a chance to apply for and receive help that was promised,” and “for that

reason...should be suspended until the government has procedures in place to protect the rights of homeowners.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is A Trade Deal Worth Celebrating.”* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that “what’s emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama’s promise of a ‘21st-century’ agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs.” Looking at the upcoming Congressional debate, the Post concludes that “it’s enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that.”

“The EPA’s New Smog Limits May Be Late, But They Are A Start.” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) says the Administration’s “push to change ozone regulations” is late, considering that under the Clean Air Act, the EPA “must reevaluate its ozone regulations every five years and update them according to current science.” The Post adds that at the new standards issued by the EPA last week, “health complications from dirty air would still occur, but they would decrease,” and notes that “the level the EPA chose is at the high end of the range of options it was considering, which is a significant concession to industry.”

“Texas’s War On Birthright Babies.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) argues in an editorial that “Texas, blinded to the law by its antipathy to illegal immigrants, has determined that it is somehow exempt” from the 14th Amendment, which “states plainly that citizenship is automatically conferred on anyone born in the United States.” The Post calls the states refusal to issue birth certificates to children whose parents are undocumented immigrants, an “act of stunning official arrogance,” adding that it is “not governance; it’s harassment and oppression.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“More Proof On Pebble.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA’s rejection of Alaska’s proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency’s inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

“Bharara’s Supreme Court Miss.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) laments the fact that in declining to hear an appeal of a decision which overturned two insider-trading convictions, the Supreme Court did not take the opportunity to clarify insider-trading law, but lauds the court for letting stand the ruling that overturned the convictions, and repeated its argument that insider-trading prosecutions are too often the result of prosecutorial overreach.

“The Lost Education Opportunity.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues that while John King is a good choice to replace outgoing Education Secretary Duncan, he is unlikely to achieve much in the last days of the Administration. The Journal editorial focuses primarily on Duncan’s tenure, criticizing his unwillingness to stand up to the unions and the Administration’s actions concerning for-profit higher education.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Governor Signs End-Of-Life Act](#)

Bumper Crop Of Squalor

A Last-Ditch Effort To Save LA Firm

[Trade Deal Puts A US Stamp On Asian Economy](#)

[US Changes Its Account On Bombing Of Hospital](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman Steps Down](#)

[Activist Investors: Helping Or Hindering?](#)

[US Sees Russian Drive Against CIA-Backed Rebels](#)
[Price Increases Drive Drug Firms' Revenue](#)

New York Times:

[Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal Is Reached](#)
[Russian Soldiers To Join Fight In Syria](#)
[US General Says Afghans Requested Airstrike That Hit Kunduz Hospital](#)
[Oregon Killer's Mother Wrote Of Troubled Son And Gun Rights](#)
[A Missing Ship With No Signs Of Survivors](#)
[Scandal Erupts In Unregulated World Of Fantasy Sports](#)

Washington Post:

[Bernie Sanders's Red-State Appeal](#)
[Coast Guard Thinks Cargo Ship Sank In Hurricane](#)
[New Nationals Manager Must Take A Leading Role](#)
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[DC Seeks To Offer Best Family-Leave Policy In US](#)

Financial Times:

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[Jack Dorsey Back As Twitter CEO](#)

Washington Times:

[Clinton White House Suppressed Evidence Of Iranians' Terrorism](#)
[Following Oregon, Clinton On Anti-Gun Warpath](#)
["It Was Not Our Best Year"](#)
[Lawmakers, Candidates Are Skeptical Of Trade Deal](#)
[Pakistani Denies Armed Drones Made In China](#)
[Houston Debates Gender ID, Public Restrooms Before Vote](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: US Cargo Ship-Sunk; Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Rescues; American Airlines Flight-Pilot Death; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Ignition Switches-Carbon Monoxide; Airline Ticket Pricing.

CBS: Severe Weather; US Cargo Ship Sunk; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; American Airlines-Pilot Death; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Syria-Russian Military; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombed; Former US Congressman-Gun Violence Discussion; Air France-Union Strikes.

NBC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; US Cargo Ship Sunk; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombed; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; 2016 Politics-Carly Fiorina; American Airlines-Pilot Death; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; Air France-Union Strikes.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 10 minutes, 50 seconds
US Cargo Ship Stranded – 7 minutes, 25 seconds
Afghanistan Hospital Bombing – 6 minutes, 20 seconds
Oregon College Shooting – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
2016 Politics – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
American Airlines-Pilot Death – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-South Carolina; Oregon College Shooting; American Airlines-Pilot Death; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; US Cargo Ship Sunk.

CBS: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Sunk; California Governor-Right To Die Bill; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing;

NPR: California Governor-Right To Die Bill; Severe Weather-South Carolina; Justice Department-BP Oil Spill Costs; Bethlehem Violence-Palestinian Boy Killed; Asian Markets; Russia-Turkish Air Space

Violation; Nevada-Mental Health Budget.

FOX: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Sunk; California Governor-Right To Die Bill.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No public schedule announced.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 11:30 AM Senators Offer Measure to Help Military Families – – U.S. Senators Roy Blunt (Mo.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y) will hold a press conference along with military families and support groups to announce the introduction of the Military Family Stability Act of 2015. Speakers include: Senators Roy Blunt and Kirsten Gillibrand; Members, National Military Family Association; Mia Reisweber – military spouse, Ph.D. student; Liz O'Brien – military spouse, former Division 1 college basketball coach. Contact: Press Office, (202) 224-1403. Location: SVC 209

2:30 PM Fired California nurse; Sen. Bernie Sanders – Workers Rights Bill – Allysha Almada, RN will also join Sen. Bernie Sanders for a press conference to introduction of a new bill by Sanders and colleagues to strengthen the right of workers to form a union. Speakers: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Mark Pocan, introduction of Workplace Democracy Act, Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office Building, 216) NOTE: Allysha will also speak at a press event at 1 p.m. with leaders of the AFL-CIO in advance of the White House Summit. Location for that event: AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St NW. Location: Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office.

2:30 PM Fired California nurse; Sen. Bernie Sanders – Workers Rights Bill – Allysha Almada, RN will also join Sen. Bernie Sanders for a press conference to introduction of a new bill by Sanders and colleagues to strengthen the right of workers to form a union. Speakers: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Mark Pocan, introduction of Workplace Democracy Act, Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office Building, 216) Contact: Senator Sander's office – (202) 224-5141. NOTE: Allysha will also speak at a press event at 1 p.m. with leaders of the AFL-CIO in advance of the White House Summit. Location for that event: AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St NW. Location: Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office. www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the NLRB joint employer decision – Hearing on 'Stealing the American Dream of Business Ownership: The NLRB's Joint Employer Decision', with testimony from MODE Stores owner and founder Ciara Stockeland; Tilson Home Corporation President/CEO Edward Martin; Ogletree Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart shareholder Mark Kisicki; and Altshuler Berzon partner Michael Rubin Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

2:15 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on 'how overregulation harms minorities' – Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts Subcommittee hearing on 'Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities', with testimony from National Black Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Harry Alford; The LIBRE Institute National Economic Prosperity Manager Michael Barrera; Loving Tax Services owner and operator Sabina Loving; Sierra Club President Aaron Mair; Public Citizen Regulation Policy Advocate Amit Narang; Pacific Legal Foundation Principal Attorney Timothy Sandefur; and Emerging ChangeMakers Network Soul'utions Business Accelerator William Scott Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Afghanistan – Hearing on 'The Situation in Afghanistan', with testimony from United States Forces-Afghanistan Resolute Support Mission Commander Gen. John Campbell Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Energy Secretary Moniz testifies to Senate Energy Committee on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues, with testimony from Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz; Securing America's Future Energy Commission on Energy and Geopolitics Co-Chair (and former Director of National Intelligence) Adm. (Ret.) Dennis Blair; Columbia University Center for Global Energy Policy Founding Director Jason Bordoff; ClearView Energy Partners Managing Director Kevin Brook; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program Director Sarah Ladislaw Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

11:00 AM Dem Sen. Tom Udall calls for passage of chemical safety reform – Democratic Sen. Tom Udall calls on Congress to pass the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, via press conference with Bonnie Lautenberg – widow of former Sen. Frank Lautenberg – and supporters of chemical safety reform, including fellow Democratic Sens. Cory Booker, Tom Carper, Chris Coons, Jeff Merkley, and Sheldon Whitehouse, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, Humane Society Legislative Fund executive director Sara Amundson, March of Dimes Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs Cynthia Pellegrini, and Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine President Dr Neal Barnard Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorTomUdall>

2:15 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider the nomination of Michael Michaud to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S. in the Middle East – Hearing on 'The U.S. Role and Strategy in the Middle East: Yemen and the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council', with testimony from Metis Solutions founder and CEO Mary Beth Long; and Arab Gulf States Institute Executive Vice President Stephen Seche Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, with testimony from Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health Clinical Operations Thomas Lynch; Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Special Assistant Vince Kane; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel Staff Attorney Jennifer Gray; Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Legislative Associate Lauren Augustine; The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Director Lou Celli; National League of Cities Principal Associate for Housing (Veterans and Special Needs) Elisha Harig-Blaine; and Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Committee Vice-Chairman David Norris Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

US House: 11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 2091 – Child Support Assistance Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1553 – Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1525 – Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3032 – Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1839 – Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3102 – Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3510 – Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015', 'S. 1300 – Adoptive Family Relief Act', 'S. 2078 – United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015', 'H.R. 2168 – West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act, as amended', and 'S. 986 – Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act’
Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:00 PM Closed hearing on ‘Access Request’ Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

Tuesday, Oct. 06 – Thursday, Oct. 08 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference
– Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference, featuring national leaders, elected officials, corporate executives, community activists, educators, entertainers, and media personalities.
Day one includes CHCI Leadership Luncheon, featuring remarks from Attorney General Loretta Lynch *
Part of the Caucus’ Hispanic Heritage Month event Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center,
Washington, DC hcm.chci.org [#2015HHM](https://twitter.com/CHCI)

Other: 8:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce Cybersecurity Summit – U.S. Chamber of Commerce 4th
Annual Cybersecurity Summit, held in conjunction with American Express, Dell, and Southern Company,
with experts from the business community, federal agencies, and the executive and legislative branches
addressing international concerns, information sharing, and insurance issue. Speakers include bipartisan
Sens. Richard Burr and Dianne Feinstein, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas
and Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Secretary
of Energy Liz Sherwood-Randall, U.S. Cyber Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Kevin McLaughlin,
Southern Company Chair, President, and CEO Tom Fanning, former National Security Advisor Gen.
(Ret.) James Jones, and USCC Senior Vice President for National Security and Emergency
Preparedness Ann Beauchesne Location: USCC, H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:00 AM Mexican state governor speaks at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce
hosts roundtable discussion with Guanajuato (Mexico) Governor Miguel Marquez, on his state’s role as a
key logistics hub for Mexico’s growing manufacturing and services industries. Business leaders and
policy experts hear about investment opportunities and his plans for future development of the state
Location: USCC, H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:30 AM 2015 Index of Culture and Opportunity contributors at Heritage Foundation event – ‘The 2015
Index of Culture and Opportunity: Sound Solutions Begin with Accurate Assessment of the Challenges’
Heritage Foundation event, with Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, Heritage Foundation Fellow in
Education Policy Lindsey Burke and B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics Director David
Azerrad, and contributors to the 2015 Index – Ethics and Public Policy Center Fellow Yuval Levin, Center
for Neighborhood Enterprise founder and President Robert Woodson, Sr., and North Carolina State
University Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Human Development Assistant Professor
Anna Egalite – discussing ‘the nature of the challenges facing our communities today’ * Index, from the
Heritage Foundation Institute of Family, Culture, and Opportunity, tracks trends from marriage to
volunteering to welfare dependence to student loan debt, pairing data on 31 indicators with commentary
from 21 contributors Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC
www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:00 PM CDC telebriefing on Vital Signs report on hospital support for breastfeeding – CDC Director
Tom Frieden discusses new Vital Signs report on ‘What more can hospitals do to encourage and support
breastfeeding?’, which says that hospital support for breastfeeding has largely improved since 2007, via
media telebriefing * Embargoed until 1:00 PM EDT Location: TBD www.cdc.gov
<https://twitter.com/CDCgov>

1:00 PM House Republican Policy Committee Law Enforcement Task Force hearing – Republican
Representative Dave Reichert holds a hearing titled ‘Examining the State of Relations Between the
People and Their Protectors’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC
<http://reichert.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/davereichert>

2:00 PM ‘Chinese Political Warfare in East Asia and Beyond’ conference at Heritage Foundation –
‘Influence Operations: Chinese Political Warfare in East Asia and Beyond’ conference, hosted by

Heritage Foundation and Project 2049 Institute, bringing together experts to focus on the characteristics of Chinese political warfare and identify key political goals and tactics in its influence operations towards specific targets in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Republican Rep. J. Randy Forbes keynotes, with panelists including Shih-Chung Liu (Tainan City Government in Taiwan), Dean Cheng (Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center), and Randy Schriver (Project 2049 Institute) Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Energy Secretary Moniz speaks at Minorities in Energy Initiative forum – Second Department of Energy Minorities in Energy Initiative (MEI) forum, aimed at increasing minority participation in the energy sector through engagement in STEM education, energy economic development, and climate change. Speakers include Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Advisor Dr Marvin Carr, DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity Director Dot Harris, Lockheed Martin Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin Energy Vice President Frank Armijo, SoCalGas President and CEO Dennis Arriola, and SUNY College at Old Westbury President Dr Calvin Butts Location: Lockheed Martin Global Vision Center, 2121 Crystal City Dr, Arlington VA Arlington www.energy.gov <https://twitter.com/ENERGY>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “Some more trouble for Hillary Clinton. Last week the firefighters union announced that it was no longer supporting Hillary for president. You know your campaign’s in trouble when firefighters are like, ‘Even we can’t put out that many fires.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “In an interview with Al Sharpton this weekend, Hillary Clinton said that, ‘Donald Trump just says whatever he needs to in order to stir up the passions of the people.’ And Al Sharpton was like, ‘You know you’re talking to me, right?’”

Jimmy Fallon: “In a speech in Tennessee, Trump talked about his decision to run for president and said, ‘I didn’t want to do this. I had to do this.’ And he was immediately sued by Jeb Bush for stealing his campaign slogan.”

Jimmy Fallon: “A new report found that Donald Trump is no longer the most liked candidate on Facebook, and Ben Carson now has the most likes with over four million. You could tell that Carson is pretty excited ‘cause when he found out he actually opened both eyes.”

Jimmy Fallon: “On Friday, Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced that he has plans to step down from his position in December. Until his replacement starts, [President] Obama’s gonna have a substitute education secretary who just shows videos all day.”

Conan O’Brien: “Speaking of presidential candidates, Carly Fiorina said that her degree in medieval history will help her defeat ISIL. She said knowledge of the medieval world also helps her when making policy on birth control.”

