

Conversation Contents

Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs report 11/06

Attachments:

/3. Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs report 11/06/1.1 DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-06-17.docx

"Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/06/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC

- 11/6 – Secretary returns to DC
 - o Remarks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- 11/7 – DOI Veteran's Day Ceremony
 - o Lunch with Gary Cohn, NEC
 - o Meeting with Miccosukee Tribe

- o Meeting with Secure America's Future Energy (SAFE)
- 11/8 – Remarks at National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Annual Board of Directors Meeting
 - o Meeting with Mosaic
 - o Participate in the reading of names at the Vietnam Memorial
- 11/9 – Meeting with PG&E CEO Geisha Williams
 - o Meeting with Tom Spoehr, The Heritage Foundation
- 11/10 – Mounted Tour of Manassas National Battlefield
- 11/11 – Participate in Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial
 - o Participate in 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington National Ceremony
 - o Remarks at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Meeting with John Sandy, COS for Senator Risch
 · Attend National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reception

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Thursday, 11/2)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- ***Multiple Inquiries on EITI*** Questions are being directed to the State Department.
- ***Multiple Inquiries*** Six environmental groups sued Interior and the White House Council on Environmental Quality over FOIA requests the groups said Interior and the WH CEQ aren't honoring.— **RESPONSE--** Please contact DOJ for any questions regarding litigation.
- **New York Times:** (Lisa Friedman)—**REQUEST—** Does Interior have any comment on the National Climate Assessment Volume 1 out today? The main finding is that humans have been the dominant cause of atmospheric and ocean warming over the past half century, and that climate change poses an urgent risk to U.S. communities and economic sectors. Does Mr. Zinke accept the finding scientists from 13 government agencies including DOI? —**RESPONSE—** Please direct questions about the report to NOAA.
- **E&E News:** (Kellie Lunney)—**REQUEST--** Wanted to see if Interior had any comment on Senate and House Democrats Oppose Delay of BLM Waste Prevention Rule, Urge Zinke to Save Taxpayer Money and Protect Public Health . Can take something up until about 3:45—**RESPONSE—**“As part of President Trump's America-First Energy Strategy and executive order, the Department has reviewed and flagged the Waste Prevention rule as one we will suspend, revise or rescind given its significant regulatory burden that encumbers American energy production, economic growth and job creation. The rule is expected to have real and harmful impacts on onshore energy development and could impact state and local jobs and revenue. Small independent oil and gas producers in states like North Dakota, Colorado and New Mexico, which account for a substantial portion of our nation's energy wealth, could be hit the hardest.”

Top Stories

- **THE HILL:** [Greens sue Trump for national monument documents](#)
- **E&E News:** [Groups sue for public records on Zinke review](#)
- **Helena Independent Record (MT):** [Politicians tarnish Montana's image](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Monday, DOI will announce a new FACA board related to public/private partnerships.

Secretary Zinke is (b) (6) at his home in Montana. The Secretary will return on Monday.

AGENCY MEDIA (UPDATED)

WEEK AHEAD November 1 thru November 9, 2017 (submitted 11/2)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- Soon we plan to announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- **November 6:** the "Stream Protection Rule" (related to OSMRE) will hit the Federal Register. Comms materials are forthcoming.
- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November/December TBD:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act. Pending WH review.

National Park Service

- **November 6 (tent.):** (EMBARGOED UNTIL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) (b) (5)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.
- **November TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 2 – 16:** Scoping meetings for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans will be held in the following Western cities and towns:
 - o Nov. 2: Twin Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 6: Cheyenne, WY; Idaho Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR
 - o Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT
 - o Nov. 9: Ely, NV, Craig, CO
 - o Nov. 14: Vernal, UT
 - o Nov. 15: Cedar City, UT
 - o Nov. 16: Salt Lake City, UT
- **November 6:** BLM Acting Director Michael D. Nedd will attend the National Mining Association/BLM Sustainable Development Awards in Washington, D.C. The awards are presented by the BLM to hardrock mining companies that demonstrate high quality examples of responsible mineral resource development. The awards recognize work in the areas of sustainable development, environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security
- **November 7:** BLM will participate in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting provides an opportunity for the BLM to interact with NFWF's Board and staff and to learn more about the conservation programs supported with the annual \$3 million appropriation.
- **November 8:** The Department of Justice will host an evidence review of the Erskine Fire at the BLM-CA Bakersfield Office. Attorneys from DOJ, DOI, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and

private parties will attend.

- **November 9:** BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will hold an annual public meeting to discuss development and monitoring of performance standards in regard to its Fortification Creek management.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **November 8: USGS Media Advisory:** USGS will issue a media advisory announcing that groundwater and geology will be surveyed using low-flying helicopter in Southern California to collect and record geophysical measurements for scientific research purposes as part of the California Oil, Gas, & Groundwater Program.
- **November TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **November 8 (tent.): National NSEE Release:** BSEE will issue a press release regarding an update on Gulf of Mexico Region well permits being approved.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (Updated)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400. Witness is pending.

Timing: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.

Timing: Thursday, November 9, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 63

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (updates in bold)

Accepted:

- 11/6 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Reception (DC)
- 11/7 - DOI Veterans Day Ceremony (DC)
- 11/8 – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
- 11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)
- 11/10 – Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)
- 11/11 - 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony (DC)
- 11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)
- 11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

- 11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)
- 11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)
- 11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)
- 11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)
- 11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)
- 11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

Port Aransas Barge Oil Spill

The U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas General Land Office, and Bouchard Transportation representatives have completed the response to the oil discharged from a barge three miles off the jetties of Port Aransas, Texas. Beach assessment and cleanup teams have finished removing the oil that impacted the shorelines of Mustang Island, North Padre Island, and Corpus Christ Bay Islands. The Natural Resource Trustees and other stakeholders have certified that the shoreline is back to pre-event conditions. Agencies will continue to regularly monitor the area even though they are returning to normal operations. DOI assets in the area have not reported any shortfalls or long-term impacts from this incident. Barring a significant change, additional reporting is not expected.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump Move Stirs Debate Over Utah Monuments.

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Cullen) reports that President Trump's announcement last week that he intends to reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah has "stoked local divisions over land use, with all sides anticipating a protracted battle over the move." According to the article, "on one side, Native American groups and environmentalists expressed anger and are ready to sue the U.S. government." Meanwhile, "on the other, conservative-leaning residents welcomed the decision, seeing it as a reversal of government overreach and a boost for traditional industries like drilling, mining and grazing."

Interior Review Omits Oil And Gas Rule.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/3, King) reports that last week, the Interior Department "unveiled its review of all department actions with the potential to burden domestic energy activity." The report "touched on the department's ongoing examination of rules introduced by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service under the previous administration to guide oversight of oil and gas operations on sites the agencies manage." However, "beyond a mention of Secretary Ryan Zinke's secretarial order listing four Interior rules pinpointed in President Trump's March 28 'energy independence' directive, the NPS rule doesn't even appear in the document." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift explained, "The NPS rule was under review. No action has been taken or identified for it, which is why it is not in the report."

