

Efforts to move top US land managers west gain a strong ally

Interior secretary is sympathetic

By DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER — From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Bureau of Land Management oversees some of the nation's most prized natural resources: vast expanses of public lands rich in oil, gas, coal, grazing for livestock, habitat for wildlife, hunting ranges, fishing streams and hiking trails.

But more than 99 percent of that land is in 12 Western states, hundreds of miles from the nation's capital. Some Western politicians — both Republicans and Democrats — are asking why the bureau's headquarters isn't in the West as well.

"You're dealing with an agency that basically has no



Scott G Winterton/The Desert News

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke rides a horse in the new Bears Ears National Monument near Blanding, Utah.

business in Washington, D.C.," said Colorado Republican U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, who introduced a bill to move the headquarters to any of those dozen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington or Wyoming. The Bureau of Land Management manages a combined 385,000 square

miles in those states.

Colorado Republican U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton introduced a similar measure in the House, and three Democrats signed up as co-sponsors: Reps. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Jared Polis of Colorado and Ed Perlmutter of Colorado.

Some Westerners have long argued federal land managers should be closer to the land

they oversee, saying Washington doesn't understand the region. Now they have a powerful ally in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a Montanan who is leading President Donald Trump's charge to roll back environmental regulations and encourage energy development on public land.

Zinke said in September he wants to move much of the Interior Department's decision-making to the West, including the Bureau of Land Management, which is part of the agency.

The Washington Post reported last month Zinke's plan includes dividing his department's regions along river systems and other natural features instead of state borders, and using them to restructure oversight.

A big part of the bureau's job is to lease drilling, mining and grazing rights on public land to private companies and individuals. That puts it at the center of a heated national debate over how those lands should be managed, and by whom.

Some recent disputes: • Much of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, created by President Barack Obama and greatly reduced by Trump, is on Bureau of Land Management land.

• Rancher Cliven Bundy's long battle against federal control of public land, which culminated in a 2014 armed standoff in Nevada, began on bureau acreage.

• More than 50,000 square miles of Bureau of Land Management land in the West is at the heart of a debate among conservationists, ranchers and energy companies over how much protection to give

the shrinking population of the greater sage grouse, a ground-dwelling bird.

The bureau manages more public land than any other federal agency, ranging from about 1 square mile in Virginia to nearly 113,000 square miles in Alaska. That doesn't include national parks or national forests, which are managed by other agencies.

It has about 9,000 employees, with fewer than 400 in Washington. The rest are scattered among 140 state, district or field offices.

"The larger issue is that states and counties that are predominated by public lands are deeply affected by decisions made by BLM," said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance in Denver, which represents the oil and gas industry. "So it makes sense (for the headquarters) to be in a state where there are a high percentage of public lands."

In Nevada, where the Bureau of Land Management manages 66 percent of the land — a bigger share than any other state — Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei called the idea intriguing but stopped short of endorsing it.

"I'm excited about the fact that they're looking at it," he said.

Amodei said he has spoken with bureau officials in Washington who know so little about Nevada they thought the land under a highway interchange was wildlife habitat.

Few say moving the bureau's headquarters would tilt its decision-making toward commercial use or preservation and recreation.

But some environmental groups question whether it would produce real benefits.

Aaron Weiss, media director for the Center for Western Priorities, said Zinke has been limiting opportunities for local comment on national monuments and BLM planning, and moving the headquarters West wouldn't reverse that.

Weiss also suggested Zinke could use a headquarters move as a cover to get rid of employees he considers disloyal. "We absolutely question his motives," Weiss said.

Zinke's spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said Weiss's claims are false. More than 2 million people submitted comments during the Interior Department review of Bears Ears and other national monuments, and Zinke held more than 60 meetings with local people, she said.

Zinke doesn't believe his proposed reorganization will result in job cuts, Swift said.

Athan Manuel, director of the Sierra Club's public lands program, said the Bureau of Land Management is already decentralized, and moving the headquarters would waste money.

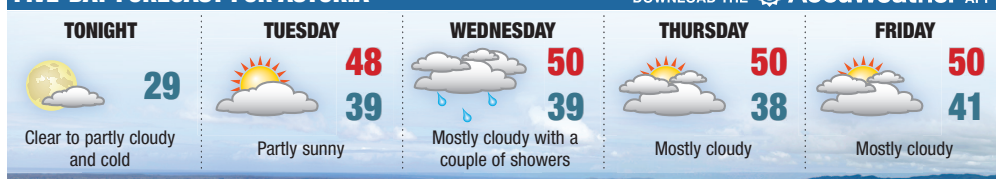
"It's a solution in search of a problem," he said.

