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CALIFORNIA

Which national monuments in California threatened by Trump order?

The Mercury News, April 26

Declaring an end to “another egregious abuse of federal power,” President Donald Trump on Wednesday ordered a review of two dozen national monuments, a move that environmentalists say will roll back protections on historic sites and scenic places where logging, mining, oil drilling and commercial fishing are often limited. The executive order could put about six California national monuments up for reconsideration, ranging from the wildflower-rich Carrizo Plain National Monument in the San Joaquin Valley to Giant Sequoia National Monument in the Sierra, according to environmentalists.

Cotoni-Coast Dairies: How does Trump’s national monument executive order affect Santa Cruz County?

Santa Cruz Sentinel, April 26

Local supporters of Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument are upset by President Trump’s executive order, since how it will affect the North Coast property is unclear. Trump’s order, issued Wednesday, calls for a review of national monuments designated since 1996 that are more than 100,000 acres. Cotoni-Coast Dairies, designated by President Obama in his final days before leaving office this January, covers 5,800 acres just north of Wilder Ranch State Park.

Trump orders review of Berryessa Snow Mountain monument

Daily Democrat, April 26

President Donald Trump has ordered a review on Wednesday of two dozen national monuments including the Berryessa Snow Mountain area a move that environmentalists say will roll back protections on historic sites and scenic places where logging, mining, oil drilling and commercial fishing are often limited. In a potential landmark shift in U.S. environmental policy, the executive order could put about the six California national monuments up for reconsideration, ranging from the Lake Berryessa Snow Mountain area in Yolo and surrounding counties to Giant Sequoia National Monument in the Sierra.

Sand to Snow National Monument designation under review

KSEQ, April 26

President Donald Trump signed another executive order Wednesday, this time calling for an unprecedented review of 24 national monuments, including two in this region. The Sand to Snow National Monument was proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2016 and covers 154,000 acres. The Mojave Trails National Monument, also proclaimed by the Obama administration in 2016, covers a whopping 1.6 million acres.

[Trump executive order puts Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails national monuments in crosshairs](#)

The Desert Sun, April 26

President Donald Trump has called for an unprecedented review of national monuments established by Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, calling into question the future of the Sand to Snow and Mojave Trails monuments in the California desert.

[Trump's Executive Order On National Monuments Includes Giant Sequoia National Monument](#)

NPR, April 26

President Trump signed an executive order Wednesday questioning the future of 24 national monuments created since 1996. One of those is Giant Sequoia National Monument in the Southern Sierra.

[CPUC Hits PG&E With \\$8.3-million In Fines For Butte Fire](#)

My Mother Lode, April 27

The California Public Utilities Commission has issued two citations to PG&E related to the cause of the 2015 Butte Fire, totaling \$8.3-million. The commission's investigation found that a gray pine tree contacted a PG&E 12-kilovolt overhead electric conductor, which ignited the fire on September 9, 2015. The commission argues that PG&E first knew its equipment started the fire on September 11 but failed to report this to authorities until five days later.

[Jail's Wild Horse Program could be next 'feel-good' reality TV hit](#)

Sacramento Bee, April 26

At the horse ranch just outside the gates of the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, there's always some drama happening – a new wild mustang is proving more difficult than expected, someone falls off a horse or ranch manager Joe Misner has to fire an inmate. Those ups and downs of life in the Sacramento County sheriff's Wild Horse Program could soon appear on television screens. A docu-drama TV series about the program is in the works, according to the department. The show, tentatively named "Bucked Out," would showcase the inmates training horses and how training the wild

mustangs changes inmates' lives, Misner said.

KPIX Sky Drone 5: The Wildflowers Of The Carrizo Plain

CBS SF Bay Area, April 26

The winter storms have given birth to an explosion of color as the wildflowers have bloomed on the Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo County. Thousands of visitors have taken the 5-hour drive southward from the Bay Area to witness and photograph the super bloom on the plain that includes the 246,812-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument.

NATIONAL

Patagonia threatens to sue Trump over national monuments order

The Hill, April 26

Outdoor-clothing maker Patagonia hit back at President Trump on Wednesday, threatening to sue over an executive order calling for the Department of the Interior to review national monuments designated during Bill Clinton's, George W. Bush's and Barack Obama's presidencies. "A president does not have the authority to rescind a National Monument. An attempt to change the boundaries ignores the review process of cultural and historical characteristics and the public input," Patagonia CEO Rose Marcario said in a statement. "We're watching the Trump administration's actions very closely and preparing to take every step necessary, including legal action, to defend our most treasured public landscapes from coast to coast."

