

To: Daniel Jorjani[daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Nancy Guiden[nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov]; Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Roddy[russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-02-22T09:26:35-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Morning Clips for daily briefing
Received: 2017-02-22T09:26:42-05:00

Morning Clips 2/22/17

HOT TOPICS

Zinke, Perry To Receive Senate Vote After Presidents Day Break.

The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (2/21) reported that both Interior secretary nominee Ryan Zinke and Energy secretary nominee Rick Perry "will have to wait another week for Senate action on their nominations." Zinke will receive "a cloture vote on Feb. 27 once the Senate returns from its Presidents Day break." Perry's nomination will be the second "considered after the Senate finishes up with Zinke's."

Chaffetz Says Trump "Absolutely" Wants To Take Action On Bears Ears.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/21, Roche) reports that President Trump "absolutely" wants to take action to change the Bears Ears National Monument designation, according to Rep. Jason Chaffetz. Chaffetz said, "I hope it is rescinded. The second option would be to reduce it to a very, very small size. That has more precedent. But I want to go back and do it the right way." But "before that can happen, the congressman said the president's pick for secretary of the interior, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, needs to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate."

WWII Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument Vandalized.

[Reuters](#) (2/21, Simpson) reports that the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and World War II Memorial were "defaced with graffiti over the Presidents Day weekend, the third major vandalism of memorials in the U.S. capital since 2013, a National Park Service spokesman said on Tuesday." The memorials were "defaced with a marker pen sometime from Sunday night into Monday morning, spokesman Mike Litterst said."

NPS Investigating "Refugees Welcome" Banner At Statue Of Liberty.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/21) reports the National Park Service is investigating who was behind the unfurling of "a giant banner at the Statue of Liberty saying 'Refugees Welcome.'" Spokesman Jerry Willis said the banner was hung from the public observation desk and was taken down more than an hour later.

DAPL

Army Corps Of Engineers Will Not Extend Evacuation Date For Protest Camp.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Blake Nicholson |, Ap) reports the US Army Corps of Engineers said it will not extend Wednesday's deadline for Dakota Access pipeline protesters to vacate their

camp on federal land in North Dakota. Amid concerns of flooding and environmental dangers, the Corps told people on February 3 that they must take their possessions and leave the camp by 2 pm Wednesday. Gov. Doug Burgum's spokesman Mike Nowatzki said that arrests are possible if people refuse to leave.

ABC News (2/22) reports Energy Transfer Partners said in the filing that oil could start flowing in as early as two weeks, beating previous estimates.

DAPL Protesters, Law Enforcement Anticipate Stand-Off

Over Wednesday Deadline. Reuters (2/21, McLaughlin, Sylvester) reports up to 300 protesters near the site of the Dakota Access pipeline "are bracing for a stand-off" as North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum and the Army Corps of Engineers have set a Wednesday deadline at 2 p.m. for the demonstrators to leave the Army Corps land in Cannon Ball. If protesters choose to remain, law enforcement and camp leaders predict a "showdown" resulting in numerous arrests.

Standing Rock Sioux Casino Suffers On Economy, Protests. The AP (2/21) reports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is facing a budget shortfall of nearly \$6 million due to declining revenue at its Prairie Knights Casino. Tribal leaders say a slowing economy, a snowy winter, and the closure of the main access road to do pipeline protests affected the casino's bottom line. The Washington Times (2/21, Richardson) reports LaRoy Kingsley, spokesman for the casino, said, "There's absolutely no doubt that the protests and the closing of the bridge have had a significant impact on people's ability to get to the casino and just their comfort level driving down." He also pointed to the agricultural economy suffering, the energy downturn and the bad weather as factors compounding the problem. Christopher Herrera, a spokesman for the Rainforest Action Network, blamed those associated with the pipeline for the budget shortfall. He said, "The fact that casino management have allegedly cited activities by protesters does not in any way negate the reason for the protesters' presence which is the assault on human rights, the violation of Indigenous rights, the direct threat to clean water, the desecration of sacred lands."

MONTANA

Progress Made On Culling Yellowstone Bison Herd.

The AP (2/21) reports that "wildlife managers estimate that more than 570 Yellowstone National Park bison have been killed so far this winter." The figures "show that bison managers are making progress on their goal to eliminate 1,300 bison from the Yellowstone herd." The article notes that "a 2000 management plan calls for a population of 3,000 bison in the region, but about 5,500 live there now." According to a Yellowstone report, "179 bison have been transferred to Native American tribes for slaughter and 359 have been killed by hunters as of last Friday."

New Film Raises Concerns over Oil Trains near Glacier

Flathead Lakers say recent avalanches along railroad underscore safety worries, but BNSF defends their safety record.

Hundreds gather at Capitol to protest Daines

Montana tribes seek Keystone route change

The Great Falls Tribune reports the Assiniboine & Sioux tribes at Fort Peck plan to ask developer TransCanada to adjust the Montana route and have three alternatives in mind, said Bob McAnally, former in-house counsel for the tribes who now serves as a commissioner on the Assiniboine Sioux Rural Water Supply System.

Colstrip owner pushes for tax break to keep plant units open

The AP writes, Talen Energy is pushing Montana lawmakers for a tax break worth millions to keep two units of the coal-fired Colstrip power plant open, with one Republican leader saying Tuesday the units could close within the year without some form of assistance.

OPINION

Endangered Species Act Under Attack.

The Los Angeles Times (2/21, Board) editorializes that the Endangered Species Act is under attack and “were Congress and President Trump to accede to the demands of anti-regulatory zealots and gut the nature-protecting act, it would be calamitous for hundreds of plant and animal species, local ecosystems, and the complex interconnections that sustain the natural world.” It notes that “the usual argument against the act is roughly that it is not used to protect species, but to stifle development.” However, “what that argument misses, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, is that the act has helped keep nearly every species added to the list from fading into extinction.” The paper argues that “success here should be measured by saves, and by that yardstick, the Endangered Species Act has been a clear success – only 30 species have disappeared after being placed on the list.”