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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Nate Batters Weary Southeast With Heavy Rains, Flooding.

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Bacon, Stanglin) reported that Hurricane Nate "blasted onto the Gulf Coast and lashed much of the Southeast with heavy rains and winds Sunday, fading to a tropical depression but still knocking out power to more than 100,000 people and driving rivers of water through the streets of many communities." Crews "were plucked off drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico and other rigs were moved out of the storm's path before Nate hit, the Interior Department said."

[CBS News](#) (10/9) reports that "more than 40 percent of manned oil- and gas-producing platforms in the Gulf of Mexico have been evacuated, according to an update from the Interior Department."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/8, Doan) says a government report says that "'no damages have been reported.' If that holds true, Monday's report may show a jump in oil and natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico." Chevron Corp. and Enbridge Inc. "were already returning workers to offshore platforms Sunday, and the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said in Sunday's report that it expected facilities to be 'brought back on line immediately' after operators had done the standard checks."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/6) reported that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's New Orleans office "said in a news release that as of midday Thursday, six production platforms, out of the 737 manned platforms in the Gulf, had been evacuated. No drilling rigs were evacuated, but one moveable rig was taken out of the storm's path."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (10/7, Press), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/8, Parraga, Seba), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/6, Galeano), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/6), and the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (10/7, Amy).

About 85 Percent Of U.S. Gulf Oil Output Offline Due To Nate: Agency. [Reuters](#) (10/9) reports that about 85 percent of US Gulf of Mexico oil production "is offline in the aftermath of Hurricane Nate, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) said on Monday." That amounts to "about 1.49 million barrels per day in production that is offline, according to BSEE," who also said that about 65 percent of Gulf natural gas production remains offline.

[Reuters](#) (10/8, Parraga, Seba) reported Nate "forced the closure of more than triple the volume of Gulf offshore crude production than Hurricane Harvey did from late August to early September, according to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement."

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/9, Davis) reports, "Nate, which traversed a rich natural gas and oil production area of the GOM before coming ashore, through midday Monday still was

forcing the shut-in of 64.78%, or 2.086 Bcf/d of natural gas, based on operator reports submitted to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement."

Ahead of Nate, [Reuters](#) (10/6) reported, that "about 71 percent" of US Gulf of Mexico oil production was offline, according to the BSEE, while "about 53.2 percent" of Gulf natural gas production remained offline.

Hurricane Nate Shuts In 92 Pct Of U.S. Gulf Of Mexico Oil Output. [Reuters](#) (10/7) reports that by Saturday, Hurricane Nate had "shut in 92 percent of oil output and 77 percent of natural gas production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, according to the latest U.S. government estimate." The storm had "halted offshore production amounting to 1.61 million barrels per day of oil and 2.48 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said on Saturday."

The [Daily Mail](#) (10/7) reports, [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/7)

Oil Prices Stable As OPEC Says Market Is Rebalancing. [Reuters](#) (10/10) reports that oil prices "were steady on Tuesday as OPEC said there were clear signs the market was rebalancing and as U.S. production remained offline following Hurricane Nate." US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures "were trading at \$49.66 per barrel at 0442 GMT, up 8 cents, or 0.2 percent, from their last close." Brent crude futures "were up 7 cents, or 0.1 percent, at \$55.86 a barrel." Reuters adds that short-term price support "was also coming from the United States, where 85 percent of U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil production, or 1.49 million barrels a day, was offline following Hurricane Nate, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement late on Monday."

House Preps Bill Curbing Presidential Power To Create Monuments.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/9, Siegel, Ferrechio) reports that House lawmakers on Wednesday will vote "to advance legislation that would limit the power of the president to designate public land as national monuments." The National Monument Creation and Protection Act "'standardizes and limits the president's power to reshape monuments,' according to the House Natural Resources Committee, which introduced the bill Monday and has scheduled a panel markup for Oct. 11." The article notes that President Trump "ordered the Interior Department to undertake a review of 27 national monuments shortly after his inauguration. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a report to Trump in August, but the White House has not yet acted on the review."

[The Hill](#) (10/9, Henry) reports the legislation "comes as the Interior Department recommends President Trump shrink a handful of large monument designations made since the 1990s." The Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday "will also consider ranking Democrat Raúl Grijalva's (Ariz.) resolution requiring Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke share with Congress more information related to his national monuments review."

Zinke Says No Monuments To Be Removed From Federal Land.

[Breitbart](#) (10/8) reports that in an exclusive interview with Breitbart's Amanda House, Interior Secretary Zinke "ruled out bowing to activist pressure to tear down historical monuments" at federal lands and parks. When asked to weigh in on calls to remove monuments to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, or even Christopher Columbus, Zinke said, "No monuments are going to be removed from federal land. ... I think we should never hide from our history or erase our history. I think we should embrace the history and understand the faults and learn from it. But when you try to erase history, what happens is you also erase how it happened and why it happened and the ability to learn from it."

Decarlo: Attacks On Columbus In Fact May Threaten Values Of Western Civilization. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8) op-ed, former Chicago Tribune reporter Angela Rocco Decarlo writes that Christopher Columbus was a pioneering individual whose accomplishments helped usher in the Renaissance and provided a key point in the development of Western civilization. Decarlo argues that those seeking to delegitimize Columbus' legacy in fact may be targeting the values and achievements of Western civilization he helped progress.

Interior Secretary Zinke: Trump Committed To Everglades Projects.

As part of a trip to Florida to "assess hurricane damage and Everglades restoration projects," the [AP](#) (10/6), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said President Donald Trump was committed to fast-tracking costly and long-delayed Everglades restoration projects. He said the administration would remove bureaucratic obstacles to restoring natural freshwater flows through the wetlands." Preserve employees "applauded Zinke's announcement that new park service uniforms better suited to the humid, mosquito-infested climate were being designed."

