

Conversation Contents

Yellowstone Bison powerpoint

Attachments:

/27. Yellowstone Bison powerpoint/3.1
BisonSlides_IBMP_WinterOps_NPS_4-25.pptx

"Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 13:42:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>, "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Yellowstone Bison powerpoint

All,

Let me know if you would like this PPT presentation - it's 7 slides-

Dave

--

David A. Mihalic

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
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1849 "C" Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Phone: 202-208-4130
cell: 202-706-4978
david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov

Remember, everything I send or receive is subject to the Freedom of Information Act

"Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 14:13:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Yellowstone Bison powerpoint

yes

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 3:42 PM, Mihalic, David <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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--

Susan Combs

U.S. Department of the Interior

1-202-208-4482

"Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 14 2018 07:45:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Yellowstone Bison powerpoint
Attachments: BisonSlides_IBMP_WinterOps_NPS_4-25.pptx

Sorry for the delay - the IT folks had my computer since Friday afternoon (all weekend) for a Windows upgrade - just got it back this morning.

PPT attached -

Dave

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 4:13 PM, Combs, Susan <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
yes

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 3:42 PM, Mihalic, David <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

All,

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NPS Recommendations 2017

~4,800 bison: ~3,970 north/~850 central

- Remove up to 1,250 bison breeding in north**
- Decrease numbers to 4,200-4,400 after calving**
- No removals in west due to lower numbers**
- Allow bison to distribute on landscape and hunt**
- Maintain 250-400 bison in Gardiner basin**
- Begin culling bison in north when migration deemed sufficient to support hunting and culling**
- Conduct larger culls if there is a larger migration**

17/18 Winter Operations Plan

Manage for a decreasing population

- **Optimize harvest while assuring combined hunt/cull take of 600 to 900 bison**
- **Reduce impacts of bison captures on hunt**
- **Monthly removal goals:**
 - **75-115 by the end of November**
 - **225-335 by the end of December**
 - **372-560 by the end of January**
 - **522-785 by the end of February**
 - **600-900 by March 15**

Harvests

December 2017: Hunters began harvesting bison west of the park (NPS recommended zero)

Removal goals/reported harvests (north):

- November 30: Goal = 75-115; Harvest = 8
 - December 31: Goal = 225-335; Harvest = 8
 - January 31: Goal = 372-560; Harvest = 21
 - February 28: Goal = 522-785; Harvest = 146
 - March 15: Goal = 600-900; Harvest = 206
- Reported harvests lagged well behind removal goals by mid-February

Captures/Culls

- Winter conditions led to a large migration into Gardiner basin during late February/March
- NPS began capturing on February 16 and captured ~800 bison over a 3-week period
- Another 800+ bison in the Gardiner basin (Mammoth-Yankee Jim) during captures
- NOTES:
 - Harvest higher after captures began (77 bison harvested 30 days before; 172 after)
 - Many harvests and reports after March 11, when captures ended

Harvests and Culls

	MT/ NPS	CSKT	Nez Perce	ShoBan	CTUR	Yakama	BFN
Hunt (372)							
North	37*	2	111	35	28	40	32
West	22*	45	4	2	0	8	6
Subtotal	59	47	115	37	28	48	38
*includes 6 dispatched, 3 poached, 1 abandoned							
Cull (796)							
Slaughter	694	Transferred to the CSKT for processing Includes 25 female and 73 male yearlings					
Quarantine	98						
Pen Mort	4						
Total	1,168	2018: Harvest 32%; Culls 68% 2012-2017: Harvest 50%; Culls 50%					

WHY > 600-900

- Winter severity exceeded predictions.
- Unusually large migration in late February allowed continued capture and hunter success with > 500 bison north of park at times.
- Telemetric data indicating that bison migrating into Gardiner bison were associated with the northern breeding area.
- NPS holds that a long-term average of ~4,200 bison allows balance of myriad demands/values surrounding bison and provides opportunity for progress on issues that have been difficult to advance, including:
 - Full dispersal into the conservation area
 - Reduced hunting pressure near boundary/better hunt success and optics
 - Mitigation of capture/hunt conflict
 - Reduction of cull size and shipments to slaughter
- The removal of 1,100+ bison provided the highest chance of a summer 2018 count near 4,200 bison compared to other alternatives.
 - Summer 2018: Predict ~4,200 +/- 500 bison post-calving
 - <4,500 bison for the first time since 2012

Conclusions/Considerations

The combined use of hunting and culling over the past six years has reduced bison numbers toward the NPS objective (4,200), while supporting hunter harvest (41% of removals) and no >800 to slaughter in any one winter.

Future removals to stabilize population growth could be one-half of what was necessary to reduce the population size (i.e., 400-500 instead of 1,000 – 1,200).

Consider:

Removal of fewer bison via capture/culling can shift focus to reducing hunt pressure near boundary and advance other efforts:

- As outlined in the 2000 IBMP ROD, establish temporary capture facilities near Yankee Jim Canyon. Facilitates bison distribution over available landscape, habitat learning, and a dispersed hunt.
- Limit capture at Stephens Creek primarily to support quarantine or research.
- Utilize quarantine facilities at Stephens Creek, Corwin Springs, and Fort Peck Reservation to reduce shipments to slaughter.

Conversation Contents

We should discuss. Concern not sticking to population goal.

"Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:11:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul (Dan) Smith" <paul_smith@nps.gov>
Subject: We should discuss. Concern not sticking to population goal.

Yellowstone Bison Population Expected To Be Around 4,200.

The [AP](#) (5/10) reports that "Yellowstone National Park's booming bison population, which has strained resources and created problems for nearby ranchers, is expected to reach a level that park officials would like to maintain despite being much higher than the official population goal." According to Yellowstone bison program coordinator Tim Reid, "there will be about 4,200 bison in the nation's largest wild herd once calving is finished this spring." The article notes that "the official population goal for the park's bison population is 3,000, set in 2000 by the federal, state and tribal officials who wrote the Interagency Bison Management Plan." However, "Montana wildlife officials say they would need to study the matter further before agreeing to officially change the population goal from 3,000 to 4,200 bison."

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
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1849 C Street, NW -- MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-6291

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"Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:16:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul (Dan) Smith" <paul_smith@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: We should discuss. Concern not sticking to population goal.

agree - let me know when

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"Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mihalic, David" <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:36:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
"Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul (Dan) Smith" <paul_smith@nps.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: We should discuss. Concern not sticking to population goal.

Do we want anyone from Yellowstone at the meeting?

Dave

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 8:16 AM, Combs, Susan <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
agree - let me know when

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"Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:41:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul (Dan) Smith" <paul_smith@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: We should discuss. Concern not sticking to population goal.

Ryan,

Can you take the lead on setting this up?

Todd Willens
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office: 202-208-6291

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"Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Hambleton, Ryan" <ryan_hambleton@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:44:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul (Dan) Smith" <paul_smith@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: We should discuss. Concern not sticking to population goal.

Yup, I will do that.

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 8:41 AM, Willens, Todd <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Ryan,

Can you take the lead on setting this up?

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240
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Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary

Attachments:

/29. Weekly Report to the Secretary/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary
May13-19.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 06:07:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Alan Mikkelsen <amikkelsen@usbr.gov>, Alex Sterhan <asterhan@usbr.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, "Appel, Elizabeth" <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Billy Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Brenda Burman <bburman@usbr.gov>, Cally Younger <cally.younger@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, Casey Stemler <casey_stemler@fws.gov>, Catherine Gulac <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, Christina Summers <christina_summers@ibc.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) - Bernhardt>, Debrah McBride <debrah.mcbride@bia.gov>, Doug Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Edward Keable <edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, Elinor Werner <elinor_werner@ios.doi.gov>, Evan Wilson <evan_wilson@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Lawkowski <gary_lawkowski@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Joe Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, John Bockmier <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>, Kate MacGregor <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, Katie Mills <katie_mills@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Mariagrazia Caminiti

To:

<marigrace.caminiti@sol.doi.gov>, Matthew Dermody
<matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster
<maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers
<micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Nikolao Pula
<nikolao_pula@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell
<russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron
<scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel
<scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs
<susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Petty
<timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Williams
<timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens
<todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Wynn
<todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito
<Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov>, Zack Gambill
<zack_gambill@fws.gov>

Subject: Weekly Report to the Secretary

Attachments: Weekly Report to the Secretary May13-19.docx

All,

Attached is the weekly report to the Secretary in both Word and Google Doc formats.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
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1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary May13-19.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MAY 13-19, 2018**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be in the office all week.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be in the office all week.

Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason will be in the office all week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

[NEW] During the month of May, the Department will release a memo to reform recreational shooting management on public lands. This initiative proactively responds to the fatal tragedy that occurred in Arizona earlier this year by directing the Bureaus to revise existing and implement new policies and guidelines that expand access to recreational shooting opportunities while promoting firearm safety, education, and training.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

No updates to report.

Awareness

No updates to report.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel

Principal Deputy Solicitor Dan Jorjani will be working from the headquarters office for the reporting period.

Acting Deputy Solicitor for Land Resources will participate in a panel at the National Mitigation Banking Conference on Friday, May 11. She will be part of a roundtable discussion with participants from other federal regulating agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

NEW CASES:

Olson, et al. v. United States, (Ct. Fed. Cl.)

Sixteen plaintiffs have filed a complaint for breach of contract in the United States Court of Federal Claims claiming that the Wapato Irrigation Project, within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), breached their contractual right to receive irrigation water in the 2013 growing season. The Solicitor's Office (SOL) attorneys and the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) are coordinating. The government's answer is due June 22. We are in the process of gathering documents from the BIA and drafting a litigation report.

Western Watersheds Project v. Zinke (D. Idaho filed April 30, 2018) and *Montana Wildlife Federation v. Zinke* (D. Mont. filed April 30, 2018) - Oil and Gas Leasing in Western United States

These complaints challenge numerous oil and gas-related actions or pending actions, contending that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) by failing to prioritize leasing decisions outside of Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) habitat, which is required by the 2015 GRSG land use plan decisions, and violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to adequately consider the environmental impacts of those decisions on GRSG.

In the first suit, Western Watersheds Project and Center for Biological Diversity challenge BLM's national Instruction Memoranda (IMs) relating to prioritization of oil and gas leasing, IM 2018-026, and oil and gas leasing reform, IM 2018-034. Plaintiffs argue that these IMs violate NEPA and FLPMA and that the leasing reform IM constitutes a legislative rule adopted in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Plaintiffs also challenge eight oil and gas lease sales conducted from 2017 to 2018 in Wyoming, Montana, and Utah. They identify several other oil and gas lease sales in Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah, and two BLM Wyoming oil and gas projects as pending or cumulative actions. Plaintiffs argue that the lease sales were inconsistent with the 2015 GRSG plans because BLM failed to prioritize outside of GRSG habitat and use best available science. Plaintiffs' NEPA arguments generally assert that BLM did not adequately evaluate impacts to GRSG, including cumulative impacts, or consider a range of reasonable alternatives.

In the second suit, Montana Wildlife Federation, The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, and National Wildlife Federation make similar arguments. Plaintiffs contend that the Department and BLM violated FLPMA and NEPA when issuing BLM's lease prioritization IM and the Secretary's memorandum directing BLM to implement the recommendations in its August 4, 2017, GRSG report. Plaintiffs also challenge six oil and gas lease sales in Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming, making FLPMA and NEPA arguments similar to those raised in *Western Watersheds Project*.

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:

Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance v. US DOI, et al. (W.D. Wis.) - NPS Federal Lands to Parks' Approval of a Change of Use of Wisconsin Recreation Area- Grant of Summary Judgment to NPS

On May 4, the Court granted summary judgment to the National Park Service, dismissing Plaintiff Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's allegations that NPS had violated the Federal Property Act and NEPA when it approved new higher-impact recreational uses on a property conveyed to the State of Wisconsin for public park and recreation uses. The park had previously been used for hiking, birding, and other low-impact activities; new uses include dog training and motorcycle events. The court held that the new uses are appropriate under the "public park and recreation" standard for which the NPS conveyed the land, and that the NPS complied with NEPA through a documented categorical exclusion.

Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community. v. Zinke, et al. (9th Cir.); *Citizens for a Better Way, et al. v. Zinke, et al.* (9th Cir.)

On May 2, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's decision in favor of the Department in an action seeking to enjoin the BIA from taking land into trust for Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria for gaming purposes. The Colusa and Citizens actions were consolidated in district court and heard before the Ninth Circuit in a combined oral argument. The Court held that the Department had statutory authority under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to take land into trust for Enterprise. The Court further held that, pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 151.11(a), the Secretary properly considered Enterprise's "need" for the land. The Court rejected plaintiffs' challenges based on the IGRA. The panel held that the BIA properly consulted with Colusa, and denied Colusa's claims that the Department's regulations defining "nearby" as within twenty-five miles are invalid. The Court also held that the Secretary's finding that the proposed casino project would not be "detrimental to the surrounding community," 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(A), was not arbitrary and capricious. Although the Department concluded that casinos closest to the proposed gaming facility are expected to experience a loss in revenue, Colusa did not argue that it would represent a detrimental loss. Further, the Court found that it is within the expertise of the Agency to determine the likelihood required mitigation measures will be followed. The Court also rejected plaintiffs' claims under NEPA. The Final Environmental Impact Statement's purpose and need statement was not artificially limited, and Colusa waived any argument that Interior's failed to consider its proposed alternatives.

Wildlands Defense v. Seesholtz, (D. Idaho)

On May 4, the Court denied plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction in this challenge to post-fire rehabilitation and timber sale projects on the Boise National Forest. The Court determined that the plaintiffs "have not raised serious questions on the merits" in their challenge to the Forest Service (FS) decision and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS') ESA concurrence.

Board of County Commissioners of the County of San Miguel, Colorado v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management (D. Colo.) - NEPA, ESA, and FLPMA Challenge to Oil and Gas Leasing
Federal defendants filed a partial motion to dismiss the ESA claims on December 15, 2017. A hearing on the partial motion to dismiss was held on May 2. The court concluded that the motion was premature, denied it "at this time," and expressed the view that jurisdictional discovery would be helpful. The parties and the court agreed on an alternative approach in which BLM will prepare the administrative record and provide it to petitioners for review, before the parties raise and the court addresses the potential issue of the appropriateness of discovery.

PetroMex, LLC v. United States (Fed. Cl.) - Breach of Contract

On April 30, United States Court of Claims Senior Judge denied both the plaintiff's and government's cross motions for summary judgment on PetroMex breach of contract complaint. Petro Mex is seeking in excess of \$5 million in damages for BLM's attempted termination an oil and gas lease while operations and production were suspended in August 2009 for environmental considerations. The Judge found issues of fact related to the government's statute of limitations and material breach prior to termination claims, so that he could not rule on summary judgment for the government. He also denied plaintiff's cross motion for summary judgment finding no issue preclusion from a previous Interior Board of Land Appeal (IBLA) ruling. In his order Judge Hodges required the parties to submit a joint status report on or before May 11, proposing a schedule for expert witness discovery on damages and other pre-trial dates, so that the parties can prepare for trial at the earliest date possible.

OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:

San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District v. United States (Fed. Cl.)

On June 12, 2017, the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District (SCIDD) filed a suit against BIA alleging breach of contract, breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and breach of trust and fiduciary duty. SCIDD's complaint relates to the operation and maintenance costs assessed annually by BIA through the San Carlos Irrigation Project, a federal irrigation project that provides irrigation water to public and private lands and lands within the Gila River Indian Community. The answer was filed on September 1, 2017, and discovery is on-going. A joint status report is due May 18.

John Miller v. United States (D. Nev.)

This is a \$750,000 Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) case filed by a former Reno-Sparks Indian Colony police officer alleging BIA was negligent in his allegedly wrongful termination. Pursuant to a March 15, order, Plaintiff filed a second amended complaint on April 4. The United States filed a motion to dismiss on May 2. In the meantime, Magistrate Judge Cobb issued a scheduling order on April 30 requiring the parties to complete discovery on or before September 11. (b)(5) dpp

United States v. Jon Saltzman (OHA - Hearings Division)

On June 8, 2017, BLM filed two contests alleging that seven mining claims were void *ab initio* because they had been fraudulently located as association placer claims. BLM discovered the violations while conducting validity examinations to determine if Appellant had property interests in the claims, pursuant to Court of Federal Claims order in *Saltzman v. United States*, No. 13-1014L (Fed. Cl), in which Appellant asserted that BLM's annual maintenance fee increase is a taking. Appellant filed "Cross-Motions to Dismiss" in December 2017. OHA denied the motions on May 1. OHA is expected to set a conference call in the very near future to discuss procedural options, including whether an evidentiary hearing is necessary.

Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) v. Zinke (D. Alaska) - Pacific Walrus

The government's answer is due May 10. On March 8, CBD filed its complaint challenging the Service's determination that listing the Pacific walrus as threatened or endangered is not warranted at this time. (b)(5) dpp

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness Society, et al. v. Zinke (D. Alaska) - Izembek Land Exchange

On May 3, the government filed its answer to the amended complaint. The following day, the Court issued an order granting Defendant-Intervenor status to the King Cove Corporation, the Aleutians East Borough, the City of King Cove, the Aadaagux Tribal Council, the Native Village of Belkofski, and the City of Cold Bay. Plaintiff is challenging the Secretary's planned land exchange with the King Cove Corporation within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

Sturgeon v. Frost (Supreme Court)

The United States' response to plaintiff's petition for writ of cert was filed on May 7. At issue is a Ninth Circuit decision affirming NPS's authority to regulate hovercraft use on certain waters within the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Conservation System Units in Alaska. Citing the *Katie John* precedent, the Ninth Circuit held that the United States has an implied reservation of water rights in the Nation River, rendering it "public lands" for purposes of ANILCA.

Northern Alaska Environmental Center, et al. v. Ryan Zinke, et al.

On May 4, the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska approved the parties' Joint Motion for Case Management and Scheduling in this lawsuit involving a NEPA challenge to BLM's 2017 NPR-A lease sale. Assuming no challenge to the administrative record is taken, which was filed on May 4. Plaintiffs' opening summary judgment brief is due June 4th, followed by the United States' response brief due on July 24, (which is to also serve as a cross-motion for summary judgment) and Plaintiffs' reply brief due on August 7. This lawsuit is similar to one filed the same day by another coalition of environmental groups (*Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. Ryan Zinke et al.*), which challenges the NEPA adequacy of BLM's 2016 and 2017 NPR-A lease sales on other grounds. The court-approved briefing schedules for both cases are identical.

Triumvirate, LLC v. Zinke (AK District Court) - Challenge to Special Recreation Permit

On May 1, the Alaska district court granted in part the government's motion to dismiss. Plaintiff, a commercial helicopter skiing operator with a permit to take clients to the Tordrillo and Neacola Mountains in southcentral Alaska, filed a complaint and a motion for preliminary injunction in which it challenged BLM's decision to give a similar permit to a competing helicopter skiing business for the same area. Plaintiff's only remaining claims relate to his contention of increased safety risks and a procedural claim for lack of opportunity to comment, both arising under FLPMA. The Court will hear oral argument on these claims at a future date yet to be determined.

In re. ATP Oil & Gas Corp. (S.D. Tx Bankr) - Offshore Bankruptcy

On May 3, Sojitz Energy Venture Inc. filed an adversary proceeding in the ATP bankruptcy case seeking a declaratory judgment that it has no obligation to decommission the facilities on Ship Shoal Lease Block 358 (SS 358). Sojitz argues that the government used funds set aside in a lease specific trust account with ATP that covered SS 358 to decommission another lease and by doing so impaired its subrogation rights and breached the earlier trust (to which Sojitz was not a party). Sojitz also argues that the Department of the Interior (DOI) failed to properly investigate the financial health of the company to which the lease was assigned and to enforce the bureau's security requirements. The government's response is due June 1.

Clean Air Council v. U.S. (E.D. Pa.) - Climate Change

The United States filed our reply to plaintiff's opposition to our motion to dismiss on May 3. We are awaiting the court's order scheduling oral argument. Plaintiffs are an environmental group and two children. This case is similar to the *Juliana* case in the District of Oregon, but these plaintiffs are more focused on this Administration's policy changes that they allege violate their constitutional rights and the public trust doctrine.

Integrated Security Solutions, Inc. B-416294.1 (GAO) – Probable Corrective Action

On April 23, Integrated Security Solutions (ISS) has challenged BIA's award of a contract related to replacing analog surveillance equipment at the Northern Cheyenne Adult Jail. ISS believes that it should have been the awardee due to having the lowest cost and high technical rating and that BIA's evaluation was flawed in multiple ways. (b)(5) dpp

. The agency report is due to the Government Accounting Office (GAO) on May 23.

Sierra Club, et al. v. National Park Service, et al.; Defenders of Wildlife, et al. v. Fish and Wildlife Service, et al. (Atlantic Coast Pipeline)

A moot court in preparation for oral argument in this challenge to FWS' Biological Opinion and National Park Services' (NPS') Right-of-way (ROW) permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is being held on May 7. Oral argument is anticipated before the Fourth Circuit on May 10. Appellants, *Sierra Club, et al.* assert that the NPS lacked authority to issue the ROW permits and that FWS improperly used a habitat surrogate in determining acceptable take under the ESA.

Amerikohl Mining, Inc. v. Zinke (W.D. Pa.)

On April 27, the DOJ and DOI representatives met with the Amerikohl representatives to mediate this litigation. The case is a request for judicial review of the IBLA's August 31, 2017, affirmance of two Notices of Violation and the failure-to-abate Cessation Order issued to the permittee by Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) for failure to provide adequate sedimentation controls and for associated effluent violations at the cited surface coal mining operation. The principal issue in the case was whether timbering conducted by the landowner was independent of the mining operation, or connected to it, providing the regulatory authorities jurisdiction to enforce the surface mining regulatory program. The decision found the factual findings of the Administrative Law Judge that the landowner cooperated with and coordinated the timbering with the permittee, cutting the timber only on the mine footprint and in compliance with an Indiana bat protection and enhancement plan issued to the permittee, was supported by the record. An agreement in principle was reached pending confirmation of

abatement of the violations. OSM agreed to waive civil penalties in exchange for withdrawal of the appeal, thus, preserving the precedent.

Pacific Rivers v. Bureau of Land Management (D. Or.) - BLM land use plans for BLM Western Oregon lands; FWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ESA Section 7 Consultations

This case involves ESA, NEPA, and Oregon & California Lands Act claims brought by conservation group plaintiffs and timber industry intervenors challenging two BLM's Records of Decision/Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for western Oregon. On May 15, the United States will file cross-motions for summary judgment on plaintiffs' claims and intervenors' cross-claims.

NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:

Enforcement Issues - Justice Companies

Members of the Knoxville Field Solicitor's Office and Division of Mineral Resources continue to advise OSMRE regarding new violations on the part of the Justice Companies and enforcement options. OSMRE is in the process of referring several Tennessee violations to SOL-KNX for alternative enforcement of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 847.16. We have started the process of identifying all individual agents of the permittees who are personally liable for abating SMCRA violations under the holding in *United States v. Dix Fork Coal Co.*, 692 F.2d 436, (6th Cir. 1982). OSM is planning to meet with state regulatory authorities who are dealing with similar problems, initiate an ownership and control investigation, issue preliminary findings of ownership and control, inform the Justice Companies' surety of issues on permit sites, and issue a show cause order to the permittee. The Solicitor's Office is drafting investigative subpoenas to be issued by OSMRE pursuant to SMCRA Section 201(c) and INF-5 and preparing additional briefing materials for management.

Implementation of the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement

Under procedures developed by the SIWRO, the Division of Water Resources (DWR) provides support in the implementation of this recently enacted settlement, including drafting various documents necessary for the Secretary's execution of the settlement agreement and related documents. As part of this process, the Solicitor's Office requests formal concurrence from the Department of Justice in our view that the Secretary can execute the underlying settlement agreement and associated waivers of claims. DWR sent the final, signed concurrence letter to DOJ on April 18, 2018, and we await DOJ's response. Meanwhile, DWR will provide a draft recommendation from SOL to the Secretary to the Front Office for review and finalization. SIWRO advises that a signing ceremony will be scheduled for mid-June and wants to expedite a final package through SOL and Executive Secretariat for surnaming by all relevant bureaus.

Klamath Project Drought Relief

DWR is working with Reclamation to implement the Reclamation Spend Plan for Klamath Basin drought activities. Reclamation will provide a list of drought response activities, and DWR will review those activities in light of Reclamation's existing authorities.

Southeastern and Southwestern Missouri Lead Mining District Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) -Return of Restoration Funds for Reuse
DOI's Missouri State NRDAR Co-Trustee returned certain unspent funds that were originally intended for restoration activities within the State Parks that were proposed by the State. The Missouri co-trustees returned approximately \$400,000 to DOI and Missouri's joint account in the Natural Resources Damages Assessment and Restoration Fund. Missouri has decided to undertake the State Park restoration work with Missouri Department of Natural Resources funding, and work with DOI to re-program the returned funds for restoration projects under the existing restoration plan that address injuries caused by heavy-metal releases in Francois County and in the Big River riparian corridor.

California Bill S.B. 50 (Conveyances of Federal Land)

S.B. 50, which became effective on January 1, requires that the State must be provided with the right of first refusal before the United States conveys federal land or interests in land in the State of California. On April 2, DOJ filed a Complaint challenging the constitutionality of S.B. 50. The State's Answer to the Complaint is due May 8. On April 27, the State Lands Commission published draft regulations to implement S.B. 50 and is accepting comments through May 11. The regulations considerably narrow the scope of conveyances that would be subject to a right of first refusal because they would define a fairly wide range of "routine" transactions. We have also learned that New York is considering legislation (Assembly Bill 8797 and Senate Bill 7869) that largely mirrors S.B. 50, but with a more narrowly tailored definition of federal land conveyances that would be subject to a right of first refusal.

Mountain Valley Pipeline

Protests: two protesters remain encamped in trees, blocking necessary tree clearing and construction activities. A Virginia state senator sued the FS this week challenging the FS' issuance of closure orders and prohibition of access to the protest sites.

Sierra Club v. U.S. DOI and Wilderness Society v. U.S. BLM (4th Cir.)

Attorneys from the Solicitor's Office and representatives of BLM participated in a moot in advance of oral arguments on May 8.

Tennessee Primacy and Reclamation Act

The governor of Tennessee signed legislation to make the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) the primary regulatory authority in Tennessee for the enforcement of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The Act requires the state to seek and receive federal funds for the initial development of a state program prior to initiating a rulemaking process that would serve as the basis for Tennessee's request to OSMRE to assume primacy.

Rulemaking - NPS Wildlife Harvest Regulations

NPS is finalizing a proposed rule to amend its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska by removing regulatory provisions issued in 2015 that prohibit certain sport hunting practices that are otherwise permitted by the State of Alaska. The anticipated publication date is May 25. The rule being amended is presently the subject of three

consolidated cases filed in 2017 in the District Court of Alaska (3:17-cv-00013-SLG *State of Alaska v. Zinke, et al.*).

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Production Safety Systems Rule
The Solicitor's Office completed its surnaming of this rule package (including preamble, regulatory text, Regulatory Impacts Analysis, and Environmental Assessment) through the Acting Solicitor on May 4. Upon Department surnaming of all final documents through the Deputy Secretary, the package will be transmitted to the Executive Secretariat and on to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to commence the OMB review process.

Offshore Renewable Streamlining Rule

The Solicitor's Office continues to participate in Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) working group for this rule, which has recently begun to draft the proposed regulatory text. BOEM has requested that the working group complete its initial draft by December 2018.

OSMRE Regulatory Program ESA Section 7 Consultation

On May 10, Division of Mineral Resources (DMR) and Division of Parks and Wildlife (DPW) attorneys will attend a meeting with Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) and various state representatives to discuss OSMRE's decision to reinstate section 7 consultation under the ESA for its Title V regulatory programs.

Atlantic G&G Environmental Assessments (EAs) Review

On May 4, DMR received four EAs that the BOEM has prepared for four Atlantic G&G Permit applications currently under review. The client has requested our comments by May 11.

5-Year Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Review

On May 7, DMR received portions of the PEIS that BOEM is preparing for the 2019-2024 Program. The client has requested our comments by May 11.

Proposed U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)–Colorado School of Mines (CSM) Cooperative Agreement

Last week, we advised USGS program and contracting leadership that a proposed cooperative agreement with CSM in which USGS eventually will move over a hundred scientific and technical personal into a new facility to be built by CSM appears to be within USGS' authority.

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Review of Semiquincentennial Commission Secretariat selection

We have reviewed for legal sufficiency and provided some edits and comments on the proposed competitively awarded agreement with the Civil War Trust, led by NPS' acquisition office, under the competitive process as directed by the 2016 U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Act.

Chief of Police (COP) In-Service at Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)

SOL attorneys taught several classes at the COP In-Service for the Indian Police Academy (IPA) in Artesia, New Mexico from May 1 through May 4. These classes included a legal update on issues that the Office of Justice Services (OJS) had faced throughout the year and how to write correspondence. The attorneys also participated in the Director's Run and attended the Indian Country Law Enforcement Memorial, where diverse DOI and BIA senior leaders spoke, including Acting Assistant Secretary-IA, John Tahsuda, and Director of the DOI Office of Law Enforcement and Security, Darren Cruzan. This year's memorial was especially poignant as Navajo Officer Huston Largo, the officer murdered in *United States v. Cleveland*, the criminal case that SOL opined on early last year, was honored along with his family members who were in attendance. The attorneys have been invited back to train OJS Internal Affairs Division on report writing.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

No update provided.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

From May 14-18, Susan Combs, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, will be in the office.

On May 15-17, Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith will be on travel in Mississippi speaking at Southern Company's 15th Annual Partner Stewardship Meeting co-hosted by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

On May 14-18, Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Hambleton will be in the office.

On May 15, NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith will attend the Captain John Smith Trail Advisory Council meeting at the Jamestowne Visitor Center in Virginia. On May 19, Dan Smith will conduct a site visit to Camp Nelson in Kentucky and attend the listening session being held by Representative Andy Barr (R-KY-6).

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[NEW] On May 10, FWS's Nebraska Ecological Services Field Office met with Department of State and its third party consultant (Potomac Hudson Engineering) to discuss the Keystone XL Pipeline Environmental Assessment and Biological Assessment in Nebraska. The agenda included discussion of the project and schedule, review of species data and information needs, and next steps including schedule of meetings with stakeholders including TransCanada and Bureau of Land Management. (05/09/2018)

[NEW] On or after May 10, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent informing the public that we are no longer considering preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement to evaluate a proposed rule to authorize incidental take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The December 22, 2017, DOI Solicitor's Opinion M-37050 concluded that the MBTA's prohibition on pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing or attempting to do the same applies only to direct and affirmative purposeful actions that reduce migratory birds, their eggs, or their nests, by killing or capturing, to human control," and does not apply to incidental take; therefore rulemaking to regulate incidental take, which we announced in May 2015, is no longer necessary. No outreach is planned. FWS will develop talking points to answer media and stakeholder questions should they arise. (05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] The week of May 14, FWS will announce updated eagle priors and seek comment on several options for applying them. "Priors" are inputs for the collision risk model (CRM) FWS uses to estimate eagle fatalities at wind energy facilities. In the 2016 final rule revising the eagle incidental take permit regulations, FWS committed to update the golden eagle priors and explore whether sufficient data exist to develop separate bald eagle exposure and collision priors. The revised priors incorporate much more data than the original priors; enough to create species-specific priors. The updated collision prior is slightly lower than the current prior for golden eagles and higher for bald eagles. No outreach is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 15, FWS will announce a final determination on the proposal to reclassify the Tobusch fishhook cactus from endangered to threatened. This plant species has shown significant recovery due in part to collaborative conservation efforts with partners. Supporters of this action include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and The Nature Conservancy. FWS has gained positive coverage on downlisting proposals, and anticipates more interest when this final determination is announced. A communications plan has been developed. It includes outreach to congressional offices, local and state officials and stakeholders. A news release to media and posting information on social media are planned. (Updated 05/09/2018)

On or around May 15, FWS will publish a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2019-20 hunting season. This is the first step in the annual regulatory cycle. The FWS Regulations Committee will recommend the final frameworks at their October meeting. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

[NEW] On May 17 and 19 in Anchorage, Alaska, FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan, DOI Deputy Chief of Staff Mike Argo, and others will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Attu at the Alaska Maritime NWR, the only WWII battle fought on U.S. soil. Planned outreach includes a regional news release, web postings and social media, as well as targeted outreach to local media.

Between May 20-25, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing

Regulations. The proposed rule would open up to 30 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[NEW] On May 21-25, FWS will host 28 youth from around the country, part of the Career Discovery Internship Program (CDIP), in Philadelphia at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, for a week of training before they head to various field stations for summer internships. CDIP is FWS' award winning program in partnership with the Student Conservation Association, that introduces culturally and ethnically diverse youth into the field of conservation. (05/09/2018)

[NEW] On May 29-31, 13 Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) interns will be attending orientation in DC to prepare for their summer positions with FWS in the Northeast Region, Midwest Region and HQ. The Hispanic Access Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps connect Hispanic communities with civic engagement. FWS is working with HAF to employ Hispanic youth through internships. (05/09/2018)

National Park Service

On May 11, Glacier National Park expects to have a signed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Sperry Chalet Next 100 Years Project. The park expects to issue a press release on May 13 with this update. The EA will identify the NPS' preferred alternative, which is to use existing remnant walls to rebuild the structure, replicating and retaining as many historic character features as is practicable, and achieving some modernization in design. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] By May 15, the NPS expects to release a prospectus for five concession contracts to provide cruise ship services at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Two of the contracts are set aside for the two historic operators identified through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) legislation. Cruise ship services contracts have been awarded since 1980 on a 10 year basis. New contract terms are similar to previous contracts, shaped in accordance with both Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve-specific legislation and NPS law and policy. Contracts will be awarded by late October, 2019. The prospectus is in DOI review. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On May 15, Rock Creek Park will host a public meeting at the Silver Spring Library to share information about the ongoing rehabilitation of Beach Drive. Staff from the Federal Highway Administration, the DC Department of Transportation, DC Water, and the NPS National Capital Region will discuss the current status and the upcoming work on Segment 4 of the project. Segment 4 is the final part of the project and is expected to be finalized in Fall 2019. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] Between approximately May 15 - June 15, a section of an off-road vehicle (ORV) route near Cape Point at Cape Hatteras National Seashore may close if nearby nesting piping plover and American oystercatcher eggs hatch. Cape Point, a popular fishing and shelling location that

became known as "Shelly Island" during summer 2017, closes temporarily almost every summer through the end of August to allow for several species of shorebirds to complete nesting. Although Cape Point may close temporarily, the Seashore expects that the majority of ORV routes — more than 20 miles — will be accessible. (5/9/2018)

[UPDATE] From May 15-29, Rock Creek Park will issue a prospectus and begin accepting proposals from vendors to provide equestrian and related services at the park's horse center in Washington D.C. under a new 10-year concession contract. Services sought include private horse boarding, therapeutic riding programs, instructional camps, guided trail rides and riding lessons. The closing date for proposals will be late June. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On May 15-16, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council will hold a public meeting in Jamestown, Virginia. This will be the Council's final meeting since trail advisory councils are only authorized for 10 years under the National Trails System Act. Deputy Director Dan Smith plans to attend the first day. (04/12/18)

[NEW] On May 16, Manassas National Battlefield Park will host a consulting parties meeting to discuss the process for interring the remains of two Union soldiers that were recently discovered at the park. The agencies and stakeholders include the U.S. Army, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. (5/9/2018)

[UPDATE] By May 18, it is anticipated that the Secretary of the Interior will appointment three new members to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee, a Federal Advisory committee. Each nominee was selected based on his or her experience and pursuant to the requirements in the enabling legislation. The Review Committee monitors and reviews repatriation activities, makes recommendations to the Secretary, and reports annually to Congress on the implementation of the Act. (Updated 5/9/2018)

By May 18, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) expects to issue the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Muir Woods National Monument Salmon Habitat Enhancement and Bridge Replacement Project. The selected alternative will restore aquatic habitat degraded by riprap that was placed along the creek banks in the 1930s and replace four deteriorated pedestrian bridges that were installed in the 1990s. The project implements part of the 2014 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The projects themselves are not expected to be controversial, but there is public interest in ensuring that NPS schedules its projects to reduce cumulative impacts from planned construction work in the area by the Marin County Department of Public Works and the Federal Highways Works Administration. (04/25/18)

[NEW] On May 19, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial (Ohio) will reopen the memorial to the public following a yearlong closure for restoration and repairs, reducing the park's deferred maintenance obligation by more than \$4 million. The projects included repointing the exterior masonry, removing efflorescence, replacing broken interior wall tile, and rehabilitating five exterior bronze doors. These deferred maintenance projects were paid for with entrance fee revenue and Line Item Construction funding. The park will hold a ribbon cutting event with several elected officials or their staff in attendance. (5/9/2018)

Between May 19 - 23, the NPS will participate in the largest travel industry trade show in the country, IPW, in Denver, Colorado. The show focuses on international travel to the United States. The NPS has scheduled appointments with 100+ international tour operators to discuss outdoor recreation opportunities on park lands, policy, regulatory requirements, fees, and other issues. The NPS participates alongside a team of Federal agencies including DOI, FWS, BLM, BIA, Commerce Department, State Department, that engage with the tourism sector. DOI Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs will also be participating. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] On May 19, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve will be celebrating Armed Forces Day in coordination with volunteers from The Mission Continues and National Parks Conservation Association. This one day event will focus on repairing portions of the popular Bluff Trail, which receives more than 500,000 hikers per year and also serves as a segment of the Pacific Northwest Trail. (5/9/2018)

[UPDATE] On or about May 21, Saguaro National Park will close a two week public comment period for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of the continued traditional harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds by the Tohono O'odham Nation within Park boundaries. This EA is a requirement of the August 2016 NPS rule, Gathering of Certain Plants by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Traditional Purposes (36 CFR 2.6), to establish a management framework for tribes to gather certain plant parts within NPS units for traditional purposes. The harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds is a long standing tradition of the tribal members. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On May 21, Mount Rainier National Park will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Paradise Cellular Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact. The selected action will issue right-of-way permits to Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile, and provide conditional approval of AT&T's proposal to co-locate wireless communication facilities in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. The cellular facilities will be concealed in the attic of the visitor center and will not involve the construction of towers. The NPS received 893 comments on the EA, with approximately 70% opposed to the service. Comments opposed to the proposal emphasized the protection of national parks and wildernesses from wireless signals, with many assuming a cell tower would be constructed. Those in favor emphasized safety, and the benefits of improved communication including convenience, coordination, education, and timely notification of hazards. The NPS determined that cellular service at Paradise will benefit the public by improving communication between the NPS and the public, and between park visitors, in the most intensely used and developed district of the park. (04/25/2018)

On May 22, pending an updated wage determination from Department of Labor (DOL), Golden Gate National Recreation Area's General Agreement and associated draft leases for the long-term use of Pier 31 ½ as the Alcatraz ferry embarkation site will be considered by the San Francisco Port Commission for approval. This item was before the commission on February 27; however, commissioners continued the vote in response to concerns raised by labor unions about the concession contract DOL wage determination and other labor-related issues. Concurrently the NPS is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sausalito (with notification to Congressman Jared Huffman's office (D-2-CA)) summarizing common

understandings related to the potential expansion of ferry passenger service to Fort Baker described in the Alcatraz Island Passenger Ferry Service Prospectus. [Prospectus link](#) (Updated 5/2/2018)

May 23 is the final day for internal review comments on the Yuma Crossing Quartermaster Depot Reconnaissance Survey. The NPS has prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of Senator John McCain to evaluate the Yuma Quartermaster Depot in Yuma, Arizona as a potential unit of the National Park System. The purpose of a reconnaissance survey is to provide a preliminary evaluation of a resource and to recommend whether an authorization for a Special Resource Study fully evaluating the resource should be considered by the U.S. Congress. This reconnaissance survey report discusses national significance and presents preliminary findings on suitability, feasibility, and the need for direct NPS management. Additionally, in response to a special request from Senator McCain, the survey also provides a preliminary analysis of the interpretive approach outlined in a master plan prepared by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. (5/2/2018)

On May 23, the public comment period will close on Antietam National Battlefield's Visitor Access and Circulation Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA). The purpose of the Plan/EA is to evaluate the implementation of strategies to improve visitor access and circulation at the park. This Plan/EA also serves as an amendment to the 1992 Antietam National Battlefield General Management Plan, taking into account newly acquired lands not previously considered in the general management plan and evolving management decisions regarding the visitor center and several Battlefield tour roads. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ANTICirculationPlan> (Updated 04/25/2018)

On May 25, public comments for the National Mall and Memorial Parks' renewal of two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits are due to the EPA. The permit for the World War II Memorial allows for stormwater discharge from the memorial pools and fountains into the Tidal Basin; the permit for the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool allows for the discharge of treated water to and from the Tidal Basin. If no substantive comments are received by the EPA (and none are expected), the permits will go into effect by June 24. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] By May 25, a spending plan will be developed and submitted to the Department for approval for the new Historic Preservation Fund grant program subgrant program (yet to be named). Five million in physical preservation funding was passed as part of the FY 2018 budget to grant "block grant" funding to organizations that will subgrant funding to historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Development of a spending plan was mandated in the appropriations language. Preservation partners may have questions about the stage of development of this program. (Updated 5/9/2018)

By May 26, pending Departmental approval, the NPS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the Department has authorized the preparation of a World Heritage nomination for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. With nine component properties including those that form Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and others managed by the State of Ohio, this series of geometric mounds is approximately 2,000 years old. The nomination file, which will take more than a year to draft, will be developed by local proponents in Ohio with

guidance from the NPS. Upon completion and review, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will determine whether the nomination will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee. (Updated 04/18/18).

On May 26, Lassen Volcanic National Park will close its public comment period on alternatives for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to ensure the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character in the park's designated wilderness and backcountry areas. The proposed action seeks to maintain unconfined recreational use while identifying and preserving resource values that the public seeks in this setting. (Updated 5/2/2018)

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On or around May 31, FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plan to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to revise the regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402) and the procedures for listing of species and designation of critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the Act (50 CFR 424). FWS will also propose to end the use of the 'blanket' 4(d) rule for newly listed threatened species (50 CFR 17) to recognize the difference between endangered and threatened species and align with NMFS' current practice. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. The rules are currently undergoing interagency review through OMB-OIRA. (04/25/2018)

[NEW] In late May, FWS is providing for public inspection the final supplemental environmental impact statement on the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's request to amend its 2010 Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and incidental take permit. The amendment would authorize additional incidental take of the threatened grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout and unlisted westslope cutthroat trout associated with forest management on 81,416 acres proposed to be added to the HCP. Outreach is planned and includes a regional news release and congressional/stakeholder notifications. (05/09/2018)

In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to delist the Hidden Lake bluecurls, a plant in California, due to recovery. FWS does not expect opposition to the delisting. Primary stakeholders include California Department of Parks and Recreation Mount San Jacinto State Park. Planned outreach will include a national news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress. A communications plan has been shared with DOI Comms. (Updated 05/02/2018)

In late May, FWS will send a news release summarizing cross-fostering efforts of Mexican wolf pups to media and stakeholders. Typically FWS will not announce until a successful cross-foster event is completed. Last year, two pups were flown in but the den in the wild could not be located. On April 18, four 10-day old Mexican wolf pups were removed from a captive litter at

the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri and flown to Arizona. Two were inserted into a wild wolf pack's den in Arizona, and two were inserted into a wild den in New Mexico. The Interagency Field Team will monitor the recipient packs through the summer to determine the success of these cross-fostering actions. FWS will continue to seek cross-fostering opportunities during the month of May. The Mexican wolf recovery team will only have a very short time (72 - 48 hours) to get a cross-foster mission lined up for execution. Select reporters will be invited to attend the event. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around June 1, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the final 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

On or around June 1, the FWS anticipates the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for expanded public access to Rattlesnake Mountain on Hanford Reach National Monument, in Washington state, will be available for public review and comment. This is part of the required regulatory processes to provide public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, consistent with a mandate in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; P.L. 113-291). Section 3081 of the NDAA states "the Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including (1) motor vehicle access; and (2) pedestrian and other non-motorized access." The FWS established a Tribal Working Group with four local tribes and held public scoping meetings to address cultural concerns and to work through the process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The FWS is addressing National Environmental Policy Act compliance by drafting a supplement to the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Monument. Expanded public access will be controversial with tribes. FWS will continue outreach efforts to the tribes, media, and the public. A local news release is planned to alert the public that comment period is open. (Updated 03/28/2018)

On or around June 1, pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing the potential impacts from four similar wind energy project habitat conservation plans in Hawaii. The HCPs were submitted to the Service in support of requests for permits authorizing the take of endangered or threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act. Due to similarities in the geography, impact, covered species, and proposed mitigation measures between these four wind energy projects the Service has determined that a combined PEIS is the most efficient and comprehensive approach for considering the cumulative impacts of these actions on the human environment. When the PEIS publishes, outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On June 1 and 2, representatives from FWS, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners will celebrate the proposal to delist Kirtland's warbler.

The current Kirtland's warbler population is estimated to be over 2,000 pairs, more than double the recovery goal. The Kirtland's warbler population continues to grow and has exceeded recovery goals for the past 16 years. FWS is accepting comments on the proposal through July 11. (04/25/2018)

On or around June 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to list five Sri Lankan tarantula species as endangered. The species are in decline due to ongoing habitat loss, degradation, and the cumulative effects of this and other threat factors. This action is not expected to be controversial. Planned outreach will include web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 14, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a national news release, and an if-asked FAQs. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the BLM. (Updated 05/09/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* an action designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii island and is correcting the maps for existing designations for an additional four species. FWS intends to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the state of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the county of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above. (Updated 04/18/2018)

[UPDATE] In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation. It is also likely to be opposed by the petitioners, American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers, as they petitioned us to delist, not downlist the species. Outreach plans include a regional news release and congressional notifications. A communications plan has been drafted and will be shared with the appropriate offices. (Updated 05/09/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed rule to list the hyacinth macaw as threatened. To address concerns raised by the pet trade industry, FWS is including a 4(d) rule that will allow for the import and export of parrots that meet certain criteria, as well as interstate commerce in this species without a permit. Stakeholders include the bird breeding community, Conservation International, The Nature

Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. Planned outreach will include a national news release and web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed reclassification of the southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou (endangered) by defining the entire Southern Mountain Caribou population as a distinct population segment (DPS) and listing it as endangered. In 2012, FWS designated critical habitat for the southern Selkirk Mountains population, which will remain unchanged. Several non-governmental organizations (International Fund for Wildlife, Kettle Range Conservation Group, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Idaho Conservation League) will likely view our final determination favorably. The Pacific Legal Foundation (and Bonner County as represented by PLF) is likely to challenge the determination. The State of Idaho may view the listing of the DPS and endangered determination unfavorably. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[NEW] On or around June 22, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed revision of the existing NEP designation of red wolves in North Carolina under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. FWS anticipates opposition from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) (it has officially requested the termination of this NEP), the North Carolina Farm Bureau, and most private landowners with wolves using their property. Although national and local environmental groups will support the continuation of a NEP in North Carolina, they will likely oppose any alternative short of full protections under the Act and the proposed reduction in the size of the NEP. Interested stakeholders other than NCWRC include Defenders of Wildlife, the Red Wolf Coalition, Red Wolf Species Survival Plan cooperators, and other non-governmental organizations that support red wolf conservation. Some of these stakeholders have challenged the current red wolf program in court, and it is important to our defense of that case that we meet the target *Federal Register* date with this notice, as it will support an argument that the actions being challenged are about to be mooted out by this action. Outreach includes a news release, social media, emails and phone calls. (05/09/2018)

[NEW] On or around June 29, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to designate a nonessential experimental population of California condor in northern California and Oregon to contribute to meeting recovery goals for the species. This action is being taken in concert with the National Park Service and the Yurok Tribe in support of recovery goals for the condors. The primary state agencies, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Department of Parks and Recreation, have expressed interest in condor recovery through participation in an MOU. There is a possibility that there may be some localized opposition to condor reintroduction in the area, but we do not foresee concerted opposition given California's action banning the use of lead ammunition effective in 2019. FWS is considering how to address potential conflicts with logging, transmission lines, and wind turbines through the 10(j) rule. Planned outreach will include a regional news release and notification to stakeholders, tribes and members of Congress. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 29, 2018. (05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 29, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for the meltwater lednian stonefly and the western glacier stonefly, located in Montana and Wyoming. Interested stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians, Xerces Society, Center for Biological Diversity and the states of Montana and Wyoming. The State of Wyoming has expressed opposition to the listing. Planned outreach will include a regional news release, web updates, and congressional/stakeholder notifications. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] This summer, FWS in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department will propose expanding the black-footed ferret 10(j) designation to include all current and historical ferret habitat in Arizona. The 1996 Arizona 10(j) area was limited to the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area (AVEPA); successful reintroductions and subsequent population expansions has resulted in ferrets venturing outside of the AVEPA (as fully protected status). FWS consultation with affected tribes has been initiated. FWS will coordinate with AGFD to best approach and inform Arizona grassland residents and industry (livestock) groups. Communication planning will be conducted. (Updated 05/09/2018)

National Park Service

On or after May 28, the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument will open a 30-day public comment period on the Tule Lake Jail Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The proposed action would fully restore the exterior of the building, remove the freestanding shed and chain-link fence, restore or rehabilitate the jail interior, and would also improve accessibility to and within the building. (05/02/2018)

On May 29, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. The NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/25/18).

On or after May 29, the NPS will release the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public. The FWS co-manages two of three parcels that comprise the Tule Lake Unit, and the FWS has concurred with issuing the FONSI. The selected action outlines the long-term management and development for the unit established in May 2008 by President Bush. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] The May 30 kickoff event of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission at Independence National Historical Park has been postponed. It may be rescheduled for early October. (Updated 05/09/2018)

By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues including the structure and signatories for agreements on quarantine facility operations, the future transfer of brucellosis-free bison to the Ft. Peck reservation, and USDA APHIS certification of the park bison quarantine facility. Yellowstone bison management and quarantine receive national public interest and media coverage. (Updated 04/18/18)

[UPDATE] On May 31, the open period to submit offers will close on a prospectus for multiple concession contracts for charter vessel services in Glacier Bay National Park (GLBA). While the park previously authorized charter vessel services under both concession contracts and Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA), it seeks to manage this service under a single and unified authorization tool to increase consistency and fairness among operators. Beginning in 2019, GLBA will cease offering charter vessel or sportfishing CUAs in the national park area and will solely authorize these services under concession contracts. As regulations dictate a vessel quota on specific marine areas of GLBA during the prime season, the new contracts implement a vessel use day cap of 552 days in Glacier Bay from June 1 through August 31. In this prospectus, the park also intends to issue a cap on vessel use days for Outer Park Waters, which is based on the highest level of activity in the last decade plus 10% for future growth. GLBA has not predetermined an exact number of contracts to award. Rather, each offeror will indicate its desired level of vessel use days and contracts will be awarded until the full allocation is met. On February 26, GLBA issued the prospectus; while the prospectus is expected to produce sizable public interest, the plan is not considered to be controversial. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On or before June 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue its findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The NPS is working to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[NEW] By June 1, 2018, Denali National Park and Preserve will publish the Denali Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan evaluates the current conditions of transportation, considers possible future scenarios, and presents future desired conditions and possible funding strategies. It is a document that presents the park's vision for the next 20 years as it evaluates multiple aspects of its transportation system ranging from bus transit to airstrips and trail connectivity, with particular attention given to the Denali Park Road. (5/9/2018)

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement

Project Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

[NEW] On June 1, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park will implement a new \$10 permit fee for anchoring vessels overnight in Aquatic Park Cove. The permit process will use Recreation.gov, and will provide boaters an additional convenient way to obtain information about anchoring-out rules and regulations, and reserve a mooring in advance of their visit to the park. The implementation had been delayed due to complications involving a criminal case against a local mariner. (5/9/2018)

On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. (Updated 04/11/18).

[NEW] On June 4, Yosemite National Park will close its public scoping period for the Big Oak Flat Visitor Contact Station and Emergency Services Facilities Project. The purpose of this project is to improve the overall visitor experience, improve restroom facilities to reduce wait times, parking facilities, and visitor safety and wayfinding signage. It will also increase accessibility and correct long-standing building maintenance issues. (5/9/2018)

[NEW] On June 6, Death Valley National Park will hold a reopening and ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the completion of the Dantes View rehabilitation project. The Fund for People in Parks and Death Valley Natural History Association donated half of the construction cost. (5/9/2018)

[NEW] On June 7, the 30-day public scoping period for an Invasive Vegetation Management Plan/Environmental Assessment at Grand Teton National Park will close. The purpose of the planning effort is to develop a successful strategy to prevent additional establishment and spread of invasive plant species and to restore native plant communities through prevention, control and restoration. (5/9/2018)

[NEW] By June 11, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places must either approve the resubmitted listing of the Eastmoreland Historic District (EHD) or determine the property eligible for listing. On April 26, 2018, the Keeper received a resubmitted copy of the listing from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The nomination had originally been received by the Keeper on May 18, 2017; it was returned to the SHPO on June 30, 2017, for correction of a prejudicial procedural error related to private property ownership and the number and validity of objections to the proposed listing. The EHD nomination is highly contentious locally; both support for and against the proposed listing is roughly evenly divided. If a majority of private owners object to listing, the district cannot be listed *per se*; it can only be determined eligible for listing by the Keeper. Per the State Statute, properties **listed** in the National Register

are subject to local regulation with respect to the demolition or relocation of any historic buildings thereon. Per the NR Program regulations, each private owner is allowed one objection vote regardless of whether it is for multiple properties or a portion of one property within the district. In order to prevent the EHD listing, at least four private property owners have each sought to increase the numerical value of their objections by dividing their property ownership into 1000 revocable trusts (i.e. a total of 4000 revocable trusts). The Keeper is currently reviewing the validity of this approach with the Solicitor's Office. (5/9/2018)

[NEW] On June 13, Channel Islands National Park anticipates issuing a joint news release with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians announcing the transfer of human remains to the tribe that have been undergoing Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) review under 43 CFR 10.7 (Disposition of unclaimed human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony). **(Embargoed until public announcement)** (5/9/2018)

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (03/07/18)

On June 18, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park will host King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain for a tour of Mission San Jose. The City of San Antonio Office of International Relations is coordinating the park tour as part of a three-day visit by the royal family to commemorate the Tri-centennial of the founding of San Antonio, Texas, as a Spanish mission in 1718. A public announcement about the visit will be made at a later date. Park employees involved in the planning effort have signed a modified confidentiality agreement (reviewed by our solicitor) with the City of San Antonio to coordinate planning efforts and keep the visit confidential. **(Close Hold)** (05/02/2018)

On June 26, the Acadia National Park Draft Transportation Plan and EIS public comment period will close. The comment period is open concurrently with the published EPA Notice of Availability. Public comment will be received through the PEPC website, standard mail, and during Open House events. Press interest in this public comment period is expected to be very high. The communication plan has been shared with NPS Comms. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] Until June 30, State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices may apply for the remaining funding from the FY 2018 Annual HPF grants that is noticed on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). (Updated 5/9/2018)

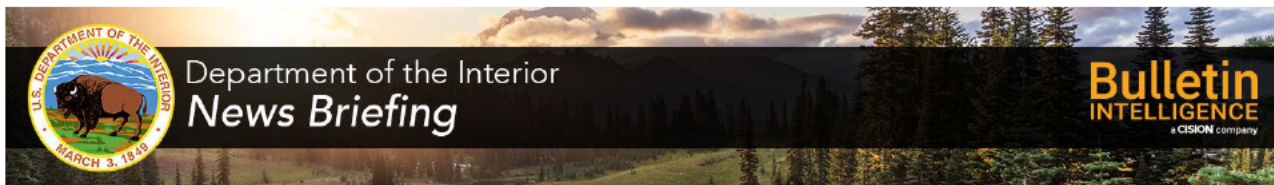
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[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 11, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 04:00:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 11, 2018

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DOI In The News

Zinke's Turn On The Hill.

[Politico](#) (5/10, Tamborrino) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday was scheduled to discuss his department's budget request for fiscal 2019 with Senate appropriators. Democrats were expected "to bring up familiar topics, such as his plans to reorganize the department and last year's decision to shrink national monuments in Utah." Subcommittee Chair Lisa Murkowski "may be interested in hearing more about Zinke's plans for oil and gas development in Alaska, after Interior kicked off its environmental review of potential drilling in part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge thanks to language she got included in last year's tax bill."

Also reporting are [Fox News](#) (5/10) and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (5/10).

Zinke Tells Panel Definitive Word On Offshore Drilling Plan Months Away. [Courthouse News](#) (5/10, Buchman) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday "reiterated that no new oil and gas exploration will be allowed off the Florida coast, but said the Trump administration's plans for other offshore areas won't be announced until the fall." Zinke "also rejected any notion that the Interior would curtail safety standards for oil and gas developers." He said, "Offshore oil and gas is a greater risk. The industry understands that too. Nobody wants a spill. Our framework does not skirt safety, we increase it."

Also reporting are the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (5/10, Skoneki) and the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (5/10, Leary).

Zinke Says National Parks Repair Plan 'Sound And Prudent'. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/10, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday "justified his plan to repair national parks with energy revenue as 'sound and prudent policy,' as some Democrats questioned the plan." In testimony before a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee on his fiscal 2019 budget proposal, Zinke said, "My priority with this budget is infrastructure repair."

Montana Senators Question Zinke's Proposed Cuts To Land And Water Conservation Fund. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/10, Kuglin) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday "appeared before a subcommittee of Senate Appropriations to present Interior's \$11.7 billion funding request for fiscal year 2019." The Trump Administration's "proposed FY19 budget would cut" the Land and Water Conservation Fund "to about \$8 million as well as prohibit land acquisition, bringing a number of questions from committee members." In response to questioning, Zinke replied that "I've long been supporter of the LWCF program — as a former congressman I've seen the benefits of the LWCF program. I've been a supporter of permanent reauthorization. It's hard to justify taking in more land when we haven't addressed the maintenance problem of our current holdings. If we're maintaining what we have, then I do agree with expansion of the LWCF program."

