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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; Enviro 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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NATIONAL

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.

"If it's Karen, she'd do an outstanding job," Noel told *E&E News*. "She's a champion for our issues."

Noel acknowledged that he had actively sought the post, including a one-on-one meeting with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during his recent visit to the Beehive State, and said he would still like to serve the Trump administration in some capacity.

"I'm still interested in doing what I can for the president or for the secretary in any way I can help," he said. "But it's not about me, it's about getting a job done, and Karen Budd-Falen is certainly well-qualified."

A Wyoming native, Budd-Falen grew up as the fifth generation on her family ranch in Big Piney. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wyoming before going on to spend three years in the Interior Department during the Reagan administration.

Budd-Falen did not return a request for comment this week.

In an interview with *The Aspen Times* in 2007, Budd-Falen acknowledged she was at times impatient with her work at Interior, where she served as a special assistant to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management, and later at the Mountain States Legal Foundation. Those postings prompted her decision to open her own law firm with her husband, Frank Falen.

"I like making decisions and then acting on it," Budd-Falen told the newspaper. "I'm really cause-oriented, I really believe in ranchers and farmers and what they do. That's the reason I went to law school. I don't love the law. To me, the law is the way I'm helping the people I love."

Recent press releases on the Budd-Falen Law Offices website tout the Trump administration's review of dozens of national monuments, criticize the now-defunct Obama-era BLM Planning 2.0 rule and cheer Budd-Falen's appointment to the transition team.

New ways to battle

Budd-Falen is well-known in the West for her work representing ranchers and is seen by some observers as a hero of the Sagebrush Rebellion, which has pushed for major changes to federal land control since the 1970s.

Mountain States Legal Foundation President William Perry Pendley said Budd-Falen's background, as well as her efforts representing ranchers, rural residents and local governments across the West, make her a strong candidate for the post.

"She brings an understanding of how these policies affect people on the ground," he told E&E News. "It's not just some 30,000-mile-high attitude that we're going to do this or we're going to do that, and it will be good. She understands how these foolish policies affect people who work for a living and, frankly, the tiny communities that depend on them."

In particular, Pendley pointed to Budd-Falen's work on a case representing rancher Harvey Frank Robbins, who once owned a property in Hot Springs County, Wyo.

At the time Robbins bought the ranch in 1994, BLM had failed to record an easement on a road across the property it had struck with the previous owner. The road accessed a publicly owned area known as the Upper Rock Creek region.

Robbins refused BLM's efforts to discuss a new right of way and faced what he saw as backlash for that decision in the form of citations for violations of grazing regulations, interference with cattle drives and even criminal charges after an altercation with a BLM employee, although a jury quickly declared Robbins not guilty in that case (Greenwire, Oct. 11, 2016).

But Budd-Falen stepped in with a new way to push back against BLM, by suing the employees as individuals under an anti-racketeering law normally used against organized crime syndicates, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

At the time, Budd-Falen argued that the Fifth Amendment protects landowners against retaliation for excluding the government from their private property (Greenwire, Dec. 6, 2006).

"You have lots of cases on First Amendment rights saying the federal government cannot retaliate against you for using your First Amendment rights, but there's never been a case that the federal government can't retaliate for using your Fifth Amendment rights," she told E&E News in late 2006.

But while Budd-Falen claimed victory in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court ultimately rejected her argument in 2007.

"She did a very good job on that," Pendley said. "Regrettably, not all of the justices agreed with her."

Watersheds case

More recently, Budd-Falen gained attention for her work to stop the Western Watersheds Project by filing a case in Wyoming state court alleging the environmentalists trespassed on private land to collect water samples (Greenwire, Nov. 18, 2014).

The case was settled in 2016 after two years of wrangling in court, with both sides ultimately claiming a victory.

Under the settlement, Western Watersheds agreed to abstain from driving on private roads where federal rights of way are in doubt (Greenwire, Aug. 24, 2016).

"We are very happy," Budd-Falen told the Casper Star-Tribune in September 2016. "The settlement gives the landowners even more than they could have gotten if Western Watersheds Project had allowed the case to go forward."

But Western Watersheds then-interim Executive Director Greta Anderson told E&E News at the time that the agreement did not represent new restrictions.

"Settling this case without paying a single dollar of damages and getting it off our dockets means we can go back to doing the important work of documenting the environmental abuses of cattle and sheep operations in Wyoming and around the West," Anderson said.

'What law gives you the right?'

Budd-Falen is also known for her work with Catron County, N.M., which passed a series of ordinances in the early 1990s that sought to supersede federal authority on public lands, including ordering the arrest of federal agents who violated the civil or property rights of residents.

Newspaper reports at the time state that Budd-Falen helped to draft the ordinances, and in 1994 the Chicago Tribune reported she was "assisting" Catron and other counties.