Trump's Exit From Anti-Corruption Pact Helps Big Oil Hide How Much It Pays In US Taxes.

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/4, Kaufman) reported that the Interior Department announced Thursday the United States would withdraw immediately from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), "a move critics said could help oil companies keep hidden how much they pay in U.S. taxes." [NPR](#) (11/3, Chappell) reported that the EITI is designed to collect and share government and corporation data showing "how much money is being paid and received for oil, gas, mining and renewable energy operations on public lands." Since the summer, the US has cited multiple factors as obstacles to remaining in the group, including the Trade Secrets Act and tax reporting laws. However, "a State Department spokesperson says the U.S. will remain as one of 17 'supporting countries' of the initiative."

On Eve Of Asia Trip, Trump Pays Visit To Pearl Harbor.

The [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) reports President Trump "paid a solemn visit to the memorial at Pearl Harbor," in what the AP called "a sacred journey" in preparation for his trip to Asia, "shadowed by fears of another international conflict." Before going, the President said, "We are going to visit very shortly, Pearl Harbor, which I've read about, spoken about, heard about, studied, but I haven't seen. And that is going to be very exciting for me." At the memorial, the President and Mrs. Trump gave a wreath which was placed "near a wall of names of the

fallen.” Afterwards, they “tossed white flower petals into the waters above the battleship’s sunken hull.” The President, added the AP, “appeared moved by the visit.” Meanwhile, he “said not a word about North Korea or its nuclear ambitions on Friday.”

Proposed Entrance Fee Hikes At National Parks Could Backfire And Push Visitors To Annual Passes.

The [Denver Post](#) (11/3, Blevins) reports that “a plan to bump entrance fees at the 17 busiest national parks to \$70 from \$30 during the peak summer months will help parks struggling to cover the tab for long-delayed upkeep as crowds continue to surge.” However, “if that peak-season pricing plan is deployed next summer, the anticipated spike in demand for \$80 America the Beautiful annual passes – a mere \$10 extra for a year’s access to about 2,000 federal recreation sites – could hinder the National Park Service’s quest to balance cost-sharing between visitors and the federal government.” Emily Douce, the director of budget and appropriations for the National Parks Conservation Association, said, “It is unknown how these proposed increases will impact the parks and the people who visit them, but it does seem reasonable that people will see the bargain in buying the America the Beautiful annual pass for entry into all our national parks and other federal lands. Our concern is how much analysis did the administration undergo to understand the implications of these fee increases.”

Activists Behind A Rejected 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman In D.C.

Have A New Plan: A 26-foot Digital Artwork Of A Naked Woman. The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Stein) reports that the activists who “wanted to place a 45-foot-tall statue of a nude woman on prime land on the Mall” now “want to erect a 26-foot-tall scaffold covered on two sides by 26-foot-tall digitized portraits of a nude woman.” The National Park Service “hasn’t finalized the permit for the structure, but Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the agency, said it is in the final stages of issuing it.” Natalie White, a spokeswoman for the “Catharsis on the Mall” festival, “said that after the Park Service rejected the group’s initial permit application, women behind Catharsis decided they still wanted to promote a message of female empowerment.” She “said activists are making the best of the situation while still fighting to bring the original 45-foot statue to the Mall.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 3rd.

REG0007482 NPS NIC - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, Alaska N2856 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, AK. The human remains were removed from Crafton Island, AK. Notice 11/03/2017

REG0007526 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC N2870 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/03/2017

REG0007581 NPS NIC - Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI N2871 --This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI. The human remains were removed from Barry County, MO, and an unknown location in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/03/2017

REG0007584 NPS NIR - Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI N2872 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25, U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the Osage Nation (previously listed as the Osage Tribe) that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/03/2017

REG0007589 NPS National Register of Historic Places, October 21, 2017 The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 21, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 11/03/2017

REG0007590 NPS National Register of Historic Places, October 28, 2017 The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 28, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 11/03/2017

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison

Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

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 - o Remarks at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Principals Committee meeting on Hurricane Recovery at White House

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Thursday, 11/2)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- ***Multiple Inquiries on EITI*** Questions are being directed to the State Department.
- **Earther Gizmodo Media Group:** (Yessenia Funes)—**REQUEST**— I'm doing a story on the tribal response to the President's intention to shink Bears Ears. They are saying that the president and Interior Secretary Zinke never met with or consulted them on these decisions. I was hoping to have a comment on why that is the case. Perhaps the department did attempt? If so, how and when?—**RESPONSE**—That is patently false. The Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition on May 7th in Salt Lake City and the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions over the 120-day review period. Additionally, the Secretary had multiple conversations with Tribal leaders throughout the process.
- **E&E News:** (Pamela King)—**REQUEST--** We corresponded a couple weeks ago about the Fish and Wildlife's "Management of Non Federal Oil and Gas Rights" and the National Park Service's "General Provisions and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights" in reference to an *Energywire* story checking in on the status of Interior's responses to President Trump's "energy independence" executive order. Now that Interior's regulatory review has been released, I saw that there were few details on what direction the department will take on these rules. With respect to the FWS rule, the report says the service is "reviewing" the rule. The NPS rule is not mentioned, except for a reference to its inclusion in Secretary Zinke's March 29 secretarial order implementing the "energy independence" order. Does this indicate that NPS is not moving forward with a review of that rule? Are there any additional details available about the review (or lack thereof) of either of these rules? I've set a hard deadline of 4 p.m. eastern time tomorrow. Our newsroom will have a scheduled power outage tomorrow, and we are required to file early.—**RESPONSE--** The NPS rule was under review. No action has been taken or identified for it, which is why it is not in the report. I have no additional information on the USFWS rule.

Top Stories

- **E&E News:** [Interior official compares \\$70 entry fee to cost of a movie](#)
- **Morning Consult:** [Most U.S. Voters Oppose Fee Hikes for National Parks](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Puerto Rico governor slams 'unacceptable' recovery effort by Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- **Colorado Public Radio:** [Why National Monuments In The West Put Presidential Powers In The](#)

[Hot Seat](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Principal Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Greg Sheehan had a Senate Hearing regarding the Alaska 10-02.
- Tomorrow, DOI will announce a new FACA board related to public/private partnerships.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is (b) (6) at his home in Montana. The Secretary will return on Monday.

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National Park Service

- **November 3:** George Washington Memorial Parkway will host a ribbon cutting at Jones Point Park to celebrate the completion of a volunteer construction project. The park worked with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) to rehabilitate a 60-year-old fishing pier. This project is the 100th completed by USA in parks across the country and was supported by volunteer labor and donated materials. USA will host a youth conservation and fishing event before the ceremony.
- **November 4:** NASA astronaut Jack Fischer will visit Rock Creek Park and present a public program at 4 p.m.
- **November 6 (tent.):** (EMBARGOED UNTIL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) (b) (5)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November 3 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a news release regarding the opening of the public comment period for the Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions FWS will request comment on include the policies' reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies' references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives.
- **November 3 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.
- **November 3 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will announce the final

administrative step in the process to repeal regulations that were published in 2016 regarding the non-subsistence take of wildlife, public participation, and closure procedures for national wildlife refuges in Alaska. This administrative step has been taken in response to a congressional resolution to nullify them under the Congressional Review Act, which was signed by the President in April 2017.