Some Bureau of Land Management retirees also are skeptical of the move.

The bureau needs a strong presence in Washington for budget and policy talks, said Steve Ellis, who was the agency's deputy director when he retired in 2016 after 38 years in civil service, both in Washington and the West.

"The relationships in the West are so important, but the relationships in Washington are also important," Ellis said. "You need the both for the agency to be successful and thrive."

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

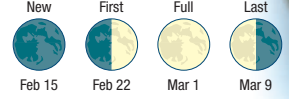
Astoria through Sunday.

Temperatures
High/low 49°/35°
Normal high/low 51°/37°
Record high 66° in 1934
Record low 21° in 1905

Precipitation
Sunday 0.00"
Month to date 1.71"
Normal month to date 2.97"
Year to date 13.07"
Normal year to date 13.17"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 5:37 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday 7:22 a.m.
Moonrise today 5:28 a.m.
Moonset today 2:50 p.m.



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Brilliant Orion is big rectangle of bright stars outlines his body, while a short line of three stars in the middle represents his belt.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

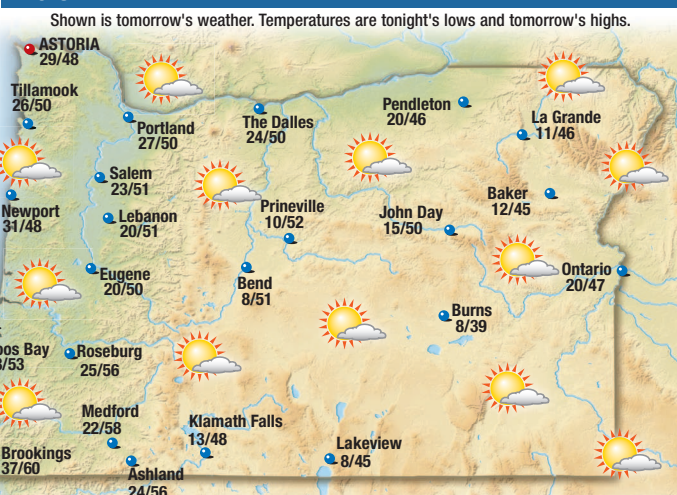
Time	High	Time	Low
12:18 a.m.	7.6 ft.	5:41 a.m.	3.3 ft.
11:30 a.m.	8.7 ft.	6:32 p.m.	0.1 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
Atlanta	58 48 c	55 46 sh
Boston	43 21 pc	32 27 s
Chicago	23 7 s	30 23 pc
Denver	25 11 c	51 33 s
Des Moines	18 11 pc	31 27 pc
Detroit	26 6 s	27 21 pc
El Paso	70 43 pc	72 47 pc
Fairbanks	23 17 sn	29 16 sn
Honolulu	83 68 pc	82 67 sh
Indianapolis	35 18 s	41 33 pc
Kansas City	35 21 s	47 36 pc
Las Vegas	62 46 pc	59 48 c
Los Angeles	61 48 c	61 48 c
Memphis	46 31 pc	59 48 pc
Miami	86 73 pc	84 71 pc
Nashville	43 32 pc	60 63 c
New Orleans	56 54 r	64 62 c
New York	46 26 c	38 31 pc
Oklahoma City	45 25 s	48 40 pc
Philadelphia	48 26 r	41 34 pc
St. Louis	36 19 s	44 36 pc
Salt Lake City	49 32 c	49 38 pc
San Francisco	61 45 s	63 46 pc
Seattle	45 29 s	47 39 pc
Washington, DC	47 28 r	43 35 pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