[WFOR-TV](#) Miami (10/7) reports, "More work is still needed to repair damage done by Hurricane Irma to the Florida Everglades and on Saturday, Senator Marco Rubio and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke got a first-hand look." Zinke is quoted saying, "We all understand how important our parks are, not only for stewardship and protection of American lands, but also for the local communities. ... Our park employees have been devastated, too."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/6), the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/6), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#). (10/6, Kay)

Oil Exploration In Everglades To Resume. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (10/9, Flesher) reports that Burnett Oil Co., after gaining approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, is set to resume testing for the presence of oil. The company is planning to test a 110-square-mile region with steel plates, within the Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades. Environmental groups objected to the testing argue it could harm wildlife habitats.

Obama Interior Secretaries Spent Over \$971,000 On Non-commercial Air Travel.

[CNN](#) (10/9, Marsh) reports, "Just over \$971,000 was spent on non-commercial travel for interior secretaries in the Obama administration during a seven-year period, according to records obtained by CNN." That includes "travel on both chartered planes as well as on Interior Department aircraft." The Interior Department "submitted records detailing the non-commercial travel of former secretaries Ken Salazar and Sally Jewell to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, saying \$971,634 was spent on 81 trips." The non-commercial travel for current Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has so far cost \$72,849 on six trips since he took office in March."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/9, Siciliano), [WPIX-TV New York \(NY\)](#) New York (10/9), and [Newsmax](#) (10/9, Morrison).

Trump's White House Wrestles With Cabinet Costs. The [Boston Globe](#) (10/9, Harwell) reports the Trump Administration, "one of the wealthiest in modern US history, is facing widening criticism over travel expenditures among some of the billionaires, budget hawks, and business executives who head federal agencies." Inspectors general "have opened at least five investigations into charter or military flights by Cabinet officials amounting to millions in federal spending." Zinke, "a former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL commander, flew for official business but spoke in Las Vegas to a campaign donor's hockey team, spent a few weekends near his homes out West, and attended political fund-raisers from Montana to the Virgin Islands. His wife, Lola, often accompanied him on the trips." An Interior spokesman "said the department 'has always and will always work to ensure all officials follow appropriate rules and regulations when traveling.'"

Additional coverage is provided by the [Montana Standard](#) (10/9), [Business Insider](#) (10/10), [Bloomberg View](#) (10/8, Hunt), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/8, Pearson), the [Boston Globe](#) (10/9, Harwell), [MSNBC](#) (10/6), [CNN International](#) (10/6, Marsh, Wallace, CNN), [Reuters](#) (10/6, Reuters), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Bump), [Reuters](#) (10/6, Volcovici), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/6, Editoreditor), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Dennis), the [Financial Times](#) (10/6, Lynch), and [NBC News](#) (10/6).

Zinke's Private Flight Could Hurt His Political Aspirations In Montana. The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/6) editorialized that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "dismissal of a private charter flight on the U.S. taxpayers' dime as 'a little BS over travel' smacks of the kind of arrogance that infests the 'swamp' the Trump administration has vowed to drain." However, "Zinke is reminded that if he has a political future after the Trump administration, it will most likely lie in the hands of Montana voters. And if he comes back home to run for office, the kind of baggage that comes with dismissing the needless spending of \$12,000 in taxpayer money as 'a little BS' is not going to sit well with those voters."

Interior Secretary Zinke Invokes Teddy Roosevelt As Model, But His Public Land Policies Don't.

Boise State University Professor and Andrus Center for Public Policy Executive Director John Freemuth writes in the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/6, George Danby |, BDN) that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "recommendations to shrink four national monuments and allow fossil fuel development activities on others is just the latest sign that this administration sees natural resource use and extraction as the highest priority for public lands." Freemuth says that while Zinke has invoked Teddy Roosevelt as a model, some say that so far he is "all Roosevelt hat and no Roosevelt action."

Watchdog Group Requests Hatch Act Probe Of Zinke's Appearance At Virgin Islands.

[Politico](#) (10/6, Juliano, Lefebvre, Whieldon) reported that a watchdog group “is asking the Justice Department’s Office of Special Counsel to open a Hatch Act investigation into Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke after POLITICO reported he had appeared at a political fundraiser in the U.S. Virgin Islands while on an official trip less than a month after being confirmed.” Politico adds that “donors who gave the Virgin Islands Republican Party between \$1,500 and \$5,000 per couple were invited to get their photos taken with Zinke at the March 30 event, according to a copy of the invitation seen by POLITICO and Zinke’s official schedule.” The nonprofit Campaign Legal Center “says that activity may have run afoul of the federal law prohibiting federal officials from using government resources to engage in partisan political activity.”

The Energy 202: Here’s How Trump’s Sage Grouse Fix Could Backfire.

In continuing coverage, Dino Grandoni writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6) saying, “Another day, another regulatory rollback from the Trump administration: This week, the Interior Department took another step toward reopening a conservation controversy over the sage grouse.” However, “unlike most other regulatory changes undertaken by the Trump administration, this one doesn’t have the full endorsement of local Republican politicians representing states with energy interests.” And with good reason: “It could backfire, impose even more stringent regulations on Western states and energy companies operating in them and reshape the region’s economy in way those governors never asked for.”

Additional coverage is provided by the [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (10/6), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/6), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/6), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/9).

Nevada Gov. Sandoval Backs BLM Decision To End Sage Grouse Lands Withdrawal.

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/7) reports that Gov. Brian Sandoval “says he supports the decision by the Bureau of Land Management to cancel the withdrawal of western lands in six states from mining and exploration activities.” Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke “signed an order Thursday, Oct. 5, loosening the restrictions on energy development and mining activities in sage grouse habitat areas. The new ruled also offer states more flexibility in managing the grouse population.”

[Nevada Appeal](#) (10/6) reports that Sandoval said in a statement, “Mining has not been identified as a widespread, significant threat to the sage grouse and I appreciate the Department of Interior recognizing the overreach of this action, which had such significant economic impact on our state mining and exploration industries.”

Storm Brews Over New England’s National Monument Offshore.