Seth Meyers: “Hillary Clinton said this weekend that the record turnout for Bernie Sanders’ rallies is great for the Democratic Party. And it wasn’t easy for her to say that, because at the time, she was biting a cinder block in half.”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump said in an interview this weekend that he has a license to carry a concealed firearm in New York, and added that if someone ever attacked him, they’re going to be shocked, especially when they see where he keeps it. ‘I’ll happily turn over my wallet. Just let me straighten my hair.’”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump confirmed in an interview today that he operates his own Twitter account. However, his mouth and his brain are run by interns.”

Seth Meyers: “Republican presidential hopeful Chris Christie said this weekend that he would rather jump off the Brooklyn Bridge than be in Congress. And just to be safe, [New York City] Mayor [Bill] de Blasio issued a tsunami warning for lower Manhattan.”

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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- + FWS Creates Ivory Repository.
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- + Wildfire At Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge 90 Percent Contained.
- + Canada Opposes US Lobbying To Classify Polar Bears As Extremely Endangered.
- + Hunters Bag Record 102 Snakes During Florida Python Challenge.
- + Antiques Dealer Admits Buying Elephant Tusks.
- + Man Pleads Guilty To Killing Federally-Protected Hawks.
- + Additional Coverage Of Ban On Trade Of Salamanders.
- + Tribes Called On To Manage National Bison Range.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Announces 2015 Visitor Totals.
- + NPS Director Jarvis To Visit Xenia.
- + Winners Of NPS' Find Your Parks Centennial Project Contest Announced.
- + NPS Vows Reforms After Report On Sexual Harassment.
- + House Committee Approves Designation Of Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park.
- + Harriet Tubman National Park Moving Forward.
- + PennDesign Receives Funding To Support NPS' Vanishing Treasures Program.
- + Death Valley Expected To Be Covered In "Super Bloom" Of Wildflowers.
- + NPS: Catocin Deer Herd Reduced To Target Density.
- + Officials Recover Antiques Stolen From Historic Church.
- + Officials Plan To Shoot Utah Mountain Goats.
- + Wyoming Legislators Hagggle With Feds Over Teton Park Land.
- + NPS Scientist Offers Vision Of Future.
- + Additional Coverage: NPS Begins Selling Passes Online.
- + Additional Coverage Of "National Parks Adventure" Film.
- + Additional Coverage: Superdome Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- + Additional Coverage Of Yellowstone Bison Cull.

- + [Park Rangers Should Staff The African-American Civil War Memorial.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS Study Finds Algae Toxins Common In Southeastern Streams.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [White House: Obama Regrets Alito Filibuster, But It Differed From Current Standoff.](#)
- + [Media Analysis: Pope Shows Support For Migrants At US-Mexico Border.](#)
- + [Cook Vows To Fight Order To Help Unlock San Bernardino Shooter's iPhone.](#)

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:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SUBPOENA SECRETARY JEWELL OVER REVIEW OF GOLD KING MINE.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/17, Richardson, 285K) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee "issued a subpoena Wednesday ordering Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to produce a critical peer review and other documents related to the Environmental Protection Agency's spill at the Gold King Mine." The committee subpoena calls for Jewell "to produce by Feb. 26 a peer review conducted last year by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Interior Department's technical evaluation of the accident." The Interior Department "released a statement late Wednesday confirming that the subpoena had been served but denying that the department had been uncooperative."

Opinion: EPA Needs To Explain Gold King Mine Spill Response, Spending Habits. Columnist Ed Feulner writes in [Townhall](#) (2/18, Feulner, 132K) that the EPA "has some serious explaining" to do about how the EPA accidentally dumped a "flood of toxic waste water" into Colorado's Animas River while trying to clean up the Gold King mine spill. A new report by the House Committee on Natural Resources revealed that the 3 million gallons of released waste water contained "toxic heavy metals," polluting a river that "serves as a drinking-water source for thousands of residents in Colorado and other states." Feulner accuses the EPA of spending money "like it's running its own printing press" and that it has spent "millions of dollars in the last decade" on guns, ammo, body army, and other "military-style weaponry and surveillance activities" for "commando-style raids against environmental offenders."

SCALIA'S DEATH COULD IMPACT UPCOMING CASES. [Politico Pro](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Supreme Court lost one of its most forceful critics of federal wetlands regulations with Justice Antonin Scalia's death, a loss that could shift the balance on how the court approaches some of the most significant water rules of President Barack Obama's tenure." According to the article, "Scalia heavily influenced a more critical approach to wetlands rules among his fellow justices, once famously comparing the government to 'an enlightened despot' in its implementation of regulations that sought to protect rivers and streams by regulating what individuals and businesses could do on soggy patches of land miles away." the article notes that "the court is now seen as likely to reject a petition from the American Farm Bureau Federation when the eight remaining justices meet Friday, leaving in place a controversial, multi-state cleanup plan EPA is imposing in the Chesapeake Bay." According to Harvard Law Professor Richard Lazarus, "its decision on whether to take up the Chesapeake Bay case will be an

early sign of how the court will approach environmental cases with an evenly divided eight justices.”

Also, the [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “an Alaska case about whether hovercraft can be used on waterways in federal parks is the last one that Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia heard before his death Saturday” Since “Scalia’s view on the case will have no bearing on it,” the case will be considered by “the eight remaining Supreme Court justices in June,” and “if the vote is split, the lower court’s decision would be upheld.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K) and the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (2/17).

Also providing coverage is the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (2/18, 15K).

FBI DISCOVERS FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, FECES AT MALHEUR REFUGE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “the FBI has discovered ‘significant amounts’ of human feces in an outdoor trench as well as spoiled food, firearms and explosives at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge as it assesses the scene of the 40-day occupation, federal attorneys disclosed yesterday in a court filing.” The FBI’s Evidence Response Team started “combing the scene last Saturday and estimates it will take three weeks to complete its work, prosecutors told the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.” Authorities said they are concerned “about booby traps on the property and fear that American Indian artifacts may have been damaged.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Berman, 8.98M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/18, 290K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Services, 2.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, Dubois), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/17, 3.7M), the [New York Post](#) (2/17, 2.92M), [RT](#) (2/18, 350K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/17, Levin, 3.71M), [TIME](#) (2/17, 18.01M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Dubois, 285K), [NBC News](#) (2/17, 3.58M), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (2/18, 85K), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (2/18, 177K).

Oregon House Votes To Shield ID Of Cop Who Shot Refuge Occupier. The [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “the Oregon House has passed a bill to protect the identity of the officer who fatally shot refuge standoff spokesman Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum in January.” According to the article, “representatives voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to approve allowing a judge to bar for 90 days the disclosure of the name of an officer who uses deadly force.” The measure now heads to the Senate.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Richardson, 285K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/18, 4.92M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K), [Reuters](#) (2/18, Bernstein), the [Blue Mountain \(OR\) Eagle](#) (2/17, 7K), and the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/18, 78K).

CLIVEN BUNDY DENIED BAIL IN 2014 STANDOFF CASE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that Cliven Bundy was ordered “to remain behind bars” by judge on Tuesday. The US attorneys in Oregon and Nevada accused Bundy of “mustering more than 60 firearms to intimidate federal law enforcement officers during the Bureau of Land Management’s April 2014 roundup of his cattle, ‘nearly causing catastrophic loss of life or injury to others.’” Federal prosecutors argued, “Bundy is lawless and violent. He does not recognize federal courts – claiming they are illegitimate – does not recognize federal law, refuses to obey federal court orders [and] has already used force and violence against federal law enforcement officers while they were enforcing federal court orders.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Moyer, 8.98M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/17, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, Baumann, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/18, Baumann, 285K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/18, 518K), [TIME](#) (2/18, 18.01M), [USA Today](#) (2/18, 5.45M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, Dubois, Ritter, 1.99M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/17, Levin, 3.71M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), [NBC News](#) (2/18, 3.58M), [Reuters](#) (2/18, Skinner, Edwards), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Services, 2.17M), the [Oregonian](#) (2/17, 864K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, 518K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/17, 2K), [Raw](#)

[Story](#) (2/17, 1.24M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/18, 6.31M), and [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (2/17, 256K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO MEET WITH HAWAII GOV. DAVID IGE. [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (2/17) reports that Hawaii Gov. David Ige will meet with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Washington “regarding the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s World Conservation Congress, which Hawai’i will be hosting in September.”

BEARS EARS REGION IS CENTER OF PUBLIC LANDS DEBATE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/17, 44K) reports that an area in the Four Corners known as “Bears Ears” is “taking its place in the spotlight” in the debate over public lands. In October, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition “petitioned President Barack Obama to designate the nearly 2 million acres as a national monument.” However, “while the petition to create a national monument has garnered support from dozens of tribes as well as environmentalists, some Navajo residents of the Aneth, Utah, area are concerned that the designation would hurt their ability to use the land for ceremonies and plant gathering.”

DECLINING GLOBAL COAL USE SAID SEEN IN SUPPLY GLUTS. Daniel Cohan at Rice University writes for [The Hill](#) (2/18, Cohan, Contributor, 862K) that “coal is piling higher even as it’s mined less” in the US, China and perhaps India. “The shuttered coal capacity in China nearly matches total U.S. coal production in 2015,” and India’s energy minister says solar power is cheaper than coal and acknowledges a coal supply glut. The article notes that the Interior Department “mirrored China’s three-year new mine ban with its own three-year moratorium on coal leases on federal lands.”

Additional coverage of the federal coal leasing moratorium was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (2/17, 109K), the [Waterbury \(CT\) Republican-American](#) (2/17, 121K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/17, 2K), [Real Clear Energy](#) (2/17), and [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (2/17, 671).

NYTIMES MAGAZINE: PALAU’S “AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE” TO POACHERS ABOUT “SELF-PRESERVATION.” A 5,488-world preview of a [New York Times Magazine](#) (2/21, Urbina, 782K) story says Palau “has mounted an aggressive response” to the challenge of being “responsible for patrolling a swath of ocean about the size of France, in a region teeming with supertrawlers, state-subsidized poacher fleets, mile-long drift nets and the floating fish attracters known as FADs.” The Times says while Palau’s “work suggests a hopeful future,” it’s “conservation efforts are really motivated by a more immediate sense of self-preservation.”

CONSERVATION FUND WORKING WITH RANCHERS ON SAGE GROUSE IN THE WEST. In a press release, the [Conservation Fund](#) (2/17), “in partnership with local ranchers and federal, state and private partners, celebrates the protection of over 100,000 acres of sage grouse habitat in Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado.” According to the release, “over the last decade, The Conservation Fund has worked together with local communities in Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado to bring landowners, federal, state and private partners together to implement conservation easements on private working ranchlands with sage grouse habitat.” Mark Elsbree, Senior Vice President and Western Director of The Conservation Fund, said, “Our goal is to help ranchers sustain and enhance their operations while preventing loss and fragmentation of sage grouse habitat. Partnerships are key to accomplishing this, and we are grateful to the remarkable vision of the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and their Sage Grouse Initiative, as well as our local partners like the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust who work together to balance these environmental and economic goals.”

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE VANDALISM AT COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “actress Vanessa Hudgens posted a photo on her Instagram account of a heart carved into red rock, and now authorities in Arizona are investigating whether the rock belongs to the protected Coconino National Forest, which manages land around Sedona.” According to the article, “while the photo of the carving, which bears the names Vanessa and Austin, was removed from Instagram, the hashtag #sedonadreams still appears on the site.” Spokesman Brady Smith said that “law enforcement has not yet located a heart carving that matches Hudgens’ in the forest’s 250-square-mile Red Rock Ranger District.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/17, Saad, 4.1M) and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/17, 442K).

TEACHER FOCUSES ON GETTING YOUNG LATINOS INTERESTED IN THE OURDOORS. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/17, Ortiz, 569K) reports on how Xino Gonzalez, a teacher at the Met Sacramento charter school, has led more than 40 trips to the outdoors with the goal of getting “other young Latinos to discover” the pleasures of the outdoors and “encourage more environmental awareness.” He said, “Becoming politically aware about environmental issues is an important offshoot of participating in the outdoors.” Gonzalez’s advocacy is a “telling example of how some urban Latinos are changing their relationship to such areas” as well as how the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Services “are courting them.” The Bee says a recent NPS study found just 11 percent of visitors to Yosemite National Park were Latino, “despite the ethnic group making up 39 percent of the state’s population.”

INTERIOR’S 2007 BATHROOM RENOVATION INCURRED \$222,000 IN EXPENSES. The [Daily Newswatch \(NGA\)](#) (2/18) reports that the Interior Department has spent as much as \$222,000 in renovating the bathroom “located at the interior secretary’s office.” The job was “done under the administration of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and George W. Bush.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. Additional coverage of “President Barack Obama’s designation last week of three new national monuments in the California desert” was provided by the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (2/17, 2K).

PUBLIC TRUST IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SAID TO CONTINUE TO DECLINE. The [Burlington \(NC\) Times-News](#) (2/17, 53K) editorializes on the public’s declining trust in the public sector. The most recent annual report on federal government agencies by the American Customer Satisfaction Index recorded 63.9 out of 100, “the lowest score since ACSI started evaluating government agencies in 1999,” down from the previous record low of 64.4 set last year. The worst scores went to the Treasury Department (55) and the Justice Department (59), and the highest scores went to the Department of the Interior (75) and the Department of State (71). The Times-News attributes the decline as the “almost inevitable result when” the government “is influenced by political partisanship or influence as opposed to serving taxpayers.”

“COLORFUL” ARGUMENTS AGAINST NATIONAL PARKS HASN’T CHANGED OVER THE PAST CENTURY PROFILED. In an op-ed for the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (2/17), Aaron Weiss writes that the “ink wasn’t dry” on President Obama’s use of the Antiquities Act last week to protect three new national monuments in California when Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, decried the “authoritarian” move as “presidential bullying.” Weiss points out the measure had “broad-based, bipartisan local support.” George Zimmerman, policy director at the Center for Western Priorities (CWP), said, “Chairman Bishop is carrying on a proud tradition of anti-park naysayers that dates back to the founding of our first national parks.” Fittingly, the CWO released a new report that documents the how the “often colorful language used by opponents of new parks and monuments has changed little over the last century.”

COLUMNIST RECOMMENDS PEOPLE REMAIN GOOD PARK STEWARDS. C. Douglas Nielsen writes in his “In The Outdoors” column for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/17, 479K) that the multitude of people who use public lands, “representing a variety of interests,” can create user conflicts if they don’t clean up after themselves. Nielsen admits “some conflict is inevitable in a multiple-use arena,” but leaving trash on public land impacts other visitors and the wildlife. Nielsen writes, “Though we can’t control what others choose to do, we can and should control our own actions.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES, FLORIDA INTERESTS COOPERATION TOUTED ON MOVING LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER SOUTH. Former Martin County commissioner Maggy Hurchalla writes in [TC Palm \(FL\)](#) (2/17, 185K) that Florida Gov. Rick Scott, the Department of Interior, the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District “all deserve to be congratulated” for moving more Lake Okeechobee water south. They “cooperated instead of blaming each other” and worked to remove the “constraints to implementing the Modified Water Delivery

Schedule, a plan that has been in the works for decades.” Hurchalla still advocates for purchasing the land south of the lake to make comprehensive Everglades restoration a reality.