Under Trump, BLM changes its flickr focus to fossil fuel

The Wilderness Society, April 26

In March 2017, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) main flickr account uploaded a picture of oil and gas operations on an unnamed tract of land in Wyoming. Since then, as the Trump administration has rolled back environmental rules and catered to special interests, the popular mypubliclands page has only uploaded photos related to fossil fuel extraction 26 images in all.

Trump orders review of national monuments to allow development

Reuters, April 26

U.S. President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to allow national monument designations to be rescinded or reduce the size of sites as the administration pushes to open up more federal land to drilling, mining and other development. Trump's order is part of an effort to reverse many of the environmental protections implemented by his predecessor, Democratic President Barack Obama that Trump said were hobbling economic growth. Trump's agenda is being cheered by industry but enraging

conservationists.

Zinke could target any site he deems lacked 'outreach'

E&E News, April 26

President Trump today triggered the clock on an Interior Department review of the boundaries of dozens of national monuments requiring a report within 120 days assessing the status of millions of federally managed acres but which land will be included in that evaluation has yet to be finalized. The president signed an executive order today mandating the review of all national monuments larger than 100,000 acres that have been established since 1996 (Greenwire, April 26).

Sage grouse conservation plans: Good for the bird and Westerners

Idaho Statesman, April 26

When it comes to public lands, wildlife, drilling and mining in the West, agreement doesn't come easy. This holds especially true in the case of the greater sage-grouse. The species, found only in the American West, has declined in numbers for years. Where they once numbered as high as 16 million, there are now fewer than a half-million.

Questions remain after mistrial in Bunkerville standoff case

Las Vegas Review-Journal, April 25

A federal jury's failure to reach a unanimous verdict on 50 of the 60 counts in the first Bunkerville standoff case and the mistrial that resulted has spurred a flurry of concerns about speedy-trial rights among others accused of conspiring with rancher Cliven Bundy.

Eleven people still await trial on charges that they organized a mass assault on federal agents who tried to seize Bundy's cattle from public land in April 2014.

Repeal of BLM methane rule will pass Senate — Barrasso

E&E Daily, April 27

Will Vice President Mike Pence cast the tie-breaking vote next week to pass a Senate resolution repealing a controversial Obama-era rule regulating methane waste on public lands? Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) told reporters yesterday that he was looking forward to a floor vote next week on his measure (S.J. Res. 11), which would roll back a November 2016 Interior Department rule that curbs greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas flaring, venting and leakage on public and tribal lands. *See PDF for full story.*

House Dems ask to meet Zinke over designations review

E&E Daily, April 27

Democratic lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources panels are seeking a briefing from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss a looming review of several dozen national monuments that the Trump administration could seek to diminish or dissolve entirely. The Democratic House members made their request following President Trump's issuance yesterday of an executive order giving Zinke 120 days to review numerous national monuments created or expanded by previous commanders in chief (Greenwire, April 26). *See PDF for full story.*

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NATIONAL

[Zinke could target any site he deems lacked 'outreach'](#)

E&E News, April 26

President Trump today triggered the clock on an Interior Department review of the boundaries of dozens of national monuments — requiring a report within 120 days assessing the status of millions of federally managed acres — but which land will be included in that evaluation has yet to be finalized.

The president signed an executive order today mandating the review of all national monuments larger than 100,000 acres that have been established since 1996 (*Greenwire*, April 26).

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told reporters at a White House press briefing last night that the review would likely include between 24 and 40 monuments.

According to a list provided by Interior, it encompasses the 24 monuments either managed or partially managed by the department that meet the criteria for automatic review: having both the necessary size and having been created or expanded in the designated time period.

Additional sites will be considered based on input from state and local leaders. The executive order directs the Interior secretary to include any monuments he determines have been created or expanded "without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders."

Such sites could include the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, which covers about 88,000 acres.

Maine Gov. Paul LePage (R) attended the signing of the executive order at Interior headquarters today. He's also set to testify about the monument's designation before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands next week.

"I think it was a horrible, horrible decision and it should be reversed if it can," LePage told the *Portland Press Herald* earlier this week, noting the state Legislature voted against it and criticizing the monument for limiting timber harvests (*Greenwire*, April 25).