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (10/8) reports that “ever since President Trump announced he would review his predecessor’s creation of national monuments, Mainers have been focused on the future of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in northern Maine.” But a second New England monument “also fell under the review conducted by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, one that scientists and conservationists say is essential for understanding the rapid changes going on in the Gulf of Maine and northeast Atlantic.” The article says that Zinke “has recommended that the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument...be opened to commercial fishing, a move proponents say would defeat its purpose.”

National Parks Need Investment From Private Companies To Thrive.

Frank Hugelmeyer writes in the [Denver Post](#) (10/6, Hugelmeyer) that as “millions of Americans will head to America’s iconic public lands and waters to soak up what’s left of warmer weather and get a glimpse of fall’s renowned foliage,” it’s “time our national parks, waterways and other public outdoor spaces get the attention they deserve.” Improvements to “our outdated recreation infrastructure have gone largely unaddressed by both political parties for decades, no matter who lives in the White House or is in the majority on Capitol Hill,” and it is “time for that to change.” The good news “is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is trying something different. He has laid out a course of action that addresses the nearly \$20 billion maintenance backlog crippling many of our outdoor spaces and emphasizes the need to modernize services, lodging, marinas and campgrounds. His proposal invites Americans to fully utilize their public outdoor spaces and leverage proven public-private partnerships.”

Interior Department Worked Behind The Scenes With Energy Industry To Reverse Royalties Rule.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Eilperin) reports that top Interior Department officials “worked privately with energy industry representatives during the first weeks of the Trump administration to suspend a new accounting system that would have forced companies to pay millions of dollars more in royalties to the government, documents show.” The push to suspend the Obama-era rule, “which is the subject of three federal lawsuits in Wyoming, took on a sense of urgency after an attorney for the coal company Cloud Peak Energy first suggested the move in late January.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Votes To Oust President.

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports a Montana Indian tribe “has voted to oust its president for reportedly neglecting his duties and violating tribal bylaws. But President Jace Killsback said he plans to stay in office after a tribal court ruled last week that the complaint against him was not sworn under oath and not specific enough.” It was “not clear Friday if the Bureau of Indian Affairs would recognize the council’s vote. Spokeswoman Nedra Darling did not return phone calls seeking comment. The BIA office was closed for a federal holiday on Monday.”

The article was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (10/9), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/9), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9), and the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/6).

U.S. Attorney Declined To Step Into Fort Peck Civil Rights Case, BIA Says.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/8) reports the US Attorney’s Office in Montana “declined to pursue a civil rights case before an investigation into the so-called ‘wino roundup’ was completed on the Fort Peck Reservation, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” In addition to launching an Internal Affairs investigation, the BIA “alerted the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Montana, according to a BIA spokeswoman. While the investigation was still ongoing, federal prosecutors declined to take action.”

Review Of Dakota Access Oil Pipeline To Extend Into Spring.

The [AP](#) (10/9, Nicholson) reports it “probably will take until next spring for the Army Corps of Engineers to finish court-ordered additional environmental study of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, agency attorneys said in court documents filed Friday.” The Corps “had anticipated completing the task by the end of the year, but Justice Department attorney Matthew Marinelli said it will take longer than expected to get needed information including spill modeling from Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners and possibly from at least one unspecified American Indian tribe.”

Native Community To Honor Indigenous People’s Day.

The [AP](#) (10/9, Press) reports Native American organizers “are spending Columbus Day spreading awareness of a campaign to support legislation in Baltimore to change the name of the holiday to Indigenous People’s Day.” The event “will take place on Monday at the Baltimore American Indian Center, where leaders from the Baltimore Native American community will share information about the campaign.”

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports a central Kentucky community “is planning a ceremony and other festivities to recognize Native American heritage.” A statement from the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission “says the city of Stanford will celebrate its first Indigenous Peoples’ Day at the Lincoln County Courthouse on Monday.”

Federal Court Recommends Dismissal Of Homeless Claims.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/8) reports that a federal court “is recommending dismissal of a civil complaint filed on behalf of more than two dozen homeless residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation who were jailed to prevent them from panhandling during a rodeo weekend in Wolf Point in 2013.” US Magistrate Judge John Johnston “granted attorney Daniel Flaherty’s motion to withdraw on Sept. 19 after he reported being unable to contact lead plaintiff Reba Demarrais.” A 2014 Bureau of Indian Affairs investigation “concluded that four tribal law enforcement officers illegally arrested and detained 29 people in violation of their civil and Constitutional rights.”

Economic Development Surging In New Mexico Tribal Community.

The [AP](#) (10/7) reported that “an entire neighborhood dating back to the mid-1900s is being

remodeled. ... There's a building boom going on throughout Zuni Pueblo, signs that economic development has found its way to the western New Mexico tribal community." While the pueblo "has been traditionally against developing casinos on the reservation, the previous administration sought a gaming compact with New Mexico in 2014 and the Bureau of Indian Affairs approved it in August 2015."

The article was also picked up by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/7), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/7), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7).

Bureau Of Land Management

Utah Rep. Smith's Chief Of Staff Named BLM Deputy Director.

The [AP](#) (10/6) reports that Utah Rep. Chris Stewart's chief of staff Brian Steed "has been named a deputy director at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management." The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/6) reported the appointment "signals an increased Utah influence at the federal agency just as it takes on key issues such as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation that President Donald Trump reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments."

Nevada Trial Of Cliven Bundy Postponed After Las Vegas Massacre.

[Reuters](#) (10/7, Coffman) reports a federal judge in Nevada "postponed the trial of rancher Cliven Bundy for his role in an armed standoff with U.S. government agents, after defense lawyers argued that the Las Vegas mass shooting could influence jurors, his attorney said on Friday."

The [AP](#) (10/7) reported that defense attorneys "argued that the attack would cast a shadow over the trial, which was set to start Tuesday in Las Vegas. On Friday, the judge rescheduled it for Oct. 30."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Sottile) and [NPR](#) (10/6).

BLM Approves Master Plan For Drilling In North Fork Valley.