THE NATURE CONSERVATORY CEO PRAISES WORK BY VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES. Mark Tercek, President and CEO of the Nature Conservatory, writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, 518K) blog that the success of his organization is its global network of 1,325 volunteer trustees. He says they are “committed community leaders...who open doors and build relationships with the diverse private and public institutions with which we work.” At TNC’s annual Advocacy Day last fall, Tercek engaged with “hundreds of trustees” on Capitol Hill to “engage more than 100 members of Congress on such topics as practical climate change solutions and resurrecting the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” Tercek says the work of TNC’s trustees were “instrumental in the success of 27 US ballot measures that TNC supported” in 2014.

Empowering Native American Communities:

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.”

COURT ASKED TO TOSS SUIT OVER DUG-UP GRAVES AT CASINO SITE. [Law360](#) (2/17, 22K) reports that “the U.S. government urged a California federal court Tuesday to toss a suit against two federal officials from former leaders of a half-blood Native American community over the alleged disinterment of their deceased family members’ remains in the planned construction of a \$360 million casino.” The government argued that “Walter Rosales and Karen Toggery have failed to state a claim against Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific regional director Amy Dutschke and division of environmental, cultural resources management and safety chief John Rydzik.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: EFFORT TARGETS DRUG OVERDOSES IN INDIAN COUNTY. Additional coverage of the “new effort to tackle drug overdoses in Indian Country” was provided by [Al Jazeera America](#) (2/17, 209K).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

EL NIÑO DISAPPOINTS HOPES OF REPLENISHING WATER SUPPLY. The [Cache Valley \(UT\) Daily](#) (2/17, 639) reports that “so far this winter, El Nino has not delivered the predicted rains needed to replenish the parched Colorado River Basin, conservationists say.” According to the article, “15-year drought in the region – which includes Utah, Arizona, California, Colorado and other western states – has left storage reservoirs Lake Mead and Lake Powell at historic low levels.” Gary Wockner, executive director of the environmental advocacy group Save the Colorado, said the BOR is “projecting below-average rainfall in the lower basin through June.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lake Powell Life](#) (2/17) and the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/17, 479K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAWSUITS FILED OVER SPOTTED FROG. Additional coverage of the lawsuits filed over “the way the Deschutes River’s water is managed” was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Source](#) (2/17) and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (2/18, 32K).

EX-SENATOR ADVOCATES FOR COMPLETION OF CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT. Former US Senator Jake Garn opines in favor of completing the remaining portion of the Central Utah District in the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/17, 388K). He says the main reason why Utah has water is because of the Central Utah Project, which was authorized by Congress on April 11, 1956, and subsequently implemented by the

Bureau of Reclamation. About 62 percent of Utahns live in the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and completing the remaining 5 percent of the CUP “is very important to those who await water from the project.” Garn is seeking federal funding to finish the project.

NATIVE AMERICAN WATER COMPACT MAY HURT IRRIGATORS. Former Montana state Sen. Verdell Jackson writes in [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/17, 78K) that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes water compact “does not provide more water to off-reservation irrigators during a drought by sharing the shortage.” A water shortage is more likely to be caused by water control than drought, but 19 reservoirs on the CKST reservation “were not filled last year and irrigation was cut off on the reservation in August.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the CSKT are responsible for managing the water.

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE 10 MILLION ACRES IN THE MOJAVE DESERT. David J. Hayes, ex-deputy secretary of the Interior Department, opines in the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (2/17, 534K) about the importance of protecting 10 million acres of public lands in the California’s Mojave Desert for the common good. Following “scores of formal and informal meetings over a five-year period,” federal and state government officials released a final environmental report last November detailing a “preferred alternative” for the public lands that is “breathtaking in its scope and ambition.” Hayes says the BLM appears “poised to make a well-informed decision to protect millions of acres.” Hayes offers praise and critiques of how the Desert Plan came together, but says California “deserves applause for leading the way in its embrace of new ways to ensure that are public lands are being used in sensible, sustainable ways.”

San Bernardino County Supervisors Mull Own Renewable Energy Initiative, Approve BLM Desert Plan. The [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (2/17, Johnson, 2K) reports the San Bernardino County Supervisors “unanimously voted to establish a position on the BLM’s proposed land use plan amendment in Phase 1 of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.” County leaders reiterated Wednesday that they intend to “finish work on their own Renewable Energy Element before recommending alignment revisions to the land use plan amendment pertaining to DRECP’s first phase.” Two desert conservationists “commended the board’s resolution” at the meeting.

TRENDS INDICATE WIND POWER IS A BETTER BET THAN CHEAP OIL. The [Coastal Review](#) (2/17, Kozak) reports that Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will offer leases for wind power off North Carolina at the same time that oil prices are low. Offshore wind development comes with “steep upfront costs,” but trends in renewable energy suggest that it is a good bet that costs will decline as the industry matures.

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWSUITS CHALLENGING COAL MINING PROJECTS SUSPENDED TO ALLOW FOR NEGOTIATIONS. The [AP](#) (2/17) reports that “federal judges have suspended lawsuits that challenged coal mining projects in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico after government attorneys asked for time to negotiate potential settlements.” The judges’ holdings “give the U.S. Justice Department until April 1 to negotiate with New Mexico-based environmental group WildEarth Guardians.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/18, 881K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, 1.99M), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (2/17, 78K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (2/17, NBCMontana, 1K).

SELF-BONDING ISSUE COULD DRIVE PEABODY INTO BANKRUPTCY. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/17, Loh, 2.92M) reports that, despite “months negotiating its debt with lenders,” Peabody Energy Corp. could be forced into bankruptcy by groups protesting its self-bonding, arguing the company needs to post collateral or obtain surety bonds to make sure there is money for future mine clean-up costs. Spencer

Cutter, a credit analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, said that self-bonding “could be the catalyst that impales Peabody and pushes them over the edge.” [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (2/17) reports the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sent out notices in response to a complaint over the company’s self-bonding.

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/17, 5K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Loh(c), 2016, Bloomberg, 2.17M), the [St. Louis \(MO\) Post-Dispatch](#) (2/17, 808K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/17, 77K), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/17, 131K), and [WyoFile](#) (2/17).

Wyoming Defends Handling Of Self-Bonding. [Reuters](#) (2/18) reports Wyoming’s Department of Environmental Quality, in a letter to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), defending their handling of coal bankruptcies after federal officials warned that taxpayers could be on the hook for \$3.6 billion in liabilities due to self-bonding companies going bankrupt. Still the letter admitted to “systemic problems.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (2/17, 19K) and [Inside Energy](#) (2/15).

BLM MEETING ON METHANE RULES DRAWS LARGE CROWD, BROADLY OPPOSED. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/17, 290K) reports that a public meeting by the Bureau of Land Management over a proposed change to federal regulations governing methane leaks drew so many people on Tuesday it had to be halted and moved to a larger space. “The clear majority of those in attendance was there to push back against the federal agency’s aim to update the proposed rule over the oil and gas industry.” San Juan County Commission Chairman Scott Eckstein told BLM officials, “I don’t want to see one more of our constituents out of their work, out of a job,” adding that the rule “is going to be a knockout vote to an already crippled community.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K).

GREEN ACTIVISTS DISRUPT UTAH OIL AND GAS AUCTION. The [AP](#) (2/17, McCombs) reports that Utah environmentalists hoped to disrupt a BLM oil and gas auction, but industry officials say the moves will push them to press for online auction in the future. Environmental writer Terry Tempest Williams bid on at least 800 acres of development rights with several thousand more acres pending approval.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, McCombs, Press, 1.99M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, McCombs, 285K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/17, 402K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (2/17, 4.92M).

COLOWYO COAL MINE EXPANSION CLEARS KEY HURDLE. The [Electric Co-op Today](#) (2/17) reports that “a proposed development at the Colowyo coal mine that would sustain 220 jobs through 2030 and provide new habitat for the greater sage grouse cleared a key hurdle.” Working with the BLM, the OSMRE has “proposed to issue a ‘finding of no significant impact’ on the proposed mine project, known as the Collom Area Development Project, in northwest Colorado.” According to the article, “a final decision from the assistant secretary for land and minerals management is expected sometime this year.”

BLM LAUNCHES PLAN TO CLEAN UP LEGACY WELLS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/17, 2K) reports that “more than one hundred abandoned oil wells dot the tundra on federal land on the North Slope, and efforts to clean them up have been delayed for decades.” Now, the BLM has “launched an ambitious plan to remediate many of the wells that are the highest priority hazards.” The bureau “on Wednesday announced continued efforts to cleanup about fifty of the abandoned wells with federal money secured in 2013.”

PLANS FOR LEASING NEAR LAKE LEWISVILLE PROMPTS PROTEST. The [Athens \(TX\) Review](#) (2/17, 1K) reports that North Texas cities are “protesting plans to auction federal lands for gas-well exploration around a lake that supplies drinking water to millions.” According to the article, “the plans to

auction several hundred acres around and under Lake Lewisville, about 35 miles northwest of Dallas, threaten both drinking water for about 2 million consumers and the integrity of the earthen dam that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers consider the nation's eighth-most-hazardous, local officials and environmental groups say."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Goshen \(IN\) News](#) (2/17, 962).

ATTORNEYS COMPARE CALIFORNIA GAS LEAK TO BP SPILL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "with the plugging of a monthslong methane leak at a natural gas well in Los Angeles last week, lawyers have turned their attention to litigation stemming from the environmental debacle." According to the article, "they are comparing Southern California Gas Co.'s handling of the gas leak to another environmental disaster: the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." The article says that "the Aliso Canyon leak spewed more than 80,000 metric tons of methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – since it began on Oct. 23, 2015."

OKLAHOMA HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BILL GIVING OCC EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

AUTHORITY. The [AP](#) (2/17, Talley) reported that a bill approved by Oklahoma's House Rules Committee on Wednesday would give the Oklahoma Corporation Commission the authority to impose restrictions in an emergency. The bill was introduced by House Speaker Jiff Hickman "after some had questioned whether the agency had the right to restrict how much oilfield wastewater could be disposed underground in potentially shaky geologic formations."

SIERRA CLUB FILES SUIT AGAINST OKLAHOMA ENERGY COMPANIES OVER EARTHQUAKES.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/17, 1.24M) reported that the Sierra Club on Tuesday filed suit against Devon Energy Production Co., Chesapeake Operating LLC and New Dominion LLC, seeking to hold the companies responsible for the uptick in earthquakes in Oklahoma. The Sierra Club's notice of intent to sue also named Sandridge Exploration and Production LLC, which could be later added as a defendant. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/18, 5K) added that lawsuits arrives on the heels of Oklahoma's third-strongest recorded earthquake, a 5.1 magnitude that struck on February 13. The lawsuit "demands the companies, as a first step, 'reduce, immediately and substantially, the amounts of production wastes they are injecting into the ground.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FLARING RULE. Additional coverage of the flaring rule was provided by [Industrial Info Resources](#) (2/18).

Offshore Energy Development:

SURFBOARD CONTAINING SIGNATURES OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING GOES TO

WASHINGTON. The [Wrightsville \(NC\) Lumina News](#) (2/17, 16K) reports that "a surfboard containing hundreds of signatures from businesses up and down the East Coast, including several area businesses, opposing offshore drilling in the Atlantic traveled to its final destination in Washington, D.C., last weekend." The surfboard went to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Administration at the White House, according to Mary Baggett, co-owner of the Blockade Runner Resort in Wrightsville Beach. The Surf rider Foundation "orchestrated the event called Coastal Lobby Day over Feb. 12 – 13 weekend to campaign against the newly passed bill to drill off of the Atlantic Coast."

FORMER BP MANAGER ON TRIAL FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/17, Fisk, 2.92M) reports that federal prosecutors have one final "chance to send someone to jail over the deadly 2010 BP Plc Gulf of Mexico well blowout and the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history." Former BP manager Robert Kaluza "faces as long as a year in prison plus fines if he's convicted." Kaluza "faces a lone misdemeanor count of violating the US Clean Water Act" after already beating "more serious charges." Bloomberg adds that "a co-defendant charged with the same crime pleaded guilty and reached a deal with the U.S. that calls for a sentence of 10 months' probation, 100 hours of community service and \$50,000 in restitution for fouling the water in the gulf." The company "pleaded guilty and agreed in 2012 to pay \$4 billion for multiple counts including 11 for manslaughter." Only four employees of BP, "including Kaluza, were prosecuted."

LAPLACE MAN RECEIVES YEAR IN PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING BP CLAIMS FACILITY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/17, 625K) reports “one of two defendants” involved in a scheme “to defraud BP following the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster was sentenced Wednesday (Feb. 17) to one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay \$65,300 restitution, U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite’s office announced.” Hardell Mack of LaPlace “pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, which BP set up to compensate individuals and businesses who suffered economic losses resulting from the disaster.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM KICKS OFF 2016 WILD HORSE, BURRO ADOPTIONS. The [Pahrump \(NV\) Valley Times](#) (2/17, 23K) reports that “in order to alleviate an excess of wild horses and burros in the region, an adoption event is being held to get those animals to people who can tend to them.” The BLM “kicked off its 2016 wild horse and burro adoption last week as Internet adoptions began on Feb. 9.” BLM Director Neil Kornze said, “I urge people from across the country to attend an adoption event this year and bring home one of these icons of the West. Giving a good home to a wild horse or burro has the double benefit of saving taxpayers nearly \$50,000 each time an animal gets adopted.”

GROUP PUSHING FOR UTAH CONTROL OF BLM LAND. [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (2/17, 5K) reports that the American Land Council is “advocating for the Transfer of Land Act, signed into Utah law in 2012, but not recognized by the federal government.” The measure would give Utah “control of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.”

ORGANIZATION FILES AMENDED LAWSUIT IN RED RIVER DISPUTE. The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (2/17, 65K) reports that “the organization representing Texas landowners, counties and a local sheriff have filed an amended lawsuit in the group’s bid to resolve the Red River land dispute.” Robert Henneke, general counsel and director of the Center for the American Future at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, said Wednesday that “the amended lawsuit was in response to a 30-page motion by the Bureau of Land Management to have the case dismissed.”

POSSIBLE SITES FOR IDAHO AIRPORT RULED ABOUT BECAUSE OF SAGE GROUSE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (2/17) reports that “seven places identified as possible long-term replacement sites for the Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey are smack-dab in the middle of sage grouse country.” According to the article, “loud airport noise, roads, buildings and towers are all things that could disturb the bird, which is famously particular about its habitat.” BLM Shoshone Field Manager Codie Martin said, “Commercial airports are not allowed within any of the of the priority habitat management areas according to our new land use plan. So we had to inform [the airport board members] that approximately seven of their sites will no longer be allowed for consideration.”

