

# US to ease oil drilling controls protecting sage grouse

By **MATTHEW BROWN**  
Associated Press

the goal to conserve sage grouse was unchanged.

"I completely believe that these plans are leaning forward on the conservation of sage grouse," Bernhardt said. "Do they do it in exactly the same way, no? We made some change in the plans and got rid of some things that are simply not necessary."

The changes drew a sharp backlash from conservation groups and wildlife advocates, who warned excessive use of drilling waivers could push sage grouse onto the list of threatened and endangered species.

"If you allow exception after exception, that might make sense for a particular project in a particular spot, but you add them all together and you have death by a thousand cuts," said National Wildlife Association vice president Tracy Stone-Manning.

The ground-dwelling grouse ranges across about 270,000 square miles in parts of 11 Western U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. Its numbers have plummeted in recent decades.



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

**Male greater sage grouse perform mating rituals for a female grouse, not pictured, on a lake outside Walden, Colo.**

Under President Donald Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to lift obstacles to drilling, and grouse protections have long been viewed by the energy industry as an obstacle to development.

Sage grouse are large, ground-dwelling birds known for an elaborate mating ritual in which males strut around breeding grounds with large, puffed-out air sacs protruding from

their chests.

They once numbered in the millions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now estimates the population at 200,000 to 500,000. Energy development, disease and other causes have decimated populations in some areas.

The Trump administration's proposal would reverse or modify the Obama-era protections in seven states — Wyoming,

Nevada, Utah, Colorado, California, Idaho and Oregon.

The oil and gas industry chafed at the old rules. Once Trump took office, industry representatives pushed the administration to give more recognition to changes in drilling practices that reduce how much land is disturbed for wells.

"We can do both — protect sage grouse and move forward with responsible energy development," said Kathleen Sgamma with the Western Energy Alliance, which represents more than 300 oil and gas companies. "We've reduced the size of well pads, reduced the numbers of wells. And we had done all these things and the prior administration assumed development was taking place like it was 20 years ago."

Governors from several western states previously raised concerns over a related federal directive from the Bureau of Land Management that would limit a type of land swap that can be used to preserve habitat for the birds.

Without land swaps and related forms of compensation

meant to offset habitat damage, the governors said it would be harder to help the sage grouse survive.

In response, the Interior Department today revised the directive to say federal officials would consider state-mandated or voluntary proposals for land swaps or similar offsets, but would not accept cash payments.

"Where there's a state requirement, we require in our permits that they comply with state requirements," Bernhardt said.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, said the announcements showed federal officials heeded the state's concerns.

"This is a great example of federal leaders listening to state leaders, valuing their expertise, and changing their plans based on that input," Herbert said in a statement.

Following today's release of environmental studies analyzing the changes in each state, governors and the public get another chance to weigh in before a final decision is expected in early 2019.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

### 2 US warplanes crash off Japan; 1 dead, 5 missing

TOKYO — One of two crew members recovered after two U.S. warplanes collided and crashed off Japan's coast early today is dead and five others remain missing, the U.S. military said.

The Marine Corps said the other recovered crew member was in fair condition.

An F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet and a KC-130 Hercules refueling aircraft collided during training about 2 a.m. after taking off from their base in Iwakuni, near Hiroshima. The seven crew members included two in the F/A-18 and five in the KC-130.

The two planes were involved in routine training, including aerial refueling, but the Marines are still investigating what was happening when the accident occurred.

The crash took place 200 miles off the coast, according to the U.S. military. Japanese officials said it occurred closer to the coast, about 60 miles, and that's where the search and rescue mission found the two crew members.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force, which dispatched aircraft and vessels to join in the search operation, said Japanese rescuers found one of the crew from the fighter jet in stable condition. The Marines said the crew member was taken to a hospital on the base in Iwakuni and was in fair condition, but did not provide any other details.

The crash is the latest in recent series of accidents involving the U.S. military deployed to and near Japan.