The [AP](#) (10/6) reported the Bureau of Land Management "has approved a plan for oil and gas development in the works for nearly a decade in Colorado's North Fork Valley." Citing the Daily Sentinel, the AP said the master plan "calls for eventually building 146 wells about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Paonia (pay-OWN'-yuh) to the south of McClure Pass." However, the BLM "has only granted permission for one well to be built so far in the nearly 20,000 acre (8093.9 hectare) Bull Mountain project."

Wyoming Oil And Gas Operators Pleased By Federal Walk Back On Methane Rule.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/8) reports the Bureau of Land Management's methane waste reduction rule "has been causing confusion." But "two decisions that impact the future of the controversial rule came within hours of each other on Thursday. The Interior announced its intention to try to delay the rule again, this time according to the federal process. Hours later, a federal court in California sided with environmental advocates that the Interior had unlawfully delayed the rule the first go round, and decided that the rule would be in effect immediately."

Montana Pipeline Proposed To Transport CO2 For Oil Recovery.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/8) reports that an energy company "is seeking federal approval to build a pipeline in eastern Montana that would transport the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide for use in oil production along the North Dakota border." The \$150 million pipeline "would begin near the Wyoming border and stretch 110 miles to the Cedar Creek Anticline, an aging oil field near Baker, Montana, Denbury Resources spokesman John Mayer said." The US Bureau of Land Management "is seeking public comment on the Montana proposal through Nov. 3." Bureau of Land Management spokesman David Abrahams "said further details on the company's application would not be released except under a freedom of information request."

[WDAZ-TV](#) Grand Forks, ND (10/8) also reports.

BLM Plans Prescribed Burnings In Parker Area.

The [Parker \(AZ\) Pioneer](#) (10/9) reports the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lake Havasu Field Office "is planning to conduct prescribed burning on the Parker Strip, October 9 through April 1, 2018, as weather conditions allow. The burn area is located seven miles northeast of

Parker, Ariz., and half a mile west of Parker Dam Road near Crossroads, on the California side of the Colorado River."

BLM Broke Law In Plan To Sterilize Herd Of Wild Horses.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/8) reports the Bureau of Land Management "violated environmental law in its plan to sterilize a herd of wild horses in southwestern Idaho, according to a recent ruling from a federal judge." US District Judge Edward Lodge "ruled Friday the BLM failed to analyze consequences of the action and ordered the agency to reconsider its decision." Lodge wrote, "The BLM's decision in this case is arbitrary and capricious because it did not consider the significant impacts its decision may have on the free-roaming nature of the herd nor explain why its decision is appropriate despite those impacts."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Victims Of 2013 Colorado Floods Claim U.S. Government Opened Dam Without Warning, Destroying Homes.

[KMGH-TV](#) Denver (10/9) reports that three victims of the 2013 flooding in Colorado "have filed a lawsuit blaming the U.S. Government for opening floodgates that they say washed away homes downstream from the Olympus Dam." According to the lawsuit, "the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the dam, made the call to release a massive amount of water from the dam to protect its integrity, as it overflowed with floodwater from a heavy storm that continued to dump water on Sept. 12, 2013." The plaintiffs in the suit "say had they been warned of the massive release, they would have been able to move some of their property, but instead they were surprised to find homes literally washed away."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Trump Quietly Stalls Safeguards For Dozens Of Endangered Species.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/6, Levin) reported the Trump administration "has quietly withdrawn dozens of pending actions to protect endangered species ranging from the green sea turtle to plants in the Florida Everglades, something conservationists say may violate federal law requiring the government to act." The US Fish and Wildlife Service "withdrew a total of at least 42 pending regulatory actions pertaining to endangered species, many of which detailed how to protect animals or plants already deemed to be in peril, according to Office of Management and Budget data compiled by Bloomberg."

[The Hill](#) (10/7, Manchester) reports that the US Fish and Wildlife Service "has moved to remove Endangered Species Act protections from Pacific Walruses, citing their ability to adapt and persist during changes in their climate and environment." The USFWS said, "The Pacific walrus population has persisted through past climate change events however, the ability of the Pacific walrus population to adapt to or cope with increasing stress in the future is uncertain." The agency "goes on to say there is not enough evidence to suggest that the animals need to be listed as 'threatened' or 'endangered.'" However, "environmentalists have spoken out against the move, equating it to a death sentence for the animals."

The [AP](#) (10/9, Joling) reports that US Fish and Wildlife Service officials "said they cannot determine with certainty that walruses are likely to become endangered 'in the foreseeable future,' which the agency defines as the year 2060."

The [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (10/6, Fixler) reported that "the eastern boreal toad population in the high elevations of Colorado and other Rocky Mountain states may be in decline, but it will not be granted protected status under the national Endangered Species Act." The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday "its rejection of 25 species from threatened or endangered listing, including the subalpine amphibian. Within the federal agency's Mountain-Prairie Region, the Great Sand Dunes tiger beetle and Northern Rocky Mountain fisher were under review for protection as well, but were also left unlisted."

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week Oct. 8 To 14.

The [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (10/7, Poetry, Kreger) reported on the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is being celebrated this week. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke "kicked off Refuge Week early today while visiting with staff and touring Okefenokee National

Wildlife Refuge.” Zinke is quoted saying, “Americans are fortunate to have access to an unparalleled network of national wildlife refuges close to where they live. ... Whether you are hunting, fishing or just enjoying the great outdoors, I encourage everyone to get out and visit a refuge near you. One of my top priorities is to open up access wherever possible for the public to enjoy these lands so that more families have the opportunity to pass down that heritage as I have with my children.”

Michigan Forests Vital To Threatened Species.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/9) reports that the future of the Karner blue butterfly – “now a federally threatened species in the Great Lakes State – lies with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources intentionally setting fires known as ‘prescribed burns’ to restore the oak savannas that once dominated these landscapes.” The DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service “work together with conservation groups and private landowners to manage habitats that are more conducive to the blue, nickel-sized butterfly.”

Mussel, Once Feared Extinct, Brought Back To Ohio River.