Also reporting is the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (5/10, Devlin) and [KTVO-TV](#) Billings, MT (5/11).

Federal Government Braces For Another Devastating Wildfire Season.

[GrayDC](#) (5/10, Austin) reports that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on Thursday hosted a briefing on the forecast for this year's wildfire season. Zinke "says this problem isn't going away on its own." He said, "I think we will all agree that the temperatures are hotter, the seasons longer, and there's more fuel load. We have to be a little more aggressive."

Also reporting are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/10, Burr), the [Fence Post](#) (5/10) and [Agri-Pulse](#) (5/10, Enoch).

Land Bill Would Create Jurassic National Monument In Utah.

The [AP](#) (5/10) reports that "new legislation from a pair of Republican Utah lawmakers would create the Jurassic National Monument at a dinosaur fossil site and create a conservation area around the rugged San Rafael Swell." Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. John Curtis "said Wednesday their sweeping new land reform bill would protect nearly 1

million acres of natural lands in central Utah's Emery County." The proposal has support from local officials, but "some environmental activists are planning to fight the measure." According to the article, "The Sierra Club, South Utah Wilderness Alliance and Natural Resources Defense Council called it a step backward that leaves some lands unprotected and allows motor vehicles into too many areas."

Bishop Wants To Turn Utah's Golden Spike Into National Park.

The [AP](#) (5/10) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop "wants to turn northern Utah's Golden Spike National Historic Site into a national park." Bishop said "that he's introducing legislation Thursday that would elevate the status of the site at Promontory Summit where the first transcontinental railroad in country was completed in 1869." Bishop is "known for his opposition to the establishment of southern Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments by past presidents but he says the national park proposal is unrelated and will spur tourism 'but do it in the right way.'"

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Senators Back Counties' Request For More Time To Review Cayugas' Land Trust Application.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (5/10, Harding) reports that "New York's U.S. senators support a request from Cayuga and Seneca counties for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to extend the comment period to 120 days for the Cayuga Nation's land-into-trust application." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "recently notified local governments that there is a 30-day comment period for the Cayuga Nation's request to place six parcels of land into trust." Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer "also requested more time to allow local government officials to review a 2014 opinion issued by the Department of the Interior," which was "in response to a 2009 Supreme Court decision that dealt with the bureau's authority to place land into trust."

Cherokee Nation Drops Suit Against Feds Seeking FCA Action.

[Law360](#) (5/10, Westney) reports that "the Cherokee Nation told a D.C. federal court Thursday that it wanted to end its suit seeking to force the government to bring False Claims Act litigation on the tribe's behalf for purported health care fraud." In a notice of voluntary dismissal, the tribe "asked to dismiss without prejudice its December 2016 suit alleging the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services flouted their trust responsibilities."

Elizabeth Warren Aids Tribe With Checkered Past In Bid To Defuse 'Pocahontas' Problem.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/10, Richardson) reports that Sen. Elizabeth Warren is "pushing federal legislation to help deliver a casino" to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Warren's bill, introduced in March with Sen. Edward Markey, "would allow the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to build a \$1 billion gaming resort about halfway between Boston and Cape Cod even though a federal court blocked the project in 2016." The Senate legislation and "its House companion have drawn cheers from tribal leaders eager to resume construction on the lavish complex while stirring resentment among locals irritated at the prospect of Congress big-footing the ongoing Interior Department review."

Former BIA Cop Gets 3 Years In Prison For Coercing Woman Into Sex Resulting In A Pregnancy.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/10, Wilson) reports that "a former Bureau of Indian Affairs police officer will spend three years in federal prison after he admitted to using his position of authority to coerce a woman into having sex and impregnating her." Dana

Michael Bullcoming was "sentenced Thursday in U.S. District Court in Billings after he pleaded guilty in December to deprivation of rights under color of law."

Also reporting is the [AP](#) (5/10).

Poaching Hotline Tips Help Utah DWR Officials In Poaching Cases.

[Utah Public Radio](#) (5/10, Bringham) reports that Utah Division of Wildlife Resources investigators and officers "have made at least two arrests in a series of animal poaching cases because of a tip hotline," including one case involving the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to the article, "In 2016 DWR Conservation Officer Eric Miller received tips through Utah's Help Stop Poaching Hotline that a wanted felon in northeastern Utah possessed firearms and was using them to illegally kill prized wildlife. These tips eventually led to the arrest of Kenny Swenson Jr. for poaching and more. ... Miller worked with other DWR investigators, the FBI, BIA, Uintah County Sheriff, Duchesne County Sheriff and the Roosevelt Police Department to track and detain Swenson."

Bureau Of Land Management

Former BLM Campground Host Files Sexual Harassment Complaint.

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (5/10, Hooks) reports that "a former campground host at the Río Grande del Norte National Monument filed a discrimination complaint stemming from alleged sexual harassment she said occurred while she was employed by the federal Bureau of Land Management." According to the document filed May 2 in U.S. District Court in New Mexico, "the complainant alleges she was sexually harassed by another BLM employee last summer." Additionally, the former employee "alleges that when she reported the escalating incidents to a superior, the BLM retaliated by terminating her and her husband and made them leave the campground where they were living and working."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Pentagon Warns Against Offshore Drilling In Eastern Gulf Of Mexico.

[The Hill](#) (5/10, Cama) reports the Defense Department sent a report to two US House committees this week advising that oil and gas drilling in the eastern portion of the Gulf of Mexico could disrupt military training activities unless restrictions are in place. The report called the area "an irreplaceable national asset used by DOD to develop and maintain the readiness of our combat forces" and said "military flexibility in the region would be lost and test and training activities would be severely affected" in the absence of "sufficient surface limiting stipulations and/or oil and gas activity restrictions." The Hill said "the report is likely to provide significant fodder to Florida leaders, Democrats and others who want to keep the eastern Gulf closed" to drilling.

[Reuters](#) (5/10, Gardner) reports that Erik Milito, director of upstream operations at the American Petroleum Institute, said the report confirmed "collaboration between the Department of Defense and Interior will enable the successful coexistence of continued military training and expanded American oil production."

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/10, Siciliano).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Enviros' CRA Challenge Over Nixed Hunting Rule Gets Tossed.

[Law360](#) (5/10, Powell) reports that "a federal judge on Wednesday threw out a lawsuit brought by an environmental group to challenge the constitutionality of the Congressional Review Act after it was used under the Trump administration to roll back a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule prohibiting certain hunting and trapping practices on protected federal lands in Alaska." U.S. District Judge Sharon L. Gleason "dismissed the Center for Biological Diversity's lawsuit attacking the CRA."

Idaho Wildlife Officials Approve Limited Grizzly Bear Hunt.

The [AP](#) (5/10) reports that “the Idaho Fish and Game Commission on Thursday approved a limited hunting season for grizzly bears in eastern Idaho just a year after the animals were removed from the Endangered Species List.” Under the plan, the article says, the Department of Fish and Game will “hold a random drawing to award one Idaho hunter a grizzly tag for a hunting season running from Sept. 1 to Nov. 15.” [Reuters](#) (5/10, Zuckerman) reports that “both Idaho and Wyoming plan hunting seasons this fall while Montana said it was holding off to ensure the bears’ long-term recovery.”

National Park Service

Lawmakers Push To Make Civil Rights Landmarks National Monuments.

[USA Today](#) (5/10, Berry) reports that the National Park Service is considering whether to designate the Tallahatchie County Courthouse and “other civil rights sites in Mississippi as national monuments and include them in the federal park system.” According to the article, “the effort to highlight key sites in Emmett Till’s life and death is part of a broader push by congressional lawmakers and others to highlight the importance of civil rights landmarks in the nation’s history.” Reps. Bennie Thompson and Terri Sewell are “pushing for significant but sometimes little-recognized civil rights sites – including courthouses, homes, jails and even bus stops – to be included in the national park system.”

The Curious Case Of The Russian Oligarch And National Park Service Latrines.

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/10, D'angelo) reports that “sanctions that the Trump administration slapped on a Russian oligarch as part of an effort to punish the country for its hostile behavior in Crimea, Ukraine and Syria likely delayed the delivery of sewage pump equipment to the headquarters of the National Mall last month, forcing National Park Service employees to continue using portable toilets at work.” The National Park Service “hired Chesapeake Environmental Equipment, a company based in Forest Hill, Maryland, that distributes Sulzer’s products.” Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the National Park Service, said, “Chesapeake Environmental Equipment provided the equipment we ordered, and did so within the requested time frame.” According to the article, “while the sanctions likely were not the sole reason for a delay, they appear to have further slowed toilet repair at the park service building.”

National Parks Draw 1.7M Visitors To West Virginia In 2017.

The [AP](#) (5/11) reports that “a new report shows the national parks in West Virginia drew 1.7 million visitors last year.” The National Park Service report “said visitors to the state’s national parks in 2017 spent \$72.8 million in nearby communities, resulting in economic output totaling \$84 million.” The activity “supported 1,080 jobs and \$28.8 million in labor income.”

National Park Service Axing Yellowstone-Teton Joint Pass.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (5/10, Wright) reports that “visitors to both Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks will be forced to pay at the gates of both parks starting this June.” Linda Veress, a Yellowstone spokeswoman, “said in an email Thursday morning that the \$50 weekly pass that covered entrance to both parks will no longer be available beginning June 1.” The article notes “that’s the same day a nationwide fee increase will take effect, bringing per car prices at each park from \$30 to \$35.” Veress said, “Eliminating the two-park fee schedule improves operational efficiency and recognizes that these parks are managed independently of one another.”

Also reporting is [Yellowstone Insider](#) (5/10, Reichard).

Gila Cliff Dwellings Increases Fees To Address Infrastructure Needs.

The [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (5/10) reports that Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument will “modify its entrance fees to provide additional funding for infrastructure

and maintenance needs, the National Park Service announced in a news release." Entrance fees will increase to "\$10 per person effective May 31." According to the release, "the additional revenue from entrance fees will replace the worn and damaged front doors of the Gila Cliff Dwellings visitor center with accessible and automatic doors, and pay for stabilization work on walls of the cliff dwellings."

Yellowstone Bison Population Expected To Be Around 4,200.

The [AP](#) (5/10) reports that "Yellowstone National Park's booming bison population, which has strained resources and created problems for nearby ranchers, is expected to reach a level that park officials would like to maintain despite being much higher than the official population goal." According to Yellowstone bison program coordinator Tim Reid, "there will be about 4,200 bison in the nation's largest wild herd once calving is finished this spring." The article notes that "the official population goal for the park's bison population is 3,000, set in 2000 by the federal, state and tribal officials who wrote the Interagency Bison Management Plan." However, "Montana wildlife officials say they would need to study the matter further before agreeing to officially change the population goal from 3,000 to 4,200 bison."

Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park To Close Friday Because Of Fears Of An Explosion.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/10, Hamm) reports that "most of Hawaii Island's Volcanoes National Park will close Friday because of concerns about what the park is calling a 'steam-induced explosion at the summit of Kilauea.'" The park will be closed "until further notice," a release said.

Also reporting is [UPI](#) (5/10, Downs).

Homestead National Monument Of America Receives Marshall Award.

[Columbus News Team \(NE\)](#) (5/10, Kennedy) reports that "the Homestead National Monument of America is the recipient of this year's Charles Marshall Unit Award, from Eastern National." Eastern National President and CEO, Kevin Kissling "says the monument contacted Eastern National about two years in advance, about preparing for a mass influx of people who wanted a location to view the total solar eclipse, which occurred last August."

Tree Cleanup To Start Monday At Wilderness Battlefield.

The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (5/10) reports that beginning May 14, "contractors will remove more than 100 storm-damaged trees on the Wilderness Battlefield in the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park." The work will "continue for about six weeks, ending about June 25."

SF Women's Building Wins National Historic Listing.

The [Bay Area Reporter \(CA\)](#) (5/10, Bajko) reports that the San Francisco Women's Building has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service "approved the listing on April 30 and only recently publicly disclosed its decision."

Insular And International Affairs

We Returned \$300K, Not Nearly \$3M To Feds.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/10, Eugenio) reports that "Guam's conservation officers are undermanned and under-equipped, Lt. Mark Aguon, officer in charge of the Department of Agriculture's Law Enforcement section, told lawmakers during the agency's budget hearing Thursday." Aguon "said there are only nine officers, including him, to enforce Guam laws and rules to protect fish, wildlife, endangered and threatened species and forestry laws, despite repeated requests for funding to hire up to 15 or 25 officers." Lawmakers "also asked Agriculture officials about a report the U.S. Department

of the Interior's Office of Inspector General, which stated Guam Agriculture claimed only \$4.58 million of the \$7.23 million available to it for two fiscal years for wildlife conservation and sport fishing restoration." Agency Director Matthew Sablan said, "As far as monies being not spent or lost, it's not true." After the hearing, Celestino Aguon, chief of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, "said only about \$300,000 in grant money was unused, not \$3 million."

US Geological Survey

Hawaii Volcano On Verge Of New Eruption That Could Send Ash, Sulfur Dioxide Spewing.

[USA Today](#) (5/10, Stanglin) reports that "scientists warn that Hawaii's Kilauea volcano is on the verge of a new explosion that could send ash, steam and sulfur dioxide spewing from the summit crater and toss six-foot wide boulders as far as a half-mile away in all directions." According to the Hawaiian Volcanic Observatory of the U.S. Geological Survey, "primary hazards of concern should this activity occur are ballistic projectiles and ashfall." However, the scientists "said they were uncertain exactly when the new eruption would occur, how long it would last or how violent it would be."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (5/9, YAN, McAVOY), [CNN](#) (5/10, Karimi, Hanna), and [Reuters](#) (5/10, Sylvester).

Opinion Pieces

In Secretary Zinke's Reach, The Key To Unlocking Federal Public Lands.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/10, Fosburgh), Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to follow Theodore Roosevelt's "lead" during his appearance before the Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittee on Thursday by "positioning himself as a leading champion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund." Fosburgh supports "expanding public access through strategic land acquisitions and easements" to "make them available to all Americans." Fosburgh hopes "that Zinke will call on Congress to permanently reauthorize this critical public lands program—something he did multiple times while serving in the House of Representatives—and to fully fund it."

We Can Protect Wildlife Without Holding Industry Hostage.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (5/10, Charters, McDonald), Tim Charters, senior director, Government and Political Affairs for the National Ocean Industries Association, and Samantha McDonald, a director of Government Relations for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, defends a "decision by the Department of the Interior solicitor to bring clarity to the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act." According to the authors, "the overly strict enforcement of incidental take against American industry under MBTA is about hamstringing vital economic development and energy production." They argue that the Trump Administration's interpretation of the law is a "common sense approach ensures that lawful industrial activities are not held hostage to unnecessary threats of criminalization allowing industry to focus on protecting birds, building projects and fueling our economy, without facing the threat of arbitrary punitive decisions."

Editorial: Time Has Come For Solving Wild Horse Problem.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (5/10) editorializes that the Bureau of Land Management has "come up with a plan – actually, four plans – for reducing the wild horse population to 26,715, which they figure is a manageable and sustainable number." The editorial urges Congress "to approve an effective combination that will help BLM managers get the wild horse problem under control as quickly as possible." It concludes that "something new needs to be done with the wild horses, because what's already been done hasn't worked."

Additional Reading.

- *Editorial: NM's White Sands Worthy Of National Park Status.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/11).
- *Danger Lurks In The Details Of Congressional Farm Bill.* [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (5/10, Lopes).
- *Our View: Land Trust Challenge In Cayuga County Needs Help From Federal Reps.* [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (5/10).
- *Hickenlooper Sticks With Trump On Sage-grouse.* [Boulder \(CO\) Weekly](#) (5/9, O'Neill).
- *Everyone Wins.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/11, Moffatt).
- *Kangaroo Rats? Think About Offshore Oil Drilling.* [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (5/10, Becker).
- *Drilling Off California's Coast – A Supremely Bad Idea.* [San Diego Free Press](#) (5/10, Hughes).
- *A Visitor's Perspective On The Point Reyes National Seashore.* [Point Reyes \(CA\) Light](#) (5/10, McClure).
- *345 Members Of The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks Urge Sec. Zinke To Support The Land And Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Reauthorization.* [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (5/10).

Top National News

In Wake Of Prisoner Release, Trump Sets Summit Date With Kim.

The President continues to receive positive media coverage in the wake of Wednesday's release of three Americans from North Korea. He followed up with an announcement Thursday morning on [Twitter](#) that he plans to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore on June 12. The developments led all three networks Thursday evening. [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/10, lead story, 2:20, Holt) opened its broadcast with "new images of that middle of the night homecoming for three Americans set free by North Korea. President Trump greeting them on the plane," and announcement of a "historic summit" between the President and Kim.

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/10, lead story, 1:55, Glor) said Trump announced the summit with Kim on Twitter saying, "We will both try to make it a very special moment for World Peace!" The tweet came hours after Mr. Trump led a dramatic overnight welcome ceremony for three Americans released by North Korea, "a move Administration officials "consider...an encouraging signal ahead of next month's summit." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/10, lead story, 2:40, Muir), Jonathan Karl said, "Just hours after his dramatic 3:00 a.m. welcome ceremony for the prisoners freed from North Korea, President Trump tweeted a 'save the date' for his meeting with Kim Jong-un."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/10, Bender) reports Secretary of State Pompeo said the Singapore summit will consist of one or two days of meetings. According to the [Washington Post](#) (5/10, Nakamura, Wagner), "White House aides have been eyeing Singapore," which "maintains diplomatic relations with North Korea" and "has been the site of other high-profile summits," and [Bloomberg News](#) (5/10) says Singapore's government "has a history of putting together high-profile diplomatic events at short notice." To [Reuters](#) (5/10), the "choice of Singapore will put the summit on friendly turf for Trump, as the island nation is a strong US ally and the US Navy frequently visits its port."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/10, Meyers) reports another consideration was "how far Kim's plane can travel." Beijing-based analyst Yanmei Xie said, "Singapore is a destination that Kim's airplane is believed to be able to reach without refueling," and it "has the infrastructure to accommodate the security and publicity needs of the US president." [Politico](#) (5/10, Nelson) likewise says the location "has virtues for both sides," and Tom Rogan of the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/10) writes that the "best argument in Singapore's favor is that it isn't the Korean demilitarized zone."

According to the [AP](#) (5/10, Miller, Colvin, Lee), Singapore “emerged as the likely host of the summit after Trump yielded to the concerns of his aides and backed off his desire to hold the meeting at the inter-Korean demilitarized zone.” The AP says the President made the announcement “hours after suggesting that the release of three Americans held in the North heralded a potential breakthrough toward denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.” The [New York Times](#) (5/10, Sullivan) says the release of the three Americans “removed a significant obstacle for Mr. Trump as he heads into the peace talks,” and a “senior United States official” later confirmed their release was an American condition to the talks.

[Politico](#) (5/10, Forgey) reports that during a rally in Elkhart, Indiana on Thursday evening, the President “refrained from any campaign-style bombast in describing his outlook” for the summit, telling the crowd, “I think it’s going to be a very big success. But my attitude is: And if it isn’t, it isn’t. OK? If it isn’t, it isn’t.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/10, Wadhams, Talev) reports that while Trump “has already outdone his predecessors on North Korea by pulling together a global coalition to tighten sanctions, winning the release of three US prisoners and arranging for a summit with Kim Jong Un,” the “measure of success is no longer merely having a meeting, but what results” from next month’s talks.

An [AP](#) (5/10, Lucey, Lemire, Thomas) analysis says the upcoming summit “is only the latest example of the President’s go-big strategy. From tax reform to international trade to foreign policy, Trump has pursued a high-risk, high-reward approach that advisers say can help produce results on longstanding problems – and that critics warn could trigger dangerous repercussions all the way from a trade war to global conflict.” Trump, says the AP, views the upcoming summit “as a legacy-maker for him, believing that the combustible combination of his bombast and charm already has led to warmer relations between North and South.”

Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/10) column that Trump “is making rash and risky moves that promise either brilliant success or catastrophic failure. Given that it’s Trump we’re dealing with, I do not like the odds.”

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/10) column that “Trump’s tumultuous first year as president unfortunately convinced him that his trademark disruptive approach is a success. He thinks his bullying of North Korea has worked, as has his trade-war rhetoric with China and his hectoring of Germany and other key European allies. So, of course, he overturned the Iran nuclear agreement, too. The strangest aspect of Trump’s gamble on Iran is that it’s so reminiscent of President George W. Bush’s decision to invade Iraq in 2003. We’re doing it again – transforming a manageable problem into a freewheeling, uncontrolled one.”

Pence: Trump’s Diplomacy Succeeding Because He Has “Offered No Concessions.” Vice President Pence appeared on several morning shows Thursday to tout the release of three Americans by North Korea. On [ABC’s Good Morning America](#) 📺 (5/10), Pence said, “What you’re seeing is diplomacy, but diplomacy that has followed the United States of America speaking truth. It will no longer tolerate the path that North Korea’s been on with regard to nuclear missiles. What’s different today is that the United States has offered no concessions, nothing in exchange. ... We see signs that this may be different and it’s all a result of President Trump’s leadership.”

Pence told [CBS This Morning](#) 📺 (5/10, Dickerson), “When negotiations for denuclearization of North Korea failed in the past, the parties came together, promises were made, and then promises were broken. But the promises weren’t made by North Korea until there were concessions.” Asked by Margaret Brennan if he sees the upcoming summit as a concession, Pence replied, “What I see is when the South Koreans came with the request for a meeting, and said that Kim Jong-un had said he was prepared to suspend ballistic missile testing, suspend nuclear testing, not object to American military exercises, and was requesting a summit, I was sitting next to the President when virtually on the spot he said, ‘Yes, we’ll do it.’ I think it’s because the President senses an opening that may result in a historic agreement.”

On [NBC’s Today](#) 📺 (5/10), Pence said, “From very early in this Administration,

President Trump changed the policies of the United States from an era of strategic patience with North Korea to move toward the kind of campaign that would bring economic and diplomatic pressure to bear, while reserving all other options." Pence added, "We do believe that the regime in North Korea has taken steps that indicate this may be an opportunity for a breakthrough, the kind of breakthrough that has eluded the United States and the world community for more than 20 years."

Schumer Warns Trump Against "Quick" Deal With North Korea. [Reuters](#) (5/10) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer said Thursday that the release of three detained American citizens was "no great accomplishment" for Kim and that Trump "was weakening US foreign policy by exalting the release." Schumer said on the Senate floor, "Their release should not be exalted, it should be expected. It is no great accomplishment of Kim Jong-un to do this." He also called on the President to seek strong, verifiable commitments from North Korea to disarm. Added Schumer, "I worry that this president, in his eagerness to strike a deal, and get the acclaim and a photo op, will strike a quick one and a bad one, not a strong one, not a lasting one."

Families Thankful For Men's Release. The [AP](#) (5/10, Balsamo) reports that family and friends of the three American men who were held in detention in North Korea "said Thursday that they are thankful for their release and grateful to have them back in the US." Tony Kim's family said in a statement that they were grateful and "thanked Trump for engaging directly with North Korea." [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/10, lead story, 2:20, Holt) reported, "Kim Dong-Chul of Virginia told the President being home is like a dream, recounting the three-year of imprisonment."

[CBS News](#) (5/10, O'Keefe) reports online that State Department official Brian Hook, who traveled with Pompeo to North Korea, said the three men are in good health, and are "trying to return to a normal life. That's going to take time. And right now we're just taking it one day at a time." [Washington Post](#) (5/10) reporter Carol Morello details her trip to North Korea with Pompeo, which she says had little planning.

Support For Trump Among Korean-Americans Divided. The [New York Times](#) (5/10, Medina) reports the summit is "the most promising sign in years for stability in the region, which has prompted an outpouring of support and celebration among many Korean-Americans. But many others – particularly younger Korean immigrants and the children of immigrants – are more focused on the fight against his domestic agenda."

Damage To North Korean Nuclear Test Site Worse Than Previously Thought. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/10, Page) reports that damage to North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site, which Kim has promised to shut down, is more extensive than earlier assessments indicated, according to a new study by a team of international scientists. Radar showed that a much larger part of the test site has caved in, according to a study published in Science magazine on Thursday.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/10, Fifield, Taylor), meanwhile, reports that North Korea "could be taking preliminary steps to close" the test site, according to "new satellite images that suggest Kim...might be making good on one of the surprising pledges he's made over the past month." According to the Post, satellite images taken "since last month's inter-Korean summit show a steady reduction in the number of buildings" around the site.

Moon Provided Kim With Digital Road Map To Advance North Korean Economy. The [New York Times](#) (5/10, Choe) reports that when the two leaders met last month, South Korean President Moon Jae-in gave Kim a USB drive that contained documents and charts laying "out a 'new economic map for the Korean Peninsula,' including new railways and power plants for the impoverished North, should Mr. Kim abandon his nuclear weapons, according to South Korean officials." Moon based his "sales pitch on the belief that Mr. Kim wants to become the North Korean equivalent of Deng Xiaoping, who oversaw the economic liberalization of China."

Budget Surplus Sets Record In April.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/10, Mohsin) reports that the Treasury Department said in its monthly budget report Thursday that the US posted a record monthly budget surplus of \$214

billion in April. April tax receipts "totaled \$510 billion, about 12 percent more than the same period last year, while outlays increased by 8.4 percent to \$296 billion." The CBO said the surplus "reflected stronger economic activity over the past year."

White House Calls For "Hands-Off" Approach To Regulating AI Technology.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/10, Brody) reports that in a meeting with tech industry executives on Thursday, White House officials "unveiled a hands-off regulatory approach to foster the development of artificial intelligence." White House Science Adviser Michael Kratsios "told representatives of companies including Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Facebook Inc., Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Boeing Co. that they'll have the greatest possible latitude to develop AI," adding that "erecting barriers to innovation does not stop the future." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/10, McKinnon) says Administration officials vowed that the US would remain in the lead on developing AI technologies. Kratsios said the Administration would make advancing AI research a priority.

Pruitt Says EPA Will Overhaul How Clean Air Act Regulations Are Enforced.

The [AP](#) (5/10, Knickmeyer) reports that EPA Administrator Pruitt "is overhauling the way his agency sets pollution limits under the Clean Air Act, announcing Thursday that regulators will seek input on the economic impact of enforcing the landmark federal law." According to the AP, the EPA "will ask its advisory committees to consider how enforcement affects the economy, and will seek input from state and local government, tribes and others." In a statement, Pruitt said, "The principles laid out in this memorandum will reform the process for setting national air quality standards in a manner consistent with cooperative federalism and the rule of law."

FCC: Net Neutrality Rules' Repeal Date Is June 11.

The [AP](#) (5/10, Anderson) reports that the FCC "has set June 11 as the repeal date for 'net neutrality' rules meant to prevent broadband companies from exercising more control over what people watch and see on the internet." The AP notes that FCC Chairman Ajit Pai "says the repeal aims to replace 'heavy-handed' rules with a 'light-touch' approach to internet regulation." [Reuters](#) (5/10) notes that "a group of states and others have sued to try to block the new rules from taking effect." Reuters adds that the Senate "is set to vote as early as next week on whether to reject the FCC repeal of the net neutrality rules – but that effort faces an uphill battle."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"When Jurors Are Silenced." The [New York Times](#) (5/10) editorializes that in 48 states and in federal trials, a unanimous jury vote is necessary for a guilty verdict in a felony case, but "two states, Oregon and Louisiana, continue to hold out against this fundamental principle," as "both permit juries in felony trials to return guilty verdicts even if one or two jurors vote to acquit." Louisiana "goes further, allowing split verdicts in murder cases, where convictions can result in sentences of life without parole." The Times adds that "the few remaining defenders of this practice claim that it's necessary for the 'efficient' functioning of the legal system," but, the Times argues, "when 48 states and the federal government disagree with you, it's worth considering the possibility that you might be wrong." The Times contends "majority rule is good when it comes to the democratic process, but it's not enough when someone's constitutional rights and liberty are at stake."

Washington Post.

"DC Inmates Are Getting Out Of Jail Free." The [Washington Post](#) (5/10) editorializes that US District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan "has ordered D.C. officials to explain a string of unauthorized early releases of inmates facing charges." The Post notes that "it's not the

first time city officials have been hauled into court by federal judges irate about record-keeping at the D.C. jail,” and that “such cases stretch back as far as two decades; and what’s most troubling is that the same explanations – confusion over orders, human error, inadequate staff – seem to recur.” The Post concludes, “no doubt it is a hard job,” but “that can’t excuse holding innocent people, nor turning dangerous ones loose.”

“Gina Haspel Fails The Test.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/10) editorializes that CIA Director-designate Gina Haspel “faced a clear test when she appeared before the Senate Intelligence Committee” to “make clear that she will never again accept orders to carry out acts that so clearly violate American moral standards. ... Haspel did not meet that test.” The Post says this is important when the US “is led by a president who has cheered for torture [and] who lacks respect for the rule of law.”

Wall Street Journal.

“One More Immigration Try.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/10) editorial praises a discharge petition by some House Republicans to force a vote on immigration proposals, saying a vote would demonstrate that Republicans are sincere about resolving the DACA issue and would provide vulnerable members with cover from attacks from the left.

“Have We Got A Muni Bond For You.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/10) editorial blasts the Illinois state comptroller’s decision to garnish the city of Harvey’s tax revenues to pay for pensions, noting that the move resulted in the city’s mayor announcing that a quarter of its police and half of its firefighters would be laid off.

“Malaysia’s Democratic Spring.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/10, Hookway, Ngui) reports that, in its first transfer of power since Malaysia’s independence in 1957, Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as the country’s new prime minister. He indicated he plans to be tougher on Chinese investment, saying that projects may need to be renegotiated if they don’t provide Malaysians with a sufficient economic boost. Markets were on edge from the election’s results, and, at a news conference, Mahathir sought to reassure businesses, saying, “We intend to build [up the] economy with the help of investors from inside and outside the country.”

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Raises Pressure On Iran With Sanctions On Currency Exchange](#)

[Record Buybacks Help Steady Wobbly Stock Market](#)

[Fall Of Malaysia’s Ruling Party, After Six Decades In Power, Shakes Vital US Ally](#)

[Goldman Sachs, Apple Team Up On New Credit Card](#)

New York Times:

[Israel And Iran, Newly Emboldened, Exchange Blows In Syria Face-Off](#)

[Trump Exults In Release Of Prisoners And A Date Next Month With Kim Jong-un](#)

[Kirstjen Nielsen, Chief Of Homeland Security, Almost Resigned After Trump Tirade](#)

[Military Inquiry Finds Soldiers Were Unprepared In Deadly Niger Ambush](#)

[In Malaysia, The Old Prime Minister Promises A New Order](#)

[The Brazen Bootlegging Of A Multibillion-Dollar Sports Network](#)

Washington Post:

[At 4 Hannity Properties, Frequent Eviction Threats](#)

[Numerous Failures In Niger, Report Says](#)

[AT&T Pact With Cohen Included Merger Aid](#)

[Trump And Kim To Meet In Singapore](#)

[Israel Attacks Iran In Syria](#)

Washington Times:

[Israel, Iran Move Closer To Open War After Exchanging Missile Barrages](#)
[Bassmaster Tournaments Seek Calmer Waters As La. Trial Lawyers Spoil 'Sportsmen's Paradise'](#)

[Trump Readies Crackdown On Foreign 'Freeloading' In Bid To Lower Prescription Drug Prices](#)

[Iraqi Election May Check Iran's Hopes For Increased Regional Influence](#)

[Chinese-American Filmmaker Bucks Cultural Appropriation Charge With 'The Rider'](#)

[Elizabeth Warren Aids Tribe With Checkered Past In Bid To Defuse 'Pocahontas' Problem](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: US-North Korea Relations; Trump-Homeland Security Chief; Iran-Israel Conflict; Severe Weather; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Mexico Drug Cartels; Cohen-Presidential Access; Yale-Student Racism; Road Rage Murder Suspect; College Student Death; Baby Rescue; Career Lineman.

CBS: US-North Korea Relations; Trump-Homeland Security Chief; Iran-Israel Conflict; Niger US Casualty Investigation; ISIS Leaders Captured; Cohen-Presidential Access; Russia Election Meddling Investigation; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Yale-Student Racism; USA Gymnastics Scandal; Baby Rescue; UK Royal Wedding-Household Calvary.

NBC: US-North Korea Relations; Iran-Israel Conflict; FCC-Robocall Fine; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Yale-Student Racism; Pittsburgh-Tech Jobs; Sun Screen Tips; Pittsburgh-City Life; Pittsburgh-Refugee Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

US-North Korea Relations – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Iran-Israel Conflict – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

Niger US Casualty Investigation – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Niger US Casualty Investigation; Cohen-Presidential Access; Trump-Indiana Rally; Iran-Israel Conflict.

CBS: Trump-Indiana Rally; Trump-Homeland Security Chief; ISIS Leaders Captured; Niger US Casualty Investigation.

FOX: Trump-Indiana Rally; US-North Korea Relations; Hawaii Volcano Eruption.

NPR: Trump-Indiana Rally; Opioid Crisis; Epipen Shortage; Niger US Casualty Investigation.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Hosts roundtable with CEOs of auto companies; gives remarks on lowering drug prices; meets with the Secretary of State.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

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

Other: 12:00 PM Congressional Briefing on 'State Opportunities to Address Prescription Drug Costs in Medicaid' – Alliance for Health Policy Congressional Briefing on 'State Opportunities to Address Prescription Drug Costs in Medicaid', featuring Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Division of Pharmacy Director John Coster, National Academy for State Health Policy Executive Director Trish Riley, University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy Pharmacy Management Consultants Director Terry Cothran, and Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing Client and Clinical Care Office Pharmacy Clinical Manager Cathy Traugott
Location: Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Ave, NE, Washington, DC
www.allhealthpolicy.org <https://twitter.com/AllHealthPolicy>

12:30 PM Council on Foreign Relations 'World Economic Update' event – Council on

Foreign Relations 'World Economic Update' event, highlighting the quarter's emerging trends in the global marketplace, with emphasis on current economic events and their implications for U.S. policy. Speakers include Peterson Institute for International Economics Senior Fellow Monica B. de Bolle, Wall Street Journal Chief Economics Commentator Greg Ip, and BNY Mellon Asset Management North America Chief Economist and Investment Strategist Vincent Reinhart Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St, NW, Washington, DC www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org

2:30 PM James Comey speaks at Brookings – Former FBI Director James Comey speaks at Brookings Institution, in conversation with Brookings Senior Fellow and Lawfare Editor in Chief Benjamin Wittes for a live taping of the Lawfare Podcast Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #LawfarePodcast

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Conan O'Brien: "After years of imprisonment, the three hostages released by North Korea yesterday arrived in Washington, DC at 3:00 a.m. and were met by President Trump. ... The hostages laughed and said, 'So seriously, where is the actual President?'"

Conan O'Brien: "A new poll came out and reveals the majority of Americans approve of President Trump meeting with Kim Jong-un. Of course, the majority of Americans also say they approve of Trump becoming North Korea's next hostage. So take it with a grain of salt."

Trevor Noah: "The three Americans held by North Korea are back in the United States. ... I can see why one of these guys said it's like a dream because one of these prisoners was taken during the Obama Administration and he's, like, 'Wait, 'The Apprentice' guy is President? Is this a dream?"

Trevor Noah: "It's...strange Trump said Kim Jong-un was excellent to the prisoners. It's almost like they were the hostages but Trump had Stockholm syndrome."

Trevor Noah: "Corporations paid millions of dollars into the same shell company that [Michael] Cohen then used to pay off Stormy Daniels. Right now, I can't believe that an affair with a porn star is the least scandalous part of this story."

Jimmy Kimmel: "It has been a bigly week for our President, who was up very late last night. The President and First Lady were at Andrews Air Force Base this morning at around 3:00 a.m. to greet three American detainees who were being held by Kim Jong-un. The prisoners – the hostages – were said to be relieved to be free, happy to be home, and baffled as to why the host of 'The Celebrity Apprentice' picked them up at the airport."

Jimmy Kimmel: Trump "actually thanked Kim Jong-un for releasing the men and for treating them well. Right. Outside of the whole 'kidnapping them and holding them against their will for nothing' thing, he was very hospitable. He really was."

Stephen Colbert: "If you watch this show – and I hope you do – I give the President a lot of the business. You know the zingers. But it's nice when you see good things happen in Trump's America. For instance, early this morning, the three American hostages freed by North Korea landed safely in the United States. Great news. Welcome home. Got to give it up when good things happen. The President was there to meet the freed men, along with Melania, who's hoping to be freed next."

Stephen Colbert: [On Trump saying Kim Jong-un was excellent to the hostages] "No, he

wasn't excellent to them. And you know the hint that he wasn't? They look happy to be with you. Okay? That's how low the bar is."

Stephen Colbert: "You don't negotiate the release of people from an excellent situation. 'Don't worry, we're sending in Seal Team Six to extract you from that all-inclusive beach vacation.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Trump is fond of saying that every other US President was predictable, which let their adversaries run rings around them. Yeah, Obama was so predictable when he killed Osama bin Laden instead of surprising the world by thanking him."

Stephen Colbert: "If Kim Jong-un wants insight into the President, maybe he should hire Trump lawyer and man being politely asked to leave the strip club, Michael Cohen."

Stephen Colbert: "Part of the reason he was so blunt in his cash grab is that Cohen didn't get an official White House position at the urging of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, who explained: 'Hey, being an unqualified White House staffer? That's kind of our thing.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, the White House held a big technology summit to talk about artificial intelligence. Trump actually loves artificial intelligence, because at this point, Alexa is the only woman still talking to him."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump earlier this morning greeted a group of newly released detainees who returned to the US from North Korea. Said one detainee, 'Why is Donald Trump greeting us? He's the what?'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump tweeted today that his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will take place on June 12th, which means June 13th might not take place at all."

Seth Meyers: "Rudy Giuliani announced today he is leaving his law firm to work for President Trump's legal team full time. 'Well, we are sorry to hear that,' said Trump's legal team."

James Corden: "Late last night, President Trump personally welcomed three newly freed American prisoners back from North Korea. It was a wonderful thing. Imagine being released from a North Korean labor camp and returning to America and being like, 'Wait, you're the President? Yeah, then we're going to head back.'"

James Corden: "I'm so glad they're home. But I've got to be honest, when I heard that Trump was freeing prisoners, the first thing I thought was, 'Good for Melania.' I did. That's the first thing I thought. Good for her."

James Corden: "According to new reports, Donald Trump Jr. is now dating Fox News host Kimberly Guilfoyle. And today, Kim Jong-un offered to help negotiate her release."

James Corden: "I don't know if it's really true love. Today she said to Donald Jr., 'This is all cool. So when do I get my \$130,000?'"

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[information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Monthly Meeting: Slides

Attachments:

/31. Fwd: Monthly Meeting: Slides/1.1 4-11-18.pptx

Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 04 2018 15:56:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Monthly Meeting: Slides
Attachments: 4-11-18.pptx

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Date: May 4, 2018 at 3:46:22 PM EDT
To: Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Rick May <rick_may@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) - Bernhardt
"Rees, Gareth" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Monthly Meeting: Slides

All,

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Thanks,
Caroline

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Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5403

"Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 07 2018 09:59:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Rick May <rick_may@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) - Bernhardt>, "Rees, Gareth" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>
CC:
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Immediate Office of the Secretary
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202.208.5403

"Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 08 2018 08:25:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides

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Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5403

"Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 08 2018 08:44:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To: "Foster, Maureen" <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Monthly Meeting: Slides

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

From: **Thiele, Aaron** <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, May 8, 2018 at 10:25 AM
Subject: Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides
To: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

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202.208.5403

--

Susan Combs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1-202-208-4482

"Foster, Maureen" <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Foster, Maureen" <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 08 2018 08:51:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides

We are set. Slides are done and submitted.

Maureen D. Foster
Chief of Staff
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3161
Washington, DC 20240

202.208.5970 (desk)
202.208.4416 (main)

Maureen_Foster@ios.doi.gov

On Tue, May 8, 2018 at 10:44 AM, Combs, Susan <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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

From: Thiele, Aaron <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, May 8, 2018 at 10:25 AM
Subject: Re: Monthly Meeting: Slides
To: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

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--

Susan Combs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1-202-208-4482



Monthly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



2018 Top Policy Goals

Fish and Wildlife Service

(b)(5) dpp

[Redacted text block]



Fish and Wildlife Service

(b)(5) dpp

[REDACTED]



Major Actions in Next 6 Months - 1 Year

Fish and Wildlife Service

(b)(5) dpp

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b)(5) dpp
p

[Redacted text block]



Special Projects



Special Projects

Yellowstone Bison

- Players: NPS, USDA-APHIS, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
- ~800 bison captured in the Stephens Creek facility
 - 1168 removed from population as of 4/3 (last treaty hunt
 - state and treaty hunt harvest
 - entered in to NPS quarantine
 - 1070 sent to slaughter or killed in treaty hunts
- 2018 Target Population: 3,600 before calving; 4,200 after



Special Projects

Yellowstone Bison

- Quarantine Update
 - Stephens Creek is considered certified, letter forthcoming
 - 98 in NPS quarantine; 3 tested positive: 95 remaining
- Transfer of yearlings to Ft. Peck, CY2018
 - APHIS will review data, generate time schedule
 - 24 hr LE presence has been in place at Stephens Creek

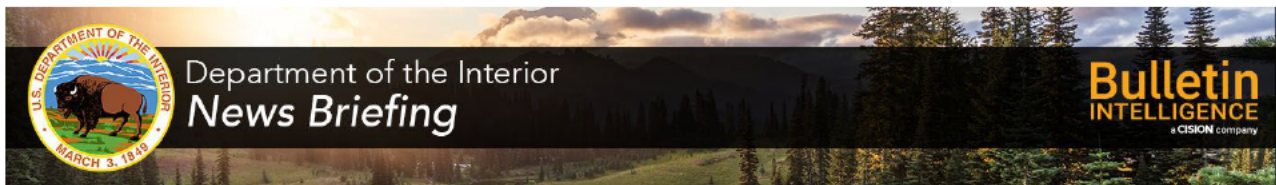
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue May 08 2018 03:59:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 8, 2018

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



DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

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DOI In The News

- The Hill: Interior Sending Officers To Assist Patrolling The US, Mexico Border.
- E&E Publishing: Dems Warn Against Potential ESA Change For Threatened Species.
- Politico Influence: Former Zinke PAC Blames Faulty Software For Unreported Contributions.
- Montana Public Radio: Survey Shows Strong Support For Public Lands In Montana.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- American Indian Tribe Looks To Reclaim Nevada Land.
- Chinook Fate Up For Federal Hearing Tuesday.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Emergency Roundup Planned For Wild Horses In Southern Nevada.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Outlook For Vital Southwestern US River Remains Grim.
- Reclamation Begins Emergency Dilution Flows Early Monday In Klamath River.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Oregon Receives Grant For Endangered Species Study.
- Associated Press: Group Seeks To Protect Roundtail Chub In Arizona, New Mexico.
- Montana Public Radio: Bison Range Seeks Input On Comprehensive Conservation Plans.
- WUSF-FM Tampa (FL): Federal Wildlife Officials Conducting Review Of Threatened, Endangered Species.

National Park Service

- Honolulu Star-Advertiser: Trump Signs Bill To Add Pacific War Memorial To Honolulu WWII

Sites.

- Yellowstone Insider: Yellowstone Superintendent Not Leaving Position For Now.
- Peninsula (WA) Daily News: Port Angeles City Council Prepares To Fight Park Service If Needed.
- Los Angeles Times: Parts Of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Reopen To Visitors.
- Honolulu Star-Advertiser: Arizona Memorial Tours Restricted Today Due To Loading Ramp Damage.
- Associated Press: Arizona Man Falls To His Death At Off Cliff At Glen Canyon.
- KESQ-TV Palm Springs (CA): Hikers Find Human Remains At Joshua Tree National Park.
- Hagerstown (MD) Herald-Mail Media: C&O Canal Toilet Damaged By Firecracker Blast.
- Stephenville (TX) Empire-Tribune: Downtown Historic District And Erath County Arches Named To National Register Of Historic Places And Buildings.

US Geological Survey

- NBC: Hawaii-Volcanic Eruptions.

Opinion Pieces

- Secretary Ryan Zinke Can Get It Right On Western Wildlife.
- Mashpee Wampanoag Deserve A Pathway To A Reservation.
- Will Arizona's Water Truce Lead To More Responsible Leadership?
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CBS: Trump Slams Kerry's "Possibly Illegal" Diplomacy Ahead Of Iran Deal Announcement.
- Associated Press: Trump Tweets Allege Bias, Conflicts Of Interest In Mueller Probe.
- Washington Post: Trump Urges Republicans To Reject Blankenship In West Virginia Senate Primary.
- Washington Post: Trump To Propose \$15 Billion In Spending Rescissions.
- Washington Times: Government Sees Record Tax Collection In April.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "What Will New York Do About Its Uber Problem?"
 - "Him, Too."
- Washington Post.
 - "Hear China's Totalitarian Cruelty In This Widow's Sobs."
 - "Trump Could Invoke The Fifth. That Doesn't Mean He Should."
 - "The FDA Should Let E-Cigarettes Help Adults – But Not Hook Kids."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "A Scarlet Title IX Letter."
 - "Iran Wins In Lebanon."
 - "Mr. Najib And Mr. Trump."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Interior Sending Officers To Assist Patrolling The US, Mexico Border.

[The Hill](#) (5/7, Green) reports the Interior Department is "sending its law enforcement officers to help the Department of Homeland Security secure the U.S. – Mexico border, according to an internal email obtained by The Hill." The announcement from the US Park Police Planning Unit and National Park Service "says that officers from both agencies will assist the Border Patrol along the southwest border starting May 13 as part of 'Secretary [Ryan] Zinke's offer of assistance to the Department of Homeland Security.'" Zinke "called his decision to deploy Interior law enforcement officers to the southern border 'the first of many steps Interior will take to secure the homeland.'"

[Courthouse News](#) (5/7, Bruno) reports that U.S. Park Police officers will be "doing 21-day rotations" in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona and Amistad National Recreation Area in Texas.

Dems Warn Against Potential ESA Change For Threatened Species.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/7, Doyle) reports that "senior Democratic lawmakers are launching a peremptory strike against a potential Fish and Wildlife Service change in how threatened species are protected." Rep. Raúl Grijalva and Sen. Tom Carper "oppose a proposed 'Removal of Blanket Section 4(d) Rule' that was submitted last month for the White House Office of Management and Budget to review." The two Democrats wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday, "We fear FWS' intention is actually not to better address the needs of threatened species, but rather to cater exclusively and completely to oil, gas and agricultural industries that must currently avoid harming species and their habitats."

Former Zinke PAC Blames Faulty Software For Unreported Contributions.

[Politico Influence](#) (5/7, Levine, Meyer) reports that "a leadership PAC previously affiliated with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told the FEC faulty software was to blame for its failure to report \$600,000 in donations in the first half of 2017." SEAL PAC was "overseen for most of that period by Vincent DeVito, now a top aide to Zinke at the Interior Department." Zinke "disaffiliated himself from it after being selected to join President Donald Trump's Cabinet. DeVito was the PAC's treasurer until May 2017, when he joined Zinke at Interior."

Survey Shows Strong Support For Public Lands In Montana.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (5/7, Cates-Carney) reports that "a new survey commissioned by the University of Montana shows voters from every political leaning support national policy that protects and expands public land access in the state." According to the third biannual survey from UM's Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative, "voters support for public lands includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, new wilderness designation, and a new National Monument designation near Glacier National Park." In the survey of five hundred registered Montana voters, "eighty two percent of Montanans say public lands help the state's economy; and people tended to associate that value with outdoor recreation opportunities rather than opportunities for natural resource extraction."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

American Indian Tribe Looks To Reclaim Nevada Land.

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that "an American Indian tribe wants to reclaim land near a Nevada ski resort and golf course rather than have it come under control of resort operators who are working with county officials." The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California "wants to ask Congress for nearly 0.6 square miles (1.6 square kilometers) of federal land in Incline Village." Tribal chairman Neil Mortimer said, "We just feel strongly if federal land is going to be transferred, it should be returned to its original owners. Part of who we are, part of what identifies us as a people is the land we are on."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (5/7, SpillmanReno (nev.), Gazette-Journal).

Chinook Fate Up For Federal Hearing Tuesday.

The [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (5/7, John) reports that "the Chinook Indian Nation hopes to fill a federal courtroom with Native Americans and their supporters during a Tuesday hearing that could be pivotal in the tribe's ongoing effort to win federal recognition." Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson "hopes a strong showing will demonstrate to the judge and government attorneys that the tribe is a living, vital entity." He said, "I want [the judge] to be presented something that looks different than his usual day of work. I want him to be presented with a courtroom full of Chinook and friends of the Chinook."

Bureau Of Land Management

Emergency Roundup Planned For Wild Horses In Southern Nevada.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/7, Brean) reports that "for the second time in less than three years, federal authorities plan to conduct an emergency roundup of wild horses on the brink of starvation in the Spring Mountains." The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management "announced Monday that as many as 200 horses in the Cold Creek area are in immediate need of food due to drought conditions and overpopulation." Beginning next week, the agencies "plan to gather and begin feeding the hungry animals, which have taken to eating nutrient-poor desert shrubs and the bark from Joshua trees in a desperate search for food."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Outlook For Vital Southwestern US River Remains Grim.

The [AP](#) (5/7, Elliott) reports that "the outlook for the most important river in the Southwestern U.S. remains grim this summer after April storms failed to produce much snow in the mountains that feed the waterway, forecasters said Monday." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "said the Colorado River is expected to carry only 43 percent of the average amount of water into Lake Powell, one of two huge reservoirs that store and distribute the river." The article notes that "it's the fifth-lowest forecast in 54 years." However, "officials have said that Lake Powell and its companion, Lake Mead, will be high enough to avoid mandatory cutbacks for water users this year."

Reclamation Begins Emergency Dilution Flows Early Monday In Klamath River.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (5/7, Obrien) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation "increased flows below Iron Gate Dam early Monday morning, May 7, to address disease concerns in salmon in the Klamath River." Jeff Nettleton, manager of the Klamath Basin Area Office, said, "The 2018 water year is one of the most challenging and complex water years Reclamation has had to manage. We will continue to closely coordinate with Project water users, Tribes, and our partner agencies to operate the Klamath Project consistent with the requirements of the Order and the 2013 Biological Opinion, while providing as much water as possible to the Klamath Project irrigators during this extremely dry water year."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Oregon Receives Grant For Endangered Species Study.

The [AP](#) (5/7, James) reports that "federal and state funds totaling \$1 million have been set aside to study a new endangered species protection plan in Oregon forests, a decade after a similar effort stalled amid controversy." The money is "earmarked to pay for the first step in laying out new rules for protecting endangered species in 630,000 acres of state-owned forest land west of the Cascades, including large tracts on the state's northern coast." The plan would "consider species including the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, and set guidelines for timber harvesting and recreational use." The U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service "contributed \$750,000 with the remainder coming from the state."

Group Seeks To Protect Roundtail Chub In Arizona, New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (5/8) reports that "a nonprofit conservation group says it calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect a large minnow known as a roundtail chub that's found in Arizona and some parts of New Mexico." The Center for Biological Diversity on Monday announced plans "for legal action to save the chub." The group "says the chub faces threats including habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change and should be protected by the Endangered Species Act."

Bison Range Seeks Input On Comprehensive Conservation Plans.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (5/7, Ouellet) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "hosting a series of public meetings this week to hear input on five alternative plans for future management of the National Bison Range and nearby wildlife refuges." According to the article, "alternatives for two Comprehensive Conservation Plans range from continuing management as it is now, to emphasizing visitor experience, to managing for key species, to managing for ecological sustainability, and working with tribal and local partners to increase connectivity between the refuges." Public input "on the alternatives will be accepted until May 25."

Federal Wildlife Officials Conducting Review Of Threatened, Endangered Species.

[WUSF-FM](#) Tampa, FL (5/7, Miller) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials are "asking Floridians to help with a five-year review of 35 endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, and plants." Ken Warren, a spokesperson for the agency, "said they're looking for information on where species are located, how many live there, and what threats they may face." Warren said, "We can't be everywhere and we can't see everything so we really encourage people – especially those with valid scientific information, to work with us on this review."

National Park Service

Trump Signs Bill To Add Pacific War Memorial To Honolulu WWII Sites.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (5/7, Schaefer) reports that President Trump signed a bill into law Monday "that was inspired by the late Adm. Lloyd R. 'Joe' Vasey, who wanted to commemorate U.S. service members who fought in the Pacific theater." The legislation "directs the National Park Service and the nonprofit Pacific Historic Parks to create a Pacific War memorial at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes the USS Arizona Memorial." Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, who introduced the bill along with Rep. Rob Bishop, said the memorial will "share the stories of the brave warriors who lost their lives during World War II while fighting in the Pacific theater. It will provide their families and loved ones a place to go to pay their respects, and most importantly, to learn how they lived, and why they fought."

Yellowstone Superintendent Not Leaving Position For Now.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (5/7, Reichard) reports that Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk has "denied rumors he will soon leave his post under orders from the Department of the Interior." Wenk also "added that he sent an email to Yellowstone employees assuring them he was not leaving Yellowstone for now." He wrote, "I will keep you informed. Let's avoid rumors."

Also reporting is the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (5/7, Freedman).

Port Angeles City Council Prepares To Fight Park Service If Needed.

The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (5/8) reports that the Port Angeles City Council has "approved a \$360,000 payment to Seattle law firm to prepare a lawsuit against the National Park Service as a backup to settlement negotiations for the Elwha water

treatment facilities.” Rep. Derek Kilmer “raised the issue of the Elwha water treatment plant with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Interior budget last month.” At that hearing, Zinke pledged to “get personally involved with it because I just want it settled.”

Parts Of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Reopen To Visitors.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/7, Jones) reports that “some of the most-visited areas of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park have partly reopened after earthquakes and eruptions prompted a two-day closure.” However, “many park roads and most trails remain closed because of rock slides caused by ongoing seismic activity.”

Arizona Memorial Tours Restricted Today Due To Loading Ramp Damage.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (5/7) reports that “visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial will not be able to disembark from their shuttle boats at the memorial itself today but will be given harbor tours nearby because of damage to the loading ramp.” According to the article, “specialists at the National Park Service are assessing the problem, a crack in the supporting structure for the visitor loading ramp to the memorial, which is accessible only by boat from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.” The National Park Service said in a news release, “We will inform the public of any changes to visitor access and make every effort to resume normal operations as soon as possible.”

Arizona Man Falls To His Death At Off Cliff At Glen Canyon.

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that “authorities say a man has accidentally fallen about 800 feet (243 meters) to his death at the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area in northern Arizona.” According to sheriff’s officials, “no foul play is suspected in the death of 33-year-old Zachary Wallace of Phoenix.”

Hikers Find Human Remains At Joshua Tree National Park.

[KESO-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (5/7, Reyes) reports that “human skeletal remains were found at Joshua Tree National Park Thursday,” officials confirmed yesterday. According to a news release by the National Park Service, “a group of hikers found the remains in the Stubbe Springs Loop area of the park sometime Thursday.”

C&O Canal Toilet Damaged By Firecracker Blast.

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (5/7) reports that a blast from firecrackers damaged a National Park Service portable toilet near Lock 38 of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The Monday incident caused damages estimated at \$500.

Downtown Historic District And Erath County Arches Named To National Register Of Historic Places And Buildings.

The [Stephenville \(TX\) Empire-Tribune](#) (5/7) reports that the National Park Service says that the Stephenville Downtown Historic District and Erath County Arches has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

US Geological Survey

Hawaii-Volcanic Eruptions.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/7, lead story, 2:25, Holt) reported, “Our lead story again tonight comes from Hawaii, where a state of emergency remains in place after a series of earth-shattering volcanic eruptions. Molten lava destroying homes, and tonight it’s unclear if the worst is still to come.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, lead story, 2:50, Glor) reported, “We’ll begin tonight in Hawaii. The island paradise dealing with a hellish invasion of hot lava erupting from a volcano. Dozens of homes and other buildings have been destroyed. More than 1,000 people have been forced to evacuate.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/7, lead story, 3:00, Muir) reported, "Good evening. And it's great to have you with us to start a new week here. And we begin tonight with the state of emergency in Hawaii. The stunning images of that slow motion disaster playing out. The lava from inside the Kilauea Volcano, some of its emerging through cracks in the earth, miles away from the volcano. The unstoppable force of the molten rock creeping across roads, torching everything in its path, including now more than two dozen homes. The air in those neighbors, authorities now saying, is too dangerous to breathe. Tonight, our team flying over the scene, and right there on the ground beside it."

Opinion Pieces

Secretary Ryan Zinke Can Get It Right On Western Wildlife.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/8, Rait), Ken Rait, who directs The Pew Charitable Trusts' western lands initiative, writes that open spaces are "under threat, in part because of population increases across the West during the past decade and the accompanying roads, fences, and subdivisions, all of which have encroached on habitat not only for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn, but for greater sage-grouse and hundreds of other species." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "signaled his intent to address this growing problem through a secretarial order on improving wildlife habitat quality in Western big-game winter range and migration corridors." In February, Zinke "directed Interior Department agencies, which manage much of our country's Western public domain, to conserve the wildlife corridors that allow these migrations, and to protect lands that animals need for their winter forage." Rait suggests that "one way to accomplish many of the goals of his wildlife migration order would be to fully implement the 2015 plans for sage-grouse habitat on Bureau of Land Management lands."

Mashpee Wampanoag Deserve A Pathway To A Reservation.

The [Boston Globe](#) (5/7) editorializes that "if federal law prevents the Mashpee Wampanoag from securing an Indian reservation in Massachusetts, then there's something wrong with federal law." The paper argues that "Congress should ensure that the Mashpee Wampanoag can have a reservation in the Commonwealth that they've always called home."

