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Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

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<http://bit.ly/2sWdTpr>

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A new study conducted by top scientists in Texas has found that the shale oil boom there has caused earthquakes, degraded natural resources, overwhelmed some communities, and even boosted the frequency and severity of traffic collisions, while enriching companies, residents and the state itself.

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As the White House reviews the Interior Department's plans to roll back an Obama-era hydraulic fracturing rule, government lawyers are again urging a court to pause related litigation.

<http://bit.ly/2sRfE6X>

## **8. Small producers complain of 'frack hits'**

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

In Oklahoma, small oil and gas producers say more than 100 of their wells have been damaged by hydraulic fracturing jobs done for large companies.

<http://bit.ly/2sBEXrl>

## **9. Zinke's answer about temperature is called 'stupid'**

Brittany Patterson, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke evaded questions yesterday about the extent of rising temperatures during a Senate budget hearing for an agency that oversees fossil fuel development on a fifth of the nation's land.

<http://bit.ly/2sWQiVA>

## **10. Industry risks losing trillions from climate rules — report**

Benjamin Hulac, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The global oil industry has trillions of dollars at risk from climate regulation, money that could be lost if governments clamp down on emissions, according to a report released today.

<http://bit.ly/2srdVot>

**11. After some 'finesse,' reform bill coming soon — Murkowski**

Geof Koss, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will soon reintroduce a revised comprehensive energy package they hope will avoid the fate of last year's predecessor, which expired in the closing days of the 114th Congress after months of formal talks with the House collapsed.

<http://bit.ly/2sRb6NQ>

**12. Panel announces marathon land, mining, water markup**

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The House Natural Resources Committee will begin consideration of 22 bills tomorrow, including legislation to approve the construction of a controversial road in Alaska and measures related to water, mining and forest management.

<http://bit.ly/2rDqhHc>

**13. Staffer for 'No. 1 public lands enemy' moves to CEQ**

Emily Holden and Corbin Hiar, E&E News reporters

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

A former legislative assistant for a Republican senator who is a vocal critic of federal landownership has taken a job with the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

<http://bit.ly/2tu8cwu>

**14. Department seeks input on which rules to kill**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The Interior Department today kicked off its regulatory reform initiative, seeking public comment on which policies it should work to eliminate or amend.

<http://bit.ly/2sWEDpY>

**15. Montanans don't want changes to Clinton-created site — poll**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

A majority of Montanans oppose reducing or eliminating the state's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, one of dozens of sites currently under review by the Trump administration, according to a new survey released today.

<http://bit.ly/2rSvvmj>

**16. Western governors invite Zinke to discuss review**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Western state governors involved in the development of conservation efforts for the greater sage grouse said this week they are "ready to engage" with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on his agency's ongoing review of federal plans.

<http://bit.ly/2rDIzbb>

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### **1. Zinke defends reorganization, budget to skeptical senators**

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke today defended his decision to reassign dozens of senior executives as part of a major departmentwide reorganization that is just getting underway.

The Senior Executive Service "by definition" gets moved around, Zinke said, responding to concerns raised by Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) during testimony before the Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Udall, the panel's ranking member, said lawmakers have been "left in the dark" about the department's reorganization plans, which he believes are moving too quickly.

The reassignments are "not unprecedented," Zinke asserted, adding that the department is shifting people to jobs where their skills are better-suited, or moving them out of headquarters into the field, where there is greater need.

"The front line is short of people," Zinke said. "Headquarters and management seem just fine."

Agencies by statute can reassign senior executives, provided the agencies comply with the proper notification process. Senior executives know when they enter the Senior Executive Service that they are subject to involuntary reassignments.

Udall asked for a list of affected senior executives, which Zinke said he would provide once they make a decision to either accept the reassignment or resign, citing privacy rules. "After they make the choice, I will be glad to give you the list, but until that time I will honor their list," Zinke said.

In his written testimony, Zinke said he would pursue reducing the department workforce by 4,000 full-time jobs through a mix of attrition, separation incentives and reassignments, to meet the recommendations of the fiscal 2018 budget request. During a U.S. Chamber of Commerce event yesterday, the former Montana congressman said Interior is about to enter "probably the greatest reorganization" in its history, moving toward a new system with 13 "joint management areas" that he has detailed in recent weeks (*E&E News PM*, June 20).

"You'll see the first blush of it coming out in about 60 days or so," Zinke said yesterday. "The president is supportive of it, he's been very supportive of it, and we're going to go forward and reorganize."

Udall also raised specific concerns over reports that the Bureau of Land Management is eyeing a reduction of 1,000 positions through attrition and separation incentives, such as buyouts or early retirement offers. Acting BLM Director Mike Nedd sent a June 16 email to employees, posted online by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, that outlines the agency's budget challenges in light of the administration's \$11.7 billion proposal for the department in fiscal 2018, a 13 percent cut from 2017 enacted levels, depending on the budget numbers cited.

"While the fiscal 2018 budget is not final, we must heed the staffing levels that it calls for," Nedd wrote. "For our agency, this could mean 1,000 fewer full-time equivalent employees across the nation. I understand this may create anxiety among some staff as we try to plan for the future of our agency, ourselves, and our families. Your leadership team is working to minimize the impact to our workforce while reviewing our priority work to determine what can be accomplished with the resources available."

The White House is recommending \$1.1 billion for BLM in fiscal 2018, a decrease of \$180.5 million below the 2017 enacted level.

Udall also expressed the need to consult with Indian tribes over any reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Zinke said the department should have the plan to reorganize BIA "within 90 days" and that the tribes will be a part of it, adding that not "every part of Interior" will be affected as much as others by reorganization.