BLM INVITES PUBLIC TO BROWN BAG LECTURE FROM EAC STUDENTS. The [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (2/17, 18K) reports that the BLM, Safford Field Office, is “partnering with local community organizations to host a series of brown bag lectures.” On Thursday, Feb. 18 at BLM’s Safford Field Office, “six students from Eastern Arizona College will discuss their recent conservation work in Arizona.” They will “discuss ongoing work to assess the condition and effectiveness of water catchment structures in the Peloncillo Mountains southeast of Safford.”

UTAH OFFICIALS MEET WITH RANCHERS TO REACH MUTUAL SOLUTION ABOUT PUBLIC LAND GRAZING. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/17, Maffly, 388K) reports Tony Rampton, the Utah attorney general office’s “public-lands point man,” will tell ranchers at a conference hosted by the Utah Farm Bureau Federation that by disavowing their contracts with federal land management agencies, ranchers “risk losing their grazing allotments” and embolden environmentalists “seeking severe limits on public land grazing.” The bureau and the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office contend the US Forest Service and BLM are engaged in “a systematic dismantling of livestock grazing.” Thursday’s conference will touch on “proactive” solutions, rather than the “reactive” solutions recently seen by the Oregon

standoff and the shooting death of Arizona rancher LaVoy Finicum.

BLM HELPS GEOLOGIST DISCOVER RAPTOR TRACKS IN COLORADO. The [Denver Post](#) (2/18, Hernandez, 881K) reports University of Colorado geologist Martin Lackey uncovered evidence that velociraptors and “other two-toed relatives” once roamed Colorado. Lockley and his team discovered raptor tracks, “the first in Colorado and the second in North America,” in a layer of rock that dates back 105 million years. Lockley worked with BLM officials to document the site, “determining the tracks represent the first trail of raptor imprints ever found in North America.”

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ALONG COLORADO-NEW MEXICO BORDER FIGHT FOR CONSERVATION. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/17, Langlois, 31K) reports on how the 500,000 acres of private property along the Colorado-New Mexico border help preserve land. The acres are “surrounded by three national forests and the Jicarilla Apache reservation.” The Herald says it is becoming “increasingly tough” for ranchers to “hang onto land that’s been in their families for generations.” A group of landowners near the border organized the Chama Peak Land Alliance in 2010 to ensure that the open spaces near the borderlands “are managed not as a hodgepodge of private, state, federal and tribal interests, but as a whole, intact ecosystem.” The members own about 250,000 acres, nearly half the private land in the area. The group has so far “successfully deferred Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases near community drinking water sources,” among other reforms.

ARIZONA HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES BILL ASSERTING STATE CONTROL OVER WILD HORSES. The [Arizona Republic](#) (2/17, Loomis, 975K) reports an Arizona House committee advanced a bill that asserts the state’s ownership of the Salt River wild horse herd. The US Forest Service announced last summer “it would round up the horses and sell them to protect the river and forest environment near Mesa.” Protests that included calls from Arizona’s congressional delegation caused federal land managers to back down. State Rep. Kelly Townsend said she introduced the bill to “ensure federal agents won’t remove the horses...and that the state’s livestock experts can manage them” according to the Arizona Republic. She wants to avoid “federal roundups such as what the Bureau of Land Management conducts across the West.”

REFORM OF BLM’S WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT NEEDED. Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, opines in the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (2/17, 160K) that BLM’s current scheme for how it manages wild horses and burros on public lands “is an unmitigated failure.” She disagrees with the Western Governors Association’s belief that the “current, unworkable system can somehow be made to function.” Instead, Roy advocates for “land use policy and wildlife management based on common sense and science.” Roy dismisses the belief there is an overpopulation of wild horses and burros on public land, and increasing room for livestock at the expense of wild horses “doesn’t provide much benefit to taxpayers.” Roy recommends managing the animals “humanely via the PZP fertility control vaccine” and revising the “number of wild horses and burros permitted to live on our public lands.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS TO FINALIZE FEDERAL WATERFOWL STRUCTURE. [AmmoLand](#) (2/17, 9K) reports that in the upcoming weeks, the FWS will “finalize the annual federal waterfowl structure under which states within the Mississippi Flyway may establish waterfowl hunting seasons.” According to the article, “these federal season proposals will be the subject of a series of public meetings throughout Wisconsin in mid-March.”

FWS CREATES IVORY REPOSITORY. The [International Diamond Exchange](#) (2/18) reports that the FWS has “announced the creation of a repository for donations of legally-owned ivory products.” According to the article, “the facility, based at the USFWS’s Office of Law Enforcement’s National Wildlife Repository in Commerce City, Colorado, has responded to a demand from ivory owners, who wish to safely and legally dispose of items made from the material and reduce the overall ivory market.”

FWS RELEASES ENDANGERED SALMON INTO SACRAMENTO RIVER. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/18, Arthur, 65K) reports the US Fish and Wildlife Service released nearly 200,000 “fingerling-size” endangered salmon into the Sacramento River “to compensate for a massive summer

fish die-off.” Wednesday’s release was the first of two batches set to be let go this week. This year’s release is nearly double the amount the FWS typically releases into the river annually. Considering Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery had a bad year last year, assistant hatchery manager John REuth said, “If we have a third” straight year with a poor showing, “we could see real bad numbers with the fish.” He doubts it will ever go extinct, however.

HASKILL BASIN CONSERVATION EASEMENT FINALIZED. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/17, 15K) reports “an agreement to furnish permanent protections on 3,020 acres of land in the Haskill Creek watershed” was finalized on Wednesday. According to the article, “closing the deal means the land will be permanently protected to support local timber jobs and important fish and wildlife habitat, while also providing the City of Whitefish with the majority of their water supply and the public with continued opportunities for close-to-home outdoor recreation.” The article notes that “the \$16.7 million necessary to pay for the easement came from a hodge-podge of sources, including the City of Whitefish and two federal programs – the U.S. Forest Service’s Forest Legacy Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Program.”

WILDFIRE AT GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 90 PERCENT CONTAINED. The [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (2/17, 51K) reports that “federal officials say a wildfire that began near a Mississippi nature preserve and spread to Alabama is nearly contained.” FWS spokeswoman Brittany Petersen said in a statement that “the fire has burned roughly 4,250 acres and was 90 percent contained as of Tuesday night.” According to the article, “officials have said the fire began on private property and has burned 2,208 acres of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17) and [WDAM-TV Hattiesburg \(MS\)](#) Hattiesburg, MS (2/17, 33K).

CANADA OPPOSES US LOBBYING TO CLASSIFY POLAR BEARS AS EXTREMELY ENDANGERED. [Vice](#) (2/17, 1.65M) reports the American government is expected to lobby members of a global animal protection pact to classify polar bears “among the world’s most dangerous species,” which would outlaw the international sale of bear hides. “The decline of sea ice habitat due to changing climate is the primary threat to polar bears,” states the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) draft conservation plan. “Short of action that effectively addresses the primary cause of diminishing sea ice, it is unlikely that polar bears will be recovered.” The Canadian government opposes the measure because they say its northern communities claim the “polar bear trade is vital for their communities” and the bear’s fur “continues to be sustainable.” The article notes the US failed to change the bears’ classification in 2010 and 2013.

HUNTERS BAG RECORD 102 SNAKES DURING FLORIDA PYTHON CHALLENGE. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/17, 803K) reports that “record rain that closed off some hunting grounds doesn’t appear to have hurt Florida’s second Python Challenge.” Hunters “set a new record, bagging 102 snakes as of Thursday, far outpacing the 68 snakes caught in the first hunt in 2012.”

ANTIQUES DEALER ADMITS BUYING ELEPHANT TUSKS. The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (2/17, 535K) reports that an antiques dealer pleaded guilty Wednesday “in U. S. District Court in Buffalo to trafficking prohibited wildlife – specifically, the buying and selling of elephant tusks.” Ferdinand E. Krizan, 77, “entered the plea before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Frank P. Geraci.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (2/17, 473K).

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING FEDERALLY-PROTECTED HAWKS. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/17, 1.23M) reports that “a Westbury man who races pigeons pleaded guilty Wednesday to trapping and killing federally protected hawks that he viewed as a threat to his birds, said federal prosecutors and wildlife officials.” According to the article, “Thomas Kapusta, 63, could get up to 30 months in prison and a fine of up to \$75,000 at his May 13 sentencing on one count of conspiracy to take, capture and kill red-tailed hawks and Cooper’s hawks and on four counts of taking, capturing and killing those hawks.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Connecticut Post](#) (2/18, 293K) and the [East Meadow \(NY\) Patch](#)

(2/17, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAN ON TRADE OF SALAMANDERS. Additional coverage of the ban on “the interstate and international trade of about 200 species of salamanders to protect them from a fungus” was provided by [The Verge](#) (2/17, 669K).

TRIBES CALLED ON TO MANAGE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The [Montana Standard](#) (2/18, 35K) editorializes that last week the FWS “showed signs it is finally coming to its senses with regard to the National Bison Range.” The paper supports the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes assuming management. The paper concludes that “it ought to be the CSKT that holds the bison range in trust for the people of the United States — including its original inhabitants.”

National Park Service:

NPS ANNOUNCES 2015 VISITOR TOTALS. [CNN](#) (2/17, Hetter, 3.96M) reports that as the NPS “celebrates its centennial anniversary this year, new numbers show that more people visited America’s national park sites in 2015 than ever before.” The agency’s “sites around the country hosted a record-breaking 307.2 million visits, according to NPS data released Wednesday.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “That kind of takes your breath away for a second. But we’re also getting ready to welcome even more people – the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates – in this, the centennial year of the National Park Service.”

Additional coverage was provided by [TIME](#) (2/17, 18.01M), the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (2/17, 50K), the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/17, 431), [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (2/17, 154K), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (2/18, 2K).

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT XENIA. The [Xenia \(OH\) Daily Gazette](#) (2/17, 243) reports that NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will be “in the Xenia area Thursday, Feb. 18 to participate in some Black History Month events.” Jarvis is scheduled “to visit Wilberforce’s Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument and Cox Elementary School, to highlight the National Park Service Centennial and the ‘Every Kid in A Park’ initiative.” According to the article, “Jarvis’ visit is part of a larger, month-long campaign by United States Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the National Park Service to travel to multiple national park sites to help tell diverse American stories and to distribute passes to local fourth graders for free entry to federal lands and waters.”

WINNERS OF NPS’ FIND YOUR PARKS CENTENNIAL PROJECT CONTEST ANNOUNCED. The [St. Augustine \(FL\) Record](#) (2/17, 33K) reports that “local photographer and graphic designer Stacey Sather had her photo of the Castillo de San Marcos chosen as one of the winners in the National Park Service’s Find Your Parks Centennial Project contest.” According to the article, “Sather’s Castillo shot is one of 45 first prize winners in the National Park Service Centennial Project contest and is featured in the Find Your Park national campaign and on its website.” Sather will be recognized in August in Washington at the National Park Service’s Centennial Celebration.

NPS VOWS REFORMS AFTER REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT. The [AP](#) (2/18, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 8.98M) reports that the NPS has “outlined a series of actions in response to a federal report that found employees at the Grand Canyon preyed on their female colleagues and retaliated against them for refusing sexual advances.” The park service’s Intermountain Region director, Sue Masica, said “employees will be disciplined appropriately and she will push a message of zero tolerance for sexual harassment and hostile work environments.” Masica wrote in a response to the report this week, “While dismayed at the work environment described in the report, I am committed to working to change the situation and keep similar situations from happening again. The employees of Grand Canyon National Park deserve nothing less than that.”

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (2/18, 853K), [ABC News](#) (2/18, 4M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/18, 4.92M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/18, Fonseca, 6.31M).

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES DESIGNATION OF OCMULGEE MOUNDS NATIONAL

HISTORICAL PARK. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/17, 1.1M) reports that “a U.S House committee unanimously approved earlier this month designating the Ocmulgee National Monument, near Macon, as the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park.” Rep. Sanford Bishop said in a statement, “Passage of our bill in the House Natural Resources Committee is an important step, bringing us closer to strengthening the current Ocmulgee National Monument; bolstering the economy and cultural life of Georgia; and realizing a lasting memorial, enduring for generations.” The legislation “seeks to expand the 702-acre National Monument into a 2,800-acre park and, eventually, create a greenway-water corridor with the Bond Swamp Wildlife Refuge and the Ocmulgee River.”

HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL PARK MOVING FORWARD. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (2/17, 50K) reports that “more than a year after President Barack Obama signed legislation designating the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn and Fleming, U.S. Rep. John Katko says the project is moving forward after a land ownership issue was addressed.” In an interview, Katko said “he’s been in contact with officials representing the National Park Service and the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn.” He said, “I think it’s going to start moving along. The big hurdle, I think, is being cleared.”

PENNDISIGN RECEIVES FUNDING TO SUPPORT NPS’ VANISHING TREASURES PROGRAM. The [University of Pennsylvania](#) (2/18) announced that “the Architectural Conservation Laboratory at PennDesign has received funding to support the National Park Service’s Vanishing Treasures Program—a leader in the preservation of traditionally built architecture—in meeting its future education and training goals.” According to the article, “under the partnership, Frank Matero, a professor of architecture at PennDesign, and his team will review current education and training programs, projects, and past studies related to technical heritage preservation/conservation both in the United States and abroad, and undertake a needs-based survey and assessment of all parks and regional offices within the Vanishing Treasures Program.”

DEATH VALLEY EXPECTED TO BE COVERED IN “SUPER BLOOM” OF WILDFLOWERS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Fritz, 8.98M) reports that Death Valley is “awash in yellow and pink wildflowers this month.” According to the article, “park rangers suspect that, given the torrential autumn rainfall that Death Valley experienced, the park may be due for a rare ‘super bloom,’ after years of drought and barren bloom seasons.” Park Ranger Alan Van Valkenburg said, “It’s very rare to have a good bloom in Death Valley. To have a big bloom like this—which we hope will become a super bloom, which is beyond all your expectations, those are quite rare, maybe once a decade or so.”

NPS: CATOCTIN DEER HERD REDUCED TO TARGET DENSITY. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that “managers of Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont say that after seven years of sharpshooting, the white-tailed deer herd has reached a sustainable size.” According to acting Superintendent Ed Wenschhof, “federal sharpshooters killed 76 deer in the national park this season.” The article notes that “nearly 1,200 have been killed since the program began in early 2010, producing more than 15 tons of venison for food banks.”

OFFICIALS RECOVER ANTIQUES STOLEN FROM HISTORIC CHURCH. The [AP](#) (2/17, 1.99M) reports that “officials have recovered antique furnishings that were stolen from a historic African American church within the New River Gorge National River.” The NPS “announced Tuesday that pews, choir benches, wooden chairs and tables stolen from the Quinnimont Baptist Church on Feb. 7 were recovered after being sold to an antique store.” According to park spokeswoman Julena Campbell, “the antiques are safely back at the park after tips from the public helped officials recover the antiques.”

OFFICIALS PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “while wildlife watchers were thrilled when a mountain goat appeared at Dinosaur National Monument nearly two years ago, service officials now are looking to kill it before the animal—and others from artificially established herds—damage resources and disturb bighorn sheep populations.” According to the article, “under a Feb. 8 draft plan, the park says it intends to shoot wild goats that cross into its boundaries on the Utah-Colorado line.” Public comments are being accepted through March 9.

