

**To:** Webster, Sarah[swebster@blm.gov]  
**Cc:** St Michel, Erica[estmichel@blm.gov]  
**From:** Maciel, Martha  
**Sent:** 2017-02-21T15:08:14-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: News Clips DRAFT for Feb 12-21  
**Received:** 2017-02-21T15:08:25-05:00

Sarah,  
Thank you for pulling these together. Here are my suggestions for your consideration. I'm open to discussion if you have other thoughts:

General Thoughts:

This is meant to be more CA focused with SLT as primary audience so lets limit the national stories to the big issues and not try to include everything, just a flavor of national dialogue.

The summary paragraph should include the most relevant info including BLM reference or quote.

The news clips should be from major news outlets. Prefer we not share blog stories that are controversial, sensationalized but there are exceptions including partner stories, feel good, events, etc.

Preferred Font: Sans Serif, Normal  
Serif 10 is hard to read on mobile devices.

Subject: BLM-CA in the News for 2/21/2017

Change "Local News Clips" to "**CALIFORNIA**"

Example:

**CALIFORNIA**

California coast: Where Obama may establish new national monuments

*The Mercury News*, Sept. 14, 2016

President Obama significantly expanded his conservation legacy last month when he established a new national monument in Maine's North Woods and then quadrupled the size of an existing monument around the remote Northern Hawaiian Islands, banning commercial fishing and deep sea mining there forever. Now, California's coast may be next on his list.

**NATIONAL**

Getting public land management right

*The Hill*, Sept. 13, 2016

As the chairman of a county commission representing some of the most beautiful country in the Rocky Mountain West, much of it publicly accessible for all Americans, I believe there is good reason to be encouraged by the proposal from the

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to bring its planning into the 21st century. Its new initiative, Planning 2.0, represents the BLM's first major update of its planning strategy for the management of 245 million acres of national public lands since the early 1980s.

**Add to California:**

<http://www.abc10.com/news/local/what-to-do-with-wild-horses/409237621> (move up from national)

<https://signalscv.com/2017/02/14/city-council-formally-votes-support-wilks-anti-cemex-bill/>

**Add to National:**

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/zinke-confirmation-moves-to-march-parties-wait-to-pick-replacement/article\\_9c70240b-51f1-550e-b218-0bdb5376d365.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/zinke-confirmation-moves-to-march-parties-wait-to-pick-replacement/article_9c70240b-51f1-550e-b218-0bdb5376d365.html)

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/bundy-blm/2nd-trial-begins-oregon-wildlife-refuge-occupation>

Delete from National. This section is too long so delete some stories:

- Letter gold butte (limited CA relevancy)
- Utah Grand Staircase Resolution (limited CA relevancy)
- The Horse "fake news" i think this is a blog ran by horse advocates.
- Hiring freeze firefighter (the freeze has been lifted for firefighters so this is outdated)
- Bill OR public lands to state control (limited CA relevancy)
- OR rep drop support for lands transfer (limited CA relevancy)
- op-ed recreation economy
- NM gravel mining (limited CA relevancy)
- letter names BLM agent

On Tue, Feb 21, 2017 at 10:33 AM, Webster, Sarah <[swebster@blm.gov](mailto:swebster@blm.gov)> wrote:

Martha,

See draft below. Please send me your comments before I distribute. I also attached a PDF with a longer version of the Energywire story.

News Clips for February 13 to 21, 2017

**Local News Clips**

[Conservation and Sustainable Management of Groundwater in Desert is Worthy of Support](#)

[kcet.org](http://kcet.org), February 14

Over the last two decades, California has grappled with systemic challenges to its traditional water supplies. Climatic extremes and more regular dry years are the new normal. The availability of reliable water to meet all of the state's demands is a persistent public policy issue. It is a bedrock social justice issue. We need water for our people, our environment and to sustain our way of life.

Landowners Face More Tree Hazard Worries From Storm Saturation

*myMotherLode.com*, February 20

Tree mortality, already an issue due to bark beetle damage and the extreme nature of this season's storms, is now on the rise due to over-saturated soils. Lauralee Brown, a local homeowner of a wooded property near Twain Harte, shares how one of her tenants called her after, literally, experiencing a close shave this past Friday morning, compliments of a cedar tree.

**National News Clips**

Sportsmen Stand Up to Defend BLM 2.0

*Public News Service*, Monday, February 13

A coalition of sportsmen and conservation groups is standing up for the Bureau of Land Management's new land-use planning policies after the U.S. House invoked a rarely used rule to roll back the initiative. The Senate is expected to vote on eliminating the rules next week.

