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INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

CNN-Opinion: Ryan Zinke: Why we shrunk the monuments

“Across our great land, objects of cultural and historic significance tell the story of our nation. From the Statue of Liberty to the birthplace of George Washington, preserving our American heritage means protecting these objects. In 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act, giving the President power to proclaim objects on federal lands as national monuments and to reserve the smallest area of land compatible with their protection as part of the monument designation...President Trump was absolutely right to order this review. The President pledged during the campaign that the forgotten men and women of this country would be forgotten no more, and he is delivering on that promise. I met with countless local stakeholders, rode the range with ranchers, spoke with conservationists, and spent time with Native American tribal leaders, trying to understand the effect that these monument designations have had on everyday Americans.”

Fox News-Gingrich Productions: Trump and Zinke are Right on National Monuments

“Once again, President Donald Trump is taking a reasonable action to correct enormous overreach from previous administrations, and once again, the media and the Left are going berserk...The land around the monuments will continue to be federally protected and managed by one of our several highly-qualified federal land management agencies – which are the same agencies that manage national monuments. These surrounding public lands will be reclassified and will become national forests, wilderness areas, or other federally-controlled, cherished natural sites. Here’s the difference: The regulatory regime for a national monument is focused entirely around protecting specific objects, so federal regulators have more control over what activities can and cannot happen on the designated land. A regulator, for example, could decide to prohibit activities which would otherwise be allowed in a federal wilderness area or forest.”

CORRECTING THE RECORD:

CNN: Patagonia, Interior Department trade Twitter barbs over 'special interests'

“Outdoor retailer Patagonia and the Interior Department continued their public spat over US national monuments Tuesday on Twitter, trading barbs over each others' ties to "special interests." The company announced Tuesday that it plans to take legal action over President Donald Trump's move to dramatically shrink two national monuments in Utah, a move that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended. Following that announcement, Zinke took aim at the retailer on a press phone call Tuesday, saying, "You mean Patagonia made in China? This is an example of a special interest." Zinke also accused Patagonia of lying when it emblazoned the words, "The President Stole Your Land," on the homepage of its website. On the press call, Zinke labeled that claim "nefarious, false and a lie" because no antiquities protections on the land had been removed -- and added that Patagonia's push was a 'blatant lie to fill their coffers.'”

Reuters: Interior secretary urges size cuts, management changes to more monuments

“Zinke said the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument straddling the border of Oregon and California and the Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada were both too big for the purpose

of protecting important historical sites and should be reduced in size. He said Trump should also consider changing the boundaries of the Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll Marine National Monuments in the Pacific Ocean. He also recommended changes in the management of 10 other monuments to allow for more grazing, timber, fishing, road access and other uses. Trump on Monday had already acted on Zinke's recommendations to shrink Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments, ordering cuts amounting to millions of acres in a move that triggered swift legal challenges from tribes and environmental groups."

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

OTHER TOP STORIES:

U.S. News and World Report: US to Review End of Protections for Yellowstone Grizzlies

"U.S. officials said Wednesday they'll review the recent lifting of protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears in light of a court ruling that retained protections for gray wolves in the Great Lakes. About 700 bears in and around Yellowstone National Park lost their threatened species status on July 31, opening the door to future trophy hunts in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Just a day later, a federal appeals court in Washington D.C. said in the wolf case that wildlife officials needed to give more consideration to how a species' loss of historical habitat affects its recovery. Like wolves, grizzly bears have seen a strong recovery over the past several decades in isolated regions of the U.S., but remain absent from the vast majority of their historical range."

Reuters: Alaskan oil lease sale brings few bids despite vast territory offered

"An oil-and-gas lease sale that raised concerns with environmentalists due to the vast amount of acres offered in Arctic Alaska drew few bids on Wednesday, government officials said. Seven bids were received, covering about 80,000 acres - or less than 1 percent of the 10.3 million acres offered in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska by the Trump administration. It was, by far, more territory than ever offered in any of the previous 12 NPR-A lease sales held since 1999. The sale was the latest move by the administration of President Donald Trump, a Republican, supporting his pledge to make the United States "energy dominant" by boosting output of oil, natural gas and coal."

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