WYOMING LEGISLATORS HAGGLE WITH FEDS OVER TETON PARK LAND. The [Jackson Hole](#)

[\(WY\) News & Guide](#) (2/17, 1K) reports that “Wyoming legislators preliminarily agreed Tuesday night to adjust a bill that would facilitate a sale of state lands in Grand Teton National Park to the federal government.” According to the article, “both sides have been haggling about the price of the lands and the terms of the deal.”

NPS SCIENTIST OFFERS VISION OF FUTURE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “personal sensors, miniature satellite boxes and big data are a few of the technological advances that could transform and challenge the National Park Service in its second century, the agency’s first science adviser told an overflowing crowd at last week’s American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting.” Gary Machlis, a Clemson University environmental sustainability professor, said, “The boundary between sci-fi parks and real parks is less than you might imagine.” NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, “a biologist by training, created Machlis’ position at the agency during the Obama administration’s first year in office.” Machlis, “who repeatedly cautioned that his comments did ‘not represent the official views of the U.S. government,’ predicted NPS would soon be able to get instant updates on park air quality by wearing Bluetooth-enabled personal sensors that can send data from users’ cellphones to agency scientists.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS BEGINS SELLING PASSES ONLINE. Additional coverage that “Acadia National Park is testing the online sale of entrance passes” was provided by the [National Parks Traveler](#) (2/17, 989), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/16, 173K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (2/17), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/16, 1.99M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE” FILM. Additional coverage of “National Parks Adventure” was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/17, 244K) and the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/17, 1.1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SUPERDOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. Additional coverage of the addition of the Superdome to the National Register of Historic Places was provided by [CNN](#) (2/17, Sayers, 3.96M), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Advocate](#) (2/17, 179K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, 285K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/17, 1.99M), the [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (2/17, 96K), [KTXL-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (2/17, 70K), [WCVB-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (2/17, 418K), and [KTVI-TV St. Louis \(MO\)](#) St. Louis (2/17, 236K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YELLOWSTONE BISON CULL. Additional coverage of the Yellowstone bison cull was provided by [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (2/17, 1.13M) and the [Examiner](#) (2/17, 825K).

PARK RANGERS SHOULD STAFF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL. In The [Washington Informer](#) (2/17, 55K), DC-based speaker/writer Lyndia Grant seeks support for adding permanent park rangers to The African-American Civil War Memorial. She believes the monument “is deserving of a federal visitor’s center staffed by park rangers.” Councilman Frank Smith, the founder and director of the museum, and his team “have done an outstanding job, with support from the District of Columbia government,” the museum is in “desperate need” for permanent funding and support.

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS ALGAE TOXINS COMMON IN SOUTHEASTERN STREAMS. The [Greenwire](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “toxic byproducts of a type of algae are commonly found throughout Southeastern streams, a new analysis from the U.S. Geological Survey finds.” According to the study, “microcystins, produced by certain algae, were found in 39 percent of small streams across Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.” Keith Loftin, a USGS research chemist and lead author of the report, said, “This is the first systematic stream survey of algal toxins in the southeastern United States. It’s important, because it provides a better understanding of the occurrence of these microcystins in aquatic ecosystems with flowing waters.”

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA REGRETS ALITO FILIBUSTER, BUT IT DIFFERED FROM CURRENT STANDOFF. The White House said Wednesday that President Obama regretted his role in a filibuster of the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court when Obama was a senator, but said that circumstance differed from Republican threats to block consideration of any Obama Supreme Court nominee. Coverage of the vacancy has slowed since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia – down to a mere 20 seconds on the network newscasts. With no word on a nominee expected for some time, reports and analyses point to some weakening of GOP solidarity on obstructing any nominee outright, with several more senators including Senate Majority Whip Cornyn expressing some misgivings.

[USA Today](#) (2/17, Korte, 5.45M) reports the White House says the President “has come to regret his decade-old filibuster” of Alito. The 2006 nomination “has become one of many historical footnotes that have taken on new relevance as Obama and the Republican-controlled Senate jockey for high ground in their battle over the election-year Supreme Court nomination.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/17, Boyer, 285K) reports White House press secretary Josh Earnest “said Mr. Obama ‘regrets the vote that he made’ and believes he ‘should have followed his own advice’ to make a substantive argument against the Alito nomination.”

[Roll Call](#) (2/17, Bennett, 126K) says that “it is rare for Obama or his top aides to publicly admit he has regrets.” However, [The Hill](#) (2/17, Fabian, 862K) reports Earnest “said the GOP is going further than Obama did in pledging to not consider any nominee the president puts forward...and he said Obama’s decision to filibuster was ‘based on substance’ whereas the GOP’s blanket opposition to any Obama nominee is purely political.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that “the dirty little not-so-secret fact about the Senate is that both sides have engaged in ruthless tactics to deny presidents not of their party the chance to make lifetime appointments to courts where they could influence public policy long after that president is gone.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/17, Richardson, 285K) similarly writes that “for Democrats railing against the Senate’s threat to mothball” an Obama Supreme Court nominee, “Republicans have three words: You started it.”

Sam Stein of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, 518K) says Democrats “have little to no leverage” if Republicans do proceed with threats to block a nominee, so they are “turning to a shaming campaign, seeking to badger Senate Republicans and label them obstructionists, in hopes that a few of them – presumably those with uphill re-election battles – will stop echoing the party line.” [Vox](#) (2/17, Hitt, 758K) says “research shows that in general, the more public statements a president makes in favor of a nominee, the more ‘yes’ votes that nominee receives,” so an active campaign for a nominee on Obama’s part could influence some of those senators.

The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that in a strategy call “that one participant described as part pep rally and part planning session,” Senior Adviser to the President Valerie Jarrett and White House Chief Counsel Neil Eggleston “urged dozens of the president’s allies not to hold back in their condemnation of Republicans for refusing to hold hearings.” But “the White House hardly needed to prod the interest groups” on the Tuesday call, since “the outcome of this battle could determine the fate of a vast array of contentious issues for decades to come: immigration, climate change, gun rights, campaign finance, health care, affirmative action, gay rights and abortion.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Bravin, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a court with just eight members for an extended period could leave such critical issues up in the air.

Media Analyses: GOP Divide Over Acting On Nominee Widens. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, DeBonis, Eilperin, 8.98M) says there is a “sharp divide between GOP senators who favor completely blocking any action on a potential nominee and those who have left open the possibility of at least holding hearings and perhaps even votes.” The [AP](#) (2/17, Lederman, Fram) reports that “concerted Republican opposition” to considering an Obama nominee “showed early signs of splintering” Wednesday, with Cornyn refusing to rule out a committee hearing, and Judiciary Committee member Sen. Orrin Hatch saying he “opposes a filibuster to prevent a vote, as some Republicans have suggested.”

In addition, the [Huffington Post](#) (2/17, Terkel, 518K) reports Sen. Dean Heller said “he would welcome the chance to vote on a candidate put forward” by Obama, but said confirmation would be unlikely. [Politico](#) (2/17, Everett, 1.07M) reports Heller urged Obama “to put forward a consensus candidate” and “nodded to Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, who many in Washington believe wants a judicial appointment after his term is over.”

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) column, “The skittishness among Republican senators is well-grounded,” since any “decision to keep the Supreme Court seat vacant for what would be more than a year requires both logical leaps and political risk.”

[The Hill](#) (2/17, Carney, 862K) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid said Wednesday that Republicans “will relent and eventually take up” Obama’s nominee. [Reuters](#) (2/17, Rascoe, Hurley) reports Reid said Wednesday, “I, first of all, think that they’re going to cave in. I think the President’s going to give us a nominee that’s a good one, and I think they’re going to have to hold hearings and have a vote.”

Poll Shows Nation Divided Over Who Should Make Pick. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll finds that 43% of registered voters want the Senate to act this year, while 42% want the seat to remain vacant until the next president has taken office. Kevin Quealy writes in the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) “The Upshot” blog that though polls show that “Americans are divided by political party about whether Mr. Obama should be the one to nominate the replacement,” the more people “are told about the history of Supreme Court nominations, the more they tend to agree that the Senate should consider the president’s nomination, not delay it.”

Some African Americans See Obama’s Race As Reason For Obstruction. The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Haberman, Martin, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that “some African-Americans” see the GOP moves “as another attempt to deny the legitimacy of the country’s first black president,” and “leading African-American Democrats are trying to use it to motivate rank-and-file blacks to vote in November.”

Election-Related Court Decisions Loom. [Politico](#) (2/17, Gerstein, 1.07M) reports that the court vacancy could impact this fall’s House elections, since “there are numerous challenges to Republican-led congressional redistricting plans.” In addition, “new voter ID laws likely to come under Supreme Court scrutiny.”

Saletan Sees Srinivasan As Most Likely Nominee. William Saletan writes at [Slate](#) (2/17, 1.48M) that Obama has multiple options in considering a nominee, including selecting the “most qualified” option, the “least partisan,” the “most potent minority,” and the “most neglected minority.” In the end, Saletan says his “money is on” District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sri Srinivasan.

Obama Will Not Attend Scalia Funeral. [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/17, story 9, 0:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported, “The White House has announced that President Obama will not attend the funeral for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on Saturday. Instead, the President will pay his respects on Friday when the late justice lies in repose in the Court’s Great Hall. Vice President Joe Biden, however, is scheduled to attend Scalia’s funeral.” [USA Today](#) (2/17, Korte, 5.45M) reports Earnest said of the President’s planned Friday visit, “It will be an opportunity for the President and Mrs. Obama to pay their respects to Justice Scalia, who will be lying in repose at the Supreme Court.” [Politico](#) (2/17, Collins, 1.07M) also reports the White House’s announcement.

Scalia Did Not Pay For Trip To Ranch Where He Died. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Berman, Markon, 8.98M) reports that Scalia’s death at the Cibolo Creek Ranch resort in Texas has raised questions over who financed the trip. Ranch owner John Poindexter said Scalia “was not charged for his stay, something he described as a policy for all guests at the ranch.” Poindexter, who owns several companies “combined annual revenue of nearly \$1 billion,” said he did not pay for Scalia’s visit. The Post says “one of Poindexter’s companies was involved in a case that made it” to the Supreme Court last year, and “the nature of Poindexter’s relationship with Scalia” remains unclear.

MEDIA ANALYSIS: POPE SHOWS SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS AT US-MEXICO BORDER. Terry Moran reported on [ABC World News](#) (2/17, story 4, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M) that Pope Francis visited the Mexico-US border on Wednesday on the banks of the Rio Grande. On the US side just a “few feet away,” Americans, “including some undocumented immigrants,” prayed with the Pope. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/17, story 8, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M), Manuel Bojorquez said the “choice of locations here along the border is a clear message, not only to Mexico, but the US.” More than 200,000 in Juarez and roughly 30,000 in El Paso attended the mass, which Bojorquez said was Francis’ “strongest stand yet in solidarity with migrants.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/17, story 6, 1:50, Holt, 7.86M), Anne Thompson said Francis was “seeking to put a human face on the people fleeing what he calls grave injustices: poverty, exploitation and violence.” Similarly, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Wilkinson, Hennessy-Fiske, Carcamo, 4.1M) adds that Francis assailed the global “human tragedy” that forces unwilling migration. The Pope said injustice “is radicalized in the young; they are ‘cannon fodder,’ persecuted and threatened when they try to flee the spiral of violence and the hell of drugs.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, A1, Partlow, Martinez, 8.98M) says Francis’ trip to Juarez was “expected to be a not-so-subtle repudiation” of the rhetoric of GOP presidential candidates. Likewise, [Politico](#) (2/17, Toosi, 1.07M) says Francis’ border visit is “an unofficial, but epic, rebuttal to [Donald] Trump and other Republican immigration hardliners.” Politico notes Trump last week alleged that Mexico urged Francis to visit “because Mexico wants to keep the border just the way it is because they’re making a fortune and we’re losing.” However, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, A1, Yardley, Ahmed, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says a Vatican spokesman “scoffed” at the suggestion that the Pope “was acting at the behest of Mexican officials,” while the Times adds that Francis has “sought to focus global attention on the plight of migrants since the earliest months of his papacy.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (2/17, Pullella, Stargardter) reports that Francis also spoke to business leaders and labor representatives, where he criticized capitalism, specifically berating the “slave drivers” who exploit workers “as if they were objects to be used and discarded.”

The [AP](#) (2/17, Winfield, Sherman) adds that the Pope’s “politically charged” border visit came after a trip to Ciudad Juarez’s Prison No. 3, a week after a riot at Monterrey’s Topo Chico prison left 49 inmates dead. Francis, according to the AP, “urged the inmates to use their experience in prison for good” and called on them to end the “cycle of violence.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/17, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on the impact the Pope’s visit had on El Paso, where the mass was broadcast to nearly 30,000 people at Sun Bowl football stadium. The Times says that for a city “dominated by” Mexican immigrants, Francis’ arrival “was a validation” and “served as an antidote to what they described as the negative portrayal of the border in general and Mexican immigrants in particular” by GOP presidential candidates.

NYTimes: GOP Candidates Stoke Migrant Fears For Votes. In an editorial applauding Francis’ message of “decency” and “human worth” as it applies to migrants, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) argues that the “Republican fear” about foreigners is so deep “that a once-feasible campaign for immigration reform now lies damaged beyond hope and recognition.” The Times particularly criticizes GOP presidential candidates, concluding that it “takes no courage at all to demonize immigrants from the safety of the United States, and to stoke fear, for the sake of votes and power.”

COOK VOWS TO FIGHT ORDER TO HELP UNLOCK SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTER’S IPHONE.

Apple CEO Tim Cook said Wednesday his company will oppose US Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym’s order to assist the FBI in gaining access to the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters. [ABC World News](#) (2/17, story 3, 3:15, Muir, 5.84M) reported the FBI requested that Apple design software to allow agents to guess Syed Farook’s pass code “as many times as possible to get in.” Pierre Thomas explained that without the software, if agents guess the wrong code ten times, a self-destruct mechanism would render “all data on the phone permanently inaccessible.”

In its lead story, [CBS Evening News](#) (2/17, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Cook called Pym's order "chilling," because there is "no way to guarantee" that developing technology to create a "backdoor" wouldn't lead to Apple being forced to "build surveillance software to intercept your messages." Jeff Pegues mentioned that Apple says it is "ready to appeal this ruling and take the fight all the way to the Supreme Court."

