



The city of Grand Junction as seen from the Colorado National Monument.

Photographer: Michael Ciaglo/Bloomberg via Getty Images

BLM's Western Move a Step Toward Agency Abolition, Ex-Chiefs Say

By Chuck McCutcheon

Jul. 22, 2019 6:55AM

Two ex-Bureau of Land Management chiefs under former Presidents Clinton and Obama say the agency's relocation to Colorado is an early step toward abolishing the agency and transferring federal land to the states, Bobby Magill writes.

Some politicians in the West have long opposed federal management of public land. Utah passed a law in 2012 demanding, thus far unsuccessfully, that Congress transfer more than 30 million acres of federal land to the state.

The BLM this month hired a champion of the land transfer movement as its deputy director of policy and programs—William Perry Pendley, former president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, which is dedicated to defending property rights.

Automakers Join National Academies at Carbon Forum

The National Academies is launching a new initiative focused on deep decarbonization, and is kicking off the project with a workshop exploring the technologies needed to achieve massive cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The workshop today and tomorrow will discuss what can be done in a broad group of sectors, including power, transportation, and industry.



Former Rep. Ryan Costello (R-Pa.)
Photographer: Alex Wong/Getty Images

Representatives from companies including Cargill Inc., Mars Inc., Exxon Mobil Corp., Toyota Motor Company, and Volkswagen are scheduled to speak along with former Rep. Ryan Costello (R-Pa.). He's now managing director of Americans for Carbon Dividends, a group advocating for a business-backed proposal to fight climate change with a carbon tax. Look for Abby Smith's coverage.

What Else We're Watching

Malcolm Woolf is becoming the National Hydropower Association's new president and CEO. Woolf has been a senior vice president with Advanced Energy Economy and head of the Maryland Energy Administration and an energy adviser to ex-Gov. Martin O'Malley (D). Woolf has also worked for the National Governors Association, EPA, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Daisy Letendre, who served as the lead for the EPA's Smart Sectors program, is leaving to work for FirstEnergy Corp. "She is a true professional and her leadership helped

advance this administration's regulatory reform agenda and improved how the agency works with the regulated community to ensure sound environmental policies," EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said.

Insights

Climate Adaptation Must Be Part of Agriculture Programs Agricultural development must include climate adaptation strategies to address priority climate vulnerabilities and help sustain productivity and food security, Lorine Giangola and Sarah Kozyn, of Abt Associates write.

Legal Spotlight: Chesapeake Bay Stirs Baker Donelson Lawyer's Interest

Maryland-based environmental lawyer Charles Schaller was first introduced to the mid-Atlantic region when he took a part-time job delivering sailboats from Newport, R.I., to Annapolis, Md., as a college student.

"Coming in through the Chesapeake Bay just opened my eyes on how beautiful it was down here," Schaller recalled.

Now, much of Schaller's work revolves around representing agribusiness clients and other industrial groups that make use of the Chesapeake Bay. In June, he started a new job with national law firm Baker Donelson's environmental and real estate groups at their Baltimore office.

"The firm has a nice footprint throughout the Southeast," he said. "My goal is to solidify and enhance that environmental regulatory practice group."

Schaller got his start in environmental law doing work related to Superfund sites. That's what got him interested in the regulatory component of environmental issues, he said. He's also often involved in compliance enforcement matters.

"You have access to transportation routes, you have high density population," he said. "All of those competing uses, if you will, are trying to maximize their goals, and so that's what makes it exciting" in the Chesapeake region. —*Maya Goldman*

This Week's Events

On the Hill:

Tuesday, 10 a.m. Freely Associated States Senate energy panel holds hearing on Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau with officials from the Interior and Energy departments.

Tuesday, 10 a.m. Nord Stream 2 Senate Foreign Relations Committee marks up several bills including S. 1441, which would sanction vessels involved in constructing the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline project that connects Russia to Germany.

Tuesday, 2:15 p.m. Waterfronts Senate commerce panel's science, oceans, fisheries, and weather subcommittee explores economic, recreational, and environmental challenges facing U.S. waterfronts.

Tuesday, 4 p.m. Federalism House Oversight's government operations panel looks at federalism.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. Decarbonization House Energy and Commerce's environment and climate change panel explores pathways to decarbonizing the economy.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. Human-Predator Conflict Senate environment panel discusses the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize, a monetary award to encourage innovation in wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking and poaching, as part of solutions to reduce human-predator conflict.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. Climate House Budget Committee looks at health, security, and other costs from climate change.

Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. OSTP House Appropriations' Commerce-Justice-Science panel holds hearing on the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Wednesday, 2 p.m. PFAS House Oversight's environment panel examines contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, and the need for corporate accountability.

Wednesday, 2 p.m. Reclamation House Natural Resources' oversight panel discusses the status of the Reclamation Fund and the Bureau of Reclamation's future infrastructure funding needs.

Thursday, 10 a.m. Member Day House Energy and Commerce Committee holds member day hearing in which lawmakers can highlight specific legislation or issues of importance.

Thursday, 10 a.m. Energy Innovation Senate energy panel examines importance of energy innovation to economic growth and competitiveness.

Thursday, 10 a.m. Chemistry House science panel's research subcommittee looks at innovations in sustainable chemistry.

Thursday, 10 a.m. Renewables House Natural Resources' energy subcommittee holds hearing on H.R. 3794, a bipartisan bill aiming to promote development of wind, solar, and geothermal energy on public lands.

Thursday, 10 a.m. Legislation House Natural Resources' water, oceans, and wildlife panel holds hearing on nine bills.

Thursday, 2 p.m. Interior House Natural Resources' oversight panel scrutinizes scientific integrity at the Interior Department.

Thursday, 2 p.m. Climate House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis examines business views on the cost of climate change.

Elsewhere:

Monday-Wednesday, All Day NARUC National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners holds Summer Policy Summit in Indianapolis.

Monday, 10 a.m. Regulation House Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access holds field hearing in Tulsa, Okla., on how regulations affect small business growth.

Monday, 4 p.m. Hurricanes House science panel's environment subcommittee holds field hearing in Houston on improving hurricane resiliency through research.

Tuesday-Thursday, All Day Hydropower HydroVision International conference occurs in Portland, Ore.

Tuesday, All Day Nuclear Nuclear Energy Institute holds Nuclear Fuel Supply Forum.

Tuesday, 10 a.m. Emergency Preparedness House Homeland Security's emergency preparedness panel looks at emergency preparedness for underserved populations at field hearing in Jersey City, N.J.

Tuesday, 10 a.m. Coal U.S. Energy Association holds briefing on coal generation as a tool for grid flexibility and stability.

Tuesday, Noon Products Regulation Environmental Law Institute hosts forum on the law and policy of products regulation.

Tuesday, 2 p.m. Conservation Northeast-Midwest Institute will discuss how conservation programs can be more effective by delving into the specifics of various Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects.

Wednesday-Thursday, All Day Renewables Clean Cities Renewable Power Procurement conference in Denver features cities discussing renewables strategies.

Wednesday, 1 p.m. Carbon Pricing Center for Climate and Energy Solutions sponsors forum on carbon pricing.

Wednesday, 4 p.m. Grid Modernization Capitol Hill forum on grid modernization features Paul Dabbar, the Energy Department's under secretary for science.

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. Electricity Grid Farella Braun + Martell LLP and Environmental Law Institute sponsor forum/teleconference on Western grid regionalization issues.

Thursday, 7:45 a.m. Electrification POLITICO sponsors discussion on potential benefits, costs and impacts of consumer-driven mass electrification in the U.S. featuring Sen. Angus King (I-Maine).

Thursday, 11:45 a.m. Carbon Capture Global CCS Institute, Carbon Capture Coalition, Carbon Utilization Research Council hold luncheon briefing on economic and environmental benefits of carbon capture.

Thursday, Noon CARB The California Air Resources Board holds its monthly meeting. The agenda includes a discussion of prescribed burns and air quality, and the state's transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Friday, All Day Climate Environmental Business Council New England's Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Summit in Smithfield, R.I., features Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)

Friday, 12:15 p.m. Justice D.C. Bar Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Community and Environmental Law Institute sponsor luncheon with Jeffrey Bossert Clark, assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Around the Web

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced a \$2 million grant program to clean up the Great Lakes' shorelines and waters.

The EPA says it's gotten 51 letters of interest collectively requesting \$6.6 billion in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding. That amount is above the \$6 billion the agency is offering.

The Agriculture Department spiked the release of a climate change plan that was finalized in the Trump administration's early days, POLITICO reports.

To contact the reporter on this story: Chuck McCutcheon in Washington at cmccutcheon@bloombergenvironment.com

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Gregory Henderson at ghenderson@bloombergenvironment.com; Susan Bruninga at sbruninga@bloombergenvironment.com