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 - o Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR
 - o Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT
 - o Nov. 9: Ely, NV, Craig, CO
 - o Nov. 14: Vernal, UT
 - o Nov. 15: Cedar City, UT
 - o Nov. 16: Salt Lake City, UT
- **November 6:** BLM Acting Director Michael D. Nedd will attend the National Mining Association/BLM Sustainable Development Awards in Washington, D.C. The awards are presented by the BLM to hardrock mining companies that demonstrate high quality examples of responsible mineral resource development. The awards recognize work in the areas of sustainable development, environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security
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U.S. Geological Survey

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- **November TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3

FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **November 8 (tent.): National NSEE Release:** BSEE will issue a press release regarding an update on Gulf of Mexico Region well permits being approved.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (Updated)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400. Witness is pending.

Timing: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.

Timing: Thursday, November 9, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 62

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 25 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (updates in bold)

Accepted:

11/6 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Reception (DC)

11/7 - DOI Veterans Day Ceremony (DC)

11/8 – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/10 – Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park

11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)

11/11 - 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony (DC)

11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)

11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

10/30-11/3 – International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)

11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)

11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)

11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:

In support of FEMA interagency response and recovery efforts, OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) pertaining to the removal of ships on DOI lands in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. USFWS is also assisting the USCG with environmental issues, federal land delineation, and identification of abandoned vessels in Puerto Rico. While a limited number of stranded

vessels have been identified on Culebra NWR and Vieques NWR, over 80 vessels have been documented at two parks on St. John and St. Thomas.

OEPC is also assisting interagency efforts pertaining to natural and cultural resources by conducting damage assessments on historical collections and the structures that house them. In Puerto Rico, OEPC is coordinating with NPS, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Library of Congress, FEMA, and the Smithsonian. OEPC is also providing assistance to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Discussions are underway for OEPC to provide similar assistance in the U.S. Virgin Islands once needs are identified.

Field Coordinators who will lead the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF) have been identified from NPS (for the U.S. Virgin Islands) and USFWS (for Puerto Rico). These personnel are engaged in preliminary planning for the NCR RSF, with an OEPC Field Coordinator bridging the gap between the response and recovery activities.

In Texas, OEPC remains activated under the NCR RSF and are being supported by two team members from NPS. The Mission Scoping Assessment is complete and a draft is being compiled to outline recovery strategies.

DOI has 27 employees from bureaus and offices supporting the FEMA Surge Capacity Force. The group is comprised of volunteers that are located in Puerto Rico, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nevada, and Florida. FEMA has concluded that additional DOI personnel are not needed in support of this mission. DOI also has 24 employees supporting, or are scheduled to provide support to, the Small Business Administration (SBA). The group is comprised of volunteers working in New York, Texas, California, Virginia, Florida, and Washington, D.C. The Office of Emergency Management is working with the SBA to deploy an additional 60 DOI personnel for SBA.

Internal bureau and office-specific Hurricane response and recovery activities:

USFWS Stations within Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands continue to mitigate post hurricane impacts. All stations throughout the Caribbean are reporting adequate life sustaining commodities and services. The last two Fish and Wildlife Officers detailed to provide security at Vieques NWR began demobilization travel yesterday and no additional resources are ordered or needed at this time. USFWS continues debris clean-up, stabilization and preparation of damaged structures for demolition or replacement, and is working to re-establish a stable IT network.

Stations in Florida and South Carolina continue to mitigate post hurricane impacts and efforts have been placed on structural and roof damages that require construction contracting. USFWS is still acquiring replacement equipment and vehicles for damaged or destroyed units. Significant efforts are being placed on re-opening all public use areas including trails and other areas not addressed by deployed incident management team assets.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Senators Spar Over Proposal To Drill In Alaska Wildlife Refuge.

[The Hill](#) (11/2, Henry) reports that "lawmakers on Thursday fought over the possibility of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), the opening act of a legislative push to allow oil production in the Alaskan Arctic." According to the article, "Republicans from Alaska and on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee cast drilling in the refuge as an operation that can be done safely and one that would help the economies in both the state and the nation." However, "Democrats vowed to fight drilling there, saying the area is too ecologically important to allow industrial production."

U.S. To Exit Global Anti-Corruption Effort Aimed At Oil Money.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Dlouhy) reports that the Trump Administration said it plans to exit a global anti-corruption initiative that requires oil, gas, and mining organizations to disclose the payments they give to international governments. Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's natural resources revenue office, wrote in a letter to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative that the US government "remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector and the ideals of transparency enshrined in the EITI principles," but "domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the US legal framework." Bloomberg notes that "in February, amid oil industry pressure, Trump signed a congressional resolution" repealing an SEC rule "that required oil, gas and mining companies publish the payments they make to governments." The rule, mandated under Dodd-Frank, "was seen as critical to compelling disclosure and satisfying the EITI requirements."

Rosselló Denies Reported Ties To Whitefish Energy.

Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/2) about claims that his campaign manager is a lobbyist for Whitefish Energy. Rosselló said, "He has no ties to that effort. I personally have no ties. I had nothing to do with this contract. ... As soon as the allegations came about with Whitefish, I did two things. Number one, I invoked two investigations. Those investigations are ongoing. And secondly, even if we didn't have the information, on the best interest of the people of Puerto Rico, I decided to cancel that contract."

Eisenhower Memorial Commission Gets Digging.

[Roll Call](#) (11/2, Connolly) reports that Sen. Pat Roberts delivered the "final remarks at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial's groundbreaking Thursday." The commission has "set a target date to complete and dedicate the memorial on May 8, 2020, the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in the Second World War." According to the article, "every hurdle has been cleared after the National Park Service on Monday issued the Eisenhower Memorial Commission a permit to begin construction."

BLM Takes Step To Undo Gas Venting And Flaring Rule.

[Law360](#) (11/2, Phillis) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday "sent to the White House for review a proposal to rescind or revise an Obama-era regulation aimed at limiting venting and flaring from gas wells on federal lands, which is the final step before it is made public." The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, "which is part of the executive branch, posted a brief notice that said it received the BLM's proposal."

Offshore Drilling: House Panel Looks For Common Ground.