The [AP](#) (10/7) reported that a mussel “as rare as its name is colorful, the purple cat’s paw pearlymussel once could be found throughout the lower Ohio River and many of its larger tributaries, including the Muskingum River in Ohio, the Green River in Kentucky and the Middle Cumberland River in Tennessee.” Patricia Morrison, biologist for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, is quoted saying, “Museum collections show that the purple cat’s paw was once found in the Ohio River from here to Cincinnati.” A century ago, the mussel “was also once found in streams as distant as Illinois, Indiana and Alabama, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fact sheet.” The mussel is now being brought back to the Ohio River.

National Park Service

Designed Wisely, Express Lanes Can Reduce Travel Time, Bring Revenue.

Discussing Gov. Larry Hogan plans to “add hundreds of miles of express toll lanes on the Capital Beltway, Interstate 270 between Washington and Frederick, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to decrease congestion and collect more money,” the [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/4, Campbell) reports that Hogan’s plan for the Baltimore-Washington Parkway “is contingent upon the National Park Service turning ownership of the road over to Maryland. The Department of the Interior, which oversees the parks service, did not respond to a request for comment.”

Colorado River Rafting Contract Awarded To Different Company.

The [AP](#) (10/8) reported the National Park Service “has awarded a rafting contract for the Colorado River to a subsidiary of concessionaire giant Aramark — and took the deal away from an Arizona company that has long offered rafting.” Colorado River Discovery “has led rafting trips from the Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry in northern Arizona since the park service awarded it the concession contract in 2006, the Arizona Daily Sun reported.” The decision announced last week “was a surprise to company officials who said the rafting trips make up the majority of services they offer.”

Texas Company Seeks To Renew Permit To Look For Big Cypress Oil.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/7, Staats) reports a Texas company has asked state environmental regulators “to allow crews to resume their hunt for oil beneath Big Cypress National Preserve despite deep muddy ruts and damaged trees left behind by the company’s earlier work in the spring.” Several groups have “asked the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to not renew the Burnett Oil Co.’s state permit.” Burnett spokeswoman Alia Faraj-Johnson is quoted saying, “These groups are recycling the same kinds of claims that have been rejected by the National Park Service and the federal court.” DEP spokeswoman Dee Ann Miller “said the agency’s deadline for making a decision on the company’s permit renewal is Oct. 24.” The DEP “plans to send inspectors along with the National Park Service when work to repair the damaged wet prairies is underway, but that won’t happen until the landscape flooded by Hurricane Irma dries out, Miller said.”

Puerto Rico Slum Transformed By ‘Despacito’ Seeks To Revive.

The [AP](#) (10/9, Coto) reports that La Perla, “a seaside slum” in Puerto Rico that had been

transformed by the song “Despacito” is seeking revival after being hit hard by Hurricane Maria. The AP adds, “With tourism to Puerto Rico as a whole abruptly halted, the only visitors to La Perla since the Sept. 20 storm have been people like the U.S. National Park Service workers who came to distribute bottles of water.”

New App Brings History To Life In The New River Gorge Region.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (10/9, Cobbs) reports highlights a new app that travelers can download that “brings history to life in the New River Gorge region.” The app, when downloaded, “gives users an overall map of the 17 sites, as well as directions between sites.” Lizzie Watts, the superintendent of the New River Gorge National River, is quoted saying, “History only becomes history if you remember to tell it and we remember to share it.” According to Dave Bieri, “also with the park service, project partners met and chose individual topics and then matched sites accordingly.”

Donald Trump’s Lewd ‘Access Hollywood’ Tape Played On Repeat Near White House.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Chasmar) reported that the women’s advocacy group UltraViolet “played President Trump’s infamous ‘Access Hollywood’ footage on repeat for 12 hours straight near the White House on Friday.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Stein) reported the National Park Service “issued permits for the group to bring the equipment to the Mall and play the video, said Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the agency. In its permit, UltraViolet described the video display as a First Amendment demonstration ‘against Trump being a sexual predator.’”

Office Of Insular Affairs

House Committee Discusses Situation In Puerto Rico And US Virgin Islands After Irma And María.

[Pasquines \(PRI\)](#) (10/6) reported that United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R) of Utah “organized an informal roundtable yesterday for the members of the committee to discuss the situation in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands after hurricanes Irma and María.” USVI Delegate Stacey Plaskett was quoted saying, “The Office of Insular Affairs will play a prominent role in our recovery efforts.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Montana Coal Mine Appeals Ruling That Could Trigger Layoffs.

The [AP](#) (10/6, Brown) reported, “The ‘clock is running’ on layoffs at one of the largest underground coal mines in the United States, its owners said Friday, as they asked a federal appeals court to reverse a judge’s order that could bring some work at the mine to a halt later this month.” Signal Peak Energy “says as many as 30 workers from the Bull Mountain Mine could run out of work by the end of October and 50 more workers by March under an August ruling from U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy.” Molloy “sided with environmentalists who said that in approving the expansion, the Department of Interior’s Office of Surface Mining had not adequately considered how burning the mine’s coal would contribute to climate change.”

US Geological Survey

Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake Shakes Bay Area.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/9, Grad) reports a magnitude 4.1 earthquake “struck Monday near San Jose.” According to the US Geological Survey, “it was felt over a large swath of Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. No damage was reported.”

Earthquake: 3.2 Quake Strikes Near Bryn Mawr.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/8, Quakebot) reports that a “shallow magnitude 3.2 earthquake was reported Sunday evening near Bryn Mawr, Calif., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor occurred at 11:39 p.m. PDT at a depth of 10.6 miles.”

Top National News

Pruitt Announces Repeal Of Clean Power Plan.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, story 7, 0:20, Muir) reported EPA Administrator Pruitt said Monday he would repeal the 2015 Clean Power Plan – President Obama’s “signature climate policy” – starting Tuesday. Before the repeal of the plan, which aimed to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent, there will be a public comment period.