Cook, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Queally, Bennett, 4.1M) reports, said in a statement Wednesday that building the software "would undermine encryption by creating a backdoor that could potentially be used on other future devices." In the statement, which calls the order an "overreach by the US government," Cook said, "In the wrong hands, this software – which does not exist today – would have the potential to unlock any iPhone in someone's physical possession." The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Nakashima, 8.98M) says in the "strongly worded statement" posted on Apple's website, Cook said, "Up to this point, we have done everything that is both within our power and within the law to help them. ... But now the US government has asked us for something we simply do not have, and something we consider too dangerous to create. They have asked us to build a backdoor to the iPhone."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Wakabayashi, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says Cook called the order an "unprecedented step which threatens the security of our customers," adding that it has "implications far beyond the legal case at hand." [USA Today](#) (2/16, Diblasio, 5.45M) says Cook "dismissed the notion that iPhone users should swap privacy for security," saying, "We're America. We should have both." USA Today notes the situation "could push the tech companies to give users access to unbreakable encryption."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/17, Wang, 289K) says the case highlights "a seldom-discussed aspect of the debate over encrypted communications," noting that Apple "could, if forced, write software that would give authorities the ability to unlock an iPhone," which would enable investigators to "use relatively simple technical workarounds to obtain call records, text messages and other data."

The [AP](#) (2/17, Tucker, Abdollah) says Pym's ruling "represents a significant victory for the Justice Department," but adds that the "early arguments set the stage for what will likely be a protracted policy and public relations fight in the courts, on Capitol Hill, on the Internet and elsewhere." [Politico](#) (2/17, Romm, Starks, 1.07M) said the dispute "has put the entire industry on the defensive and prompted new calls, from the 2016 campaign trail to Capitol Hill, for tech companies to cooperate in terrorism investigations."

Several analyses consider the long-term implications of the case and its potential consequences on the tech industry as a whole. A [New York Times](#) (2/17, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis calls the case "perhaps the perfect test case" for the Administration as it "put[s] Apple on the side of keeping secrets for a terrorist." A [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Lien, Queally, Bennett, Dave, Winton, 4.1M) analysis, meanwhile, cites Robert Cattanch, a cybersecurity attorney and former Department of Justice special counsel to the secretary of the Navy, who said "the government's request leaves Apple in a difficult position as the company is now thrust into the center of the battle to balance privacy needs against counterterrorism efforts." The Times adds that cybersecurity experts say the case "will have far-reaching consequences for the tech industry." According to Gregory T. Nojeim, director of the Freedom, Security and Technology Project at the Center for Democracy & Technology, "If this decision is upheld, it would mean the FBI could get a judicially mandated back door into any device to get access to its content, and it would mean a weakening of encryption in all those devices."

In an analysis for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Christopher Mims makes a similar point, arguing that Cook's efforts could touch off political and judicial processes that will endanger the security of all mobile devices. Mims writes that Cook's efforts may result in Congress or the courts forcing Apple to do greater damage to personal devices than would have been required by relenting in this case. However, Eamon James of CNBC told [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/17, story 4, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) that if Apple gives "this kind of access to the US government, they may have to give it to the Russians. They may have to give it to the Chinese, and Apple simply doesn't want to do that."

The Administration, according to [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/17, 1.53M), "says this is a one-time

request,” though Apple reportedly said that is “just not possible.” FBI agents told Fox they believe unlocking the device “will likely lead to people who helped” Farook and his wife carry out the attack. The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, Nakashima, 8.98M) says New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton “said the government’s demands are reasonable and justified, especially in a case that has ties’ to ISIL.” Bratton said, “No device, no car and no apartment should be beyond the reach of a court-ordered search warrant. ... As the threats from ISIL become more divergent and complex, we cannot give those seeking to harm us additional tools to keep their activity secret.” Later in the broadcast, the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/17, story 2, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that if the case goes to the Supreme Court, “it could define privacy for a generation.” CBS added that FBI Director Comey spoke with CBS “60 Minutes,” where he said that while he wants to “make sure, as [Apple does], that people’s privacy is protected,” he also doesn’t “want to live in a country where the bad guys know there’s a way for them to be absolutely beyond the law.” However, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (2/17, 554K) reported law enforcement experts say that even if Apple unlocks the phone, investigators “may still not be able to read” Farook’s texts.

Snowden Voices Support For Apple. [USA Today](#) (2/17, Guynn, 5.45M) reports Edward Snowden has voiced support for Apple in the dispute, writing in a tweet, “The @FBI is creating a world where citizens rely on #Apple to defend their rights, rather than the other way around.” Snowden also called on Google “to stand with Apple, saying ‘this is the most important tech case in a decade. ... Silence means @google picked a side, but it’s not the public’s.”

Case Could Spur New Push For Congressional Action. [USA Today](#) (2/17, Kelly, Johnson, 5.45M) says the case “brought a new urgency Wednesday to the debate between privacy advocates and security hawks and could spark a renewed push for action by Congress.” Heretofore, the debate “had been somewhat theoretical” as federal officials “had been unable to give members of Congress or the public a specific example of a case in which encrypted communications...hampered an actual investigation.” One proposal from House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul and Sen. Mark Warner “would create a commission of tech executives, law enforcement officials and encryption experts to try to find a solution that would protect privacy and catch criminals.” In the Senate, Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and Vice Chairman Dianne Feinstein “are looking to offer legislation that would require companies to comply with court orders to give the government access to encrypted information.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “China’s Missile Provocation.” A [New York Times](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial calls China’s deployment of surface-to-air missiles on a disputed island in the South China Sea an “unwise move” that represents “the latest in a series of provocative acts that is fueling regional tensions.” The Times also argues that “the timing of the deployment and the way in which it was done makes it impossible to blindly accept a self-defense rationale.” The US, it says, should work with its allies “to ensure the free flow of navigation and to continue sending ships and planes across the sea, in accord with international law.”

“Racial Gerrymandering In North Carolina.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) criticizes what it calls the North Carolina legislature’s “hurried” attempt to redraw “the lines of two congressional districts that had been gerrymandered along racial lines and ruled unconstitutional by a Federal District Court.” It warns that “unless the Supreme Court steps in, the Republican-controlled legislature must draw new maps by Friday, in time for the March 15 state primary, under an order from the district court.”

“Pope Francis At The Border.” In an editorial applauding Pope Francis’ message of “decency” and “human worth” as it applies to migrants, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) argues that the “Republican fear” about foreigners is so deep “that a once-feasible campaign for immigration reform now lies damaged beyond hope and recognition.” The Times particularly criticizes GOP presidential candidates, concluding that it “takes no courage at all to demonize immigrants from the safety of the United States, and to stoke fear, for the sake of votes and power.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“Montgomery County Schools Get A Respected New Leader.”* The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of the Montgomery County school board’s selection of Jack Smith as new superintendent, arguing that Smith is a “respected educator” with a history at both the state and local level in bringing improvements to school systems. However, for Smith to succeed, the Post says it is important that board members give him “the space and support he will need to” meet the system’s continuing challenges.

“A Blackout In Ukraine Is A Reminder Of The Dangers Of Cyberattacks.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) editorializes the probable use of malware to cause a December blackout in western Ukraine “is a cautionary signal that a new type of destructive conflict is possible – and probable.”

“The US Must Act In Libya Before The Islamic State Grabs More Territory.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/17, 8.98M) editorializes that “a Libyan political solution should not be a prerequisite for action” against ISIL in the country. Referring to President Obama’s Tuesday statement that the US and its allies will take “opportunities” to prevent ISIL from “digging in in Libya,” the Post says “those opportunities exist now.” According to the Post, the US-led coalition “could conduct airstrikes against Sirte and help a Libyan protection force that has been trying to guard oil facilities.” The Post says Obama “has tried waiting on the sidelines in Iraq and Syria,” but he “should not make the same mistake in Libya.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Political War On Cash.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against the recent push by ECB President Mario Draghi and Harvard Economist Larry Summers to ban €500 notes and the \$100 bill. The Journal says that while those favoring this push claim it is because only criminals and terrorists use large-denomination bills, the real reason is that politicians and central bankers fear their goal of establishing negative interest rates will be undermined if citizens hoard cash, which is easier to do by withdrawing large-denomination bills. This notion, according to the Journal, ignores the benefits cash gives to law-abiding citizens, and eliminating larger bills could destroy businesses and millions of jobs.

“Hillary And Black Opportunity.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says that while Hillary Clinton is aggressively wooing African-American voters, she has failed to address a key reason why large numbers of black children are unable to obtain a good education: sub-par public schools, with no opportunity to move to a stronger one. The Journal says Clinton’s criticism of charter schools and her opposition to private voucher programs is a position that would see African-American children continue to be forced to attend sub-par schools.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[US, Apple Dig In For Court Fight Over Encryption](#)
[Cruz Overtakes Trump In Latest Republican Poll](#)
[Overproduction Swamps Smaller Chinese Cities, Revealing Depth Of Crisis](#)
[Iran Balks At Committing To Oil Production Cap](#)

New York Times:

[As Apple Resists, Encryption Fray Erupts In Battle](#)
[In This Standoff, Tech Firms Have A Long-Term Advantage](#)
[Interest Groups Are Mobilizing For Court Fight](#)
[Blacks See Bias In Delay On A Scalia Successor](#)
[Haley Backs Rubio And Vision Of A GOP ‘To Win The Future’](#)
[French Muslims Say Emergency Powers Come At Too High A Cost](#)

Washington Post:

[GOP Is Divided On Court Strategy](#)
[Apple Vows To Fight Order](#)

[Did US Forces Actually Catch 'The Uncatchable'?](#)
[Experts Say Onus On Adults At School To Stop Predators](#)
[To Address Rising Migrant Crisis, Pope Goes Right To The Border](#)

Financial Times:

[Fed Frets Over Growing Risks To US Economy Amid Market Turmoil](#)
[Defiant Apple Says Unblocking iPhone For FBI IS 'Too Dangerous' A Precedent](#)

Washington Times:

[How Democrats Stoked Partisanship In Supreme Court Confirmation Process](#)
[Ted Cruz Breaks From Republican Rivals On Draft Registration For Women](#)
[Nikki Haley Endorses Marco Rubio As Establishment Embraces Onetime Insurgent](#)
[US-China Clash Over South China Sea Intensifies After Missile Deployment](#)
[Apple Hack Order Potential Tipping Point In Privacy Vs. Security Battle](#)
[EU Warms To Belarus Despite Its 'Dismal' Human Rights Record](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Turkey-Car Bomb Attack; LAPD-Sexual Assault Case; South Carolina-Police Shootout Video; Michigan-Flint Water Rates; Florida-Fake Doctor Arrested; Washington DC-Mansion Murder Case; Detroit-Airplanes Collide; Thailand-Cargo Ship Loses Control; Tennessee Sheriff Blames Beyoncé.

CBS: FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; California-Hospital Hacked; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Turkey-Car Bomb Attack; Syria Civil War; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; California-Exide Plant Cleanup; Military-In Vitro Fertilization Coverage.

NBC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Analysis; 2016 Politics-Democrats; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Turkey-Car Bomb Attack; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Testosterone Replacement Therapy Research; FDA-Castle Cheese Investigation; Justice Scalia Funeral.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 15 minutes, 5 seconds
FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute – 10 minutes, 20 seconds
Pope Francis-Mexico Visit – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
Turkey-Car Bomb Attack – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Bill Cosby Case; Toyota-SUV Recalls.

CBS: Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute; Nike Ends Contract With Manny Pacquiao.

FOX: Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Chicago-Hillary Clinton Speech; 2016 Politics-Democratic Polls; Mississippi-Church Protection Act; Texas-Campus Gun Law; FBI-Apple Privacy Dispute.

NPR: South Carolina-GOP Town Hall; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Obama-Upcoming Cuba Visit; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; LAPD-Sexual Assault Case; Number Of Hate Groups Increase; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama honors NHL champions Chicago Blackhawks at White House, open press; President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama host reception at the White House celebrating Black History Month.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden concludes two-day, three-state trip to mark the seventh anniversary of the Recovery Act.

US Senate: Senate on recess from Feb. 12 – Feb. 22.

US House: 10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission co-hosts briefing with Colombian human rights defenders – ‘Colombia’s Human Rights Defenders: Protecting Rights, Building Peace’ briefing, hosted by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in conjunction with Latin America Working Group Education Fund and Washington Office on Latin America, with four of the five recipients of the 2015 National Award for the Defense of Human Rights in Colombia – Francia Elena Marquez Mina (Mobilization of Women for Care for Life and Ancestral Territories), Luz Elena Marquez Mina (Women Walking for Truth), Fabian Laverde (Social Corporation for Community Advising and Training), and William Rivas (Community Council of the Peasant Association of the Atrato) – discussing the challenges they and their fellow advocates face in regions deeply scarred by the conflict, and the role they hope to play in building a just and sustainable peace in Colombia. Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>. Contacts: Kimberly Stanton Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Kimberly. Stanton@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 3599. The briefing will be open to members of Congress, congressional staff, the interested public and the media.

House of Representatives on recess from Feb. 12 – Feb. 22.

Other: Thursday, Feb. 18 – Friday, Feb. 19 7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues. Day three speakers include National Nuclear Security Administration Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Anne Harrington, Assistant Deputy Administrator Philip Calbos, and Assistant Deputy Administrator for Stockpile Management W. Stephen Goodrum, Government Accountability Office Assistant Director David Trimble, and US Air Force HQ Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration Lt. Gen. Jack Weinstein. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>. Contacts: Exchange Monitor Forum Services forums@exchangemonitor.com 1 877 303 7367 x 109.

8:30 AM Indonesia National Defense Forces commander lays wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns – Indonesia National Defense Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo lays wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, in honor of his official visit to the US Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA www.arlingtoncemetery.org <https://twitter.com/ArlingtonNatl>. Contacts: Military District of Washington public affairs usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil 1 202 497 2011.

9:00 AM FHFA Director Watt speaks at Bipartisan Policy Center – Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mel Watt delivers keynote address at Bipartisan Policy Center, featuring an update on FHFA’s work as regulator of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and as regulator and conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan. Contacts: Bipartisan Policy Center press@bipartisanpolicy.org.

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Sander Levin speaks on TPP at Christian Science Monitor Breakfast – Christian Science Monitor Breakfast with Democratic Rep. Sander Levin speaking on trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Location: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th St NW, Washington, DC www.csmonitor.com <https://twitter.com/CSMonitor>. Contacts: Monitor Breakfasts breakfast@csp.com Kevin Parker Office of Rep. Levin kevin.parker@mail.house.gov 1 202 226 3354.

10:30 AM FCC monthly open meeting – Federal Communications Commission monthly open meeting. Agenda includes the current state of programming diversity and the principal obstacles that independent programmers face in obtaining carriage on video distribution platforms; a framework for providing innovators, device manufacturers, and app developers with the information they need to develop new technologies to access video content; and allocating responsibilities for the delivery of closed captions on video programming and the handling of captioning complaints. Location: FCC, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC <http://www.fcc.gov/> <https://twitter.com/FCC>. Contacts: FCC media relations MediaRelations@fcc.gov.