Last month, a Navy F/A-18 Hornet from the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan crashed into the sea southwest of Japan's southern island of Okinawa, though its two pilots were rescued safely. In mid-October, a MH-60 Seahawk also belonging to the Ronald Reagan crashed off the Philippine Sea shortly after takeoff, causing non-fatal injuries to a dozen sailors.

### Judge's order didn't end family separations at the Mexican border

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration separated 81 migrant children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border since the June executive order that stopped the general practice amid a crackdown on illegal crossings, according to government data.

Despite the order and a federal judge's later ruling, immigration officials are allowed to separate a child from a parent in certain cases — serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns. Those caveats were in place before the zero-tolerance policy that prompted the earlier separations at the border.

The government decides whether a child fits into the areas of concern, worrying advocates of the families and immigrant rights groups that are afraid parents are being falsely labeled as criminals.

From June 21, the day after President Donald Trump's order, through Tuesday, 76 adults were separated from the children, according to the data. Of those, 51 were criminally prosecuted — 31 with criminal histories and 20 for other, unspecified reasons. Nine were hospitalized, 10 had gang affiliations and four had extraditable warrants. Two were separated because of prior immigration violations and orders of removal.

"The welfare of children in our custody is paramount," said Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees U.S. immigration enforcement. "As we have already said — and the numbers show: Separations are rare. While there was a brief increase during zero tolerance as more adults were prosecuted, the numbers have returned to their prior levels."

At its height over the summer, more than 2,400 children were separated. The practice sparked global outrage from politicians, humanitarians and religious groups who called it cruel and callous. Images of weeping children and anguished, confused parents were splashed across newspapers and television.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee

Gelernt said he hoped the judge, Dana Sabraw, would order the government to alert them to any new separations, because right now the attorneys don't know about them and therefore can't challenge them.

"We are very concerned the government may be separating families based on vague allegations of criminal history," Gelernt said.

### China demands Canada release executive of tech giant Huawei

BEIJING — China today demanded that Canada release an executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei who was arrested in a case that compounds tensions with the U.S. and threatens to complicate trade talks.

Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Ltd., faces possible extradition to the United States, according to Canadian authorities. The Globe and Mail newspaper, citing law enforcement sources, said she is suspected of trying to evade U.S. trade curbs on Iran.

Huawei, the biggest global supplier of network gear used by phone and internet companies, has been the target of deepening U.S. security concerns. Under Trump and his predecessor, Barack Obama, Washington has pressured European countries and other allies to limit use of its technology.

The U.S. sees Huawei and smaller Chinese tech suppliers as possible fronts for spying and as commercial competitors. The Trump administration says they benefit from improper subsidies and market barriers.

The timing of the arrest is awkward following the announcement of a U.S.-Chinese ceasefire in a trade war that has its roots in Beijing's technology policy. Meng was detained in Vancouver on Saturday, the day Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met in Argentina and announced their deal.

Stock markets tumbled on the news, fearing renewed U.S.-Chinese tensions that threaten global economic growth.

David Mulrone, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said U.S. and Canadian business

executives could face reprisals in China.

"That's something we should be watching out for. It's a possibility. China plays rough," Mulrone said. "It's a prominent member of their society and it's a company that really embodies China's quest for global recognition as a technology power."

### France fears more riots, deploys over 65,000 security forces

PARIS — France will deploy more than 65,000 security forces amid fears of new rioting at protests Saturday in Paris and around the nation, despite President Emmanuel Macron's surrender over a fuel tax hike that unleashed weeks of unrest.

Police unions and local authorities held emergency meetings today to strategize on how to handle the weekend protests, while disparate groups of protesters did the same thing, sharing their plans on social networks and chat groups.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe told senators today that the government will deploy "exceptional" security measures for the protests in Paris and elsewhere, with additional new forces on top of the 65,000 security officers already in place.

Some "yellow vest" protesters, members of France's leading unions and prominent politicians across the political spectrum called for calm after the worst rioting in Paris in decades last weekend. Many shops and restaurants in the center of Paris plan to shut down Saturday, fearing a repeat of the violence.