The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (11/3, Topper) reports that environmentalists, business leaders and legislators hesitant about offshore energy development are seeking opportunities to work with oil advocates to limit the impact of offshore drilling. According to Frank Knapp, president and CEO of the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce, "If we can get the petroleum industry to agree to force the technology to come up with a testing procedure that has very minimalistic impact on marine life, and if we can get the industry to tell BOEM to require only one exploration that everybody would have to share instead of five of them for a whole year, we'd have something to talk about." Knapp, along with other environmentalists, has been tasked with working with Bonnie Loomis, director of the S.C. Petroleum Council to come up with a potential agreement regarding offshore surveying. According to Loomis, "I believe seismic is coming. I believe that the permits will be issued early in 2018. I think that we owe it to ourselves to work to manage that change."

Yellowstone Grizzlies May Soon Commingle With Northern Cousins.

The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Robbins) reports that the bears in Yellowstone National Park, "protected from hunting, have been cut off from the rest of their kind," and "their closest kin prowl the mountains some 70 miles north, in and around Glacier National Park." In a new study, "biologists say that as grizzly populations increase in both Glacier and Yellowstone, more adventurous males from both parks are journeying farther to stake out territory, winding up in places where they have not been seen in a century or more." If the bears "keep roaming and expanding, the two populations will likely reconnect, perhaps as soon as five or 10 years from now." Frank van Manen, leader of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, said, "It's very encouraging for the long-term future of the bear."

Interior Official Compares \$70 Entry Fee To Cost Of A Movie.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2, Hotakainen) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Thursday "defended a plan to charge \$70 for a peak-season entry fee at 17 of the busiest national parks next year, saying it's roughly the same cost as taking his family to a 3-D movie." Bernhardt "said park fees have not kept pace with inflation." He added "that higher fees would not keep most low-income Americans from visiting the parks, adding that a bigger problem for them is the cost of transportation and lodging associated with traveling to the parks."

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

No notices were sent to the Federal Register for November 2.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

Conversation Contents

Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/2

Attachments:

/9. Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/2/1.1 DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-02-17.docx

"Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 02 2017 11:26:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Alex Hinson <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Eli Nachmany <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>, "Getto, Leila" <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/2
Attachments: DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-02-17.docx

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/02/17
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: Secretary is (b) (6)

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Attend Groundbreaking Ceremony for Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
Meet with Jim Herz, OMB

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Wednesday, 11/1)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- Reuters: (Andrew Cullen)–REQUEST— I am seeking information regarding the upcoming

changes to Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as announced by President Trump last Friday. Specifically I am seeking information about the new boundaries of those monuments, how much their respective sizes will be decreased, and what will remain within the monuments after Presidential action is taken. Also; what will Tribal involvement be in the management of Bears Ears NM after the president's action? Finally, where in Utah, and when, will the President be when he takes action on this matter? Our deadline is tomorrow morning at 10 am EST.—RESPONSE—The Department has no new announcements on the monument review at this time. Please contact the White House concerning the President's schedule.

- **Morning Consult: (Iulia Gheorghiu)—REQUEST--** A Morning Consult poll shows that 52% of voters oppose the increases - 36% support them and 11% do not have an opinion. (I'd be happy to share more details and the crosstabs for the poll if you're interested. The question we posed was: As you may know, it currently costs between \$25 to \$30 for a private vehicle to enter a U.S. national park during peak season. Would you support or oppose increasing this fee to \$70, in order to pay for improvements to national parks such as roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, and bathrooms?) What is the Interior's response to a majority of Americans opposing the increase to the U.S. national park fee to \$70 (from the current \$25-\$30)? Have any members of Congress issued their support for this proposal? Will the Interior Department respond to the letter that [Senators sent last week](#) regarding their opposition to the fee increase? This is for a forthcoming story with a deadline of 10 a.m. on Thursday.—RESPONSE--TBD

Top Stories

- Salt Lake Tribune: [Championing 'American energy dominance,' feds to scrap master plans for leasing public lands](#)
- Colorado Public Radio: [Hickenlooper, Wyoming's Mead, Warn Against Big Changes To Sage Grouse Plan](#)
- Alaska Journal: [Renewed optimism under Zinke's Interior Department for King Cove](#)
- Denver Post (Letter to the editor): [Should the U.S. raise entrance fees for national parks?](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Tomorrow, Principal Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Greg Sheehan has a Senate Hearing regarding the Alaska 10-02.
- This week, DOI will announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is (b) (6) at his home in Montana.
- FYI- Secretary Zinke's birthday is today.

AGENCY MEDIA (UPDATED)

WEEK AHEAD November 1 thru November 9, 2017 (submitted 11/2)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is (b) (6). He will return to Washington on Monday. He will be visiting Glacier National Park this Saturday as part of his vacation.
- Soon we plan to announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- November 6: the "Stream Protection Rule" (related to OSMRE) will hit the Federal Register. Comms materials are forthcoming.
- November 2: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan will

testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about the Alaskan 1002 Area. WH will have talking points shortly to use if asked. *Wall Street Journal* is working on a preview story which we expect will be balanced.

- November 2: DOI/ONRR will send a letter to the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) to officially withdraw from the Initiative. WH has the letter and talking points.
- November TBD: National NPS Release: Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- November/December TBD: Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act. Pending WH review.

Interior Social Media Updates

- November 1: Department-level blog post: DOI published a blog post for Native American Heritage Month and highlighting the Department's work.
- November 2 (tent.): Department-level release: DOI and BLM will issue a release announcing that Sabinoso Wilderness is now open to the public.

National Park Service

- November 1: Local NPS Release: Arches National Park to announce the public comment period on a plan to help alleviate traffic and parking congestion. The park has developed a Traffic Congestion Management Plan (TCMP) to address vehicle traffic and parking congestion problems that affect visitor access, visitor enjoyment, and resource conditions. The TCMP proposes a reservation system for entrance during peak visitation season and peak visitation hours. To be released on November 1.
- November 1: El Malpais National Monument plans to reduce the days and hours of operation at the El Malpais Visitor Center from seven to five days per week, and from eight hours per day to seven. Since 1999, the NPS managed the center with help from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management through a multi-agency agreement to share operational expenses. Both agencies recently terminated the agreement due to budget constraints. As a result, NPS modified its schedule at the visitor center to cover funding shortages for personnel and operations. In July, the monument previously closed its Information Center for the remainder of the calendar year due to available staffing.
- November 1: Death Valley National Park anticipates the release of two Environmental Assessments for a 30-day public review. Both projects address damage that resulted from a major rainstorm and extensive flash flood in 2015 at Scotty's Castle and for Bonnie Clare Road and utilities.
- November 2: Local NPS Release: A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for the Eisenhower Memorial, which will be administered by National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA). Final approvals have been granted by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. NAMA anticipates issuing a construction permit in late October, with completion tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
- November 2: The Capitol Reef National Park superintendent will meet with the offices of Sen. Lee (R-UT), Sen. Hatch (R-UT), and Rep. Stewart (R-UT) to provide an overview of the Capitol Reef National Park's Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- November 3: George Washington Memorial Parkway will host a ribbon cutting at Jones Point Park to celebrate the completion of a volunteer construction project. The park worked with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) to rehabilitate a 60-year-old fishing pier. This project is the 100th completed by USA in parks across the country and was supported by volunteer labor and donated materials. USA will host a youth conservation and fishing event before the ceremony.
- November 4: NASA astronaut Jack Fischer will visit Rock Creek Park and present a public program at 4 p.m.
- November 6 (tent.): (EMBARGOED UNTIL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) (b) (5)

