

Mining Public Records for Stories on Public Lands

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Workshop 1. Covering Indian Country, Public Lands and Environmental Justice in the West
SEJ 29th Annual Conference, Fort Collins, Colo.

News is about change, and there's been a whole lotta change in the management of U.S. public lands lately. The Trump administration is moving to open millions of acres to oil and gas development and recently put an outspoken critic of public lands in power at the Bureau of Land Management. This session will offer tips on how to dig out stories about what's happening and what's at stake.

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CONFERENCE SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Tobias:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ylwWVOEBFKd2ST0H9VWmnty0msTLWb2i/view?usp=sharing>

Williams:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19sEatPU50yqtcG_xdWgtA8gV9pHLqOK5/view?usp=sharing

Whitehouse:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vwz3cUKJxWe1unYpAZ52exwOXAK19N/view?usp=sharing>

RECENT INTERIOR DEPT COVERAGE BY JIMMY TOBIAS

Revealed: Trump's Wildlife Service pick has ties to anti-animal protection groups, The Guardian, Sept. 25, 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/25/trump-wildlife-service-pick-anti-animal-protection-groups-aurelia-skipwith>

'Skirting ethical rules': Trump's key staff under investigation at interior agency, The Guardian, April 23, 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/23/skirting-ethical-rules-trumps-key-staff-under-investigation-at-interior-agency>

RECENT REPORTS FROM PEW ON PUBLIC LANDS

BLM Moves to Allow Mining and Drilling on Lands Cut from Utah National Monument

Sept. 27, 2019

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/09/27/blm-moves-to-allow-mining-and-drilling-on-lands-cut-from-utah-national-monument>

BLM Plans Reveal Troubling Trend

Sept. 30, 2019

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/09/30/blm-plans-reveal-troubling-trend>

Millions of Acres of Public Lands Could Lose Protections

BLM plans across West favor development—and ignore agency's own findings

https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/07/23/millions-of-acres-of-public-lands-could-lose-protections?utm_campaign=2019-07-31+Rundown&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew

RECENT PUBLIC LANDS NEWS RELEASES FROM PEER

NO RELIEF FROM NOISY PARK AIR TOURS ANYTIME SOON

FAA TOUTS BELATED BABY STEPS IN 7 PARKS TO FORESTALL JUDICIAL INTERVENTION

Oct. 8, 2019

<https://www.peer.org/news/press-releases/no-relief-from-noisy-park-air-tours-anytime-soon.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=faba790f-63e1-4001-807b-f0dda66faf85>

NEW PARK SERVICE E-BIKE ORDER INVALID

NPS Edict Violates Federal Laws and Misinterprets Interior Directive

Sept. 16, 2019

<https://www.peer.org/news/press-releases/new-park-service-e-bike-order-invalid.html>

NATIONAL PARKS SEEK UBIQUITOUS CELL COVERAGE

Telecoms in Driver's Seat as Cell Towers Sprout Across Park Landscapes

Sept. 9, 2019

<https://www.peer.org/news/press-releases/national-parks-seek-ubiquitous-cell-coverage.html>

Other stories using public records to report on public lands:

SEJournal: Grazing on Public Lands Still a Source of Controversy ... and Stories

Oct. 9, 2019

<https://www.sej.org/publications/tipsheet/grazing-public-lands-still-source-controversy-and-stories>

Roll Call: Interior held back FOIA'd documents after political screenings

By Jacob Holzman

June 18, 2019

https://www.rollcall.com/news/interior-held-back-documents-after-political-screenings?source=post_page-----7e1ffdce6d58-----

Vice: Public Lands Agency Ordered Staff to Promote Oil and Gas on Social Media

By Sarah Emerson

Dec 11 2017, 9:30am

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/bjdm33/public-lands-agency-ordered-staff-to-promote-oil-and-gas-on-social-media-blm-flicker

Investigate West: Idle Oil, Gas Wells Threaten Indian Tribes While Energy Companies, Regulators Do Little

By Rebecca Clarren

Sept. 5, 2018

<http://www.invw.org/2018/09/05/idle-oil-gas-wells-threaten-indian-tribes-while-energy-companies-and-regulators-do-little/>

Other resources for background, story info and records on public lands:

GAO report on BLM oversight of oil and gas reclamation:

<https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-250>

Columbia Law School Sabin Center for Climate Change Law:

A database of BLM regulations, orders, guidance and planning documents to reduce GHG emissions from fossil fuel development, promote renewable energy development, and address the impacts of climate change on public lands.

<http://columbiaclimatelaw.com/resources/climate-deregulation-tracker/database/blm/>

National Renewable Energy Laboratory: Renewable Energy Potential on Tribal Lands

<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/70807.pdf>

Center for Biological Diversity: https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/

Conservation Lands Foundation: <https://www.conservationlands.org/>

Sierra Club: <https://www.sierraclub.org/explore-issues>

The Wilderness Society: <https://www.wilderness.org/>

Western Environmental Law Center: <https://westernlaw.org/>

Western Watersheds Project: <https://www.westernwatersheds.org/>