The [New York Times](#) (10/9, Friedman, Plumer) reports that at an event in eastern Kentucky, Pruitt “said that his predecessors had departed from regulatory norms in crafting the Clean Power Plan.” He added, “The war on coal is over.” The repeal proposal, set to be filed in the Federal Register Tuesday, “fulfills a promise President Trump made to eradicate his predecessor’s environmental legacy” and “makes it less likely the United States can fulfill its promise as part of the Paris climate agreement to ratchet down emissions.”

[USA Today](#) (10/9, King) reports that according to climate change expert David Doniger, the repeal of the Clean Power Plan will not be a rapid process. In a Monday blog post, Doniger wrote, “Today’s proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan just begins the battle. ... Pruitt’s EPA must hold hearings and take public comment, and issue a final repeal – with or without a possible replacement. He must respond to all legal, scientific, and economic objections raised, including the issues we lay out here.”

[Reuters](#) (10/9) reports that the National Association of Manufacturers and other trade organizations “praised” Pruitt’s announcement. Environmental groups, however, “criticized Monday’s announcement and praised” the Clean Power Plan. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said, “No matter who is in the White House, the EPA is legally required to limit dangerous carbon pollution, and the Clean Power Plan is an achievable, affordable way to do that.”

The [AP](#) (10/9, Biesecker, Beam) reports that a “coalition of left-leaning states and environmental groups” are promising to fight the Administration’s plans to end the Clean Power Plan. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman – among those who have said they will sue – said, “The Trump Administration’s persistent and indefensible denial of climate change – and their continued assault on actions essential to stemming its increasing devastation – is reprehensible, and I will use every available legal tool to fight their dangerous agenda.”

Pruitt Calls For End Of Tax Credits To Wind Industry. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/9, Natter) reports Pruitt on Monday also called for the elimination of tax credits to the wind industry. Responding to a question about the effectiveness of renewable energy, Pruitt said he would let wind energy companies “stand on their own and compete against coal and natural gas and other sources.”

China Invests In Solar. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/9, story 4, 2:05, Quijano) reported that as Pruitt announced Monday that the US would repeal Obama-era limits on carbon emissions from power plants, China “is doing the opposite.” China recently launched the world’s largest floating solar installation, built on top of a lake, “created by an abandoned coal mine” – a project, like many others, that has helped China double its solar capacity in the past year. According to Panda Green Energy Executive President Maggie Qiu, 28 solar power plants now operate in China. Additionally, the government is “spending hundreds of billions of dollars to subsidize renewable energy as China tries to wean itself off coal, still its dominant power source and the reason for its notoriously toxic air.”

Wildfires Burn Across California, Killing At Least 10.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/9, lead story, 2:40, Holt) reported that at least 15 wildfires burned in California on Monday, “destroying homes and sending people fleeing for their lives along smoke-obscured highways, all fueled by unrelenting winds” as gusts topped 50 miles per hour. Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency, “mobilizing the National Guard joining the thousands of firefighters already on the front lines.” In northern California’s wine country, more than a thousand homes have been destroyed. Across the region, one person has died, and at least 1,500 homes and businesses now are destroyed.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, lead story, 3:00, Muir) reported that the fires “only ignited late last night and exploded to over 80,000 acres in just 18 hours.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/9, lead story, 2:40, Quijano) reported that 20 major fires are burning, with 15 alone started in the past 24 hours. 20,000 people have been forced to evacuate. The worst hit is Northern California’s wine country. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/9, Tucker) reports that “neighborhood after neighborhood is gone” in Santa Rosa, with nearby stores and restaurants destroyed as well.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/9, A1, Kerr) reports the wildfires have killed “at least 10 people” and have injured “numerous others.” In a news conference during which he declared a state of emergency in three counties, Gov. Jerry Brown said, “This is really serious; it’s moving fast. ... The heat, the lack of humidity and the winds are all driving a very dangerous situation and making it worse. It’s not under control by any means. But we’re on it in the best way we know how.” The [New York Times](#) (10/9, A1, Fuller, Bromwich, Victor) reports Gov. Brown “issued emergency proclamations for Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma and Yuba Counties, saying the fires had damaged critical infrastructure and threatened thousands of homes.” Brown “also asked President Trump to declare a major disaster.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, story 3, 0:45, Muir) reported the “simple answer” behind the wildfires’ spread is wind. Some gusts have been “upwards of 70-miles-per-hour.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, story 2, 1:55, Muir) reported mandatory evacuations were declared in Anaheim Monday night, as home after home burned to the ground. Massive amounts of smoke were “seen today at nearby Angels Stadium and hovering over Disneyland.” The first evacuation orders “were issued within 15 minutes of when this fire was first reported.” At least one firefighter has been injured.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/9, story 2, 1:00, Holt) reported the wind is “so strong” in parts of Anaheim that fires are “traveling from house to house, neighborhood to neighborhood at lightning speed.”

Northeast Sees Wind, Rain From Remnants Of Hurricane Nate.

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports that the Northeast US saw wind and rain Monday from the remnants of Hurricane Nate. The tropical depression’s center was “near the eastern shore of Lake Erie,” and “forecasters said parts of Pennsylvania and New York could receive 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain or more.” In the Southeast US, “utilities said crews had restored electrical service to all but a few thousand of the more than 100,000 homes and businesses that lost power because of Nate in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“On Immigration, Mr. Trump Shows Congress It’s On Its Own.” A [New York Times](#) (10/9) editorial calls the White House immigration proposals “the latest flip-flop for the administration and a demoralizing turn for what seemed like a possible bipartisan deal on an emotional issue.” The Times says a White House official told reporters “that the list of draconian proposals would be a fulfillment of Mr. Trump’s campaign promises, implying that this is what Americans want.” The Times points out, however, that Trump, “in case he forgot, lost the popular vote by millions, and his approval ratings are sputtering in the mid- to high-30s,” while “Americans overwhelmingly support letting Dreamers stay in this country.”