- **November 3 (tent.): National FWS Release: FWS will issue a news release regarding the opening of the public comment period for the Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions FWS will request comment on include the policies' reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies' references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives.**
- **November 3 (tent.): National FWS Release: FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.**
- **November 3 (tent.): Local FWS Release: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will announce the final administrative step in the process to repeal regulations that were published in 2016 regarding the non-subsistence take of wildlife, public participation, and closure procedures for national wildlife refuges in Alaska. This administrative step has been taken in response to a congressional resolution to nullify them under the Congressional Review Act, which was signed by the President in April 2017.**
- **November TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.**
- **November TBD: FWS News Bulletin: FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.**

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 1–2: BLM-MT will host a tribal consultation meeting at the Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings to discuss tribal issues and matters of interest related to the Denbury Resources, Inc. CO2 Pipeline and Enhanced Recovery Project (in southeast Montana); the BNI Coal Ltd. expansion proposal, "BNI-2" (in western North Dakota); and various fire fuels reduction projects in eastern Montana. Tribal Council Presidents/Chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from 17 tribes have been invited to the meeting.**
- **November 2: Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval will dedicate a section of Highway 140 in memory of BLM firefighters Will Hawkins and Jacob O'Malley, who were killed in a vehicle accident.**
- **November 2 – 16: Scoping meetings for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans will be held in the following Western cities and towns:**
 - o **Nov. 2: Twin Falls, ID**
 - o **Nov. 6: Cheyenne, WY; Idaho Falls, ID**
 - o **Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR**
 - o **Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT**
 - o **Nov. 9: Ely, NV, Craig, CO**
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- **November TBD: Local USGS Release: USGS** will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **October 26 - November 1: A six-member team** from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.
- **November 2: Deputy Commissioner of Operations David Palumbo** will be the keynote speaker at Columbia Basin Development League conference in Moses Lake, Washington.
- **November 2: At a Newton Town Council meeting,** Reclamation will discuss the public safety risk and proposed closure of unauthorized target shooting around Newton Dam in Utah. This is part of a preliminary process to consult with local stakeholders and to encourage development of a safe alternative site away from the Reclamation dam and reservoir.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM** issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM** will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).
- **November TBD: GOMR Sale 249** closeout NTS.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **November 8 (tent.): National NSEE Release: BSEE** will issue a press release regarding an update on Gulf of Mexico Region well permits being approved.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (Updated)

SENR HEARING RE: ALASKA 1002 AREA EXPLORATION: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski) will hold a full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Non-Wilderness Portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Section 1002). This will be a contentious hearing. Greg Sheehan (Principal Deputy Director, FWS) will be testifying on behalf of the Department. Timing: Thursday, November 2, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee is holding a legislative hearing on H.R. 221 (Rep. Don Young of AK), To reauthorize the Hydrographic

Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes. "Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act"; H.R. 1176 (Rep. Chellie Pingree), To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a Working Waterfront Task Force and a working waterfronts grant program, and for other purposes. "Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act"; and S. 140 (Sen. Jeff Flake), To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund. The Department will be providing a statement for the record on S. 140, per the Committee's request.

Timing: Thursday, November 2, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400. Witness is pending.

Timing: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.

Timing: Thursday, November 9, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 62

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 25 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/6 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Reception (DC)

11/7 - DOI Veterans Day Ceremony (DC)

11/8 – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/10 – Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park

11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)

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11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

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Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

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12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

On October 31, the Wildland Fire National Preparedness Level (PL) was lowered to PL 1, the lowest level possible. Large wildland fire and initial attack activity has decreased significantly nationally, and there is very little mobilization of resources from the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). The change to PL 1 also signifies that the likelihood of significant wildland fires is expected to remain minimal. As of this morning, there are still over 1,300 personnel fighting fires in the U.S., including 197 DOI personnel.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative

The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency

Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction. In a [letter](#) today, Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, told the EITI board chair in Norway that "U.S. laws prevent us from meeting specific provisions of the EITI standard." "While the U.S. government remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector... it is clear that domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the U.S. legal framework," Gould wrote in the letter, released by the advocacy group Publish What You Pay. Jana Morgan, director of PWYP's U.S. chapter, said in a statement that the U.S.' participation in the EITI was "stymied" because most companies declined to disclose their tax payments. "To be clear, U.S. law does not prevent oil, gas or mining companies from voluntarily disclosing their taxes — common practice in the dozens of EITI implementing countries," Morgan said in a statement. The move comes on top of Republicans' use of the Congressional Review Act earlier this year to [nullify](#) a Securities and Exchange Commission regulation developed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that would have required public disclosure of payments made by fossil fuel extractors to foreign governments. **WHAT'S NEXT:** The U.S. will remain a "supporting country" to the initiative, Gould said. *To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/trump-administration-pulls-out-of-resource-transparency-initiative-095114>

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

[Politico](#) (11/1, Lippman) interviewed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for a piece on his birthday. When asked about President Trump, Zinke responded, "The President is delivering on his campaign promises and is draining the swamp every day. Unemployment is down; the stock market is up. It's not easy or even popular, at times, draining the swamp, but the work needs to be done to make America great again. I have never worked for someone with so much energy and instincts than President Trump, and I am honored to be part of his team." Zinke also highlighted "a return to multiple use of our public lands." He said, "At Interior we are working to better manage our land at the ecosystem level to ensure the long-term health of the land. We are also expanding Americans' access to public lands. It's a mission worth fighting for."

Championing 'American Energy Dominance,' Feds To Scrap Master Plans For Leasing Public Lands.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, Maffly) reports that Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke has released a new 44-page report, which is "aimed at lifting barriers to development on public lands." Commenting on President Trump's leadership, Zinke said that the "Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations" while being environmentally responsible. The programs that may be removed or altered include "the Bureau of Land Management's master leasing process; its methane flaring and venting rule; hydraulic fracturing regulations; and its coal leasing program."

As Wyoming Prepares Change To Coal Bonding Rules, Feds Announce Walk Back.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/1, Richards) reports that "proposed Wyoming rules for coal mining may fill a void in the Cowboy State created by the Trump administration's push for deregulation within the industry." The Trump Administration is "considering whether to halt proposed Obama-era rules that discourage self-bonding." Meanwhile, the state's Department of Environmental Quality is "nearly finished with a preliminary update to state regulations, including self-bonding, said Keith Guille, spokesman for the department."

Awaiting Trump's Coal Comeback, Miners Reject Retraining.