2:00 PM USIP Colombia Peace Forum Series continues – ‘Colombia: Human Rights Defenders Building

Sustainable Peace' – latest in the US Institute of Peace Colombia Peace Forum Series – with the winners of last year's National Prize for the Defense of Human Rights in Colombia discussing the challenges they and their fellow advocates face in their regions, and the role of human rights defenders in building sustainable peace in Colombia. Event co-sponsored by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and Latin America Working Group Education Fund. Participants include Francia Elena Marquez Mina (Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN) and Consejo Nacional de Paz Afrocolombiano (CONPA)), Luz Elena Galeano (Mujeres Caminando por la Verdad), Fabian Laverde (Corporacion Social para la Asesoría y Capacitación Comunitaria (COS-PACC)), William Rivas (El Consejo Comunitario Mayor de la Asociación Campesina Integral de Atrato (COCOMACIA) and Foro Interétnico Solidaridad Choco (FISCH)), Lisa Haugaard (Latin America Working Group Education Fund), and Gimena Sanchez (WOLA). Location: USIP, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usip.org [#twitter.com/USIP](https://twitter.com/USIP) #ColombiaPeaceForum. Contacts: US Institute of Peace interviews@usip.org 1 202 429 3869.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Stephen Colbert: “Bernie Sanders has been fighting an uphill battle against Hillary Clinton. And Donald Trump is battling with anyone who makes eye contact with him, which means the only one who's safe is Ben Carson.”

James Corden: “Ladies and gentlemen, the South Carolina primary is on Saturday and the candidates are doing everything they can to get noticed. Now Jeb Bush hasn't been doing too well in the primaries. He finished fourth in New Hampshire, but yesterday it seemed like he had finally changed his image and summed up his vision for America in a single tweet. Here's the tweet. It is a gun with his name on it, and the caption just says 'America.' Although he could have just captioned it, 'Now will you like me?'”

James Corden: “But I mean Jeb is making a lot of changes. His new gun-toting image isn't the only change because after saying he would never ditch his glasses, this week Jeb appeared wearing contact lenses. And I have to say, the new look really suits his tougher image. Most people actually do look cooler without glasses. Jeb looks like a turtle who has lost his shell.”

James Corden: “Also, like is anyone else worried that Jeb got rid of his glasses the same week he got a gun? It feels like someone is about to get shot.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Hillary Clinton had a coughing fit during a speech and the crowd actually chanted her name as she opened a cough drop. She got applause for choking, or as Jeb put it, 'Must be nice.'”

Jay Leno: “Got my first robo-call this week. Said, 'Hi, this is Bill Clinton. Can Hillary count on you?' Count on me? She can't even count on Bill. Don't drag me into your marital problems, pal.”

Jay Leno: “This email problem continues to dog Hillary, but she says it's just an honest mistake. You ever notice the only time people in Washington are honest is when they make a mistake? Why is that?”

Jay Leno: “Well, after his big win in New Hampshire, they say Hillary's team is trying to dig up dirt on Bernie Sanders. You know what you call someone who digs up dirt on Bernie Sanders? An archaeologist.”

Jay Leno: “But the big decision for Sanders will be picking a vice president. It's important because whoever he chooses is just a prostate away from being the next president of the United States.”

Seth Meyers: “Pope Francis loudly scolded a fan in Mexico yesterday after the man grabbed his arm and pulled him down. And after hearing that the Pope yelled at a Mexican, Donald Trump converted to Catholicism.”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump supporters have filed a lawsuit challenging Ted Cruz’s eligibility to become president because they claim he is not a natural born citizen. Okay, that’s fair, but just please point to one thing on this guy [referring to Donald Trump] that’s natural.”

Seth Meyers: “Donald Trump, at a recent campaign rally, said that he has never met a human being who has lied as much as Ted Cruz. Then [Trump’s wife] Melania said, ‘You tell him handsome.’”

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From: [Rupp, Katherine](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: Re: Three Significant Issues
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:46:00 AM

Got it. Thanks! Booch is on it but heads up that she is traveling so it will likely land mid next week.

On Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 6:08 PM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

Hey Katie! I think all are topics to discuss with Sally and Tommy. Michael Bean should be invited to all. Neil to Sheldon-Hart. Kevin to Bison Range. We can combine trophy hunting with African lion because hunting is a major issue with lion.

First priority is Bison Range.

Thanks.

Dan.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 29, 2015, at 2:01 PM, Rupp, Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Dan,

Tommy asked me to make sure these got set up but I wanted to make sure that we were on the same page- Do you want to meet with Tommy on the below 3 subjects, and if yes- would you like Kevin, Michael and Neil who are cc'd on the email to join OR are you asking for these to be scheduled for the Secretary?

Also, heads up- Tommy is adding a 4th topic to this list: Trophy hunting.

Let me know and I will work on finding time.

Thanks much,
Katie

On Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 1:57 PM, Beaudreau, Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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

From: **Dan Ashe** <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>

Date: Thu, Sep 24, 2015 at 5:38 PM

Subject: Three Significant Issues

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

Cc: Kevin Washburn <kevin_washburn@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean

<michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, neil kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Hello Tommy. I know next week is likely to be crazy, but I'd like to see if we can find time to talk about three issues on which I need to ensure Sally is aware, and/or get guidance. They are briefly outlined below, in priority order:

1. National Bison Range: (b)5 Deliberative

[Redacted]

2. Sheldon-Hart NWRs (and BLM lands between them): (b)5 Deliberative

[Redacted]

3. African Lion: (b)5 Deliberative

[Redacted]

Thanks.

Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: [Meeks, Will](#)
To: [Amy Thornburg](#)
Subject: Fwd: NBR BP (10-2-2015).docx
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 8:10:43 AM
Attachments: [NBR BP \(10-2-2015\).docx](#)

Possible withhold??

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

From: **Martinez, Cynthia** <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 8:41 AM
Subject: Fwd: NBR BP (10-2-2015).docx
To: Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>

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

From: **A Alvarez** <aeric_alvarez@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 10:19 AM
Subject: NBR BP (10-2-2015).docx
To: Cynthia_Martinez <Cynthia_Martinez@fws.gov>

Cynthia,

Here is the cleaned up BP on NBR. Please let me know if you want this uploaded into the BP DTS database or if you just want to be the one to have the copies.

Thanks,
Eric

--

Will Meeks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ARD - R6 NWRS and PFFW
w (303) 236-4303
c (720) 541-0310

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: September 28, 2015
FROM: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
SUBJECT: (b)5 Deliberative

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)5 Deliberative

(b)5 Deliberative

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Kristine Martin](#)
To: [Noreen Walsh](#); [Matt Hogan](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Bison Range
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 9:08:00 AM

Dan is available from 2-3 p.m. EST on Friday for the NBR call so I will schedule that but it will require ending the RDT on-site by Noon. Does that work?

v/r
Kris Martin

From: Sellars, Roslyn [mailto:roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 8:51 AM
To: Kristine Martin; Thomas Irwin
Subject: Re: FW: Bison Range

Dan is available 2pm - 3pm on 11/20

Roslyn Sellars

Please copy Thomas Irwin (thomas_irwin@fws.gov) on future emails related to scheduling.
Executive Assistant | Office of the Director | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW | Room 3356 | Washington, DC | (202) 208-4545 | roslyn_sellars@fws.gov

On Tue, Nov 17, 2015 at 10:28 AM, Kristine Martin <kristine_martin@fws.gov> wrote:
Sounds good, thanks.

v/r
Kris Martin

From: Sellars, Roslyn [mailto:roslyn_sellars@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 8:25 AM
To: Kristine Martin
Cc: Thomas Irwin
Subject: Re: FW: Bison Range

We may need to make changes to Dan's Friday (11/20) afternoon schedule. We will be able to let you if he's available later today.

Roslyn

On Tue, Nov 17, 2015 at 10:17 AM, Kristine Martin <kristine_martin@fws.gov> wrote:
Thomas & Roslyn,
Would Dan be available this Friday afternoon after 1 p.m. MT for a bison call or would after Thanksgiving be better. If after, Noreen's best available date would be Dec. 2nd.

v/r
Kris Martin

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 7:53 AM
To: Kristine Martin
Subject: FW: Bison Range

Kris,

Can you set this up? Friday 11/20 afternoon, or after Thanksgiving. Note on Weds 12/2 I am taking AL, but could do a call early in the morning. On our end we need me, Matt H and Will. Topic: NBR.

Thanks,
Noreen

*Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920*

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 4:42 AM
To: Noreen Walsh
Cc: Cynthia Martinez; Jim Kurth; Stephen Guertin; Betsy Hildebrandt
Subject: Re: Bison Range

Let's set up a call.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Nov 16, 2015, at 10:43 PM, Noreen Walsh <noreen_walsh@fws.gov> wrote:

Dan, how about while you are in Denver next week? You may want to stay a little longer.....we are racking up quite a list of topics to discuss. But the timing might not work out right to include folks back in DC on the phone; after the Mexican wolf meeting it will be getting late. Alternately, I can set up a call with all the folks listed here.

*Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920*

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 8:24 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
Cc: Jim Kurth; Stephen Guertin; Betsy Hildebrandt
Subject: Fwd: Bison Range

(b)5 Deliberative

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Washburn, Kevin" <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>
Date: November 16, 2015 at 5:11:02 PM EST
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Lawrence Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Bison Range

Dear Dan - **(b)5 Deliberative**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Kevin

--
Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, MS 7329
Washington, DC 20240
Main number 202-208-7163
Fax 202-208-5320
kevin.washburn@bia.gov

From: [Lawrence Roberts](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Cc: [Kevin Washburn](#); [Tommy Beaudreau](#); [Lawrence Roberts](#)
Subject: Re: DC visit CSKT
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 3:53:16 PM

Sounds great. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 25, 2015, at 3:13 PM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

Sounds good. Larry, let's talk Monday. Happy Thanksgiving!

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Nov 25, 2015, at 2:37 PM, Kevin Washburn <kevin.washburn@bia.gov> wrote:

Hi Dan - (b)5 Deliberative

[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 24, 2015, at 7:06 PM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)5 Deliberative

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dan.

Dan Ashe

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On Nov 24, 2015, at 7:16 PM, Sally Jewell
<srj2@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Kevin and Dan -

(b)5 Deliberative

I will be out of town all week.
(Paris and NV).

Thanks,

Sally

Begin forwarded message:

From:

<cskt.vernonf@gmail.com>

Date: November 24, 2015 at
6:23:46 PM EST

To: <srj2@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: DC visit CSKT

Madam Secretary and Mr.
Washburn,

First I want to thank you for
inviting me to attend the small
meeting at your office a couple
weeks ago. It was an honor
and, I believe, further evidence
of the strong relationship
between the Confederated
Salish and Kootenai Tribes
(CSKT) and the Interior
Department.

I very much appreciated our
discussion regarding CSKT's
Self-Governance efforts at the
National Bison Range

Complex. You had indicated that the Department may have some thoughts about getting us on course towards completing this process. As you know, CSKT is very interested in resolving this issue, and doing so in compliance with the Department's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Tribal Self-Governance Act. I would very much like to discuss this with you to get a better understanding as to what directions the Department may be considering. Can we talk next week?
Thank you.

Vernon Finley, Chairman

Confederated Salish &
Kootenai Tribal Council

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dan Ashe](#)
To: [Noreen Walsh](#); cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
Cc: [Jim Kurth](#); [Stephen Guertin](#); [Betsy Hildebrandt](#)
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:15:54 PM
Attachments: [Untitled attachment_00357.htm](#)
[BisonRange.draft_01052016.docx](#)

This is the latest draft of legislation that I have.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Boling, Edward" <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>
Date: January 5, 2016 at 4:25:53 PM EST
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Hilary Tompkins <Hilary.Tompkins@sol.doi.gov>, Barry Roth <BARRY.ROTH@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: National Bison Range

Dan,

(b)5 AC



Regards,

Ted Boling
Deputy Solicitor -- Parks & Wildlife
U.S Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-4423 (main)
202-208-3125 (direct)
202-208-5584 (fax)
Ted.Boling@sol.doi.gov

(b)5 Draft/AC

From: [Hilary Tompkins](#)
To: [Barry Roth](#)
Cc: d_m_ashe@fws.gov
Subject: Re: 2/5 meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:58:20 AM

(b)5 AC

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 25, 2016, at 8:51 PM, Barry Roth <barry.roth@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

(b)5 AC

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org>
Date: January 25, 2016 at 6:31:34 PM EST
To: Barry Roth <barry.roth@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: 2/5 meeting

Hi Barry,

CSKT has a meeting scheduled with FWS and other DOI officials on February 5th to discuss the National Bison Range Complex. I know you and Hilary are already aware of it, but just wanted to check in. CSKT Chairman Vernon Finley had requested that Sharee Freeman be included in the meeting as well. I conveyed that request to FWS. Sounds like it should be an interesting meeting, but we have been told very little about it.

BU

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: RE: National Bison Range
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:29:10 PM

Thank you

*Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920*

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 5:16 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; cynthia_martinez@fws.gov
Cc: Jim Kurth; Stephen Guertin; Betsy Hildebrandt
Subject: Fwd: National Bison Range

This is the latest draft of legislation that I have.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Boling, Edward" <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>
Date: January 5, 2016 at 4:25:53 PM EST
To: Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov>
Cc: Hilary Tompkins <Hilary.Tompkins@sol.doi.gov>, Barry Roth <BARRY.ROTH@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: National Bison Range

Dan,

(b)5 AC



Regards,

Ted Boling
Deputy Solicitor -- Parks & Wildlife
U.S Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

202-208-4423 (main)
202-208-3125 (direct)
202-208-5584 (fax)
Ted.Boling@sol.doi.gov

[Redacted text block]

From: [Wagner-Oveson, Lindsey](#)
To: [Porcari, Emily](#)
Cc: [Kevin Washburn](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Jonathan Jarvis](#); [Hilary Tompkins](#); [Francis Iacobucci](#); [Katherine Kelly](#); [John Blair](#); [Elizabeth Klein](#); [Sarah Greenberger](#); [Sarah Neimeyer](#); [Benjamin Milakofsky](#); [Dan Ashe](#); [Brian Salerno](#); [Suzette Kimball](#); [Kevin Haugrud](#); [Blake Androff](#); [Joseph Pizarchik](#); [Michael Connor](#); [Elizabeth Washburn](#); [Janice Schneider](#); [Esther Kia"aina](#); [Kristen \(Kris\) Sarri](#); [Michael Bean](#); [Abigail Hopper](#); [Estevan Lopez](#); [Jennifer Gimbel](#); [dailybriefingbinder OS](#); [Tommy Beaudreau](#); [Nicole Buffa](#)

Subject: Briefing Material for Wednesday, October 7th

Date: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 5:12:01 PM

Attachments: [Not responsive Removed](#)

[10 7 15 330pm National Bison Range Meeting.docx](#)
[10 7 15 330pm Attachment 1 National Bison Range Meeting.docx](#)
[10 7 15 330pm Attachment 2 National Bison Range Meeting.docx](#)
[Not responsive Removed](#)


Hi all: Attached are the Secretary's briefing materials for tomorrow.