U.S.: Bundy's son tore up a '98 court order that barred family's cattle from Gold Butte

*News2live*, Monday, February 13

The federal trial for six defendants in the Bundy Ranch standoff case continued on Monday. Cliven Bundy's federal attorney says Cliven would do whatever it takes to protect his livestock from a roundup. That same attorney was one of the first witnesses as trial kicked off for several Bundy accused co-conspirators charged with taking part in an armed standoff with the government three-years-ago.

Interior energy rules land in CRA crosshairs

*Energywire*, Monday, February 13 (Full story attached)

A group of GOP lawmakers representing Western states has proposed to repeal at least eight rules related to oil and gas extraction on federally controlled lands and waters, using powers granted under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The House has already passed two of those measures: to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's methane and Planning 2.0 rules. A third, which would block a revision of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's (ONRR) mineral valuation rule, is expected to be introduced today by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.).

LETTER: Let's quit squabbling over Gold Butte and enjoy it

*Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Wednesday, February 15

I watched in semi-amusement, but with some horror at the unnecessary hysteria taking place Thursday night at the BLM Gold Butte National Monument information meeting (Friday Review-Journal). Lost on the anti-monument crowd was a statement by a gentleman of Southern Paiute descent who scoffed at the 200-year resident claims, stating correctly that his ancestors have been in the area much longer.

Utah Business Owners Oppose Grand Staircase-Escalante Resolution.

*Salt Lake (UT) Tribune*, February 15

The Salt Lake Tribune reports that Garfield County commissioners have “hit the pause button on a proposed resolution targeting the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument after dozens of Boulder and Escalante business owners implored them to consider the monument’s economic benefits before voting to drastically shrink it.” Business operators claim that the monument “drives a thriving and diverse economy, contrary to claims by elected leaders that it has sunk the county into a ‘state of emergency.’” Commissioners “agreed to hold a hearing March 13 before voting on whether to ask Congress to contract the Grand Staircase boundaries.”

BLM Calls Wild Horse Slaughter Story “Fake News”.

*The Horse*, February 16,

The Bureau of Land Management has “labeled an article claiming the agency plans to slaughter more than 40,000 wild horses as fake news.” According to the article, “a Jan. 30 article published by the website Native Indigenous American alleges that the Department of the Interior voted Jan. 27 to slaughter 67% of the wild horses remaining in the United States.” In response, Tom Gorey, BLM senior public affairs specialist, said the article was “fake news.” He said, “The agency’s policy is to not sell or send wild horses or burros to slaughter and there has been no congressional direction to the contrary.”

Hiring Freeze Raises Firefighting Concerns.

*KAJO*, February 16, Additional Coverage

Additional coverage that Sen. Ron Wyden has raised “concerns about the impact a 90-day federal employee hiring freeze might have on the seasonal firefighting force” with the Interior Department was provided by KAJO-AM Grants Pass, OR (2/16, Marsh).

Bill Would Study Moving Oregon Public Land To State Control

*Salem (OR) Statesman Journal*, February 16

“Four Republican lawmakers want to study the idea of transferring Oregon’s federal public lands to state control.” House Bill 2365 would “create a task force to analyze the benefit and cost of an idea that has become a political lightning rod both nationally and locally.” The

bill's chief sponsor, Rep. Carl Wilson, "emphasized that his bill was only asking for a study," and "he also emphasized that neither he nor his bill intend to sell Oregon's public land into private ownership."

Central Oregon rep drops support for lands transfer bill

*Bend (OR) Bulletin*, February 16

Rep. Gene Whisnant "withdrew his sponsorship" the bill. Whisnant "defended his support for the bill" on Thursday, "but announced that he will no longer be sponsoring it, citing a flurry of emails and calls from concerned citizens and conservation organizations."

Why You Need the internet to Drill in the U'S.

*Bloomberg News*, February 16

The Obama administration largely put an end to old-school federal energy auctions last year, just when they were starting to get interesting. Those barker-and-gavel sessions, long the primary way the Bureau of Land Management sold leasing rights for oil and gas drilling on federal property, had become targets for climate activists. A year ago, a conservationist worried about drilling near her home in Utah paid \$2,500 for the rights to 1,120 acres of federal land. (She put the purchase on a credit card.) The BLM rescinded the lease months later after she'd made it clear she didn't intend to drill.

Op-Ed: Recreation Economy Depends Upon Protection Of Public Lands.

*Cortez (CO) Journal*, February 16

Diane Wren, the owner of Osprey Packs, writes that as Rep. Ryan Zinke is "being considered as our new interior Secretary in Washington, and as the Trump administration begins to review its own public lands policy, there are two things that are important for a new administration to take to heart: The vital role America's public lands play in the \$646 billion national outdoor recreation economy, and the broad public support for the president's historic ability to use the Antiquities Act to protect sensitive scientific and culturally significant lands in the future." If confirmed, Wren hopes that Zinke will "listen to an American public that overwhelmingly supports protecting our public lands for the future." Wren urges "the new administration to stand for what makes America, and Colorado, great — our shared public lands and the ability of the president and the Interior Department to protect them for future generations via the Antiquities Act."