Will Arizona's Water Truce Lead To More Responsible Leadership?

In an editorial, the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/7) welcomes a joint statement of cooperation published last week by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Central Arizona Water Conservancy District. But the paper says that "it is only the first step in healing a relationship that was badly gashed in a dispute over how to best approach the looming critical shortages in the Colorado River system." The editorial asserts that "Arizona, above all, needs to be the model of collaboration, because it stands to lose the most under emergency conditions."

Additional Reading.

- *Maine Can't Afford To Give Up Its Offshore Wind Power Leadership.* [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/7).
- *Ruffey Rancheria Should Be Reinstated As A Tribe.* [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/7, Gomes).

Top National News

Trump Slams Kerry's "Possibly Illegal" Diplomacy Ahead Of Iran Deal Announcement.

As the President [tweeted](#) Monday afternoon that he will make an announcement Tuesday about the Iran nuclear deal, conservative media outlets reported on the scrutiny

surrounding former Secretary of State John Kerry over his talks with world leaders about the fate of the accord he negotiated. Early on Monday, the President [tweeted](#) about reports Kerry has been meeting with foreign officials to try to salvage the deal, saying, "The United States does not need John Kerry's possibly illegal Shadow Diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran Deal. He was the one that created this MESS in the first place!" The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) – the only network to cover the story last night – briefly reported the President's tweet and said Kerry's office confirmed the former secretary "has strategized with foreign officials about keeping the US in the agreement."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Boyer) said the discussions with foreign officials "have led to accusations by some that Mr. Kerry may have violated the Logan Act." However, he spokesman said, "Secretary Kerry stays in touch with his former counterparts around the world just like every previous secretary of state. Like America's closest allies, he believes it is important that the nuclear agreement, which took the world years to negotiate, remain effective as countries focus on stability in the region." The [New York Post](#) (5/7, Moore) also reports Trump "blasted...Kerry for reaching out to" Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to talk about how they would preserve the 2015 pact, and [Townhall](#) (5/7, Pavlich) reports Kerry "has been on an aggressive yet stealthy mission to preserve" the deal, but his actions "have not gone unnoticed" by Trump.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/7, Quinn) reports White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the Administration "won't be taking any advice from...Kerry." Sanders told reporters Monday, "I don't think that we would take advice from somebody who created what the president sees to be one of the worst deals ever made. I'm not sure why we would start listening to him now."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/7, Kredo) reports Kerry's efforts "are being met with a cool reception by the Trump administration." A "source close to the White House who advised officials on Iran policy" said, "Kerry is setting up a one-two punch to make Trump look weak. First, he's going to brag that he outmaneuvered Trump by working with the Europeans to save the deal. Second, he's going to brag that the State Department and Defense Department are going to constrain Trump in the future too, and that Iran is now open for business. The whole thing is meant to humiliate Trump politically and promote Obama's pro-Iran policies."

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/7, Johnson) reports Alan Dershowitz "[says](#) Kerry is in clear violation of the Logan Act," and "the Boston Herald has [called](#) for a full investigation into Kerry's actions." Guy Benson writes for [Townhall](#) (5/7) that "if Kerry didn't want to run the risk of his bad agreement being flushed down the toilet by the next president, he could have crafted an accord that was robust enough to attract the requisite level Congressional support to make it a legitimate treaty. He didn't."

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) 📺 (5/7), "For a year-and-a-half, we've had everyone in the media and law enforcement claim with a straight face there's something call the Logan Act. ... It is clearly unconstitutional. It would never be enforced and yet it was used to query Mike Flynn. ... Here you have John Kerry, who has no role in the Administration, doing freelance work trying to save a deal that is completely contravening the goal of the Trump Administration, and all those people who were claiming that the Logan Act was real thing are oddly silent right now."

The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Qiu) reports that while Trump "did not specify what was illegal about Mr. Kerry's actions," it "appears that whether Mr. Kerry violated the law is a matter of legal interpretation." Daniel Rice, a fellow at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University, said that since the Iran deal is still in place — as of Monday — Kerry "as not undermined or opposed American foreign policy." Eric Posner, a law professor at the University of Chicago, said it "also depends on exactly what Mr. Kerry said to the foreign officials."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/7, Bierman) says Tuesday's announcement "could well be one of the most consequential of his presidency. And in typical Trump fashion, he teased it on Monday with a tweet." [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/7, story 3, 0:40, Muir) reported the President tweeted he will make an announcement at "2:00 p.m. at the

White House tomorrow. This is the deal he promised to tear up," but "European allies have been on a mission to convince him to stay in." One European diplomat told ABC "it seems pretty obvious President Trump will exit this deal." Jim Sciutto similarly reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/7) that a "senior European diplomat" who "had very senior meetings with Trump officials...said unless there is a surprise...the President will withdraw" from the agreement.

Calling it "the biggest foreign policy test yet for a President who campaigned on a vow to rip up the deal," Kristen Welker likewise said on [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 3, 1:30, Holt) that Trump is "signaling he is eyeing the exits." Ahead of the announcement, "key global allies have been shuttling through the White House to apply pressure, including the leaders of France and Germany, and today the British Foreign Secretary," Boris Johnson, who the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) reported met with Secretary of State Pompeo Monday "to urge the US to remain a part of the nuclear deal," but did not meet with President Trump. However, he "may have been trying to send him a message about withdrawing by appearing on Fox News."

Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) 📺 (5/7), Johnson said, "Of course, the President is right to see flaws in it and he set a very reasonable challenge to the world. ... We have to push back on what Iran is doing in the region. We have to be tougher on Iran. We have to fix the flaws in the deal. ... The President has been right to call attention to it. But you can't do that without just throwing the baby out with the bath water, without scrapping the whole thing. If you do that, you have to answer the question, what next? What if the Iranians do rush to a nuclear weapon?" Johnson urged Trump to instead choose to "work with what we got and push back on Iran together."

Johnson, also appearing on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) 📺 (5/7, 7:26 a.m. EDT, Brzezinski), said, "I understand that people have anxieties about this deal, and they're right in the sense that it's very far from perfect, but it's the best thing that we have at the moment. ... And I think we can meet the President's challenge and be tougher on Iran...but without throwing away the heart of that Iran nuclear deal. Because...it's worked so far."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Miller) reports Johnson "went on Mr. Trump's favorite TV show to urge him not to quit the Iran nuclear deal," while the [New York Post](#) (5/7, Moore) reports he also met Monday with Vice President Pence and National Security Adviser Bolton.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/7, Caralle) says the "world is watching to see what Trump does with the deal," and the [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Nakamura) says the President's announcement comes "after a flurry of entreaties from European allies...for [him] to reconsider his opposition to the deal and maintain support. But Trump has continued to rail against the 2015 agreement."

[USA Today](#) (5/7, Jackson) reports Trump tweeted out his announcement "just a minute after" White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders ended her daily briefing. Sanders told reporters at the briefing that Trump "will make an announcement on what his decision is soon," but declined "to offer a preview" of his decision. According to the [AP](#) (5/7, Miller, Lucey), "It is not immediately clear what Trump will announce Tuesday or whether he will announce the end of the deal or push for a renegotiation."

To [Reuters](#) (5/7), Trump "has all but decided to withdraw from the accord but exactly how he will do so remains unclear, two White House officials and a source familiar with the administration's internal debate" said. Citing diplomats familiar with the negotiations, the [New York Times](#) (5/7, Sanger) reports Trump "appeared inclined to scrap the deal and reimpose sanctions on Iran," but "it is unclear whether he would moderate that move, perhaps by allowing the European nations to move ahead with their economic relations with Tehran without being penalized by the United States."

Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺 (5/7), "I know it is shocking for most people that this is a politician who keeps his promises, but that is Donald Trump. He has wanted to kill the Iran deal for two years now. I expect there is not going to be any pulled punches tomorrow."

Both [Breitbart](#) (5/7, Spiering) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Ballhaus), among

other news outlets, also report the forthcoming announcement.

"Trump Aides" Reportedly Hired Israeli Firm To Discredit Obama Officials. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7) reported that Trump's aides have reportedly taken some "very disturbing steps to try to discredit" the nuclear agreement. Jim Sciutto explained that "just days after Trump visited Israel last May, a private Israeli intelligence firm reportedly hired by Trump aides began compiling files on Obama Administration officials" involved in the deal. The effort by the firm "was reportedly intended to discredit the officials – Ben Rhodes and Colin Kahl – in order to undermine the deal, and make it easier for Trump to withdraw."

Kahl, asked on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/7) how it feels to "be at the center of this all," replied, "It feels creepy. When you are a government official, you expect it. When you are a former government official, it is weirder. Especially creepy if it is a private firm, and even doubly so if they are coming at you through your family. Let's keep in mind for your viewers, they came at me through my wife doing volunteer work at my six-year-old daughter's elementary school."

The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Shear, Bergman) reports that "evidence has surfaced that the agreement's opponents engaged in a sophisticated effort to dig up dirt on Mr. Rhodes and his family that continued well after the Obama administration left office." A detailed report about Rhodes, compiled by Black Cube, "a private investigations firm established by former intelligence analysts from the Israeli Defense Forces, contains pictures of his apartment in Washington, telephone numbers and email addresses of members of his family, as well as unsubstantiated allegations of personal and ethical transgressions." According to the Times, it is "unclear who hired Black Cube to prepare the report on Mr. Rhodes and a similar report on Colin Kahl."

Rouhani: US Withdrawal OK If Other Nations Remain. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) reported briefly that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Monday on state TV that "if America leaves, it would be OK, as long as the other countries preserve the terms. He added, 'Americans will be the main losers.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Fitch, Stancati) reports the Iranian leader's comments Monday and over the weekend signal that Tehran is unlikely to make concessions.

CBS Poll: Americans Evenly Split Over Iran Deal. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 2, 2:05, Glor) reported that a CBS News [poll](#) finds Americans "are evenly split on what [Trump] should do, but well over half say they don't know enough about it."

Oil Prices Reach Highest Level Since 2014. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, McFarlane, Mukherji) reports oil prices rose to a 3½-year high on Monday, with the US benchmark breaking above \$70 a barrel. According to the Journal, oil prices have risen over 10% in the past month ahead of President Trump's decision on the Iran nuclear deal. The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Phillips, Reed) reports prices rose "as investors factored in the prospect of President Trump pulling the United States out" of the nuclear agreement.

Johnson: Trump Deserves Nobel Prize If He Solves Iran, Korea Crises. [Politico Europe](#) (5/7, Zampano) reports British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Monday that President Trump "would be a deserving winner of the Nobel Peace Prize if he can solve problems in Iran and on the Korean peninsula." Johnson told Sky News, "If Trump can fix North Korea and the Iran nuclear deal then I don't see why he's any less of a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize than Barack Obama."

Trump Tweets Allege Bias, Conflicts Of Interest In Mueller Probe.

President Trump tweeted four times on Monday morning about Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, messages media reports portray as aggressive and even taunting. At 7:27 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "The Russia Witch Hunt is rapidly losing credibility. House Intelligence Committee found No Collusion, Coordination or anything else with Russia. So now the Probe says OK, what else is there? How about Obstruction for a made up, phony crime. There is no O, it's called Fighting Back". At 7:39 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "The 13 Angry Democrats in charge of the Russian Witch Hunt are starting to find out that there is a Court System in place that actually protects people from injustice...and just wait 'till the Courts get to see your unrevealed Conflicts of Interest!"

The President returned to the subject two hours later. At 9:29 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "Lisa Page, who may hold the record for the most Emails in the shortest period of time (to her Lover, Peter S), and attorney Baker, are out at the FBI as part of the Probers getting caught? Why is Peter S still there? What a total mess. Our Country has to get back to Business!" At 9:35 a.m., the President [tweeted](#), "Is this Phony Witch Hunt going to go on even longer so it wrongfully impacts the Mid-Term Elections, which is what the Democrats always intended? Republicans better get tough and smart before it is too late!"

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that Trump "said Monday he was 'Fighting Back' against the Russia probe and warned the '13 Angry Democrats' on the special counsel's team to 'just wait 'till the Courts get to see your unrevealed Conflicts of Interest!'" The AP says Trump "repeated his earlier claim that Mueller's team is made up of Democrats," though [NPR](#) (5/7, Ewing) says in an online report that "Mueller is a Republican."

The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Sullivan) reports that Trump "trained his rancor on federal investigators...and appeared to warn that negative material would emerge" about Mueller's team. In his tweets, the President "said the investigation was being run by Democrats and raised the question of whether the special counsel's work was being drawn out to influence the outcome of the upcoming midterm congressional elections." The Times says the President's "veiled threat" to Mueller "and the suggestion of bias comes at a time when Mr. Trump's legal team seems to be struggling to present a consistent message to the American public."

[USA Today](#) (5/7, Jackson) reports that Trump "appeared to taunt" Mueller's team, "referencing a federal judge's questions as to whether they are prosecuting former campaign aide Paul Manafort simply in an effort to get at Trump." USA Today says the President "has stepped up his attacks on the Mueller investigation." [Politico](#) (5/7, Okun) reports that the tweets "followed two judicial challenges to Mueller late last week." On Friday, US District Court Judge T.S. Ellis III criticized the prosecution team over the Manafort indictment, and on Saturday, a different US district court judge "denied Mueller's attempt to delay an arraignment this week in his case against Russian troll farms and citizens accused of sowing online discord" during the 2016 campaign. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/6, Pollock) says that Ellis "could be the ultimate nightmare" for Mueller, since a dismissal of the Manafort charges "could be a major wrecking ball to Mueller's overall case."

[CNN](#) (5/7, De Vries) reports on its website that Trump "also asked why FBI special agent Peter Strzok is still at the bureau." The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Persons) reports that the President tweeted about ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who resigned last week. The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Qiu) reports under the headline "Trump Wrongly Links Departures Of Two F.B.I. Officials To Russia Investigation" that though Trump is "seeming to suggest" that the departures of Page and another ex-FBI official, James Baker, "had something to do with their roles in the Russia investigation...their departures were voluntary and unrelated." [The Hill](#) (5/7, Shelbourne) also reports on the President's tweets.

Giuliani: Legal Team Hopes To Decide On Mueller Interview By May 17. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Nicholas) reports that Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said Monday that the President's legal team hopes to decide whether he should testify in the Mueller probe by May 17, which will be the one-year anniversary of Mueller's appointment. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 4, 1:35, Glor) reported, "It's been nearly three weeks since Rudy Giuliani joined the President's legal team with the stated goal of wrapping up the special counsel's Russia investigation within a week or two. The President has said he wants to testify, but Giuliani is cautioning him against that." Giuliani: "I hope we get chance to tell him the risk that he's taking. So he may testify, and we may actually work things out with Robert Mueller, because working with him directly is good."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7) says in an editorial that Giuliani does not believe that Trump should sit down with Mueller "and simply tell the truth. ... Giuliani may be right as a lawyer (though he hasn't exactly inspired confidence with his legal advice over the past week), but he has it wrong as a citizen." While the Fifth Amendment "indeed offers an

essential right against self-incrimination to the ordinary client," the issue "is not what should be expected from an average client, or even a famous one. It is what the public should expect of the president of the United States in a probe involving serious questions of national interest."

Regarding the possibility of Trump asserting Fifth Amendment privilege, Kenneth Roth of Human Rights Watch [tweeted](#), "It'd be ironic if the ever-voluble Trump suddenly went mum in response to Mueller's questions about collusion with Russia and obstruction of justice."

Politico: Trump Has Been "Gripping" About Giuliani. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/7, Pettypiece) reports that Giuliani said in an interview that "the president and his legal team are pursuing a more public and aggressive strategy toward Robert Mueller's investigation as they try to pressure the special counsel to wrap up quickly." Giuliani said, "The President is being harmed in his ability to conduct the business of his presidency." But [Politico](#) (5/7, Johnson, Karni, Samuelsohn) reports that Trump is "still not happy" with his legal team. Politico says Trump "has been griping to associates" that Giuliani "has failed to shut down the Stormy Daniels hush money saga. And he has expressed frustration that Giuliani's media appearances are raising more questions than they are answering. ... Some aides said they expect the president to fire Giuliani if his behavior doesn't change." Heidi Przybyla of NBC News [tweeted](#), "Wait, I thought he just started?"

On [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/7), Joe Scarborough said Giuliani "seemed completely out of control" in his appearances over the weekend. Scarborough claimed that in late 2016 and early 2017, Trump and "those around him" let it be known that Giuliani had "lost quite a few steps" and "would fall asleep in the middle of meetings, actually five minutes into meetings, and his head would be rested on his chest." According to Scarborough, Giuliani is "completely humiliating himself."

The Washington Post's Max Boot [tweeted](#), "My admiration for 'America's mayor' remained undiminished – until Giuliani decided to become an apologist for a president who has spent a lifetime obliterating the kind of ethical red lines that he had spent his own career enforcing."

Stone Says He Had Little Contact With Gates. The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Haberman) reports that Roger Stone "sought on Monday to portray his contact" with Trump campaign aide and Manafort associate Rick Gates "as minimal in response to a report that the special counsel is scrutinizing their ties." Stone told the Times, "The Gates story is somewhat perplexing. I only have a record of one dinner with Rick Gates."

Nunes Says He Wants To Talk With Sessions. House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes appeared on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/7) to discuss his threat to hold Attorney General Sessions in contempt of Congress. Nunes said, "We sent a letter two weeks ago to the Department of Justice. ... They ignored that letter. We had to issue a subpoena last week. We issued a subpoena. Finally, on Thursday they got back to us and said they weren't going to comply with the subpoena. ... Attorney General Sessions said he wants to discuss things. That is good. I want to talk to him."

Earlier on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7), Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) was asked if Nunes' effort to hold Sessions in contempt will succeed. Castro said, "My sense is that it won't succeed and that it won't go anywhere." Castro added that "this probably wouldn't be happening unless the White House somehow gave its blessing to go around and somehow punish Jeff Sessions through the Congress. There are a lot of games that are being played by the White House and by Devin Nunes."

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7) that "there's a difference between Congress doing oversight and Congress meddling in an active investigation. What Devin Nunes is doing is meddling in an active investigation. ... It is a really bad idea what Devin Nunes is doing." On [CNN's New Day](#) (5/7, 8:18 a.m. EDT, Camerota), Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) said of the contempt threat, "It is beyond crazy" and "not going to happen."

Four House GOP "Warriors" Pleasing Trump With Their Defense. [Politico](#) (5/7, Cheney) reports on the "band of four House Republicans defending Trump with a

relentless counterattack against the Justice Department's Russia investigation that thrills the president even as it unsettles some House GOP colleagues who think they're going too far": Reps. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Jim Jordan (R-OH), and Mark Meadows (R-NC). Trump called the four "absolute warriors" in a Fox News interview last month, and "their emergence underscores a reality of the Trump era: power and prominence on Capitol Hill these days often flow not to the most senior lawmakers but to Republicans who display allegiance to a president who prizes loyalty."

Ex-CIA Officer Criticizes Brennan Over Speculation About Trump Being Blackmailed.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Taylor) reports that Daniel Hoffman, a former CIA officer, said in an interview that ex-CIA Director John Brennan has "jeopardized national security by publicly insinuating that Russian President Vladimir Putin may be blackmailing" Trump. Hoffman said, "What I found cringeworthy is that Brennan was insinuating that Vladimir Putin could control President Trump and that Brennan's choice of the word 'speculate' would be lost on the audience because of his previous position as director of the CIA."

Sarah Sanders Says She Is "Not Aware" Of Payments To Women Other Than Daniels.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/7, story 2, 2:50, Muir) reported that White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders was asked Monday whether Trump attorney Michael Cohen made payments to women other than Stormy Daniels for the President. Sanders replied, "I'm not aware of any other activity, but I would refer you to Rudy Giuliani to respond to any of those questions." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "But you've been in his circle for a long time now, you were on the campaign. Is there anything that came across your desk?" Sanders: "Again, I'm not aware of anything like that."

Aaron Blake of the [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Blake) writes, "If there's one rule of thumb when it comes to the Stormy Daniels saga, it's this: That which the Trump team won't fully deny will probably turn out to be true. ... The White House and Trump's legal team seem more interested in avoiding questions and muddying the waters than getting out in front of a bad story."

Rebecca Ballhaus of the Wall Street Journal [tweeted](#), "Asked whether Cohen paid off any other women on Trump's behalf, @PressSec says: 'I'm not aware of any other activity.' She said last week she wasn't aware that Trump had reimbursed Cohen for the Stormy Daniels payment until Rudy Giuliani said so on live TV."

Model Says She Saw Trump Cheat On Then-Pregnant Maples. The [New York Post](#) (5/7, Perez) reports that German model Elke Jeinsen "claims to have been in the same room with Donald Trump during an alleged romp he had with Playboy Playmate Barbara Moore" at the time that Trump's "then-fiancee Marla Maples was pregnant with daughter Tiffany." Last month, Moore "claimed to have had a six-month affair with Trump while he was with Maples."

Trump Urges Republicans To Reject Blankenship In West Virginia Senate Primary.

Amid Republican fears that West Virginia Senate candidate Don Blankenship could cost them an opportunity to pick up a Democrat-held seat, President Trump weighed in on the GOP race one day ahead of the primary, [tweeting](#), "To the great people of West Virginia we have, together, a really great chance to keep making a big difference. Problem is, Don Blankenship, currently running for Senate, can't win the General Election in your State...No way! Remember Alabama. Vote Rep. Jenkins or A.G. Morrissey!" Media coverage of the President's tweet is heavy, with many reports highlighting that Trump referred to last December's special Senate election in Alabama, where Republican Roy Moore lost in a surprise upset to Democrat Doug Jones.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Wagner, Scherer) reports that Trump was "echo[ing] a growing concern among Republicans: A Blankenship win in Tuesday's primary could jeopardize the party's hopes of beating incumbent Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) in the general election this fall." According to the Post, Blankenship "has referred to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao's father – the Shanghai-born chairman of a global shipping company – as a 'wealthy China-person,'" and "also stepped up his attacks on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), accusing him of creating 'millions of

jobs for China people.”

According to the [New York Times](#) (5/7, Martin), Trump’s “decision to speak out came after” McConnell “urged the president to weigh in against Mr. Blankenship’s candidacy, according to Republican officials familiar with the conversation.” The Times reports that “White House aides and Senate Republicans have been discussing for the last week whether the president should comment on the primary, and agreed he should do so if it became clear Mr. Blankenship could win.” The Times says a Blankenship win would be “highly embarrassing to Mr. Trump, coming on the heels of his inability to lift party nominees in Pennsylvania this year and in Alabama in December.” [Politico](#) (5/7, Nelson) says the Alabama race is “fresh on the minds of Republicans amid the West Virginia primary.”

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (5/7, Zuckerman) says Trump “seemingly co-endorsed” GOP candidates Rep. Evan Jenkins and West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, both of whom “issued statements Monday touting the co-endorsement from the president.” [WOWK-TV](#) 📺 Charleston, WV (5/7, 5:30 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “is now taking sides on the US Senate race in West Virginia. Well, sort of,” and the campaigns “are reacting.” Jenkins: “I think what the President is saying is, what the real goal and mission is to make sure that we have a candidate that defeats Joe Manchin.” Morrisey: “I don’t want to see Don Blankenship as the Republican nominee because I think it would lead to a sure-fire loss against Joe Manchin in the fall.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Persons) says Morrisey’s campaign “tried to use Mr. Trump’s tweet in an early morning email blast to supporters alleging that the president urged voters to support him, despite the fact that the tweet did not give a preference to either Mr. Morrisey or Mr. Jenkins.”

[WDTV-TV](#) 📺 Bridgeport, WV (5/7, 5:20 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “urged West Virginia voters to reject Don Blankenship,” while [WOAY-TV](#) 📺 Bluefield, WV (5/7, 5:04 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “urged voters to stay away from Blankenship.” [The Hill](#) (5/7, Shelbourne) says Trump “slammed” Blankenship with the tweet, amid what the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Hughes) says are concerns that the former coal executive could cost Republicans an opportunity to pickup a Democrat-held seat in November. [USA Today](#) (5/7, Jackson) describes West Virginia as “a key state” as Republicans “seek to hold their slim Senate majority in the November elections.”

Blankenship Says He’s “Trumpier Than Trump.” [WTOV-TV](#) 📺 Steubenville, OH (5/7, 5:13 p.m. EDT) reported that Blankenship “had this to say in response, quote, ‘The President is a busy man and doesn’t know me and doesn’t know how flawed my two main opponents are in this primary.’ He goes on to say, quote, ‘Tomorrow, West Virginia will send the swamp a message – no one, and I mean no one, will tell us how to vote.’” [CNN](#) (5/7, Merica, Vazquez) reports on its website that in his statement, Blankenship declared himself “Trumpier than Trump.”

[CQ Roll Call](#) (5/7, Garcia) reports that in a Facebook post Monday, Blankenship “suggested that establishment Republicans are ‘misinforming’” Trump and urging him to oppose his campaign “because they do not want me to be in the U.S. Senate and promote the president’s agenda.”

The [AP](#) (5/7) reports that a “defiant” Blankenship said in a statement, “I will win the primary and I will beat Joe Manchin. Neither of my opponents can beat Joe Manchin without my support, but I will beat Joe Manchin even without the support of the establishment.” [Bloomberg News](#) (5/7, Dopp) reports that, “in a paid program on a community-access television station in West Virginia,” Blankenship said, “We all really like President Trump’s policies but we know that he doesn’t get things right. He recommended that people vote for a guy that was basically accused of pedophilia in Alabama.” A video on the [New York Times](#) (5/7, Times) website under the headline, “The Candidate Who’s Too Trump-Like Even For Trump,” describes Blankenship as “the Trump-like candidate...that even Donald Trump can’t get behind.”

McCarthy Echoes Trump’s Criticism Of Blankenship. House Majority Leader McCarthy, asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) 📺 (5/7, 8:35 a.m. EDT, Doocy) about Trump’s tweet, pointed out that Blankenship “is actually a constituent of Nevada” and

"can't even vote in this election." McCarthy added, "I think the President is right here. He is leading. Let's be smart. Let's look long term. Let's not have the internal battles. Put the very best person forward that we can get a majority. Look what is happening inside the Senate. They are stopping everything. ... The Democrats are trying to stop everything. So what the President is saying, 'let's help this country. Put America first. Find the very best person in West Virginia and not have a situation where we can't even compete in November.'"

Blankenship Blames Government For Deadly Mine Explosion. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/7, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported that Blankenship, who spent a year in prison after 29 people were killed in a 2010 explosion in one of his mines, "says it was obvious that the...explosion was caused by the government." Blankenship: "It's as obvious as can be that the Upper Big Branch explosion was caused by the government." The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 6, 2:10, O'Keefe) reported that Blankenship "blames his conviction on an Obama-era conspiracy. But Republicans like President Trump fear his role in the tragedy will make Blankenship un-electable in the fall."

Internal Polls Show Blankenship In The Lead. The [Weekly Standard](#) (5/7, McCormack) says Republicans "are panicking as internal polls show Don Blankenship...surging into the lead" in the primary. An "internal campaign poll conducted for one rival Senate campaign on Saturday and Sunday" showed Blankenship leading with 31 percent, followed by Jenkins with 28 percent, and Morrissey with 27 percent. Another "internal poll conducted Friday and Saturday" found Blankenship with 28 percent, Morrissey with 27 percent, and Jenkins with 14 percent.

Citing the internal polls, Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/7) that Blankenship moved into the lead after he "uncorked a racist and demagogic jeremiad about" McConnell "and his Asian American wife, Elaine Chao, who happens to be a member of President Trump's Cabinet." Milbank argues that the race "confirms that this sort of vulgar demagoguery is becoming routine. Trump's election was no aberration." Trump "exploited deep problems in American politics that had been building for years – and others, following his example, will exploit those same problems after he's gone."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Scherer, Weigel, Wagner, Sullivan) says in an analysis that the West Virginia and Indiana primaries "are set to shape the future of Donald Trump's anti-establishment political revolt on Tuesday, while testing the president's own ability to steer the passions he helped unleash." Like Blankenship, Mike Braun in Indiana "is running against two more well-established GOP incumbents, who have spent much of the campaign attacking each other, as they calculated the outsider would face a traditional ceiling of support." The outcome of the races "could help shape not just the future of the Republican Party but the odds of Democratic control of the Senate."

Trump To Propose \$15 Billion In Spending Rescissions.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Paletta, Werner) reports that with an eye on "temper[ing] conservative angst over ballooning budget deficits," the President "is sending a plan to Congress that calls for stripping back more than \$15 billion in previously approved spending." Nearly half of the cuts "would come from two accounts within the Children's Health Insurance Program that White House officials said either expired last year or aren't expected to be drawn upon," and an additional "\$800 million in cuts would come from money created by the Affordable Care Act in 2010 to test innovative payment and service delivery models." In all, the White House is proposing "more than 30 programs" for rescission.

[Reuters](#) (5/7, Cowan, Mason) says that according to "senior aides," the rescissions "will likely encompass cuts in the range of \$11 billion to \$15 billion," which is "well short of the \$60 billion in reductions Republicans floated a few weeks ago." This, "after party elders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, warned against cuts that would unravel a two-year budget deal enacted with the help of Democrats in February."

[USA Today](#) (5/7, Fritze, Jackson) reports that the Administration "has been working for weeks with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on the 'rescission' package, which would claw back billions Congress set aside but that federal agencies

never spent." The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Dinan) says the proposal comes "months after the White House was stung by criticism from conservatives furious at the \$300 billion funding hike Mr. Trump signed into law."

Government Sees Record Tax Collection In April.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/7, Dinan) reports that according to the CBO, the federal government "took in a record tax haul in April en route to its biggest-ever monthly budget surplus...as a surging economy left Americans with more money in their paychecks – and this more to pay to Uncle Sam." The government "collected \$515 billion and spent \$297 billion, for a total monthly surplus of \$218 billion," which "swamped the previous monthly record of \$190 billion, set in 2001."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"What Will New York Do About Its Uber Problem?" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/7) calls for New York City leaders to "come up with an effective strategy to deal with" the problems caused by ride-hailing services, which have "helped lay waste to the livelihoods of taxi drivers and turn New York's already busy streets into glorified parking lots."

"Him, Too." The [New York Times](#) (5/7, Board) editorializes that "New York's Attorney General Eric Schneiderman was a public champion of the #MeToo movement" until "The New Yorker magazine published an article in which four women accused him of abusing them physically and emotionally." Schneiderman resigned late Monday, but "admitted no wrongdoing." The Times writes, "Schneiderman joins a sorry list of once-rising stars in New York's Democratic Party whose careers imploded amid allegations of personal misconduct, including former Gov. Eliot Spitzer and former Congressman Anthony Weiner." The Times says Schneiderman's successor "should be tough and independent, willing to stand up" to President Trump and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, "and – it should go without saying, but now it needs to be said – be a decent human being."

Washington Post.

"Hear China's Totalitarian Cruelty In This Widow's Sobs." The [Washington Post](#) (5/7) editorializes that "for an example of gratuitous cruelty in the service of 21st-century totalitarianism, listen to the sob-choked voice of China's Liu Xia," the widow of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and dissident Liu Xiaobo. Liu was "recently recorded by a friend as she described her despair at being denied sanctuary in Germany and subjected to a seemingly endless continuation of the house arrest she has endured since 2010 – even though her husband died 10 months ago and she has never been charged with a crime." The Post says the "fault lies with a regime that appears bent on crushing the spirit of a woman simply because her husband was recognized for what the Nobel committee called 'his long and nonviolent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.'"

"Trump Could Invoke The Fifth. That Doesn't Mean He Should." The [Washington Post](#) (5/7) says in an editorial that Rudy Giuliani does not believe that President Trump should sit down with special counsel Robert Mueller "and simply tell the truth. ... Giuliani may be right as a lawyer (though he hasn't exactly inspired confidence with his legal advice over the past week), but he has it wrong as a citizen." While the Fifth Amendment "indeed offers an essential right against self-incrimination to the ordinary client," the issue "is not what should be expected from an average client, or even a famous one. It is what the public should expect of the president of the United States in a probe involving serious questions of national interest."

"The FDA Should Let E-Cigarettes Help Adults – But Not Hook Kids." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/7) welcomes the Food and Drug Administration "stepping in more forcefully to encourage the positive effects...and discourage the drawbacks" of e-cigarettes, which have "addicted a generation of new nicotine users." While the Post calls

for the FDA to “view e-cigarettes as a viable substitute” to smoking, it warns this “cannot come at the cost of hooking more teenagers for life.”

Wall Street Journal.

“A Scarlet Title IX Letter.” [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7) editorializes on a case in which the North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled last month that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill must release the names of anyone who, since January 1, 2007, has been found responsible for rape or sexual assault. According to the Journal, the case demonstrates why Title IX has been unfairly used to punish students wrongly accused of sexual misconduct with little evidence. The Journal argues that the court’s ruling would create the Title IX equivalent of a sexual offender registry, and urges North Carolina lawmakers to protect unjustly accused students by passing legislation that explicitly prohibits the release of their names.

“Iran Wins In Lebanon.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7) editorializes that with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies securing more than half of the seats in Lebanon’s parliament, the outcome of Sunday’s election is a setback that seemingly went unnoticed in the Administration. The Journal calls on President Trump to reconsider his Administration’s treatment of Lebanon as a functioning, democratic nation and acknowledge the country for what it is: a subsidiary of Tehran and Hezbollah, Iran’s local proxy.

“Mr. Najib And Mr. Trump.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7) says if Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is reelected on Wednesday, he will most likely continue his crackdown on civil liberties and appeasement of China and its expansion in the disputed South China Sea. The Journal says Najib has long manipulated US Presidents to the detriment of American interests, and President Trump should no longer allow himself to buy into Najib’s manipulations.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump To Announce Decision On Iran Deal On Tuesday](#)

[Citigroup Targeted By ValueAct In Rare Activist Move On Major Bank](#)

[US Pushes Mexico To Raise Wages For Its Auto Workers](#)

[A Private-Market Deal Gone Bad: Sketchy Brokers, Bilked Seniors And A Cosmetologist](#)

New York Times:

[Accused Of Abuse, Eric Schneiderman Resigns As New York Attorney General](#)

[Unswayed By Allies, Trump Is Expected To Leave Iran Deal, Diplomats Say](#)

[Gina Haspel Has The Experience To Run The C.I.A., And That May Be Her Biggest Problem](#)

[Bitcoin Sees Wall Street Warm To Trading Virtual Currency](#)

[Trump Weighs In On West Virginia Senate Race In Sign Of Republican Anxiety](#)

[E.P.A. Emails Show An Effort To Shield Pruitt From Public Scrutiny](#)

Washington Post:

[As MS-13 Becomes ‘Americanized,’ More Girls Want To Join](#)

[Southern Baptists’ #MeToo Moment](#)

[Trump Expected To Impede Iran Deal](#)

[Long Undercover, CIA Pick Now Under Microscope](#)

[NY Attorney General Quits After Abuse Claims](#)

Financial Times:

[Walmart Takes On Amazon In India With Flipkart Deal](#)

[Vladimir Putin Sets Out Ambitious Economic Goals For Fourth Term](#)

[Nestlé To Pay \\$7bn For Starbucks' Products](#)
[Hizbollah And Allies Win More Than Half The Seats In Lebanon Vote](#)

Washington Times:

[Ex-CIA Officer: Brennan's Attacks On Trump 'Cringe-Worthy,' Put National Security At Risk](#)

[Trump To Demand Congress Cut \\$15B In Spending 'Rescission' Package](#)

[NRA Taps 'Legendary Warrior' Oliver North To Lead Fight Against Gun Control Movement](#)

[Trump Slams Kerry Over 'Possibly Illegal' Private Talks With Iran](#)

[Nikolas Cruz Was In Obama-Backed Discipline Diversion Program, Broward School District Admits](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Trump Attorney-Media Blitz; Iran Nuclear Deal; Missouri Road Rage Murder; Graduation Ceremony Controversy; WV Midterm Primaries; McCain New Memoir; Brain Dead Boy Recovers; Texas Police Rescue; University Student Murder; JetBlue Flight Incident; Cruise Ship Malfunction; American Paint Company.

CBS: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Iran Nuclear Deal; CIA Nomination Confirmation; Trump Attorney-Media Blitz; First Lady Platform Revealed; WV Midterm Primaries; Telemarketing Lawsuit; Brain Dead Boy Recovers; Turkey-Flash Flood; Montana Flooding; Obamacare Forecast; NRA New President; Waffle House Shooting Victims; Vatican-Swiss Guard.

NBC: Hawaii Volcano Eruption; First Lady Platform Revealed; Iran Nuclear Deal; CIA Nomination Confirmation, North Korea; Trump Admin-Immigration Policy; Graduation Ceremony Controversy; Acquitted Inmate Commits Crime; Portland Opioid Crisis Response; Fast Food Calorie Label; Portland-Bike Friendly Policy; High School Homeless Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Trump Attorney-Media Blitz – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Iran Nuclear Deal – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: New York AG Resignation; WV Midterm Primaries; Trump Attorney-Media Blitz.

CBS: New York AG Resignation; Iran Nuclear Deal; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; WV Midterm Primaries.

FOX: New York AG Resignation; Iran Nuclear Deal; CIA Nomination Confirmation.

NPR: New York AG Resignation; Bill Cosby Trial; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; NRA New President.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Republican Members of the Senate; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and the Secretary of Homeland Security; gives remarks on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; speaks at Federal Judges Association reception.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Armed Services CLOSED briefing – Meets to receive a closed briefing on the Niger investigation and report. Location: SVC-217, The Capitol
<http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on Puerto Rico's electric grid – Hearing 'To Examine Puerto Rico's Electric Grid', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Bruce Walker; U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers Director of Contingency Operations and Homeland Security Charles Alexander Jr.; Puerto Rico Government Development Bank President and Fiscal Agency & Financial Advisory Authority Chairman of the Board Christian Sobrino-Vega; Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority CEO Walter Higgins; Comision de Energia de Puerto Rico Comisionado Asociado-Presidente Interino Jose Roman Morales; and Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association President Rodrigo Masses Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on insulin – Hearing on ‘Insulin Access and Affordability: The Rising Cost of Treatment’, with testimony from American Diabetes Association Chief Scientific, Medical, and Mission Officer William Cefalu; Paul Grant, whose son has Type 1 diabetes; retiree Lois Ondik; and Johns Hopkins University’s Dr Jeremy Greene Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the airspace – Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Keeping Pace with Innovation – Update on the Safe Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the Airspace’, with testimony from Federal Aviation Administration Office of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Director Earl Lawrence; Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne; Helicopter Association International President and CEO Matthew Zuccaro; and BNSF Railway Company Director of Technology Services Todd Graetz Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

12:00 PM Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration – Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration, ‘Tribute to American Jewry’, with Democrats Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Maria Cantwell, Ben Cardin, and Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Joseph Kennedy, and Brad Schneider, and Republican Rep. John Faso Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC <http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Ukraine. – The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe/Helsinki Commission meets to receive a briefing on ending the war in Ukraine. Location: 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building <http://www.csce.gov>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission hosts briefing on ending the war in Ukraine – ‘Ending the War in Ukraine’ Helsinki Commission briefing, featuring U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volcker, who explores the way ahead for U.S. and international policy on Ukraine in the wake of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s re-election Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 2016, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM DHS Secretary Nielsen testifies Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY’19 budget – Homeland Security Subcommittee ‘Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’, with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 192, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY’19 LOC and AOC budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee ‘Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the Library of Congress and the Architect of the Capitol’, with testimony from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

4:00 PM Bipartisan, bicameral lawmakers hold panel discussion on apprenticeships and the skills gap – Democrats Sen. Chris Coons and Rep. Donald Norcross and Republicans Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. David McKinley hold panel discussion and reception on addressing the skills gap in America through apprenticeships, with experts

from PBS show 'This Old House', including Host Kevin O'Connor, carpenter Norm Abram, plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey, general contractor Tom Silva, landscape contractor Roger Cook and Generation Next's Nathan Gilbert. Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown also speaks Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC coons.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

US House: 9:00 AM Congressional Black Caucus Twitter town hall on 'Community Policing and Police Accountability' – Congressional Black Caucus Twitter hosts 'CBCDemandsJustice – A Twitter Town Hall on Community Policing and Police Accountability', with Caucus Chairman Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond and members using Twitter's video-reply technology to respond to questions and comments from constituents, celebrities, activists, and advocates Location: TBD <https://cbc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC> #CBCDemandsJustice

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Challenges and Solutions in the Opioid Abuse Crisis' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Iran – Hearing on 'Confronting the Iranian Challenge', with testimony from former Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs Lincoln Bloomfield Jr.; former Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation Stephen Rademaker; and former Rep. Jane Harman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on implications of the opioid epidemic – Workforce Protections Subcommittee hearing on 'The Opioid Epidemic: Implications for the Federal Employees' Compensation Act', with testimony from Inspector General Scott Dahl; CompPharma President Joe Paduda; Congressional Research Service Acting Section Research Manager Scott Szymendera; and Workers Compensation Research Institute Executive Vice President and Counsel Ramona Tanabe Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on the Medicare Advantage Program – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'The Current Status of and Quality in the Medicare Advantage Program', with testimony from University of Miami Business School Health Sector Management & Policy Associate Professor Karoline Mortensen; Clover Health Chief Technology Officer Andrew Toy; Independence Blue Cross Senior Markets Senior Vice President Daphne Klausner, and Georgetown University Health Policy Institute's Jack Hoadley Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee on the opioid epidemic – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Combating the Opioid Epidemic: Examining Concerns About Distribution and Diversion', with testimony from Cardinal Health Executive Chairman of the Board George Barrett; AmerisourceBergen Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Steven Collis; McKesson Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO John Hammergren; Miami-Luken Chairman of the Board Dr Joseph Mastandrea; and former H.D. Smith Wholesale Drug Company President and CEO J. Christopher Smith Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Veterans Affairs Committee Business Meeting, markup hearing – Business Meeting, to assign new member to subcommittees * Immediately followed by markup hearing on 'H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017'; 'H.R. 1972, the VA Billing Accountability Act'; 'H.R. 2147, the VA Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017'; 'H.R. 3642, the Military SAVE Act'; 'H.R. 3832, the Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act'; 'H.R. 4245, the Veterans' Electronic Health Record Modernization Oversight Act of 2017'; 'H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017'; 'H.R. 4451, as amended, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017'; 'H.R. 4635, to direct the Secretary

of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans, and for other purposes'; 'H.R. 4830, as amended, the Servicemembers Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress Act'; 'H.R. 4958, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018'; and other bills Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'FY 2019 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill' and 'FY 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on use of new maritime technologies – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on 'Blue Technologies: Use of New Maritime Technologies to Improve Efficiency and Mission Performance', with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Acquisition & Chief Acquisition Officer Rear Adm. Michael Haycock; Coastal Observing Research and Development Center Scripps Institution of Oceanography Eric Terrill; The Maritime Alliance President Michael Jones; International Ocean Science and Technology Industry Association Member Chris Coyle; Autonomous Surface Vehicles LLC CEO Thomas Chance; Oregon State University, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences' Tuba Ozkan-Haller; and Consortium for Ocean Leadership President Rear Adm. (Ret.) Jonathan White Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC
<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittees joint hearing on blockchain tech, supply chains, and combating counterfeiting – Research and Technology Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Leveraging Blockchain Technology to Improve Supply Chain Management and Combat Counterfeit Goods', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Cyber Security Division Director Dr Douglas Maughan; Nuby Law IPR counsel Bob Chiaviello; Maersk Head of Global Trade Digitization Michael White; and UPS Vice President for Global Customs Brokerage Staff Chris Rubio Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:15 AM House Energy subcommittee on policy implications of electric and conventional vehicles – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Sharing the Road: Policy Implications of Electric and Conventional Vehicles in the Years Ahead', with testimony from Automobile Club of Southern California Automotive Engineering Manager Megan McKernan (on behalf of AAA); Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President and CEO Mitch Bainwol; Electric Drive Transportation Association President Genevieve Cullen; Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO Bob Dinneen; Pacific Gas and Electric Company President and CEO Geisha Williams; American Petroleum Institute Downstream and Industry Operations Group Director Frank Macchiarola; Union of Concerned Scientists Clean Vehicles Program Senior Engineer David Reichmuth; and Global Partners LP Senior Vice President Dylan Remley (on behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores and Society of Gasoline Marketers of America) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 221, Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act', 'H.R. 1791, Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act', 'H.R. 2591, Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3535, Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4032, Gila River Indian Community Federal Rights-of-Way, Easements and Boundary Clarification Act', 'H.R. 4506, Jobs for Tribes Act', 'H.R. 4689, To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska', 'H.R. 5317, To repeal section 2141 of the Revised Statutes to remove the prohibition on certain alcohol manufacturing on Indian lands', 'H.R. 5655, Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

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

11:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on travel and tourism – Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'Travel and Tourism: A Small Business Angle', with testimony from Virginia Tourism Corporation President and CEO Rita McClenny; Travel Tech President Steve Shur; NEMO Equipment founder and CEO Cam Brensinger (on behalf of Outdoor Industry Association); and Wealth Protection Strategies President and CEO Jagruti Panwala (on behalf of Asian American Hotel Owner's Association) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC
<http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration – Jewish Heritage Month Capitol Hill celebration, 'Tribute to American Jewry', with Democrats Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Maria Cantwell, Ben Cardin, and Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Joseph Kennedy, and Brad Schneider, and Republican Rep. John Faso Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC
<http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 3170 – Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4668 – Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4754 – Change Order Transparency for Federal Contractors Act', 'H.R. 1700 – SCORE for Small Business Act of 2018', 'H.R. 1680 – Women's Business Centers Improvements Act of 2018', 'H.R. 1702 – Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2018', 'H.R. 4111 – Spurring Business in Communities Act of 2017', 'H.R. 5236 – Main Street Employee Ownership Act of 2018', and 'H.R. 4743 – Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM Health Subcommittee hearing on improving substance use disorder treatment – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Improving the Coordination and Quality of Substance Use Disorder Treatment', with testimony from Democratic Rep. Earl Blumenauer; Santa Clara University Public Health Program Dean's Executive Professor Dr H. Westley Clark; Greensfelder, Hemker, and Gale, P.C., Officer Gerald DeLoss; Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager Jeremiah Gardner; National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio Director of Policy Dustin McKee; and Faces and Voices of Recovery Executive Director Patty Metcalf Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

1:00 PM Hearing on 'Progress Report on the 2020 Census' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission hosts briefing on ending the war in Ukraine – 'Ending the War in Ukraine' Helsinki Commission briefing, featuring U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volcker, who explores the way ahead for U.S. and international policy on Ukraine in the wake of Russian President Vladimir Putin's re-election Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 2016, Washington, DC
<http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on VA logistics modernization – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'VA Logistics Modernization: Examining the RTLS and Catamaran Projects', with testimony from Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health for Administrative Operations Tammy Czarnecki, accompanied by Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Information and Technology Deputy Chief Information Officer and Account Manager for Health Alan Constantian; and Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations Nicholas Dahl, accompanied by Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Information Technology and Security Audits Division Director Michael Bowman Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:30 PM ADF International policy briefing on 'The Global Crisis in Religious Freedom' – 'The Global Crisis in Religious Freedom' Alliance Defending Freedom International policy briefing, on how to 'counter the steady rise of religious persecution of Christians and other minorities around the world', with Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, Republican Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, EU Special Envoy Jan Figel, Legal Consultant to ADF International in India Balakrishnan Baskaran, and ADF Legal Counsel Kellie Fiedorek Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm, 340, Washington, DC www.adfmedia.org

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3053 – Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

4:00 PM Bipartisan, bicameral lawmakers hold panel discussion on apprenticeships and the skills gap – Democrats Sen. Chris Coons and Rep. Donald Norcross and Republicans Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. David McKinley hold panel discussion and reception on addressing the skills gap in America through apprenticeships, with experts from PBS show 'This Old House', including Host Kevin O'Connor, carpenter Norm Abram, plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey, general contractor Tom Silva, landscape contractor Roger Cook and Generation Next's Nathan Gilbert. Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown also speaks Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC coons.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

Other: 8:00 AM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi speaks at POLITICO Playbook interview – POLITICO Playbook interview with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi speaking with Playbook Co-authors Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman on the Democratic congressional agenda, along with policy, politics and news of the day Location: The Liaison Capitol Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents>

8:00 AM Anti-Defamation League Leadership Summit concludes – Anti-Defamation League Washington DC Leadership Summit (aka Shana Amy Glass National Leadership Summit). Final day speakers include Democratic Rep. Joe Kennedy III, Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, NAACP CEO Derrick Johnson, rDialogue CEO and founder Phil Rubin, 92nd Street Y President and CEO Henry Timms, and ADL CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.adl.org/> https://twitter.com/ADL_National

8:00 AM Annual Humans to Mars Summit – Annual Humans to Mars (H2M) Summit, with Explore Mars bringing together experts and space enthusiasts to discuss the possibility of putting the first humans on Mars and how to achieve this goal. Day one speakers include Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, Democratic Rep. Ed Perlmutter, Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf, and Astronaut Takuya Onishi Location: George Washington University, Washington, DC <http://exploremars.org/> <https://twitter.com/exploremars> #HumansToMars

9:00 AM Joe Biden speaks on the middle class at Brookings – 'The future of the middle class' Brookings Institution Future of the Middle Class Initiative and Biden Foundation forum, featuring remarks from former Vice President Joe Biden Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #FutureMiddleClass

9:00 AM Former FBI Director James Comey speaks at The Washington Post – Former FBI Director James Comey speaks at The Washington Post, in conversation with Investigative Reporter Carol Leonnig, discussing his tenure as head of the FBI, his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, his relationship with President Donald Trump, his firing a year ago tomorrow, the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, the probe by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, and the legal challenges facing the Trump presidency * Comey's book, 'A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership', was released 17 Apr Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost> #PostLive

9:30 AM DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting – Democratic National Committee Rules and Bylaws Committee meeting, to review the Unity Reform

Commission report and address other party business * At a full DNC meeting in March, members voted to accept the Rules and Bylaws Committee report that calls for reducing the influence of unpledged delegates, aka 'superdelegates', in the presidential nominating process, expanding the use of primaries, taking steps to protect the right to vote, making caucuses more accessible, increasing transparency in the party and increasing grassroots participation Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

10:00 AM 'Making America First in the Digital Economy' Atlantic Council discussion – 'Making America First in the Digital Economy: The Case for Engaging Europe' Atlantic Council discussion, with keynote speaker European Union Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. David O'Sullivan. Other speakers include National Economic Council Special Assistant to the President for Technology, Telecommunications, and Cybersecurity Policy Abigail Slater, Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield, and Atlantic Council Future Europe Initiative Distinguished Fellow Dr Frances Burwell Location: Baker McKenzie, 815 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

11:00 AM Annual Washington Conference on the Americas – 2018 Washington Conference on the Americas (aka Council of the Americas 48th annual conference). Speakers include U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Republican Sen. Ben Sasse, Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs David Malpass, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney, World Bank Group International Finance Corporation CEO Philippe Le Houerou, and Financial Times columnist Edward Luce Location: State Department, Washington, DC <http://www.as-coa.org/> [#2018WCA](https://twitter.com/ASCOA)

12:00 PM GOP Reps. Tom McClintock and Ralph Norman speaks at Heritage Foundation on farm subsidies – 'The Case for Reforming Farm Subsidies' Heritage Foundation discussion with Republican Reps. Tom McClintock and Ralph Norman speaking on 'why farm subsidy reform is important' and 'how key reform ideas could help move Congress in the right direction' Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

1:00 PM Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget conference call with Congressional Budget Office Director Dr Keith Hall Location: TBD crfb.org <https://twitter.com/BudgetHawks>

2:00 PM GOP Rep. Doug Collins keynotes U.S. Chamber event on 'Innovation and IP' – 'Innovation and IP: Building a Strong Foundation' U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center IP policy program, hosted in partnership with the Center for Intellectual Property, on the meaning of innovation policy, its importance to U.S. competitiveness and economic growth, and relevant trends in the innovation policy space. Includes keynote from Republican Rep. Doug Collins Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

V-E Day Ceremony at the World War II Memorial – V-E Day Ceremony at the World War II Memorial, hosted by Friends of the National WWII Memorial and the National Park Service to mark the anniversary of the Allied Forces victory in Europe Location: World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC www.wwiimemorialfriends.org <https://twitter.com/WWIIMemorial>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "[Rudy] Giuliani says he's new and he doesn't know the facts, but then he also says, for a fact, Trump didn't break any laws. You can't do that. It's like a detective walking into a crime scene and immediately saying, 'I don't know what happened here, but I'm going to say he's innocent.'"

Conan O'Brien: "According to a new article on Melania Trump that just came out, most evenings Melania does not have dinner with President Trump. Yeah. Melania said, 'Occasionally, I'll join him during his third breakfast.'"

Conan O'Brien: "[Rudy Giuliani] was on TV this weekend and he said President Trump may take the Fifth. Yeah, it's unclear if Giuliani is referring to amendments or wives. No one is quite sure."

Conan O'Brien: "Today, Sarah Huckabee Sanders says she is unaware of hush-money payments made by President Trump to other women. Yeah. Then Sanders opened an envelope full of cash and said, 'I'm sorry, I can't talk anymore.'"

Jordan Klepper: "Today, Melania Trump announced her new First Lady platform – departing from her old platform of clenched silence."

Jordan Klepper: "It's called 'Be Best' and it encourages kids to be positive online. It is a great title. 'Be Best.' Finally, childhood happiness is a competition. Kid, do you want to be best in positivity? Easy, go find someone who is more positive and tweet that they are ugly in all caps. The worst that happens is that you end up becoming President."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Did you hear about that old very scary volcano that erupted over the weekend? Well, his name is Rudy Giuliani."

Jimmy Kimmel: "So with Rudy running amok on TV, the President is busy making this country great again. Trump will reportedly be hosting not just one, but two summits at the White House to discuss race relations in America. According to pastor Darryl Scott, one of the summits will be with athletes. The other will be with musicians. It's 'famous people only.' No exceptions. The possible guest list includes Kanye West, Mike Tyson, Colin Kaepernick, Evander Holyfield, and Jim Brown. That isn't a race summit. That's season 45 of 'Dancin' With The Stars.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "But at this summit, they're planning to cover a host of topics, including their plan to revitalize poor urban neighborhoods, a plan that is led by Jared Kushner. And who better to lead that than Jared? They say he's ready to meet a black person and he's learning how to high-five."

Jimmy Kimmel: First Lady Melania Trump "unveiled her official platform at the White House this afternoon. As you know, Michelle Obama's focus when she was First Lady was on healthy eating and exercise, and Melania's focus is on helping children too. It's very meaningful to her. You know, her husband is a child."

Jimmy Kimmel: "So this campaign to help stop bullying is a good cause. It's someone everyone can agree on, whether you're a Republican like Little Marco or Lyin' Ted or a Democrat like Crooked Hillary or Crazy Bernie."

Stephen Colbert: Rudy Giuliani "has been everywhere, saying everything, in no particular order."

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, it's not easy lying for Donald Trump because he keeps changing his story."

Stephen Colbert: "Meanwhile, it was a big day for Melania Trump. She unveiled her platform. We all remember Michelle Obama's was children's fitness, Laura Bush's was child literacy, and Melania's is 'the overall well-being of children.' That's kind of vague. ... It's like spending all year planning your Halloween party, and you decide the theme is candy."

Jimmy Fallon: "My guess is you either spent your weekend yelling at a horse because of the Kentucky Derby, yelling at a bar because of Cinco de Mayo, or, if you're the President, yelling at the TV because of Rudy Giuliani."

Jimmy Fallon: "Giuliani said Trump might plead the Fifth. Legal experts say this would be a shocking development: the first time in history Trump has chosen to stop talking."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that over the weekend, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos told a group of college graduates to embrace the mess in their lives. By the way, 'Embrace the Mess' is also Trump's 2020 campaign slogan."

Seth Meyers: "Rudy Giuliani said that he feels pretty good about his recent media appearances and believes it all worked out. What? I've seen men on 'To Catch a Predator' with better media appearances."

Seth Meyers: "According to reports, people close to Sen. John McCain have told the White House that McCain does not want President Trump to attend his funeral. You know it's bad when you're afraid someone's presence will bum people out at your funeral."

Seth Meyers: "The White House announced Friday that Dr. Oz will serve on President Trump's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition. This, after Trump was turned down by Doctors Phil, Dre, No, Doom, Strange, J, and Zhivago."

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Conversation Contents

REVISED Weekly Report May 6-12

Attachments:

/33. REVISED Weekly Report May 6-12/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 07 2018 07:24:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Alan Mikkelsen <amikkelsen@usbr.gov>, Alex Sterhan <asterhan@usbr.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, "Appel, Elizabeth" <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>, Billy Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Brenda Burman <bburman@usbr.gov>, Cally Younger <cally.younger@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, Casey Stemler <casey_stemler@fws.gov>, Catherine Gulac <catherine_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, Christina Summers <christina_summers@ibc.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) - Bernhardt>, Debrah McBride <debrah.mcbride@bia.gov>, Doug Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Edward Keable <edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, Elinor Werner <elinor_werner@ios.doi.gov>, Evan Wilson <evan_wilson@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Lawkowski <gary_lawkowski@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Joe Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, John Bockmier <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>, Kate MacGregor <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, Katie Mills <katie_mills@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Mariagrazia Caminiti

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<zack_gambill@fws.gov>

Subject:

REVISED Weekly Report May 6-12

Attachments:

Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx

All,

Attached is a revised version of the report. Corrections had to be made to some inaccuracies. Please only use this version and disregard and destroy any previous ones.

Thanks,

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MAY 6-12, 2018**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be on official travel from May 8-11 in Sacramento, CA.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be in the office all week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

No updates to report.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

No updates to report.

Awareness

No updates to report.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

NEW CASES:

Nothing significant to report.

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:

Dine CARE v. Zinke (D.N.M.)

