

# Conversation Contents

## House Dems to hold forum bashing Trump review

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**Subject:** House Dems to hold forum bashing Trump review

FYI - from today's Greenwire

House Democrats will host a forum Thursday to criticize the Trump administration's ongoing review of the status of dozens of national monuments, just days before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's interim report on the assessment is due Saturday.

Arizona Rep. Raúl Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, will lead the session, "A Monumental Mistake: The Implications of President Trump's Executive Order on National Monuments," along with Reps. Nydia Velázquez of New York and Tim Walz of Minnesota. Velázquez is the ranking Democrat on the Small Business Committee, and Walz is the top Democrat on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In an announcement, Grijalva said the forum will focus on "preventing the damage" the Trump administration's public lands policies "would do to multiple, diverse American communities," as well as highlight the recreational, preservation and economic benefits of monument designations.

Trump issued an executive order in late April mandating a review of the status of dozens of national monuments created since 1996 that encompass more than 100,000 acres.

The order requires an interim report with specific recommendations for the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah, before a final report in August.

Both state and federal Utah lawmakers have urged Zinke to recommend a wholesale revocation of the Bears Ears monument, which President Obama designated under the Antiquities Act of 1906 during his final weeks in office. Utah officials have likewise pushed for changes to the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument created by President Clinton in 1996.

But Democrats have warned Zinke that only Congress has the authority to reduce the boundaries or revoke the status of national monuments, asserting in a letter last month that any attempts by the Trump administration to alter existing monuments could run afoul of the Constitution ([Greenwire](#), May 25).

Prior presidents have used the Antiquities Act to protect federal land with historic, scientific or cultural value more than 150 times, but to date no president has attempted to eradicate a designation made by one of his predecessors.

The Democratic hearing will also feature a panel of witnesses, including Hugo Tureck, a rancher and president of Friends of the Missouri Breaks in Montana; Megan Duffy, a store manager of Patagonia Washington; President of Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce Carrie Hamblen; Robert Garcia, founding director-counsel of the City Project; and Sierra Club's Military Outdoors Initiative Director Robert Vessels.