"There's no chance that Interior is going to reorganize BIA without sitting down with the tribes, and Congress," said Zinke.

## Hard choices

In his second of three appearances this week before congressional committees, Zinke reiterated today to lawmakers that the budget proposal is the result of tough decisions, but that it's what a "balanced budget" should look like.

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) disagreed.

"This is not a balanced budget," said Alexander, adding that mandatory spending — programs like Social Security and Medicare — is the part of the \$2.7 trillion budget that is "out of control." Alexander said until that changes, funding for things like national parks and the National Institutes of Health "will be squeezed into nothing."

For instance, the proposed Trump budget also would scale back new federal land acquisition and support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund — cuts that have infuriated public land and conservation advocates. The omnibus spending deal that lawmakers agreed to earlier this year provided \$400 million for LWCF in fiscal 2017, while the Trump fiscal 2018 budget request seeks to reduce funding for LWCF to \$64 million.

Republican and Democratic appropriators at today's hearing were not happy about the proposed 85 percent cut to LWCF.

"I know you are for [support] LWCF," said Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.). "This budget does not indicate you are for it." Zinke reiterated that new federal land acquisition is not a priority right now, given the nearly \$12 billion maintenance backlog at the National Park Service.

"The budget funds core tasks and treaty obligations, but not much more," Zinke acknowledged, pledging to work with lawmakers on their priorities. "It's a starting point."

Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) made it clear that she wasn't in favor of wholesale cuts to certain programs just to "hit a budget number."

Some of the proposed cuts she said were "troubling" included reductions to programs that convey land titles to tribes, to the payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) program and to BIA. She did praise other aspects of the proposed budget, including fully funding fire suppression activities at the 10-year average.

## BLM methane rule

Several lawmakers, including Tester, Udall and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), asked Zinke whether he would uphold the Obama-era rule regulating oil and gas flaring on public lands.

Zinke reiterated what he told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee yesterday: He has suspended the rule, but he intends to follow the law, referring to the Administrative Procedure Act, which governs the way agencies propose and establish regulations (*Greenwire*, June 20). Last month, the Senate voted down a resolution that would have overturned the methane rule.

"As a former Navy officer and congressman, I do follow the law," he told the panel.

However, he also said that he "intends to rewrite the rule."

<http://bit.ly/2sWdTpr>

## 2. Group demands documents on senior executive moves

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter



Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

A conservation group today filed a Freedom of Information Act request with Interior seeking details on the department's reassignment of dozens of career senior executives.

"The scope of the job reassignments is unprecedented among past administrations, and timing of the notices suggests that the job changes will happen at the earliest date [Interior Secretary Ryan] Zinke is allowed to enact such changes under the law," said a press release from the nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity, the group that filed the [FOIA request](#).

The group is seeking all records, including correspondence, email messages and phone records, that reference the department's reassignment of several senior executives, which came to light late last week.

Agencies must give senior executives at least 15 days' notice if they are being reassigned to another Senior Executive Service job within the same agency and their commuting area; for reassignments outside their geographic commuting area, agencies must give those affected at least 60 days' notice. Interior appears to have complied with that time frame, at least during this round of reassignments.

Affected senior executives can either accept the reassignment or resign. They have the right to appeal a reassignment if they believe it was the result of discrimination or a prohibited personnel practice.

By statute, agencies can reassign senior executives, provided they comply with the proper notification process. Senior executives know when they enter the SES that they are subject to involuntary reassignments. In fact, the cadre of top career leaders was intended to be a mobile force, changing assignments as needed. President Obama issued an executive order during his second term aimed at reforming the SES; one of the recommendations involved moving senior executives around more to avoid complacency and improve management throughout the government.

Zinke told reporters after giving testimony to a Senate Appropriations subcommittee earlier today that he needs to think about what Interior will look like in 100 years. "This is the time to do the reorganization," he said, noting that in five years, 40 percent of the department's workforce will be at retirement age. "This is an opportunity that doesn't come around a lot."

The secretary also pointed out that reassignments within the SES are "not unprecedented" and are "completely normal."

Still, they are not frequent. Several issues over the years have thwarted the goal of a nimble SES at many federal agencies: people's reluctance to uproot to another geographic region, performance management systems that aren't standard across agencies and a lack of transparency into the rotational assignment decisionmaking.

Taylor McKinnon, public lands campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity, said that Zinke "in typical Trump administration fashion" was "sowing chaos in the ranks of the agency's leadership. Kicking out these kinds of long-term staffers opens the door to all sorts of trouble, including sweetheart deals for polluters."

Zinke pointed out after the hearing that he wasn't firing anyone.

"If you accept an SES position, you should be prepared to move," Zinke said, adding that the department is shifting people to jobs where their skills are better-suited or moving them out of headquarters into the field, where there is greater need.

The Interior secretary told Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) today that he would provide a list of the affected senior executives and the positions once the individuals had decided to either accept the reassignment or resign, citing privacy rules.

"After they make the choice, I will be glad to give you the list, but until that time, I will honor their list," Zinke told the top Democrat on the Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

<http://bit.ly/2sUMnsT>

### 3. Interior to rewrite BLM rule

Pamela King, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke yesterday gave his most definitive indication to date that his agency would rework an Obama-era regulation to curb methane emissions from oil and gas operations on public lands.