On April 23, the court issued decision dismissing all of Plaintiff's claims against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with prejudice. Plaintiff challenged the BLM's compliance with NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for over 300 Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) in the BLM's Farmington Field Office in New Mexico. Previously, on March 31, 2018, the court had issued a brief order stating that it planned to deny Plaintiff's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) claims and grant in part the NHPA claims. But in a 132-page

opinion, the judge changed his mind and held that the BLM had indeed complied with NEPA and, with respect to NHPA, that the BLM's "record documentation for these archaeological sites meets the low bar that the documentation standard erects."

Public Service Company of New Mexico v. Barboan, et al. (U.S. Supreme Court)

The U.S. Supreme Court, on April 30, denied the Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) petition for *certiorari* seeking review of a Tenth Circuit decision. The Tenth Circuit Court previously affirmed a decision of the District Court of New Mexico dismissing a condemnation action pursued by PNM against two Navajo allotments in which the Navajo Nation (Nation) had acquired fractional interests through escheat and the Land Buy-Back Program. The 10th Circuit Court determined that 25 U.S.C. § 357 does not permit the condemnation of tribal interests; as such, it was proper for the lower court to dismiss the condemnation action against allotments in which the Nation owned fractional interests. Moreover, the Court, in a footnote, provided that condemnation could not be pursued against individually-owned interests in an allotment while a company simultaneously or previously negotiated a right-of-way from a tribe over its fractional interests. The Tenth Circuit relied upon the plain text of 25 U.S.C. § 357, the Indian law canons of construction, and the Eighth Circuit's 34 year old decision in *Nebraska Public Power District v. 100.95 Acres of Land in Thurston County*, 719 F.2d 956 (8th Cir. 1983).

06 Livestock Company, et al. (2018)

The Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board) affirmed BLM's grazing decisions on summary judgment because Appellants failed to show disputed issues of material fact. Opinion confirms that not all grazing appeals require a trial-like hearing. In upholding BLM's use of appendices, tiering, and incorporation of reference in its NEPA document, the Board also affirmed principles and tools integral to Departmental NEPA streamlining objectives. Finally, the Board affirmed BLM's broad discretion to manage grazing privileges, including BLM's discretion to manage lands at the allotment scale as opposed to at the pasture scale.

Simmons v. Smith (8th Cir.) - Niobrara National Scenic River Boundary Litigation

On April 30, the 8th Circuit found that the NPS property designated a boundary for the Niobrara National Scenic River. Appellant challenged the 2007 boundary delineation that occurred on his property, arguing that the NPS utilized an improper legal standard for the designation. Appellant also alleged that he was subject to disparate treatment and that NPS acted in bad faith when it identified the boundary on his property. The court rejected all of Appellant's claims.

WildEarth Guardians v. BLM (D. Colo.) - Clean Air Act Challenge to Oil and Gas Leasing

BLM's Decisions Affirmed. Plaintiff asserted that BLM violated the Clean Air Act (CAA) in two 2015 oil and gas lease sale decisions, because certain parcels are located in an ozone nonattainment area, and BLM had declined to perform a full determination of conformity with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) before authorizing leasing. EPA's conformity rule requires agencies to perform a conformity analysis if the total of direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect emissions from the proposed action would exceed a specific threshold (100 tons per year for ozone precursors). BLM had concluded that a conformity analysis was not required because future emissions of ozone precursors potentially resulting from the lease sales were too uncertain to be considered "reasonably foreseeable." The court affirmed BLM's decisions, concluding that

plaintiff “ha[d] not carried its burden to show that BLM acted arbitrarily or capriciously in determining that the information in its possession was insufficient to permit it to make a reasonable forecast of indirect emissions” for purposes of evaluating whether a conformity determination was required.

OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:

Challenges to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NM modifications (D.D.C.)

On April 30, three Utah counties (San Juan County, Garfield County, and Kane County) filed motions to intervene as defendants in the three cases challenging President Trump's modifications to Bears Ears National Monument and the two cases challenging President Trump's modifications to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. DOJ has requested that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture indicate the position they intend to take on the motions.

San Juan Citizens Alliance v. BLM (D. Colo.) – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Litigation

On April 26, Plaintiffs filed a cross-motion for summary judgment against the BLM, arguing that (1) BLM violated FOIA by failing to conduct a reasonable search for documents; (2) the BLM employees, Office of the Solicitor attorney, and DOJ attorney should be held in contempt for failing to disclose that certain categories of documents did not exist in response to Plaintiff's FOIA; (3) the BLM unlawfully withheld documents responsive to FOIA.

Clean Air Council v. U.S. (E.D. Pa.) - Climate Change

The court has ordered the United States to reply to plaintiff's opposition to our motion to dismiss by May 3. The reply will address Plaintiffs' allegations of state-caused endangerment and deprivation of life, liberty and property. Plaintiffs in this case are an environmental group and two children. The case is similar to the *Juliana* case in the District of Oregon in that Plaintiffs in this case allege that the deregulatory policies of the Administration violate supposed constitutional rights and the public trust doctrine.

Friends of Etna Turpentine Camp, Inc. v. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Department of the Interior (M.D. Fla.)

Plaintiff filed a complaint in December 2017, in the District Court seeking injunctive relief for the FWS' failure to respond with the statutory time limit under the FOIA. Plaintiff sought documents regarding the Suncoast Parkway II, Etna Turpentine Camp, the effect the parkway would have on species in the right of way of the proposed toll road and Biological Opinions regarding the applied for permit by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Etna Turpentine Camp was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. The FWS has provided a response to Plaintiff's request and has provided all releasable documents.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Inc. v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (N.D. Ala.)

Plaintiffs filed this amended complaint September 13, 2017, challenging the Corps' issuance of a Section 404 permit for Black Creek Mine, located on tributaries of the Black Warrior River in Jefferson County, Alabama, including the Corps' consultation with FWS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On April 4, the United States filed its response to Plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment. In response to Plaintiffs' claim that the informal consultation process was

not completed because of the Service's concurrence with the Corps' "not likely to adversely affect" determination specifically mentioned only the conclusion as to listed species, and did not mention critical habitat, the United States countered that because the letter did not include an express nonconcurrence as to critical habitat, the FWS clearly intended to concur with the Corps' finding, and the omission (which was inadvertent) had no substantive impact on the outcome of the consultation. Plaintiffs' response, filed April 25, argues that whether or not the omission was inadvertent, the failure to complete consultation was a violation of the ESA. The United States' reply is due May 16.

Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town v. Interior (10th Cir.)

Moot court for oral argument will be May 10. Argument is scheduled for May 15.

Williams, et al. v. United States (S.D. Miss.)

Plaintiffs filed a lawsuit pursuant to the FTCA in the Southern District of Mississippi, seeking personal injury and property damages totaling \$13,699,036. Plaintiffs allege that a National Park Service Ranger was negligent in making a U-turn to follow a vehicle that committed a traffic infraction resulting in a vehicle accident that seriously injured Mr. and Mrs. Williams and their two children. The United States' Answer is due June 9, 2018.

Sturgeon v. Frost (Supreme Court)

The United States' response to Plaintiff's certiorari petition is due May 7. At issue is a Ninth Circuit decision affirming National Park Service's (NPS's) authority to regulate hovercraft use on certain waters within Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Conservation System Units in Alaska. Citing the *Katie John* precedent, the Ninth Circuit held that the United States has an implied reservation of water rights in the Nation River, rendering it "public lands" for purposes of ANILCA.

James Lee Williams v. United States, No. 18-1689 (Fed. Cir.)

In May 2017, James Lee Williams filed a complaint against the United States, claiming that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and BLM, among other non-federal defendants, violated his constitutional rights by denying him the right to acquire land and water rights on an area of land in the Colorado River known as Yuma Island. Mr. Williams is seeking \$25 million in damages. The court granted the United States' motion to dismiss, and closed the case on January 31. On March 12, Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal in the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Plaintiff's opening brief is due April 27, and the United States' responsive brief is due on May 4.

United States v. Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe (D. Utah)

In October 2017, the United States Attorneys' Office, upon consultation with the Solicitor's Office (SOL), filed a criminal complaint against a group self-described as the "Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe" and three of its officers seeking an injunction to prevent the Defendants from selling fraudulent hunting and fishing licenses. The licenses purportedly allow the holders to harvest wildlife on land held in trust for the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe is not a federally recognized tribe and has no regulatory authority within the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The United States alleges wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. On April 30, the parties submitted cross-motions for summary judgment.

State of North Dakota v. Chase Iron Eyes (North Dakota District Court, Morton County)

The State of North Dakota has charged Chase Iron Eyes with inciting a riot and trespass related to his activity at the Dakota Access Pipe Line protest. Mr. Iron Eyes is one of 32 defendants in this criminal prosecution. Mr. Iron Eyes' defense team has served at least 18 subpoena *duces tecum* on federal law enforcement agencies that were present at the protest including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), NPS, and, possibly, the FWS. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota (USAO-ND), case law that suggests it would be premature to file a motion to quash the federal subpoenas *duces tecum* when there has been no motion to enforce the subpoenas. Thus, it is USAO-ND's position that each federal agency respond to the subpoena for records as it deems appropriate (e.g., Touhy process or FOIA) until there is a motion to enforce the subpoena. DOI Touhy regulations explicitly do not apply to "Federal, State and Tribal criminal court proceedings....". 43 CFR 2.280. Thus, the SOL Northeast Region (NER) has been facilitating communications among SOL Divisions of General Law (DGL), Indian Affairs (DIA), and Parks and Wildlife (DPW), and USAO-ND to assure a consistent DOI response to these subpoenas.

Turner v. USFWS (S.D. Ill.)

On April 13, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a motion to dismiss (MTD) the complaint of Seth Turner under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (FRCP) 12(b)(1) for failure to state a claim related to issuance of the incidental take permit by the FWS for take associated with operation of the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm. Mr. Turner, a spelunker, alleges he was harmed when the FWS approved mitigation credit for cave gating of Griffith Cave, a cave located on private property, under ESA Section 10. Should the court fail to grant the FWS' motion, the DOJ has further alleged that Mr. Turner's 500 paragraph, 88 page complaint violates FRCP 8, and requests that the Court require the pro-se litigant to shorten the length of his complaint.

In re Waters of the Klamath River Basin, (Klamath Co. Cir. Ct.) - Water Rights Adjudication Involving Water Rights for the Klamath Tribes and the FWS

On April 27, the County Circuit Court issued a case management order setting out the scheduling for resolving exceptions. The adjudication has been broken down into Phases 1-3. Phase 1 dealt with procedural issues and Phase 2 deals with minor errors. Phase 3 deals with the merits, resolving the exceptions that parties have filed to the Oregon Water Resource Department's determinations on water rights claims. The Court broke Phase 3 into two parts. In Part 1, the parties will resolve various cross-cutting legal issues. In Part 2, remaining exceptions will be resolved. In the April 27 order, the court broke Phase 3, Part 1 into three groups for briefing: (1) pre-1909 and non-tribal federal reserved water rights, (2) Walton and Klamath Termination Act rights, and (3) tribal reserved water rights. He set out a briefing schedule only for the first group, with Exceptors' opening motions due August 3; responses in support of Exceptors due August 24; responses in opposition to Exceptors due November 16; replies due January 18, 2019; and oral argument set for February 26-28, 2019. This first group of Phase 1, Part 1 will involve BOR and FWS water rights claims.

National Wildlife Federation, et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), et al. (D. Or.)
- "FCRPS BiOp Litigation"

On April 17, the court amended its 2016 remand order to eliminate the requirement that NMFS issue a new biological opinion by December 31. The court extended the deadline for a new biological opinion to March 26, 2021, to coincide with completion of the ongoing NEPA analysis. The court invited motions for further relief to govern interim operations in the event that NMFS does not issue a biological opinion by the expiration of the current opinion on December 31.

Allen, et al. v. U.S. (9th Cir.)

Appellants' Opening Brief was filed on April 20, challenging an Order Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment (MSJ) and Granting Defendants MSJ issued in District Court on November 27, 2017. Appellants Ukiah Valley Indians of Pinoleville, who are or were part of the Pinoleville Tribe residing on the Reservation, sought to organize as a separate half-blood tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). In January 2015, a Ninth Circuit Settlement Agreement in *Allen v. US*, Case No. 12-16573, mandated DOI decide Appellants' eligibility to organize a separate tribe, and the AS-IA authorized the Pacific Regional Director (RD) to issue a final decision. On April 1, 2016, the RD found Appellants ineligible to organize a half-blood tribe because they are among individuals for whom the Reservation was established, noting they or their ancestors participated in organizing the Tribe and are thus ineligible to create a half-blood tribe consistent with definitions of "tribe" as an organized group residing on one reservation. 25 U.S.C. § 479; 25 C.F.R. § 81.1(w)(2).

Upper Lake Pomo Association, et al. v. Cecil Andrus, et al. (N.D. Cal.)

On April 13, a Motion to Hold Defendants in Contempt of the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment was filed on behalf of the daughter of decedent Amerdine Jackson, who was a member of the Habemotolel Pomo of Upper Lake (Tribe). The Tribe was restored to federal recognition pursuant to the *Andrus* litigation, which provides that lands previously owned by Indians and Indian Tribes shall or may be taken into trust. Plaintiff claims the Order mandates that BIA acquire her Mother's property in trust, but probate has not been completed and is stalled because a deed purporting to transfer the land to the United States in trust was recorded by Ms. Jackson with the County in 1998, although it was never approved by BIA. The State probate court apparently concluded it does not have jurisdiction, so BIA executed a Notice of Non-Acceptance of Recorded Deed, but it is unclear if this was filed with the probate court. Our response is due May 4.

United States v. Estate of E. Wayne Hage (D. Nev.)

Following the oral argument on April 13, when the Ninth Circuit panel got sidetracked by Hage's (inaccurate) statement that the federal agencies have denied his request to divert his water rights, for an appeal limited to damages assessed for his trespass grazing, DOJ filed a supplemental letter with the Ninth Circuit on April 25, with documentation rebutting Hage's inaccurate claims. On April 26, the Ninth Circuit issued an Order withdrawing the appeal from submission and referring it to a Senior Circuit Judge to serve as a mediator and explore whether the parties wish to mediate the matter. The order to mediate was not unexpected in light of comments made by the Ninth Circuit panel at oral argument in response to Hage's misleading assertions about federal agency actions regarding diversion of the Hage Estate's water rights.

NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:

The Semiquincentennial Commission

The Semiquincentennial Commission is a 33 member independent commission with 24 voting members (including members of Congress and private citizens) and 9 non-voting ex official members (Including the Secretary of the Interior and other Federal Government officials) charged with planning activities and events to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. The Act directs the Secretary to enter into an arrangement with a nonprofit organization to perform administrative, financial and procurement functions for the Commission. The National Parks Branch is coordinating with General Law and the Ethics office to identify any legal or ethics issues relating to the Commission and provide legal advice regarding the agreement with the nonprofit and for the Commission moving forward.

Implementation of the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement

Under procedures developed by the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO), Division of Water Resources (DWR) provides support in the implementation of this recently enacted settlement, including drafting various documents necessary for the Secretary's execution of the settlement agreement and related documents. As part of this process, the Solicitor's Office requests formal concurrence from the Department of Justice in our view that the Secretary can execute the underlying settlement agreement and associated waivers of claims. DWR sent the final, signed concurrence letter to DOJ on April 18, and we await DOJ's response. Meanwhile, DWR will provide a draft recommendation from SOL to the Secretary to the Front Office for review and finalization. SIWRO advises that a signing ceremony may be scheduled for mid-May and wants to expedite a final package through SOL and Executive Secretariat for surnaming by all relevant bureaus.

Wisteria Island Title Dispute

DLR is finalizing a draft letter regarding affirmative litigation for Front Office review. The letter will be submitted within the next few weeks.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Lease Sale 251

DMR has completed review of the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) for Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 251, scheduled for August 15. It is now with the front office for surname. Full Departmental clearance and publication of the FNOS is required before July 15, to hold the sale as scheduled.

BOEM National OCS Leasing Program

On May 4, BOEM is briefing the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLMM) on how Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions will be analyzed in the 2019-2024 Oil and Gas Program (2019-2024 Program). DMR has provided advice to BOEM and will be participating in that briefing.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Production Safety Systems Rule

On April 26, OMB communicated a determination that it will treat the rule as significant, triggering a 60-day interagency review. The Solicitor's Office is working with the BSEE to complete the review process for the preamble, rule text, regulatory impact analysis, and environmental assessment, so that the Department can share final versions with OMB.

BSEE Well Control Rule Proposed Revisions

On April 27, BSEE transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication a notice of proposed rulemaking proposing to modify elements of the regulations promulgated through the 2016 Final Well Control Rule.

OCS Renewables Safety Jurisdiction

DMR met with supervisory legal counsel at the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on May 1 to discuss the question of whether USCG possesses statutory authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to regulate worker safety in connection with renewable energy facilities on the outer Continental Shelf. DMR believes that they do; USCG counsel believes that they do not, and states that, regardless, they do not intend to regulate. DMR briefed the BSEE Director on the issue on April 26.

Enforcement of Demand Letter

A Knoxville attorney is providing legal advice to the Eastern Regional of BIA as the agency assists the Catawba Tribe to recover approximately \$18,000.00 in damages to timber on the trust lands of the Catawba Indian Reservation. The trespass occurred in 2016. The trespassers are believed to be both tribal and non-tribal individuals.

Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Protests: One protester abandoned a “tree sit” on federal lands, and the tree stand has been dismantled. Two protesters remain encamped in trees, blocking necessary tree clearing and construction activities. The U.S. Forest Service (FS) made multiple arrests this week as protest support teams attempted to resupply the protesters in violation of the FS’ closure order for the area. Protesters have erected five other tree sits on private lands.

- Variance request: On April 23, after consulting with SOL, BLM signed a variance authorizing Mountain Valley Pipeline to clear trees after a March 31 tree clearing deadline. Mountain Valley Pipeline had agreed to the March 31 deadline in order to provide additional protective measures for migratory birds. In support of the variance request, Mountain Valley Pipeline's attorneys attached M-37050 ("The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Does Not Prohibit Incidental Take"), agreed to conduct avian surveys before tree clearing, and transmitted comments of the FWS determining that the proposed tree clearing would not require re-initiation of consultation. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ultimately approved the variance after considering the signatures and views of the other Federal agencies.

- Notice to proceed: On April 23, after consulting with SOL, BLM issued a notice to proceed with road widening and vegetation removal on access roads.

National Park Service, Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Visitor’s Center Design and Build Renovation Project. (Update as of April 24)

The National Park Service entered into a firm-fixed price design and build contract with KHDM Construction LLC, an (8)(a) small business contractor, to renovate Fort Donelson Visitor’s Center in Dover, Tennessee. The contract value is \$965,212.00. The period of performance date was September 2016; however, the project has not been completed due, in part, to a breakdown in negotiations for additional costs associated with completing the project. The project delay has caught local media attention. NPS requested a revised cost proposal to complete the project;

however, the contractor failed to respond to the NPS' request. The contractor has also been unresponsive to the contracting officer's recent attempts to reach the contractor by phone and email. The SOL advised the Bureau Procurement Chief and Lead Contracting Officer on Termination for Default procedures and assisted with coordinating concurrence with Small Business Administration (SBA). After consulting with SOL, the Contracting Officer has determined that terminating the contract for default is in the best interest of the Government. SOL has reviewed the required Termination for Default Notice to the contractor for legal sufficiency and will continue to provide advice and guidance throughout the re-procurement process.

NPS Bike Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Arlington County
The Parks Branch advised the NPS on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NPS (acting through the Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP)) and Arlington County, Virginia, concerning the implementation of the regional bike sharing system in the Arlington County portion of GWMP. The NPS and Arlington County currently intend to establish bike sharing stations on NPS-administered property at Theodore Roosevelt Island, Gravelly Point, and the Marine Corps War Memorial. The MOU will be signed in the near future.

Meeting held on April 20 to discuss the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument
The City of Birmingham and the Federal Government are co-owners of the A.G. Gaston Motel (Gaston Motel), the cornerstone land improvement for the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument (BICR). The plan is to renovate the Gaston Motel, using initial funding provided by the City of Birmingham. Preparatory matters to that end are proceeding under a Framework Agreement, and the plan is to transition operations under a more detailed Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA). Earlier work on the final draft CMA was suspended in order to allow the new leadership for the City of Birmingham to review of draft CMA agreement and to otherwise become more familiar with the BICR. On April 20, representatives from the SOL Southeast Region (SER), met with the Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Birmingham, and several senior staff at the SE Regional Office of the NPS to discuss the current state of affairs for BICR and the final draft CMA. While the April 20, meeting was very productive, it was determined that there were a number of outstanding matters that needed to be addressed before the draft final CMA was ready for legal review.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Gatlinburg Fires - Administrative Tort Claims
On April 24, the Torts Practice Branch received 241 additional administrative claims in excess of 75 million dollars, which relate to the November 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fires in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and surrounding areas. Claimants assert the Park's fire suppression efforts were negligent and it failed to follow required protocols. These additional claims bring the total number of administrative claims filed to date to more than 440. Combined, the claim amounts exceed \$2 billion dollars.

From April 23 - 25, Tort Practice Branch lead attorneys participated in witness interviews and briefings by the Great Smokey Mountains NPS leadership and staff regarding the 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fires in the Great Smokey Mountains and surrounding areas. Fourteen people died and hundreds were injured. Moreover more than 2,400 houses and structures were damaged or

destroyed by the fire. To date, more than 440 administrative tort claims have been filed and the total claim amount exceeds \$2 billion dollars.

Or. Natural Desert Ass'n v. Jewell (9th Cir. Oct. 20, 2016); *Or. Natural Desert Ass'n v. Zinke* (D. Or. Apr. 18, 2017)

Proposed attorneys' fees settlement in Steens Wind case. Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) fee settlement recommendation memorandum will be submitted for Front Office review after BLM has completed its review and briefing.

California WaterFix (CWF)

Cases in chief for the protestants before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) water right hearing for CWF, Part 2, closed on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. Parties to the hearing now await a ruling from the SWRCB on a rebuttal schedule. CVP contractors and Reclamation are preparing for the CWF to be a State-only project, with only minimal use by the CVP, or its contractors. Because a State-only CWF may have impacts to the water supply of the CVP, Reclamation is beginning to build an accounting model in CalSimII to account for a State-only operated CWF. This will include outreach to CVP contractor (and CWF protestant) modelers, as well as modelers for Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State Water Contractors (SWC), and the California Division of Water Resources (CDWR). If it continues to look like there will be little, to no, CVP participation, it will raise issues with whether Reclamation should continue as a co-petitioner for the water right change before the SWRCB, and whether we should continue as NEPA and ESA federal lead agencies. Currently, there are notions that if MWD, CDWR and the SWCs cannot come to an agreement over the extent of mitigation needed for the CVP, then Reclamation should consider withdrawing its petition before the State Board.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

Significant Litigation Deadlines are reported separately.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On May 8, Susan Combs, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, will be at the Continuity of Operations Procedures Exercise.

On May 7-9, Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith will be making a site visit to Jackson, Mississippi.

On May 8, Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Hambleton will be at the Continuity of Operations Procedures Exercise.

From May 4-7, FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan will be on leave.

From May 6-7, NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith will be in the office. On May 8, Dan will be at the Continuity of Operations Procedures Exercise. On May 9, he will be back in the office.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[NEW] From May 2-31, the Federal Aviation Administration and FWS will seek public comments on the draft environmental assessment for repair and replacement of damaged sections of a seawall at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial. The seawall protects the southern portion of Sand Island and Henderson Airfield's runway from erosion. Henderson Airfield is an emergency landing site for transpacific commercial flights. This action is non-controversial. Outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] The week of May 6, FWS will announce updated eagle priors and seek comment on several options for applying them. "Priors" are inputs for the collision risk model (CRM) FWS uses to estimate eagle fatalities at wind energy facilities. In the 2016 final rule revising the eagle incidental take permit regulations, FWS committed to update the golden eagle priors and explore whether sufficient data exist to develop separate bald eagle exposure and collision priors. The revised priors incorporate much more data than the original priors; enough to create species-specific priors. The updated collision prior is slightly lower than the current prior for golden eagles and higher for bald eagles. No outreach is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. 05/02/2018

On May 8, FWS Northeast Regional Director Wendi Weber will give a keynote address at the 36th Annual National Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference. This year's conference is hosted by the Narragansett Tribe and is being held in Providence, Rhode Island. FWS will provide presentations on coastal resilience projects in Rhode Island, eagle policy and permitting, white-nose syndrome in bats, and a possible field trip to the Rhode Island NWR complex. (04/11/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 8 and 10, public meetings are scheduled to discuss the Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct a 30-day public scoping period and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project Habitat Conservation Plan in Washington. On or around May 3, FWS expects publication in the *Federal Register* of the NOI. The FWS will be preparing an EIS to evaluate the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit for marbled murrelet, bald eagle, and golden eagle for a proposed wind energy project in Lewis County, Washington. The project is expected to be controversial with conservation organizations (e.g., American Bird Conservancy, Audubon Society, and Washington Forest Law Center). FWS has received two Freedom of Information Act requests related to the project. A communications plan has been shared with FWS HQ; outreach announcing the public scoping period is planned for Washington media, congressional offices, local and state officials, tribes, and stakeholders. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] FWS has granted a two-week extension and the comment period for the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed development of the Crocker Wind Farm in Clark County, South Dakota. It will now close on May 8. We had a request from local citizens to extend the comment period, Geronimo Energy, the developers for the Crocker Wind Farm, is interested in expeditiously moving the process along, however tribal consultation will not take place until mid-May, 2018. FWS issued a press release regarding the extension on April 23. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around May 15, FWS will publish a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2019-20 hunting season. This is the first step in the annual regulatory cycle. The FWS Regulations Committee will recommend the final frameworks at their October meeting. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

[UPDATE] In early May, pending clearance by DOI, FWS will make a final determination on the proposal to reclassify the Tobusch fishhook cactus from endangered to threatened. This plant species has shown significant recovery due in part to collaborative conservation efforts with partners. Supporters of this action include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and The Nature Conservancy. FWS has gained positive coverage on downlisting proposals, and anticipates more interest when this final determination is announced. A communications plan has been developed. It includes outreach to congressional offices, local and state officials and stakeholders. A news release to media and posting information on social media is planned at time of publication in the *Federal Register*. (Updated 05/02/2018)

National Park Service

In early May, the NPS plans to release a prospectus for five concession contracts to provide cruise ship services at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Two of the contracts are set aside for the two historic operators identified through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Cruise ship services contracts have been awarded since 1980 on a 10 year basis. New contract terms are similar to previous contracts, shaped in accordance with both Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve-specific legislation and NPS law and policy. Contracts will be awarded by late October, 2019. The prospectus is in final Department and Solicitor review. (Updated 04/11/18).

On May 6, Yosemite National Park will complete a pilot traffic management program aimed at increasing safety and minimizing long lines at the Arch Rock Entrance Station on California Route 140. The park is working with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to temporarily stop vehicles on the road leading to the park, allowing traffic to incrementally enter the park on the popular road. This is one of the pilot programs the park is implementing to address traffic congestion, ensure visitor access, and address safety concerns for park visitors. (Updated 04/25/18)

[NEW] On or about May 7, Saguaro National Park will initiate a two week public comment period for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of the continued traditional harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds by the Tohono O'odham Nation within Park boundaries. This EA is a requirement of the August 2016 NPS rule, Gathering of Certain Plants by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Traditional Purposes (36 CFR 2.6), to establish a management framework for tribes to gather certain plant parts within NPS units for traditional purposes. The harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds is a long standing tradition of the tribal members. (05/02/2018)

Between May 7 - 10, an NPS planning team will host several public meetings throughout the State of Mississippi as part of the civic engagement phase of a special resource study (SRS) looking at significant civil rights sites in Mississippi, including locations related to the life and murder of Medgar Evers, the lynching of Emmett Till and the murder of three freedom riders. The team will visit five different communities across the state containing resources that were identified in the legislation requiring the SRS. The study will evaluate the potential for inclusion of each site in the national park system based on whether it meets Congressionally-established criteria for significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management. Representatives from Congressman Bennie Thompson's office and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are expected to participate in the public meetings. PEPC site: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MSCR_SRS (04/18/18).

Between May 7 - 25, a spending plan will be developed and submitted to the Department for approval for the new Historic Preservation Fund grant program subgrant program (yet to be named). Five million in physical preservation funding was passed as part of the FY 2018 budget to grant "block grant" funding to organizations that will subgrant funding to historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Development of a spending plan was mandated in the appropriations language. Preservation partners may have questions about the stage of development of this program. (4/25/2018)

Between May 7 – 25, State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices may apply for the remaining funding from the FY 2018 Annual HPF grants that is noticed on [Grants.gov](https://www.dhs.gov/grants). The application deadline 6/30/18. (Updated 4/25/2018)

During the week of May 7, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area staff are participating in a four-day workshop hosted by BLM to discuss alternatives regarding the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Kanab Field Office – Escalante Area Resource Management Plans. On April 10, the park and the BLM held its first cooperating agency meeting. The NPS agreed to be a cooperating agency during this planning effort with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area functioning as the NPS point of contact. Consolidated comments from all involved NPS park units were reviewed by the regional office and sent to the BLM on April 13. (04/18/18)

[NEW] On May 8 and 9, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is hosting two public meetings to solicit feedback related to visitor use management within the westernmost portion of the lakeshore. The public will be invited to comment online between May 8 and June 6, 2018. (05/02/2018)

On May 9, Devils Postpile National Monument will announce the temporary summer closure to camping at its 20-site campground to accommodate expanded day-use. The campground area will be open for parking, picnicking, and provide improved river access for fishing. The monument will be developing a long-term plan for the campground to better meet visitor needs. Campers will be encouraged to use the six U.S. Forest Service campgrounds located in the immediate vicinity of the park. (4/25/2018)

By May 10, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Bonnie Clare Road Reconstruction Environmental Assessment and FONSI. Reconstruction work is scheduled to start in August 2018 and be completed by May 2019. This will allow reopening of the northeast entrance to the park and restore public access to Scotty's Castle after massive damage from flooding in October 2015. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 10, Death Valley National Park and the Ridgecrest BLM office anticipate opening a public comment period on the Keystone Mine Plan of Operations Amendment and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The mine is on BLM land near the park's western border, but the mining plan includes the use of water rights within the park. (updated 04/18/18).

On May 10-11, the NPS will hold public forums and stakeholder sessions to present the [Savannah National Historic Landmark District Integrity & Assessment](#) report. Public comments on the report are also being accepted through June 30. (04/18/18)

[NEW] On or about May 11, the NPS will sign the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a garage/maintenance building that will be used for two electric-vehicle shuttle vans at Valles Caldera National Preserve. The preferred alternative will be to construct the garage in an already-disturbed location. The construction project is funded by a grant from the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. The same grant was also used to purchase the shuttle vans and construct a solar photovoltaic panel system to generate electric power/fuel the vans. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 11, Glacier National Park expects to have a signed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Sperry Chalet Next 100 Years Project. The park expects to issue a press release on May 13 with this update. The EA will identify the NPS' preferred alternative, which is to use existing remnant walls to rebuild the structure, replicating and retaining as many historic character features as is practicable, and achieving some modernization in design. (Updated 05/02/2018)

Between May 10-30, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

[NEW] On May 15, Rock Creek Park will host a public meeting at the Silver Spring Library to share information about the ongoing rehabilitation of Beach Drive. Staff from the Federal

Highway Administration, the DC Department of Transportation, DC Water, and the NPS National Capital Region will discuss the current status and the upcoming work on Segment 4 of the project. Segment 4 is the final part of the project and is expected to be finalized in Fall 2019. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] By May 15, Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve will begin efforts to relocate up to 2,500 feral burros from each park. Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (a nonprofit partner) will fund and carry out the roundups, test burros for disease, relocate them to holding facilities, and domesticate the animals for adoption. This is anticipated to generate public interest. (Updated 05/02/2018)

By May 15, pending Departmental approval, the NPS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the Department has authorized the preparation of a World Heritage nomination for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. It is recirculating for surname. With nine component properties including those that form Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and others managed by the State of Ohio, this series of geometric mounds is approximately 2,000 years old. The nomination file, which will take more than a year to draft, will be developed by local proponents in Ohio with guidance from the NPS. Upon completion and review, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will determine whether the nomination will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee. (Updated 04/18/18).

On May 15, Rock Creek Park will issue a prospectus and begin accepting proposals from vendors to provide equestrian and related services at the park's horse center in Washington, D.C., under a new 10-year concession contract. Services sought include private horse boarding, therapeutic riding programs, instructional camps, guided trail rides and riding lessons. Contract offers must be received by June 15. (04/11/18).

On May 15-16, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council will hold a public meeting in Jamestown, Virginia. This will be the Council's final meeting since trail advisory councils are only authorized for 10 years under the National Trails System Act. Deputy Director Dan Smith plans to attend the first day. (04/12/18)

By May 18, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) expects to issue the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Muir Woods National Monument Salmon Habitat Enhancement and Bridge Replacement Project. The selected alternative will restore aquatic habitat degraded by riprap that was placed along the creek banks in the 1930s and replace four deteriorated pedestrian bridges that were installed in the 1990s. The project implements part of the 2014 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The projects themselves are not expected to be controversial, but there is public interest in ensuring that NPS schedules its projects to reduce cumulative impacts from planned construction work in the area by the Marin County Department of Public Works and the Federal Highways Works Administration. (Updated 04/25/18)

[NEW] Between May 19 - 23, the NPS will participate in the largest travel industry trade show in the country, IPW, in Denver, Colorado. The show focuses on international travel to the United States. The NPS has scheduled appointments with 100+ international tour operators to discuss

outdoor recreation opportunities on park lands, policy, regulatory requirements, fees, and other issues. The NPS participates alongside a team of Federal agencies including DOI, FWS, BLM, BIA, Commerce Department, State Department, that engage with the tourism sector. DOI Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs will also be participating. (05/02/2018)

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[UPDATE] Between May 20-25, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open up to 30 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a national news release, and an if-asked FAQs. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the BLM. (Updated 04/11/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plan to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to revise the regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402) and the procedures for listing of species and designation of critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the Act (50 CFR 424). FWS will also propose to end the use of the 'blanket' 4(d) rule for newly listed threatened species (50 CFR 17) to recognize the difference between endangered and threatened species and align with NMFS' current practice. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. The rules are currently undergoing interagency review through OMB-OIRA. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to reclassify Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, a plant species endemic to New Mexico, from endangered to threatened. This reclassification is not expected to be controversial. Primary stakeholders include the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Planned outreach includes a regional news release, emails to stakeholders, social media, and web postings. (Updated 05/02/18)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to delist the Hidden Lake bluecurls, a plant in California, due to recovery. FWS does not expect opposition to the delisting. Primary stakeholders include California Department of Parks and Recreation Mount San Jacinto State Park. Planned outreach will include a national

news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress. A communications plan has been shared with DOI Comms. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS will send a news release summarizing cross-fostering efforts of Mexican wolf pups to media and stakeholders. Typically FWS will not announce until a successful cross-foster event is completed. Last year, two pups were flown in but the den in the wild could not be located. On April 18, four 10-day old Mexican wolf pups were removed from a captive litter at the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri and flown to Arizona. Two were inserted into a wild wolf pack's den in Arizona, and two were inserted into a wild den in New Mexico. The Interagency Field Team will monitor the recipient packs through the summer to determine the success of these cross-fostering actions. In May, FWS will release another group of pups The Mexican wolf recovery team will only have a very short time (72 - 48 hours) to get a cross-foster mission lined up for execution. Select reporters will be invited to attend the event. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or before June 1, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the final 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

On or around June 1, the FWS anticipates the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for expanded public access to Rattlesnake Mountain on Hanford Reach National Monument, in Washington state, will be available for public review and comment. This is part of the required regulatory processes to provide public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, consistent with a mandate in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; P.L. 113-291). Section 3081 of the NDAA states “the Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including (1) motor vehicle access; and (2) pedestrian and other non-motorized access.” The FWS established a Tribal Working Group with four local tribes and held public scoping meetings to address cultural concerns and to work through the process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The FWS is addressing National Environmental Policy Act compliance by drafting a supplement to the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Monument. Expanded public access will be controversial with tribes. FWS will continue outreach efforts to the tribes, media, and the public. A local news release is planned to alert the public to comment period. (Updated 03/28/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 1, pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing the potential impacts from four similar wind energy project habitat conservation plans in Hawaii. The HCPs were submitted to the Service in support of requests for permits authorizing the take of endangered or threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act. Due to similarities in the geography, impact, covered species, and proposed mitigation measures between these four wind energy projects the Service has determined that a combined

PEIS is the most efficient and comprehensive approach for considering the cumulative impacts of these actions on the human environment. When the PEIS publishes, outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On June 1 and 2, representatives from FWS, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners will celebrate the proposal to delist Kirtland's warbler. The current Kirtland's warbler population is estimated to be over 2,000 pairs, more than double the recovery goal. The Kirtland's warbler population continues to grow and has exceeded recovery goals for the past 16 years. FWS is accepting comments on the proposal through July 11. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to list five Sri Lankan tarantula species as endangered. The species are in decline due to ongoing habitat loss, degradation, and the cumulative effects of this and other threat factors. This action is not expected to be controversial. Planned outreach will include web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* an action designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii island and is correcting the maps for existing designations for an additional four species. FWS intends to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the state of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the county of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above. (Updated 04/18/2018)

In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American burying beetle conservation. It is also likely to be opposed by the petitioners, American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers, as they petitioned us to delist, not downlist the species. Outreach plans include a regional news release and Congressional notifications. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed rule to list the hyacinth macaw as threatened. To address concerns raised by the pet trade industry, FWS is including a 4(d) rule that will allow for the import and export of parrots that meet certain criteria, as well as interstate commerce in this species without a permit. Stakeholders include the bird breeding community, Conservation International, The

Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. Planned outreach will include a national news release and web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

As early as June, FWS in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department will propose expanding the black-footed ferret 10(j) designation to include all current and historical ferret habitat in Arizona. The 1996 Arizona 10(j) area was limited to the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area (AVEPA); successful reintroductions and subsequent population expansions has resulted in ferrets venturing outside of the AVEPA (as fully protected status). FWS consultation with affected tribes has been initiated. FWS will coordinate with AGFD to best approach and inform Arizona grassland residents and industry (livestock) groups. Communication planning will be conducted. (04/18/2018)

National Park Service

By May 20, National Capital Parks-East, via the Federal Highway Administration, will award a contract to repair the roads in Fort Dupont and Fort Davis Parks. This paving project will completely reconstruct the most deteriorated sections and resurface the roads. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has been interested in the project. Public notifications will begin in the coming weeks and work is expected to begin in summer 2018. (04/04/18).

On May 21, Mount Rainier National Park will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Paradise Cellular Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact. The selected action will issue right-of-way permits to Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile, and provide conditional approval of AT&T's proposal to co-locate wireless communication facilities in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. The cellular facilities will be concealed in the attic of the visitor center and will not involve the construction of towers. The NPS received 893 comments on the EA, with approximately 70% opposed to the service. Comments opposed to the proposal emphasized the protection of national parks and wildernesses from wireless signals, with many assuming a cell tower would be constructed. Those in favor emphasized safety, and the benefits of improved communication including convenience, coordination, education, and timely notification of hazards. The NPS determined that cellular service at Paradise will benefit the public by improving communication between the NPS and the public, and between park visitors, in the most intensely used and developed district of the park. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 22, pending an updated wage determination from Department of Labor (DOL), Golden Gate National Recreation Area's General Agreement and associated draft leases for the long-term use of Pier 31 ½ as the Alcatraz ferry embarkation site will be considered by the San Francisco Port Commission for approval. This item was before the commission on February 27; however, commissioners continued the vote in response to concerns raised by labor unions about the concession contract DOL wage determination and other labor-related issues. Concurrently the NPS is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sausalito (with notification to Congressman Jared Huffman's office (D-2-CA)) summarizing common understandings related to the potential expansion of ferry passenger service to Fort Baker described in the Alcatraz Island Passenger Ferry Service Prospectus. [Prospectus link](#) (Updated 5/2/2018)

[NEW] May 23 is the final day for internal review comments on the Yuma Crossing Quartermaster Depot Reconnaissance Survey. The NPS has prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of Senator John McCain to evaluate the Yuma Quartermaster Depot in Yuma, Arizona as a potential unit of the National Park System. The purpose of a reconnaissance survey is to provide a preliminary evaluation of a resource and to recommend whether an authorization for a Special Resource Study fully evaluating the resource should be considered by the U.S. Congress. This reconnaissance survey report discusses national significance and presents preliminary findings on suitability, feasibility, and the need for direct NPS management. Additionally, in response to a special request from Senator McCain, the survey also provides a preliminary analysis of the interpretive approach outlined in a master plan prepared by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. (5/2/2018)

On May 23, the public comment period will close on Antietam National Battlefield's Visitor Access and Circulation Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA). The purpose of the Plan/EA is to evaluate the implementation of strategies to improve visitor access and circulation at the park. This Plan/EA also serves as an amendment to the 1992 Antietam National Battlefield General Management Plan, taking into account newly acquired lands not previously considered in the general management plan and evolving management decisions regarding the visitor center and several Battlefield tour roads. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ANTICirculationPlan> (Updated 04/25/2018)

[NEW] On May 25, public comments for the National Mall and Memorial Parks' renewal of two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits are due to the EPA. The permit for the World War II Memorial allows for stormwater discharge from the memorial pools and fountains into the Tidal Basin; the permit for the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool allows for the discharge of treated water to and from the Tidal Basin. If no substantive comments are received by the EPA (and none are expected), the permits will go into effect by June 24. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 26, Lassen Volcanic National Park will close its public comment period on alternatives for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to ensure the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character in the park's designated wilderness and backcountry areas. The proposed action seeks to maintain unconfined recreational use while identifying and preserving resource values that the public seeks in this setting. (Updated 5/2/2018)

[NEW] On or after May 28, the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument will open a 30-day public comment period on the Tule Lake Jail Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The proposed action would fully restore the exterior of the building, remove the freestanding shed and chain-link fence, restore or rehabilitate the jail interior, and would also improve accessibility to and within the building. (05/02/2018)

On May 29, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. The NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an

offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/25/18).

On or after May 29, the NPS will release the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public. The FWS co-manages two of three parcels that comprise the Tule Lake Unit, and the FWS has concurred with issuing the FONSI. The selected action outlines the long-term management and development for the unit established in May 2008 by President Bush. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 30, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission will hold a kick-off event at Independence National Historical Park. Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod along with Philadelphia Mayor Kenney and Pennsylvania Governor Wolf have been invited to speak at the event. The NPS has received a special use permit application for this event which is going through the approval process. The public and media will be invited. Before the event, the Commissioners will receive a tour of the Liberty Bell Center and Independence Hall. After the event, the Commissioners will hold a public meeting in the Park at the National Constitution Center and then hold an executive meeting. During both meetings, the Commission will begin planning programs and activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. The Commission is composed of representatives from various organizations and corporations, as well as eight members of Congress. (Updated 05/02/2018)

By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues (b)(5) dpp

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By May 31, the NPS intends to award multiple concession contracts for mountaineering guide services at Denali National Park and Preserve. Applicant submissions have been scored and rated. The selection process is currently in the matching phase where, one by one, prospective concessioners with ANILCA preferences have an opportunity to match the best offer. New contracts will have a term of 10 years, beginning January 1, 2019. (Updated 03/27/18).

[UPDATE] On or before June 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue its findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of

mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The NPS is working to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (Updated 05/02/2018)

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. (Updated 04/11/18).

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (03/07/18)

[NEW] (Close Hold) On June 18, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park will host King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain for a tour of Mission San Jose. The City of San Antonio Office of International Relations is coordinating the park tour as part of a three-day visit by the royal family to commemorate the Tri-centennial of the founding of San Antonio, Texas, as a Spanish mission in 1718. A public announcement about the visit will be made at a later date. Park employees involved in the planning effort have signed a modified confidentiality agreement (reviewed by our solicitor) with the City of San Antonio to coordinate planning efforts and keep the visit confidential. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] On June 26, the Acadia National Park Draft Transportation Plan and EIS public comment period will close. The comment period is open concurrently with the published EPA Notice of Availability. Public comment will be received through the PEPC website, standard mail, and during Open House events. Press interest in this public comment period is expected to be very high. The communication plan has been shared with NPS Comms. (05/02/2018)

Conversation Contents

Monthly Meeting: Slides

Attachments:

/34. Monthly Meeting: Slides/1.1 4-11-18.pptx

"Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 04 2018 13:46:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joseph Balash <joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>, "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Rick May <rick_may@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) - Bernhardt>, "Rees, Gareth" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Monthly Meeting: Slides
Attachments: 4-11-18.pptx

All,

On Wednesday we will have our next Monthly Meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Directors. Everyone's slides are due to **Aaron** by noon on Tuesday. Please plan ahead as I know many of you will be offsite that day.

The slides submitted for the cancelled April meeting are attached.

Also if you are unable to attend, you are still responsible for your slides, and please let Downey and Scott know who will be presenting on your behalf.

Thanks,
Caroline

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Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5403



Monthly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



2018 Top Policy Goals

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Major Actions in Next 30 Days

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Major Actions in Next 6 Months - 1 Year

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Special Projects



Special Projects

Yellowstone Bison

- Players: NPS, USDA-APHIS, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
- ~800 bison captured in the Stephens Creek facility
 - 1168 removed from population as of 4/3 (last treaty hunt
 - state and treaty hunt harvest
 - entered in to NPS quarantine
 - 1070 sent to slaughter or killed in treaty hunts
- 2018 Target Population: 3,600 before calving; 4,200 after



Special Projects

Yellowstone Bison

- Quarantine Update
 - Stephens Creek is considered certified, letter forthcoming
 - 98 in NPS quarantine; 3 tested positive: 95 remaining
- Transfer of yearlings to Ft. Peck, CY2018
 - APHIS will review data, generate time schedule
 - 24 hr LE presence has been in place at Stephens Creek

Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary, May 6-12

Attachments:

/35. Weekly Report to the Secretary, May 6-12/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 04 2018 13:00:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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To:

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Subject:

Weekly Report to the Secretary, May 6-12

Attachments:

Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx

All,

Attached is this week's report to the Secretary in both Word and Google Doc formats.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary May 6-12.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MAY 6-12, 2018**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be on official travel from May 8-11 in Sacramento, CA.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be in the office all week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

No updates to report.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

No updates to report.

Awareness

No updates to report.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel

Nothing to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

NEW CASES:

Nothing significant to report.

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:

Dine CARE v. Zinke (D.N.M.)

On April 23, the court issued decision dismissing all of Plaintiff's claims against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with prejudice. Plaintiff challenged the BLM's compliance with NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for over 300 Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) in the BLM's Farmington Field Office in New Mexico. Previously, on March 31, 2018, the court had issued a brief order stating that it planned to deny Plaintiff's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) claims and grant in part the NHPA claims. But in a 132-page

opinion, the judge changed his mind and held that the BLM had indeed complied with NEPA and, with respect to NHPA, that the BLM's "record documentation for these archaeological sites meets the low bar that the documentation standard erects."

Public Service Company of New Mexico v. Barboan, et al. (U.S. Supreme Court)

The U.S. Supreme Court, on April 30, denied the Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) petition for *certiorari* seeking review of a Tenth Circuit decision. The Tenth Circuit Court previously affirmed a decision of the District Court of New Mexico dismissing a condemnation action pursued by PNM against two Navajo allotments in which the Navajo Nation (Nation) had acquired fractional interests through escheat and the Land Buy-Back Program. The 10th Circuit Court determined that 25 U.S.C. § 357 does not permit the condemnation of tribal interests; as such, it was proper for the lower court to dismiss the condemnation action against allotments in which the Nation owned fractional interests. Moreover, the Court, in a footnote, provided that condemnation could not be pursued against individually-owned interests in an allotment while a company simultaneously or previously negotiated a right-of-way from a tribe over its fractional interests. The Tenth Circuit relied upon the plain text of 25 U.S.C. § 357, the Indian law canons of construction, and the Eighth Circuit's 34 year old decision in *Nebraska Public Power District v. 100.95 Acres of Land in Thurston County*, 719 F.2d 956 (8th Cir. 1983).

06 Livestock Company, et al. (2018)

The Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board) affirmed BLM's grazing decisions on summary judgment because Appellants failed to show disputed issues of material fact. Opinion confirms that not all grazing appeals require a trial-like hearing. In upholding BLM's use of appendices, tiering, and incorporation of reference in its NEPA document, the Board also affirmed principles and tools integral to Departmental NEPA streamlining objectives. Finally, the Board affirmed BLM's broad discretion to manage grazing privileges, including BLM's discretion to manage lands at the allotment scale as opposed to at the pasture scale.

Simmons v. Smith (8th Cir.) - Niobrara National Scenic River Boundary Litigation

On April 30, the 8th Circuit found that the NPS property designated a boundary for the Niobrara National Scenic River. Appellant challenged the 2007 boundary delineation that occurred on his property, arguing that the NPS utilized an improper legal standard for the designation. Appellant also alleged that he was subject to disparate treatment and that NPS acted in bad faith when it identified the boundary on his property. The court rejected all of Appellant's claims.

WildEarth Guardians v. BLM (D. Colo.) - Clean Air Act Challenge to Oil and Gas Leasing

BLM's Decisions Affirmed. Plaintiff asserted that BLM violated the Clean Air Act (CAA) in two 2015 oil and gas lease sale decisions, because certain parcels are located in an ozone nonattainment area, and BLM had declined to perform a full determination of conformity with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) before authorizing leasing. EPA's conformity rule requires agencies to perform a conformity analysis if the total of direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect emissions from the proposed action would exceed a specific threshold (100 tons per year for ozone precursors). BLM had concluded that a conformity analysis was not required because future emissions of ozone precursors potentially resulting from the lease sales were too uncertain to be considered "reasonably foreseeable." The court affirmed BLM's decisions, concluding that

plaintiff “ha[d] not carried its burden to show that BLM acted arbitrarily or capriciously in determining that the information in its possession was insufficient to permit it to make a reasonable forecast of indirect emissions” for purposes of evaluating whether a conformity determination was required.

OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:

Challenges to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante NM modifications (D.D.C.)

On April 30, three Utah counties (San Juan County, Garfield County, and Kane County) filed motions to intervene as defendants in the three cases challenging President Trump's modifications to Bears Ears National Monument and the two cases challenging President Trump's modifications to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. DOJ has requested that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture indicate the position they intend to take on the motions.

San Juan Citizens Alliance v. BLM (D. Colo.) – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Litigation

On April 26, Plaintiffs filed a cross-motion for summary judgment against the BLM, arguing that (1) BLM violated FOIA by failing to conduct a reasonable search for documents; (2) the BLM employees, Office of the Solicitor attorney, and DOJ attorney should be held in contempt for failing to disclose that certain categories of documents did not exist in response to Plaintiff's FOIA; (3) the BLM unlawfully withheld documents responsive to FOIA.

Clean Air Council v. U.S. (E.D. Pa.) - Climate Change

The court has ordered the United States to reply to plaintiff's opposition to our motion to dismiss by May 3. The reply will address Plaintiffs' allegations of state-caused endangerment and deprivation of life, liberty and property. Plaintiffs in this case are an environmental group and two children. The case is similar to the *Juliana* case in the District of Oregon in that Plaintiffs in this case allege that the deregulatory policies of the Administration violate supposed constitutional rights and the public trust doctrine.

Friends of Etna Turpentine Camp, Inc. v. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Department of the Interior (M.D. Fla.)

Plaintiff filed a complaint in December 2017, in the District Court seeking injunctive relief for the FWS' failure to respond with the statutory time limit under the FOIA. Plaintiff sought documents regarding the Suncoast Parkway II, Etna Turpentine Camp, the effect the parkway would have on species in the right of way of the proposed toll road and Biological Opinions regarding the applied for permit by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Etna Turpentine Camp was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. The FWS has provided a response to Plaintiff's request and has provided all releasable documents.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Inc. v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (N.D. Ala.)

Plaintiffs filed this amended complaint September 13, 2017, challenging the Corps' issuance of a Section 404 permit for Black Creek Mine, located on tributaries of the Black Warrior River in Jefferson County, Alabama, including the Corps' consultation with FWS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On April 4, the United States filed its response to Plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment. In response to Plaintiffs' claim that the informal consultation process was

not completed because of the Service's concurrence with the Corps' "not likely to adversely affect" determination specifically mentioned only the conclusion as to listed species, and did not mention critical habitat, the United States countered that because the letter did not include an express nonconcurrence as to critical habitat, the FWS clearly intended to concur with the Corps' finding, and the omission (which was inadvertent) had no substantive impact on the outcome of the consultation. Plaintiffs' response, filed April 25, argues that whether or not the omission was inadvertent, the failure to complete consultation was a violation of the ESA. The United States' reply is due May 16.

Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town v. Interior (10th Cir.)

Moot court for oral argument will be May 10. Argument is scheduled for May 15.

Williams, et al. v. United States (S.D. Miss.)

Plaintiffs filed a lawsuit pursuant to the FTCA in the Southern District of Mississippi, seeking personal injury and property damages totaling \$13,699,036. Plaintiffs allege that a National Park Service Ranger was negligent in making a U-turn to follow a vehicle that committed a traffic infraction resulting in a vehicle accident that seriously injured Mr. and Mrs. Williams and their two children. The United States' Answer is due June 9, 2018.

Sturgeon v. Frost (Supreme Court)

The United States' response to Plaintiff's certiorari petition is due May 7. At issue is a Ninth Circuit decision affirming National Park Service's (NPS's) authority to regulate hovercraft use on certain waters within Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Conservation System Units in Alaska. Citing the *Katie John* precedent, the Ninth Circuit held that the United States has an implied reservation of water rights in the Nation River, rendering it "public lands" for purposes of ANILCA.

James Lee Williams v. United States, No. 18-1689 (Fed. Cir.)

In May 2017, James Lee Williams filed a complaint against the United States, claiming that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and BLM, among other non-federal defendants, violated his constitutional rights by denying him the right to acquire land and water rights on an area of land in the Colorado River known as Yuma Island. Mr. Williams is seeking \$25 million in damages. The court granted the United States' motion to dismiss, and closed the case on January 31. On March 12, Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal in the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Plaintiff's opening brief is due April 27, and the United States' responsive brief is due on May 4.

United States v. Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe (D. Utah)

In October 2017, the United States Attorneys' Office, upon consultation with the Solicitor's Office (SOL), filed a criminal complaint against a group self-described as the "Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe" and three of its officers seeking an injunction to prevent the Defendants from selling fraudulent hunting and fishing licenses. The licenses purportedly allow the holders to harvest wildlife on land held in trust for the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The Uinta Valley Shoshone Tribe is not a federally recognized tribe and has no regulatory authority within the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The United States alleges wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. On April 30, the parties submitted cross-motions for summary judgment.

State of North Dakota v. Chase Iron Eyes (North Dakota District Court, Morton County)

The State of North Dakota has charged Chase Iron Eyes with inciting a riot and trespass related to his activity at the Dakota Access Pipe Line protest. Mr. Iron Eyes is one of 32 defendants in this criminal prosecution. Mr. Iron Eyes' defense team has served at least 18 subpoena *duces tecum* on federal law enforcement agencies that were present at the protest including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), NPS, and, possibly, the FWS. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota (USAO-ND), case law that suggests it would be premature to file a motion to quash the federal subpoenas *duces tecum* when there has been no motion to enforce the subpoenas. (b)(5) dpp [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Turner v. USFWS (S.D. Ill.)

On April 13, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a motion to dismiss (MTD) the complaint of Seth Turner under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (FRCP) 12(b)(1) for failure to state a claim related to issuance of the incidental take permit by the FWS for take associated with operation of the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm. Mr. Turner, a spelunker, alleges he was harmed when the FWS approved mitigation credit for cave gating of Griffith Cave, a cave located on private property, under ESA Section 10. (b)(5) dpp [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In re Waters of the Klamath River Basin, (Klamath Co. Cir. Ct.) - Water Rights Adjudication Involving Water Rights for the Klamath Tribes and the FWS

On April 27, the County Circuit Court issued a case management order setting out the scheduling for resolving exceptions. The adjudication has been broken down into Phases 1-3. Phase 1 dealt with procedural issues and Phase 2 deals with minor errors. Phase 3 deals with the merits, resolving the exceptions that parties have filed to the Oregon Water Resource Department's determinations on water rights claims. The Court broke Phase 3 into two parts. In Part 1, the parties will resolve various cross-cutting legal issues. In Part 2, remaining exceptions will be resolved. In the April 27 order, the court broke Phase 3, Part 1 into three groups for briefing: (1) pre-1909 and non-tribal federal reserved water rights, (2) Walton and Klamath Termination Act rights, and (3) tribal reserved water rights. He set out a briefing schedule only for the first group, with Exceptors' opening motions due August 3; responses in support of Exceptors due August 24; responses in opposition to Exceptors due November 16; replies due January 18, 2019; and oral argument set for February 26-28, 2019. This first group of Phase 1, Part 1 will involve BOR and FWS water rights claims.

National Wildlife Federation, et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), et al. (D. Or.) - "FCRPS BiOp Litigation"

On April 17, the court amended its 2016 remand order to eliminate the requirement that NMFS issue a new biological opinion by December 31. The court extended the deadline for a new biological opinion to March 26, 2021, to coincide with completion of the ongoing NEPA analysis. The court invited motions for further relief to govern interim operations in the event that NMFS does not issue a biological opinion by the expiration of the current opinion on December 31.

Allen, et al. v. U.S. (9th Cir.)

Appellants' Opening Brief was filed on April 20, challenging an Order Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment (MSJ) and Granting Defendants MSJ issued in District Court on November 27, 2017. Appellants Ukiah Valley Indians of Pinoleville, who are or were part of the Pinoleville Tribe residing on the Reservation, sought to organize as a separate half-blood tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). In January 2015, a Ninth Circuit Settlement Agreement in *Allen v. US*, Case No. 12-16573, mandated DOI decide Appellants' eligibility to organize a separate tribe, and the AS-IA authorized the Pacific Regional Director (RD) to issue a final decision. On April 1, 2016, the RD found Appellants ineligible to organize a half-blood tribe because they are among individuals for whom the Reservation was established, noting they or their ancestors participated in organizing the Tribe and are thus ineligible to create a half-blood tribe consistent with definitions of "tribe" as an organized group residing on one reservation. 25 U.S.C. § 479; 25 C.F.R. § 81.1(w)(2).