[Reuters](#) (11/1, Volcovici) reports "despite broad consensus" about the "bleak future" of coal, "a years-long effort to diversify the economy of this hard-hit region away from mining is stumbling, with Obama-era jobs retraining classes undersubscribed and future programs at risk under President Donald Trump's proposed 2018 budget." The current president "has promised to revive coal by rolling back environmental regulations and moved to repeal Obama-era curbs on carbon emissions from power plants." Reuters adds "what many experts call false hopes for a coal resurgence have mired economic development efforts here in a catch-22: Coal miners are resisting retraining without ready jobs from new industries, but new companies are unlikely to move here without a trained workforce. The stalled diversification push leaves some of the nation's poorest areas with no clear path to prosperity."

Senate Energy Gears Up For Alaska Drilling Fight.

[Roll Call](#) (11/1, Dillon) reports that at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, Republicans in favor of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration are expected to argue “improvements in drilling technology over the past decade will minimize potential damage to the environment.” The assertion may “rile committee Democrats” who plan to raise the specter of oil spills as a reason not to allow drilling in the reserve. Erik Milito, director with the American Petroleum Institute, said that “the natural gas and oil industry’s long record of production on the Alaska North Slope demonstrates that resources at ANWR could be developed in an environmentally responsible way,” concluding, “opening it would be an important step toward increasing American competitiveness and securing our nation’s energy future.”

Group Cries Foul Over Cell Service Expansion In National Parks.

[Courthouse News](#) (11/1, Reese) reports that cellphone towers are propagating “around the country in the last frontier of cell coverage: national parks and national forests.” A recently filed complaint filed with the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General “claims national parks across the United States are allowing cell coverage to spread into wild backcountry areas without public involvement, without getting paid and sometimes without knowing who owns the towers.” Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility “said in its Oct. 30 letter to Mary Kendall, deputy inspector general for the U.S. Department of Interior, that Yosemite National Park is the latest national park in America to allow cellphone towers to be built without adequate government or public oversight.”

Want To Go To Arches? You May Soon Need A Reservation, Under A New Park Service Plan.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, Maffly) reports that Arches National Park on Wednesday “unveiled a proposal for a reservation system that it hopes will reduce the crush of visitors, but may irritate some who are unable to plan ahead.” The plan would “limit park entries during certain three-hour windows between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. over the March-through-October high season.” According to the article, “park officials emphasized the point of the plan is not to limit the number of visitors, but to spread visitation out during the course of the day and throughout the year.”

How To Help National Parks Without Soaking American Families.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/2, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, director of the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, writes that “if the National Park Service moves ahead with its latest proposal to drastically increase entrance fees, countless American families will be locked out of the natural beauty and grandeur of our national parks.” Anderson argues that “our national parks should be within reach of every citizen.” He asserts that “we cannot allow these natural wonders to become another economic divide, where hardworking Americans are once again left on the outside looking in while only the wealthy get to experience our national treasures.”

When Horses Go Wild.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (11/1, O’Toole), Sharon O’Toole, a rancher near Savery, Wyoming, writes that the wild horse issue, “which dominates the Western United States as more than 70,000 excess horses damage the landscape, will be front and center in Washington when the Senate Appropriations Committee debates the Interior appropriations bill.” O’Toole urges Congress to “support the sale of wild horses without restriction.” She argues that “the current situation, in which taxpayers support at least 70,000 excess horses, leaves us with no end in sight — not in numbers, not in funding, not in ecological damage.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Wednesday, November 01:

REG0007567 FWS 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations -- This final rule on 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing regulations will allow the Service to increase access in response to Secretary's Orders 3347 and 3356. This rulemaking will provide the annual update to the existing regulations in 50 CFR Part 32. Final Rule 11/01/2017

REG0007447 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2232 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007448 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2235 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007449 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2233 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007450 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2234 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007451 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX N2858 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007573 OSM Effectuating Congressional Nullification of the Stream Protection Rule under the Congressional Review Act -- Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed and the President signed a resolution of disapproval of the OSMRE's Stream Protection Rule (SPR), which took effect on January 19, 2017. By operation of the CRA, the SPR must be treated as if it had never taken effect. This document instructs the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and to reinstate the regulatory text that was in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the SPR. Final Rule 11/01/2017

**Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694**

Conversation Contents

Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 10/30

Attachments:

/11. Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 10/30/1.1 DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 10-30-17.docx

"Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Oct 30 2017 11:21:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Alex Hinson <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Eli Nachmany <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>, "Getto, Leila" <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 10/30
Attachments: DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 10-30-17.docx

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 10/30/17
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: Secretary is (b) (6)

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: NEC PCC: ESA Section 7 meeting at WH EOB

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Friday, 10/27)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- E&E News: (Maxine Joselow) --REQUEST—As I'm the regulations reporter for E&E News. I'm

in charge of helping with our Q&A section, and I was wondering if you'd be able to set up a short phone interview with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's wife Lola Zinke for a Q&A. I understand Ms. Zinke is very busy, so the conversation could be as short as 15 minutes, and it could occur anytime in the next month or so. I'm just hoping to ask her about leading Sen. John Tester's campaign, traveling with her husband, and other matters related to her daily life and activities.--
RESPONSE-- The Department does not facilitate Mrs. Zinke's schedule.

· Reuters: (Susan Heavey)—**REQUEST--** Does the Interior Dept or the secretary have any comment on this (FEMA statement on Whitefish Energy contact)? Also, can you tell us what is on the agenda for the secretary's meeting with the president later today?—**RESPONSE—** "I had absolutely nothing to do with Whitefish Energy receiving a contract in Puerto Rico. Any attempts by the dishonest media or political operatives to tie me to awarding or influencing any contract involving Whitefish are completely baseless. Only in elitist Washington, D.C., would being from a small town be considered a crime. "Neither myself nor anyone in my office has advocated for this company in anyway. After the initial contract was awarded, I was contacted by the company, on which I took no action. All records, which are being made available to appropriate officials, will prove no involvement. "I welcome any and all investigations into these allegations, and encourage the Interior Department's Inspector General to investigate this matter fully."

Top Stories

- Washington Post: [Trump says he will shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a sacred tribal site in Utah](#)
- Los Angeles Times: [Trump plans to shrink two national monuments in Utah, senator says](#)
- THE HILL: [White House: Zinke told Trump he had 'no role' in Puerto Rico contract](#)
- Washington Examiner: [Ryan Zinke tells Trump he had no involvement in \\$300 million Whitefish contract for Puerto Rico power grid](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, (b) (5).
- Next week, Secretary Zinke is (b) (6).

AGENCY MEDIA (UPDATED)

WEEK AHEAD October 18 thru October 26, 2017 (Submitted 10/18)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- Secretary Zinke will be (b) (6) next week (Oct. 31-Nov. 3).
- Next week we plan to announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.

Interior Social Media Updates

- November 1: Department-level blog post: DOI will publish a blog post for Native American Heritage Month and highlighting the Department's work.