"My intention, so you know, is we're going to rewrite the rule," the former Montana congressman said in response to a line of questioning from the top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell had been asking Zinke whether he would enforce BLM's **Methane and Waste Prevention Rule** after delaying its forthcoming compliance dates (*Greenwire*, June 14). The suspension followed a failed effort to scrap the rule under the Congressional Review Act — a move that would have barred Interior from reintroducing a "substantially similar" regulation (*Greenwire*, May 10).

"Congress has said this is the law, and we want to know how you're enforcing it," Cantwell said to Zinke during a committee hearing on Interior's proposed fiscal 2018 budget.

Interior postponed elements of the rule in light of pending litigation, according to a *Federal Register* **notice** last week. The notice did not say whether Interior would propose a new rule to replace the existing regulation, although a prior **secretarial order** noted that a revision was possible.

The order also suggested suspending or rescinding the rule, depending on the results of an agency review.

In a Monday **letter** to Zinke, Cantwell and Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) questioned Interior's authority to halt provisions of a rule that has already taken effect (*Greenwire*, June 20).

"The effect of this claim is to allow the Department, according to its whim, to suspend properly promulgated regulations with no public notice and comment nor any legal reasoning beyond an unsubstantiated claim that 'justice requires' suspension of a rule that has already gone into effect," the senators wrote. "This could lead to all manner of improper giveaways and special relief for regulated industries."

Zinke said the new rulemaking would be subject to public notice and comment.

"I follow the law," he said.

#### New rule

After the hearing, Zinke offered a few details about Interior's plans for the rule over the next two months.

The existing rule dictates that operators submit waste minimization plans with applications for permits to drill. They must also meet new requirements for royalty-free use of production, downhole well maintenance and liquids unloading.

Postponed requirements include incremental methane capture percentages through 2025 and optimization of leaky pneumatic equipment and storage tanks.

"We're going to go forward and redo it. It can't be arbitrary," Zinke said. "Personally, I think unrestricted methane is a waste, and as the steward of our public lands, I think we've got to be cognizant of decentivized waste. That means incentivized capture systems."

Zinke did not offer specifics on how Interior would encourage companies to contain escaped methane but outlined some potential destinations for the gas. The flare stack — where excess gas is burned into the atmosphere — would not be one of them, he said.

"This is an asset that we're flaring, and we need to find a different way to make sure the gas is used, whether it's reinjected, whether it's stored, whether it's transferred to some other location," Zinke said.

"But certainly flaring it is wasteful."

*Reporter Brittany Patterson contributed.*

<http://bit.ly/2sR8Je0>

#### **4. Bishop to Grijalva: Have you Googled it?**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) today offered an acerbic reply to his Democratic counterpart's plea for assistance in obtaining details on the Trump administration's ongoing review of dozens of national monuments: Why don't I Google that for you?

In a two-page letter to Arizona Rep. Raúl Grijalva, Bishop praised Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of monuments as "honest, fair and open" while dismissing the Democrat's recent assertions that the Trump administration is conducting its assessment without sufficient public input.

In a missive to Zinke earlier this month, Grijalva asked the Interior Department to produce a detailed itinerary of his recent visit to Utah — where he was evaluating both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments — as well as an account of public comments collected to date (E&E News PM, June 13).

Noting media reports that indicate the Trump administration intends to respond to informational requests only from Republican lawmakers, Grijalva also sent a secondary letter to Bishop asking him to sign onto his request.

In his response, Bishop noted: "It is clear we both share a genuine concern for transparency when decisions are made regarding national monuments."

He added: "I am also pleased to let you know that after a few cursory Google searches, it appears as though the administration has already made the information you requested ... publicly available online."

Bishop pointed to "extensive news coverage" about Zinke's travels in Utah, as well as Zinke's own postings to Twitter, "where he proved himself to be quite the amateur photographer."

Bishop also urged Grijalva to join him in pushing for reforms to the Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows presidents to designate federal land as monuments to protect areas of cultural, historic or scientific interest.

"As of this month, the Act has existed for 111 years with no formal mechanism for consulting or notifying the public and local communities before a unilateral designation," wrote Bishop, who has criticized presidential use of the act and encouraged President Trump to rescind the Bears Ears designation.

Grijalva expressed dissatisfaction with Bishop's response.

"It's disappointing that House Republican oversight of the off-the-rails Trump administration goes no further than a Google search," Grijalva told E&E in a statement. "We're seeking an actual accounting of the comments received and a more detailed idea of the meetings Secretary Zinke held because the information they've made public is pretty thin. We wouldn't need to ask Chairman Bishop to join our request if this administration abandoned its unprecedented stance that Democrats are not entitled to responses when they write letters."

### **Are N.M. monuments 'settled'?**

In the meantime, Zinke today declined to assure New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall (D) that a pair of national monuments in his state would not be affected by the administration's review.

During testimony before the Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Udall asked Zinke to confirm that he would not recommend changes to either the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks or Rio Grande del Norte monuments.

"Will you commit to me today that you will respect the wishes of the vast majority of New Mexicans and maintain the existing boundaries of these two monuments?" Udall asked.

The senator pointed to Zinke's public comments to Sen. Cory Gardner (R) yesterday, in which the secretary confirmed that Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument was not on the agency's "priority review list" (*E&E News PM*, June 20).

While Zinke, who noted that he is set to visit New Mexico in the coming weeks, suggested he is unlikely to make changes to "settled" monuments, he indicated that no decisions have been made.

"In the case of New Mexico, I do not want to rip a Band-Aid off a monument that's settled. ... If it's settled and people are happy with it, I find no reason to recommend any changes," he said.

