

To: Webster, Sarah[swebster@blm.gov]
From: Maciel, Martha
Sent: 2017-06-19T18:48:45-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: DRAFT: BLM-CA in the News, June 19
Received: 2017-06-19T18:48:48-04:00

Very nice! Looks great. Thanks. One comment. Can you check the Wash Times article, I think the link is to the Wash post.

[The sage grouse and its habitat need federal protection](#)

The Washington Times, opinion piece, June 11

Martha Maciel

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On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 3:43 PM, Webster, Sarah <swebster@blm.gov> wrote:

CALIFORNIA

[Judge to determine liability for PG&E in Butte Fire lawsuit](#)

Calaveras Enterprise, June 15

A hearing to determine whether Pacific Gas and Electric Company is legally liable for damages caused by the Butte Fire is scheduled for Friday in Sacramento. If successful, fire victims may only have to prove their home was destroyed by the fire and the amount of damages caused. A tentative decision by Judge Allen Sumner of the Sacramento Superior Court expresses his intention to rule on behalf of the plaintiffs. Oral arguments will be heard from both sides tomorrow before the judge issues his final ruling. The Butte Fire was started in Amador County in September of 2015 when a tree contacted a utility line. By the time it was contained nearly a month later, it burned nearly 71,000 acres, more than 900 structures and killed two. Most of the damage occurred in Calaveras County.

[Court hears arguments on PG&E's liability in 2015 blaze](#)

The Union Democrat, June 19

A Sacramento Superior Court judge will issue an order within 90 days on whether the Pacific Gas and Electric Company is liable for damages caused by the Butte Fire

following a motion hearing Friday morning in the Sacramento County Superior Court. Judge Allen Sumner presided over the hearing.

Fire fuel, Ranging Rivers Cast a Shadow on Summer Fun

Calaveras Enterprise, June 16

Entering what will be the second fire season since the Butte Fire burned tens of thousands of acres, destroyed hundreds of homes and killed two, residents throughout the burn scar that suffered so mightily during the 2015 conflagration still panic at the sight of black clouds in the distance or the slightest whiff of smoke. Mona Baroody, president of The Hive: A Butte Fire Recovery Center, said many of the 300 or so fire victims she represents remain anxious around this time of year. But it's a resilient type of unease, she said. Many feel as if they have nothing left to lose.

Public comment for Giant Sequoia Monument starts

Visalia Times-Delta, May 8

The comment period for the 21 national parks, including Giant Sequoia, put under review by President Donald Trump's executive order, will start Friday. Comments can be made online or sent in by mail within 60 days after a notice is published in the Federal Register, a move expected this month. The public comment period will provide a chance to give opinions to the federal government on the monuments, including six in California.

California's Senators Ask Residents To Tell The Federal Government To Stay Away From The State's National Monuments.

LA Times, June 19

California's senators are trying to prevent changes to six national monuments in the Golden State, and they're asking Californians to help by sending comments to the Interior Department.

President Trump recently ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review 27 national monuments created by the previous three presidents under the Antiquities Act, calling it "a massive federal land grab" that "should never have happened." The California monuments being looked at are Giant Sequoia, Carrizo Plain, San Gabriel Mountains, Berryessa Snow Mountain, Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow.

The Pacific Crest Trail Is Super Dangerous This Year

Outside, June 16

The Pacific Crest Trail doles out hazards in cruel ways. Thousands of hikers on the 2,650-mile trek face perils including rattlesnakes, exposure, corneal flash burns from snow glare, and heatstroke. But 2017 is shaping up to be one of the most frightening

years in the national scenic trail's history, thanks to the massive snowpack in the Sierra Nevada combined with the trail's unprecedented popularity. Just a couple of months into hiking season, thru-hikers are posting stories of near-death experiences.

We need to protect the Carrizo Plain. And we don't have much time

The Tribune, opinion piece, June 12

June 8 was the 111th anniversary of the passage of the Antiquities Act, the federal law that gave President Theodore Roosevelt and his successors the ability to preserve places like the Carrizo Plain for all Americans forever. For the past 15 years, I have had the good fortune to live on an inholding within the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The monument is located in San Luis Obispo County, where I have lived since I was a teenager. I started visiting Carrizo and the surrounding area in the late 1960s to observe birds of prey and to hunt. I still go hunting on the Carrizo every year.

Top local brass meet at Edwards for annual Mojave Commanders' Summit

Edwards Air Force Base, June 15

Military leaders and stakeholders from around the region met at the Airman and Family Readiness Center June 7 for this year's Mojave Commanders' Summit...The military members were also joined by representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Governor's Military Advisory Council among others.

Fifth massive solar farm in Riverside County this one near Joshua Tree to sell power to SoCal Edison

The Desert Sun, June 14

Riverside County could soon be getting its fifth massive solar farm. The 500-megawatt Palen solar project would be built near Desert Center, between Interstate 10 and Joshua Tree National Park. It would join the nearby Desert Sunlight facility which at 550 megawatts was the world's largest solar farm when it opened and three projects near the Arizona border, known as Blythe, McCoy and Genesis...The developer must also wait for Riverside County and the federal Bureau of Land Management to conduct an environmental review, which the agencies expect to finish later this year.