Upper Lake Pomo Association, et al. v. Cecil Andrus, et al. (N.D. Cal.)

On April 13, a Motion to Hold Defendants in Contempt of the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment was filed on behalf of the daughter of decedent Amerdine Jackson, who was a member of the Habemotolel Pomo of Upper Lake (Tribe). The Tribe was restored to federal recognition pursuant to the *Andrus* litigation, which provides that lands previously owned by Indians and Indian Tribes shall or may be taken into trust. Plaintiff claims the Order mandates that BIA acquire her Mother's property in trust, but probate has not been completed and is stalled because a deed purporting to transfer the land to the United States in trust was recorded by Ms. Jackson with the County in 1998, although it was never approved by BIA. The State probate court apparently concluded it does not have jurisdiction, so BIA executed a Notice of Non-Acceptance of Recorded Deed, but it is unclear if this was filed with the probate court. Our response is due May 4.

United States v. Estate of E. Wayne Hage (D. Nev.)

Following the oral argument on April 13, when the Ninth Circuit panel got sidetracked by Hage's (inaccurate) statement that the federal agencies have denied his request to divert his water rights, for an appeal limited to damages assessed for his trespass grazing, DOJ filed a supplemental letter with the Ninth Circuit on April 25, with documentation rebutting Hage's inaccurate claims. On April 26, the Ninth Circuit issued an Order withdrawing the appeal from submission and referring it to a Senior Circuit Judge to serve as a mediator and explore whether the parties wish to mediate the matter. The order to mediate was not unexpected in light of comments made by the Ninth Circuit panel at oral argument in response to Hage's misleading assertions about federal agency actions regarding diversion of the Hage Estate's water rights.

NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:

The Semiquincentennial Commission

The Semiquincentennial Commission is a 33 member independent commission with 24 voting members (including members of Congress and private citizens) and 9 non-voting ex official members (Including the Secretary of the Interior and other Federal Government officials) charged with planning activities and events to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. The Act directs the Secretary to enter into an arrangement with a nonprofit organization to perform administrative, financial and procurement functions for the Commission. The National Parks Branch is coordinating with General Law and the Ethics office to identify any legal or ethics issues relating to the Commission and provide legal advice regarding the agreement with the nonprofit and for the Commission moving forward.

Implementation of the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement

Under procedures developed by the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO), Division of Water Resources (DWR) provides support in the implementation of this recently enacted settlement, including drafting various documents necessary for the Secretary's execution of the settlement agreement and related documents. As part of this process, the Solicitor's Office requests formal concurrence from the Department of Justice in our view that the Secretary can execute the underlying settlement agreement and associated waivers of claims. DWR sent the final, signed concurrence letter to DOJ on April 18, and we await DOJ's response. Meanwhile, DWR will provide a draft recommendation from SOL to the Secretary to the Front Office for review and finalization. SIWRO advises that a signing ceremony may be scheduled for mid-May and wants to expedite a final package through SOL and Executive Secretariat for surnaming by all relevant bureaus.

Wisteria Island Title Dispute

DLR is finalizing a draft letter regarding affirmative litigation for Front Office review. The letter will be submitted within the next few weeks.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Lease Sale 251

DMR has completed review of the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) for Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 251, scheduled for August 15. It is now with the front office for surname. Full Departmental clearance and publication of the FNOS is required before July 15, to hold the sale as scheduled.

BOEM National OCS Leasing Program

On May 4, BOEM is briefing the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLMM) on how Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions will be analyzed in the 2019-2024 Oil and Gas Program (2019-2024 Program). DMR has provided advice to BOEM and will be participating in that briefing.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Production Safety Systems Rule

On April 26, OMB communicated a determination that it will treat the rule as significant, triggering a 60-day interagency review. The Solicitor's Office is working with the BSEE to complete the review process for the preamble, rule text, regulatory impact analysis, and environmental assessment, so that the Department can share final versions with OMB.

BSEE Well Control Rule Proposed Revisions

On April 27, BSEE transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication a notice of proposed rulemaking proposing to modify elements of the regulations promulgated through the 2016 Final Well Control Rule.

OCS Renewables Safety Jurisdiction

DMR met with supervisory legal counsel at the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on May 1 to discuss the question of whether USCG possesses statutory authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to regulate worker safety in connection with renewable energy facilities on the outer Continental Shelf. DMR believes that they do; USCG counsel believes that they do not, and states that, regardless, they do not intend to regulate. DMR briefed the BSEE Director on the issue on April 26.

Enforcement of Demand Letter

A Knoxville attorney is providing legal advice to the Eastern Regional of BIA as the agency assists the Catawba Tribe to recover approximately \$18,000.00 in damages to timber on the trust lands of the Catawba Indian Reservation. The trespass occurred in 2016. The trespassers are believed to be both tribal and non-tribal individuals.

Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Protests: One protester abandoned a “tree sit” on federal lands, and the tree stand has been dismantled. Two protesters remain encamped in trees, blocking necessary tree clearing and construction activities. The U.S. Forest Service (FS) made multiple arrests this week as protest support teams attempted to resupply the protesters in violation of the FS’ closure order for the area. Protesters have erected five other tree sits on private lands.

- Variance request: On April 23, after consulting with SOL, BLM signed a variance authorizing Mountain Valley Pipeline to clear trees after a March 31 tree clearing deadline. Mountain Valley Pipeline had agreed to the March 31 deadline in order to provide additional protective measures for migratory birds. In support of the variance request, Mountain Valley Pipeline's attorneys attached M-37050 ("The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Does Not Prohibit Incidental Take"), agreed to conduct avian surveys before tree clearing, and transmitted comments of the FWS determining that the proposed tree clearing would not require re-initiation of consultation. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ultimately approved the variance after considering the signatures and views of the other Federal agencies.

- Notice to proceed: On April 23, after consulting with SOL, BLM issued a notice to proceed with road widening and vegetation removal on access roads.

National Park Service, Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Visitor’s Center Design and Build Renovation Project. (Update as of April 24)

The National Park Service entered into a firm-fixed price design and build contract with KHDM Construction LLC, an (8)(a) small business contractor, to renovate Fort Donelson Visitor’s Center in Dover, Tennessee. The contract value is \$965,212.00. The period of performance date was September 2016; however, the project has not been completed due, in part, to a breakdown in negotiations for additional costs associated with completing the project. The project delay has caught local media attention. NPS requested a revised cost proposal to complete the project;

however, the contractor failed to respond to the NPS' request. The contractor has also been unresponsive to the contracting officer's recent attempts to reach the contractor by phone and email. The SOL advised the Bureau Procurement Chief and Lead Contracting Officer on Termination for Default procedures and assisted with coordinating concurrence with Small Business Administration (SBA). After consulting with SOL, (b)(5) dpp [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

NPS Bike Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Arlington County
The Parks Branch advised the NPS on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NPS (acting through the Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP)) and Arlington County, Virginia, concerning the implementation of the regional bike sharing system in the Arlington County portion of GWMP. The NPS and Arlington County currently intend to establish bike sharing stations on NPS-administered property at Theodore Roosevelt Island, Gravelly Point, and the Marine Corps War Memorial. The MOU will be signed in the near future.

Meeting held on April 20 to discuss the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument
The City of Birmingham and the Federal Government are co-owners of the A.G. Gaston Motel (Gaston Motel), the cornerstone land improvement for the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument (BICR). The plan is to renovate the Gaston Motel, using initial funding provided by the City of Birmingham. Preparatory matters to that end are proceeding under a Framework Agreement, and the plan is to transition operations under a more detailed Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA). Earlier work on the final draft CMA was suspended in order to allow the new leadership for the City of Birmingham to review of draft CMA agreement and to otherwise become more familiar with the BICR. On April 20, representatives from the SOL Southeast Region (SER), met with the Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Birmingham, and several senior staff at the SE Regional Office of the NPS to discuss the current state of affairs for BICR and the final draft CMA. While the April 20, meeting was very productive, it was determined that there were a number of outstanding matters that needed to be addressed before the draft final CMA was ready for legal review.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Gatlinburg Fires - Administrative Tort Claims
On April 24, the Torts Practice Branch received 241 additional administrative claims in excess of 75 million dollars, which relate to the November 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fires in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and surrounding areas. Claimants assert the Park's fire suppression efforts were negligent and it failed to follow required protocols. These additional claims bring the total number of administrative claims filed to date to more than 440. Combined, the claim amounts exceed \$2 billion dollars.

From April 23 - 25, Tort Practice Branch lead attorneys participated in witness interviews and briefings by the Great Smokey Mountains NPS leadership and staff regarding the 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fires in the Great Smokey Mountains and surrounding areas. Fourteen people died and hundreds were injured. Moreover more than 2,400 houses and structures were damaged or

destroyed by the fire. To date, more than 440 administrative tort claims have been filed and the total claim amount exceeds \$2 billion dollars.

Or. Natural Desert Ass'n v. Jewell (9th Cir. Oct. 20, 2016); *Or. Natural Desert Ass'n v. Zinke* (D. Or. Apr. 18, 2017)

Proposed attorneys' fees settlement in Steens Wind case. Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) fee settlement recommendation memorandum will be submitted for Front Office review after BLM has completed its review and briefing.

California WaterFix (CWF)

Cases in chief for the protestants before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) water right hearing for CWF, Part 2, closed on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. Parties to the hearing now await a ruling from the SWRCB on a rebuttal schedule. CVP contractors and Reclamation are preparing for the CWF to be a State-only project, with only minimal use by the CVP, or its contractors. Because a State-only CWF may have impacts to the water supply of the CVP, Reclamation is beginning to build an accounting model in CalSimII to account for a State-only operated CWF. This will include outreach to CVP contractor (and CWF protestant) modelers, as well as modelers for Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State Water Contractors (SWC), and the California Division of Water Resources (CDWR). If it continues to look like there will be little, to no, CVP participation, it will raise issues with whether Reclamation should continue as a co-petitioner for the water right change before the SWRCB, and whether we should continue as NEPA and ESA federal lead agencies. Currently, (b)(5) dpp

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

Significant Litigation Deadlines are reported separately.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On May 8, Susan Combs, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, will be at the Continuity of Operations Procedures Exercise.

On May 7-9, Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith will be making a site visit to Jackson, Mississippi.

On May 8, Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Hambleton will be at the Continuity of Operations Procedures Exercise.

From May 4-7, FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan will be on leave.

From May 6-7, NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith will be in the office. On May 8, Dan will be at the Continuity of Operations Procedures Exercise. On May 9, he will be back in the office.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[NEW] From May 2-31, the Federal Aviation Administration and FWS will seek public comments on the draft environmental assessment for repair and replacement of damaged sections of a seawall at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial. The seawall protects the southern portion of Sand Island and Henderson Airfield's runway from erosion. Henderson Airfield is an emergency landing site for transpacific commercial flights. This action is non-controversial. Outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] The week of May 6, FWS will announce updated eagle priors and seek comment on several options for applying them. "Priors" are inputs for the collision risk model (CRM) FWS uses to estimate eagle fatalities at wind energy facilities. In the 2016 final rule revising the eagle incidental take permit regulations, FWS committed to update the golden eagle priors and explore whether sufficient data exist to develop separate bald eagle exposure and collision priors. The revised priors incorporate much more data than the original priors; enough to create species-specific priors. The updated collision prior is slightly lower than the current prior for golden eagles and higher for bald eagles. No outreach is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. 05/02/2018

On May 8, FWS Northeast Regional Director Wendi Weber will give a keynote address at the 36th Annual National Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference. This year's conference is hosted by the Narragansett Tribe and is being held in Providence, Rhode Island. FWS will provide presentations on coastal resilience projects in Rhode Island, eagle policy and permitting, white-nose syndrome in bats, and a possible field trip to the Rhode Island NWR complex. (04/11/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 8 and 10, public meetings are scheduled to discuss the Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct a 30-day public scoping period and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project Habitat Conservation Plan in Washington. On or around May 3, FWS expects publication in the *Federal Register* of the NOI. The FWS will be preparing an EIS to evaluate the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit for marbled murrelet, bald eagle, and golden eagle for a proposed wind energy project in Lewis County, Washington. The project is expected to be controversial with conservation organizations (e.g., American Bird Conservancy, Audubon Society, and Washington Forest Law Center). FWS has received two Freedom of Information Act requests related to the project. A communications plan has been shared with FWS HQ; outreach announcing the public scoping period is planned for Washington media, congressional offices, local and state officials, tribes, and stakeholders. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] FWS has granted a two-week extension and the comment period for the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed development of the Crocker Wind Farm in Clark County, South Dakota. It will now close on May 8. We had a request from local citizens to extend the comment period, Geronimo Energy, the developers for the Crocker Wind Farm, is interested in expeditiously moving the process along, however tribal consultation will not take place until mid-May, 2018. FWS issued a press release regarding the extension on April 23. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around May 15, FWS will publish a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2019-20 hunting season. This is the first step in the annual regulatory cycle. The FWS Regulations Committee will recommend the final frameworks at their October meeting. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

[UPDATE] In early May, pending clearance by DOI, FWS will make a final determination on the proposal to reclassify the Tobusch fishhook cactus from endangered to threatened. This plant species has shown significant recovery due in part to collaborative conservation efforts with partners. Supporters of this action include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and The Nature Conservancy. FWS has gained positive coverage on downlisting proposals, and anticipates more interest when this final determination is announced. A communications plan has been developed. It includes outreach to congressional offices, local and state officials and stakeholders. A news release to media and posting information on social media is planned at time of publication in the *Federal Register*. (Updated 05/02/2018)

National Park Service

In early May, the NPS plans to release a prospectus for five concession contracts to provide cruise ship services at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Two of the contracts are set aside for the two historic operators identified through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Cruise ship services contracts have been awarded since 1980 on a 10 year basis. New contract terms are similar to previous contracts, shaped in accordance with both Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve-specific legislation and NPS law and policy. Contracts will be awarded by late October, 2019. The prospectus is in final Department and Solicitor review. (Updated 04/11/18).

On May 6, Yosemite National Park will complete a pilot traffic management program aimed at increasing safety and minimizing long lines at the Arch Rock Entrance Station on California Route 140. The park is working with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to temporarily stop vehicles on the road leading to the park, allowing traffic to incrementally enter the park on the popular road. This is one of the pilot programs the park is implementing to address traffic congestion, ensure visitor access, and address safety concerns for park visitors. (Updated 04/25/18)

[NEW] On or about May 7, Saguaro National Park will initiate a two week public comment period for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of the continued traditional harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds by the Tohono O'odham Nation within Park boundaries. This EA is a requirement of the August 2016 NPS rule, Gathering of Certain Plants by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Traditional Purposes (36 CFR 2.6), to establish a management framework for tribes to gather certain plant parts within NPS units for traditional purposes. The harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds is a long standing tradition of the tribal members. (05/02/2018)

Between May 7 - 10, an NPS planning team will host several public meetings throughout the State of Mississippi as part of the civic engagement phase of a special resource study (SRS) looking at significant civil rights sites in Mississippi, including locations related to the life and murder of Medgar Evers, the lynching of Emmett Till and the murder of three freedom riders. The team will visit five different communities across the state containing resources that were identified in the legislation requiring the SRS. The study will evaluate the potential for inclusion of each site in the national park system based on whether it meets Congressionally-established criteria for significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management. Representatives from Congressman Bennie Thompson's office and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are expected to participate in the public meetings. PEPC site: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MSCR_SRS (04/18/18).

Between May 7 - 25, a spending plan will be developed and submitted to the Department for approval for the new Historic Preservation Fund grant program subgrant program (yet to be named). Five million in physical preservation funding was passed as part of the FY 2018 budget to grant "block grant" funding to organizations that will subgrant funding to historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Development of a spending plan was mandated in the appropriations language. Preservation partners may have questions about the stage of development of this program. (4/25/2018)

Between May 7 – 25, State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices may apply for the remaining funding from the FY 2018 Annual HPF grants that is noticed on [Grants.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov). The application deadline 6/30/18. (Updated 4/25/2018)

During the week of May 7, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area staff are participating in a four-day workshop hosted by BLM to discuss alternatives regarding the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Kanab Field Office – Escalante Area Resource Management Plans. On April 10, the park and the BLM held its first cooperating agency meeting. The NPS agreed to be a cooperating agency during this planning effort with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area functioning as the NPS point of contact. Consolidated comments from all involved NPS park units were reviewed by the regional office and sent to the BLM on April 13. (04/18/18)

[NEW] On May 8 and 9, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is hosting two public meetings to solicit feedback related to visitor use management within the westernmost portion of the lakeshore. The public will be invited to comment online between May 8 and June 6, 2018. (05/02/2018)

On May 9, Devils Postpile National Monument will announce the temporary summer closure to camping at its 20-site campground to accommodate expanded day-use. The campground area will be open for parking, picnicking, and provide improved river access for fishing. The monument will be developing a long-term plan for the campground to better meet visitor needs. Campers will be encouraged to use the six U.S. Forest Service campgrounds located in the immediate vicinity of the park. (4/25/2018)

By May 10, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Bonnie Clare Road Reconstruction Environmental Assessment and FONSI. Reconstruction work is scheduled to start in August 2018 and be completed by May 2019. This will allow reopening of the northeast entrance to the park and restore public access to Scotty's Castle after massive damage from flooding in October 2015. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 10, Death Valley National Park and the Ridgecrest BLM office anticipate opening a public comment period on the Keystone Mine Plan of Operations Amendment and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The mine is on BLM land near the park's western border, but the mining plan includes the use of water rights within the park. (updated 04/18/18).

On May 10-11, the NPS will hold public forums and stakeholder sessions to present the [Savannah National Historic Landmark District Integrity & Assessment](#) report. Public comments on the report are also being accepted through June 30. (04/18/18)

[NEW] On or about May 11, the NPS will sign the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to construct a garage/maintenance building that will be used for two electric-vehicle shuttle vans at Valles Caldera National Preserve. The preferred alternative will be to construct the garage in an already-disturbed location. The construction project is funded by a grant from the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. The same grant was also used to purchase the shuttle vans and construct a solar photovoltaic panel system to generate electric power/fuel the vans. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 11, Glacier National Park expects to have a signed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Sperry Chalet Next 100 Years Project. The park expects to issue a press release on May 13 with this update. The EA will identify the NPS' preferred alternative, which is to use existing remnant walls to rebuild the structure, replicating and retaining as many historic character features as is practicable, and achieving some modernization in design. (Updated 05/02/2018)

Between May 10-30, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

[NEW] On May 15, Rock Creek Park will host a public meeting at the Silver Spring Library to share information about the ongoing rehabilitation of Beach Drive. Staff from the Federal

Highway Administration, the DC Department of Transportation, DC Water, and the NPS National Capital Region will discuss the current status and the upcoming work on Segment 4 of the project. Segment 4 is the final part of the project and is expected to be finalized in Fall 2019. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] By May 15, Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve will begin efforts to relocate up to 2,500 feral burros from each park. Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (a nonprofit partner) will fund and carry out the roundups, test burros for disease, relocate them to holding facilities, and domesticate the animals for adoption. This is anticipated to generate public interest. (Updated 05/02/2018)

By May 15, pending Departmental approval, the NPS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the Department has authorized the preparation of a World Heritage nomination for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. It is recirculating for surname. With nine component properties including those that form Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and others managed by the State of Ohio, this series of geometric mounds is approximately 2,000 years old. The nomination file, which will take more than a year to draft, will be developed by local proponents in Ohio with guidance from the NPS. Upon completion and review, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will determine whether the nomination will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee. (Updated 04/18/18).

On May 15, Rock Creek Park will issue a prospectus and begin accepting proposals from vendors to provide equestrian and related services at the park's horse center in Washington, D.C., under a new 10-year concession contract. Services sought include private horse boarding, therapeutic riding programs, instructional camps, guided trail rides and riding lessons. Contract offers must be received by June 15. (04/11/18).

On May 15-16, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council will hold a public meeting in Jamestown, Virginia. This will be the Council's final meeting since trail advisory councils are only authorized for 10 years under the National Trails System Act. Deputy Director Dan Smith plans to attend the first day. (04/12/18)

By May 18, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) expects to issue the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Muir Woods National Monument Salmon Habitat Enhancement and Bridge Replacement Project. The selected alternative will restore aquatic habitat degraded by riprap that was placed along the creek banks in the 1930s and replace four deteriorated pedestrian bridges that were installed in the 1990s. The project implements part of the 2014 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The projects themselves are not expected to be controversial, but there is public interest in ensuring that NPS schedules its projects to reduce cumulative impacts from planned construction work in the area by the Marin County Department of Public Works and the Federal Highways Works Administration. (Updated 04/25/18)

[NEW] Between May 19 - 23, the NPS will participate in the largest travel industry trade show in the country, IPW, in Denver, Colorado. The show focuses on international travel to the United States. The NPS has scheduled appointments with 100+ international tour operators to discuss

outdoor recreation opportunities on park lands, policy, regulatory requirements, fees, and other issues. The NPS participates alongside a team of Federal agencies including DOI, FWS, BLM, BIA, Commerce Department, State Department, that engage with the tourism sector. DOI Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs will also be participating. (05/02/2018)

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[UPDATE] Between May 20-25, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open up to 30 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a national news release, and an if-asked FAQs. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the BLM. (Updated 04/11/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plan to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to revise the regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402) and the procedures for listing of species and designation of critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the Act (50 CFR 424). FWS will also propose to end the use of the 'blanket' 4(d) rule for newly listed threatened species (50 CFR 17) to recognize the difference between endangered and threatened species and align with NMFS' current practice. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. The rules are currently undergoing interagency review through OMB-OIRA. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to reclassify Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, a plant species endemic to New Mexico, from endangered to threatened. This reclassification is not expected to be controversial. Primary stakeholders include the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Planned outreach includes a regional news release, emails to stakeholders, social media, and web postings. (Updated 05/02/18)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to delist the Hidden Lake bluecurls, a plant in California, due to recovery. FWS does not expect opposition to the delisting. Primary stakeholders include California Department of Parks and Recreation Mount San Jacinto State Park. Planned outreach will include a national

news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress. A communications plan has been shared with DOI Comms. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS will send a news release summarizing cross-fostering efforts of Mexican wolf pups to media and stakeholders. Typically FWS will not announce until a successful cross-foster event is completed. Last year, two pups were flown in but the den in the wild could not be located. On April 18, four 10-day old Mexican wolf pups were removed from a captive litter at the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri and flown to Arizona. Two were inserted into a wild wolf pack's den in Arizona, and two were inserted into a wild den in New Mexico. The Interagency Field Team will monitor the recipient packs through the summer to determine the success of these cross-fostering actions. In May, FWS will release another group of pups The Mexican wolf recovery team will only have a very short time (72 - 48 hours) to get a cross-foster mission lined up for execution. Select reporters will be invited to attend the event. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or before June 1, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the final 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

On or around June 1, the FWS anticipates the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for expanded public access to Rattlesnake Mountain on Hanford Reach National Monument, in Washington state, will be available for public review and comment. This is part of the required regulatory processes to provide public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, consistent with a mandate in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; P.L. 113-291). Section 3081 of the NDAA states “the Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including (1) motor vehicle access; and (2) pedestrian and other non-motorized access.” The FWS established a Tribal Working Group with four local tribes and held public scoping meetings to address cultural concerns and to work through the process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The FWS is addressing National Environmental Policy Act compliance by drafting a supplement to the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Monument. Expanded public access will be controversial with tribes. FWS will continue outreach efforts to the tribes, media, and the public. A local news release is planned to alert the public to comment period. (Updated 03/28/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 1, pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing the potential impacts from four similar wind energy project habitat conservation plans in Hawaii. The HCPs were submitted to the Service in support of requests for permits authorizing the take of endangered or threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act. Due to similarities in the geography, impact, covered species, and proposed mitigation measures between these four wind energy projects the Service has determined that a combined

PEIS is the most efficient and comprehensive approach for considering the cumulative impacts of these actions on the human environment. When the PEIS publishes, outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On June 1 and 2, representatives from FWS, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners will celebrate the proposal to delist Kirtland's warbler. The current Kirtland's warbler population is estimated to be over 2,000 pairs, more than double the recovery goal. The Kirtland's warbler population continues to grow and has exceeded recovery goals for the past 16 years. FWS is accepting comments on the proposal through July 11. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to list five Sri Lankan tarantula species as endangered. The species are in decline due to ongoing habitat loss, degradation, and the cumulative effects of this and other threat factors. This action is not expected to be controversial. Planned outreach will include web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* an action designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii island and is correcting the maps for existing designations for an additional four species. FWS intends to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the state of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the county of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above. (Updated 04/18/2018)

In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American burying beetle conservation. It is also likely to be opposed by the petitioners, American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers, as they petitioned us to delist, not downlist the species. Outreach plans include a regional news release and Congressional notifications. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed rule to list the hyacinth macaw as threatened. To address concerns raised by the pet trade industry, FWS is including a 4(d) rule that will allow for the import and export of parrots that meet certain criteria, as well as interstate commerce in this species without a permit. Stakeholders include the bird breeding community, Conservation International, The

Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. Planned outreach will include a national news release and web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

As early as June, FWS in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department will propose expanding the black-footed ferret 10(j) designation to include all current and historical ferret habitat in Arizona. The 1996 Arizona 10(j) area was limited to the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area (AVEPA); successful reintroductions and subsequent population expansions has resulted in ferrets venturing outside of the AVEPA (as fully protected status). FWS consultation with affected tribes has been initiated. FWS will coordinate with AGFD to best approach and inform Arizona grassland residents and industry (livestock) groups. Communication planning will be conducted. (04/18/2018)

National Park Service

By May 20, National Capital Parks-East, via the Federal Highway Administration, will award a contract to repair the roads in Fort Dupont and Fort Davis Parks. This paving project will completely reconstruct the most deteriorated sections and resurface the roads. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has been interested in the project. Public notifications will begin in the coming weeks and work is expected to begin in summer 2018. (04/04/18).

On May 21, Mount Rainier National Park will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Paradise Cellular Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact. The selected action will issue right-of-way permits to Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile, and provide conditional approval of AT&T's proposal to co-locate wireless communication facilities in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. The cellular facilities will be concealed in the attic of the visitor center and will not involve the construction of towers. The NPS received 893 comments on the EA, with approximately 70% opposed to the service. Comments opposed to the proposal emphasized the protection of national parks and wildernesses from wireless signals, with many assuming a cell tower would be constructed. Those in favor emphasized safety, and the benefits of improved communication including convenience, coordination, education, and timely notification of hazards. The NPS determined that cellular service at Paradise will benefit the public by improving communication between the NPS and the public, and between park visitors, in the most intensely used and developed district of the park. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 22, pending an updated wage determination from Department of Labor (DOL), Golden Gate National Recreation Area's General Agreement and associated draft leases for the long-term use of Pier 31 ½ as the Alcatraz ferry embarkation site will be considered by the San Francisco Port Commission for approval. This item was before the commission on February 27; however, commissioners continued the vote in response to concerns raised by labor unions about the concession contract DOL wage determination and other labor-related issues. Concurrently the NPS is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sausalito (with notification to Congressman Jared Huffman's office (D-2-CA)) summarizing common understandings related to the potential expansion of ferry passenger service to Fort Baker described in the Alcatraz Island Passenger Ferry Service Prospectus. [Prospectus link](#) (Updated 5/2/2018)

[NEW] May 23 is the final day for internal review comments on the Yuma Crossing Quartermaster Depot Reconnaissance Survey. The NPS has prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of Senator John McCain to evaluate the Yuma Quartermaster Depot in Yuma, Arizona as a potential unit of the National Park System. The purpose of a reconnaissance survey is to provide a preliminary evaluation of a resource and to recommend whether an authorization for a Special Resource Study fully evaluating the resource should be considered by the U.S. Congress. This reconnaissance survey report discusses national significance and presents preliminary findings on suitability, feasibility, and the need for direct NPS management. Additionally, in response to a special request from Senator McCain, the survey also provides a preliminary analysis of the interpretive approach outlined in a master plan prepared by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. (5/2/2018)

On May 23, the public comment period will close on Antietam National Battlefield's Visitor Access and Circulation Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA). The purpose of the Plan/EA is to evaluate the implementation of strategies to improve visitor access and circulation at the park. This Plan/EA also serves as an amendment to the 1992 Antietam National Battlefield General Management Plan, taking into account newly acquired lands not previously considered in the general management plan and evolving management decisions regarding the visitor center and several Battlefield tour roads. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ANTICirculationPlan> (Updated 04/25/2018)

[NEW] On May 25, public comments for the National Mall and Memorial Parks' renewal of two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits are due to the EPA. The permit for the World War II Memorial allows for stormwater discharge from the memorial pools and fountains into the Tidal Basin; the permit for the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool allows for the discharge of treated water to and from the Tidal Basin. If no substantive comments are received by the EPA (and none are expected), the permits will go into effect by June 24. (05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 26, Lassen Volcanic National Park will close its public comment period on alternatives for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to ensure the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character in the park's designated wilderness and backcountry areas. The proposed action seeks to maintain unconfined recreational use while identifying and preserving resource values that the public seeks in this setting. (Updated 5/2/2018)

[NEW] On or after May 28, the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument will open a 30-day public comment period on the Tule Lake Jail Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The proposed action would fully restore the exterior of the building, remove the freestanding shed and chain-link fence, restore or rehabilitate the jail interior, and would also improve accessibility to and within the building. (05/02/2018)

On May 29, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. The NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an

offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/25/18).

On or after May 29, the NPS will release the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public. The FWS co-manages two of three parcels that comprise the Tule Lake Unit, and the FWS has concurred with issuing the FONSI. The selected action outlines the long-term management and development for the unit established in May 2008 by President Bush. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 30, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission will hold a kick-off event at Independence National Historical Park. Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod along with Philadelphia Mayor Kenney and Pennsylvania Governor Wolf have been invited to speak at the event. The NPS has received a special use permit application for this event which is going through the approval process. The public and media will be invited. Before the event, the Commissioners will receive a tour of the Liberty Bell Center and Independence Hall. After the event, the Commissioners will hold a public meeting in the Park at the National Constitution Center and then hold an executive meeting. During both meetings, the Commission will begin planning programs and activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. The Commission is composed of representatives from various organizations and corporations, as well as eight members of Congress. (Updated 05/02/2018)

By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues including the structure and signatories for agreements on quarantine facility operations, the future transfer of brucellosis-free bison to the Ft. Peck reservation, and USDA APHIS certification of the park bison quarantine facility. Yellowstone bison management and quarantine receive national public interest and media coverage. (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 31, the NPS intends to award multiple concession contracts for mountaineering guide services at Denali National Park and Preserve. Applicant submissions have been scored and rated. The selection process is currently in the matching phase where, one by one, prospective concessioners with ANILCA preferences have an opportunity to match the best offer. New contracts will have a term of 10 years, beginning January 1, 2019. (Updated 03/27/18).

[UPDATE] On or before June 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue its findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of

mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The NPS is working to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (Updated 05/02/2018)

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. (Updated 04/11/18).

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (03/07/18)

[NEW] (Close Hold) On June 18, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park will host King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain for a tour of Mission San Jose. The City of San Antonio Office of International Relations is coordinating the park tour as part of a three-day visit by the royal family to commemorate the Tri-centennial of the founding of San Antonio, Texas, as a Spanish mission in 1718. A public announcement about the visit will be made at a later date. Park employees involved in the planning effort have signed a modified confidentiality agreement (reviewed by our solicitor) with the City of San Antonio to coordinate planning efforts and keep the visit confidential. (05/02/2018)

[NEW] On June 26, the Acadia National Park Draft Transportation Plan and EIS public comment period will close. The comment period is open concurrently with the published EPA Notice of Availability. Public comment will be received through the PEPC website, standard mail, and during Open House events. Press interest in this public comment period is expected to be very high. The communication plan has been shared with NPS Comms. (05/02/2018)

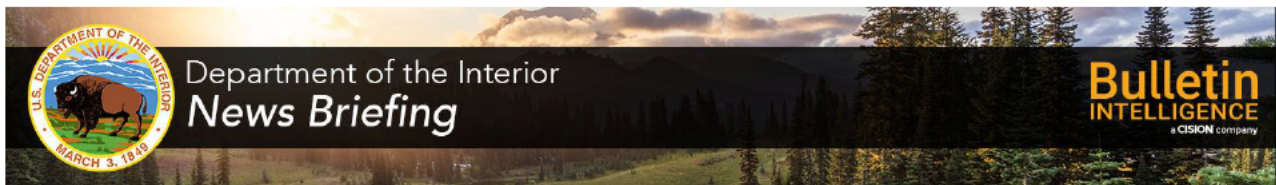
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[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 4, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

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DOI In The News

A Pruitt Aide's Attack On Zinke Angers The White House.

[The Atlantic](#) (5/3, Plott) reports that "as Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt faces a seemingly endless stream of scandal, his team is scrambling to divert the spotlight to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." In the last week, the article says, "a member of Pruitt's press team, Michael Abboud, has been shopping negative stories about Zinke to multiple outlets, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the efforts, as well as correspondence reviewed by The Atlantic."

[Business Insider](#) (5/3, Relman) reports that "several reporters rejected the stories that Abboud shopped, citing a lack of evidence, even as it was published by Patrick Howley of Big League Politics, a right-wing website founded by former Breitbart News employees." The Interior Department's White House liaison "reportedly complained about Abboud's behavior to the White House Presidential Personnel Office, where officials were 'enraged.'"

Also reporting are the [New York Daily News](#) (5/3, Sommerfeldt), the [Daily Beast](#) (5/3), [Government Executive](#) (5/3, Plott), [The Week](#) (5/3, Alters), and [Vox](#) (5/3, Golshan).

Lawmakers, Industry Leaders Attend RV Industry Power Breakfast.

[WBND-TV](#) South Bend, IN (5/3, Fixler) reports that "the 6th Annual RV Industry Power Breakfast was held Thursday morning at the Northern Indiana Event Center." According to the article, "more than 900 people attended the breakfast to show their support and the new success of the business." The [Goshen \(IN\) News](#) (5/3, Selman) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was "scheduled to speak but had to stay in Washington." Zinke sent Rick May, his senior national adviser, in his stead.

Additional coverage was provided by [WBND-TV](#) South Bend, IN (5/3, Corak).

Environmental-Review Policy Draws Fire | Western Colorado | Gjsentinel.com.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/4, Harmon) reports that "an Interior Department official said Wednesday in Grand Junction that the Trump administration was moving to speed up the time agencies have to deal with environmental studies, specifically through the National Environmental Policy Act." But "the move to require federal agencies to conduct environmental analyses within a year and cap reports to 100 pages 'flies in the face of common sense and only further promotes conflicts between public lands stakeholders,' said Jace Woodrum, communications director for Conservation Colorado." Woodrum said, "This administration has adopted the point of view that public involvement and public comments on federal actions is a burden to their short-sighted agenda of 'Energy Dominance.'"

Slawson To End North Dakota Drilling Suit After Permit Win.

[Law360](#) (5/3, Phillis) reports that "Slawson Exploration Co. Inc. on Thursday notified a North Dakota federal court it was ending its suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior after an administrative hearing favored the company and allowed it to continue oil and gas drilling in the state in the face of a challenge by the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation." U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland "gave Slawson permission to file a notice with the court dismissing the case on Thursday."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Bridgeport Lawmakers Not Giving Up On Casino Legislation.

The [AP](#) (5/3) reports that Connecticut lawmakers pulled a bill that could lead to an additional Connecticut casino because "it became apparent discussion in the House would continue into the next day." However, Rep. Steven Stafstrom is "confident leaders of the House of Representatives will call the bill for a vote, likely on Friday." The legislation "requires the commissioners of Consumer Protection and Economic and Community Development to develop and issue a request for proposals from developers interested in developing, managing and operating a possible casino." The bill does not specifically authorize a new casino. The [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (5/4, Munson) reports that House Majority Leader Matt Ritter described the reasoning behind stopping debate for the day. "It just got late," he said. "Our plan was always to have a vote, just tonight wasn't the right night." Stafstrom vowed to fight through a potential filibuster of the bill on Friday. "I'll stand here all day if I have to," he said. MGM Resorts International Senior Vice President and Legal Counsel Uri Clinton said, "MGM has been unwavering in our commitment to build a destination resort in Connecticut. ... We remain ready and willing to participate in an open, transparent, competitive process."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Connecticut Mirror](#) (5/4, Phaneuf), the [Connecticut Post](#) (5/3, Cummings), and the [CT News Junkie](#) (5/4, Stuart).

BIA Must Look Again At Tribal Trust Land, DOI Panel Says.

[Law360](#) (5/3, Westney) reports that the Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Wednesday "again undid a Bureau of Indian Affairs' decision to take land in San Diego into trust for the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, saying the agency had failed to address the same concerns about nearby landowners' property rights that led the board to send the case back to the BIA three years ago."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Continued Friction Over Indian Education Funding?

[Politico](#) (5/3, Hefling) reports that "Interior Department officials based in Washington, including Bureau of Indian Education Director Tony Dearman, opted to skip a tribal consultation organized April 22 in Albuquerque by the Education Department to discuss federal education issues." Faith C. Vander Voort, a spokeswoman for the Interior Department, "noted in an email that the consultation was organized by the Education Department. She said Dearman and John Tahsuda III, the department's principal deputy assistant secretary, weren't able to adjust their schedules to attend because of the 'short lead time.'" However, "she said some local BIE school personnel attended 'at least part of the session.'"

Bureau Of Land Management

Interior Agency Blocks Group Of Archaeologists From Attending Scientific Conference.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Grandoni) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "blocked at least 14 of its staff archaeologists and other specialists from attending a major scientific conference this year, at a time when archeological sites have become a flashpoint in the debate over public lands protection." According to the article, "the archeologists and other BLM employees, many working and living in Western states, were originally scheduled to attend the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, the largest organization of professional archaeologists in the Western Hemisphere." However, "officials at BLM's headquarters in Washington only authorized the attendance of three archaeologists, citing 'the potential travel and other costs' of the

trips." BLM spokeswoman Amber Cargile said, "The decision was made after reviewing the conference topics and agenda, and we sent the people who could best represent the BLM. We value our professional relationship with SAA and the important role our archaeologists play in the Bureau's multiple use mission."

Also reporting is [KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (5/3, Peachler).

The Many Lives Of BLM Methane Litigation.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/3) reports outlines the various court cases over Obama-era methane regulations for the oil and gas industry on public lands. The article notes that the "Western Energy Alliance and Independent Petroleum Association of America have led the legal battle against BLM's rule since Day 1." They claim the rule is "is too costly and doesn't credit drillers for the work they've already done to slash emissions in recent years." The American Petroleum Institute has also gotten involved in some phases of the litigation, making similar claims.

BLM Wants To Sell 430 Acres Of Federal Land Near Ely.

The [AP](#) (5/3) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "proposing selling about 430 acres of federal land in east-central Nevada under a program intended to help protect natural resources." The BLM "said Wednesday it will accept public comment until May 21 on plans to sell three parcels in White Pine County near U.S. Highway 50 about 60 miles west of the Utah line." The sale is "proposed in accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM's Director Says Agency Continues To Carry Out Trump's Offshore Agenda.

[World Oil](#) (5/3, Abraham) reports that during a luncheon speech this week at the 2018 Offshore Technology Conference, acting Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Dr. Walter Cruickshank "delivered an update on the state of offshore activity and regulation." Referring to the American First Offshore Energy Executive Order issued last April, he said, "We are making progress in implementing the components" of it. He also touted current OCS activity, and "said that offshore projects continue to add considerable value to U.S. energy assets." He stated, "The OCS supports \$55 billion in spending and 350,000 jobs," and that "we estimate that undiscovered resources total 90 Bbbl of oil and 327 Tcf of natural gas."

New Fears Over Oil Exploration.

[Greenwire](#) (5/3) reports that opponents of offshore oil and gas drilling are now warning energy exploration efforts could disrupt "long-buried radioactive and toxic waste," the location of which is not always known. For example, a 7,000-pound nuclear bomb accidentally dropped in 1958 near Georgia's Tybee island is now considered "irretrievably lost" by the U.S. military, and 55-gallon drums of radioactive waste were "routinely dumped into the Atlantic Ocean in the 1950s." Frank Knapp Jr., president and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, warned, "The radioactive material is still there, and we don't know what will happen under seismic testing. ... This is nothing to play with."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Tribal Pastor Fights US On Eagle Feather Restrictions.

[Courthouse News](#) (5/3, Ryan) reports that "a Native American feather dancer asked the U.S. government Thursday to end its restrictions on tribes using eagle feathers in religious ceremonies." The article notes that "the petition by Robert Soto, vice-chairman of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas, comes more than a decade after an undercover federal agent raided his powwow and confiscated roughly 50 eagle feathers." Soto, who

serves as pastor of the McAllen Grace Brethren Church, "says the current arrangement 'leaves millions of religious believers in legal jeopardy' and violates the Fifth Amendment, as well as the free exercise and establishment clauses of the First Amendment."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (5/3, Westney).

Unpublished Federal Report Projects Bleak Future For Texas Mussels, Rivers.

The [Texas Observer](#) (5/3, Sadasivam) reports that "if the state's population continues to balloon and climate change worsens, four Central Texas mussels could face near-certain extinction, according to an internal analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) obtained by the Observer." The FWS has "already decided to add one species – the Texas hornshell – to the endangered species list." Now, the agency is "reviewing whether to also add protections for four other whimsically named mussels (the Texas fatmucket, Texas pimpleback, Texas fawnsfoot and false spike) found only in the Brazos, Guadalupe, Colorado and Trinity rivers."

Fire Sparks New Grassland Growth At Benton Lake Refuge.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (5/3, Puckett) reports that 1,700 acres of grassland was ignited at Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Kevin Beck, fuels assistant fire manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "We want to burn the decadent grass layer to regenerate the grasslands." According to Beck, "each year, about 2,000 acres of 'habitat maintenance' is conducted at the refuge in which grassland is intentionally set afire to mimic natural fire and bison grazing that once disturbed and regenerated the grass."

Independent Biologists Look To Speed Up Gopher Screening.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (5/3, Kollar) reports that "after years of dealing with a slow gopher review process, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Service (WFWS) will allow the county to hire private consultants to help speed up the process for builders." According to the article, "the previous interim process required a biologist of WFWS to conduct gopher surveys, which led to a backlog of permit applications due to a limited number of surveyors." USFWS Deputy State Supervisor Brad Thompson said, "There's a lot of people who are trying to build right now with the strong economy. Since the species was listed in 2014, our agency has been the only one in unincorporated Thurston County doing the studies. It's been updated for more local control of the building permit review."

Minnesota Requests BP Oil Spill Money To Help Loons Recover.

[KARE-TV](#) Minneapolis (5/4, Erdahl) reports that Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources has "filed a request with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in hopes of helping the Common Loon recover from the lasting impact of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010." Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Program, said, "We were the only state that made a case for damages done to migratory wildlife in the northern region." Henderson said, "The contamination showed in loons coming back to Minnesota. They were carrying it in their blood, and of more concern, we discovered that those contaminants were being passed on in the eggs that they were laying."

Service Seeks Public Comment On Proposed Wind Facility.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (5/3) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input "as part of the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed wind energy project in Lewis and Thurston counties." The proposed Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project "would consist of up to 38 commercial wind turbines and associated infrastructure." Comments may be submitted through June 4.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Seeks Public Comment On Hunt Plan.

The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (5/3) reports that the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge seeks public comments "on the newly revised Sevilleta NWR Hunt Plan, Environmental

Assessment (EA), and Compatibility Determination (CD)." The comment period ends June 1.

California Man Pleads Guilty To Smuggling Asian Arowana, The Most Expensive Aquarium Fish In The World.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (5/3, Emery) reports that a California man "admitted Wednesday to breaking federal law by helping to smuggle Asian arowana fish, identified as the most expensive aquarium fish in the world, into the United States from Indonesia." Shawn Naolu Lee, "during a hearing at a federal courthouse in Los Angeles, pleaded guilty to breaking the Endangered Species Act by importing a species of fish facing extinction." According to the article, "in his plea agreement, Lee admitted to working with co-defendant Mickey Tanadi, who was located in Indonesia, to transport the fish, despite warnings from Tanadi that the Asian arowana fish are illegal in the United States and would have to be smuggled into the country."

National Park Service

Warner, Kaine Secure \$2.1 Million Grant For 2 Battlefields, Including Appomattox.

[WSET-TV](#) Lynchburg, VA (5/3, Langlitz) reports that "two Virginia battlefields will be preserved for years to come after getting a \$2.1 million grant." Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine "secured funding for the Yorktown and Appomattox Courthouse Battlefields through the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program." The program is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The [Williamsburg Yorktown \(VA\) Daily](#) (5/3) reports that the senators said, "Virginia is home to some of America's most historic sites, and the National Park Service and localities have worked hard to protect them from encroaching development. Virginia's battlefields also play a key role in tourism, open space preservation, and boosting local economies. It's important to preserve them so that future generations can visit, reflect on our history, and learn from the past."

New Hiring Policy Threatens Seasonal Employees At National Parks.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (5/3, Franz) reports that a change in how the National Park Service interprets a hiring rule threatens the jobs of seasonal employees. Sen. Jon Tester has "sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Office of Personnel Management Director Jeff Pon urging them to help the impacted employees." National Park Service Chief Spokesperson Jeremy K. Barnum "told the Beacon that the Park Service is continuing to comply with the new interpretation while simultaneously helping seasonal employees." He said, "We will continue to develop regular communications to ensure that affected seasonal employees and hiring officials have clear and consistent information to support their careers and workforce planning."

Officials Ponder How To Handle High Visitation To Yellowstone.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (5/3, Reichard) reports that a "record-breaking summer" expected at Yellowstone National Park has "some park officials worried." The [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (5/3, Baker) reports that "park officials have said surveys suggest half the people who visit Yellowstone only want to see Old Faithful." One idea brought up "an early April gathering of federal, state and local leaders in the Yellowstone area that focused on transportation needs" was to encourage "the millions of annual tourists to visit Cody, Bighorn Canyon and other areas outside the park."

Traditional Sweetgrass Harvest May Return To Acadia National Park.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/3, Curtis) reports that "tribal basket makers" could be "allowed to harvest sweetgrass in Bass Harbor Marsh within" the Acadia National Park. According to the article, "for three seasons now, park officials and tribal members have been working to figure out if a sustainable sweetgrass harvest could happen at the park."

Park Service, Forest To Increase Fire Restrictions.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (5/3) reports that the National Park Service will “step up wildfire restrictions at parks and monuments in the area Friday, and the Santa Fe National Forest will impose similar restrictions forestwide Monday morning as the fire danger increases across the region.” The article notes that “Bandelier National Monument, Valles Caldera National Preserve, Pecos National Historical Park and Fort Union National Monument are all affected by the Park Service’s tougher fire rules.”

Insular And International Affairs

Judge Denies Motion For Summary Judgment In Landowner’s Lawsuit Against Government, CUC.

[Marianas Variety](#) (5/4, Manabat) reports that Superior Court Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has “denied the CNMI government’s motion for summary judgment in a lawsuit filed by a landowner against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the government.” In his order Govendo said the “plaintiff has put forth sufficient allegations that the CNMI government potentially authorized the construction of the Maui IV water tank and fences. Whether or not it did so is a genuine issue of material fact to be determined at a trial. Additionally, this court finds that CUC is a part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for purposes of this lawsuit.”

US Geological Survey

Hawaii Volcano Erupts; County Issues Evacuation Orders.

The [AP](#) (5/3, Jones) reports that “Hawaii’s Kilauea volcano erupted Thursday, releasing lava into a residential neighborhood and prompting mandatory evacuation orders for nearby homes.” [CNN](#) (5/4, Park, Sutton) reports that “the eruption affected Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the lower East Rift Zone of Kilauea volcano, according to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.”

Also reporting is the [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (5/3).

5.0 Magnitude Earthquake Rattles Hawaii As Residents Ready For Possible Lava Eruption. [NPR](#) (5/3, Romo) reports that “a 5.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday rocked several communities on the Big Island that are already bracing for a possible volcanic eruption after hundreds of small earthquakes jolted the region.” The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory “said the quake, which struck at 10:30 a.m. local time, ‘caused rockfalls and possibly an additional collapse’ into the Pu’u O’o, a crater on the Kilauea volcano that has been slowly crumbling.” According to geologists, “the ongoing temblors – more than 600 in the past three days – are an indication that lava could break through the surface at any time.”

Also reporting is the [AP](#) (5/3, Jones).

Additional Reading.

- *U.S. Government Struggles To Track Some Of Its Own Social Media Accounts.* [Wall Street Journal](#). (5/3, Bansal, Barry)
- *Yellowstone’s Largest Geyser Erupts 3 Times, Puzzling Scientists.* [NPR](#) (5/3, Raphelson).

Opinion Pieces

Address National Parks Maintenance Backlog Now.

In an op-ed for the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (5/3, Gardner), Sen. Cory Gardner writes in support of the National Park Restoration Act, “a bipartisan, commonsense proposal that will use the federal share of revenues from energy production on federal lands to help pay for the more than \$11 billion maintenance backlog at our national

parks." Gardner also notes the legislation protects the Land and Water Conservation Fund and "does not take one dollar from existing conservation programs." Gardner urges Congress "to pass the National Park Restoration Act and make a long-term commitment to our National Parks."

Want To Save The Environment? Support Offshore Drilling.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (5/3, Marcum), Bethany Marcum, the executive director of the Alaska Policy Forum, pushes back against claims by offshore drilling opponents that it "threatens our environment and our economy." Marcum argues that "the proposal would create jobs for Americans and boost our economy while posing minimal risk to the environment." In fact, she writes, "the plan would reduce overall carbon emissions by increasing production of natural gas, which burns cleaner than coal."

BLM Should Trim Horse Herds.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/3) says that the Bureau of Land Management has "come up with a variety of solutions" to the wild horse problem "that would see herds reduced dramatically over the next decade or so." It urges Congress to "get behind the agency and give it the legal power to do what needs to be done."

Additional Reading.

- *The Parable Of The Sage Grouse.* [The Economist](#) (5/5).
- *Tight Budgets Open Gates At National Parks For Volunteers.* [Ada \(OK\) News](#) (5/3, David, Scott).
- *Our View: Park Fees Tamed, Which Should Help Keep The Public's Love.* [Havasut \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (5/4).

Top National News

Trump: Daniels Payment Involved No Campaign Funds.

In the aftermath of Rudy Giuliani's interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#), President Trump took to [Twitter](#) yesterday morning, and wrote that attorney Michael Cohen "received a monthly retainer, not from the campaign and having nothing to do with the campaign, from which he entered into, through reimbursement, a private contract between two parties, known as a non-disclosure agreement, or NDA. These agreements are... very common among celebrities and people of wealth. In this case it is in full force and effect and will be used in Arbitration for damages against Ms. Clifford (Daniels). The agreement was used to stop the false and extortionist accusations made by her about an affair... despite already having signed a detailed letter admitting that there was no affair. Prior to its violation by Ms. Clifford and her attorney, this was a private agreement. Money from the campaign, or campaign contributions, played no roll in this transaction."

Media coverage was extremely unfavorable toward both the President and Giuliani, casting their statements as opening the door to additional legal woes for Trump. In an editorial this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) disagrees with that line of reasoning but still takes Trump and Giuliani to task, arguing that while their comments may well lessen Cohen's legal troubles, they inflicted serious political damage on the President by undermining his credibility. The [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Morton), meanwhile, reports "a major Fox News Channel figure laid into... Trump on Thursday – and it wasn't Shepard Smith or Juan Williams." Neil Cavuto "said Mr. Trump's history of inaccurate statements... is his own personal 'swamp.'" [Said](#) Cavuto, "Let me be clear, Mr. President. How can you drain the swamp if you're the one that keeps muddying the waters? You didn't know about the \$130,000 payment to a porn star until you did."

Many reports, including the lead stories on all three major network newscasts, also highlight the apparent contradiction between the President's tweets and earlier statements he made in response to reporters' questions – in which he denied knowing anything at all about the payments. For example, Dan Balz asks in a front-page

[Washington Post](#) (5/3, A1) story, "Does it bother anyone that...Trump has been caught lying? Does it bother anyone that this is not new? Does it bother anyone that the president has been shown to be a liar? These questions are again front and center before the country." While "people will answer them differently, depending on their views about Trump...the questions won't go away. They are part of the fabric of this presidency." Balz adds that "thanks to...Giuliani...Trump has been exposed flat out."

In a similar analysis titled "New Revelations Suggest A President Losing Control Of His Narrative," Peter Baker writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/3) that "even in the current political environment that some derisively call the post-truth world, the past few days have offered a head-spinning series of revelations." Baker adds that "whether called lies or misstatements, Mr. Trump's history of falsehoods has been extensively documented, but the string of factual distortions that came to light this week could come back to haunt him." While "as a matter of politics, the latest contradictions may not matter much, at least not yet...under the unforgiving glare of federal prosecutors...misrepresentations carry far greater jeopardy."

📺 [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:55, Welker) referred to a "presidential flip-flop," 📺 [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, lead story, 4:15, Karl) reported that "last month, the President flatly denied knowing anything about the hush money," and the 📺 [CBS Evening News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:00, Glor) showed Stormy Daniels' attorney Michael Avenatti saying, "It's an outrage, frankly, that the President of the United States would stand on Air Force One on videotape and blatantly lie to the American people. The President and his advisers are making this up as they go along. They realize they are in a heap-load of trouble." Avenatti told 📺 [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/3), "These are not half truths or possibly being mislead – these are outright lies to the American people."

Another [New York Times](#) (5/3, Sullivan, Apuzzo, Haberman) story also says that Trump's tweets "had far more formal and legalistic language than his typical morning messages to the world," but they "directly contradicted his earlier statements." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, Ballhaus, Palazzolo) reports on the tweets along similar lines, while [Bloomberg News](#) (5/2, Olorunnipa) says Trump "changed his account" and [USA Today](#) (5/3, Jackson) that he is "changing his story" and "contradicting previous statements." [The Hill](#) (5/3, Fabian) casts him as "contradicting past claims," while the [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Wagner) notes that "Trump did not say whether he knew about the payments to Cohen when they were made" and the [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Persons) highlights that he insisted "none of the money used to pay...Daniels came from campaign cash."

To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Bierman), Trump "tried to contain the legal and political fallout from...Giuliani's revelations," but his "postings are unlikely to answer multiple questions." The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Lee) reports that according to Richard Hasen, "election law expert" at the University of California at Irvine, "if the payment were 'wholly personal, as in made to help Trump's marriage but not his campaign,' it would not amount to a campaign finance violation," but "experts say" that "the fact that it was made so close to the election raises questions." Along those lines, [Reuters](#) (5/3) reports "the claim of repayment is significant because a payment by Cohen could be seen as an illegal campaign contribution." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/3, Olorunnipa, Allison) also reports "Trump and his lawyers face a new set of legal challenges," the [AP](#) (5/3, Sherman) that "Giuliani may have added to the legal headaches of his new law client and old friend," and [USA Today](#) (5/3, Schouten) that "if Trump knew about Cohen's payment to Daniels but didn't disclose it as a loan on his campaign's filings with the Federal Election Commission, that could amount to a 'knowing and willful' violation of election law and a criminal statute that prohibits making false statements to the government." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, Bykowicz, Palazzolo) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump's Payment To Stormy Daniels Raises Campaign-Finance Questions."

📺 [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, lead story, 4:15, Karl) reported that Giuliani is "saying this had nothing to do with protecting Trump, nothing to do with the campaign, but then" he "also said, 'Imagine if this came out in the middle of the last debate with Hillary Clinton.' How do you reconcile the two?" Jonathan Karl replied, "It's not easy. What they're saying is that this was about protecting the President, or then the

candidate, from personal embarrassment, not political damage. That's an important distinction, because if this was for political reasons, the payment could have violated campaign finance law." 📺[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:55, Welker) showed Adav Noti of the Campaign Legal Center saying, "There was a knowing and willful attempt to evade campaign finance disclosure and that could make the scheme criminal activity."

Giuliani appeared on 📺[Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3, 7:32 a.m. EDT, Doocy) yesterday morning and spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, Ballhaus, Palazzolo) and [BuzzFeed](#) (5/2), recounting that Cohen "complained to some people" after the 2016 election that he'd not been fully paid by Trump," and "at some point – Giuliani said he did not know when or where specifically – Cohen met with Trump and told him of his complaint." Giuliani says Trump "told Cohen, 'We'll cover your expenses,' and agreed to pay him \$35,000 a month 'out of his personal funds' over the course of a year-long period that began in the first few months of 2017 and has since ended. 'It clearly was a payment to reimburse expenses,' Giuliani said – adding the caveat, 'I'm almost certain that there wasn't an itemized bill.'" Giuliani also spoke to [USA Today](#) (5/3, Jackson), saying of the current investigations, "It's going to take some time, but I think we're going to be OK." Of Cohen's payment, he said, "No one ever thought of it as a campaign contribution. ... It was a personnel settlement."