<http://bit.ly/2tORreE>

## **5. More money, less production if royalties raised      GAO**

Dylan Brown, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Oil, gas and coal production on public lands would likely dip if royalty rates were raised, but the federal government would still make more money, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Its **report** released yesterday could help inform the debate over the federal share of fossil fuel profits. Provided to congressional appropriators, it analyzed a series of studies on royalties' impacts on those industries.

Under the current 12.5 percent federal royalty rate, onshore oil, gas and coal extraction generated about \$2 billion in 2016.

Six states — Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming — represented more than 90 percent of that production.

In all of them, state oil and gas royalty rates were at least 12.5 percent, with some as high as 20 percent. State coal rates were roughly the same as the federal percentage.

For oil and gas, GAO closely examined two studies, including a 2016 Congressional Budget Office report looking at the potential impact of an 18.75 percent royalty rate over the next 10 years. According to CBO, the increase would have a "small or even negligible" impact on production, while generating \$200 million more as more new leases came online.

The other study was done by a Virginia consulting firm on behalf of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management.

Enegis LLC looked at 16.67, 18.75 or 22.5 percent royalty rates on oil and gas over the next 25 years.

All three scenarios forecast slackening demand for federal leases and annual production dipping by less than 2 percent, but revenue increasing between \$125 million and \$939 million.

For coal, GAO likewise closely examined two studies.

The Trump administration already squelched a coal royalty review, despite an Obama administration report validating concerns among taxpayer watchdogs and environmentalists that taxpayers were being shortchanged (Greenwire, March 29).

GAO looked at a controversial White House Council of Economic Advisers report produced during the Obama administration (Greenwire, June 22).

According to the advisory panel, if a 17 percent or 29 percent royalty rate were imposed in 2025, production would decrease by 3 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

Those increases would yield up to \$730 million a year, with half going to states and half to the federal government, or as little as zero dollars if bonus bids at auction are not maintained.

The second coal study was from Mark Haggerty and Megan Lawson of Headwaters Economics and Montana State University's Jason Pearcy.

The researchers examined an effective royalty rate, which would charge royalties after processing and transportation, and not at the mine mouth as is currently done.

In the average year under that scenario, production would drop less than 1 percent, but revenue would increase by \$141 million.

GAO, which Congress had ordered in the 2016 omnibus spending bill to review royalty rates, did not make any recommendations based on the report.

<http://bit.ly/2rVQkIW>

## **6. Industry finds fracking poses little threat to drinking water**

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

A new study conducted by top scientists in Texas has found that the shale oil boom there has caused earthquakes, degraded natural resources, overwhelmed some communities, and even boosted the frequency and severity of traffic collisions, while enriching companies, residents and the state itself.

Scientists, regulators and industry leaders need to identify and understand the risks of drilling, said the study's leader, Christine Ehlig-Economides.

But industry representatives saw the report a different way, pointing to sections that said there was little evidence to tie hydraulic fracturing to drinking water pollution or an exponential rise in Texas earthquakes.

"This study is yet another indication that the campaign to shut down fracking is based on politics, not science," said Steve Everley, a spokesman for Texans for Natural Gas. "If fracking were a credible risk to groundwater, we would know about it in Texas, which produces more oil and natural gas than any other state."

The study found that clearing new well pads caused soil erosion and the loss of wildlife habitat. It also found that notable earthquakes have increased from two a year before 2008 to 12 to 15 a year now. Additionally, trucks used by the industry cause \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion per year in damage to highways and roads, as well as a sharp increase in fatal collisions.

Industry leaders emphasized the economic benefits noted in the study, including an annual gross product of \$473 billion and 3.8 million jobs (David Hunn, *San Antonio Express-News*, June 20). — **SM**

<http://bit.ly/2sqV7p2>

## 7. Interior pushes to freeze appeal as plans to nix rule advance

Ellen M. Gilmer, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

As the White House reviews the Interior Department's plans to roll back an Obama-era hydraulic fracturing rule, government lawyers are again urging a court to pause related litigation.

In a brief to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday, Interior urged a panel of judges to reject environmental groups' request to push forward in a legal battle over whether the federal government has authority to regulate fracking on public and tribal lands.

According to the Trump administration, it would be inappropriate to move ahead with the case while Interior is rethinking the fracking rule. Just last week, the agency sent the White House Office of Management and Budget a proposal to rescind the regulation.

"BLM's progress toward the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking strengthens the arguments that BLM made in favor of abeyance in its supplemental brief," yesterday's filing said. "The Court need not make an immediate decision about the 2015 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule now because the ongoing administrative process could rescind the Rule and moot the present appeal."

The **brief** also sheds some light on the ongoing review of the fracking rule, which has fallen behind schedule (*Energywire*, June 15). The document says Interior's Bureau of Land Management will soon publish a *Federal Register* proposal to rescind the rule and reinstate previous regulations on oil and gas development on public lands, which did not specifically address fracking.

The proposal will be subject to 60 days of public comment.

Industry opponents of the fracking rule celebrated the administration's move yesterday, calling the proposed rulemaking's arrival at OMB "an important step" in the process. Environmental attorneys, meanwhile, slammed Interior for attempting to roll back what they see as common-sense standards (*Greenwire*, June 20).

The rule, which has been stalled by litigation and has never taken effect, would set new requirements for well construction, wastewater management and chemical disclosure for fracked wells on public and tribal lands.

Environmental groups, law professors and former Interior officials have pushed the court to issue a decision in the case, arguing that the core legal question — the government's authority over fracking — does not depend on the status of the fracking rule.