"It's a real reaction to the federal government coming in without giving any notice or right to participate at all to county governments," Budd-Falen told the newspaper.

She added: "The county and its citizens feel like they are good stewards of the environment, that they are as concerned about the environment as any environmental group in Santa Fe or New York City or anywhere else. If they didn't take care of the land, they wouldn't have anything to pass on to their children."

Western Watersheds Montana Director and Public Policy Consultant Josh Osher warned that while Budd-Falen has not advocated for the outright disposal of the federal estate, her past work indicates "a bend toward private property over public lands."

"She's really associated herself with the extreme fringe of a lot of the public lands movement," said Osher, who also raised concerns about her opposition to Endangered Species Act protections.

He pointed to Budd-Falen's more recent appearances before groups like the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association. In 2011, she appeared at an event called "Sheriffs Stand Tall for the Constitution" along with sheriffs from Oregon and California.

During the event, Budd-Falen encouraged attendees to challenge the federal government by asking what laws agencies are relying on for their decisions.

"We can do anything that the law does not prohibit. And I gotta tell you, I think in Washington, they kinda got that swapped," she said. "And I think we have to start enforcing that. We have to start asking, what law gives you the right to stop my use? What law gives you the right to come into my county and all of a sudden start closing roads?"

She later added: "You should be proud of what you do and proud of who you are, and you do not need a law to be able to manage your homes and manage your lives."

During her remarks, Budd-Falen also hit on the Equal Access to Justice Act, of which she has been a vocal critic.

That law permits plaintiffs to collect attorney's fees from the government in successful lawsuits against the government.

The Wyoming attorney regularly touts figures on payments to environmental groups under the law, arguing that organizations are profiting off the fees.

"She's an attorney, she knows exactly how this works," Osher said. "This is a law that allows the public and its representatives to make sure that the federal government follows the law."

Mission

In the meantime, it remains to be seen whether Budd-Falen would fall in line with Zinke's vows to retain the federal estate, something he has often emphasized since his confirmation earlier this year.

But the Wilderness Society's senior counsel, Nada Culver, warned that merely retaining federal lands falls short of BLM's multiple-use mission.

"The concern would be that for all that the secretary has spoken about keeping public lands in public hands, he's also taken a lot of steps that would transfer control of public lands to a narrow set of interests: by, for instance, focusing public lands on oil and gas, or coal, to the exclusion of conservation and public enjoyment," Culver said.

If nominated, Budd-Falen would need to represent not only the farming and ranching interests she does now, Culver said, but recreational users and others.

"Taking on that responsibility and taking on that perspective ... conservation and wilderness and recreational and wildlife are really important aspects of managing public lands," she said.

If tapped as the nominee and confirmed, Budd-Falen would replace BLM acting Director Mike Nedd. Nedd is the second acting director to serve following the departure of BLM Director Neil Kornze (E&E Daily, March 16).

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R) praised Budd-Falen generally, although he declined to speculate on the nomination before it is finalized.

"That said, the governor believes Wyoming has a number of highly qualified people who, if appointed to key positions in the Department of the Interior or other federal agencies, would be a

tremendous asset to the administration, the nation and Wyoming. Karen Budd-Falen is one of those," Mead spokesman David Bush told E&E News.

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.

"You can't have the cart get before the horse, you have to have the [budget] number," Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) said.

Negotiations have gone on for weeks in the House, but the Budget Committee has yet to schedule a markup — something usually done in April or May. The administration's delay in delivering its spending plan affected the panel's planning.

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, said last week the GOP is grappling with how to deal with strict budget caps set by the 2015 budget deal.

Calvert suggested there is broad support within the party for increasing defense spending, but he says doing so by cutting domestic accounts — as some conservatives want — would be "untenable."

If Congress does not raise the budget caps, overall discretionary spending would be cut by about \$5 billion next year, according to the 2015 deal.

The House Appropriations Committee already signaled its interest in going beyond those caps by approving a fiscal 2018 military construction and veterans affairs spending bill that includes \$6 billion more than last year's figure. That bipartisan bill is the first — and so far only — spending measure to surface this year.

Freedom Caucus

House conservatives, particularly members of the hard-right Freedom Caucus, are among those pressing for deep cuts in mandatory spending programs, like welfare, in exchange for any domestic boost in 2018.

Those conservatives likely have the votes to block any fiscal 2018 spending bills if they do not win funding reductions.

Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a member of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, said the House would need a budget or spending framework this month to make its plans work.

But Democrats in both the House and Senate are already worried about the impact of delays in adopting a budget.

"Until you have a budget resolution, until you know what the allocation of the overall discretionary dollars are, you have no idea frankly what the ramifications of \$6 billion extra" for military construction and veterans affairs are, said House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) last week.

Hoyer warned that appropriators could slash programs in upcoming spending bills to make up the difference. "You give more to one, you've got to take more from another," he noted.