The [AP](#) (5/3, Lucey, Colvin) says that while "Giuliani's revelation appeared to take many in the West Wing by surprise," it was actually "no accident." The AP notes that former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said yesterday, "You know, there's an old saying in the law, 'Hang a lantern on your problems.' ... So the fact is that Rudy has to go out there now and clean it up. That's what lawyers get hired to do." Along those lines, the [New York Times](#) (5/3, Shear) notes that "asked about his remarks after finishing the Fox News interview" Wednesday night, Giuliani "said that what might have seemed to some viewers – including, perhaps, Mr. Hannity – like a slip of the tongue, was actually a planned disclosure." The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Rucker, Dawsey, Costa, Parker) reports that in an interview, Giuliani said "he discussed the issue with Trump a few days ago and that they agreed that he would reveal details about the reimbursement." Said Giuliani, "He was well aware that at some point when I saw the opportunity, I was going to get this over with." Tony Carbonetti, "a longtime friend and adviser to Giuliani, said he was dining with the former New York mayor on Manhattan's Upper East Side on Wednesday night before he went on Fox," and "warned that those lampooning Giuliani are mistaken." Said Carbonetti, "If you've been around Rudy, there's always a reason for it. ... If you knew a narrative was coming out, wouldn't you want to tell the story on your terms? ... He wanted to get ahead of it."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3, A1, Ballhaus, Nicholas) runs a front-page analysis titled "Trump Gambit Stuns Staff," in which it reports that Giuliani also dined with Corey Lewandowski ahead of his Hannity interview. The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Rucker, Dawsey, Costa, Parker), meanwhile, reports Giuliani "may have had a strategy" ahead of last night's Hannity appearance, but he "hatched it almost entirely in secret." The Post adds "the White House counsel had no idea. Neither did the White House chief of staff, nor the White House press secretary, nor the new White House lawyer overseeing its handling of the Russia investigation." They "watched, agog, as Giuliani...freestyled on live television," and "aides and advisers to the president...expressed a mixture of exasperation and horror." The Post adds "one White House official" texted "a reporter a string of emoji characters in response, including a tiny container of popcorn." A "second White House official...said of the president, 'His story is obviously not consistent anymore.'"

The [AP](#) (5/3, Lucey, Colvin) also reports the revelations "appeared to take many in the West Wing by surprise," and "in briefings and media appearances, White House aides have sought to avoid staking out a clear position on the matter, directing reporters to Trump's own comments." The [New York Post](#) (5/3, Fredericks) says White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders "was grilled about the contradictions coming from the West Wing, with reporters asking her repeatedly about numerous statements from her and from the commander-in-chief that later turn out to be false." [Politico](#) (5/3, Schwartz)

quotes Sanders as saying, "We give the very best information that we have at the time." Adds Politico, "That was...Sanders' response when ABC reporter Jonathan Karl asked her during Thursday's press briefing how the American people could trust a president and White House that 'show what appears to be a blatant disregard for the truth.'" It was "a line she repeated again and again in her 17 minutes of taking questions from reporters."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Decker) reports Sanders said "Trump did not know about a \$130,000 payoff to an adult film actress who claimed she'd had a sexual affair with him even as he paid tens of thousands of dollars to the New York attorney who made the payments," and [The Hill](#) (5/3, Fabian) that she "sought to explain why...Trump claimed he didn't know about a hush money payment to...Daniels," telling reporters, "This was information the president didn't know at the time, but eventually learned."

Rep. John Garamendi said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3), "I know there are cases without congressional campaigns in which money was funneled into a campaign surreptitiously, secretly. It is entirely possible that the President and Cohen had an agreement, a deal that money would be paid, the President would pay it back to effect the campaign. If one assumes that the payment to hush money was for campaign purposes and the President knew about that and had decided to funnel the money secretly through Cohen, not directly through Cohen but through a new LLC, created in Delaware to further hide the money, people have gone to jail for that. If the facts line up, yeah, it's a crime, and it is punishable by jail."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/3), "One, it shows me Donald Trump is not being straight with the American people. Two, that he's willing to act as a shadowy operator. I don't give a rip about what happened with Miss Daniels, what's more important to me are the real questions around his involvement with the Russians, whether it was personally, politically, or financially. And if he wasn't straight with the country about what happened with Miss Daniels, I think we can conclude that he's probably acted in a shadowy way, in an operative way, and payoffs with other individuals around what's happened with Russia. So he should sit down in Bob Mueller's chair, come straight with the American people, so we can move beyond this."

Media Analyses: Giuliani Media Blitz Backfiring. A number of media analyses paint a highly unfavorable picture of Giuliani's performance as Trump's attorney. [Politico](#) (5/3, Nelson, Gerstein) reports Giuliani is "causing new migraines for the White House," and under the headline "Giuliani: The President's Attack Dog Who May Have Bitten Trump," the [New York Times](#) (5/3, Shear, Steinhauer) calls Giuliani "loose-lipped, intemperate, confrontational and supremely confident that he knows better than anyone else." The Times adds that "on Wednesday night," he "seemed reduced to America's grouchy dinner guest," and "found himself undermining his new client." The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Zapotosky, Barrett, Leonnig, Lee) reports "Giuliani's media blitz...might have backfired, giving investigators new leads to chase and new evidence of potential crimes, legal analysts said." The [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Boyer) runs a similar story, titled "Rudy Giuliani's Media Blitz Provides Ammunition For Trump Foes."

Joe Scarborough writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) that Giuliani has "joined Trump's team of misfit lawyers," and adds that "why America's Mayor would now allow himself to become Trump's chump is beyond me."

Judge Andrew Napolitano, appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3), said, "If Rudy wants the public to believe that Donald Trump reimbursed Michael Cohen \$130,000 and didn't know what it was for, didn't know that it was going to silence Stormy Daniels, that is unworthy of belief. It is hard to believe that of Donald Trump, a man who knows where every one of his nickels has gone. ... It's up to the American public whether to believe that somebody like Donald Trump would just pour money down a hole to Michael Cohen... without asking to whom the money was going and for what purpose – how would Michael Cohen know if Stormy Daniels needed to be silenced."

Appearing on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/3), legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin said, "How stupid do they think we are? They have been lying about this from day one. I am not clear there was any criminal violation here. ... I don't know if there was a criminal element to it even if it was campaign related – that is a very esoteric crime that is rarely

prosecuted. But...everyone involved in this, starting with the President, has been lying about this from day one. It is just so extraordinary – and the absence of any kind of sheepishness about that, that to me is the real story. ... Until you see the canceled checks or however the money passed, I certainly wouldn't believe anything these people say."

Jonathan Turley, writing in [USA Today](#) (5/3), "There is now a growing chasm between Trump and Cohen. The obvious problem for Trump is that if Cohen gets lonely enough, he could find a new friend in Mueller." Turley adds that "after tweeting again this morning, the president made his way to a prayer breakfast. Hopefully, that is not the final option left to him by his legal team. Prayer can be redemptive but, in both life and litigation, 'God helps those who help themselves.' None of this is helpful."

NBC Issues Correction After Reporting Investigators "Wiretapped" Cohen Call To White House. Citing "two people with knowledge of the legal proceedings involving Cohen," [NBC News](#) (5/3) reported on its website yesterday that "federal investigators...wiretapped" Cohen's "phone lines." NBC added that "it is not clear how long the wiretap has been authorized," but "was in place in the weeks leading up to the raids on" Cohen and "at least one phone call between a phone line associated with Cohen and the White House was intercepted." NBC goes on to report that "after the raid, members of Trump's legal team advised the president not to speak to Cohen," and "two sources close to" Giuliani "say he learned that days after the raid the president had made a call to Cohen, and told Trump never to call again out of concern the call was being recorded by prosecutors."

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/3), "Once again we learned that a major component of this report was, once again, 'fake news.' NBC was forced to issue a, quote, 'correction.'" The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/3, Kasperowicz) reports that NBC "issued a correction saying that his phones weren't tapped after all." According to [CNN](#) (5/3), "The correction was announced on MSNBC during 'Meet the Press Daily' by the story's lead reporter, Tom Winter," who "said US officials had told him that it 'was not a wiretap' but instead a 'pen register.'" Winter is quoted as saying, "In plain English, that means it was a log of phone calls that were made from specific phone line – from a specific phone line or specific phone lines." CNN says Winter "explained that a pen register meant authorities were 'not able to listen in in real-time or record his conversations.' Instead, they were only able to monitor incoming and outgoing calls."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/3, story 2, 0:45, Glor) also reported "two federal officials tell CBS News there are no wiretaps, there are no transcripts, there are no phone recordings of any of...Cohen's telephone conversations, including any he may have had with the President." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/3, story 2, 2:10, Phillips), meanwhile, said "it's unclear how long before the raids investigators started tracking Cohen's phone calls, but sources tell ABC News, Cohen and the President spoke just days after the raids, meaning, that phone call could be on investigators' radar." [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:55, Welker) mentioned the matter briefly at the end of its report on the Cohen story last night, saying that "adding to the concerns NBC News learned federal investigators were keeping a log of...Cohen's phone calls and identified at least one call placed from a Cohen phone line to a White House line."

Under the headline "Giuliani Was Right: Cohen's Calls Weren't Tapped By Feds," the [New York Post](#) (5/3, Golding) reports "Giuliani cast doubt Thursday on a report that the feds wiretapped...Cohen – and he was right." Speaking to the [Daily Beast](#) (5/3, Woodruff), Giuliani said of the original NBC story, "Us lawyers have talked about it, we don't believe it's true. ... We think it's going to turn out to be untrue because it would be totally illegal. You can't wiretap a lawyer, you certainly can't wiretap his client who's not involved in the investigation." In an interview with [The Hill](#) (5/3, Stanage), Giuliani also "called for Attorney General Jeff Sessions to intervene in the...Cohen case and put the people behind the probe 'under investigation.'" Said Giuliani, "I am waiting for the Attorney General to step in, in his role as defender of justice, and put these people under investigation."

Daniels: Cohen Unqualified To Clean "My Horse's Manure." The [New York Post](#) (5/3, Moore) reports "Stormy Daniels blasted...Cohen as unqualified to clean up 'my horse's manure' and tussled with Twitter users on Thursday after...Giuliani dropped a bombshell about a \$130,000 payment she received weeks before the 2016 election." [Tweeted](#) Daniels, "I don't think Cohen is qualified to 'clean up' my horse's manure. Too soon? #basta #TeamStormy."

Comey Objects To Giuliani's FBI "Stormtroopers" Comment. The [New York Post](#) (5/3, Moore) reports "Giuliani and former FBI Director James Comey clashed on Thursday after the former mayor accused the FBI of behaving like 'stormtroopers' when they raided...Cohen last month." Comey said on [Twitter](#), "I know the New York FBI. There are no 'stormtroopers' there; just a group of people devoted to the rule of law and the truth. ... Our country would be better off if our leaders tried to be like them, rather than comparing them to Nazis."

Rep. Ruben Gallego said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/3), "I'd just like to kind of remind people of a Democratic president or had it come under Barack Obama's Administration the public would have been losing their mind. Payments to an adult film star, campaign finance violation, and personal attorney calls our, you know, FBI agents and our federal agents in general basically Nazis. The fact that this is not even a big story tells you how dysfunctional this whole Administration is. And to what degree of chaos that this president's caused."

Appearing on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/3, Brzezinski), Sen. Richard Blumenthal also took issue with what he described as Giuliani's "denunciation of the FBI." Blumenthal said, "To call [FBI agents] 'Gestapo storm troopers' or whatever is very sad and shameful." Blumenthal added, "The denunciation of the FBI will come back to haunt Rudy Giuliani, as it will many of his cohorts in this enterprise, and I think it will come back to haunt my colleagues in Congress if they fail to stand up and speak up. History will judge them at this point because nothing less than the rule of law is at stake."

Giuliani Says Mueller Probe "Dead," Calls On Sessions To Bring It To An End.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Wagner) reports that on Thursday, Rudy Giuliani "asserted that the original aim of the special counsel – to investigate possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia in the 2016 campaign – is now 'dead.'" In an appearance on [Fox Business](#) (5/3), Giuliani argued Attorney General Sessions "should bring the investigation to an end," saying, "Sessions should step in and close it and say enough is enough." In regards to a potential interview with Robert Mueller and his team, Giuliani said, "They're going to have to convince us they're going to be objective and they are not out to get us. ... They should be able to do this, if they have a case, in two or three hours." In an interview with [ABC News](#) (5/3, Santucci), Giuliani said he "is already anticipating one possible battle – a subpoena for...Trump to testify." Said Giuliani, "I think it's 50/50. ... But I got to prepare for that 50 percent."

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/3), "We had a interview with Rudy Giuliani and reports insight in the legal team. And now Rudy Giuliani called out Robert Mueller's witch hunt." After showing clips from the interview, Hannity added, "All of those crucial developments that you just watched and we aired live on this program, were largely ignored by the abusive, biased news media."

[USA Today](#) (5/3) editorializes that "Mueller wants to ask the president about possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government in the 2016 presidential election," and the Stormy Daniels "disclosure exposes Trump's willingness to lie publicly about pending legal matters. (Presumably, he is coming clean now because he knows that information seized by authorities from attorney Michael Cohen will reveal the Daniels-related reimbursements.) That only reinforces the urgent need to have him testify under oath in the Russia matter." USA Today adds that "if Trump declines to appear voluntarily, he should be subpoenaed. Nothing brings out the truth like testifying under oath before a criminal grand jury." Alan Dershowitz, also in [USA Today](#) (5/3), writes that in his "experience, subjects of criminal investigations rarely help themselves by speaking to prosecutors or testifying before a grand jury. Far more often, they hurt

themselves by falling into a perjury trap carefully set by prosecutors. ... All in all, I think the president is probably better off litigating than testifying, though he might end up doing both."

Judge Andrew Napolitano, appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3), said, "I don't know as much about this as Rudy does, obviously, and I have great respect for him," but "I don't think it's wise to be negotiating in public or on television. It sometimes insults the other side. You want to cut a deal with Bob Mueller." Napolitano added, "You think that Jim Comey is a liar? A lot of people think Jim Comey is a liar," but "that's the kind of argument you make to your adversary in private and you demonstrate why you think that is. You don't necessarily go on national television and say it."

Latest Addition To Mueller Team Also A Registered Democrat, Clinton Contributor. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/3, Ross) reports "the latest addition to...Mueller's team of prosecutors contributed to Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign." Uzo Asonye, "an assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, is joining Mueller's stable of prosecutors to work as local counsel on the case against Paul Manafort." He is a registered Democrat who "donated \$900 to Clinton's presidential campaign," and "has not donated to any other national political campaigns since then." The DC adds "Asonye is just the latest Democrat to join Mueller's team," where "none" of the "prosecutors, which number nearly 20 in all, are registered Republicans. As of February, 13 Mueller lawyers were registered Democrats," and "at least 12...have donated to Democratic political candidates." The DC also notes "Andrew Weissmann, a Justice Department lawyer handling the Manafort case for Mueller's team, reportedly attended Hillary Clinton's election night party," and "has donated \$6,600 to the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton and Obama campaigns."


NYTimes Analysis: Giuliani Contradicted Trump On Comey Firing. The [New York Times](#) (5/3, Schmidt) reports that in his Hannity interview, Giuliani "contradicted Mr. Trump's rationale for firing" FBI Director James Comey, "saying he was dismissed because he would not say publicly what he had told the president privately: that Mr. Trump was not under scrutiny in the Russia investigation at the time." Said Giuliani, "He fired Comey because Comey would not, among other things, say that he wasn't a target of the investigation. ... He's entitled to that." The Times adds that "Giuliani's comments about Mr. Comey were overshadowed by his disclosure that Mr. Trump reimbursed" his personal attorney Michael Cohen on an unrelated matter, but his "assertion contradicted the myriad explanations that the president and his aides have given for the firing, and was the first public acknowledgment by a Trump adviser for what Mr. Comey has maintained: that he was fired for his handling of the Russia investigation."


Law Professor Worked For FBI For 19 Months As He Defended Comey In The Media. [Fox News](#) (5/3, Herridge) reported this afternoon that Columbia law professor Daniel Richman, who Comey "used as an intermediary to help leak details of sensitive memos, worked as an FBI 'special government employee' for at least 19 months – during which time he repeatedly defended the FBI director in media interviews amid the Hillary Clinton email probe." According to Fox, "Sources familiar with Richman's FBI status said he was assigned to 'special projects' by Comey, and had a security clearance as well as badge access to the building."


Mueller Requests 70 Blank Subpoenas. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/3, Cohen) reports "Mueller on Thursday filed a request for 70 blank subpoenas in the Eastern District of Virginia, where...Manafort lives." The Examiner adds "the two-page filing reveals little, but says that that each subpoena recipient must appear in the Alexandria, Va., courthouse on July 10 to testify in the case."


Manafort Attorney: Mueller Has Disclosed It Has No Evidence Manafort Communicated With Russia. The [Washington Times](#) (5/3, Scarborough) reports "a defense attorney in a court filing says...Mueller has disclosed he has no evidence that...Manafort communicated with Russian government officials." The Times adds that "if the attorney is accurate, it delivers another credibility blow to the Democratic Party-financed dossier, which accuses Mr. Manafort of orchestrating Trump-Russia collusion." Attorney Kevin Downing "filed the brief April 30 in the special counsel's money-laundering case against

his client. Those charges are confined to millions of dollars he earned as a political consultant for Ukrainian politicians."

Caputo: Mueller Appears To Be "Completely Focused On Collusion With Russia."  [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (5/3, Roberts) reported on former Trump adviser Michael Caputo's description of being interviewed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team. Pierre Thomas reported that Caputo "said the agents knew so much about his life, it scared him." Caputo: "They know everything. They know more about what I did in 2016 than I do. They're talking about the timing of some things that happened at the campaign and at the convention. I think they're completely focused on collusion with Russia. ... I believe that they think they're on to something. What that is, I don't know, but they're not messing around." Thomas went on to report that Caputo "says they peppered him with questions about his friend, the President's personal attorney Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort who has been indicted on money laundering charges, and Roger Stone." However, Caputo said, "It was remarkable to me that the President wasn't brought up. Nobody with the last name Trump came up at all."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/3, Correll) reports that Caputo also told  [Fox News](#) host Martha MacCallum that Mueller "has more knowledge about the Trump campaign than any staff member of the campaign, and has a plethora of documentation." Said Caputo, "They have all the documents that were produced. ... They've got further documentation from people who worked outside the campaign – their emails, their texts. They have the entire campaign's texts." Caputo added that "it doesn't sound like" investigators have uncovered proof the Trump campaign colluded with the Kremlin during the 2016 election."

DeSantis Blasts Rosenstein For Failing To Hand Over Material On Clinton Investigation To Congress. Appearing on  [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3, Kilmeade), Rep. Ron DeSantis claimed that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein is "showing contempt for Congress and our constitutional oversight responsibility. ... We have been going for these documents for months and months and months. And what do they do? They stonewall, stonewall, trickle some out. We say, 'well, maybe we'll do contempt,' and they trickle some more out." DeSantis added, "If you remember the Nunes memo, people like Rod were saying we can't do a Nunes memo because that will devastate American national security. It had nothing to do with that. ... We have a right to this information. ... We want everything from the end of the Hillary case through Peter Strzok – McCabe, Comey, the whole lot of them."

Asked about House Republicans sharing information they received from the Department of Justice regarding the Russia probe with the White House, Rep. Eric Swalwell said on  [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/3), "Now you see the Republicans in Congress who are essentially acting as Mr. Trump's fixers in Congress by trying to obstruct Mr. Rosenstein's information by asking for information about an ongoing investigation. Anderson, you know it is long standing protocol in our country, you do not tell anyone about the details about an ongoing investigation because you don't want to jeopardize it." He added, "I think it's appropriate that only the investigators know about the evidence in the case. ... When [suspects] know the information, they destroy evidence or change their stories." He also said, "I do think the effort is to get information in the hands of the President and his team. Or to just do all they kind to give Donald Trump the cover to fire Rob Rosenstein."

WPost: President With Respect For Rule Of Law Would Want Ongoing Investigation Details Kept Secret. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) writes on "what a more presidential president might say" if they had "respect for the rule of law": that sensitive details of ongoing Justice Department investigations "must be kept secret, even from – especially from – political leaders." The Post adds that such a president would also say, "This principle of independent, apolitical law enforcement is what distinguishes us from a banana republic, where police powers are wielded to benefit or punish one party or another."

Hayden Says 2015 Campaign Convinced Russia To Step Up Online Disinformation Push. [USA Today](#) (5/3, Stanglin) reports that ex-CIA director Michael Hayden said on MSNBC's

Morning Joe on Wednesday that Russia “decided to go all-out in attacking the US political system after successfully using bots and disinformation to convince many Texans in 2015 that a US military exercise there was a cover for President Obama’s plan to round up political dissidents.” Hayden “said the operation linked Russian bots and the American alt-right media to spread disinformation through social media.”

Trump, Giuliani Hint At Imminent Release Of US Prisoners From North Korea.

Media reports Thursday continued to cast President Trump and his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, as indicating that three American prisoners held in North Korea will soon be released. [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/3, story 6, 2:00, Muir), for example, said Trump and Giuliani are “raising hopes” that the hostages will be released. Giuliani on Thursday morning said, “We got Kim Jong-Un impressed enough to be releasing three prisoners today,” while Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday evening, “The past administration has long been asking for three hostages to be released from a North Korean labor camp, but to no avail. Stay tuned.” ABC (Raddatz) added that the “State Department would not confirm anything about the release of the prisoners, but a local activist is reporting that the men have been moved from a labor camp to a medical facility.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/3, story 9, 2:00, Holt) reported that the “White House [is] not confirming the Americans are being let go, but saying their release would be a sign of goodwill.” Regardless, Giuliani’s apparent “preview [of] an imminent development” and Trump’s “tantalizing hint” about the three prisoners was “promising news for Sol Kim, whose father Tony Kim has been missing in North Korea for a year.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/3), Paula Hancocks reported from the Korean Peninsula where “an official whose familiar with the ongoing negotiations is saying the release of the three is imminent. There’s no more specific timing, but that it is imminent.” Hancocks added that the release “has been months in the making. We understand from this official that” North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho “went to Sweden in March...and...proposed releasing these three detainees, although the US does not want it linked to denuclearization.”

While the network reports on the prisoners did not mention Secretary of State Pompeo, Brian Todd reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/3) that “by all indications,” Pompeo “played a major role” in the potential release of the prisoners during his secret meeting with Kim Jong-Un at the beginning of April when he was still CIA director. A “US official says [Pompeo] raised that issue of the detained Americans then. The people that really know about the negotiations say they have no doubt Pompeo’s trip got this moving. It might have been the decisive factor in the release, if it indeed happens soon.” Noting that the news about the hostages comes ahead of a possible sit-down between Trump and Kim Jong-Un, [Fox News’ Special Report](#) 📺 (5/3) reported that Pompeo is “now leading preparations” for that summit, while Vice President Pence has canceled a Latin America trip “to focus on the meeting.”

Garamendi: Pompeo Should Be Announcing Prisoners’ Release, Not Giuliani. Rep. John Garamendi said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/3) that it was “inappropriate” for Giuliani to be discussing the prisoners, adding, “this is the new Secretary of State’s territory. Certainly if we had heard that from Secretary Pompeo, I think we would all be elated...and hopefully Secretary Pompeo will carry through on what was his initial effort...not only with regard to the three Americans but also setting up the eventual summit between” Trump and Kim.

Hannity: Media Ignoring “Hopeful News” On North Korea. Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) 📺 (5/3), “We have actual news of three Americans long held hostage with Kim Jong-un, Little Rocket Man. President Trump is working on their release and hinting of hopeful news on Twitter. And your major media is yawning and Kim Jong-un is making concessions and talking about denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and historic unemployment and the media yawns and Americans receiving unemployment is lowest since 1973, and the media could care less. ... Do you need more proof that the media in this country doesn’t care about the truth and doing their job and you? They care about their liberal left-wing agenda. And

like a huge massive echo chamber with overpaid spoiled brat anchors that do not do their job."

[Washington Post](#) (5/3) columnist David Ignatius writes that President Trump "deserves credit for seizing the moment for negotiations with North Korea. But some little-noticed documents reveal that Kim Jong Un has been planning his denuclearization offer and opening to the United States for the past five years." According to Ignatius, "it appears that Kim has been the main driver...relentlessly pursu[ing] a dual strategy: to obtain a usable nuclear weapon, and then pivot toward dialogue and modernization of his economy." He says that while "we'll never know" if Kim would "have moved toward negotiations regardless of who was president," there is "no denying that Trump's confrontational approach created an opportunity for crisis diplomacy – and that he was bold enough to embrace Kim's offer of direct talks."

Trump Orders Pentagon To Consider Reduction Of Forces In South Korea. The [New York Times](#) (5/3, Landler) reports President Trump has "ordered the Pentagon to prepare options for drawing down American troops in South Korea, just weeks before he holds a landmark meeting with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, according to several people briefed on the deliberations." Officials said reduced troop levels are "not intended to be a bargaining chip in Mr. Trump's talks with Mr. Kim," but they "acknowledged that a peace treaty between the two Koreas could diminish the need for the 28,500 soldiers currently stationed on the peninsula." Officials declined to say whether Trump was seeking options for "a full or partial reduction of troops, though a full withdrawal was unlikely."

WPost Analysis: Moon Looking For Ways To Help North's Economy Without Violating Sanctions. The [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Fifield) reports that the "ink on the inter-Korean agreement is barely dry and the definition of 'complete denuclearization' is far from clear, but there is already plenty of talk in Seoul about how to help North Korea's economic development." According to the Post, Moon has ordered officials "to start figuring out what economic engagement projects can be undertaken without contravening existing sanctions and to look at what should be delayed until after Kim and Trump meet." The move, however, is "already causing heartburn among hard-liners in Washington who view the South Korean president as too willing to take Kim at his word."

Kim Tells Chinese FM He Is Committed To Denuclearization. Citing China's foreign ministry, [Reuters](#) (5/3, Brice) reports that on Thursday, Kim Jong Un "told the Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councilor Wang Yi...that he is committed to denuclearization. ... 'Kim Jong Un said achieving the denuclearization of the peninsula is the firm position of the North Korean side,' China's foreign ministry said after Wang met Kim in Pyongyang." The [AP](#) (5/3) reports Wang "congratulated...Kim...on his moves to reduce tensions with South Korea, China said."

South Korean National Security Adviser In US To Meet Bolton. [Reuters](#) (5/3) reports South Korean National Security Adviser Chung Eui-Yong is in Washington to meet with National Security Adviser Bolton ahead of the expected summit between Trump and Kim. A South Korean presidential official told reporters Friday that the National Security Council "asked Chung...to fly to the United States to discuss matters related to the summit." That official, who declined to be identified, added that the US "had asked that the visit be kept quiet due to the issues to be addressed at meetings there." A "senior Administration official" confirmed Chung's visit and his meeting with Bolton.

Messer: Trump Deserves Nobel Peace Prize. Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/3, Doocy), Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN), who is among those who have formally nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, said, "Events on the Korean Peninsula...would have been unimaginable just a few weeks ago. Frankly, the response from many in the media has been muted. And I think President Trump is showing that peace through strength is working, and the only reason that the evil dictator from North Korea is coming to the table is because this President has stared him down. And as peace comes to the Korean Peninsula, do I believe President Trump deserves the Nobel Peace Prize."

Rasmussen: Trump Must Avoid "Usual Bluster" With North Korea. Former NCTC Director Nicholas J. Rasmussen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) that the

Administration “finds itself with a genuine opportunity to produce a positive outcome” with North Korea, but “taking advantage of that opportunity will require patience and discipline – traits typically not associated with Trump administration foreign policy – and will also require the president to be willing to show increased range and flexibility in how he employs the various tools in his diplomatic toolbox.”

White House Scales Back Plans To Recoup Already-Approved Federal Spending.

Citing “two GOP congressional aides,” [Bloomberg News](#) (5/3, Fitzpatrick, Wasson) reports that the White House is “scaling back its plan to seek cuts from already-passed spending bills in the face of resistance from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and spending panel Republicans.” Bloomberg says OMB Director Mulvaney “plans to ask Congress on Monday to cancel \$11 billion in unspent money from prior years, a much lower figure than the \$63 billion request originally floated to Congress last month.” Bloomberg adds that “the new request won’t touch the \$1.3 trillion fiscal 2018 spending bill Trump reluctantly signed in March.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“What Keeps American Troops In the Yemen War?” The [New York Times](#) (5/3) editorializes that the Pentagon and the Administration “apparently have misled Americans about growing military involvement in a war in Yemen that we should have nothing to do with.” The Times argues that “such significant military decisions require public debate to force presidents and their generals to justify their decisions and be held accountable for the consequences.” It goes on to call on Congress to cut off military aid to Saudi Arabia and vote “to bar the use of American troops against the Houthis in Yemen.”

“When The Republicans Are Honest About Their Policies.” In an editorial headlined “When Republicans Are Honest About Their Policies,” the [New York Times](#) (5/3) highlights Sen. Marco Rubio’s recent comment that there is “no evidence whatsoever” that in the wake of the 2017 tax cut, business’ savings have “been massively poured back into the American worker.” The Times also highlights ex-HHS Secretary Tom Price’s admission that “Congress’s decision to eliminate the health insurance mandate that ‘drives up the cost’ of insurance.” The Times writes, “With their recent comments, Mr. Rubio and Mr. Price unwittingly highlighted the yawning gap between what Republicans say they want to achieve and what their proposals actually do.”

“Should The European Sanction Illegally.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (5/3) writes that new European Union members in Central Europe “blatantly flouting” Western democratic values is “a matter of obvious irritation and concern to older members.” The Times adds it is “tempting” to embrace a proposed plan to linking EU aid to “an independent judiciary as a prerequisite for sound financial management,” but this is “not a very good idea,” as “financial sanctions have a poor track record in altering regime behavior.” Such a move “would inevitably reinforce the sense among many in the former Soviet bloc countries of being second-class citizens” and strengthen the current regimes’ rules. The Times argues the EU needs to persuade “citizens of the new members that their rights, dignity and status as full-fledged fellow Europeans are being trampled when populist demagogues curtail their freedoms or the rule of law.”

Washington Post.

“A Defense Of The Rule Of Law.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) writes on “what a more presidential president might say” if they had “respect for the rule of law”: that sensitive details of ongoing Justice Department investigations “must be kept secret, even from – especially from – political leaders.” The Post adds that such a president would also say, “This principle of independent, apolitical law enforcement is what distinguishes us from a banana republic, where police powers are wielded to benefit or punish one party or another.”

"How Would We Answer Today?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3) writes that the a new special exhibition at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Americans and the Holocaust," is "one of the most important since the museum opened," raising "disturbing and complex questions about the years leading up to the" Holocaust and with answers that "resonate today." The exhibit makes clear that Americans were aware of the Nazi persecution of the Jews but did not allow more to emigrate to the country. While now "we have vastly improved tools to discover violence against a whole people," the Post concludes, "our response mechanism has not improved along with our technology."

"What's Wrong With The FAA Bill." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/3, Board) writes that it is "depressing" that the generally "welcome" bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration does not contain "a plan for fundamental reform of the air traffic control system." Shifting air traffic control from the FAA to a government-owned air traffic control corporation supported by user fees and governed by stakeholders would allow "much-needed technological modernization" and "let the FAA focus exclusively on its safety regulation mission." The Post attributes the lack of such a plan to the actions of "the corporate-jet and private-plane lobbies," concluding, "Score one for the swamp."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Nafta Ultimatum Strategy." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) criticizes USTR Lighthizer's NAFTA negotiations, noting that he pushed back talks despite upcoming elections in the US and Mexico making ratifying the amended agreement more challenging. The Journal adds that the problem in the talks is that the US demands an end to multilateral arbitration panels, a sunset provision, and demands for higher wages for auto workers. The Journal argues such conditions would cause capital flight, hurting workers. The Journal concludes that Lighthizer plans to hand Congress an ultimatum to approve the changes, lest President Trump allow NAFTA to expire. The Journal warns that while Lighthizer predicts Democrats will help the deal pass Congress, the Journal predicts they will allow NAFTA to end and then blame Trump and Republicans for the ensuing economic damage.

"Governments Steal Emergency Money." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) writes Democrats are using the 911 fees collected by states and towns "for purposes other than safety," condemning this as income redistribution. The Journal suggests such practices cause Americans to not trust progressives on healthcare and education and calls for political candidates to challenge incumbents on the practice.

"The Stormy Daniels Damage." In an editorial this morning, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/3) disagrees with that line of reasoning but still takes Trump and Giuliani to task, arguing that while their comments may well lessen Cohen's legal troubles, they inflicted serious political damage on the President by undermining his credibility.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Laser From Chinese Base Aimed At US Military In Africa's Skies](#)

[Trump Gambit Stuns Staff](#)

[How Morgan Stanley Got Its Mojo Back](#)

[Lower Tax Bills Fuel Best Earnings Quarter Since 2011](#)

New York Times:

[Giuliani May Have Exposed Trump To New Legal And Political Perils](#)

[New Revelations Suggest A President Losing Control Of His Narrative](#)

[Trump Orders Pentagon To Consider Reducing US Forces In South Korea](#)

[Army Special Forces Secretly Help Saudis Combat Threat From Yemen Rebels](#)

[Tariff Impact Colors A Key House Race In Boeing Country](#)

[De Blasio Moves To Bring Safe Injection Sites To New York City](#)

Washington Post:

[Again, Trump Is Caught In A Lie. Will It Change Anything?](#)
[Giuliani Story Of Payoff May Fuel Prosecutors' Case](#)
[Surprise Legal Strategy Stuns White House Officials](#)
[Influential Outsiders Played A Key Role In Pruitt's Travel](#)
[Across US, Republicans' Efforts To Arm Teachers Stall](#)
[CBS Managers Were Told About Rose](#)

Financial Times:

[KKR Restructures To Make Most Of Trump Tax Boost](#)
[Trump Says He Reimbursed Lawyer For Porn Star "Hush Money"](#)
[Richard Branson Moves Into Private Equity World](#)

Washington Times:

[Rudy Giuliani's Media Blitz Provides Ammunition For Trump Foes](#)
[Illegal Immigration Surges 230 Percent In April On Southwest Border](#)
[NRA Members Grow Impatient As GOP Fails To Deliver](#)
[National Day Of Prayer Seeks To Unify US, But Some Say It Sows Discord And Division](#)
[Senate Critics Use Gina Haspel's "Black Site" Work In Attempt To Defeat Her CIA Nomination](#)
[Cracks In The FARC Peace Deal: Violence, Cocaine Production Surge In Colombia](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; FBI Cohen Wiretap; Miami Police Violence; Severe Weather; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; North Korea-US Prisoners; Florida Child Kidnapping Trial; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations; House Chaplain Reinstated; Connecticut Standoff Explosion; Parking Deck Collapse; Twitter Password Warning; Organ Donor Gift.

CBS: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; FBI Cohen Wiretap; FBI Cohen Wiretap-Expert Comment; Nashville Shopping Mall Shooting; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; McCain Memoir-Trump Comment; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations; Eye Cancer Connection; California Serial Killer Investigation; Connecticut Standoff Explosion; House Chaplain Reinstated; Programming Note; Thrill Seekers.

NBC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; House Chaplain Reinstated; Severe Weather; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; NFL Cheerleaders Scandal; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations; Bill Cosby Trial; Twitter Password Warning; North Korea-US Prisoners; Fallen US Soldier Body Returned; NASA Event Racial Attacks; Ground Beef Recall; Small Plane Crash; Car Stuck Mid-Air; Auto Mechanic Education.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star – 9 minutes, 10 seconds
Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
Georgia-Military Plane Crash – 4 minutes, 30 seconds
House Chaplain Reinstated – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Russia Probe-Trump; North Korea-US Prisoners.

CBS: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Missouri Governor Scandal; VW Diesel Gate-Indictment; Charlie Rose-Sexual Allegations.

FOX: FBI Cohen Wiretap; Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Missouri Governor Scandal.

NPR: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; House Chaplain Reinstated; Hawaii Volcano; US-China Trade Relations.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Addresses NRA Annual Meetings – National Rifle Association Annual Meetings and Exhibits.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Addresses NRA Institute for Legislative Action – National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action Leadership Forum.

US Senate: On recess until 7 May.

US House: 12:30 PM HASC background briefing – House Armed Services Committee Majority Staff will host a background briefing on the Chairman's Mark and give press an opportunity to learn more about the provisions in the bill before the markup. The background briefing is off-camera and open to media with congressional credentials only. RSVP to nick.mikula@mail.house.gov. Location: 2216 Rayburn House Office Building
On recess until 7 May.

Other: 9:15 AM 2018 Atlantic Council-East Asia Foundation Strategic Dialogue – 2018 Atlantic Council-East Asia Foundation Strategic Dialogue, titled 'Scaling the Summits: The Future of a Denuclearized Korean Peninsula', with policymakers and U.S. experts sharing their views on the inter-Korean dialogue and what it might signify for the U.S.-North Korea summit just on the horizon. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, South Korean President's Special Adviser for Unification, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Dr Moon Chung-in, South Korean lawmakers Park Beom-kye and Kim Jong-dae, Atlantic Council Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security Director Barry Pavel, and CSIS International Security Program Senior Adviser and Project on Nuclear Issues Director Rebecca Hersman Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACScowcroft> #ACAsia

American Foreign Service Association Memorial Plaque Ceremony – American Foreign Service Association annual Memorial Plaque Ceremony, paying tribute to those who have lost their lives while serving overseas in the Foreign Service in the line of duty, or under heroic or other inspirational circumstances. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and outgoing Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon deliver remarks Location: State Department, Washington, DC <http://www.afsa.org/>
<https://twitter.com/afsatweets>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "We have a new bombshell in the Stormy Daniels hush investigation thanks to former New York Mayor and current Donald Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. This is really something. You remember how last month, a reporter on Air Force One asked Trump if he knew about the \$130,000 payment his lawyer, Michael Cohen, made to Stormy Daniels to keep her quiet about the affair they didn't have, and he said he didn't know about it? Well, now he did know about it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "And remember how Michael Cohen said he used his own money to make that payment, was never reimbursed by Donald Trump? Well, now he was reimbursed by Donald Trump."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Rudy Giuliani took to the warm confines of Fox News last night to contradict just about every claim his client has made on this subject."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President repaid Michael Cohen for the hush money he didn't know anything about. Which almost makes you think maybe he did know something about it. And he funneled it, which doesn't sound suspicious. That's how I pay my porn stars too, through a funnel."

Jimmy Kimmel: "If I bothered the President every time I made a six-figure payment to a porn star, he wouldn't be able to watch Fox News 11 hours a day."

Jimmy Kimmel: "By the end of the week, Rudy Giuliani is going to implicate Trump in the Lincoln assassination."

Stephen Colbert: "What he's trying to ship here is the idea that Cohen gets \$35,000 a month for Trump and out of that he deducts all the hush money he pays. All the porn stars you want to silence for one low monthly fee. Cohen calls the service Netchix."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump is claiming that he paid Cohen a monthly fee to hush up all the affairs he wasn't having. So anyone can just say they had an affair with Trump and leave with \$130-grand? In that case, I had sex with Donald Trump."

Stephen Colbert: "Sir, firing the guy because he won't announce you're not the target of the investigation is illegal. That's Obstruction of Justice 101, which I believe was a class they offered at Trump University."

James Corden: "Last night on Fox News, President Trump's new legal adviser, Rudy Giuliani, admitted that Trump repaid his personal lawyer for the hush money he paid to Daniels, even though Trump has repeatedly claimed to know nothing about it. Now, forget all the lying. The most shocking part of this story is that Donald Trump actually repaid someone."

James Corden: "If you remember, when Giuliani joined the legal team, he said that he'll wrap up this case in two weeks. Now, I didn't realize he meant 'I'm going to go on TV and prove that Trump was guilty.'"

James Corden: "Here's how bad it is: This morning, Trump gave Giuliani \$130,000 to shut the hell up."

James Corden: "Giuliani said Trump 'knew the general arrangement,' but not the 'specifics.' You know, kind of how Trump understands foreign policy and domestic policy... And the Constitution and the English language."

Trevor Noah: "The big news of the day, the Stormy Daniels affair. When we last left the story, the official Trump version was that Michael Cohen, without Trump knowing, paid Daniels \$130,000 to keep quiet about an affair that allegedly never happened. Cohen said it, Sarah Sanders said it, and Trump himself said it. Two weeks ago, Trump hired his good friend Rudy Giuliani to join his ever-changing legal people. ... Rudy! Rudy! What are you doing?! You're now saying President Trump did pay Stormy Daniels? This is big news! It's so big, it's so big that you probably didn't even hear that Kanye West said he wants to design new robes for the KKK."

Trevor Noah: "Imagine a PR crisis so bad that your best move is to admit you paid hush money to a porn star. So just so we're all on the same page, everyone pretended Trump had nothing to do with this payment, but now that the FBI raided Michael Cohen's office, they're afraid the truth is about to come out, so they want to get ahead of it first."

Trevor Noah: "The worst part of this whole story is if Trump had just paid Stormy Daniels and didn't try and hide it, the story would have just been Donald Trump had an affair. Let's be honest, no one would have cared. Even Melania would have been like, 'Better her than me.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It was 90 degrees here at New York today. People were sweating like President Trump watching Rudy Giuliani on Hannity."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, Rudy Giuliani went on Fox News and revealed that Trump knew about and paid for Stormy Daniels' hush money. Even Kanye was like, 'You should

probably stop talking.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Giuliani said that Trump knew about and paid for Stormy Daniels’ hush money. Which explains Trump’s newest idea: paying Rudy Giuliani \$130,000 in hush money.”

Jimmy Fallon: “I saw that when John Kelly became Trump’s chief of staff, the Secret Service Director emailed him saying, ‘Congratulations, I think.’ This is the same thing everyone said to Melania at her bridal shower.”

Seth Meyers: “Rudy Giuliani was interviewed last night by Fox News host Sean Hannity. And I don’t want to say Giuliani screwed Trump, but Michael Cohen gave him \$130,000.”

Seth Meyers: “During his interview last night, Rudy Giuliani said if Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s team goes after Ivanka Trump, the whole country will turn on Mueller. Yeah, ‘Can we just drop the Ivanka stuff?’ said Nordstrom.”

Seth Meyers: “Rudy Giuliani also said last night that the list of questions Special Counsel Robert Mueller wants to ask President Trump are designed to trap him in some way. Though you don’t have to work that hard to catch Trump in a lie. You really only need a DVR.”

Seth Meyers: “A New York state Supreme Court judge ruled today that a Trump-branded building in the city has the right to remove the President’s name and replace it with something less embarrassing.”

Seth Meyers: “President Trump’s top-shelf legal team is at it again. His lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, went on TV last night and defended him by telling everyone he lied about paying hush money to a porn star.”

Conan O’Brien: “President Trump’s former doctor is describing himself as frightened and sad. Experts say that is a common reaction to touching Donald Trump’s prostate.”

Conan O’Brien: “White House insiders say that President Trump feels comfortable with Rudy Giuliani because they are from the same generation. Giuliani says, ‘We share common values – things like hard work, patriotism, and ditching your first two wives.’”

Jordan Klepper: “Trump has hired personal lawyer, America’s mayor, Rudy Giuliani. Who, in spite of what I have speculated in the past, is not an enchanted jack-o-lantern.”

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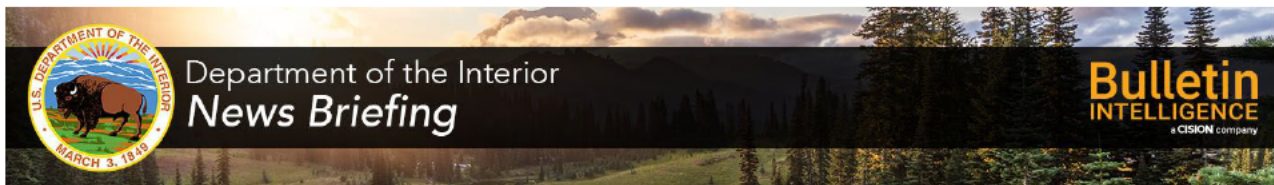
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for
Thursday, May 3, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu May 03 2018 03:59:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

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- Washington Examiner: Largest Coal Plant In The West Wants Ryan Zinke's Help.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Bighorns Win A Round Against Oil, Gas Firms.
- Huffington Post: Deputy Interior Secretary Keeps Meeting With Lobbyists For Client Of His Former Firm.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Interior Department To Expedite NEPA Review Process.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Bureau Of Indian Affairs Head Resigned Following Claims Of Aggressive Behavior: Report.
- 9th Circ. Backs DOI's Land Acquisition For Calif. Tribal Casino.

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- Associated Press: Bastendorff Beach Cleared Of Campers; Now A Day Use Site.

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- Walden To Speed Up Relief For On-Project Irrigators.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Denver Post: Rocky Flats Lawsuit Says Feds Skipped Key Study On Risk Of Plutonium Exposure.
- Gillette (WY) News Record: Federal Review Leaves Grizzly Management In Hands Of States.
- Suffolk (VA) News Herald: New Suffolk Haven For Bald Eagles.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: Colonial Farm Could Close Amid Dispute With Park Service.
- Hilton Head Island (SC) Packet: Beaufort, SC National Reconstruction Monument Could Expand.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Park Transit Plan 'Not A Done Deal'.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone Bison Rams Idaho Woman, Tosses Her Off Trail.
- WSLS-TV Roanoke (VA): Catawba Mountain Brush Fire 100 Percent Contained, Officials Say.
- New Jersey Herald: Delaware Water Gap Park Names Acting Superintendent.
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US Geological Survey

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DOI In The News

Zinke, Alexander Pen Op-ed: Our Parks Are Being 'Loved To Death'.

[The Hill](#) (5/2, Green) reports that "America's national parks are being 'loved to death' according to an op-ed for CNN written by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) published Wednesday." The two "highlights the need for infrastructure improvements across the country's 417 National Park Service sites and promotes a congressional bill sponsored by Alexander that aims to fix the backlog by establishing a permanent fund for the parks." In the op-ed, Zinke and Alexander wrote, "Neglect in infrastructure funding has resulted in our trails being eroded, visitor amenities being diminished and campgrounds being closed. The total deferred maintenance bill for all national park sites is four times the annual congressional appropriation. The good news is that this year, we have a proposal in Congress that could tackle most, if not all, of that \$11.6 billion backlog over the next 10 years."

Interior Moves Forward With Plan To Scrap Obama-Era Sage-Grouse Plan.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/2, Siciliano) reports that the Interior Department "released its draft plan to roll back the 2015 Obama-era plan to protect the chicken-sized sage-grouse on Wednesday, with an eye toward oil and natural gas development on once off-limit lands." Trump Administration officials "say the Bureau of Land Management's proposed revisions to the 2015 sage-grouse plan would increase flexibility in the management of lands in the West where the birds roost and breed." However, "conservation groups like the Audubon Society immediately condemned the Trump proposal as a serious threat to the birds."

The [AP](#) (5/2, Brown) reports that "a spokeswoman for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke described Wednesday's proposed changes as largely technical in nature." According to spokeswoman Heather Swift, "they were made in response to feedback the agency received about the 2015 plans from governors in sage grouse states." Kathleen Sgamma with the Western Energy Alliance "said the industry lobbying group was pleased that Zinke was 'moving forward with rewriting the sage grouse plans.'"

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (5/2), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/2, Richards), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/2, Brean), and [Nevada Appeal](#) (5/2).

Interior Dept. Renews Leases For Twin Metals Mine Project.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/10, Pfeifer) reports that the "possibility of copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park moved an incremental step closer to reality Wednesday" after the Interior Department "reinstated the Twin Metals Minnesota mineral leases from 2004 and its application for new leases." Interior's decision "reverses a decision made in the closing weeks of President Barack Obama's administration to deny the lease renewals," citing the "potential harm from acid mine drainage to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area."

The [AP](#) (5/2, Karnowski) reports that "in a statement, Twin Metals said the company was pleased with the department's action, calling it 'an important step in the lease renewal process.'" Also, Rep. Tom Emmer, "who authored legislation that passed the House to direct the bureau to renew the leases, welcomed the decision." Emmer issued a statement calling it "another step to full restoration of our state's right to explore and advance reasonable mining."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (5/2), the [Cook-Orr \(MN\) Timberjay](#) (5/2, Helmberger), the [Ely \(MN\) Echo](#) (5/2), [KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (5/2), and [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (5/2).

Largest Coal Plant In The West Wants Ryan Zinke's Help.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/2, Siciliano) reports "large coal companies, miners, and tribes are suing to keep" Arizona's Navajo Generating Station "from closing, while saying Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke needs to do more to save it." One aim of the lawsuit filed by the groups "in Arizona's federal district court on Tuesday is to coax the Interior Department, which owns a 25 percent stake in the plant, to come to its defense and keep it open." The groups "say Zinke has become lax in defending the plant, when he has the clear legal authority to do so."

Bighorns Win A Round Against Oil, Gas Firms.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (5/2, Koshmrl) reports that "federal mineral leasing has drastically increased under Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, but the former Montana congressman has set aside one swath of Wyoming for the good of bighorn sheep." Last week, the article says, "Zinke's office announced plans to renew a mineral withdrawal of 1,431 acres of winter range used by the significant but struggling Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Herd." Zinke said in a statement, "The Trump administration is serious about conservation, and we are backing up our words with action. I've always said there are places where it is appropriate to mine and places it is not. The Whiskey Mountain range is a good example."

Deputy Interior Secretary Keeps Meeting With Lobbyists For Client Of His Former Firm.

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/2, D'angelo, Vardi) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt "met late last year with a trio of lobbyists for MGM Resorts International, the casino-resort giant that his longtime former employer also represents." According to the article, "the meeting with lobbyists from Ballard Partners, which came two months after Bernhardt met with another lobbyist for MGM Resorts, raises still more ethical concerns involving the former energy lobbyist at a time when Secretary Ryan Zinke and his team are facing mounting criticism over their spending, travel and apparent conflicts of interest." Bernhardt is "barred from participating in matters involving his former employer, lobbying firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Schreck, per the ethics agreement he signed last year." However, "according to a newly released calendar, Bernhardt had a Dec. 19 meeting with Brian Ballard, a Florida lobbyist who raised millions of dollars for President Donald Trump's campaign and was hired by MGM in March 2017 to lobby the Department of the Interior on issues including 'Indian Gaming & Expansion Policy.'"

Interior Department To Expedite NEPA Review Process.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/3, Harmon) reports that the Interior Department will "speed up the time that its agencies take to study proposals under the National Environmental Policy Act, an Interior Department official told Club 20 members on Wednesday." According to Tim Williams, deputy director of the office of intergovernmental and external affairs for the department, "agencies will have to complete studies required by the act within a year and reports can run no longer than 100 pages." He added that "streamlining the review process under the act won't reduce the amount of time in which the public can comment, but will put the onus on agencies to respond more quickly to meet deadlines."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Bureau Of Indian Affairs Head Resigned Following Claims Of Aggressive Behavior: Report.

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (5/2, Samuels) reports that "the former director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs resigned last week following a claim that he behaved aggressively toward a female employee, Talking Points Memo reported Wednesday." Bryan Rice "resigned from the post after just six months on the job. The department did not give a reason for his resignation at the time." Talking Points Memo "obtained an email from an employee at the Bureau of Indian Affairs who alleges that

Rice 'repeatedly pointed his finger in my face in a harassing and bullying manner.'" She called the behavior "pervasive."

Also reporting are [Talking Points Memo](#) (5/2, Ollstein) and the [Daily Beast](#) (5/2).

9th Circ. Backs DOI's Land Acquisition For Calif. Tribal Casino.

[Law360](#) (5/2, Westney) reports that "the Ninth Circuit on Wednesday upheld a lower court ruling that rejected challenges to the U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to acquire land for a California tribe's casino project, saying the government properly decided the tribe was eligible to have the land taken into trust and did enough to address the environmental impact of the plan."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Approves Town Fourmile Proposal For 18 Miles Of New Trails.

The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (5/2, Smith) reports that "a plan to build 10 new trails totaling 18 miles in the Fourmile area east of Buena Vista has been approved by the Bureau of Land Management, according to a news release by BLM Wednesday afternoon." A BLM document on the decision said, "Three new trails totaling about 6 miles would be open to motorized users; seven trails totaling 12 miles would be open to non-motorized users including hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders. The entire network would be well-signed, mapped, with a logical layout to allow easy navigation to visitors and first time users."

BLM Extends Comment Period On American Prairie Reserve's Bison Grazing Permits.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/2) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "extend the scoping period by a month to allow the public more time to submit comments on the American Prairie Reserve's proposal to modify its grazing permits in Eastern Montana to allow bison." According to the article, "an estimated 400 people attended four scoping meetings the BLM held this spring." Some told BLM officials "that the timing of the meetings was difficult because they were scheduled when many ranchers were calving." The scoping period has been extended to June 11.

Bastendorff Beach Cleared Of Campers; Now A Day Use Site.

The [AP](#) (5/3) reports that Bureau of Land Management employees have "put up signs declaring Bastendorff Beach a day use only site." According to the article, "park rangers and Coos County Sheriff's deputies walked the beach on Tuesday, telling people who have been sleeping there that they must pack up and leave by nightfall."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Lake Mead Desalination Plant Could Cost Millions To Update.

The [AP](#) (5/3, Sandler) reports that "over the past 26 years," the Yuma Desalting Plant has "operated just three times while costing millions of dollars to maintain," and "it may need millions more, even to operate at a small fraction of capacity." Michael Norris, the Bureau of Reclamation deputy area manager at the plant, said, "If we do receive funding to operate, we would be able to mobilize and get the plant to operating. . We currently have some capital improvement projects that need to be completed . it would take one to two years, up to three years." According to the article, "the plant could save about 90,000 acre-feet of water every year at full capacity, but Norris said it likely will operate at one-third capacity if funding comes through."

Bureau Of Reclamation Warns Against Trespassing At Old Teton Dam Site.

The [Idaho State Journal](#) (5/2, Smith) reports that Bureau of Reclamation officials are "warning would-be trespassers that it's not worth it to attempt to go" onto Teton Dam

property . The Bureau of Reclamation is "especially concerned about those wanting to traverse through old tunnels that are impossible to back out of and filled with both water and undetectable deadly gases." Bureau of Reclamation representative Edna Rey-Vizgirdas said, "We've seen an increase in the recent past of trespassing and vandalism incidents out there. With the warm weather, people are going outside more, and we want to get the safety message out there. It's a timely message."

Walden To Speed Up Relief For On-Project Irrigators.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (5/2, Dillemath) reports that "a federal spending plan outlining emergency drought relief could be expedited for on-Project irrigators in the Klamath Basin via the Omnibus bill by Monday or earlier, according to U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)." Walden "offered continuing support for Klamath Basin irrigators Wednesday afternoon during a joint press conference with Bureau of Reclamation officials at the South Portal Building in Klamath Falls." He "said he is working closely with Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden to speed up the process for the funding from the Office of Budget and Management into the hands of irrigators."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Rocky Flats Lawsuit Says Feds Skipped Key Study On Risk Of Plutonium Exposure.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/2, Finley) reports that "environmental activists and an ex-FBI agent are trying to block the long-planned opening of the Rocky Flats former nuclear weapons site for recreation, arguing that hikers and bikers could inhale deadly plutonium particles and that the government skipped a required investigation." According to the article, "former FBI Special Agent Jon Lipsky, who led the 1989 raids, joined attorney Randall Weiner and groups – including the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Rocky Flats Right to Know and others – after Weiner filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court." The action "intensifies the latest eruption of public mistrust around one of the nation's murkiest Cold War sites where, despite decades of studies and a \$7.7 billion Super Fund cleanup, questions remain about whether plutonium levels in soil are safe for people."

Federal Review Leaves Grizzly Management In Hands Of States.

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (5/2, Koshmrl) reports that "the Northern Rocky Mountain states' ability to manage the Yellowstone region's grizzly bears has survived a federal review that could have returned jurisdiction to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." According to the article, "a self-imposed Fish and Wildlife reassessment weighed whether outside litigation about Great Lakes states wolves should reverse a 2017 decision to 'delist' Yellowstone grizzlies as a protected animal." In a regulatory review published in the Federal Register on Monday. Fish and Wildlife Deputy Director James Kurth wrote, "The principal goal of the act is to return listed species to a point at which protection under the act is no longer required. Once a species is recovered, its management should be returned to the states. Our approach furthers that objective. It creates incentives for federal-state cooperative efforts to achieve recovery. This approach also avoids needless expenditure of scarce federal funds on populations that are no longer threatened or endangered." "In summary," the review says, "the service has appropriately considered the impact of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem delisting on the lower-48 states population of grizzly bears."

New Suffolk Haven For Bald Eagles.

The [Suffolk \(VA\) News Herald](#) (5/2, Perry) reports that "a local bird rehabilitator is now one of the few professionals in Virginia permitted by the state to rehabilitate injured and orphaned bald eagles." According to the article, "Tommy White, wildlife rehabilitator and co-founder of Altons' Keep Wildbird Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Suffolk with his wife, Robin Alton-White, received a federal permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, spokeswoman Terri Edwards confirmed in an email." White "then received his state

permit from Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, according to the VDGIF permits department."

National Park Service

Colonial Farm Could Close Amid Dispute With Park Service.

The [AP](#) (5/2) reports that "supporters of a colonial-style farm in northern Virginia say it could close by the end of the year because of a disagreement with the National Park Service." A nonprofit group that manages the Claude Moore Colonial Farm "said it has sought a long-term operating agreement from the Park Service for six years." According to the farm's director, "the Park Service sought burdensome requirements, including approval of special events and items sold in the farm's shop." A spokeswoman for the Park Service "said the farm will close in December because management would not sign a proposed agreement with the agency."

Also reporting is [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (5/2, Augenstein).

Beaufort, SC National Reconstruction Monument Could Expand.

The [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (5/2, Fastenau) reports that "the Reconstruction Era National Monument would become a national park under a bill filed in April by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., and co-sponsored by Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C." The proposal "would formally expand the monument's footprint to include the city of Beaufort's historic district and St. Helena Island, making it easier for sites in those areas relevant to Reconstruction to be added to the park." The legislation "would also create a national network of Reconstruction Era sites overseen from Beaufort County."

Park Transit Plan 'Not A Done Deal'.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (5/2, Broom) reports that Acadia National Park's "long-range transportation plan, which was unveiled last Friday, has been more than three years in the making, but Superintendent Kevin Schneider emphasized that it is still only a draft and is subject to change." He said, "This is a proposal, it's not a done deal. We still have a long way to go in the process." The article notes that "between now and June 26, the public will have ample opportunity to comment – in person, online and by mail – on the transportation plan."

