

To: Webster, Sarah[swebster@blm.gov]
From: Maciel, Martha
Sent: 2017-05-03T16:49:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: DRAFT: BLM-CA in the News, May 3
Received: 2017-05-03T16:49:19-04:00

Lots of news today. Just one addition for national:

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/331728-zinke-to-tour-bears-ears-monument-amid-trump-review>

Martha Maciel

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management California
Deputy State Director for Communications
(916) 978 4616 (o)
(916) 384-7563 (c)

On Wed, May 3, 2017 at 11:45 AM, Webster, Sarah <swebster@blm.gov> wrote:

CALIFORNIA

[Wildflower 'superbloom' springs in California](#)

Al Jazeera, May 2

BLM California Bob Wick talks about this year's super bloom after drought.

[1-minute hike: The Alabama Hills in California](#)

Bangor Daily News, May 2

Easy to moderate. Several footpaths, lined with rocks, travel through the rock formations of the Alabama Hills over uneven desert floor. Expect small hills, slippery sand and fairly short trails. For example, the Arch Loop Trail, a popular hiking trail in that visits a natural stone arch called the Mobius Arch, is about 0.5 mile long.

[BLM to Start Pile Burning Near Pine Hill Preserve to Improve Public Safety](#)

Yuba Net, press release, May 1

In the coming weeks, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will start burning small brush piles to get rid of fire fuel to improve public safety, and as a result, residents of the Cameron Park area near the BLM Pine Hill Preserve may start seeing and smelling smoke.

Feinstein fumes as Trump team waives environmental review for Mojave water project

McClatchy DC, April 4

The Trump administration has handed a big boost to a private water venture in Southern California, angering California's senior senator, Democrat Dianne Feinstein, who said the decision could "destroy pristine public land" in the Mojave Desert.

Trump administration boosts Mojave Desert water project

The SB Sun, April 5

The Trump administration has removed a major roadblock to plans by a Santa Monica company to pump ancient groundwater from below the Mojave Desert and sell it to urban areas of Southern California.

Cadiz Announces \$255 Million in Construction Financing for Desert Water Project

LA Business Journal, May 2

With the Trump administration soon likely to approve its long-sought desert water storage and transmission project, Cadiz Inc. announced Tuesday it has arranged up to \$255 million in construction financing from giant private equity firm Apollo Global Management...But within days of taking office, President Donald Trump's administration placed the Cadiz project on its priority list of infrastructure projects and then, last month, the Bureau of Land Management rescinded its decision to block the pipeline approval, clearing the way for the final government approval needed for the project.

Cadiz Inc. Issues Statement in Response to Remarks by California Senator Dianne Feinstein on the Cadiz Water Project

Econo Times, April 5

Today, Cadiz Inc. (NASDAQ:CDZI) ("Cadiz", the "Company") CEO Scott Slater released the following statement in response to a press release from California Senator Dianne Feinstein about the Cadiz Water Project and recent action by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management: "Senator Feinstein regrettably relies on outdated, 17-year old data inconsistent with presently known facts as foundation to oppose a project which will safely and sustainably create new water for 400,000 people, has broad bipartisan community support, will generate 5,900 new jobs, and will drive nearly \$1 billion in economic growth. Two public agencies and twelve separate court opinions have expressly repudiated her arguments and sustained our project in accordance with CEQA, the highest environmental legal standard anywhere in America.

Desert groundwater at stake as Joshua Tree pumping plan moves forward*The Press-Enterprise*, April 27

Federal land managers have advanced plans for a \$1.4 billion energy-storage project in which desert groundwater would be pumped to high-elevation reservoirs near Joshua Tree National Park and then released downhill to generate electricity. Late last week, the Bureau of Land Management found that using 1,150 acres of public land — mainly for the project's power and water lines — would not cause significant harm to the environment. The acreage stretches between Interstate 10 and the national park. The finding moves the project, which was licensed by federal energy officials in 2014, into a 30 day period to allow for official protests.

New bill calls for reopening of Clear Creek*Benito Link*, April 7

In the latest effort to re-open the Clear Creek Management Area of southern San Benito County to off-road use, this week California Congressmen Jimmy Panetta (CA-20), David G. Valadao (CA-21), Jeff Denham (CA-10), and Paul Cook (CA-08) introduced H.R. 1913, the Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act. The bill directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reopen the 63,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area in San Benito and Fresno counties for use by off-road vehicles. The legislation would also protect 21,000 acres of BLM land adjacent to Clear Creek by designating the area the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness.