The Trump administration itself has defended its authority over fracking but has maintained that continued litigation is unnecessary in light of the regulatory review (*Energywire*, May 8).

<http://bit.ly/2sRfE6X>

## **8. Small producers complain of 'frack hits'**

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

In Oklahoma, small oil and gas producers say more than 100 of their wells have been damaged by hydraulic fracturing jobs done for large companies.

The producers have even coined a new term for the emerging problem: a "frack hit."

Joe Warren, a partner with small oil and gas producer Brown & Borelli Inc., said he thinks the problem is particularly acute in Oklahoma's Stack, one of the hottest oil regions in the country.

"Most of the large players in the Stack have hit one or more of our wells," Warren said (Erin Ailworth, *Wall Street Journal*, June 20). — **MJ**

<http://bit.ly/2sBEXrl>

## **9. Zinke's answer about temperature is called 'stupid'**

*Brittany Patterson*, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke evaded questions yesterday about the extent of rising temperatures during a Senate budget hearing for an agency that oversees fossil fuel development on a fifth of the nation's land.

During a heated exchange with Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), Zinke punted on basic questions about climate science. The secretary declined to engage in a line of inquiry that focused on government predictions of rising temperatures over the next 80 years. He claimed instead that climate models are inaccurate, a frequent talking point among climate skeptics.

"I'm concerned about whether you are clear about the magnitude of warming that is occurring," Franken said at the Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing.

Franken repeatedly asked Zinke, a former congressman from Montana, if he could "tell me how much warming government scientists predict for the end of this century under a business-as-usual scenario?"

Zinke parried.

"I don't think government scientists can predict with certainty," he said. "There isn't a model that exists today that can predict today's weather given all the data."

Over the last few decades, scientists have come to use more than 30 climate models to project how climate could change in the future. The models often combine decades of weather, physics and the forcing effects of large-scale climate drivers, such as the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, in order to predict future climate.

The Earth is expected to warm between 8 and 11 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if emissions continue to rise unfettered, according to the 2014 National Climate Assessment.

Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, said Zinke's explanation was "a stupid and ignorant answer."

Climate models, he said, are getting better. The simulations increasingly line up with observed changes. By using temperature records and atmospheric measurements of carbon dioxide, scientists know that in the past 200 years the planet has warmed about 1.4 F and CO<sub>2</sub> has risen 40 percent. The present level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is higher than it has been in the past million years.

"Well, all models are wrong, but some are useful," Trenberth said. "Weather models aren't able to accurately predict if it'll be sunny or rainy two weeks from now because they are sensitive to small disruptions.

"But the patterns of weather may still be predictable in the same sense that summer is different than winter," he added. "And that is what climate is all about: determining the effects of the sun, the atmospheric composition, the oceans, the ice and ... looking for systematic influences."

While climate modeling and weather forecasting are similar, they rely on different sets of data and measure vastly different time scales, said Gavin Schmidt, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

"Weather forecasting is based on our ability to track weather systems (fronts, storms, wave patterns etc.) and is excellent at the 1 to 5 day range," he said in an email. "Climate forecasts by contrast predict statistics of weather as opposed to specific events."

When looking over long periods of time, the external drivers of climate — things like how much carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere trapping heat, and how many trees have been cut down and are no longer sequestering greenhouse gases — can be used to make statistical predictions about the climate, Schmidt said.

In a statement to E&E News, Franken said he wanted Zinke to recognize the real threat of climate change and the role his agency plays in setting policy that can affect it.

"I wanted Secretary Zinke to acknowledge that climate change is real, that without action the increase in temperatures will be large, that he listens to the climate scientists in his agency, and that he grasps that climate change will affect our public lands," Franken said. "I find it troubling, to say the least, that he failed to address any of those very important issues."

During the hearing, Zinke also seized on the Trump administration's decision to pull out of the Paris Agreement. He characterized the move as not being about climate change, but about the agreement's being a "bad deal." President Trump has repeatedly used the same language.

He then cited a White House talking point that if the agreement were implemented, it would only produce a 0.2-degree-Celsius reduction in global temperatures. Zinke called that "insignificant."



Zinke said his data point came from a report by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But researchers from the Climate Interactive project, which collaborates with MIT, have refuted that point.

In fact, the study shows that the Paris Agreement could lower the expected temperature increase by 0.6 to 1.1 C (*Climatewire*, June 2).

An exasperated Franken again pressed the Cabinet secretary to answer his question about the science.

"I just want you to answer the question that I asked you. That's all I want you to do," Franken said. "Can you tell me how much warming government scientists ... predict for the end of the century under a business-as-usual scenario?"

Zinke didn't bite. Instead, he began questioning Franken.

"Can you tell me, sir, whether or not China increased its CO2 between now and 2030 under the agreement, and by what?" Zinke asked. "I will be glad to give you that answer."

The two agreed to finish the discussion in written comments submitted for the record.

<http://bit.ly/2sWQiVA>

## **10. Industry risks losing trillions from climate rules      report**

*Benjamin Hulac*, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The global oil industry has trillions of dollars at risk from climate regulation, money that could be lost if governments clamp down on emissions, according to a **report** released today.

The London think tank Carbon Tracker says its analysis marks the first time that oil industry assets have been ranked by the amount of their exposure to loss from public climate policies. The group studied 69 publicly traded oil and gas companies.

The report found that \$2.3 trillion in investments planned through 2025 "should not be deployed" if the world is to meet the goal of preventing more than 2 degrees Celsius of warming.

"There are clear signs that oil demand could peak in the early 2020s," James Leaton, research director at Carbon Tracker, said in a statement. He added that companies should consider shelving projects, in part to protect their investors.

