

Judge overturns Trump administration actions in areas for sage grouse

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A federal judge on Thursday overturned a Trump administration action that allowed mining and other development on 10 million acres in parts of six western states that are considered important for the survival of a struggling bird species.

U.S. District Judge Lynn Winmill said the decision under former President Donald Trump, a Republican, to cancel a prior effort to ban mining failed to fully consider how the move would affect greater sage grouse, a wide-ranging, chicken-sized bird that has seen a dramatic population drop in recent decades.

Winmill said the 2017 cancellation was arbitrary. He ordered the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to reconsider whether mining should be allowed.

The Idaho-based judge's ruling does not revive a temporary mining ban imposed under former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, which expired while the issue was in dispute. Whether that happens will be up to the admin-



Dan Cepeda/Casper Star-Tribune
A male sage grouse struts in the early morning hours outside in Wyoming in 2015.

istration of President Joe Biden, also a Democrat, said attorney Michael Saul of the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the environmental groups that sued over the Trump administration's actions.

Saul said he was not aware of any major mining projects that moved forward in the affected areas under Trump.

"That's a lot of habitat for sage grouse, but it's not a lot of land compared to all of the federal estate" that's open for mining, he said.

From giving neighbor to Grinch

Dear Annie: I have a good one for you, Annie. This past Christmas, I assembled Italian-dinner care packages for two of my neighbors, with jars of my homemade sauce, homemade meatballs, Italian bread and boxes of spaghetti. For one of the neighbors, I also included a nice candle and a throw blanket. She had knee surgery last year, and I wanted her to know I was thinking of her. She has three grown sons so I included a lot of meatballs and sauce. To the other neighbors, I gave just the sauce and meatballs. The young children in that family wrote me a thank-you note.

For one friend, "Sherry," I made a Christmas tree out of fabric (with lights on it) and a scarf made of pompoms — real pretty. I gave her husband, "Raymond," an antique truck with small added Christmas trees, like the truck was hauling the trees. I gave another set of friends, "Mary" and "Will," my crafted tree and truck, too, along with sausage, cheese and crackers.

I got a few gifts from Sherry and Raymond but nothing from Mary and Will or any of my neighbors. I called and left a voicemail with the ones who did give me a gift and asked to give me a call if they were happy with the gifts I gave them. I never heard a word of thanks from anyone. I wasn't upset they gave me nothing, but I was hurt and upset that I didn't even get a thank-you. I did call one couple and let them know I would not be exchanging gifts next year. I have had it, doing for others and receiving nothing in return. How rude people are. I work and I have limited time and still I worked hard on the things I gave them and can't even get

a thank-you. What do you think about that? — *No, Thanks*

Dear No, Thanks: My advice to your neighbors and friends would be to send thank-you notes when they receive gifts, especially thoughtful homemade gifts like yours. It was inconsiderate of them not to.

But you're the one who wrote me, so here's my advice to you. If you want to spare yourself future resentments, give gifts unconditionally or don't give them at all. You have limited time, as you mentioned, and there are better ways to spend it than inventorying presents and cataloguing grudges.

Dear Annie: I'd like to share my thoughts for "Not Ready for the Earhorn," who was frustrated with the volume mix

of television shows: Please, get your hearing checked. I had the same problem with hearing the TV dialogue. I went to the doctor about it and was diagnosed with hearing loss. My hearing aids are Bluetooth and barely noticeable and have improved my quality life. My mother denied a hearing problem, which I think contributed to her decline due to Alzheimer's. While there is not a direct causal link, I hope that by seeking this solution for my hearing problems, rather than denying that they exist, I can avoid her problem. — *Happy to Hear*

Dear Happy to Hear: A study from Johns Hopkins found that even mild hearing loss doubles dementia risk. Between that statistic and your firsthand testimonial, I hope those who might be experiencing hearing loss will be encouraged to make an appointment with an audiologist today.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.



Vinnie Arcadio - Master Technician

Renae Nelson - Owner
Lacie Nelson - Assistant Technician



Hi Lisa,
I just wanted to drop a note to say how pleased I am working with you and The Astorian. Your expert skill and years of knowledge in working with the public and companies like Lucky Duct comes shining through the phone. You have navigated us through the abundant options with regular success in reaching a wider audience and expanding our business. In addition to regularly attending to artwork changes, staying within my budget guidelines, you always let us know when grants or specials were available too.
We all need to have things and people we can count on every time and on time; this has been spot-on! I have confidence the advertising is working well for us! I sincerely look forward to more opportunities to service our community and working with a local individual like yourself whom represents with the upmost integrity creates certainty for more to come.
Thank you Lisa and my gratitude to The Astorian for having you on my extended team.

Personally, Renae Nelson, owner



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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DARK YELLOWISH-BROWN COLOR THAT PICKLES TURN WHEN THEY SIT OUT AND BECOME SPOILED: CUKE UMBER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals B

2-13 **CRYPTOQUIP**

V L M - O R Z S Z V K L M L E R L Q Z
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I Z O O C W A L W F Z A Q U G Y X Z K .
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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

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