More than 50 monuments have been created since 1996, including the larger sites tallied by Interior as well as cultural monuments like the Stonewall National Monument in New York and the Freedom Riders National Monument in Alabama.

Trump's executive order today is bookended by a pair of sites that have been the focus of criticism by Utah state and federal Republican lawmakers, the Grand Staircase-Escalante

National Monument created by President Clinton and the Bears Ears National Monument established by President Obama late last year.

"The view from the Potomac is a lot different than the view from the Yellowstone or the Colorado. Too many times, you have people in D.C. who have never been to an area, never grazed the land, fished the river, driven the trails or looked locals in the eye, who are making the decisions, and they have zero accountability to the impacted communities," Zinke said today. "I'm interested in listening to those folks. That's what my team and I will be doing in the next few months."

Zinke said he would travel to Utah in early May and visit the Bears Ears region, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) praised the president's directive, asserting that it would correct "long-standing abuses of the Antiquities Act," the 1906 law that allows the nation's commander in chief to set aside federal lands of cultural or historical value.

"It was created with noble intent and for limited purposes, but has been hijacked to set aside increasingly large and restricted areas of land without public input," Bishop said in a statement.

Similarly, Thomas Pyle, president of the Institute for Energy Research and former leader of Trump's Energy Department transition team, praised the order by arguing it would open more federal land to potential energy leasing.

"President Trump's executive order shows that his administration remains committed to unleashing America's energy potential," Pyle said. "While energy production has surged on state and private lands over the past decade, production on federal lands has lagged far behind. This disparity is largely due to the previous administration's keep-it-in-the-ground tactics, including President Obama's abuse of the Antiquities Act."

But Democratic lawmakers have vowed to challenge the administration's review — which requires a report on Bears Ears in 45 days and on all other sites within 120 days — particularly if the final report recommends the rescission or reduction of any monument.

"Any effort by President Trump to undermine the Antiquities Act, shrink or even eliminate some of the most iconic American places will be met with fierce opposition," said Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), who serves on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

He added: "I, for one, won't stand for this un-American action. I urge the American people to make their voices heard to stand up for our nation's conservation legacy, our obligation to respect tribal sovereignty and for the places that make us who we are as Americans."

Repeal of BLM methane rule will pass Senate — Barrasso

E&E Daily, April 27

Will Vice President Mike Pence cast the tie-breaking vote next week to pass a Senate resolution repealing a controversial Obama-era rule regulating methane waste on public lands?

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) told reporters yesterday that he was looking forward to a floor vote next week on his measure (S.J. Res. 11), which would roll back a November 2016 Interior Department rule that curbs greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas flaring, venting and leakage on public and tribal lands.

Asked how he finally managed to secure the necessary 51st vote to ensure passage on the resolution after months of arm-twisting Republican and Democratic holdouts, the Wyoming senator said, "I thought you only needed 50 and a vice president." Then he laughed.

Joking aside, it's certainly a possibility. Pence last month cast the tie-breaking vote for a CRA resolution that repealed an Obama rule requiring states and localities to provide Title X funding for family planning and women's health care to clinics (like Planned Parenthood) that perform abortions.

But Barrasso, who chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee, was cryptic on why he was so confident about a successful outcome, simply saying: "It will pass. The president will sign it."

Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), who has been involved in amassing support for S.J. Res. 11, said yesterday there was a "good chance" the vote would happen next week and that Republicans had "at least the 51 we need." When asked whose mind he might have changed, he chuckled. "Well, we'll see. I would never single them out, but we've been working hard, and I think we've got what we need."

The measure to overturn the Bureau of Land Management methane rule is one of several such resolutions that Republicans in both chambers have introduced during this legislative session using the 1996 Congressional Review Act to roll back Obama-era regulations that they argue are burdensome and illustrative of the federal government's overreach on energy and environmental issues. So far, President Trump has signed into law 13 disapproval resolutions under the CRA, four of them directly related to natural resources.

The deadline for rolling back the previous administration's "midnight" regulations expires in roughly two weeks, on May 9 or 10, which puts pressure on lawmakers to hold a vote soon.

"If the Senate doesn't act by mid-May, it will be up to BLM to unwind the rule through using the formal regulatory process, which could tie the agency up for months, draining it of limited resources, keeping staff from focusing on other priorities, and almost guaranteeing additional legal challenges from environmental activists," Robert Dillon, vice president of communications at the American Council for Capital Formation, wrote in a Tuesday blog post. "That's an outcome that should be avoided at all costs."