The report is part of a growing chorus from financial analysts who warn of economic risks from climate change and regulations to address it.

The Group of 20 nations has commissioned a panel to study how climate change could fuel financial crisis. Central banks in China and in the United Kingdom are also studying the topic, and bank regulators in Canada and Australia are paying attention, too (*E&E News PM*, Feb. 17).

The Carbon Tracker report identifies six supermajors — BP PLC, Chevron Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp., Total SA, Eni SpA and Royal Dutch Shell PLC — that have at least 20 percent of their planning exposed to a 2 C scenario. That level of risk translates to billions of dollars in possible loss, the group says.

The report's authors say that some drilling projects don't make sense economically when climate regulations are considered. They point to the Bonga North and the Bonga Southwest projects in Nigeria. Oil prices would have to reach \$90 a barrel or more for those projects to break even, according to the authors.

"Sticking with the growth-at-all-costs scenario just doesn't add up for shareholder value when the policy and technology momentum is heading in the opposite direction," Leaton said.

The Paris climate agreement encourages nations to ratchet down emissions to meet the 2 C goal.

The Principles for Responsible Investment, a U.N. group, and a handful of European investment companies also worked on the report.

<http://bit.ly/2srdVot>

## **11. After some 'finesse,' reform bill coming soon      Murkowski**

Geof Koss, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will soon reintroduce a revised comprehensive energy package they hope will avoid the fate of last year's predecessor, which expired in the closing days of the 114th Congress after months of formal talks with the House collapsed.

ENR Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said yesterday she and ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) are close to unveiling an updated version of legislation that passed the Senate 85-12 last April.

That bill included broad provisions to address energy efficiency, infrastructure and the conservation side of the panel's jurisdiction.

"I am hoping sooner rather than later," she told E&E News.

The pair had hoped to unveil the updated bill a month ago, but Murkowski said "there were some issues that we needed to finesse."

Changes stem from the months of conference talks, which ended in December after House negotiators walked away from the table.

At the time, House conferees said the election of Donald Trump as president dampened enthusiasm for negotiating with Democrats and the Obama administration, brushing off warnings from Murkowski and Cantwell that nearly two years of work would be lost (*E&E Daily*, Dec. 8, 2016).

Murkowski yesterday said the new bill will mirror the previous legislation but will reflect some of the give-and-take from the conference talks.

"There are some of the things that will be different, but it's the core of what we were operating off of last year," she said. "And that's what allows us to move forward with it in a way that says we have a package that's been worked through, it's almost like it's been pre-conferenced."

### **'No deal-breakers'**

Changes under discussion in recent weeks were to the legislation's efficiency title, an area that both the House and Senate versions addressed but in different ways (*E&E Daily*, June 14).

"There's no deal-breakers there, but what we were trying to do was just get to as much consensus as possible," Murkowski said of efficiency provisions.

She signaled the revised package will once again include a "shot clock," imposing a deadline on the Energy Department to make final decisions on applications to export liquefied natural gas.

House proponents of LNG exports this month said they were holding off on reintroducing bills to expedite shipments until the administration completes a review of the application process (*E&E Daily*, June 8).

"I still feel that it's important to have this in language even with the assurances that there's going to be a better process with this administration," Murkowski said.

Cantwell yesterday signaled that discussions over changes to the bill continue, but she echoed Murkowski's desire to see the effort move past the finish line.

"She and I would love to get things done," she said, adding, "It's hard to understand what our colleagues in the House are thinking."

## House

House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) have both signaled interest in revisiting the energy bills, including as part of an infrastructure package desired by President Trump.

Energy and Commerce Vice Chairman Joe Barton (R-Texas), who shepherded a broad energy package into law in 2005 while chairman, made no mention of the energy bill during a video presentation on agenda items presented during a U.S. Chamber of Commerce event yesterday.

A top goal is increasing energy security. "We're going to modernize the electrical grid and make sure that we can prevent potential cyberattacks," Barton said.

Another priority is nuclear waste. The committee has been moving forward with legislation that would advance the controversial Yucca Mountain repository (*Greenwire*, June 15).

"We're going to hopefully pass a law that finally gets high-level nuclear waste moving, so we move it out of reactor sites to a central repository first on an interim basis, then on a permanent basis," Barton said.

He also hinted at upcoming efforts to reorganize DOE and EPA.

"I think the Department of Energy should regain some of its jurisdiction over environmental policy," Barton said. "The EPA still has responsibility for implementing the law, but energy and environment are so intertwined that I think we need to rebalance that equation so the Energy Department is more in line."

He also touted the committee's work on research within DOE.

"I think you can look at the research arm of the Department of Energy, oil and gas, and of course alternative energy. We've had great success with our solar energy and wind energy programs, and I think we will continue to look at that," Barton said.

*Reporter Sam Mintz contributed.*

<http://bit.ly/2sRb6NQ>

## 12. Panel announces marathon land, mining, water markup

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The House Natural Resources Committee will begin consideration of 22 bills tomorrow, including legislation to approve the construction of a controversial road in Alaska and measures related to water, mining and forest management.

Members will gather to give opening statements before reconvening to consider amendments and vote on the measures next Tuesday.

The panel will take up **H.R. 218**, sponsored by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), which calls for exchanging more than 43,000 acres of state land for 206 acres of federal land within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to build a single-lane gravel road connecting the towns of King Cove and Cold Bay.