Chaffetz Calls for Wider Probe of US Agent Key in Standoff

*Associated Press*, February 17

U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah has called for a wider probe of a federal Bureau of Land Management agent who played a key role in the standoff with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy before coming under investigation for his activities at Burning Man. The chair of the House Oversight Committee said in a letter that the allegations against Salt Lake City supervisor

Daniel Love could undermine trust in the agency and should be probed by Department of Interior inspectors. The department's Office of Inspector General did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the letter released on Friday.

Congress repealing Obama's last-minute rules

*Idahostatejournal*, February, 17

Congress has moved swiftly and boldly to repeal overreaching last-minute rules from the Obama administration, reasserting its constitutional duty to make the law and pushing back against abuse of executive authority... For Idaho, the most important rule headed for repeal is the Bureau of Land Management's "Planning 2.0 Rule."

Fight Over Public Lands Unite Sportsmen And Environmentalists.

*Reuters*, February 17

Sportsmen and environmentalists are uniting against efforts to transfer federal lands to state control. Both groups "fear" that doing so "could open them up to drilling and coal mining rather than recreation and preservation." The article notes that "recent funding data from the Foundation Center database, which aggregates information from tax filings, shows groups such as the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and the Outdoor Alliance have accepted grants from big environmental and liberal foundations, including the Turner Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation."

N.M. gravel mining ban reintroduced

*E&E News reporter*, February 17, 2017

New Mexico lawmakers this week introduced bills in both the House and Senate to block gravel mining on federal land north of Albuquerque.

Democratic Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall introduced the Senate version, S. 390. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, also a Democrat, put forth H.R. 1085.

Debate over gravel mining in Sandoval County heated up in 2012 with a draft resource management plan from the Bureau of Land Management.

The plan outlined mineral development in and around the Crest of Montezuma, a wildlife corridor linking three mountain ranges in the central part of the state (Greenwire, May 24, 2012).

"The Crest of Montezuma and the Buffalo Tract have incredible ecosystems and many uses, both sacred and utilitarian," Heinrich said in a statement.

Sandoval County, the town of Bernalillo, the Merced De Comunidad De San Antonio De Las Huertas, the San Felipe Pueblo, the Santa Ana Pueblo and some Placitas residents have all come out in opposition to local gravel mining.

"Most concerning to them are the ways in which a gravel mine would impact their health, quality of life, water supply, and continued access," Heinrich said in a statement.

The "Buffalo Tract Protection Act" would withdraw four parcels of BLM land from minerals laws, making the area off limits to new mining.

Heinrich said: "By withdrawing these areas, New Mexicans can be sure that the land is not developed for mineral resources and their way of life and public health are protected."

What to do with wild horses

*Abc10.com*, February 17

Wild horses are federally protected animals, and over the last 30 years, their population has exploded. Managing the population has become a daunting and controversial task, which now costs tax payers more than \$75 million a year... The wild horses aren't the only animals on BLM land, either, sharing that land with wildlife and cattle. It's BLM's job to make sure that public land is not overgrazed by any animals. When the wild horse population grows, congress orders BLM to round-up horses and relocate or adopt them out as pets.

Letter names BLM agent in charge of Bundy case as target of federal ethics probe

*Reviewjournal*, February 18

Bureau of Land Management agent Dan Love, a central figure in the government's case against rancher Cliven Bundy, has been identified as the target of a federal ethics probe in a letter two congressional lawmakers sent to the Office of the Inspector General.

A year later, sage grouse conservation in mining areas still a matter of debate

*Elkodaily*, February 20

More than a year ago, environmentalists, oil and gas operators and landowners across the West waited to hear whether the greater sage grouse would be listed as an endangered species... However, the department that oversees the Bureau of Land Management sidelined one piece of the sagebrush conservation pie for further study and public review: the potential removal of certain sage grouse habitats across six states, including Wyoming, from future hard rock mining.

Las Vegas trial in Bunkerville standoff case delayed a week

*Reviewjournal*, February 20

Citing the federal Presidents Day holiday and scheduling issues on other days, U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro decided last week to put the case on hold for a week.

In latest skirmish of western land wars, Congress supports mining and ranching

*The Conversation*, February 20

Republicans in Congress are enthusiastically using the Congressional Review Act to overturn regulations finalized during the last weeks of the Obama administration. One measure on their list is the Bureau of Land Management's new Planning 2.0 rule, which is designed to improve BLM's process for making decisions about ranching, energy development and other uses of public lands. The House has already voted to repeal the rule, and the Senate is likely to follow.

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