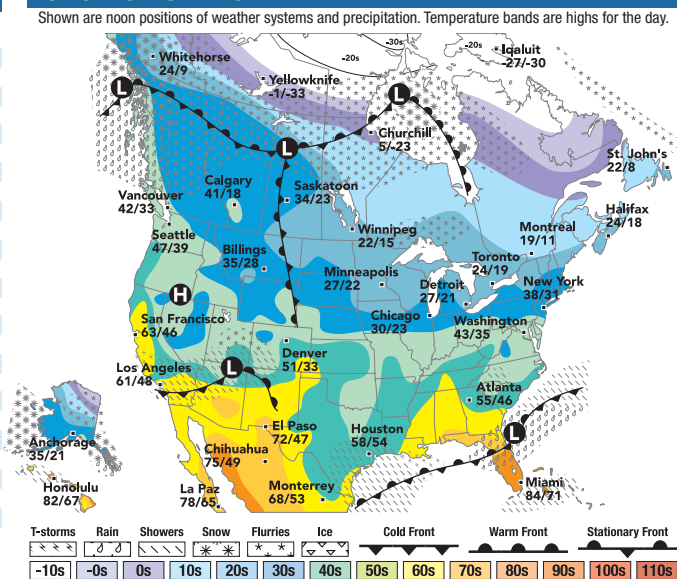
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.
Baker City	39 12 s	45 27 s
Bend	30 8 s	51 31 s
Brookings	56 37 s	58 40 s
Eugene	47 20 s	50 32 s
Ilwaco	47 31 s	47 42 pc
Klamath Falls	40 13 s	48 25 s
Medford	49 22 s	58 31 s
Newberg	47 25 s	50 35 s
Newport	47 31 s	48 38 s
North Bend	50 30 s	53 39 s
Olympia	46 22 s	49 36 pc
Pendleton	36 20 s	46 35 s
Portland	48 27 s	50 36 s
Roseburg	50 25 s	56 35 s
Salem	48 23 s	51 35 s
Seaside	48 28 s	48 40 pc
Spokane	34 19 s	39 29 pc
Springfield	48 20 s	51 32 s
Vancouver	48 25 s	50 36 s
Yakima	47 20 s	49 28 s

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



BIRTH

Jan. 17, 2018
BISSON, Cassandra and Jonathan, of Knappa, a boy,

Tobias Alexander Bisson, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents

are Nena and Richard West of Svensen and Rene and Sandra Bisson of Boca Raton, Florida.

DEATHS

Feb. 11, 2018
HANNEMAN, Jerry Mack, 70, of Chinook, Washington, died in Ilwaco, Washington. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

LARSEN, Mary J., 80, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

are Nena and Richard West of Svensen and Rene and Sandra Bisson of Boca Raton, Florida.

Feb. 9, 2018
LEWIS, Corinne M., 76, of Astoria, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries & Crematory of Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Sunday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 3-7-9-6
4 p.m.: 1-8-4-0
7 p.m.: 9-6-5-7
10 p.m.: 1-6-1-8
Sunday's Lucky Lines: 01-08-11-14-20-22-28-32
Estimated jackpot: \$26,000
Saturday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 6-3-7-0
4 p.m.: 1-7-5-2
7 p.m.: 9-3-0-9
10 p.m.: 2-3-7-6
Saturday's Lucky Lines: 02-07-11-14-17-21-25-32
Estimated jackpot: \$32,000
Saturday's Megabucks: 3-8-12-16-17-37
Estimated jackpot: \$7.8 million

Saturday's Powerball: 1-13-27-41-59, Powerball: 20
Estimated jackpot: \$203 million
Friday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 6-2-3-1
4 p.m.: 3-0-6-8
7 p.m.: 8-6-9-3
10 p.m.: 1-4-5-5
Friday's Lucky Lines: 03-07-10-14-20-23-26-32
Estimated jackpot: \$23,000
Friday's Mega Millions: 28-34-41-46-47, Mega Ball: 14
Estimated jackpot: \$153 million

58-59-60-64-71-75-76
Sunday's Match 4: 07-11-17-19
Saturday's Daily Game: 2-1-0
Saturday's Hit 5: 16-22-26-35-39
Estimated jackpot: \$350,000
Saturday's Keno: 03-06-09-12-13-16-18-22-28-37-39-42-47-51-52-59-60-65-67-73
Saturday's Lotto: 05-13-20-22-31-36
Estimated jackpot: \$1.5 million
Saturday's Match 4: 05-07-08-16
Friday's Daily Game: 2-1-5
Friday's Keno: 01-06-08-15-18-19-21-24-35-38-39-40-41-55-57-62-70-71-74-80
Friday's Match 4: 05-08-14-21

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The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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