National Park Service

- October 30: Local NPS Release: Rock Creek Park will close the Old Stone House in Georgetown for approximately 1 year for fire suppression and rehabilitation work. The house and bookstore will remain open through Sunday October 29 with modified hours. Historic furniture and items have been removed from the house in preparation for the rehabilitation project.
- October 31: Local NPS Release: Glacier National Park will notify the public of the availability of the park's Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. Following the public review

and comment period, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties surrounding Lake McDonald, which includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **November 2: Local NPS Release:** A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for the Eisenhower Memorial, which will be administered by National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA). Final approvals have been granted by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. NAMA anticipates issuing a construction permit in late October, with completion tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **October TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.
- **October TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 1–2: BLM-MT** will host a tribal consultation meeting at the Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings to discuss tribal issues and matters of interest related to the Denbury Resources, Inc. CO2 Pipeline and Enhanced Recovery Project (in southeast Montana); the BNI Coal Ltd. expansion proposal, "BNI-2" (in western North Dakota); and various fire fuels reduction projects in eastern Montana. Tribal Council Presidents/Chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from 17 tribes have been invited to the meeting.
- **November 2: Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval** will dedicate a section of Highway 140 in memory of BLM firefighters Will Hawkins and Jacob O'Malley, who were killed in a vehicle accident.
- **November 2 – 16: Scoping meetings** for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans will be held in the following Western cities and towns:
 - o Nov. 2: Twin Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 6: Cheyenne, WY; Idaho Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR
 - o Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT, Craig, CO
 - o Nov. 9: Ely, NV
 - o Nov. 14: Vernal, UT
 - o Nov. 15: Cedar City, UT
 - o Nov. 16: Salt Lake City, UT
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **October 30 (tent.): Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **October 30: Status Hearing on Columbia River System Operations EIS (OR).** In Portland, Oregon, Federal District Court Judge Michael Simon will receive updates to the status

report as part of ongoing litigation. The status conference hearing is scheduled for November 28. Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have four remaining years to complete the court-ordered EIS.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **October/November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.**
- **Nov TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).**

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- **October 30: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE will announce the winners of its 2017 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards. The awards are presented in partnership with the National Mining Association and will be formally presented on Nov. 6, 2017 in Wash, D.C.**

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING ENR HEARING: The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is holding a hearing to receive testimony on the potential for oil and gas exploration and development in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as the “1002 Area” or Coastal Plain, to raise sufficient revenue pursuant to the Senate reconciliation instructions included in H. Con. Res. 71.

Timing: November 2, 2017 at 9:30am

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12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

Declining

10/30-11/3 – International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)

10/30 – Interstate Mining Compact Commission Mid-Year Meeting (DC)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)

11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)

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12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

Hurricane Response/Recovery:

NPS continues to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard and FEMA to address damaged vessels displaced due to recent hurricane activity. NPS crews are in the process of obtaining a count of the number of displaced vessels within the boundaries of the Caribbean National Parks, and are also searching for and marking underwater debris that may create a navigation hazard. At this time, approximately 180 vessels have been identified, with an unknown amount that may be submerged. Most of the displaced vessels are located at St. John.

USGS continues to support response efforts in Puerto Rico and has received a new Mission Assignment from FEMA to identify, flag, and survey high water marks for approximately 20 communities flooded by riverine or coastal flooding. Additionally, a team of five scientists from the USGS Landslides Hazards Program continue to provide detailed on-site analysis and technical assistance to FEMA in developing operational response plans. USGS crews have repaired approximately 75-percent of all gages that were damaged during Maria and Irma, and USGS continues

to assist the National Weather Service with flood forecasting and warning missions.

The Department of Homeland Security reports that, in Puerto Rico, power has been restored to approximately 29 (+3)-percent of customers and the expectation is that 95-percent of Puerto Rico will be restored by December 15. Potable water has been restored to more than 80 (+5)-percent of clients served by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. Water levels at the Guajataca Dam continue to recede and evacuations are expected to be lifted around November 1. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, grid power has been restored for 31 (+1)-percent of the population on St. Thomas, 3 (no change)-percent on St. Croix, and efforts on St. John are expected to begin in two to three weeks. The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority estimates 90-percent of the power will be restored by November 23.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Puerto Rick Gov. Rosselló Announces Cancellation Of Whitefish Energy Contract.

On Sunday, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló announced the cancellation of energy firm Whitefish Energy's contract with the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/29, story 5, 2:00, Llamas), Victor Oquendo reported on the "shock announcement from the governor." Rosselló: "I have asked the board of the power authority to invoke the cancellation clause in the contract immediately." Oquendo: "That contract with Whitefish Energy could soon be scrapped after the revelations the Montana power company had just two employees when it was awarded a massive \$300 million contract to restore power across the island," and that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "hails from the same town the company is based in." [Politico](#) (10/29, Wilhelm) reports that Zinke said on Friday that he had "absolutely nothing to do" with the awarding of the contract to Whitefish."

Trump Plans To Shrink Two National Monuments In Utah.

The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Friedman) reports Sen. Orrin Hatch on Friday "said...that President Trump had told him the administration would shrink" Bears Ears National Monument, created by former President Obama, and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, established by former President Clinton, based on the recommendation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said a final report would be released 'shortly,'" but she "did not confirm whether the president has signed off on it in part or in whole." Sanders said, "I'm not going to get ahead of the president's announcement on the specifics of that, but I can tell you he will be going to Utah in the first part of early December and we will release more details at that point, if not before."

Interior Department Kickstarts Initiative To Get Veterans Back Into America's Wild.

[Breitbart](#) (10/27, Wong) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday welcomed "a gathering of veterans, hunting, and wildlife groups" for a "meeting to discuss how to improve access for hunting and fishing for veterans, particularly wounded warriors and those with PTSD." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "hosted the gathering to kickstart the initiative, one of his big priorities at the department." Addressing the group, Zinke said, "Our veterans are spending more time overseas than they are at home. And it has an effect on the VA. It has an effect on communities because normal has become over there, rather than over here, so I'm concerned about the experience when they come home that our public lands are once again returned to the people." Zinke continued, "Hunting and fishing is part of our legacy. And a lot of veterans are part of our hunting and fishing experience, and I am concerned that we've seen a lack of access, roads being closed, the wilderness, even."

FOREST BILL HITS THE FLOOR: The House is expected to this week consider legislation [H.R. 2936 \(115\)](#) from Rep. [Bruce Westerman](#) that would overhaul a host of forest management activities and that sponsors claim will address fire-borrowing, streamline environmental review processes and minimize litigation. Critics [say](#) it undermines crucial environmental protections by using "the specter of wildfire to facilitate commercial logging on national forests shielded from public scrutiny and environmental review." The House Rules Committee [meets](#) on the measure Halloween at 5 p.m.

Deadline Near For Tribal Members To Claim Settlement Money.