Yellowstone Bison Rams Idaho Woman, Tosses Her Off Trail.

The [AP](#) (5/2) reports that "a bison rammed a 72-year-old Idaho woman and tossed her off a trail as she walked in Yellowstone National Park." Park officials "said Wednesday that Virginia Junk of Boise was treated for minor injuries and transported to a hospital following the encounter in the Old Faithful area." [SweetwaterNOW \(WY\)](#) (5/2) reports that "this is the first incident of a bison injuring a visitor in 2018."

Catawba Mountain Brush Fire 100 Percent Contained, Officials Say.

[WSLS-TV](#) Roanoke, VA (5/2, Jorgenson) reports that "the brush fire on Catawba Mountain is now 100 percent contained, U.S. National Park Service officials said." Park Service officials "said they believe the fire was 'human-caused,' and while there is no evidence it was intentional, the cause remains under investigation."

Delaware Water Gap Park Names Acting Superintendent.

The [New Jersey Herald](#) (5/3) reports that "Tom Ross, superintendent at two other National Park Service units, has been named acting superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." According to the article, "Ross can serve in the top post at the park for up to 120 days." The National Park Service has "posted the full-time job but there is no deadline to name a permanent replacement for John Donahue, who retired in early December."

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Chief Ranger To Retire.

The [AP](#) (5/3) reports that "the chief ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park is retiring after 35 years of federal service." Steve Kloster "became chief ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in May 2015." Kloster has received "numerous awards throughout his career, including the Department of the Interior's Exemplary Act Award and the Georgia Medal for Valor in 1992 for the rescue of a pilot involved in a mid-air collision."

Insular And International Affairs

Elected Governor Was Important Step For Guam Government.

In a piece for the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/3, Torres), Sen. Mary C. Torres marks this year's Law Day by contemplating on "the significance of the Guam Elective Governor Act passed by the U.S. Congress in September 1968." Torres writes that "the Guam Elective Governor Act was a milestone toward greater self-governance for our people. It allowed our governor the authority to report directly to the local people" and it "signaled Guam's coming of age politically and economically." Torres notes that "there remains the sentiment in our community that we haven't shaken free from the paternalism of our past," and looking ahead, she concludes that "many believe a movement for even greater self-governance looms on Guam's horizon."

US Geological Survey

Dozens Of Quakes Rattle Hawaii Volcano, Eruption Possible.

The [AP](#) (5/2, Jones) reports that "dozens of earthquakes were rattling Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano on Wednesday as underground magma moved into a new area east of the Puu Oo vent." According to officials with the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, "the increased activity is associated with the collapse of the crater floor at Puu Oo, which is an open vent below Kilauea's summit crater and lava lake." The USGS is "sending two ground crews into the area Wednesday to install new monitoring equipment."

Also reporting are the [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (5/2), [Newsweek](#) (5/2, Hugo), and [TIME](#) (5/2, Reilly).

Opinion Pieces

Zinke And Alexander: How To Protect America's 'Best Idea'.

In an op-ed for [CNN](#) (5/2, Zinke, Alexander), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Sen. Lamar Alexander write in support of bipartisan legislation that "could tackle most, if not all, of" a "\$11.6 billion backlog" in maintenance needs at national parks over the next 10 years. The legislation would "help eliminate the maintenance backlog by means of a well-established principle of multiple-use that has worked in other instances, by directing part of the revenue from energy development on some of our federal lands to maintain other federal lands for public enjoyment." The authors note that the principle has worked for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Zinke and Alexander conclude that the proposal is "the latest chapter in this American story of conservation: using revenues from energy development on federal lands as mandatory or automatic funding to help pay for the national park maintenance backlog."

It's Time To Invest In America's Great Outdoors.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/2, Dammrich, Hugelmeyer), Thom Dammrich, the President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association and Chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, and Frank Hugelmeyer the President of the RV Industry Association and the Vice Chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, welcome actions taken by leaders to "address the massive backlog of upgrades needed to bring

public lands into the 21st century.” They note that “just weeks ago, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced two new initiatives that will make outdoor recreation a national priority for the federal government for years to come.” The first “designates a senior-level official at the Interior Department to oversee outdoor recreation and ensure the needs of America’s outdoor recreation enthusiasts are being met” and “the second requires all major offices within the Department to draft plans for developing new outdoor recreation opportunities and expanding the opportunities that already exist.” The authors call for “making commonsense investments in our public lands and waters that will improve infrastructure – such as campgrounds and lodging facilities – and by supporting balanced policies that conserve federal lands and waterways so that they can be accessed and enjoyed today and by future generations of Americans.”

Move The BLM To Utah, Where It Manages 43 Percent Of The State.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (5/2, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, federalism policy director at Sutherland Institute, argues that the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management should be relocated to Utah. He notes that “almost two-thirds of Utah is federally managed public land, and of that, the BLM administers more than 22 million acres, or 43 percent of the state.” Anderson argues that “by living and working in Utah, BLM employees will better understand how management decisions affect the land and the locals.” He adds that “moving the bureau to Utah will act as a show of good faith and provide a fresh start for the relationship between the BLM and the people it serves.” Furthermore, “the move, combined with a renewed rapport, will encourage Utahns and others across the West to fill the BLM’s job openings – allowing Westerners to live where their roots are and manage the public lands they love.”

Additional Reading.

- *The New West: Interior Department Mobster.* [Planet Jackson Hole \(WY\)](#) (5/2, Wilkinson).
- *Zinke Proposal Will Mean Less Money, Dirty Air.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (5/2, Tallman)
- *My View: Congress Averts Next Season Of Smoke.* [Portland \(OR\) Tribune.](#) (5/3, Barnum)
- *Discovery At White Sands Gives Clues To Distant Past.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (5/2).
- *OUR OPINION: Parkway Vital Asset For Region, Communities.* [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal](#) (5/3).
- *BLM Should Reject Plan That Would Destroy Montana Rangeland.* [Clark Fork Valley \(MT\) Press-Mineral Independant](#) (5/2, Denowh).
- *Thomas Mitchell: BLM Calculates Costs Of Wild Horse Options.* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/2, Mitchell).
- *Land, Water, People: Connecting To The Land Through Volunteering.* [Alamosa \(CO\) Valley Courier](#) (5/2, Wier).
- *You Can Bet On Casinos Coming To Virginia, Courtesy Of The Pamunkey.* [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (5/2, Chesley).
- *Humanity Is Waging An Inexplicable War On Trees. It’s Not Going To Work Out For Either Side.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/2, Morrison).

Top National News

Trump Hints At Possible Release Of Americans Held In North Korea.

Though not mentioned on the major network newscasts last night, [AFP](#) (5/2) and the [Financial Times](#) reported Wednesday afternoon that three Americans detained in North Korea may soon be released. The reports are generating very positive coverage for the Administration, with outlets crediting the President with their anticipated freedom. Trump

himself [tweeted](#) Wednesday evening, "As everybody is aware, the past Administration has long been asking for three hostages to be released from a North Korean Labor camp, but to no avail. Stay tuned!" [USA Today](#) (5/2, Hayes, James) says Trump's tweet "follow[s] several media reports that suggested that a prisoner release was possible."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/2, Miller), for example, reports that North Korea "has freed three US citizens detained for years in the communist country, bowing to another demand of President Trump ahead of his planned meeting with Kim Jong-un." The three Americans – Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak-song and Kim Sang Duk, also known as Tony Kim – were "released from a North Korean labor camp and sent to Pyongyang for medical treatment, the [Financial Times](#) reported." The Washington Times says their release "marked another significant victory for the Trump administration."

Sources similarly told [AFP](#) (5/2) that the three Americans "may have been moved ahead of a possible release to coincide with a summit" between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Trump. Secretary of State Pompeo reportedly sought their release during a meeting with Kim last month.

Under the headline "North Korea Hands Trump Another Big Win By Releasing US Prisoners," [Business Insider](#) (5/2, Lockie) reports the Financial Times cited "a South Korean activist who campaigns for the release of people detained in North Korea," Choi Sung-ryong, who said, "We believe that Mr. Trump can take them back on the day of the US-North Korea summit or he can send an envoy to take them back to the US before the summit." According to the [Korea Herald](#) (5/2), the three are believed to now be held in "a hotel on the outskirts of Pyongyang."

To the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/2, Leach), their anticipated release is "a sign of good faith ahead of the summit" between Trump and Kim, and [Newsweek](#) (5/2, Maza) too says "some experts suggested that the move was meant to facilitate upcoming talks between Trump and...Kim."

[Baltimore Sun](#) (5/2, Solloway) columnist Charles Davis Solloway Jr. writes that while President Trump "has his critics; nowhere has this been more apparent than in the evaluation of his efforts to resolve the inherited threat posed by North Korea." Solloway argues, "It looks to me as if Mr. Trump has been sticking to the standard negotiation playbook, although often without the finesse often seen in diplomatic circles. The stakes are enormous. I will be rooting for his success."

Zachary Karabell writes for the [Washington Post](#) (5/2, Karabell) "PostEverything" blog that "last week's summit between North Korea's Kim Jong-Un and South Korea's President Moon Jae-In was as close to breathtaking as it gets in international relations. ... But a chorus of naysayers now warn that the Korea impasse remains hopeless." Karabell asks, "What if, however, we're underestimating the possibility that things go right – and, rather than the verge of war, we're on the verge of peace? It's not assured, but it's not impossible."

Pompeo: US Seeking "Permanent, Verifiable, Irreversible Dismantling" Of Nuclear Program. [Reuters](#) (5/2) reports Secretary of State Pompeo on Wednesday "said North Korea must commit to immediately dismantling its weapons program, adding that efforts to denuclearize Pyongyang were still in the 'beginning stages' and the outcomes 'unknown.'" Pompeo is quoted as saying, "We are committed to the permanent, verifiable, irreversible dismantling of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction program and to do so without delay."

South Korea: US Troops Not An Issue In Peace Talks. [Reuters](#) (5/2, Reuters) reports South Korea said Wednesday that "the issue of US troops stationed in the South is unrelated to any future peace treaty with North Korea and that American forces should stay even if such an agreement is signed." Presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said, "US troops stationed in South Korea are an issue regarding the alliance between South Korea and the United States. It has nothing to do with signing peace treaties."

Dennis Rodman: Kim Had "Change Of Heart" After Reading "Art Of The Deal." [Breitbart](#) (5/2, Hayward) reports former NBA player Dennis Rodman claimed Monday that Kim Jong Un had a "change of heart" about his nation's nuclear program after reading President Trump's book, "The Art of the Deal." In an interview with TMZ, Rodman recalled presenting Kim with a copy of Trump's book during his June 2017 trip to

Pyongyang. Said Rodman, "I don't want to take all the credit. I don't want to sit there and say, 'I did this. I did that.' That's not my intention."

Eighteen Republican Lawmakers Nominate Trump For Nobel Peace Prize. [USA Today](#) (5/2, Estepa) reports that a group of 18 Republican House members on Tuesday sent a letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, nominating President Trump to receive the award for his work to "end the Korean War, denuclearize the Korean peninsula, and bring peace to the region." The group was led by Rep. Luke Messer of Indiana, "who is running for Senate on a pro-Trump platform." The [AP](#) (5/2, Freking) reports that "several other Republicans on the letter are also running for governor or senator."

Separately, Sen. Bob Corker told [CNBC's](#) (5/2, Belvedere) "Squawk Box" on Wednesday that Trump would deserve the Nobel Peace Prize "if this gets resolved. My gosh, yes." He added, "Over 25 years, this has happened a number of times. This does look more optimistic than those other times. This is a long process, but it's starting out on a very good note."

Giuliani: Proudest Moment Will Be When Trump Wins Nobel, Tells Detractors To "Shove It." The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/2, Correll) reports Rudy Giuliani, who is currently serving as a member of the President's legal team, said Wednesday that his proudest moment will be when President Trump wins a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to bring peace to the Korean peninsula and tells detractors to "shove it." Giuliani told [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺, "Look at what is going on with North Korea. I told the president, 'You're going to get the Nobel Peace Prize and my proudest moment is when you tell them to shove it.'"

Hannity: Media Ignoring Trump's Accomplishments. Sean Hannity, in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺 (5/2), complained that the mainstream media is "ignoring every major Trump accomplishment." He added, "Yeah, we'll forget about all the President Trump's historic accomplishments. For example, on the Korean Peninsula, we're actually talking about denuclearization. ... The media wants you to believe the White House is in shambles? Not so, but you know better."

WPost Analysis: Though More Dovish Toward North Korea, Trump Surrounds Himself With Hawks. The [Washington Post](#) (5/2, Nakamura, Hudson) reports that Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., who "is set to become a key player in the Trump administration's attempts to craft a diplomatic deal" with North Korea, "reflects an important dynamic in the growing diplomatic thaw between Washington and Pyongyang. Even as Trump softens his rhetoric in hopes of easing tensions with Kim, the president has assembled a team of foreign policy hawks that will be with him at the negotiating table and assume responsibility for hammering out the crucial details if the leaders announce a broad agreement to pursue a nuclear disarmament deal."

Chinese Foreign Minister Arrives In North Korea For Talks. The [AP](#) (5/2) reports Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Pyongyang on Wednesday and "could meet with leader Kim Jong Un while trying to ensure a larger role for Beijing in the new round of nuclear diplomacy with Pyongyang that had been driven by Seoul and Washington." Wang, the AP says, is "likely to use his visit to further ensure that Beijing would not be sidelined in the high-stakes discussions surrounding the North." [AFP](#) (5/3) reports Wang said Beijing hopes that talks between the US and North Korea will be "smooth and achieve substantial progress."

Trump Complains Probe Interfering With Duties As Mueller Reportedly Threatens Subpoena.

Coverage of Robert Mueller's investigation into possible Trump campaign collusion with Russia and other matters surrounding the President focuses on rising tensions between the White House and the Special Counsel's team. Mueller is now reportedly threatening to subpoena the President, who responded with a series of tweets and a significant change to his legal team.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/2, story 4, 2:50, Muir) reported that Mueller "is now threatening a subpoena if the President is unwilling to answer questions in the Russia investigation." ABC's Jonathan Karl: "When we first asked, the President was adamant:

He'd be more than happy to talk" to Mueller. But "nearly a year later, a tense standoff. So tense, ABC News has confirmed Mueller told the President's lawyers he could compel the President to testify, raising the possibility of a subpoena." Major Garrett reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/2, story 3, 2:50, Glor), "During a January chat with reporters, the President said he was willing to be interviewed under oath." Trump: "I'm looking forward to it actually. There's been no collusion whatsoever."

[USA Today](#) (5/2, Jackson) reports, "As negotiations over his potential testimony hit a sensitive point, President Trump complained Wednesday that the Russia investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller is interfering with presidential duties." The President [tweeted](#) Wednesday morning, "There was no Collusion (it is a Hoax) and there is no Obstruction of Justice (that is a setup & trap). What there is is Negotiations going on with North Korea over Nuclear War, Negotiations going on with China over Trade Deficits, Negotiations on NAFTA, and much more. Witch Hunt!"

Trump legal team member Rudy Giuliani said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) 📺 (5/2), "The Special Counsel would like to interview the President. ... When you look at those questions about 'what is the President thinking, what does the President feel, what is he really desires' – those are all questions intended to trap him in some way and contradicting what is in fact a very, very solid explanation of what happened. ... This is an outrageous miscarriage of justice." [Fox News](#) (5/2, Chamberlain) reports on its website that Giuliani called on Mueller to end his probe "in the interest of justice."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) 📺 (5/2), "There is no way based on my experience as a federal prosecutor and state attorney general that [Mueller] should agree to two or three hours maximum for this interview. It should go as long as is necessary for him to be satisfied that Donald Trump is answering his questions." Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) [tweeted](#), "If you're innocent, act like it. For President Trump, the best way to prove innocence is to answer the critical questions that Special Counsel Mueller – and the American people – have raised." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/2, Sink, House, Strohm) and [The Hill](#) (5/2, Fabian) also have reports.

Clinton Impeachment Veteran Flood Replacing Cobb On Trump Legal Team. The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/2, story 3, 2:50, Glor) reported, "President Trump today shook up the legal team that's dealing with the Russia investigation. Ty Cobb is being replaced by an attorney who helped defend President Bill Clinton." CBS' Major Garrett: "Ty Cobb's departure and the arrival of Clinton impeachment lawyer Emmet Flood signals President Trump's girding for battle" with Mueller. [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/2, story 2, 2:25, Holt) reported, "Ty Cobb is out and a new heavy hitter who acted as Bill Clinton's impeachment lawyer is in. It comes amid signs the Trump team is shifting tactics, preparing for a battle and a potential confrontation for a subpoena." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/2, story 4, 2:50, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, "Cobb tells me he was ready to leave." Cobb: "Almost everything that I was brought on to do has been accomplished." Karl: "Cobb had employed a strategy of patience with Mueller."

The [AP](#) (5/2, Day, Tucker) reports that the White House announced the Flood hiring "not long after announcing the retirement" of Cobb, "who has been the administration's point person" dealing with the Mueller investigation. The AP calls it "the latest shakeup for the legal team grappling with unresolved questions on how to protect the president from legal and political jeopardy." The [New York Times](#) (5/2, Apuzzo, Schmidt) reports that Flood "is expected to take a more adversarial approach to the investigation than Mr. Cobb, who had pushed Mr. Trump to strike a cooperative tone."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/2, Rucker, Dawsey, Leonnig, Helderman) says that Trump's "growing desire for his lawyers to more forcefully counter the ongoing special counsel investigation drove yet another shake-up of his legal team...putting the White House on war footing with federal prosecutors." The Post says that this "latest upheaval...comes as Trump has adopted an increasingly hostile posture toward the special counsel." [Politico](#) (5/2, Samuelsohn, Gerstein) similarly writes, "Trump is shifting to war footing in the Russia investigation."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/2, Ballhaus, Nicholas) reports that though White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said that Cobb had been discussing retirement for

"several weeks," he had not given any public indication that he was considering departing. Giuliani said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/2) that Cobb "has been enormously helpful, he helped me with my orientation. We wouldn't be where we are today which is in a very strong position if it wasn't for him and" attorney John Dowd, who has also left the team. But [Breitbart](#) (5/2, Mason) quotes Steve Bannon saying, "Cobb was a mistake from the beginning. He is the author of a legal strategy that was as radical as it was unwise – the unprompted and immediate waiving of executive privilege."

Citing an anonymous source, [CNN](#) (5/2, Zeleny, Collins, Watkins, Acosta) reports on its website that Cobb "had been clashing with the President in recent weeks over Trump's combative posture with the special counsel's investigation." The source is quoted as saying. "Ty was uncomfortable with the Mueller tweets," and did not want to be "part of a mud-slinging campaign." [USA Today](#) (5/2, Jackson) reports that Cobb said in a statement, "It has been an honor to serve the country in this capacity at the White House. I wish everybody well moving forward."

In a [tweet](#), Bill Kristol published the phone number of Flood's law office, writing, "Emmet Flood, a serious attorney who presumably cares about his reputation, should be asked...whether he agrees the investigation is a witch hunt, and if he thinks it appropriate for the White House to call a DOJ investigation that."

Wired's Virginia Heffernan [tweeted](#), "Emmet Flood is, strictly speaking, representing the White House & not Donald Trump. His focus should be on precedent for the executive branch. He might end up protecting the office *from* the man who currently holds it." Richard Painter [tweeted](#) that Flood is "a great defense lawyer. If I were very rich and in trouble with the law I would hire him too."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/2, Megerian) and the [Washington Times](#) (5/2, Boyer) have brief items on Flood's hiring and Cobb's exit. [Reuters](#) (5/2) also reports.

Trump Threatens To Use "Powers Granted To The Presidency" In House-DOJ Dispute. The [New York Times](#) (5/2, Sullivan, Fandos) reports that Trump also "plunged on Wednesday into the simmering dispute between conservative House Republicans" and the Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, "siding with the lawmakers and attacking his own Justice Department." Trump [tweeted](#), "A Rigged System – They don't want to turn over Documents to Congress. What are they afraid of? Why so much redacting? Why such unequal 'justice?' At some point I will have no choice but to use the powers granted to the Presidency and get involved!"

[Politico](#) (5/2, Gerstein, Cheney) reports that Trump "did not say precisely which records he believed were being slow-walked by the Justice Department, but Republicans have been pressing officials there to turn over memos on a variety of topics." The [Washington Times](#) (5/2, Mordock) reports that House conservatives have drafted articles of impeachment against Rosenstein, accusing him "of refusing to comply with a subpoena to hand over documents to two Congressional committees." The [Daily Caller](#) (5/2, Enjeti) says that tweet "is likely in reference to [those] demands." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/2) says in an editorial that Rosenstein should turn over the requested documents, writing that the congressional requests fall under oversight power and do not violate the separation of powers.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/2, Barrett) writes that Trump's tweet "suggests that friction may be rising again" between Trump and Rosenstein, "who just a day earlier declared at a public event that 'the Justice Department is not going to be extorted' by public and private threats." Trump also "sent a [tweet](#) promoting Fox News Channel legal analyst Gregg Jarrett's new book, which is highly critical of how the FBI investigated Hillary Clinton and Trump."

Ukraine Has "Effectively Frozen" Cases Against Manafort. The [New York Times](#) (5/2, Kramer) reports that in Ukraine, "where officials are wary of offending President Trump, four meandering cases" involving ex-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort "have been effectively frozen by Ukraine's chief prosecutor." The Times reports that "some lawmakers say" the cases "are just too sensitive for a government deeply reliant" on US aid.

Giuliani: "The President Repaid" Cohen For \$130,000 Payment To Daniels.

In an emerging story, Rudy Giuliani, a member of President Trump's legal team, said during a wide-ranging interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity that President Trump repaid personal attorney Michael Cohen for a \$130,000 payment to adult film performer Stormy Daniels. Giuliani said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/2) that Cohen's payment to Daniels "is going to turn out to be perfectly legal. That money was not campaign money. ... The President repaid it." Giuliani said, "When I heard Cohen's retainer of \$35,000 when he was doing the work for the President, I said, 'That's how he's repaying it, with a little profit and a little margin for paying taxes.'"

The [AP](#) (5/2) reports that Giuliani's statement "directly contradict[ed] the president's past statements. ... Trump told reporters several weeks ago that he didn't know about the \$130,000 payment to Daniels as part of a nondisclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 presidential election."

[USA Today](#) (5/2, Cummings) reports that when Hannity asked about this, Giuliani, "appearing to backtrack," said, "He didn't know about the specifics of it, as far as I know. But he did not know about the general arrangement that Michael would take care of things like this." The [New York Times](#) (5/2, Shear) also says that Giuliani's statement "appeared to contradict the president, who has at times said that he was not aware of the payment" to Daniels "and did not know how his lawyer had gotten the money to pay her. It also contradicts what Mr. Cohen has been saying for months – that he used his own money to pay [Daniels] to keep quiet." The [New York Post](#) (5/2, Tacopino) and [Politico](#) (5/2, Morin, Crowley) also say that Giuliani seemed to contradict Trump.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/2, Lim) reports that Fox News' Laura Ingraham said Giuliani "may have caused more legal trouble" for Trump with the comment. On her show, which aired immediately following Hannity's, she said, "I love Rudy, but they better have an explanation for that. That's a problem. ... It's all about credibility and impeaching somebody's credibility throughout the process. You can see where this is going to go."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/2, Barrett, Bump, Dawsey) reports that Larry Noble of the Campaign Legal Center "said Giuliani's statements do not end the questions about possible campaign finance violations – and in fact could point to further concerns." Noble said, "What is surprising is that Trump recently said he knew nothing about the payment. Now, Giuliani is trying to get the stories in sync, but this still leaves several potential violations. The timing of the payment is still strong evidence of it being campaign related. And the fact that Trump paid Cohen back strengthens that argument."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/2, Correll) reports that Daniels attorney Michael Avenatti told MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell, "I am rarely, as your viewers know, rendered speechless. But I am absolutely speechless at this revelation and this admission." In an interview on [CBS' Late Show](#) (5/3, Colbert) taped before the Giuliani interview, Avenatti said, "I'm confident that we're going to win the case. And I'm going to stand by what I've said recently, which is I think the President will not serve out his term. ... It's not about the sex, and it's not about people's right to know what happened as it relates to the intimate relationship. ... It's about the public's right to know about the cover-up and the lies and the deceit that has occurred relating to this \$130,000 payment."

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Giuliani = Scaramucci. Not long for team Trump". Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) [tweeted](#), "Rudy's admission raises question whether these payments constitute an illegal 'Structuring' of transactions to evade reporting laws in violation of 31 USC §5324, the same violation committed by former House Speaker Hastert." Philip Rucker of the Washington Post [tweeted](#), "White House press shop is referring questions about Giuliani's revelation that Trump repaid Cohen for Stormy Daniels hush money to the president's outside counsel....who happens to be Giuliani."

Preet Bharara [tweeted](#), "From a purely legal and PR competency perspective, Trump should fire Giuliani long before Sessions, Rosenstein, McGahn, Mueller". CNN's Harry Enten [tweeted](#), "This Giuliani interview has got to be one of the worst interviews given by someone connected to Trump... and I don't say that lightly cause there have been a lot of objectively bad ones." Amanda Terkel of the Huffington Post [tweeted](#),

"Giuliani is the guy who went on Fox in January 2017 and admitted (oops!) that Trump's exec order was indeed a backdoor Muslim ban. So yeah... this is all pretty predictable."

[Reuters](#) (5/2), [Bloomberg News](#) (5/2, Olorunnipa), and the [Daily Caller](#) (5/2, Datoc) also cover Giuliani's remarks.

Administration To Roll Out Recision Package.

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/2, Donachie) reports that a source with first-hand knowledge said that in the coming weeks, the Administration will propose a recision package that "will roll back \$25 billion from the \$1.3 trillion spending bill Congress passed in April." On Tuesday, the White House was expected to release a recision package between \$30 billion and \$60 billion, but it didn't happen. Both the House and Senate would have to approve the package, but could do so on a simple majority vote.

ADP Report: 204,000 Jobs Added In April Amid Strengthening Labor Market.

[USA Today](#) (5/2, Davidson) reports "US job growth may have bounced back in April, according to" ADP, which "said Wednesday that businesses added 204,000 jobs last month, possibly signaling the government's employment report this week will reveal a rebound in hiring after a weak showing the prior month." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/2, Chandra) says the figures "are a positive sign for private payrolls, which will be released Friday as part of the monthly jobs report by the Labor Department, and suggest the jobless rate will continue to decline." Bloomberg adds the ADP figures also "show demand for labor remains solid across nearly all industries, including construction, professional services and health care."

[The Hill](#) (5/2, Needham) also reports that "hiring was strong across a broad range of sectors," and notes that "Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which oversees the ADP report, said US companies are 'aggressively' hiring despite increasing headwinds." Said Zandi, "Despite rising trade tensions, more volatile financial markets and poor weather, businesses are adding a robust more than 200,000 jobs per month."

Less optimistic is the [AP](#) (5/2) report, which highlights the fact that "small business hiring picked up moderately last month as owners held to their strategy of cautiously adding to their payrolls." The AP adds that ADP "counted 62,000 new jobs at its customers with up to 49 employees."

Fed Leaves Rates Unchanged. [USA Today](#) (5/2, Davidson) reports the Fed "held its key interest rate steady Wednesday but noted that inflation has climbed close to its 2% goal, paving the way for another rate hike in June." The [New York Times](#) (5/2, Tankersley) portrays Fed policy-makers as "acknowledging rising inflation but providing little indication" they "are worried about a sudden, rapid escalation in prices or an abrupt slowdown in economic growth that could alter its gradual pace of rate increases."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/2, Timiraos) runs a similar report, and [Bloomberg News](#) (5/2, Condon) says "the decision to maintain the federal funds target range at 1.5 percent to 1.75 percent was a unanimous 8-0."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Truth Trump Doesn't Want You To Know About The Caravan." The [New York Times](#) (5/2) editorializes that the so-called "caravan" is nothing new, but rather a group of Central Americans who – as has been the case for years – "joined forces...for safety and to attract attention to their plight" with "few in the United States" paying "much heed. Until President Trump did, opening another ugly chapter in his anti-immigration crusade." With his "barrage of tweets," Trump "transformed about 1,200 people on the northward trek into a dangerous horde bent on flooding the United States and confirming the need for that big wall that is his obsession." To the Times, "the vetting of the caravan, in fact, shows that the immigration laws are quite strict, and that they work," and "that Mr. Trump says otherwise shows he sees...an opportunity to fan the flames of bigotry."

"Let Abbas's Vile Words Be His Last As Palestinian Leader." The [New York Times](#) (5/2) in an editorial says that Abbas "shed all credibility as a trustworthy partner." The Times also says he is guilty of "overstaying his term by many years." The Times concludes, "it is time for him to leave office" and to allow Palestinians to find "a leader with energy, integrity and vision."

Washington Post.

"Send Mr. Pruitt Packing." The [Washington Post](#) (5/2) editorializes that the recent disclosure that portions of Pruitt's trip to Morocco last December "were arranged by a former Comcast lobbyist who had become close to the administrator – and who shortly thereafter registered as an agent for the Moroccan government" underscores his "habit of wasting taxpayer money on private indulgences." The Post writes that Pruitt "has crammed a lifetime's worth of ethical failings into less than a year and a half in office. How much longer will President Trump continue to tolerate this swamp creature in his administration?"

"Listen Up, Mr. Goodell." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/2) calls for the NFL to accept the offer from its cheerleaders suing for discrimination to settle their claims in exchange "for is the chance to sit down for a four-hour meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell" with a goal of negotiating "leaguewide reforms of the outdated rules and regulations affecting cheerleaders." The Post argues the only reason to refuse is if the League is "not really serious when it says its commitment to a fair and respectful work environment includes the women who cheer on the sidelines." The Post concludes that cheerleaders "shouldn't be treated like second-class citizens or...sexually exploited," and that the plaintiffs' willingness to forego "monetary awards to tell their stories in the hope of bringing about change should convince Mr. Goodell that, at the very least, he needs to listen."

"Mr. Netanyahu's Inconclusive Case." The [Washington Post](#) (5/2) editorializes in favor of the US remaining in the agreement with Iran, arguing that the case made by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, did not succeed in justifying withdrawal. The Post also accuses President Trump of having "grossly misstated the terms of the deal," and urges him "to look beyond Mr. Netanyahu's video appeals before making a final decision."

Wall Street Journal.

"China Trade Showdown." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/2) editorializes that if reducing the trade deficit between the two countries is the main goal of this week's talks, opening up China's services market would be beneficial to both sides. However, the Journal says Trump is focused on US manufacturing exports.

"The Growth Man Of Europe." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/2) in an editorial says that under President Emmanuel Macron, France has become the leading economic reformer in Europe. The Journal cites recent remarks by Macron against the "exit tax" which penalizes people for taking money out of France, as well as his earlier change to flatten the income tax and eliminating some wealth taxes.

"Rod Rosenstein Protests." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/2) says in an editorial that Rosenstein should turn over the requested documents, writing that the congressional requests fall under oversight power and do not violate the separation of powers.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed Holds Rates Steady, But Indicates Increases Will Continue](#)

[Cambridge Analytica Closing Operations After Facebook Data Scandal](#)

[Why Xi's Hands Are Tied In Trade Talks With US](#)

[A Megadeal Joined Sharpie Markers And Crock-Pots. What Could Go Wrong? A Lot](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Repaid Cohen For Stormy Daniels Hush Money, Giuliani Says](#)
[Trump Assails Justice Dept., Siding With House Conservatives In Dispute](#)
[Redskins Cheerleaders Describe Topless Photo Shoots And An Uneasy Night Out](#)
[Teacher Pay Is So Low In Some U.S. School Districts That They're Recruiting Overseas](#)
[Trump Adds Clinton Impeachment Lawyer, Bracing For A Fight On Multiple Fronts](#)
[Cambridge Analytica To File For Bankruptcy After Misuse Of Facebook Data](#)

Washington Post:

[Democrats Face Calls For Fresh House Leadership](#)
[Hoop Dreams In Danger](#)
[President Signals A Shift In Strategy With New Attorney](#)
[Giuliani: Trump Repaid Cohen For Hush Money](#)

Financial Times:

[Wealthier EU States Attack Brussels Plan To End Rebates](#)
[Apple Caps Tech Revival And Spurs Wall St To Rethink Pessimism](#)
[Eta Announces Dissolution And Ends Campaign For Basque Independence](#)
[Eurozone Growth Hits Slowest Pace In 18 Months](#)

Washington Times:

[Facebook Taps Former Republican Senator To Probe Claims Of Anti-Conservative Bias](#)
[North Korea Releases U.S. Detainees, Bows To Another Trump Demand](#)
[Pentagon Puzzled As Typically-Aggressive Iranian Navy Lies Low In Strait Of Hormuz](#)
[NRA Unbowed, Undeterred After Parkland Spawns New Breed Of Anti-Gun Activist](#)
['Tradecraft Failings': CIA's Conclusion That Putin Interfered In Election To Help Trump Was Flawed](#)
['Deaths Of Despair' See Massive Spike In U.S.](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Georgia-Military Plane Crash; Southwest-Emergency Landing; Las Vegas Shooting-New Video; Russia Probe-Trump; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Trump Medical Records Raid; Cambridge Analytica Bankruptcy; Iowa-Abortion Bill; Plane Landing Close Call Investigation; Murder Suspect Dead; Lettuce Contamination; Boy Scouts Name Change; Philly Starbucks Incident Settlement; Military Family.

CBS: Georgia-Military Plane Crash; Lettuce Contamination; Russia Probe-Trump; Severe Weather; FBI-Shopping Mall Attack Foiled; Southwest-Emergency Landing; Niger Ambush-New Details; Florida Sinkholes; Las Vegas Shooting-New Video; Philly Starbucks Incident Settlement; Cash Truck Accident; NOAA Tornado Research.

NBC: Georgia-Military Plane Crash; Russia Probe-Trump; Russia Probe-Expert Comment; Southwest-Emergency Landing; Severe Weather; Lettuce Contamination; Las Vegas Shooting-New Video; Paintball Shooting Dangers; College Tuition; Philly Starbucks Incident Settlement; Boy Scouts Name Change; United Airlines Pet Policy; California Wildfire-Horses.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Probe – 9 minutes, 15 seconds
Georgia-Military Plane Crash – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
Southwest-Emergency Landing – 5 minutes, 35 seconds
Severe Weather – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Lettuce Contamination – 1 minute, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Russia Probe; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; Federal Reserve-Interest Rate; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; Severe Weather;

Lettuce Contamination; Wall Street News.

FOX: Las Vegas Shooting-New Video; Connecticut Barn Explosion; Georgia-Military Plane Crash; Russia Probe.

NPR: Trump Attorney-Adult Film Star; Russia Probe; FBI-Shopping Mall Attack Foiled; Connecticut Barn Explosion; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in National Day of Prayer event.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Field hearing on 'Net Neutrality: Impacts on New Hampshire Small Businesses' Location: University of New Hampshire, 83 Main Street, Durham, NH

<http://sbc.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

On recess until 7 May.

US House: On recess until 7 May.

Other: 2:00 PM U.S. Ambassador to the OAS speaks at AEI – 'View from the summit: A conversation with Ambassador Carlos Trujillo on President Trump's strategy in the Americas' American Enterprise Institute event, with U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States Amb. Carlos Trujillo discussing his reflections on the Summit of the Americas, insights into the Trump administration's strategy in the region, and his vision for the future of inter-American relations Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

3:00 PM Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks at National Sheriffs' Association D.C. Opioid Roundtable Location: W Hotel Washington DC, 515 15th Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

4:00 PM Inter-American Dialogue Ambassador Dialogue on Ecuador and the U.S. – Inter-American Dialogue Ambassador Dialogue – 'Ecuador and the United States', with Ecuador Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Francisco Carrion and U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador Amb. Todd Chapman discussing the state of bilateral relations Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1155 15th St NW, Washington, DC www.thedialogue.org https://twitter.com/The_Dialogue #AmbassadorDialogues

Labor Secretary Acosta addresses Lawyers for Civil Justice – Lawyers for Civil Justice membership meeting. Speakers include Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein Location: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.lfcj.com> <https://twitter.com/LCJReform>

Under Secretary of State Shannon attends working lunch with Brazil Ambassador to the U.S. – Outgoing Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon attends working lunch with Brazil Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sergio Amaral Location: Washington, DC www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump lost another lawyer today. Ty Cobb, who's the main man dealing with the special counsel for all this time, decided, 'That's it, I'm retiring.' And the guy stepping in for him is best-known for being one of Bill Clinton's impeachment lawyers. His name is Emmet Flood. When your lawyer is named after a natural disaster, you know you're in good hands."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Ty Cobb is now out. And Emmet Flood is in. At this point, there are more Trump lawyers than there are Avengers."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Dennis Rodman's friend, Kim Jong-un, is experiencing unprecedented popularity right now after he hugged it out with the President of South Korea last week. According to a new poll, 78 percent of South Koreans say they trust Kim Jong-un. Seventy-eight percent. A month and a half ago, his approval rating in South Korea was 10 percent. Now it's 78 percent. See, this is what happens when you poll people who have missiles pointed directly at their homes. Don't anyone tell Donald Trump about that."

Stephen Colbert: [On Trump dictating Dr. Harold Bornstein's letter on the President's health] "I guess that explains these other doctors' notes, like this one from Trump's dentist: 'Most teeth ever. Much longer tongue than Obama.' And his podiatrist report: 'Feet of a god, unless there's a draft, in which case, bone spurs. Sad.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Why would the Trump team purposely leak their own questions, you question? Well, apparently, Trump now plans to point to the list as evidence that Mueller has strayed beyond his mandate and is over-reaching. 'Look, this Mueller guy, if he's going to ask me even half of the things my lawyers totally made up, he's gotta go.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Trump has already found a replacement for Cobb-- famed attorney and dehydrated Clark Kent, Emmet T. Flood. If you recognize the name of Emmet T. Flood, it's because he represented Bill Clinton during his impeachment proceedings. 'The crooked Clintons are the most corrupt people in the world. Get me their lawyer, all right, stat. Have him washed and brought to my tent.'"

James Corden: "Just months after President Trump promised to send astronauts back to the moon, NASA has stopped working on its moon rover project. Now when they head to the moon, the astronauts' plan is to just have a friend pick them up when they land."

James Corden: "You've got to feel bad for him - Trump keeps throwing out this idea and everyone just looks confused. The next time he brings this up, he'll be like, 'I've got brand-new idea. We start a Space Force and the guy leading it will be called Star Lord and there will be a little raccoon, and a tree man--' 'Sir, I think you're describing 'Guardians of the Galaxy.' 'Great, but let's call it Space Force.'"

James Corden: "And this was an alarming story: According to a new government report, a common weed killer that's been linked to disease has turned up in nearly every common food in the United States. Yeah, that was my reaction too. On the bright side, scientists say the harmful chemicals from our food are usually killed off by the even more harmful radioactive waves shooting out of our phones."

Trevor Noah: [On French President Emmanuel Macron's comment about the Australian Prime Minister's wife] "Back off, Pepe Le Pew! That's someone's wife. You know, it would have been cool if the Australian Prime Minister thought it was some sort of custom and rolled with it. If he was like, 'Thank you President Macron. Yeah, your wife is quite shaggable as well.' ... Apparently, this was caused by a little translation issue, because, apparently, the French word for 'delicious' also means 'delightful.'"

Trevor Noah: "I was worried that when Macron came to the US, instead of him rubbing off on Trump, it was Trump that was rubbing off on him. Like, they held hands and suddenly Macron was like, 'Madame and monsieur, we wil make France great again. Who is going to pay for it? Belgium! Belgium! Delicious.'"

Trevor Noah: [On Trump dictating Dr. Bornstein's letter on the President's health] "This is the least surprise reveal ever. It's like if at the end of the 'Sixth Sense' they were like 'and Bruce Willis was alive the whole time!'"

Trevor Noah: "No, Kanye, slavery is not a choice. Going blond is a choice. Both are terrible, but one is easier to undo. Although, actually, you know, when I think about it, slavery was a choice – for white people. Yeah. White people were like, 'Hey, should we keep doing stuff ourselves or make other people do it for us? Hmmm. Yeah, other people. Yeah, that sounds good. That sounds good. Good choice.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It was so hot President Trump's lawyers spent the day fanning himself with hush money."

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of the President, his doctor wrote a letter calling Trump the healthiest President ever. But now the doctor is saying Trump dictated the letter himself. Trump was like, 'Yes, I dictated it, and I am one of the healthiest dictators ever elected.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In the letter, Trump said that his physical strength is extraordinary. ... Then he used two hands to drink a tiny glass of water."

Jimmy Fallon: "Later, Trump was asked why he has such a bad doctor, and he said, 'Because I'm on the Republican healthcare plan.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The Russia investigation is heating up. I saw that if Trump's lawyers don't agree to a sit-down interview with Mueller, he'll issue a subpoena. Trump was like, 'No problem, I love Subpoena. She's my favorite teenage witch.'"

Seth Meyers: "A source has told Axios that President Trump is triggered by the leaks about Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, and his instinct is always to be on the offensive. So yeah, real good time to meet with the leader of North Korea."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump tweeted today, quote, 'there was no collusion, it is a hoax, and there is no obstruction of justice. That is a setup and trap.' But it's not Trump's fault he tweeted that – it's just what his iPhone auto-corrects to when he types 'hello.'"

Seth Meyers: "White House Special Counsel Ty Cobb will reportedly be leaving President Trump's legal team at the end of the month. Which is weird, because to look at him, I would have thought he left 105 years ago."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump said yesterday he is seriously thinking of creating a sixth branch of the military called 'the Space Force.' The space force is also what he calls his greeting style."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump wants to create a sixth branch of the military called 'the Space Force.' They'll patrol the distant reaches between him and Melania."

Seth Meyers: "After facing backlash for saying slavery was a choice, Kanye West defended himself last night and tweeted a quote attributed to Harriet Tubman, which has been proven to be fake. But we already knew that."

Conan O'Brien: "Kanye West is under fire for an interview with TMZ where he described slavery as a choice. Said slavery is a choice. Yeah. It's never a good sign when the moral high ground in a room is held by the people of TMZ."

Conan O'Brien: "A group of House Republicans has nominated President Trump for a Nobel Peace Prize. Yeah. As evidence, they pointed out that Trump has managed to avoid an all-out war with North Korea and Melania."

Conan O'Brien: "Some critics are now saying that NASA will be unable to use SpaceX's rocket because it's too small. Yeah. However, SpaceX insists that's just the cold weather."

Jordan Klepper: "[West Virginia Senate seat candidate Don] Blankenship is such an outsider that he spent 12 months inside... a prison. Because maybe he conspired to willfully violate safety standards at a mine he owned that maybe led to an explosion that definitely killed 29 people. But it wasn't his fault! Unless you believe the several investigations that took place. But who does? I trust an investigation as far as I can obstruct it."

Jordan Klepper: "I've said it before and I'll say it again: The most persecuted group in America is Trump supporters. Followed closely by people who say 'Barnes and Nobles' instead of 'Barnes and Noble.'"

Jordan Klepper: "Supporting President Trump is not a religion? Uh, want to bet? We follow an all-powerful being, expect him to do the impossible, and ignore all empirical evidence. Plus, every Sunday we study his divine words to try and figure out who he might fire next. Sure sounds like a religion to me."

Samantha Bee: [On Michelle Wolf] "Calling [White House Press Secretary Sarah] Sanders a liar isn't an insult; it's her job description. Feminism doesn't mean you can never make jokes about another woman ever."

Samantha Bee: [On Sarah Sanders] "All press secretaries lie. But Sarah Huckabee Sanders' lies are more like a Jedi mind trick. ... She is smart. She's savvy, and she has an eerie ability to make towering falsehoods unwatchably dull. She's like a public relations dementor. Sucking the energy out of the White House press until they can't really fight back, turning them into tragic journalistic husks called Maggie Habermans."

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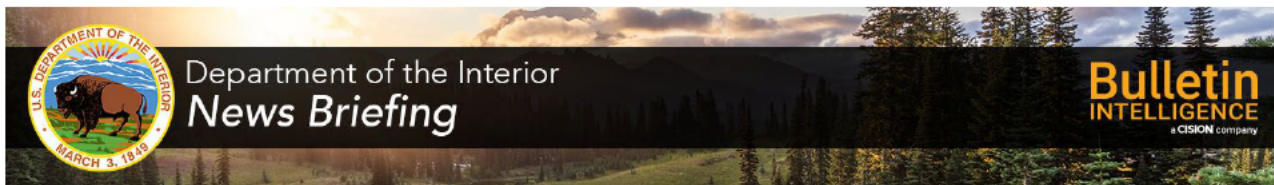
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[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 27, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI In The News

Offshore Revenue-Sharing: \$188M To 4 States, Coast Counties.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that "four Gulf of Mexico states and their coastal counties are getting nearly \$188 million in revenue-sharing funds as the offshore leasing areas involved expand." The [Newton County \(AR\) Times](#) (4/26) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Under President Trump's America-First energy strategy, we've increased energy revenue by a billion dollars nationally in the first year alone, which creates more funding for important conservation projects in the Gulf. Offshore energy production means less oil needed from foreign countries and more jobs for the American people. This \$188 million will be dedicated to coastal restoration and other projects important to many communities in the Gulf."

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/26, Schleifstein) reports that because of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, "Louisiana will receive \$82 million in Gulf of Mexico offshore revenue in the next few months...representing the first large payment under the revenue sharing program created by Congress in 2006." The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority "will oversee the spending of \$65.6 million of the money, while 20 coastal parishes will split \$16.4 million." Alabama, Mississippi and Texas "will split the remaining \$106 million in offshore revenue generated during the first year of GOMESA's larger Phase II distribution."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (4/26, Stole).

Secretary Zinke Is Celebrating National Park Week.

In an interview with [GrayDC](#) (4/26, Zampa), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke marked National Park Week. Zinke encouraged families to come and "enjoy our lands." He also noted that parks are an "economic driver." Zinke talked about the importance of tackling the maintenance backlog at national parks and investing in infrastructure so that "future generations enjoy the same experience."

Lawmakers Lobby Secretary Zinke For Protection Of Chetco River.

[KDRV-TV](#) Medford, OR (4/26, Parfitt) reports that "four Oregon and California lawmakers sent off a letter to Trump Administration officials on Wednesday, urging them to extend environmental protections for the Chetco River that are set to expire on July 25 of this year." Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, along with Reps. Pete DeFazio and Jared Huffman "signed the letter and addressed it to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue." If the current protection is not extended, they wrote, "we will lose precious ground in protecting this world-class salmon and steelhead river and source of clean drinking water for two communities while Congress considers our legislation to make the withdrawal permanent."

House Passes Rep. Davis Amendment Protecting Emergency Crews From Drones.

The [Times of San Diego](#) (4/26, Sklar) reports that "the House on Thursday passed an amendment authored by Rep. Susan Davis to protect emergency responders from illegal

drone use during disasters." The amendment "directs the federal government to work with state and local entities to educate the public about the dangers of flying unmanned aircraft into areas with temporary flight restrictions." It was "passed unanimously as part of legislation to reauthorize programs within the Federal Aviation Administration."

Militia Leader Pleads Guilty In Attempted Cabin Explosion.

The [AP](#) (4/26, Whitehurst) reports that "a Utah militia group leader pleaded guilty Thursday to trying to blow up a federally owned cabin in Arizona in what prosecutors call a case of domestic terrorism." William Keebler was "angry about federal management of public lands and wanted to retaliate against the government, federal prosecutors said." Keebler "came under investigation after joining Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's armed 2014 standoff over grazing fees amid hot debate over federal control of public land in the West."

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (4/26, Siegler), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/26, Romboy), and the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/26, Manson).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Bureau Of Indian Affairs Director Resigns After Just 6 Months On The Job.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/26, D'angelo, Waldron) reports that "Bryan Rice has resigned just six months after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appointed him to lead the Bureau of Indian Affairs, multiple sources familiar with the situation told HuffPost." The BIA has "made no official announcement about Rice's departure." BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling said, "It is our policy not to discuss DOI personnel matters in the press."

[The Hill](#) (4/26, Greenwood) reports that "the resignation from bureau head Bryan Rice came just over two weeks after the Interior Department's inspector general released a report saying that the agency had failed to gather sufficient information to determine whether the reassignments of dozens of senior officials were legal."

Also reporting is the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (4/26, Smith).

Bureau Of Land Management

Bureau Of Land Management Approves Mine Project Near Cody.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "authorized a proposed bentonite mine project in northern Wyoming." The BLM "gave approval Monday for the plan by Wilson Brothers Construction Inc. to mine about 48 acres of federal land in the Diamond Basin area about 7 miles (11 kilometers) southwest of Cody." According to the agency, "the project expects to mine about 140,000 tons of bentonite over three to five years."

BLM Proposes Lease Sale Of Land Near Carlsbad Caverns.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (4/26, Hedden) reports that "a future lease sale of federal land conducted by the Bureau of Land Management could include numerous parcels just miles from Carlsbad Caverns National Park." A 10-day public comment period "to gather public comments on the sale to be leased to oil and gas companies" ended on April 20. BLM spokesman Derrick Henry said, "The BLM will consider all substantive comments received during the public scoping period, to ensure the potential environmental consequences are analyzed in a manner that allows the BLM to make an informed decision about the proposed competitive lease."

Environmentalists Sue Over Western Colorado Oil-Gas Drilling.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that "environmental groups have asked a federal judge to block oil and gas drilling at 53 sites on public land in western Colorado, saying the U.S. Department of Interior didn't fully analyze the risks to people and the climate." The lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Denver "challenges decisions by the

Interior Department in 2016 and 2017 to sell drilling rights on a total of about 70 square miles (185 square kilometers)."

Additional coverage was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (4/27, Pampuro).

Nevada Senator Says Drilling Would Threaten 'Pristine' Ruby Mountains.

The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (4/26, Spillman) reports that Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto "said she agrees with people urging the U.S. Forest Service to reject a proposal seeking opportunities for oil and gas leases" in Nevada's Ruby Mountains. In a letter to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest office in Elko, Cortez Masto said "expansive oil and gas drilling will threaten this pristine and sensitive area, which welcomes thousands of annual visitors to utilize its public spaces for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation." The Bureau of Land Management last year "asked the Forest Service to analyze the environmental impact of making about 54,000 acres in the range available for oil and gas leasing."

Management Plans Advance For Central Idaho Wilderness Areas.

The [AP](#) (4/26, Ridler) reports that "three new central Idaho wilderness areas could have management plans in place this year." Federal officials "released the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness Management Plan covering 183 square miles (474 square kilometers) earlier this month, and are taking comments from those who have previously participated in the process through June 4." Emily Simpson said, a wilderness planner with the Bureau of Land Management, said, "Most of the direction here is going to help with preserving the setting that people enjoy." Simpson is "also assisting with plans for the 138-square-mile (357-square-kilometer) Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness and the 142-square-mile (368-square-kilometer) Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds Wilderness."

'Every Kid In A Park' Comes To Battle Mountain.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (4/26) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District, visited fourth-graders at the Battle Mountain Elementary School on April 19 to give a classroom presentation and distribute park passes to each student which allows them and three additional family members free access to all state and national parks across the country for a year." It was "made possible through an interagency program titled Every Kid in a Park that was established in 2015." The article notes that "this is the first year of implementing the program in Battle Mountain but the district already has plans to expand this learning opportunity in the fall with the goal of providing every fourth-grader in the entire district with a free park pass." Jon Sherve, field manager for the Mount Lewis Field Office, said, "With so much public land in Nevada, educating our youth about the BLM's multiple use mission is important. This program provides a perfect opportunity to teach children about different uses of the land like recreation, mining, conservation, exploration or livestock grazing, while impressing the importance of balancing between them so that all can remain for future generations."

'Kids Curate' Exhibit Set To Open At High Desert Museum.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (4/26) reports that "Kids Curate, an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, opens Thursday, May 3." Fifth-grade students from Crooked River Elementary School created the exhibition in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and the High Desert Museum. The panels, "which are featured in the museum's exhibition through June 3, will be permanently placed by the BLM along the Wild and Scenic portion of the Lower Crooked River in the fall."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S.

Extends Comment Period For Beaufort Sea Drilling. [UPI](#) (4/26, Graeber) reports that "concerned parties have another 30 days to weigh in on U.S. plans to open up the Arctic

waters off the coast of Alaska to drillers, the government said." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "solicited the information on a proposed lease in the Alaskan waters of the Beaufort Sea next year." BOEM "said it has extended the call for information for another 30 days, setting the expiration at one minute before midnight EDT on May 30."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Evergreen Man Guilty Of Shooting Endangered African Elephant In Zimbabwe.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/26, Mitchell) reports that "a 63-year-old Evergreen man has pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act after he poached an African elephant inside the Gonarezhou National Park." U.S. Magistrate Judge Scott Varholak "sentenced Paul Ross Jackson to pay a maximum fine of \$25,000, according to a news release by U.S. Attorney Bob Troyer and Special Agent in Charge Steve Oberholtzer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Troyer said in a news release, "When American hunters violate the laws of foreign countries in the unethical pursuit of trophies, they don't just undermine the conservation efforts that make hunting possible. They break the law."

National Park Service

Grand Canyon Works To Add Diverse Visitors To National Park.

[Cronkite News](#) (4/26, Fingert) reports that the National Park Service is "working to become more inclusive of racial and ethnic groups, said Vanessa Ceja-Cervantes, outreach coordinator at Grand Canyon National Park." The agency's "goal to increase diversity of visitors and bring more people from different backgrounds to places like the Grand Canyon, but they are also trying to increase the diversity of their own staff, hoping that helps bring more people to the parks." Ceja-Cervantes "said park employees have participated in outdoor expos, conferences, and parades to increase the awareness of public lands."

University Fined For Violating Indian Remains Law.

The [AP](#) (4/26, Raby) reports that Marshall University in West Virginia has been "fined \$4,999 for failing to complete inventories of American Indian remains and artifacts in its possession." The Interior Department "notified Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert of the fine in a letter this week." The letter "said Marshall officials knew about the requirements of a 1990 federal law but failed to complete the inventories until long after a deadline."

After Years Of Talks, Former Girl Scout Camp Protected.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that "advocates for a former Girl Scout camp dotted with waterfalls and wetlands no longer have to fear outside development on the land now that it has been transferred to the National Park Service." According to the article, "more than 1,000 acres along Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains" was "acquired by the Conservation Fund in 2017 and this week was given to the National Park Service. It will be incorporated into the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area."

National Park Service, Escambia County In Talks To Preserve Pensacola Beach.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (4/26, Gabriel) reports that "an Escambia County Commissioner is proposing to place a large swath of undeveloped Pensacola Beach land into a permanent conservation easement with the National Park Service." Commissioner Grover Robinson, "whose district includes the beach, has drafted a resolution to preserve most undeveloped areas of the beach, as well as roads, parking lots and beach access points." Robinson, "a longtime commissioner who is running for mayor of Pensacola, said his goal is to ensure the beach, which was deeded to Escambia County by the federal government after World War II, remains open to the public."

Yellowstone, Tribes Moving Forward On Quarantine.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (4/26, Wright) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials "hope to send a group of brucellosis-free bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation by the end of this year, a move that would come more than two years after the park first proposed quarantining animals there." Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk "said at a meeting here Wednesday that federal agriculture officials had given verbal approval to the park's quarantine corrals and that he expects a regional director of the National Park Service to sign off on the plans in early May." The park is "holding 98 bison in quarantine corrals at its Stephens Creek Capture Facility outside Gardiner, just inside the northern boundary of the park, and Wenk hopes at least some of those could be sent to Fort Peck this year after completing a brucellosis testing program."

Acadia Plan Calls For Ocean Drive, Cadillac Reservations.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (4/26, Broom) reports that "during the park's peak visitor season, reservations would be required to drive on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road and the Cadillac Mountain summit road and to park in the North lot at Jordan Pond House, according to the park's long-range transportation plan released Thursday by the National Park Service (NPS)." Park officials "said it is very unlikely that the reservation system and other proposals in the plan could be implemented before 2020, and it might take longer." The public has until June 26 to give comments.

Also reporting is the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (4/26, Kong, Ring).

Pensacola Bay Ferry Service Start Delayed By National Park Service.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (4/26, Gabriel) reports that the National Park Service has "pushed back the start date for ferry service between Gulf Islands National Seashore, downtown Pensacola and Pensacola Beach." Dan Brown, superintendent of Gulf Islands National Seashore, "said Thursday that ferry service will not start on May 18, the previously announced start date." Brown "said he did not know exactly when the two, 150-passenger ferries will begin shuttling passengers between downtown, Pensacola Beach and Fort Pickens."

River Raisin Battlefield Funding Increases, Staff Added.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (4/26, Portteus) reports that the National Park Service funding for operations at River Raisin National Battlefield Park has "climbed to just more than \$800,000." Scott Bentley, park superintendent, said, "This reflects a tremendous increase over our first eight years and is a direct result of the strong community support and efforts of the Battlefield Foundation."

Rogue Aquatic Park Yachtsman Convicted Of Anchoring Without A Permit.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/27, Whiting) reports that "rogue yachtsman Bryan Pennington was convicted in federal court Thursday of illegally anchoring his boat in Aquatic Park Cove, putting at least a temporary end to a six-month standoff with park police and swimmers who say Pennington was polluting the bay with sewage." The verdict from U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler "came after a three-hour bench trial during which Pennington, who represented himself, tried to destroy the credibility of a supervising park ranger." According to the article, "during an hour of cross-examination, Pennington challenged the legality of the federal laws that govern the cove, challenged the way Beeler ran her courtroom, demanded a jury trial, and ultimately refused to cooperate any further, citing an unspecified disability." The judge "convicted Pennington of three counts of anchoring his yacht, a Searunner 34 trimaran, without a permit in federal waters on three occasions this year and last: Sept. 26-Oct. 9, Nov. 11-20 and Dec. 4-Feb. 9."

Bighorn Canyon Admission Will Be Free This Year.