“A Peace Prize That Honors The Quest.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/9) notes that the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize on Friday “to a group that worked on an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons, while acknowledging that the treaty would not in itself eliminate a single nuclear weapon.” The winner, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), promoted UN talks that resulted in a treaty banning the development, ownership or use of all nuclear weapons, but “the nations that actually possess such weapons, including the United States, boycotted the effort.” The Times reports, “We are realistic...we do not expect that this award will eliminate nuclear weapons. But...that is all the more reason to encourage those who seek a world with no nuclear weapons.”

“Want To Vote Next Year, New York? Act Now!” A [New York Times](#) (10/10, Board) editorial says the turnout in New York City’s “2013 mayoral election was 26 percent of registered voters, and that was stellar compared with the abysmal 14 percent in last month’s primaries.” Thus, “There’s every reason to assume that on Election Day, Nov. 7, New Yorkers will not exercise the franchise any more aerobically than they did four years ago.” The Times argues that “New York State effectively suppresses the turnout by making it harder to vote than is the practice in other jurisdictions” because it does not allow early voting or Election Day voter registration, and “New York lawmakers have resisted efforts to bring their rules more in line with practices elsewhere.”

Washington Post.

“What To Do With An Unfit President.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/9) writes in an editorial that

“one avenue open to Congress would be to remove the president from office,” though “Congress is not ready to consider such an option – nor, in our view, should it be. Impeachment is an extreme measure that would roil the nation and should be embarked upon only with clear justification.” Congress should instead “seize the initiative on issues where it knows Mr. Trump is wrong” and “offer a contrast to what [Sen. Bob] Corker described as the ‘adult day care center’ at the White House simply by presiding over their branch with institutional dignity and respect for tradition.”

“Trump’s Cruel Sabotage Of The Dreamers.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/9) says in an editorial that President Trump’s “shape-shifting on the dreamers, as on so many other issues, is a symptom of his indifference to policy and absent moral compass.” The Post calls on Congress to “step in and resolve the plight of these nearly 700,000 young immigrants.”

“Trump’s NFL Bullying Is Filtering Down To America’s Schools.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/9) editorial blasts President Trump for what it describes as his “multi-week effort to shore up political support from his base by attacking the political expression of NFL players protesting police violence.” The Post says it is “unfortunate that the president has chosen to distort the moral authority of his office into a bully’s demand that others adhere to his preferred view of the world.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Immigration Bait And Switch.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9, Board) editorial says the White House’s demands may make it impossible to reach an agreement with Congress on Dreamers.

“Ireland Falls For A Lousy T-Shirt.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9) denounces the Irish post office’s release of a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Ernesto “Che” Guevara Lynch. The Journal explains the Irish independence movement centered on political self-determination, property rights, and equality – issues completely unrelated to Guevara and his socialist cause.

“The Truth About Trump And Corker.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9) writes in an editorial that Sen. Bob Corker was intending to be helpful with his earlier criticisms of the Administration, trying to tell Trump things he did not want to hear. Trump has chosen to react in anger.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GE Gives Activist Trian A Seat On The Board](#)
[Battered Dollar Roars Back, Catching Investors By Surprise](#)
[As Its Namesake Founder Becomes A Liability, Weinstein Co. Weighs Name Change](#)
[America’s Retailers Have A New Target Customer: The 26-Year-Old Millennial](#)

New York Times:

[EPA Announces Repeal Of Major Obama-Era Carbon Emissions Rule](#)
[How Russia Harvested American Rage To Reshape US Politics](#)
[Stephen Miller, The Powerful Survivor On The President’s Right Flank](#)
[Liberia’s Women Warn Male Presidential Candidates: Keep The Peace](#)
[Politicians With Puerto Rican Roots Challenge Trump In Push For Aid](#)
[China Hastens The World Toward An Electric-Car Future](#)
[Multimedia Feature: Digging Up The Dead: Probing The Ruins Of Mosul](#)
[Wildfires In Northern California Kill At Least 10 And Destroy 1,500 Buildings](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Lashes Out At Allies, Putting Agenda At Risk](#)
[US Tensions With Turkey Boil Over In Wake Of Arrest](#)
[An Intruder, A Brutal Killing. Then The Fitbit Told Its Story.](#)
[Philippine Police Chief Resists The Call To Kill Drug Suspects](#)
[Google Finds Links To Russian Disinformation In Its Services](#)
[Deadly Wildfires Ravage Calif. Wine Country](#)

Financial Times:

[Turkish Lira And Istanbul Bourse Fall After US Suspends Visas](#)
[Ikea Turns To Ecommerce Sites In Online Sales Push](#)
[Richard Thaler Wins Nobel Prize In Economics](#)

Washington Times:

[Gillespie Pressures Northam On Sanctuary Cities In Virginia's Final Debate Of Governor's Race](#)
['It's The Job Of Congress': Lawmakers Dismiss Trump's Strict Immigration Plan](#)
[Pentagon Budget Divides Republican Defense And Deficit Hawks, Giving Democrat 'Parity' An Edge](#)
[Through Presidential Crises, Stock Market Soars With Businessman In White House](#)
[Puerto Rico Hurricane Damage Threatens Medication Supplies On U.S. Mainland](#)
[Can A Middle Kingdom Nobleman Named Userhat Help Save Egypt's Tourism Industry?](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; West Coast Wildfires-Tracking; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-Corker Relations; Vice President Pence-NFL Walkout; EPA-War On Coal Over; Weinstein Sexual Scandal; White House-First Lady; NFL-Coach Using Drug Caught; American Air-Flight Cancellation; Nobel Prize In Economics Winner; Grand Father Volunteer.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-Corker Relations; China-Coal Alternatives; Vice President Pence-NFL Walkout; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Weinstein Sexual Scandal; White House-First Lady; Inspiring Rapper.

NBC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; Trump-Corker Relations; White House-First Lady; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Opioid Epidemic; Weinstein Sexual Scandal; Walmart-Easier Store Return; ESPN Anchor Suspended; American Air Flight Cancellation; Las Vegas Shooting-Tribute.