-Lindsey

--

Lindsey Wagner-Oveson
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of the Interior
202-208-2977 (o)
202-834-1598 (c)
lindsey_wagner-oveson@ios.doi.gov

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

NATIONAL BISON RANGE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2015
LOCATION: Secretary's Office
TIME: 3:30pm- 4:00pm
FROM: Dan Ashe, Director, FWS 202-421-8228;
Cynthia Martinez, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, FWS 202-208-5333

I. PURPOSE

b(5) Deliberative
[Redacted]

II. PARTICIPANTS

Tommy Beaudreau
Dan Ashe, Director, FWS
Jim Kurth, Deputy Director, FWS
Cynthia Martinez, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, FWS
Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Sarah Greenberger, Senior Advisor to the Secretary

III. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS

b(5) Deliberative
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

IV. BACKGROUND

Title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), and the associated regulations (25 CFR 1000), a Self-governance tribe may request to enter into an AFA to administer eligible Service programs/activities that are of special geographic, historical, or

cultural significance to the requesting tribe/consortium. The CSKT is a recognized Self-governance tribe.

Two AFAs have been implemented between the Service and CSKT in the past. The first was terminated in 2006, and a subsequent agreement was implemented in 2008. The 2008 agreement was rescinded by the court in September 2010, and the Service was directed to comply with the relevant sections of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Service subsequently began preparation of an Environmental Assessment.

b(5) Deliberative
[Redacted]

NEXT STEPS

b(5) Deliberative
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

V. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: TRIBES CONTINUE PUSH TO MANAGE, OPERATE NATIONAL BISON RANGE, Ravalli Republic, MT, 10/6/15.

Attachment 2: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Background

Tribes continue quest to manage, operate National Bison Range

October 01, 2015 6:00 pm • VINCE DEVLIN vdevlin@missoulain.com

MOIESE – Will a third time be a charm?

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes continue to talk with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about another annual funding agreement that would transfer various degrees of management and operation of the National Bison Range to them, one of their attorneys said Thursday.

Brian Upton, an attorney for the tribes, went over some of the history of the tribes' efforts at the Bison Range with about 40 attorneys and law school students attending the 36th annual Public Land Law Conference at the University of Montana.

This year's conference theme is "Transcending Boundaries: Achieving Success in Cooperative Management of Natural Resources."

Much of the first day of the two-day conference was a road trip to the Flathead Indian Reservation, where conference attendees heard from Upton and Germaine White, information and education specialist for CSKT's Natural Resources Department, at the Bison Range on Thursday morning.

They spent the afternoon at Salish Kootenai Dam, the major hydroelectric facility CSKT acquired just last month, before returning to Missoula for the conference's keynote address from Hilary Tompkins, solicitor for the U.S. Department of Interior.

Conference editor Hannah Cail said Friday will be spent focusing on three subjects: water resources, wildlife, and climate and energy.

When White asked the group how many had moved at least once in their lives, it appeared that every hand went up. When she asked how many had moved at least four times, most stayed up. "How many of you still live in the same place where your ancestors lived 12,000 years ago?" she asked.

As every hand was lowered, White raised hers.

If you wrapped those 12,000 years around a clock, she said, it meant that Lewis and Clark arrived in Montana at approximately "11:58 p.m." The changes that have followed for Native Americans have occurred in a tiny fraction of those 12,000 years, White added.

It was part of a quick history that included bison in America, bison in the Mission Valley, the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 and the Bison Range itself that White delivered before turning the floor over to Upton.

“As you know, we have a difficult history of trying to partner with the Fish and Wildlife Service” to help manage the Bison Range, Upton told conference attendees. The agency pulled the plug on a first agreement that put CSKT employees “on the ground” at the Bison Range in 2005-06 amid heated charges and exchanges by both sides.

Upton credited a “changing of the guard” at both the Bison Range and FWS with a second agreement that put tribal employees back working with ones from FWS at the wildlife refuge in 2009-10.

“It was a much more constructive atmosphere, and a great partnership,” Upton said. “You heard a lot of vitriol and invective” leading up to and after the first funding agreement, and not nearly as much with the second.

A federal judge in Washington, D.C., shot down the second agreement, essentially because an environmental assessment had not been done.

An extended deadline for public comment on a proposed third annual funding agreement ended more than a year ago. After he was finished with his presentation, the Missoulian asked Upton how close another agreement was.

“It’s unclear how close we are,” he said. “We are talking with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and we know it’s a priority for them.”

Canada and Australia are leading the way in showing how public land management partnerships with aboriginal peoples can work, according to Upton.

“I know it seems scary to some people,” he said, “but if you look at what other places have done, the benefits are undeniable.”

He pointed to Kakadu National Park – at nearly half the size of Switzerland, the largest national park in Australia.

More than half the park is aboriginal land, and all of it is special to its “traditional” owners. Those aboriginal peoples manage the park in partnership with Parks Australia, and play “a key role in everything from board decisions to hands-on management of weeds and feral animals,” according to the park.

“I’ve been there,” Upton said, “and they told me just wearing the park uniforms was very empowering to them. They felt a part of what the government was doing on their property.”

The Bison Range is federal land, Upton noted, but two other national wildlife refuge units that fall under Bison Range management – the Ninepipe and Pablo refuges – are on land owned by the tribes.

“That creates an unusual situation that is not replicated anywhere else in the country,” Upton said.

The Indian Self-Determination Act of 1974 was a “game-changer,” Upton said, and the 1994 Tribal Self Governance Act enabled the tribes to seek to become a part of the operation and management of the Bison Range.

They’ve been trying for 21 years now.

A group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has opposed CSKT’s efforts at the Bison Range at every turn, saying it opens up 80 percent of the National Wildlife Refuge System and 57 national parks in 19 states to similar agreements with other Indian tribes. PEER filed the lawsuit that got the last agreement rescinded.

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY NATIONAL BISON RANGE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2015

LOCATION: Secretary's Office

TIME: 3:30pm- 4:00pm

FROM: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, (202) 527-2010

I. BACKGROUND

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CKST)

- **Enrollment:** 7,943 enrolled members; approximately 5,000 live on the reservation.
- **Acreage:** 1.3 million acres total, over half owned by the Tribe
- **Reservation Tribal Composition:** Bitterroot Salish, the Upper Pend d'Oreille and the Kootenai tribes.

The three main tribes moved to the Flathead Reservation were the Bitterroot Salish, the Pend d'Oreille, and the Kootenai. The Bitterroot Salish and the Pend d'Oreille tribes speak dialects of the same Salish language.

The Salish (Say-lish) (Flatheads) lived between the Cascade Mountains and Rocky Mountains. They initially lived entirely east of the Continental Divide but established their headquarters near the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Occasionally, hunting parties went west of the Continental Divide but not west of the Bitterroot Range. They were called the Flathead Indians by the first Europeans who came to the area. The Flatheads call themselves Salish, meaning "the people". The Flatheads never practiced head flattening, but the Columbia River tribes who shaped the front of the head to create a pointed appearance spoke of their neighbors, the Salish, as "flatheads" in contrast.

The Kootenai (coot-en-ee) people lived along the Kootenai River in Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia. They were hunter-gatherers, and salmon was an important staple to their diets. They have permanent winter villages of cone-shaped houses made from wooden poles and rush mats. The tribes met with the Lewis and Clark Expedition on September 5, 1805.

Organizational Structure

The Hell Gate Treaty of 1855 established the current Flathead Reservation. CSKT is an Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Tribe with a constitution approved by the Secretary on September 25, 1935 and adopted by majority vote of tribal members on October 4, 1935. This was the first constitution approved under the IRA for a tribe. The constitution provides for no tribal taxation authority without membership approval. The Tribe exercises civil regulatory authority for fees.

Self-Governance

CSKT is one of the few tribes that has compacted all of the functions possible from the BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee (OST). The Tribe entered into the agreement to compact programs from BIA in 1995. When the trust accounting performed by BIA was transferred to OST those functions were then compacted with OST. Currently OST has two MOUs with the Tribe. One is for operating the Beneficiary Process Program (referred to as IIM) and the other is to perform appraisals. The only BIA staff assigned to Flathead is a Superintendent (Bud Moran) and an administrative assistant. The OST FTO (Gus Kerndt) for Flathead is located at Fort Hall, ID.

State/Tribal Cooperative Agreements for fishing, bird hunting, and recreation require permits for non-CSKT members. CSKT also has agreements and self-governance contracts with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Land Resources

The Flathead Indian Reservation is 1.3 million acres. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) have worked since 1935 to reacquire land lost during the 1910-1935 allotment homesteading era. Current ownership is around 64 percent including surface area of Flathead Lake. This is a P.L. 280 reservation with the municipalities of Polson and Ronan with working city governments and law enforcement agencies. The majority of the population is non-Indian with about 30 percent being Native American.

Economic Development

The CSKT government is the largest employer in Lake County with 1,200 employees. The Tribal government infuses \$80 million annually into the area economy through a \$35 million payroll and \$45 million on vendor good and services. A recent report funded by the State of Montana showed that the Tribes contribute \$317 million to the Montana economy every year.

Salish-Kootenai (Kerr) Dam

On September 5, 2015, the CSKT acquired and now manages the Kerr Dam, now known as Salish-Kootenai Dam, a major hydroelectric generation facility, under its wholly-owned and federally-chartered Energy Keepers, Inc. YOU celebrated the transfer of Kerr Dam to the Tribes in August 2014 at the Flathead Reservation.

From: [Betsy Hildebrandt](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Subject: Re: National Bison Range
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 6:17:49 PM

(b)5 Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2016, at 5:49 PM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)5 Deliberative

Let's talk Monday.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2016, at 5:34 PM, Betsy Hildebrandt <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)5 Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ryan C. Rusche" <ryan.cskt@gmail.com>
Date: February 12, 2016 at 2:34:37 PM EST
To: Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@fws.gov>
Cc: Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@ios.doi.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <betsyhildebrandt@gmail.com>, Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org>, Ryan Rusche <ryan.rusche@cskt.org>
Subject: National Bison Range

Ms. Hildebrandt:

Yesterday Director Ashe contacted Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Chairman Vernon Finley and discussed the possibility of issuing a joint statement on USFWS's recent proposal on the National Bison Range. We were very encouraged by this news and look forward to working with the Service on this. On Director Ashe's recommendation, Chairman Finley asked my colleague, Brian Upton, and I to contact you about facilitating such a statement. In the interest of moving this along, Mr. Upton drafted the following

proposed statement for your consideration. We are not sure exactly what you or Director Ashe had in mind, but thought this might be a good starting point. Of course, we are open to any and all thoughts you may have.

If you would like to discuss this by telephone, please feel free to call me at (406) 890-8450. Mr. Upton is traveling today, but I should be able to patch him in on the road. The proposed statement is as follows:

"Last week, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposed that the United States restore the National Bison Range lands to federal trust status for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The federal government would continue to own the property in trust for the Tribes, with a requirement that the land continue to be managed for bison conservation purposes. These discussions were initiated because of the highly unique facts underlying the situation at the National Bison Range, which is located in the center of the Flathead Indian Reservation. Both parties have been actively involved in bison management at the Range, and both parties recognize the Tribes' role in stewarding the nation's last remaining bison at a time when they were literally on the brink of extinction. We look forward to jointly continuing our discussions, and ensuring continued bison conservation management and public access at the Bison Range."

Best,

Ryan C. Rusche and Brian Upton
Attorneys
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation

From: [Betsy Hildebrandt](#)
To: [D.M.Ashe](#)
Subject: Fwd: follow-up
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:43:58 PM

(b)5 Deliberative

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Munoz, Anna" <anna_munoz@fws.gov>
Date: February 18, 2016 at 1:41:36 PM EST
To: Betsy Hildebrandt <Betsy_Hildebrandt@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: follow-up

FYI

Anna Muñoz
Assistant Regional Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region
Office: 303-236-4510
Cell: 720-648-2542

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

From: **Brian Upton** <brianu@cskt.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 11:30 AM
Subject: follow-up
To: anna_munoz@fws.gov
Cc: "rusche. ryan" <ryan.rusche@cskt.org>, Robert McDonald <robertmc@cskt.org>

Anna,

After our phone discussion, I was able to connect with Chairman Finley. He said that Director Ashe had contacted him by phone last week and that, during the call, the Director said he understood there was discussion about a joint statement and that the Director said he thought it was a good idea. Chairman Finley said that the Director told him he would send the Chairman the name of FWS staff with whom CSKT staff could follow up regarding working on a statement.

Director Ashe later gave the Chairman the contact information for Betsy Hildebrandt, so my colleague Ryan Rusche then sent Betsy the email I had forwarded to you during our discussion this morning.

I hope that helps. The Chairman did say that he believed that, when Director Ashe called, it was within the context of issuing a statement proactively. However, the Chairman agrees that while there is not a need to issue something proactively at the moment, both CSKT and FWS should have a joint statement that is approved and ready for the next media inquiries.

Following up on your question, I also asked Chairman Finley whether he had communicated to Director Ashe the Tribal Council's support for the FWS proposal. The Chairman thought he had communicated that, but he could not remember with specificity, so he said he will email the Director to confirm the Council support. Please advise if the Director needs anything further with respect to the Council support.

Let us know what you hear on your end.

Thanks,

BU

From: [Noreen Walsh](#)
To: [Will Meeks](#)
Subject: FW: Bison Range
Date: Monday, February 22, 2016 7:39:30 AM
Attachments: [Untitled attachment 00600.htm](#)
[BisonRange.draft.revised.02182016.docx](#)

One thing stands out to me. Give me a call after you have read.

Thanks

Noreen

*Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920*

From: Dan Ashe [mailto:d_m_ashe@fws.gov]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 8:22 PM
To: cynthia_martinez@fws.gov; Noreen Walsh
Subject: Fwd: Bison Range

FYI.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Roth, Barry" <barry.roth@sol.doi.gov>
Date: February 19, 2016 at 8:59:01 AM EST
To: Shaun Sanchez <shaun_sanchez@fws.gov>, Dan Ashe
<D_M_Ashe@fws.gov>
Subject: Bison Range

(b)5 AC

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the text in this section, with the text "(b)5 AC" written in red at the top left corner of the box.

Barry N. Roth
Associate Solicitor
Division of Parks & Wildlife
202-208-4344
Fax: 202-208-3877
Barry.Roth@sol.doi.gov

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(b)5 AC/Draft

(b)5 AC/Draft

From: [Roberts, Lawrence](#)
To: [Dan Ashe](#)
Cc: [Tommy Beaudreau](#); [Hilary Tompkins](#); [Bob Dreher](#)
Subject: Re: Bison Range
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:18:34 PM

Great news. Thanks for the update Dan.

On Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 10:05 AM, Dan Ashe <d_m_ashe@fws.gov> wrote:

(b)5 Deliberative



Dan.

Dan Ashe
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

--

Lawrence S. Roberts
Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Main number 202-208-7163

From: [Martinez, Cynthia](#)
To: [Cathey Willis](#)
Subject: Fwd: Follow-up
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 11:36:18 AM
Attachments: [BisonRange.draft.revised.02262016 - PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT.docx](#)

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

From: **Martinez, Cynthia** <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Feb 29, 2016 at 1:56 PM
Subject: Follow-up
To: Brian Upton <brianu@cskt.org>

Brian,

Per our conversation.

Thanks,
Cynthia

(b)5 Draft

(b)5 Draft