Macron on Wednesday agreed to abandon the fuel tax hike, part of his plans to combat global warming, but protesters' demands have now expanded to other issues hurting French workers, retirees and students.

In a move questioned by both critics and supporters, the president himself has disappeared from public view.

Scores of protesting teens clashed with police at a high school west of Paris today, as part of nationwide student protests over new university admissions procedures and rising administrative fees.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings  
THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING													DECEMBER 6	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2 KATU	2	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas	Baking Show "Cake Week" (SP) (N)	Baking Show "Pastry Week" (N)	News (N)			(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel		
5 KOMO	4	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas	Baking Show "Cake Week" (SP) (N)	Baking Show "Pastry Week" (N)	KOMO 4 News (N)			(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel		
9 KING	5	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Superstore (N)	GoodPlace (N)	Will & Grace (N)	I Feel Bad (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Zero Tolerance"	KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show		
6 KOIN	6	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon (N)	Mom (N)	Murphy Brown (N)	S.W.A.T. "1000 Joules" (N)	News (N)	(3:5) Colbert		
7 KIRO	7	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	The Big Bang (N)	Young Sheldon (N)	Mom (N)	Murphy Brown (N)	S.W.A.T. "1000 Joules" (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	(3:5) Colbert		
8 KGW	8	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Superstore (N)	GoodPlace (N)	Will & Grace (N)	I Feel Bad (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Zero Tolerance"	News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show		
3 KRCW	3	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Supernatural "Byzantium" (N)		Legacies "Mombie Dearest" (N)		News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
10 KOPB	10	Destination Craft	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Viewer's Choice								
12 KPTV	12	(5:20) NFL Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Tennessee Titans Site: Nissan Stadium -- Nashville, Tenn. (L)		Prime News (N)	Prime News (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	10 O'Clock News (N)			News (N)	Page Six TV		
18 KPDX	18	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)	Prime News (N)	Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game			
20 KCPQ	13	(5:20) NFL Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Tennessee Titans Site: Nissan Stadium -- Nashville, Tenn. (L)		Gameday	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)			News (N)	The Simpsons			
20 TBS	20	Nightly Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Guest Book	Seinfeld		
23 KZJO	22	Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
29 ESPN	29	Champ.Drive "Path to the Playoff" (L)		Studio "The Herbie Awards" (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)			
30 ESPN2	30	H.S. Basketball (L)		Champ.Drive "Path to the Playoff" (N)		The Herbie Awards (N)		Interruption		First Take	The hottest topics in sports are debated.			
61 NICK	31	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Double Dare	Double Dare	To Be Announced			Friends	(3:5) Friends		
62 DISN	32	Raven's Home 3/3	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Coop & Cami	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
34 FAM	34	(4:50) Christmas With the Kranks		(5:5) **** Toy Story (95, Ani) Voices of Tim Allen, Don Rickles, Tom Hanks.		(5:5) **** Toy Story 2 (99, Ani) Voices of Tim Allen, Kelsey Grammer, Tom Hanks.		(20) *** Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping Andy Samberg.		(20) *** Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping Andy Samberg.	The 700 Club			
35 FMC	35	Movie	(3:5) ** Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising (16) Rose Byrne, Seth Rogen.			*** Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping Andy Samberg.		(20) *** Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping Andy Samberg.		(20) *** Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping Andy Samberg.	The 700 Club			