War in the Woods: Game Wardens Battle Marijuana Cartels*The Crime Report*, May 1

Other states with significant cartel gardens on national forests, national and state parks, Bureau of Land Management lands and federal Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife refuges include: Colorado, Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin and Kentucky — especially in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

President Trump Signs Orders That Could Open the California Coast to Offshore Drilling*Lost Coast Outpost*, May 2

Besides being beautiful, California's coast shines with historical, cultural, scientific, ecological and recreational significance. Too bad not everyone thinks so. Last week, President Trump signed two executive orders potentially jeopardizing the future of California's coastline; a review of National Monuments designated by presidents since 1996, and a push to expand offshore oil drilling. The above shots happen to be places in Humboldt that are part of the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) —Trinidad Head, Lighthouse Ranch and the Lost Coast Headlands.

Federal policies on rural issues gain attention

AG Alert, May 3

...The order could also affect the California Coastal National Monument Expansion Act. Van Lennep said that designation moved forward without an adequate process to hear concerns brought by local residents, in part about increased visitor traffic.

Cache Creek Conservancy offers nature journaling workshop

The Davis Enterprise, May 3

Janice Kelley, an award-winning naturalist, author and storyteller, will lead a nature journaling workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 6, at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve, 34199 County Road 20, west of Woodland. Participants may stay for an optional brown-bag lunch and sharing session until 1 p.m.

NATIONAL

Wild horses on federal land put at risk by omnibus provision, American Wild Horse Campaign warns

The Washington Times, May 2

An interest group devoted to protecting the nation's wild horses is warning that a change in federal law tucked into the omnibus spending package could lead to exploitation of the creatures and a diminishing of their number on federal lands. In a Tuesday news release, the American Wild Horse Campaign says that language in Section 116 of the spending bill up for vote in Congress this week would allow the federal Bureau of Land Management to "strip wild horses of federal protection and transfer them to states and local governments for use as 'work animals.'"

US budget deal avert most agency cuts

Argus Media, May 1

Republican and Democratic leaders in the US Congress have reached a tentative agreement that would reject President Donald Trump's calls to slash spending at environment and energy agencies over the next five months. The spending agreement, released today, would slightly increase funding at the US Interior Department and other energy-related agencies while cutting the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget by just 1pc to \$8bn. The bill overall would authorize about \$1.2 trillion in government spending for all of fiscal 2017, which ends on 30 September.

House Republicans begin probe of monuments law

The Hill, May 2

Top Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday outlined potential reforms for the Antiquities Act as the Interior Department kicks off its review of the law. Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), the chair of the committee's federal lands panel, said "ongoing abuses of the Antiquities Act are antithetical" to the committee's goals of expanding public access to federal lands and managing them along with local governments.

23 Environmental Rules Rolled Back in Trump's First 100 Days

The New York Times, May 2

President Trump, with help from his administration and Republicans in Congress, has reversed course on nearly two dozen environmental rules, regulations and other Obama-era policies during his first 100 days in office. Citing federal overreach and burdensome regulations, Mr. Trump has prioritized domestic fossil fuel interests and undone measures aimed at protecting the environment and limiting global warming.

'We have to restore trust,' Zinke tells industry

ENERGYWIRE, May 2

A decision on reorganizing or possibly merging the government's two principal offshore energy regulatory agencies could arrive by the end of the summer, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told reporters here yesterday. And a designated leader for one of them, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), may be named before the month is out. The delay in naming a new director is due to background checks and ethics reviews underway on the possible nominees to head BSEE and its sister agency, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). See *PDF for full story*.

Measure to roll back methane rule could be in peril

E&E Daily, May 3

A push by pro-ethanol senators to loosen certain restrictions on the fuel is complicating a Senate vote to repeal an Obama-era rule regulating methane waste on public lands. Some Republican senators from "corn states" are eyeing S.J. Res. 11, which would roll back an Interior Department rule that curbs greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas flaring, venting and leakage on public lands, as possible leverage to encourage their colleagues to support a waiver of seasonal restrictions on the sale of E15, or 15 percent ethanol in gasoline. See *PDF for full story*.

Key Dems press Zinke for info on reg review task force

E&E Daily, May 3

Key House Democrats are pushing back at recent Department of the Interior efforts to roll back regulations and are questioning the role of acting Deputy Secretary of the

Interior James Cason. House Natural Resource Committee ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations ranking member Donald McEachin (D-Va.) yesterday sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke demanding additional information on a newly established regulatory task force. President Trump's February executive order on regulations requires agencies to establish a panel to identify rules for modification or repeal. *See PDF for full story.*

Sarah K. Webster

Lead Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications
Bureau of Land Management California State Office
Office: (916) 978 4622