Young has called claims from environmentalists and other critics that the road would harm the area "b.s." He and other supporters say it is desperately needed to provide King Cove residents with reliable access to medical care (*E&E Daily*, April 6). Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has also long championed construction. Another bill up for review is Kentucky Republican Rep. Hal Rogers' **H.R. 1731**, known as the "RECLAIM Act," which would accelerate the spending of \$1 billion from the abandoned coal mine reclamation fund.

The bill has bipartisan support in the Eastern states with deep cleanup needs and thousands of displaced coal workers, but it faces opposition, namely from Wyoming, which generates most revenue for the fund through the federal reclamation fee on coal mining (*E&E Daily*, April 6).

**H.R. 2936**, also on the docket, would encourage forest-thinning projects on public lands to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), would provide dedicated funding to avoid the Forest Service's borrowing from other accounts to deal with wildfire suppression.

The committee will weigh in on water-related legislation, as well, this week and next. Lawmakers will consider **H.R. 2939**, sponsored by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.) and dubbed the "Water Rights Protection Act."

It would prohibit "the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of water right to the United States" by the Interior and Agriculture secretaries.

Other bills scheduled for the markup are:

- **H.R. 2937**, from Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Ill.), to amend the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to authorize partnerships between states and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources hurt by coal mining activities before Aug. 3, 1977.
- **H.R. 289**, sponsored by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), to authorize the Agriculture and Interior secretaries to issue permits for recreation services on federal lands.
- **H.R. 597**, from Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.), to take lands in Sonoma County, Calif., into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California.
- **H.R. 954**, from Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), to remove use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Va.
- **H.R. 1107**, sponsored by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), to promote conservation, improve land management and provide for development in Pershing County, Nev.
- **H.R. 1306**, from Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), to provide for the conveyance of certain federal land in the state.
- **H.R. 1397**, from Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-Va.), dealing with the transfer of federal land.
- **H.R. 1404**, from ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), related to land for the Tucson Unified School District and for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona.
- **H.R. 1399**, from Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.), to reduce the royalty rate for mining soda ash on federal land.
- **H.R. 1541**, from Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-Kan.), to authorize the Interior secretary to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site.

- **H.R. 1719**, from Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Calif.), to authorize the Interior secretary to acquire about 44 acres of land in Martinez, Calif.
- **H.R. 1913**, from Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.), to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno counties, Calif., and to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in those counties.
- **H.R. 1927**, from Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-Mo.), to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network.
- **H.R. 2053**, from Rep. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States by funding activities at mining schools.
- **H.R. 2425**, sponsored by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), to support the establishment and improvement of communications sites on or adjacent to federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture or Interior secretaries through the retention and use of rental fees associated with such sites.
- **H.R. 2156**, from Rep. Steve Knight (R-Calif.), to establish a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the collapse of the St. Francis Dam on March 12, 1928.
- **H.R. 2370**, from Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), to authorize Escambia County, Fla., to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.
- **S. 249**, sponsored by Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), to provide that the Pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and for other purposes.

**Schedule:** The markup begins Thursday, June 22, at 4 p.m. in 1324 Longworth and continues Tuesday, June 27, at 10 a.m. in 1324 Longworth.

*Reporter Dylan Brown contributed.*

<http://bit.ly/2rDqhHc>

### **13. Staffer for 'No. 1 public lands enemy' moves to CEQ**

Emily Holden and Corbin Hiar, E&E News reporters

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

A former legislative assistant for a Republican senator who is a vocal critic of federal landownership has taken a job with the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Chris Prandoni, who was formerly handling energy and environment issues for Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), has been CEQ's associate director for natural resources since June 12, an administration aide confirmed.

"He will be working on land and natural resources issues," said White House spokeswoman Kelly Love.



Chris Prandoni. Prandoni/LinkedIn

Prandoni's hiring sends mixed signals about the Trump administration's stance on public lands.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has repeatedly stated that he opposes the sale or transfer of public lands, a position that earned him the support of some Democrats and sportsmen's groups, but Prandoni's former boss has pushed bills to sell off federal land.

Lee has said the federal government owns too much of the land west of the Rockies, including two-thirds of the land in Utah.

"When an unelected and unaccountable bureaucracy owns and manages more than half the land in your state, that is a recipe for disaster," his website says.

Prandoni's move is already worrying conservation groups.

The Center for Biological Diversity in March named Lee the No. 1 public lands enemy in Congress. The list includes members "trying to seize, destroy, dismantle and privatize America's public lands," according to the group.

Athan Manuel, director of the Sierra Club's lands protection program, said the administration "has shown nothing but contempt for our public lands, going so far as to try and undo national monuments, so it's no surprise that it would look to hire staff from one its congressional allies that has been a leading voice in opposing all national monuments — including Bears Ears — since being elected."

The Interior Department recently outraged environmental groups by recommending shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument in Lee's home state of Utah.

Brett Hartl, government affairs director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said Prandoni would "be in a position to put pressure on the agencies to rubber-stamp things and not take a hard look at the environmental consequences of a proposal."

"Sen. Lee has introduced some of the most extreme anti-public lands legislation of almost any member of Congress," he said. "I would assume that person had a significant role in shaping all of it."

Hartl said Prandoni would be part of a larger push the Trump administration is making "under the guise of infrastructure reform" to gut environmental reviews.

The White House is still discussing how to speed environmental permitting in building roads and pipelines, although conservative groups are looking to make it part of a potential spending package (*Climatewire*, June 19).