The [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (4/26, Davis) reports that Bighorn Canyon National Recreation area will be "free to enter, starting on May 25." According to the article, "after

completing a cost benefit analysis, park officials found they were actually losing money by collecting entrance fees." Park officials "said Bighorn Canyon spent \$194,892 collecting fees and only brought in \$95,538."

Muir Woods Fees To Jump 50 Percent Next Year.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (4/26, Prado) reports that the price to visit Muir Woods National Monument will "climb to \$15 on Jan. 1, 2019, under a plan announced by the National Park Service this week. Parking reservations are also now required at Muir Woods, which adds \$8 to the cost." In addition, "the current entrance fee is \$10. An annual pass for Muir Woods will go from \$40 to \$45. Those under 15 and under will continue to get in for free." Laura Joss, superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, said in a statement, "Visitor entrance fees play an important role in helping the park better serve the public by ensuring national treasures, like Muir Woods, are cared for and can be enjoyed for generations to come. The newly restored Hawk Hill Trail in the Marin Headlands is just one visible example of park entrance fees put to use for public enjoyment."

Community Building In Robinson Added To National Register.

The [AP](#) (4/26) reports that Robinson Hall, a community building in North Dakota, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Insular And International Affairs

U.S. Department Of Labor Continues Hurricane Recovery-Related Outreach To U.S.V.I. On Wage Enforcement.

The [St. John Source](#) (4/26) reports that "the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) continues to investigate wage issues on St. Croix and St. Thomas and provide compliance assistance related to recovery efforts following hurricanes Maria and Irma." Jose R. Vazquez, Wage and Hour Division Caribbean district director, said, "The U.S. Department of Labor will ensure that employees performing hurricane recovery work receive the wages and benefits they have legally earned. The Department provides numerous tools to help employers understand their legal responsibilities, and Department officials are available to answer any questions they may have."

US Geological Survey

Small Earthquakes Shake Residents In Northern Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (4/26) says the US Geological Survey has reported "several small earthquakes in northern Oklahoma, including three near the tiny town of Renfrow near the Kansas border and about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City." The largest "temblor was magnitude 3.0 and struck at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday while magnitude 2.6 and 2.3 quakes were also recorded Wednesday night and Thursday morning." The AP adds that "many of the thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma in recent years" have been "linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production."

[Fox News](#) (4/26, Pappas) reports there have been 2,724 earthquakes of 3.0 "magnitude or more since 2010" in Oklahoma. The spike "in quakes and subsequent fall bolsters the findings that Oklahoma's foundations are moving because of oil and gas activities, said Jeremy Boak, the head of the state's geological survey."

Opinion Pieces

We Love Our National Parks So Much They're In Disrepair And Both Parties Agree On A Fix.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (4/27, Schrader, Simpson), Kurt Schrader, a Democratic congressman from Oregon, and Mike Simpson, a Republican congressman from Idaho, write in support of the National Park Restoration Act, which is also backed by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Angus King, I-Maine, as well as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The legislation will "redirect unused revenues from a variety of energy sources on federal lands into a new fund called the National Park Restoration Fund," which will "then be used to bring down the maintenance backlog throughout our parks, restoring trails, roads, campgrounds and water systems for generations to come." They assert that the bill "does nothing to require, incentivize or change any aspect of energy production across our federal lands," and will help "to rebuild and restore our parks to the condition they ought to be — the crown jewels of our great nation."

Inviting Disaster: Ignoring The Lessons Learned From Deepwater Horizon.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (4/26, Price), Rep. David Price writes that since the Deepwater Horizon spill, "the federal government has taken a number of steps to prevent future disasters through the creation of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) to monitor drilling activities and to implement commonsense regulations to improve safety on offshore oil rigs." However, Price is dismayed that the Trump Administration seems to be quietly undoing "the progress we've made and has announced plans to expand drilling to nearly every coast in America, further lining the pockets of the oil and gas industry at the expense of our coastal communities." Price asserts that "the rolling back of regulations mixed with the expansion of drilling sites is a recipe for disaster, the blame for which the Trump administration will certainly own."

Your Turn: Refinery Must Be Challenged To Protect Olympic National Park.

In an op-ed for the [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (4/26, McNulty), environmental activist Tim McNulty argues that the expansion of a British Petroleum refinery threatens Olympic National Park. He notes that the National Park Service "anticipates that BP's expansion at the Cherry Point facility will further degrade air quality, making bad air days more likely and more severe." McNulty applauds National Parks Conservation Association for "challenging the permit for BP's expanded Cherry Point refinery to process dirty tar sands crude oil."

Additional Reading.

- *Why Florida And Montana Escape Trump's Environmental Plunder.* [National Memo](#) (4/26, Harrop).
- *HARROP: Trump's People Would Dirty Everyone's Nest But Their Own.* [Panama City \(FL\) News Herald](#) (4/26, Harrop).
- *Offshore Drilling Is The Unenviable Canary In The Coal Mine.* [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/25).
- *H. Roger Younts: Explore Offshore In North Carolina.* [Lexington \(NC\) Dispatch](#) (4/27, Younts).
- *The State Of New Jersey Isn't Waiting For The Feds: Frank Knapp Jr. Guest Column.* [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (4/27, Knapp).
- *Don't Relax Oil Drilling Regulations.* [Gulf Breeze \(FL\) News](#) (4/26).
- *Editorial: Offshore Well Rules Should Be Made Law.* [Gainesville \(FL\) Sun](#) (4/27).
- *Remembering The BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.* [TribTalk \(TX\)](#) (4/27, Metzger).
- *Zinke: Press Pause On Bears Ears & Grand Staircase Management Plans Until Courts Speak.* [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (4/26).
- *Robert Thorson: U.S. Backs Big Oil Against Tiny Arctic Tribe.* [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (4/24, Thorson).
- *Protecting Darkness In The CVNP.* [West Side \(OH\) Leader](#) (4/26, Vasarhelyi).
- *Support For Oregon's National Treasures Is Support For State's Economy.* [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (4/26, Brandt).
- *Dana Wilde: The Decline Of The Birds.* [Central Maine](#) (4/26, Wilde).

- *Spreading The Manure On Crazy Mountains Access.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (4/26, Schoonen).
- *Yosemite Valley Is Under Siege From Tourists. Can It Be Saved?* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/27, Thomas).
- *Don't Let Developers Degrade This Historic Underground Railroad Stop.* [Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/26, Zove).
- *Montana View: As Yet Another Natural Disaster Strikes, Government Must Perform.* [Montana Standard](#) (4/26).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Distances Himself From Cohen, Boosts Prosecutors In Fox Interview.

To very unfavorable media reviews, President Trump yesterday used a phone interview on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) to comment extensively on the investigation of his attorney Michael Cohen. Media analyses painted a picture of Trump flying off the handle as he distanced himself from his long-time lawyer and made admissions that boosted the prosecutors' case.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (4/26, story 3, 3:40, Muir), for example, referred to "an outburst on live TV" and to Trump "admitting for the first time that...Cohen did represent him in the 'crazy Stormy Daniels' ordeal." ABC's Cecilia Vega said Trump sounded "like a man who needed to vent," and played audio of Trump saying of Cohen, "He represents me like with this crazy Stormy Daniels deal, he represented me. And you know, from what I see, he did absolutely nothing wrong. There were no campaign funds going into this." Trump also said, "I would say probably the big thing is his business, and they're looking [at] something having to do with his business. I have nothing to do with his business. I can tell you. He is a good guy." To ABC News, Trump "distanced himself from Cohen" – a line of analysis that permeates throughout the coverage. Thus [Bloomberg News](#) (4/26, Dopp, Olorunnipa) says Trump "sought to distance himself" from Cohen, the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Baker, Sullivan), [Reuters](#) (4/26) and [The Hill](#) (4/26, Fabian) that he "distanced himself" from him, and the [New York Post](#) (4/26, Musumeci) headlined its report "Trump Begins Distancing Himself From Cohen After FBI Raid." Eugene Robinson, meanwhile, in a [Washington Post](#) (4/26) column titled "Trump Sure Doesn't Sound Like He Has Cohen's Back," writes that "Cohen reportedly said he'd rather jump out of a building than turn on...Trump. I wonder what he's thinking as the floors whiz by."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Decker) describes the interview as "rambling" and "grievance-filled," and the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Parker, Wagner) as "freewheeling and defiant." [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (4/26, story 4, 2:20, Alexander) said "federal prosecutors" are "arguing anything you say on Fox and Friends can be used against you." NBC went on to report that Trump said Cohen handled "a tiny, tiny little fraction" of his legal affairs, and noted that statement was "cited" in a "new filing," with "prosecutors...insisting if Mr. Trump's relationship to Cohen was so limited, they should be able to expedite the review of the documents seized in the raid this month."

[Politico](#) (4/26, Gerstein) also says "prosecutors quickly seized on...Trump's remark...as an indication that paper records and electronic files taken from Cohen...are unlikely to contain many attorney-client communications." Likewise, [USA Today](#) (4/26, Schouten) reports "two sets of lawyers – the federal prosecutors pursuing a criminal case against Cohen and Daniels' lawyer Michael Avenatti," both "seized on Trump's statements to bolster their legal arguments." Avenatti, in an email to USA Today, "said Trump's reversal demonstrates that Trump and Cohen have tried to mislead the public." Wrote Avenatti, "Mr. Trump and Mr. Cohen previously represented to the American people that Mr. Cohen acted alone and Mr. Trump knew nothing about the situation with my client. ... As I predicted, that has now been shown to be completely false."

The [New York Times](#) (4/26, Baker, Sullivan) also points out that Avenatti, "quickly seized on the president's comments, suggesting they would help her lawsuit trying to

nullify the 2016 nondisclosure agreement by proving Mr. Trump's involvement in the effort to keep her quiet before the election." The Times notes Avenatti "went on MSNBC and CNN to reinforce his point," telling [CNN](#) (4/26): "This case gets better every day, every hour, and one of the reasons why it gets better is that they step in to every trap that we lay. ... The president's statements this morning are very, very damaging to him in our case."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Barrett, Helderman) similarly reports that prosecutors' "speedy incorporation of Trump's Fox interview into legal documents provided a vivid illustration of the strategic downsides of the president's media interviews and off-the-cuff remarks and tweets." Likewise, Jake Tapper, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (4/26), said the Fox News interview was an example of the President's "governance by gut causing indigestion...for his own White House."

In a story headlined, "'Boss, I Miss You So Much': The Awkward Exile Of Michael Cohen," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Rothfeld, Berzon, Palazzolo) reports that despite their long relationship, Cohen has privately complained about being excluded from the White House and about Trump's failure to repay him for the \$130,000 he allegedly paid Daniels. Cohen declined an interview offer from the Journal and replied to a list of emailed questions writing, "Completely inaccurate." The Journal cites unnamed sources who say Cohen at one point considered turning on Trump, and describes a conversation between Trump and Cohen in which the attorney told him, "Boss, I miss you so much. I wish I was down there with you. ... It's really hard for me to be here."

Judges Appoints Special Master To Review Materials Seized From Cohen. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 3, 0:45, Glor) reported that "in New York, a federal judge appointed a special master review want documents seized from...Trump's personal attorney," who "says he'll plead the Fifth." The [New York Times](#) (4/26, Weiser, Feuer) the special master will be "Barbara S. Jones, a lawyer who served as a federal judge in Manhattan."

[The Hill](#) (4/26, Wheeler) reports "the quick decision came after" the judge "received a letter Thursday morning from federal prosecutors in Manhattan withdrawing their objection to Cohen's request for a special master." Prosecutors "had initially pushed for the use of a Justice Department 'taint team' to perform the review, but cited new developments in changing their position." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Barrett, Helderman), [Politico](#) (4/26) and [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Hong, O'Brien), among other news outlets, also report the story.

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/26, Berthelsen), meanwhile, profiles assistant US attorney Thomas McKay, 32 who is "leading the criminal investigation of" Cohen. Bloomberg says McKay "could garner as many headlines as his famous predecessors." According to Bloomberg, McKay, who was "hired directly after clerkships for federal judges in New York and on the Washington, D.C., appeals court," is a graduate of Princeton and Georgetown Law School.

Davidson "Cooperating" With Investigation. The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Reinhard, Brown, Sellers) reports "the relationship between...Cohen and Keith Davidson is drawing public scrutiny as federal authorities investigating Cohen examine payments made to women whose stories could have damaged...Trump's presidential campaign." Davidson "is cooperating with the probe and has provided investigators with 'certain limited electronic information,' according to the lawyer's spokesman." Cohen "and Davidson, a Los Angeles lawyer, have crossed paths at least five times in the past two years. In the most recent instance, Cohen collected a fee said to be hundreds of thousands of dollars in a deal Davidson helped orchestrate," and "new attorneys for Davidson's former clients, Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal, both of whom allege they had affairs with Trump years ago, say the relationship between Cohen and Davidson has seemed too cozy." Said Avenatti, "This is supposed to be an adversarial process. ... These guys should not be in the same bedroom, let alone the same bed."

NYTimes, Politico Analyses: Trump Associates Often Find Themselves Disgraced. Citing the cases of former VA Secretary nominee Dr. Ronny Jackson and Cohen, a [New York Times](#) (4/26, Baker, Haberman) analysis says a "ride on President Trump's bullet

train can be thrilling, but it is often a brutal journey that leaves some bloodied by the side of the tracks." After 15 months as President, Trump "has burned through a record number of advisers and associates who have found themselves in legal, professional or personal trouble, or even all three." Many "who arrived with stellar careers and independent reputations...ended up losing so much."

A [Politico Magazine](#) (4/26, Kruse) analysis says Jackson "is only the latest to join the ever-growing scrap heap of the Trump administration – people who volunteered or were summoned to serve, only to find themselves discarded and disgraced." Politico says that while there has "always been a Trump World scrap heap...it's never been like the past 15 months."

Trump Threatens To Get More Involved In DOJ Decision-Making.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Parker, Wagner) reports that in his interview with the hosts of [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#), President Trump yesterday "hinted that he may get more deeply involved in the management of his Justice Department." Trump "said that he tries to 'stay away from' intervening in the Department of Justice, before adding, 'But at some point I won't.'" The Post says that comment "brought a sharp rebuke from Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), who called Trump's interview 'so unbecoming of a president, unbecoming of a democracy.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (4/26, Dopp, Olorunnipa) notes that when "asked if he'd sit down with [Special Counsel Robert] Mueller's team," the President said he "would be willing to if he was able, although he said that some of the people involved are 'conflicted.'"

CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) that "it's odd he is talking about the senior leadership of the Justice Department considering they're his appointees and under normal circumstances, it would be odd. In this circumstance, it's the same kind of venting that we have been reporting for months that he has been doing behind closed doors to his friends and to his allies and to his aides. He is precisely talking about not necessarily the career people but his own very appointees, namely the top of the list there is of course...Sessions."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Zapotosky) reports that after Trump's warning, "department alums are fighting back with increasing vigor – signing petitions, holding public events and taking direct aim at a man they fear will do lasting damage." These "alums fear the president is laying groundwork to fire the attorney general, deputy attorney general or special counsel Robert S. Mueller III in an effort to end investigations that might affect him personally." For example, "John Bellinger, a former Justice Department official who more recently worked as a legal adviser to the State Department and National Security Council in the George W. Bush administration," said Trump's "attacks also might have significant consequences, undermining public faith in the Justice Department, the FBI and the force of the law."

Former FBI Director James Comey said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26), "I hope he didn't mean that he is going to decide by executive fiat to direct the actions of what is supposed to be an impartial law enforcement function. Lady Justice has a blindfold. It should stay on."

Alan Dershowitz said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (4/26), "Obviously he made a vague, general statement intended to convey different points to different people. It may have been just musing about whether he has the power to do things with regard to the Justice Department but he's not going to exercise that power. I don't know what he thinks he gains by making statements like that. I don't think he picks up support among his followers with these kinds of statements. I don't think he increases his legal vulnerability, but he certainly doesn't seem to help his case when he makes statements like this."

Rep. Denny Heck was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) about Trump's comments about the Justice Department during his Fox News interview Thursday. Heck said, "When the President makes those kinds of assertions I think they're completely immaterial. What they clearly are, frankly, is somebody engaging in a political defense and posturing for the public's sake. But as I like to remind my friends, many of whom get

very frustrated and angry about this, is it is irrelevant to the actual investigation under way. The President continues to make the mistake of thinking this is all about a public relations war and not about a legal and potentially criminal matter. Period. Full stop."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) that Trump's comments were "very concerning." Swalwell added, "He continues to attack the rule of law. The President should follow his own advice whether it is the advice that he gave to Bill Cosby or the advice that he gave to Hillary Clinton during the campaign which is if you are suspected of doing something wrong and you are innocent, you should just talk. I can't imagine what families are thinking who are counting for him to fight for their kids, to fight for our infrastructure, to fight for their healthcare security and they listen to him just go off they way he did this morning on Fox and Friends. He is distracted. He should just be forthcoming so we can get this behind us."

Sessions: Mueller Probe "Needs To Conclude." The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Dinan) reports Attorney General Sessions "said Thursday that an ongoing probe into President Trump 'needs to conclude' in order to let him focus on North Korea, the US-Mexico border and other world negotiations." Sessions also "said he expects the Justice Department inspector general to finish his investigation into the department's and FBI's handling of investigations into Hillary Clinton during the 2016 election in a 'few weeks,' saying that will provide more information for decisions on whether there was wrongdoing." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Zapotosky) says the comments "seemed to be a veiled swipe at Robert S. Mueller III," and added that they were "striking, suggesting Sessions might privately share some of the president's frustration with the Mueller investigation." The Post adds, "Asked to clarify Sessions's exchange with Jenkins, a Justice Department spokeswoman said, 'I'd imagine he was saying that it's in the public interest to have the special counsel's investigation concluded as soon as possible.'"

[Reuters](#) (4/26, Lynch) reports that speaking to a House appropriations panel "during a routine budget hearing, Sessions told lawmakers that the Justice Department needed to 'be disciplined and stay within our classical procedure and rules' before rushing to hire more special counsels." Responding to "a laundry list of frustrations aired by West Virginia Republican Congressman Evan Jenkins" about the Clinton email probe, Sessions said, "I do not think we need to willy-nilly appoint special counsels."

Four Republicans On Senate Judiciary Panel Vote To Protect Special Counsels. Under the headline, "In Warning To Trump, Senators Advance Bill To Protect Mueller," the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Fandos) reports that on Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee "fired a political warning shot at the White House" by "advancing on a bipartisan vote long-stalled legislation to allow special counsels such as Robert S. Mueller III to appeal their firing to a panel of judges and possibly be reinstated." However, the Times adds that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "has stated unequivocally that he will not bring the bill to the Senate floor for a vote." Nevertheless, the Times says that "with four Republicans, including the committee's chairman, Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, joining Democrats to vote in favor it, the measure sent a clear message to President Trump that senators are serious in their warnings not to fire Mr. Mueller."

[The Hill](#) (4/26, Carney) reports that in addition to Grassley, Republican Sens. Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham and Jeff Flake voted to approve the legislation. Republican Sens. Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Ben Sasse, John Kennedy and Ted Cruz opposed it. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Tau), [Reuters](#) (4/26), [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Swoyer), [CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (4/26, Ruger), [Politico](#) (4/26, Schor), [AP](#) (4/26, Day, Jalonick) and [The Hill](#) (4/26, Carney), among other news outlets, run similar reports this morning.

CNN senior political reporter Nia Malika-Henderson said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/26) that the Senate committee's approval of the legislation "does send a message and this is movement because before you had most of the republicans saying essentially this would never happen. Donald Trump would never fire Bob Mueller so there was no need for this type of legislation. So for them to move forward knowing full well it's not going anywhere, a, because Mitch McConnell is not going to bring it up and, b, Donald Trump would probably veto it if it ever got to his desk it does send quite a message to where

Republicans are. It basically says this is a red line. You can't fire Mueller. You probably can't fire [Rod] Rosenstein, either."

Republicans Looking Over 49 Additional Pages Of Strzok-Page Texts. Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (4/26), "As we speak, the House of Representatives is pouring through 49 brand new additional pages of newly uncovered text messages between Peter Strzok and Lisa Page. You might remember, these messages were a part of the six months of missing texts that somehow, well, were lost because of an alleged technical issue with the FBI-issued Samsung phones. Fox News can confirm that many of these unearthed texts have incomplete information and some are totally incomprehensible."

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (4/26), "I think this is incomplete production. We know their texting habits, of how often they were texting in other periods. This is the period December 2016 during the Trump transition all the way up to the firing of James Comey and then the appointment of Robert Mueller as a special counsel. If there's only 40 some pages there, there's gaps. Some of the stuff is incomplete. So I don't think this is a full production. I think there's more questions that this raises and we're going to have to go back to the Justice Department and ask them why they weren't able to recover the full Strzok-Page text messages."

In his appearance on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (4/26, 7:17 a.m. EDT, Kilmeade) Jordan was asked about Comey saying he is "embarrassed and ashamed" of the Republican Party. Jordan said: "This is ridiculous. The American people are so fed up with this two standards. One standard for us regular folk and a different standard if your name is Clinton, Comey, Loretta Lynch, Lerner. ... The American people thought the fix was in on the Clinton investigation. But since we got a hold of the Page-Strzok text messages, we know the fix was in. That's what should concern James Comey."

Comey Says Dossier Not At Core Of FISA Warrant Request. Comey said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26) that he became aware of the Steele dossier in the fall of 2016. Asked when he learned that the DNC and the Clinton campaign had funded Steele's work, Comey said, "I still don't know that for a fact. ... I have read that in the media but didn't know for a fact and didn't know while I was at the FBI which exact opponent of the President's funded that." Comey was also asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26) why he used the dossier, which he called unverified and salacious, in the FISA Court to obtain a warrant to surveil Carter Page. Comey said, "That's not my recollection. ... My recollection was it was part of a broader mosaic of facts that were laid before the FISA judge to obtain a FISA warrant. ... My recollection was there was a significant amount of additional material about Page and why there was probable cause to believe he was an agent of a foreign power. And the dossier was part of that but was not all of it or a critical part of it."

Rep. Trey Gowdy said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (4/26), "The part of it not being part of the FISA application, why did you use it at all? ... They lead with it and it occupied a disproportionately large part of that. I go back and ask if it wasn't important, then why did you use it? Why did you use it and why did you lead with it?"

Rep. Jim Jordan said on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (4/26), "They didn't tell the court two things. They didn't tell the court who paid for it, namely the Democrat National Committee and the Clinton campaign. They didn't tell the court that the author of the document, Christopher Steele, had his relationship with the FBI terminated. They didn't tell the court that. When we go to the court, we have to tell them the whole truth, not part of the truth, the whole truth. They didn't to that."

Comey Says He Didn't Disclose Having Hired Richman "Because It Wasn't Relevant." Comey was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/26) what he leaked to Dan Richman. Comey said, "I sent Mr. Richman a copy of a two-page unclassified memo and asked him to get the substance of it out to the media." Asked why he did not reveal that he hired Richman at the FBI, Comey said, "Because it wasn't relevant." Comey was also [asked](#) (4/26) about Trump's claim that he leaked classified information. Comey said, "He is just wrong. Facts really do matter, which is why I'm on the show to answer your questions. That memo was unclassified then. It's still unclassified. It's in my book. The FBI cleared

that book before it could be published. That's a false statement."

In an appearance on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (4/26, 7:17 a.m. EDT, Kilmeade) prior to President Trump's interview, Rep. Jim Jordan was asked about revelations that Richman was an unpaid "special government employee" of the FBI under then-director James Comey and that Comey may have provided his memos about his interactions with Trump to other individuals. Jordan said, "Comey never told Congress that he wasn't just leaking this information through a 'friend' to the New York Times. This friend was a special government employee, SGE, [and] had access to the FBI. We presume he had full clearance. So he didn't disclose that. ... Frankly, there is no one on Capitol Hill who thinks this was the first and only time James Comey used Daniel Richman to leak information to the press. My guess is, it happened lots of times."

Meadows: Comey Needs To Provide More Information About Lynch's Involvement In Clinton Email Probe. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (4/26, Meadows), Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) lists five questions that he says former FBI director James Comey "needs to answer." The questions are: 1 "Did Comey and his FBI improperly coordinate with former Attorney General Loretta Lynch and the Department of Justice during the height of the Clinton email investigation?"; 2 "Why did Comey leave out pertinent facts when he briefed then-President-elect Trump on the Russian dossier?"; 3 "Did Comey and James Clapper coordinate to give the Russian dossier credibility and leak its contents to the media?"; 4 "Why did Comey fail to mention he had secretly hired his friend, law professor Daniel Richman, as a 'special employee' of the FBI?"; and 5 "Did Comey give his memo to anyone else?"

Appearing on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (4/26, 8:39 a.m. EDT, Scarborough), Sen. Jeff Flake was asked to respond to Trump's criticism of the "corruption at the top of the FBI" and warning that he may no longer "stay away from" the Justice Department if it continues to focus on the "nonsense of collusion with Russia." Flake said: "That is not normal and should not be accepted as normal. It undermines our institutions." Flake went on to say, "When the President really goes out of bounds, I think it's our responsibility to stand-up and say so. He is going out of bounds with regards to the FBI and his criticism of it. This is out of bounds, it really is."

Pompeo Leaves For Europe Immediately After Being Sworn In As Secretary State.

Media coverage of Mike Pompeo's confirmation as the next US Secretary of State highlights the 57-42 tally, a departure from past lopsided, bipartisan endorsements. Overall, however, reports draw a mostly favorable picture of Pompeo, pointing out his strong working relationship with the President and his accomplishments during his time in the Army, Congress and the CIA. The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Demirjian, Morello), for example, says "Pompeo is expected to strike a dramatically different tone with Trump than his predecessor, Rex Tillerson, who had a testy relationship with the president that often left them publicly at odds." The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Sands) similarly indicates "the West Point grad and former Kansas Republican congressman won high marks for his management of the CIA and for forging a close bond with...Trump that his predecessor...never enjoyed," and [Politico](#) (4/26, Toosi) that his "15 months at the CIA's helm, along with his personal relationship with Trump, has already put him at the center of the administration's foreign policy action, making for what sources close to him called a smooth adjustment to his new diplomatic role."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Wilkinson) quotes Pompeo as saying in a statement, "I'm delighted to be secretary of State and completely humbled by the responsibility. ... I'm looking forward to serving the American people and getting to work right away." Trump "said Pompeo has his trust and support," declaring, "Having a patriot of Mike's immense talent, energy, and intellect leading the Department of State will be an incredible asset for our country at this critical time in history."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/26, story 6, 0:20, Holt) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 9, 0:15, Glor) mentioned Pompeo's confirmation last night, and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/26, story 6, 0:25, Muir) briefly noted he was "already on his way to a NATO meeting in Brussels." The [AP](#) (4/26, Lederman, Lee) reports that "with Pompeo's

confirmation imminent, the plane was held on the tarmac until" he "could arrive and swap in." The State Department "said no secretary of state had ever traveled abroad so soon after being confirmed." Pompeo "will attend a NATO foreign ministers summit" in Brussels "and meet with the top diplomats from Turkey and Italy. ... From there, the State Department said Pompeo planned to fly to the Middle East for stops in Saudi Arabia, Israel and Jordan." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Morello) notes "Pompeo arrived in Brussels before dawn on Friday, in a sprightly start to his job as the administration's top diplomat," and [Politico](#) (4/26, Toosi) quotes "a person close to the new secretary said of Pompeo's quick start" that "it is entirely his style. ... Mike is very mission-focused and is always two steps ahead. He jumps right in."

[Breitbart](#) (4/26, Wong) describes the 57-42 Senate tally as "a departure from what has historically been a rubber stamp vote," with "the majority of Democrats" voting against Pompeo, but the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Harris, Kaplan) says the vote "lacked the drama of other nail-biting confirmation votes in the Trump era" as "seven members of the Senate Democratic caucus – five of whom face re-election this year in states that Mr. Trump won in 2016 – joined a united Republican conference to support Mr. Pompeo's confirmation." According to the Times, "For Democrats who will be on the ballot in Trump states, a vote against Mr. Pompeo could have exposed them to attacks from the Republicans, including Mr. Trump, eager to label them obstructionists." [The Hill](#) (4/26, Carney) calls Pompeo's confirmation "a setback for liberals, who wanted to force Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to try to discharge Pompeo's nomination from the committee," which "would have required 60 votes and given Democrats an opening to try block Pompeo." The Hill adds "red-state Democrats faced intense pressure from both sides, with progressive groups urging them to block Trump's 'war cabinet' and conservatives arguing opposition was a sign they were too liberal for their home states."

[CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (4/26, Lesniewski) points out "Democrats in the most competitive 2018 races delivered a split decision on the current CIA director. ... The five 'yes' votes came from Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, Bill Nelson of Florida and Claire McCaskill of Missouri," while "the five 'no' votes came from Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, Jon Tester of Montana and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Tau, Schwartz) notes that 14 Democrats and an independent voted to confirm Pompeo as CIA director last year. The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Demirjian, Morello) says Pompeo was confirmed "despite lingering objections from Democrats who've questioned his record of hawkish policy positions and past controversial statements about minority groups." The Post goes on to report that Pompeo will "have a prominent role also in...addressing Russian aggression." The Post says Pompeo "has advocated more punitive actions than the president has been willing to mete out" in regards to Russia. The Post also reports Pompeo "will have his hands full filling crucial jobs," as "eight of the nine senior staff positions at State are unfilled, as are 60 ambassadorships and 10 of the 22 assistant secretary positions." The State Department is also "the only agency in the Trump administration that still has a hiring freeze in place."

[USA Today](#) (4/26, Dorell) notes Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas said "after the 57-42 vote that Pompeo will play an important role in upcoming negotiations between the United States and North Korea." Said Cornyn, "In fact he's already played a role as director of the CIA." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Gearan) reports that in an interview with [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (4/26) Thursday morning, President Trump said Pompeo "was not originally slated to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his secret trip to Pyongyang." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Bender) also notes Trump's revelations in regards to Pompeo's trip to North Korea.

Lewandowski: Trump Is Now Surrounded By People He Has "Strong Relationships" With. Appearing on [Fox News Outnumbered](#) (4/26), former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Pompeo is "supremely qualified" and has a "strong relationship with the President," which Lewandowski said is "a clear difference between this secretary of state and the previous secretary of state." Lewandowski added: "I love the moves of

John Bolton coming in, Rudy Giuliani coming in, Larry Kudlow...people that have long relationships or strong relationships with the President. If you're going to work in an administration, particularly at the highest levels of the administration, you have to have candid and honest conversations with the President. And what we've seen in the past is those weren't taking place."

Marcus: Sanders Comment On Pompeo Confirmation Battle Exemplifies "Decency Deficit." Ruth Marcus bemoans in the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Marcus) the "decency deficit, etched in acid sound bites and accusatory tweets that forsake stating facts for impugning motive. This deficit of decency, of course, is trickle-down, with...Trump as its most masterful practitioner." Marcus goes on to criticize White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders for telling Fox News, with regard to the Pompeo nomination, that "at some point, Democrats have to decide whether they love this country more than they hate this president." To Marcus, "this is not acceptable. ... That is the vilest calumny." Marcus concedes, however, that she has "gone down the patriotism road myself, reluctantly and deliberately, in writing about Trump and his negligent response to Russian election interference."

Kansas Politicos Certain Pompeo Will Run For Elective Office Again. [McClatchy](#) (4/26, Wise, Shorman, Burgess) reports that "to those back in Kansas who've monitored Pompeo's political career, the question isn't whether he will run again for elected office but when and for which one." Jean Schodorf, "a one-time Republican primary opponent of Pompeo's who is now a Democrat," tells McClatchy, "We have been kidding about wondering if he was getting his presidential campaign in order." Pompeo "briefly flirted with a run for House speaker in 2015, before Paul Ryan agreed to take the job," and in 2016 he "floated a possible run for the Senate against Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran, a popular incumbent from his own party." Moreover, "before his nomination as CIA director in November 2016, Pompeo's name had been in the mix as a likely 2018 Kansas gubernatorial candidate."

Pruitt Dismisses Allegations As Attacks From Critics Of Trump's Policies.

Media coverage of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's testimony before Congress was markedly unfavorable, sounding a skeptical note on his claims that allegations against him are motivated by opposition to the President's environmental agenda. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Vogt, Radnofsky) quotes Pruitt as saying: "They want to attack and derail the president's agenda. I am simply not going to let that happen." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/26, story 5, 2:35, Muir), for example, reporter Mary Bruce said last night, "After six hours of testimony, the one question still unanswered: Mr. Administrator, why not take responsibility? Doesn't the buck stop with you? This is your agency, Mr. Pruitt?" ABC added, "Mary Bruce asking the questions, no answer there." Bruce later said that "sources in the White House say this is a tough day for Pruitt," but "they say he was speaking to an audience of one, the President. And...it's his support that matters most."

[Reuters](#) (4/26) says "Trump administration officials have become increasingly frustrated by news reports on Pruitt ranging from his spending on first-class air travel and security, to his rental of a room in a high-end Washington condo linked to an energy lobbyist." Jake Tapper, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (4/26), said although Pruitt "appears to be on thinner and thinner ice," it is also the case that "many conservatives seem to like Pruitt's deregulatory regime quite a bit." According to Tapper, "Many White House sources acknowledge he would not have lasted so long in any other administration," and is "still there because...Trump likes Pruitt and continues to defend him in private, even against the advice of top aides who see Pruitt as undermining the Trump Administration."

In fact, some believed Pruitt's performance would dictate whether or not he survives in his post. For instance, late Thursday morning, Fox News' Chief White House Correspondent John Roberts [tweeted](#) (4/26): "Scott Pruitt just told a Congressional Committee he gave his COS the green light to give raises to two EPA officials. That – in direct defiance of the WH – and contradicting what he told @FoxNews – that he wasn't aware of the raises. This may be the end of the line" Shannon Vavra of [Axios](#) (4/26,

Vavra) reports that Pruitt acknowledged that he “gave his Chief of Staff, Ryan Jackson, the go-ahead to give controversial raises to two trusted aides at the EPA.” According to Vavra, “This issue is particularly fraught because the White House had initially denied the raises.” Vavra adds, “To the extent Pruitt admits he defied the White House, it could be more damaging to him than the various spending controversies.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 5, 2:10, Cordes) reported that “with his job on the line... Pruitt claimed he wasn’t to blame for a series of spending and ethics lapses, starting with the huge raises for two of his close friends at EPA.” Ultimately, “it isn’t Congress but the White House that will decide whether Pruitt stays or goes, and we’ve seen a marked downshift in White House support recently, especially after a deputy EPA director was confirmed, someone...could step into Pruitt’s shoes temporarily if he leaves.”

To the [New York Times](#) (4/26, Schwartz, Davenport, Friedman), Pruitt’s “job may be hanging by a thread.” The Times reports that he “delivered a typically lawyerly performance” on Thursday, and “as Democrats opened an aggressive, coordinated line of questioning – on Mr. Pruitt’s spending, housing arrangements, security team and raises for political appointees – he stayed quiet and calm, never raising his voice or his temper, but rarely giving direct answers to those questions.” The Times says Republicans “also chastised Mr. Pruitt in opening remarks,” although “their questions tended to be much more gentle.”

[Politico](#) (4/26, Adragna, Snider, Guillén), however, reports “Democrats unleashed on Pruitt...while Republicans rallied to his defense, deriding the criticisms as a ‘shameful’ political show designed to undermine his rollback of the Obama EPA’s environmental rules.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Wolfgang) similarly says “Democrats unleashed weeks of pent-up fury at...Pruitt,” and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Halper) that it was Pruitt who lashed “out at critics, accusing them of fabricating stories about him.” The [AP](#) (4/26, Biesecker, Knickmeyer) describes the EPA chief as “yet another Trump administration official with his job on the line over ethical concerns,” and adds that “the public grilling at back-to-back House hearings, called formally to consider EPA’s budget, came as support has appeared to erode for Pruitt among fellow Republicans.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Dennis, Eilperin) says that although Pruitt’s job is “increasingly on the line,” he was “unapologetic,” and “attributed the vast majority of allegations about his ethics and management decisions to policy critics.” According to the Post, Pruitt “remained calm and measured throughout the more than two-hour hearing, even during the most direct grilling about his expenditures and ethics decisions.” But the Post says Pruitt “also avoided the ‘yes or no’ questions from some lawmakers and steadfastly refused to acknowledge any personal wrongdoing.”

Robert Redford: Pruitt A “Risk To The Air We Breathe, The Water We Drink And The Food We Eat.” Actor Robert Redford, writing in the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Redford), urges Trump to “follow the suggestion of many – including some within his own party, and reportedly even his chief of staff – and replace...Pruitt,” whose “conduct as head of the EPA is beyond disappointing; it’s disgraceful.” To Redford, “Pruitt’s failings in ethics and judgment are only part of a much larger problem: Pruitt has failed at the core responsibility of his job. He’s not protecting the environment” and “has become a one-man public-health risk to the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.”

Jackson Withdraws Nomination, Calls Allegations Against Him “Completely False And Fabricated.”

Coverage of the announcement that the White House has withdrawn the nomination of White House physician Ronny Jackson to be VA secretary highlights the unverified accusations lodged against him. Reports also note President Trump’s continued defense of the former nominee, who he described as “an admiral, highly respected, a real leader,” in an interview with Fox News’ Fox & Friends yesterday morning. The [Washington Times](#) (4/26, Miller) notes that Jackson yesterday called the allegations against him “completely false and fabricated,” and [Politico](#) (4/26, Lima) that he also said he would “forever be grateful for the trust and confidence President Trump has placed in me by giving me this

opportunity.”

Jake Tapper, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (4/26), said, “Of course, as we all know, the White House did no vetting of this candidate and was utterly, shockingly – unfairly to Dr. Jackson – unprepared for these charges against him, ones the President called ‘fake.’” The [New York Times](#) (4/26, A1, Fandos, Baker) says the decision to withdraw was made “after lawmakers went public with a torrent of accusations leveled against [Jackson] by nearly two dozen current and former colleagues from the White House medical staff.” The Times says the President “lamented the loss of his nomination, and said that Senator Jon Tester of Montana, the top Democrat on the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, would ‘have a big price to pay’ for undercutting Dr. Jackson.” According to the Times, “The question on Thursday was whether Dr. Jackson could continue in his role as the president’s physician, one he has filled since 2013.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/26, story 4, 0:20, Glor) noted “Jackson was accused of misconduct, including drinking on the job and over-prescribing drugs, allegations he denies,” and [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/26, story 5, 0:30, Holt) reported, “The question now, will Jackson remain on as the President’s doctor.”

However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/26, Bierman) reports “the White House said he would remain in his current job, at least for now.” At any rate, says the [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Lamothe), the allegations “threatened Thursday to derail his military career and promotion to two-star admiral, even after Jackson withdrew his name from consideration for the Cabinet post.” The Post adds that “several entities could potentially investigate Jackson. The most likely is the Defense Department inspector general,” but “the Navy itself also has an inspector general, and the Navy’s surgeon general, Vice Adm. C. Forrest Faison III, has an interest in the case as the chief of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26, Nicholas) notes that on Thursday morning, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said, “Admiral Jackson is a doctor in the United States Navy assigned to the White House and is here at work today.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/26, Rein, Wagner, Dawsey) says that in addition to the allegations of improper behavior, including the claim that Jackson “had wrecked a government vehicle after getting drunk at a Secret Service going-away party,” some “veteran advocates and many lawmakers also had expressed concerns about Jackson’s lack of management experience, and some have worried that he would capitulate to Trump’s goal of outsourcing more veteran services.”

Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, appearing on [Fox News Outnumbered](#) (4/26), said: “This is the worst that Washington has to offer. You have now maligned an individual who served our nation, both overseas and here in the White House, and not just under President Trump, but under President Obama and George W. Bush as well.” Lewandowski added, “If you look at the qualifications of Dr. Jackson, a man who by all accounts was a professional, understands the medicine side of this, has served in the military and knows, because he’s served with so many people who are now using the VA system, what those needs are – I don’t know if we’ll find a better person.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) accuses Tester of subjecting Jackson to unfair leaks and smears, and accuses Democrats of acting against Trump nominees as part of their campaign strategy. The Journal urges Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to acquiesce to Trump’s request for the Senate to work weekends to address the backlog in stalled nominations.

WPost: Trump Blaming Democrats For His Own “Rashness And Incompetence.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/26) urges Trump “to recall what is paramount: the welfare of the men and women who have selflessly served their country.” After the Jackson fiasco, “it should not be too much to ask that care be taken in selecting a leader with the competence, experience and vision to manage and improve a department that has struggled to meet the needs of veterans. Certainly, such care did not go into Dr. Jackson’s selection.” The Post concludes that “instead of blaming Democrats for his own rashness and incompetence, Mr. Trump should direct his energy toward finding someone, finally, qualified to lead VA.”

Ryan Wants Additional Review Of Jackson's Record. [Reuters](#) (4/26, Holland, Rampton) reports that House Speaker Paul Ryan "said the allegations [against Jackson] warranted further review." Ryan is quoted as saying, "Whether or not there's merit to these allegations, we should find if there's merit to these allegations, and if there are, then the proper oversight should be done."

Tapper: How Jackson Earned "Glowing" Reviews From Obama Is A "Legitimate Question." Appearing on [CNN's Newsroom](#) (4/26), CNN's Jake Tapper said Jackson's withdrawal is "the consequence of governing by gut." Tapper asserted that President Trump nominated Jackson, "not on Admiral Jackson's ability to preside over a large bureaucracy, any experience, but just that he liked him." According to Tapper, "The administration sent up the nomination without the vetting that needs to be done." Tapper said both Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee "started doing research on [Jackson], research that the White House should have done." Tapper went on to say that the question, "how did [Jackson] get through the Obama years with all those glowing reports" is "a legitimate question."

Fed Beginning To Show Concern About Economy Overheating.

The [New York Times](#) (4/26, Tankersley) reports that "Federal Reserve officials are beginning to worry about a possibility that seems remote to workers who still feel left behind: the danger of the economy's running too hot, destabilizing financial markets and setting off a rapid escalation in wages and prices that could force the central bank to slam the brakes on growth." Fed concerns center on the prospect of the US economy "overheating," which the Times describes as "a condition when abnormally low unemployment can trigger spikes in inflation and destabilize financial markets." The Times adds that while certain Fed officials concerned with overheating "are pushing a faster pace of increases, other officials say it's way too early to turn down the heat on the economy – and on workers who are still waiting for big wage increases to show up."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Out Of The City And Into Fresh Air." The [New York Times](#) (4/26) praises the efforts of the Fresh Air Fund to send low-income city children to live with host families for two weeks in the summer and encourages donations to the group.

"A Reckoning For Cosby – Now For Others?" The [New York Times](#) (4/26) editorializes that Bill Cosby "was convicted of sexual assault on Thursday," and that "about five dozen women have accused the once-beloved comedian in a half-century pattern of violence so routine that a judge let five of them testify against him at trial, where he was found guilty of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand." Cosby's first trial "ended with a hung jury last year," and "the conviction was won this time after" the five women "were allowed to bolster Ms. Constand's testimony, demonstrating his signature pattern of abuse." The Times argues that "this exception both proves the rule – power provides protection – and shows that that shield is not impenetrable," and contends that "the verdict and the prosecution should make clear that women need to be listened to and their accusations need to be taken seriously."

"Mr. Macron Comes To Washington." The [New York Times](#) (4/26), in an editorial, writes that French President Macron's visit to the US is unlikely to have changed President "Trump's mind in any meaningful way," but Macron said the point of the trip "was to position himself as an 'honest broker' for the aftermath" of the US dropping the Iran nuclear deal, which the Times adds, "won't be a bad outcome from the meeting." The Times adds Macron sought "to establish his credentials before the American public," and hopes that the trip "will help alleviate" his lack of partners in the US and Europe.

"El Salvador's Chance To Save Women's Lives." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/26) blasts El Salvador's "draconian" abortion law as causing "horrific outcomes." The Times calls on the country's legislators to "stand up to the religious activists" and approve exemptions to the law. The Times argues such changes have popular support

and "passing this legislation would be the right thing to do – a positive step toward recognizing the human rights of Salvadoran women and girls."

Washington Post.

"Press Freedom Is In Retreat Around The World – Including Here." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/26) laments the results of this year's World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, which found "not only that journalists face increasing obstacles but also that democracy in many places is ill." The Post highlights that the US under President Trump "fell two notches in the rankings, to 45th overall, in part because of Mr. Trump's attacks on journalists," and says that while press-freedom concerns are often "dismissed as special-interest complaining," they are "much more than that." When "the press is silenced, when journalists are killed, a deeper sickness is afoot. Unfortunately, it seems to be spreading."

"Why Trump's Travel Ban Should Lose At The Supreme Court." The [Washington Post](#) (4/26) editorializes that the Supreme Court this week had to weigh whether a national security policy can be legal even if it "is irrational and inspired by religious bias" as "it considered a challenge to President Trump's travel ban." According to the Post, "morally and practically, there is no question the ban is a bad idea," but "legally, the Trump administration may yet prevail." The Post argues that "statement after statement – mostly before the campaign but also after – suggests that Mr. Trump sought to implement a Muslim ban as far as possible in the guise of this travel ban," and contends that "the common-sense conclusion from this record is that the travel ban is inspired by anti-Muslim animus and irrational on national security grounds."

"Our Veterans Require Great Care. Trump Hasn't Shown Any." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/26) urges President Trump "to recall what is paramount: the welfare of the men and women who have selflessly served their country." After the Dr. Ronny Jackson fiasco, "it should not be too much to ask that care be taken in selecting a leader with the competence, experience and vision to manage and improve a department that has struggled to meet the needs of veterans. Certainly, such care did not go into Dr. Jackson's selection." The Post concludes that "instead of blaming Democrats for his own rashness and incompetence, Mr. Trump should direct his energy toward finding someone, finally, qualified to lead VA."

Wall Street Journal.

"Europe, Trump And The Iran Deal." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) writes that French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit to Washington is significant in that he appears to support changing the Iran nuclear deal to strengthen inspections and address Iran's ballistic missiles, which the Journal casts as flaws allowed by former President Obama and former Secretary of State John Kerry. The Journal also welcomes what it casts as Macron following Trump strategy to contain Iran. The Journal argues that even a revised deal is too good for Iran to refuse, and would reinforce Western unity in the face of Russia, show that the West doesn't support Obama-Kerry policies, and strengthen the US's position in upcoming negotiations with North Korea.

"Victory For The Bitkovs." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) calls on Congress to determine what happened in the case of Igor, Irina and Anastasia Bitkov, who fled persecution in Russia only to be jailed in Guatemala after being convicted charges of fraud, money laundering, and using fake documents stemming from accusations by the Russian state bank VTB. The Journal says Congress should determine what role the UN's International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala played in the matter.

"Road Testing The 2019 Resistance." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/26) accuses Sen. Jon Tester of subjecting Dr. Ronny Jackson to unfair leaks and smears, and accuses Democrats of acting against Trump nominees as part of their campaign strategy. The Journal urges Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to acquiesce to President Trump's request for the Senate to work weekends to address the backlog in stalled nominations.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Amazon More Than Doubles Its Profit](#)
[Companies Feel The Impact Of Rising Oil Prices](#)
[Wells Fargo's 401\(k\) Practices Probed By Labor Department](#)
['Boss, I Miss You So Much': The Awkward Exile Of Michael Cohen](#)

New York Times:

[Bill Cosby Found Guilty Of Sexual Assault In Retrial](#)
[Cliff Huxtable Was Bill Cosby's Sickest Joke](#)
[Korea Talks Begin As Kim Jong-Un Crosses To South's Side Of DMZ](#)
[For Many, Life In Trump's Orbit Ends In A Crash Landing](#)
[In Just A Week, 'Nicaragua Changed' As Protesters Cracked A Leader's Grip](#)
[Isolation Of White House Medical Unit Hid Ronny Jackson From Scrutiny](#)

Washington Post:

[Memo Urges Policy That Would Separate Families](#)
[Cabinet Chaos Engulfs Trump](#)
[Jackson Out As VA Pick, But Scrutiny Remains](#)
[NBC Faces Skepticism On Harassment Reforms](#)
[Cosby Is Convicted Of Sexual Assault](#)

Financial Times:

[Football Association In Talks To Sell Wembley Stadium](#)
[Deutsche Bank Abandons Global Investment Banking Ambitions](#)
[Relief For Greece? The Debt Dilemma Facing Creditors](#)
[Michel Barnier Quashes UK Hopes Of Special Access To EU Markets](#)

Washington Times:

[MS-13 Members Game U.S. Immigration System By Claiming They're Underage](#)
[Bill Cosby's Stunning Fall: 'America's Dad' First Celebrity Convicted In #MeToo Aftermath](#)
[North Korean Defectors Watch Kim Jong-Un's Visit To South Korea With Dread](#)
[Pharmaceutical Companies, Activists Battle Over Cost, Effectiveness Of Opioid Takebacks](#)
[VA Nominee's Withdrawal Sets Off New Round Of Finger-Pointing: 'Welcome To The Swamp'](#)
[Trump Gets His Man As Senate Confirms Mike Pompeo For State Department](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Bill Cosby Trial; Trump Personal Attorney Investigation; California Serial Killer Arrested; EPA Pruitt Controversy; State Sec. Confirmation; Flight Medical Distress Lawsuit; Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion; Teachers Protest; Maine-Police Shooter; NFL News; Ambulance Birth.

CBS: Bill Cosby Trial; Trump Personal Attorney Investigation; VA Pick Withdrawal; EPA Pruitt Controversy; Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion; Maine-Police Shooter; California Serial Killer Arrested; State Sec. Confirmation; North-South Korea Summit; Shooting Attempt Trial; Toronto Van Attack-New Video; JFK Files Release; NFL News.

NBC: Bill Cosby Trial; Trump Personal Attorney Investigation; VA Pick Withdrawal; State Sec. Confirmation; Teachers Protest; North-South Korea Summit; Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion; California Serial Killer Arrested; Autism Study; Amazon Prime Membership Hike; Police Rescue.

Network TV At A Glance:

Bill Cosby Trial – 12 minutes, 20 seconds

Trump Personal Attorney Investigation – 6 minutes, 45 seconds
EPA Pruitt Controversy – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Michigan Oil Refinery Explosion – 2 minutes
State Sec. Confirmation – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North-South Korea Summit; State Sec. Confirmation; Bill Cosby Trial; NBC Reporter-Sex Allegation

CBS: North-South Korea Summit; Bill Cosby Trial; NBC Reporter-Sex Allegation; California Serial Killer Arrested.

FOX: North-South Korea Summit; NBC Reporter-Sex Allegation; Bill Cosby Trial.

NPR: North-South Korea Summit; Bill Cosby Trial; EPA Pruitt Controversy; California Serial Killer Arrested.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Welcomes the U.S. Winter Olympians and Paralympians to the White House; welcomes German Chancellor Merkel to the White House; hosts the 2018 White House Correspondents' Association Scholarship Winners.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with the President of Afghanistan; joins the President for a working lunch with the Chancellor of Germany; joins the President as he hosts the 2018 White House Correspondents' Association Scholarship Winners.

US Senate: 9:15 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Russia and the U.N. International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Long Arm Of Injustice: Did a UN Commission Founded to Fight Corruption Help the Kremlin Destroy a Russian Family?', on the case of Igor and Irina Bitkov and their daughter Anastasia, who fled Russia in 2008 and began a new life with new identities in Guatemala, but are now in jail over alleged paperwork irregularities. Witnesses include the family's attorneys Victoria Sandoval and Rolando Alvarado, as well as Global Magnitsky Campaign for Justice founding director William Browder. Hearing examines the questions 'Did the Kremlin enlist CICIG in its vendetta to destroy the Bitkovs?', 'Is this another example of the frightening reach of Russian President Vladimir Putin's govt and its ability to co-opt institutions designed to further the rule of law?', 'Has the Russian Govt corrupted a United Nations anti-corruption agency?', and 'What does this teach about the Russian Govt, the U.N., and the global fight against the scourge of corruption?' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

10:00 AM CANCELED: Senate Committee on the Judiciary nominations hearing Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

Congress breaks for District Work Period until May 7.

US House: 9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on robocalls – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Do Not Call: Combating Robocalls and Caller ID Spoofing', with testimony from Nomorobo founder Aaron Foss; RoboKiller Chief Product Officer Ethan Garr; First Orion Corporation Executive Vice President for Technology and Solution Development Scott Hambuchen; and Consumers Union Policy Analyst Maureen Mahoney Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

9:00 AM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including 'H.R. 4 – FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018' and 'H.R. 3144 – To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes', plus consideration of 'H.R. 5447 – Music Modernization Act', as amended,

under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

9:15 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Russia and the U.N. International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Long Arm Of Injustice: Did a UN Commission Founded to Fight Corruption Help the Kremlin Destroy a Russian Family?', on the case of Igor and Irina Bitkov and their daughter Anastasia, who fled Russia in 2008 and began a new life with new identities in Guatemala, but are now in jail over alleged paperwork irregularities. Witnesses include the family's attorneys Victoria Sandoval and Rolando Alvarado, as well as Global Magnitsky Campaign for Justice founding director William Browder. Hearing examines the questions 'Did the Kremlin enlist CICIG in its vendetta to destroy the Bitkovs?', 'Is this another example of the frightening reach of Russian President Vladimir Putin's govt and its ability to co-opt institutions designed to further the rule of law?', 'Has the Russian Govt corrupted a United Nations anti-corruption agency?', and 'What does this teach about the Russian Govt, the U.N., and the global fight against the scourge of corruption?' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

9:15 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on FinCEN Customer Due Diligence Rule – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on 'Implementation of FinCEN's Customer Due Diligence Rule – Financial Institution Perspective', with testimony from The Clearing House Association President Greg Baer; Crowell & Morning partner Carlton Greene; The FACT Coalition Executive Director Gary Kalman; and International Bank of Commerce Executive Vice President Dalia Martinez (on behalf of Mid-Size Bank Coalition) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

Congress breaks for District Work Period until May 7.

Other: 8:30 AM Advance estimate GDP Location: TBD <http://www.bea.gov>
https://twitter.com/BEA_News

8:45 AM RNLA National Policy Conference – Republican National Lawyers Association National Policy Conference, with speakers including Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.rnla.org> <https://twitter.com/TheRepLawyer>

9:30 AM Israeli defense minister speaks at The Washington Institute – 'Between Syria and Gaza: Urgent Challenges for Israel's Security' The Washington Institute Policy Forum, with Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman Location: The Washington Institute, 1111 19th St NW, Washington, DC www.washingtoninstitute.org
<https://twitter.com/washinstitute>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: [On President Trump's Fox & Friends interview] "This interview was insane. It was rambling. It was so loud. It sounded like he was shouting the whole time. I just had the image of an unbathed Donald Trump shambling around in his bathrobe. Neither Fox nor friends could get a word in edgewise."

Stephen Colbert: "But in their defense, they had to rush the leader of the free world off the phone to get to their actual next news segment: 'Buck's Famous Scrambled Eggs!' The secret ingredient is changing the subject."

Stephen Colbert: Ex-VA secretary nominee Ronny Jackson "denies the charges and says he's bowing out because 'these false allegations have become a distraction for this president.' To be fair, jangly keys are a distraction for this president."

James Corden: "Trump says he's too busy to give a birthday present to Melania. I mean, how much effort does it take to just leave the back door open and say, 'You're free! I let you go'?"

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump did a live phone interview with Fox & Friends. It was tough for Trump. He didn't know whether to focus on the questions or watch himself on TV."

Jimmy Fallon: "Melania made a wish, blew out her candles, opened her eyes and said, 'Oh, crap, he's still here.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President celebrated this morning with a bonkers 30-minute-long phone call to Fox & Friends.' ... Told them he got her [the First Lady] a beautiful card. A beautiful green card."

Jimmy Kimmel: "And then during the interview, Trump accidentally admitted that Michael Cohen did represent him in the Stormy Daniels please-be-quiet-now case. So, happy birthday, honey!"

Jimmy Kimmel: EPA Administrator Pruitt "says he intends to stay at his job until he gets the average temperature of the earth up to a cozy 98 degrees."

Seth Meyers: "Bill Cosby has been found guilty on all counts, and now faces 10 years in prison for each of his three crimes. Oh man, please tell me his lawyer is Michael Cohen."

Seth Meyers: "In an interview today, President Trump said that he's been too busy to buy First Lady Melania Trump a birthday gift. Oh please, I mean, it wouldn't take that long. I'm sure the only gift she wants is an open White House door, and a 10-minute head start."

Seth Meyers: "The Senate today confirmed CIA Director Mike Pompeo as secretary of state. Trump says he's excited and looks forward to working with him for the next week or so."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump said today that he would rather have an election based on the popular vote, and when Hillary [Clinton] heard that, she laughed so hard her pantsuit changed colors."

Seth Meyers: "That was the first time in history that a TV show had to change its phone number because of a stalker. ... [Shows a clip of the Fox & Friends hosts] Look at those faces. ... That's the way scientists who test zombie viruses on monkeys look when they see the cage is open and the monkey is gone."

Seth Meyers: [On Trump's statement to Fox that he has many attorneys] "You have so many attorneys, and not one of them told you to keep your mouth shut? Which one of them told you it was a good idea to call a TV show on three hours sleep?"

Seth Meyers: "You picture prosecutors digging for evidence, now all they need is a remote control. I bet this morning, one of them said, 'Hey, should I print out the brief?', and another one said, 'Oh, let's hold off, he's on TV. I bet he's going to say something.'"

Trevor Noah: "It's officially over for Bill Cosby now, because whether he goes to jail or not, the shameful title of sexual predator will hang over his head forever. So he can't do anything now, except maybe run for president."

Trevor Noah: [On Trump getting a birthday card for Melania] "I would pay anything to know what he wrote inside that card that he definitely didn't actually get. Like, 'Roses are red, love it is a mystery. I had a historic electoral college victory.'"

Trevor Noah: "I can safely say that I've never seen a news anchor try to bail on an

interview with the president of the United States. How is it that he's the commander in chief, but it's the couch people who have better things to do?"

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