38 LIFE	36	Dear Secret Santa (2013, Drama) Jordyn Sparks, Bill Cobbs, Tatyana Ali.		Jingle Belle (2018, Romance) Cornelius Smith Jr., Loretta Devine, Tatyana Ali.		(05) A Twist of Christmas (2018, Family) Brendon Zub, Vanessa Lachey.								
38 ROOT	38	Supergirl Pro	Champions Tennis Champions Classic QOO Series			Press Pass (N)	The Fantasy Football Hour (N)	UFC UFC Fight Night 43						
39 F51	39	(5:00) NCAA Basketball Iowa/Ia. (L)		UFC "231: Holloway vs. Ortega"		Speak for Yourself		TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.		Fair Game			
43 SPIKE	43	Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Vincent D'Onofrio, Will Smith.		Men in Black II				
44 COME	44	(1:15) The Office	(5:0) The Office "Safety Training"	(2:5) The Office		The Office	The Office	The Office 1/2	The Office 2/2	The Office 1/2	The Office 2/2	The Daily Show (N)	The Office	
45 HIST	45	American Pickers "Catch-32"		American Pickers "Junkyard Wizard"		American Pickers "Pickin' Like it Hot"		American Pickers "Pickin' the 60s" (N)		(0:05) CurseOak (N) / (1:10) Pickers	(0:05) American Pickers "Bucking Bronco"			
46 A&E	46	The First 48 "A Man's Game"		Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	PD Cam	PD Cam	(0:5) PD Cam	(3:5) PD Cam	
47 TLC	47	90 Day Fiancé "Ready to Run"		To Be Announced		Return to Amish "Leaving Everything Behind"		To Be Announced		Return to Amish "Donut Season"		Return to Amish "Sabrina's Surprise"		
48 DISC	48	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Exp. Unknown "Lost Aircrafts" (N)		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		
49 NGE0	49	Drugs, Inc. "Cocaine"		Lockdown "Chaos Control"		Lockdown "Female Felons"		Hard Time "Hustles and Scams" (N)		Lockdown "Gangland"		Lockdown "Female Felons"		
50 TNT	50	(5:00) NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at Boston Celtics (L)		NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Utah Jazz Site: Vivint Smart Home Arena -- Salt Lake City, Utah (L)		*** National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (89) Chevy Chase.		*** National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (89) Chevy Chase.		(15) *** National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (89) Chevy Chase.				
61 AMC	61	*** Elf (2003, Comedy) James Caan, Bob Newhart, Will Ferrell.		NCIS "Need to Know"		NCIS "The Good Son"		*** It's a Wonderful Life (1946, Drama) Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart.		*** It's a Wonderful Life (1946, Drama) Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart.		Modern Family	Modern Family	
52 USA	52	NCIS "Need to Know"		NCIS "The Good Son"		*** It's a Wonderful Life (1946, Drama) Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart.		*** It's a Wonderful Life (1946, Drama) Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart.		*** It's a Wonderful Life (1946, Drama) Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart.		Modern Family	Modern Family	
53 FOOD	53	Beat Bobby Flow	Beat Bobby Flow	Cookie Challenge	Christmas Surprises	Cookie Challenge	Christmas Gifts	Christmas Cookie Challenge		Beat Bobby Flow	Beat Bobby Flow	Beat Bobby Flow	Beat Bobby Flow	
54 HGTV	54	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	FlipFlop ATL (N)	FlipFlop ATL (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
58 FX	58	(5:30) *** Sicario (2015, Crime Story)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		
57 CNN	57	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		
58 FNC	58	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		
61 CNBC	61	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63 TRM	63	Top Chef "Island Fever"		Top Chef "Last Supper"		Top Chef "Finale"		Top Chef (N)		(1:15) Top Chef		(1:15) Watch (N)	(4:45) Dirty John	
64 B&E	64	Movie	**** 42nd Street (1933, Musical) Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell.		(1:15) **** Footlight Parade (33) Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler, James Cagney.					(1:15) **** Gold Diggers of 1933 (33) Ruby Keeler, Joan Blondell.				
65 SYFY	65	(4:10) Pirates of the Caribbean: On ...		(1:0) *** Iron Man 3 (2013, Action) Gwyneth Paltrow, Guy Pearce, Robert Downey Jr..						Nightflyers "Greywing" (N)		(5:5) Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead...		
102 RFD	102	SF Machinery (N)	Small Town (N)	Rural America "Live" (N)		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Grown	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library		