Network TV At A Glance:

West Coast Wildfires – 12 minutes
Trump-Corker Relations – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Las Vegas Shooting – 5 minutes, 55 seconds
White House-First Lady – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Texas Tech-Officer Shot; West Coast Wildfires; EPA-Clean Power Plan Rollback; Wall Street News.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; EPA-Clean Power Plan Rollback; Baseball News.

FOX: West Coast Wildfires; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation.

NPR: West Coast Wildfires; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; Tillerson-Lavrov Phone Call; Holiday Shopping-Retail Expectations; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Dr. Henry Kissinger; has lunch with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis; greets the Stanley Cup Champions: The Pittsburgh Penguins; welcomes The Pittsburgh Penguins to the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a political reception in Bakersfield, CA; participates in a briefing on Mojave Air and Space Port; tours the Virgin Orbit/Virgin Galactic/The Spaceship Company hangar; tours the Stratolaunch Systems carrier plane.

US Senate: 11:00 AM Dem Sen. Chris Coons speaks on Iran nuclear deal – Democratic Sen. Chris Coons speaks on the Iran nuclear deal, via media conference call, amid reports that President Donald Trump is set to decertify Iranian compliance with the agreement * President Trump faces a 15 Oct deadline to issue his latest certification to Congress that Iran remains in compliance with its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on its nuclear program – signed by Tehran and six major world powers in 2015 Location: TBD
coons.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the refugee crisis in Europe and Turkey – 'Refugee Crisis in Europe and Turkey: Current Challenges and Responses' Helsinki Commission briefing,

bringing together international experts and NGO representatives to assess the current humanitarian situation facing these refugees and the root causes of their flight. Speakers – United Nations High Commission for Refugees Regional Representative for the U.S. and the Caribbean Matthew Reynolds, International Organization for Migration (Washington, DC, office) Chief of Mission Luca Dall'Oglio, A21 Campaign Executive Director Philip Hyldgaard, and Catholic Relief Services Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist Jill Marie Gerschutz-Bell – address the response of international organizations, receiving national govts, and civil society, and contribute their recommendations for action from domestic and international actors at all levels, including the U.S. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

On recess until 16 October.

US House: 2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the refugee crisis in Europe and Turkey – 'Refugee Crisis in Europe and Turkey: Current Challenges and Responses' Helsinki Commission briefing, bringing together international experts and NGO representatives to assess the current humanitarian situation facing these refugees and the root causes of their flight. Speakers – United Nations High Commission for Refugees Regional Representative for the U.S. and the Caribbean Matthew Reynolds, International Organization for Migration (Washington, DC, office) Chief of Mission Luca Dall'Oglio, A21 Campaign Executive Director Philip Hyldgaard, and Catholic Relief Services Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist Jill Marie Gerschutz-Bell – address the response of international organizations, receiving national govts, and civil society, and contribute their recommendations for action from domestic and international actors at all levels, including the U.S. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of six U.S. Postal Service facility naming bills and one U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint naming bill under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'S. 585 – Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 10:00 AM Brookings Institution discussion on 'The path forward for dealing with North Korea' – 'The path forward for dealing with North Korea' Brookings Institution Center for East Asia Policy Studies and John L. Thornton China Center discussion, with keynote from former Deputy National Security Advisor Avril Haines. Other speakers include Wilson Center Global Fellow Jean Lee, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr partner David Cohen, author Michael Dobbs, Atlantic Council President and CEO Frederick Kempe, Yale Law School Visiting Lecturer Jake Sullivan, and Brookings Chair in Korea Studies Jung Pak, Thornton Center Nonresident Fellow Evan Osnos, and Center for East Asia Policy Studies Senior Fellow Jonathan Pollack Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

5:00 PM National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. McMaster speaks at CSIS on the future of the NSC – National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster speaks at The Center for Strategic and International Studies on 'The National Security Council at 70: Charting the Future of America's Security', with other speakers including former National Security Advisors Gen. (Ret.) James Jones Jr, Stephen Hadley and Henry Kissinger Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "What's the difference between Harvey Weinstein and the Pillsbury Dough Boy? When the Pillsbury Boy offers you a roll, he doesn't ask you to take a shower for it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump wrote, 'I asked Vice President Pence to leave stadium if any players kneeled, disrespecting our country. I am proud of him and Second Lady Karen.' He can't let Mike Pence have credit for anything. 'I am so proud of Mike Pence for doing the awesome thing I told him to do.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Ultimately, Trump reflected on the suffering of the hurricane victims and

acknowledged that from his position of privilege, he couldn't even comprehend what they're going through. Just kidding. He kept the focus on the real victim, himself."

James Corden: [Referring to Sen. Bob Corker's tweet against President Trump that White House is an adult daycare center] "[Sen. Bob] Corker's tweet is funny, but it is not entirely accurate. A daycare center would imply that someone there is actually in charge."

James Corden: "Yesterday, Vice President Mike Pence attended the Indianapolis Colts game for about 15 minutes. Pence left at the beginning of the game in protest to football players kneeling during the national anthem. Now let's be honest, Pence would have left anyway as soon as he saw an unmarried couple on the kiss-cam. Actually, the real reason Pence left the game early was because he found the mascot's outfit far too revealing."

James Corden: "Some shocking news out of Hollywood after new allegations emerge that he had engaged in decades of sexual harassment, Harvey Weinstein was fired from his firm the Weinstein Co. for violating the company's very strict '27 strikes and your are out' rule. ... The fact is, his behavior left room for only two options, fire him from the Weinstein Company or elect him President of the United States."

Jimmy Fallon: "Vice President Mike Pence left the Colts game yesterday after some of the 49ers kneeled during the national anthem. Also because he heard the phrase 'man on man' and got really uncomfortable."

Jimmy Fallon: "Get this. In his speech today, Trump called Christopher Columbus a skilled navigator. Then, at his Comic-Con speech, he called Darth Vader a good dad."

Seth Meyers: "Before walking into the football game yesterday, Vice President Pence reportedly told his press pool to wait outside of the stadium in anticipation of a potential early departure. Coincidentally, 'early departure' is the only form of birth control Mike Pence approves of."

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