When Lee hired Prandoni in May 2015, he cited his "extensive policy experience with carbon taxes, cap and trade, EPA regulations, and oil and natural gas development on federal lands" as helpful for advising him in his role on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Prandoni was previously director of energy and environment policy for the group Americans for Tax Reform, where Lee's office said "he managed their energy portfolio covering oil and natural gas policy, as well as mining, electricity generation, and utility interests." Americans for Tax Reform is part of a conservative coalition that recently met with CEQ about ways to ease regulations for infrastructure development.

Prandoni is one of several Capitol Hill aides to head to CEQ. He follows Alex Herrgott, a longtime staffer for Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), who is CEQ's associate director for infrastructure (*E&E Daily*, May 1). Mary Neumayr, who was senior energy counsel for Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee since 2009, has been acting chief of staff since March (*E&E Daily*, March 10).

CEQ is still short-staffed, however, and the White House has not yet nominated someone to lead the office.

<http://bit.ly/2tu8cwu>

## **14. Department seeks input on which rules to kill**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The Interior Department today kicked off its regulatory reform initiative, seeking public comment on which policies it should work to eliminate or amend.

Interior revealed in a press release that it will begin accepting comments at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) for policies implemented by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, National Park Service, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, among others.

"Interior is seeking input from the public, and specifically from entities significantly affected by Federal regulations, on what Interior regulations may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification," the statement said. "This initiative is part of a government-wide initiative to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens on the American public."

In late February, President Trump signed an executive order aimed at reducing federal regulations. The order mandated each agency head to appoint a regulatory reform officer and will require a Regulatory Reform Task Force to provide regular updates on its repeal efforts.

Agencies are tasked with addressing regulations that may eliminate jobs or inhibit job creation, are outdated or unnecessary, are viewed as creating excessive costs, rely on data or methods that are not publicly available, or conflict with other regulations or executive orders.

<http://bit.ly/2sWEDpY>

## **15. Montanans don't want changes to Clinton-created site poll**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

A majority of Montanans oppose reducing or eliminating the state's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, one of dozens of sites currently under review by the Trump administration, according to a new survey released today.

The poll commissioned by the Montana Wildlife Federation found 59 percent of likely voters in the state oppose any changes to the 377,000-acre site created by President Clinton in his final days in office.

The survey of 702 likely 2018 voters was conducted by Maxfield Strategic Communications Research between May 21 and 25.

"This national monument really protects multiple-use land management in its greatest form," said Montana Wildlife Federation Executive Director Dave Chadwick. "It preserves public land, wildlife habitat, access for the public to the outdoors, along with other land uses like grazing, existing mineral development. This is really an exemplar of how we ought to be managing public lands for multiple use."

The northern Montana site is included in the Interior Department's review of 27 national monuments mandated by President Trump in late April. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is set to issue recommendations in late August that could include reductions, rescissions or changes to management plans at those sites.

Pointing to the results of the survey, which likewise found 61 percent of voters opposing the review and 36 percent supporting it, Chadwick added, "This review process is really unnecessary.

"We really ought to be focusing on how to protect and expand public access to public land. We hope that as the process unfolds, the Interior Department hears the voice of Montanans and the voice of all Americans on protecting these important lands," he said.

Zinke, a former Montana lawmaker, has said the review is needed because monuments should conform to the law calling for them to encompass the "smallest area" possible.

Voters were also asked whether the federal government should protect more land as national monuments, open up monuments to additional uses or leave the sites "just as they are." The poll found 58 percent favored leaving monuments unchanged, while 22 percent said the sites should be opened to additional uses, and 16 percent favored protecting additional land.

<http://bit.ly/2rSvvmj>

## **16. Western governors invite Zinke to discuss review**

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Western state governors involved in the development of conservation efforts for the greater sage grouse said this week they are "ready to engage" with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on his agency's ongoing review of federal plans.

In a June 20 letter to Zinke, a coalition of five governors — Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D), Idaho Gov. Butch Otter (R), Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D), Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) and Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R) — invited the secretary to meet with them in Whitefish, Mont., next week.

"In announcing [the review], you indicated that the spirit of the order is to work hand in hand with states and ensure that their efforts in conserving the greater sage-grouse are fully recognized," the governors wrote. "We appreciate your acknowledgement of the western states' considerable role in conserving greater sage-grouse and would further emphasize the importance of including state officials as substantive participants in any federal review of current land use plans."



Zinke announced earlier this month that the Trump administration would review federal greater sage grouse conservation plans to determine if they are hindering energy production on public lands (*Greenwire*, June 7).

The Interior and Agriculture departments finalized their greater sage grouse plans in 2015 — covering grouse habitat across 70 million acres in 10 Western states — including amendments and revisions to 98 Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land-use plans.

The five governors are all members of the Federal-State Sage Grouse Task Force that worked to develop those initial plans, an effort aimed at avoiding a decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act.

In their letter, the group, which is co-chaired by Hickenlooper and Mead, invited Zinke's own sage grouse review team to meet during the Western Governors' Association annual conference, which is set to take place in Montana next week. Zinke is a keynote speaker at the event in his hometown.

The letter asks Interior officials to detail how their review will be conducted, including a timeline for its completion.

The Interior Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether Zinke will attend.

### **No hunt in Calif.**

In California, hunters will be unable to target sage grouse during the 2017-18 season, following a decision by the state's Fish and Game Commission today.

The agency voted to issue a one-year moratorium on the bird, citing declines in its population in the state.

"The commission did the right thing by prohibiting sage grouse hunting in California this season," Center for Biological Diversity senior attorney Lisa Belenky said in a statement. "This is one small step in the right direction. But to truly save this iconic Western bird from extinction, we've got to protect its rapidly disappearing habitat."

<http://bit.ly/2rDlzbB>