Dillon is a former staffer for Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

Those for and against

Senators' positions on S.J. Res. 11 have not necessarily split cleanly along party lines, stalling the measure's momentum in the upper chamber. The House voted to kill the BLM rule in February in a 221-191 vote, mostly along party lines. Three Democrats voted in favor, and 11 Republicans were against it.

Sens. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) are still publicly undecided on repealing the methane rule, and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) has said previously that he's weighing arguments on both sides.

Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina are not expected to vote for the resolution, adding to the Republican leadership's struggle to garner the necessary votes to pass the measure. Another complication: Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) has been recovering from back surgery this spring and hasn't been around regularly for votes.

Republicans generally have argued that in addition to the methane rule being burdensome and ineffective, U.S. EPA — not BLM — has the authority to curb emissions under the Clean Air Act. Meanwhile, Democrats counter that the resolution is a gift to wealthy GOP donors and that methane reductions have occurred in other energy production arenas, like transportation, but not in public land extraction.

Yesterday, 113 local elected officials, including mayors from Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah and the Ute Mountain Tribe, urged Senate leadership not to use the CRA to overturn the BLM methane rule.

"The CRA is a blunt tool that, if successful, would prevent any 'substantially similar' rule from being issued, allowing the oil and natural gas industry to continue to waste hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of taxpayer owned resources every year, and use outdated, wasteful technologies," the letter said, arguing that the rule "protects the interest of communities and our constituents across the country."

But opponents of the rule have called it redundant, as some states already have regulations in place that minimize methane emissions, and industry has deployed technologies to reduce emissions.

House Dems ask to meet Zinke over designations review

E&E Daily, April 27

Democratic lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources panels are seeking a briefing from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss a looming review of several dozen national monuments that the Trump administration could seek to diminish or dissolve entirely.

The Democratic House members made their request following President Trump's issuance yesterday of an executive order giving Zinke 120 days to review numerous national monuments created or expanded by previous commanders in chief (Greenwire, April 26).

The order will require a review of all monuments created since 1996 that exceed 100,000 acres in size, or which the Trump administration deems did not have sufficient local input prior to their creation.

Republican lawmakers including House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R) had urged Trump to address national monuments, including two disputed Utah sites: the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument created by President Clinton and the Bears Ears National Monument designated by President Obama during his final weeks in office.

In a letter to Zinke — signed by New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, the top Democrat on the Energy and Commerce panel, and Arizona Rep. Raúl Grijalva, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources panel, among others — the Democrats requested an explanation for how the monuments review helps Interior fulfill its obligation to protect and manage natural resources and cultural heritage, as well as for information on how public input will be used to inform "any recommendations" made by Zinke.

"Both Democratic and Republican Presidents have designated a total of 157 national monuments of unique significance to the culture, environment, and history of our nation," the letter states. "We are gravely concerned that the misguided actions contemplated by the Trump

Administration would cause irrevocable harm to these national treasures and erase the progress, protections, and wisdom that served as the underpinnings for these decisions."

The Democrats also highlighted the proposed 12 percent cut to the Interior Department's budget and asked Zinke to explain how those deductions "impact the ability of DOI to manage" them.

'The clock is ticking'

In a separate statement, Grijalva also criticized the Trump administration for the short deadline it has put forward for the review of monuments.

The 120-day period — or an even shorter 45-day deadline for the Bears Ears monument review — will not allow Zinke enough time to hold public meetings at more than 20 sites, Grijalva said.

The potential sites span from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the remote Pacific Ocean to multiple monuments across the western United States to the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean.

"They've set a high standard for public input, and the clock is ticking now," Grijalva said in a statement. "I'm concerned that Republican rhetoric on our public lands is being taken for fact and that Secretary Zinke is being set up for failure here."

He added: "National monuments are only declared after extensive local input, whatever a few lawmakers may now be saying. If he intends to offer the American people even more of a say than they already had before these monuments were declared, he needs to get on a plane tonight and spend the next several months on the road holding back-to-back-to-back public meetings."

During a signing ceremony yesterday with President Trump, Zinke told The Salt Lake Tribune that he plans to visit Bears Ears in southeastern Utah in early May. No additional details about his trip were immediately available.