Will Trump Try to Sink Sage Grouse Conservation?

Pacific Standard, opinion piece, June 15

Late in the evening on Wednesday, June 7th, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed an order to review and possibly alter the crucial sage grouse conservation plans that the federal government painstakingly developed during Barack Obama's presidency. The order is the latest in the Trump administration's determined effort to

unravel the environmental legacy of its predecessor, and a clear-cut victory for fossil fuel companies operating in the American West. The greater sage grouse, if you're not already familiar with it, is a charismatic chicken-like bird that ranges over more than 160 million acres across 11 different states, including Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. Much of that land is federal and public, rich in natural resources and managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the United States Forest Service on behalf of the American people.

NATIONAL

Zinke moving dozens of senior Interior Department officials in shake-up

The Washington Post, June 16

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is reassigning dozens of top career officials within his ranks, a shake-up that appears to be the start of a broad reorganization of a department that manages one-fifth of all land within the United States. The decision to move members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) is legally permitted only after a political appointee has been in office for 120 days; Zinke won't reach that mark until June 28. But the letters that three dozen or more Interior officials got Thursday night — one of which was obtained by *The Washington Post* — provides them with 15 days notice of their job change. The notice means their reassignments could take place at the earliest date that is legally permissible.

Potential BLM pick has fought for ranchers, property rights

E&E News, June 16

Karen Budd-Falen, a Wyoming-based property rights attorney and member of the Trump administration's transition team at the Interior Department, is in the running to take the helm of the Bureau of Land Management, according to sources in both the conservation movement and ranching industry. A White House spokeswoman declined to confirm that President Trump has decided on a nominee for the post. Sources familiar with the selection said it would be unlikely to be made official until after Trump's nominee for deputy secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, is confirmed. In the meantime, Utah state Rep. Mike Noel (R), who heavily promoted his own interest in the BLM post after the November elections, praised the potential selection of Budd-Falen. *See PDF for full story.*

Zinke, Perry on Hill this week as spending talks advance

E&E News, June 19

Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are due on Capitol Hill this week to defend their fiscal 2018 budget request as House Republicans scramble to set in motion a plan to pass a spending package before summer recess. GOP leaders have been eyeing packaging all 12 annual spending bills in a single omnibus before the five-week break. That would allow the House to focus on tax

reform in the fall and strengthen its hand in final spending talks with the Senate. But lawmakers first will need to adopt a budget or a substitute deal to set domestic and defense discretionary spending levels. Without an accord, it would be much harder to move the omnibus. *See PDF for full story.*

The sage grouse and its habitat need federal protection

The Washington Times, opinion piece, June 11

Regarding the June 10 Politics & the Nation article "Trump administration to review plan that protects sage grouse": When Zane Grey wrote his iconic western, "Riders of the Purple Sage," he likely never imagined that a secretary of the interior such as Ryan Zinke would come along to destroy what remains of this fabled Western landscape and the species that live there, including the greater sage grouse. The nation is already swimming in oil and gas, so why ease regulations on energy development when doing so will further destroy the habitat of a species that has already declined by as much as 90 percent?

Western States, Stakeholders See Positive Approach in Zinke Sage Grouse Review; Enviros Disagree

NGI's Shale Daily, June 12

Reassessing the nation's greater sage grouse protections is a positive first step that needs further action, according to some western governors and oil and gas stakeholders who reacted Friday to the review of conservation plans by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. "We'll have to wait and see what comes out of the review," said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance (WEA), which had been critical of the Obama administration's handling of sage grouse conservation efforts.

Interior set to delay methane pollution rule

The Hill, June 14

The Interior Department is preparing to delay implementation of a rule limiting methane waste at oil and natural gas drilling sites. In a Federal Register notice set for publication Thursday, Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) said it would look to postpone the compliance dates for several parts of the Obama-era rule. The rule aims to reduce leaks of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, at drilling sites on federal land.

Agencies slow methane rules opposed by oil, gas industry

Times Union, June 15

...Meanwhile, the Interior Department is indefinitely postponing a separate regulation intended to reduce the amount of heat-trapping methane released into the

atmosphere from oil and gas wells on federal lands. A bid to overturn the rule failed unexpectedly in the Republican-led Senate last month, prompting Interior officials to promise to suspend, revise or rescind the rule.

Privatized campsites? Many fear prices could skyrocket

Santa Fe New Mexican, June 11

U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says government shouldn't be in the business of running campgrounds, so he wants to turn national park campsites over to private businesses. A handful of companies already run campsites, lodging and concessions throughout the U.S. park system, but some fear widespread privatization could make recreation and camping prohibitively expensive in Western states.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommends Bear Ears boundaries 'be revised'

KUTV, June 12

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument "be revised," according to a memorandum released Monday afternoon. In his memo, Zinke remarks that the monument "does not fully conform with the policies set forth in" the Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act, which President Donald Trump signed April 26.

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