Democrats in the Senate have the same concerns.

"You bet I'm worried," Sen. Patty Murray told E&E News last week. The Washington Democrat sits on both the Budget and Appropriations committees.

"We are way late in this process, we are running fast into a September deadline, [and] putting ourselves in jeopardy with Trump already saying he wants to shut down government."

In early May, just after the government averted a shutdown, President Trump tweeted that the country could use a "good shutdown" in September, when the current fiscal year ends.

While there's talk of the House putting an omnibus spending bill on the floor before the August recess, Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), ranking member of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, said he hasn't yet heard of a similar plan for the Senate.

"I think our plan right now is to either have individual appropriations bills or small minibuses at this point," he said.

Interior

Zinke, who will be defending his agency's \$11.7 billion fiscal 2018 budget request, will likely receive a friendly reception from lawmakers, despite expected pushback from Democrats and Republicans on proposed cuts to popular programs, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund and payments in lieu of taxes (E&E Daily, May 26).

Questions about the administration's preference for more energy development over new federal land acquisition are a safe bet.

Democrats, including Cantwell and Rep. Raúl Grijalva of Arizona — ranking members of the Natural Resources panels in the Senate and House — will likely seize on Zinke's recent secretarial order directing a review of sage grouse policies, as well as his review of 27 national monuments.

Zinke, a former Montana congressman, released his interim report on Bears Ears last week, recommending a to-be-determined reduction of the Utah monument's 1.35-million-acre footprint (E&E News PM, June 12).

Another flashpoint: the Bureau of Land Management's announcement last week that oil and gas companies don't have to comply with the Obama-era rule on methane venting, flaring and leaking on public and tribal lands, pending judicial review (Greenwire, June 14).

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) will no doubt ask Zinke about the department's proposal to open up a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to drilling, a route she has long championed.

On the other side of the Capitol, House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) will likely seek answers on how Congress can work with the executive branch to reform the 1906 Antiquities Act and shrink Bears Ears.

The Alaska Wilderness League will hold a media conference today, ahead of the budget hearings, to oppose drilling in ANWR (E&E Daily, May 24).

Energy

Energy Secretary Perry, who will be defending his agency's \$28 billion budget request, is facing questions over proposed cuts, like scrapping the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy and slashing the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by 70 percent, from \$2.1 billion to \$636 million.

Supporters of the president's plan say the Department of Energy has shifted too far away from its core mission and needs rebalance. In budget documents, the administration said, "The private sector is better positioned to finance disruptive energy research."

But critics say independent analyses, such as one this month from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine on ARPA-E, show DOE funding plays a unique and needed role.

Lawmakers also are likely to press Perry on how the administration's stated goals — such as support for the national laboratories and coal technology — mesh with the budget proposal.

Under the request, research and development at the Office of Fossil Energy — which oversees carbon capture and storage research — would see its budget cut by more than half, from \$668

million to \$280 million. Funding at the Office of Science, which oversees the majority of the labs, would fall by about 17 percent, to \$4.5 billion.

Also likely to come up is the administration's plan to eliminate the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility in South Carolina, a program with GOP backing (E&E Daily, May 24).

One of the project's most vocal supporters, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), sits on the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, which is hosting Perry this week.

The Energy chief might also face questions about nuclear waste, mainly the agency's proposed \$120 million to work on resuming the licensing process for the controversial Yucca Mountain repository in Nevada.

Reporters Manuel Quiñones, Christa Marshall and Sam Mintz contributed.

Schedule: The House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Energy budget is Tuesday, June 20, at 1 p.m. in 2359 Rayburn.

Witness: Energy Secretary Rick Perry.

Schedule: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Interior budget is Tuesday, June 20, at 10 a.m. in 366 Dirksen.

Witness: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Schedule: The House Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Office of Management and Budget spending is Wednesday, June 21, at 2 p.m. in 2359 Rayburn.

Witness: Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney.

Schedule: The Senate Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Interior budget is Wednesday, June 21, at 9:30 a.m. in 124 Dirksen.

Witnesses: Zinke; Olivia Barton Ferriter, deputy assistant Interior secretary for budget, finance, performance and acquisition; Denise Flanagan, director of Interior's Office of Budget.

Schedule: The Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Air Force budget is Wednesday, June 21, at 10:30 a.m. in 192 Dirksen.

Witnesses: Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

Schedule: The Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Energy budget is Wednesday, June 21, at 2:30 p.m. in 138 Dirksen.

Witness: Perry.

Schedule: The House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Interior budget is Thursday, June 22, at 9:30 a.m. in 1324 Longworth.

Witnesses: Zinke, Ferriter and Flanagan.

Schedule: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Energy budget is Thursday, June 22, at 10 a.m. in 366 Dirksen.

Witness: Perry.