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INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

Wall Street Journal- Opinion: The Right Move on Monuments

"Over the past few days, thousands have marched in Salt Lake to oppose the decision. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance denounced the order as "the single most harmful attack any president has ever launched on public lands." The group claims the Trump Administration acted "at the behest of ideological extremists and dirty energy barons," adding that the decision is "an insult to the tribes that advocated to protect Bears Ears." Calm down, guys. Most of the two million newly undesignated acres are still public lands, subject to rigorous federal and state protections. The Trump Administration increased Native American representation on the advisory Bears Ears Commission....In other words, the Trump Administration's order not only ends federal overreach but restores power to local people. That's a monumental and welcome change."

Salt Lake Tribune- Opinion: John Curtis: It's about protecting the right areas the right way

"I'm grateful that President Trump has been willing to weigh in on this issue. It gives us a chance to move the dialogue off of big or small and focus us on doing the right thing....the Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act are not simply about the size or acreage of these monuments; they're about managing the right places the right way."

CORRECTING THE RECORD:

USA Today: After Bears Ears, Trump administration ponders more changes to national monuments

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending that President Trump scale back four more national monuments — two on land and two in the Pacific — and make modifications to at least four more, continuing an unprecedented blitz of presidential action to ease restriction on public lands. The additional recommendations come the day after Trump signed proclamations rolling back two national monuments in southern Utah: Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. Next, Zinke is recommending that Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Gold Butte in Nevada. "The Interior's position is that public lands are for public use, not special interests," Zinke told reporters Tuesday."

New York Times: Patagonia, REI and Other Outdoor Retailers Protest Trump's Decision to Shrink Utah Monuments

"Patagonia, REI and other outdoor clothing and equipment retailers are speaking out against President Trump's plan to slash the size of two national monuments in Utah by some two million acres. Mr. Trump on Monday announced that his administration would shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size....Patagonia's president, has previously warned that the company would take legal action to protect public lands, particularly after Mr. Trump in April ordered the secretary of the interior, Ryan Zinke, to review 27 national monuments. In response to the president's remarks on Monday, she said the company would

“continue that fight in the courts.” Other companies in the outdoor retail industry have also criticized the move.”

- ****LINK TO WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS****

OTHER TOP STORIES:

Reuters: While U.S. Senate pushes Alaska wildlife refuge drilling, industry looks elsewhere

“Even as the U.S. Senate moves to allow oil drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), the real action is 150 miles (241 km) west, where industry proponents hope a coming sale of 10 million acres of land will revitalize the state’s sagging crude production. The Trump administration, through the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, will auction off 10 million acres on Wednesday in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A), a hotbed of oil exploration and development in the western part of Alaska’s North Slope. The planned sale has encouraged the oil industry while angering environmental groups. It would be the largest amount of land offered in a single lease sale there. The last sale of 1.45 million acres in 2016 netted \$18.8 million, according to the U.S. Interior Department.”

Pacific News Center: Interior Releases \$14.9 M in Guam Compact Aid

“The \$14.9 million in mandatory Compact Impact funding will be split between GovGuam general operations and the Guam Department of Education School Leaseback Program. That program started ten-years ago to finance, build, and leaseback four public schools, with payments to be completed in 2023. The program will receive almost \$6.7 million for FY ’18. GovGuam will receive over \$8.2 million to reimburse costs to education, public health, and public safety-related services for FAS migrants. Together, the two amounts total over \$177 thousand more than Guam received in fiscal year 2017.

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior