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CORPS CLEANS UP ONE PROTEST CAMP, TWO TO GO



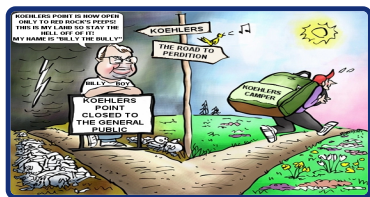
PHOTO BY MIKE MCCLEARY - BISMARCK TRIBUNE

LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTERED THE OCETI SAKOWIN CAMP ON FEB. 23 TO BEGIN ARRESTING THE LAST DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE PROTESTERS IN MORTON COUNTY NEAR CANNON BALL. AS THE ARRESTS WERE UNDERWAY, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL DROVE SOME LARGE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT INTO THE CAMP TO BEGIN THE CLEANUP PROCESS OF RAZING TENTS AND STRUCTURES BEFORE HIRED CONTRACTORS TOOK OVER.

BY LAUREN DONOVAN - BISMARCK TRIBUNE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finished cleaning up the main Dakota Access Pipeline protest camp at the end of day Thursday, a full week after moving in

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TODAY'S QUOTE
 THOSE WHO DO NOT
 REMEMBER THE PAST
 ARE CONDEMNED TO
 REPEAT IT.

with its contractors.

The Oceti Sakowin camp was the largest of three occupied camps on corps-owned land along the Cannonball River in southern Morton County. All three sprung up in opposition to the nearby Dakota Access crude oil crossing under the Missouri River/Lake Oahe.

Corps spokesman Capt. Ryan Hignight said the final tally of debris removed from the camp by all contractors was just over 2,000 cubic yards of material requiring more than 600 roll-off dumpsters.

The corps awarded a bid of slightly more than \$1 million for its part of the work, which is in addition to cleanup contractors brought in earlier by both Standing Rock and Morton County, he said.

Once occupied by thousands of people, the camp had dwindled to a few hundred before it was evacuated Feb. 22 in a mostly peaceful process, though 46 people were arrested for failing to leave as ordered.

The corps contractors are still working on clearing out the Rosebud camp on the south side of the Cannonball River and expect to finish that over the weekend, he said.

The corps will next focus on cleaning the Sacred Stone spirit camp near the reservation town of Cannon Ball, the first camp to be established almost a year ago in April. Sacred Stone was vacated on Tuesday and Wednesday, after the Bureau of Indian Affairs served a finding of trespass on those occupying the camp. The camp ending was relatively quiet and undramatic.

Much of Sacred Stone is on corps property taken for flooding of Lake Oahe, though some of the campsites on higher ground were on Department of Interior land held in trust for the tribe. LaDonna Brave Bull Allard established the camp and has a one-fifteenth interest in the trust land, while the tribe has a two-thirds ownership. Allard organized a Gofundme fundraising account for Sacred Stone and received just over \$3.1 million from 62,000 donations, with donations still coming in Friday.

GEORGE SANTAYANA
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