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that "American Indian tribal members and their descendants have until Nov. 27 to ask for their share of the remainder of \$3.4 billion in settlement money awarded to Native Americans after a major class-action lawsuit against the federal government." U.S. District of Columbia District Court Judge Thomas Hogan set the deadline in a January order, "after it was apparent that efforts to find tribe members to entitled to the award money listed as 'whereabouts unknown' were no longer as successful." According to the article, "unclaimed funds that remain after

the deadline passes will be added to the Cobell Educational Scholarship Fund.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/27, Wilson).

Tribal Leaders Call Land-Use Bill Step In Right Direction.

The [AP](#) (10/29, Windes) reports that “tribal leaders backed a House bill Wednesday that would give tribes the ability to control more of their land, instead of having to get federal approval for virtually any use.” The American Indian Empowerment Act would “let tribes shift federally controlled trust land to ‘restricted fee land,’ a move that could save millions of dollars that tribes now spend on ‘burdensome regulation,’ while restoring a level of tribal sovereignty.” The article adds that “while they called the bill a step in the right direction, however, witnesses said they are concerned about ambiguities in the thin, three-page bill that ‘could allow state or local governments to implement property taxes on tribal land,’ among other issues.”

How A 672,000-Gallon Oil Spill Was Nearly Invisible.

The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Caron) reports that when an oil pipeline owned by LLOG Exploration, lying about a mile below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, fractured in early October, about 672,000 gallons of oil escaped, in what appears “to be the largest since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010.” However, “hardly any of it was visible” on the surface, as “the oil seemed to have completely disappeared.” The oil, under high pressure and seeping through a small fracture, escaped in droplets measured in microns, according to Lt. Cmdr. Steven Youde of the Coast Guard. Much of the oil was eaten by oil-degrading bacteria, with larger droplets that rose to the surface broken down by “sunlight, wind and wave action.”

Lawmakers: High User Fees Could Hurt Acadia, National Parks.

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that “Maine’s congressional delegation is turning a critical eye on a U.S. Department of the Interior proposal to raise fees at national parks, including Acadia National Park.” Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King “sent a letter to the department after an announcement that it’s proposing increasing fees at 17 national parks. The peak season increases would help offset overdue maintenance costs.” They “say the department should consider creating a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund or Conservation Service Corp to help address the backlog.”

Too Many Tourists: Crowding Is A Big Headache At National Parks And Theme Parks.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/28, Martin) reports that “across the country, people have been trekking to national parks, theme parks and other tourist attractions in record numbers during the past few years, creating an unexpected problem for the tourism industry: too many customers.” Without a solution, managers “fear that long lines and unruly crowds ultimately will turn off future visitors.”

Parks Service Denies Permit For Giant Statue Of Naked Woman On National Mall.

[CNN](#) (10/27, Tatum) reports that “the group behind an effort to bring a 45-foot-tall sculpture of a naked woman to the National Mall says it is ‘looking to formalize litigation’ after the National Park Service denied approval of the statue.” Natalie White, spokeswoman for Catharsis on the Mall, said in a statement, “We need a law firm willing to take on overly restrictive NPS rules that inappropriately seem to value the preservation of the perceived aesthetic of the National Mall over First Amendment activities. Historical use of this public space includes free-speech demonstrations that continue to shape the character of our country.”

Feds Pull Funding For Black Panther Legacy Project In Berkeley After Backlash.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Lim) reports that “a Black Panther Party legacy project at the University of California Berkeley will no longer proceed after the National Park Service bowed to pressure applied by conservative organizations and pulled federal funding, according to a report.” The National Park Service “announced in September it would award \$98,000 to Ula Taylor, UC Berkeley’s incoming African-American studies chairwoman,” for the Black Panther Party Research, Interpretation & Memory Project. Spokesman Craig Dalby said, “After an additional review of the project, the [National Park Service] decided not to move forward with funding the project.”

Culture Of Harassment At NPS ‘Completely Unacceptable’.

The [Rafu Shimpo \(CA\)](#) (10/26) reports that Sen. Mazie Hirono, ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, “on Oct. 13 called for action to be taken

following the release of a National Park Service (NPS) survey that found that 38 percent of NPS employees have been harassed or discriminated against in the past year.” The Interior Department “announced that NPS will receive additional resources to address complaints and expand training.” Hirono said, “Today’s announcement confirms what we’ve known for some time – there is a pervasive culture of workplace harassment in the National Park Service. Continued silence and inaction are completely unacceptable. Working together, we can provide the necessary oversight and resources to ensure that all NPS employees – regardless of age, race, gender, and sexual orientation – have a safe working environment.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Friday, October 27:

REG0007480 NPS NIC - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK N2857 -- This is a Notice of Inventory Completion pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The human remains and associated funerary objects were recovered from Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska. Notice 10/27/2017

REG0007481 NPS NIC - U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC N2860 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003 of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC. The Human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from a site in the southern portion of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Glacier County, MT. Notice 10/27/2017

REG0007570 NPS National Register of Historic Places, October 14, 2017 -- The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 14, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 10/27/2017

REG0007566 ONRR Cancellation Meeting Notice: U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 15-16, 2017 . Notice 10/27/2017

**Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694**

Conversation Contents

Fwd: DOI Report 9/25

Attachments:

/14. Fwd: DOI Report 9/25/1.1 DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 09-25-17.docx

"Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Sep 25 2017 11:48:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, "Getto, Leila" <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
To:
CC: Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DOI Report 9/25
Attachments: DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 09-25-17.docx

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/25/17
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

9/25 DC – Interview with Kim Strassel, WSJ

Meeting with Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian

Remarks at National Petroleum Council Meeting, Hay Adams

Remarks at National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum

9/26 DC – Remarks at National Clean Energy Week Symposium, Reserve Officers Association

Wild Horse Roundtable

Meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan

Meeting with John Faracci and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Remarks and Receipt of Jefferson Island Club Citizen of the Year Award, Siemens

Corporation

9/27-9/28 – Travel to Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey, various National Park Assets in Philadelphia (including Valley Forge), meeting with County Commissioners.

9/29 DC – Remarks at Heritage Foundation on “A Vision for Energy Dominance”

Meeting regarding Shawnee Trust

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

9/27-9/28 Santa Fe, NM – Deliver Remarks and Sign the Minute 323 Agreement with Mexico

OF NOTE

To: All Department of the Interior Employees
From: David L. Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary
Subject: Month Two Message

A little over a month ago, I wrote to all of you on my first day as Deputy Secretary. Shortly thereafter we established an electronic “ideas” box, and the comments, ideas, and suggestions came rolling in. I want to thank you for your willingness to be thoughtful and candid with your input. Some of the ideas have already served to trigger action.

Many of your comments have educated me on particular issues that I might not have fully appreciated without them. For example, I was a couple steps behind the Secretary in recognizing that it is time for the uniforms to be updated. Your comments have reinforced the very real need of doing so. In addition, I am working to find a realistic means to raise the purchase card limits. I am undeterred, but I expect that we will need to rely on help from Congress. Consequently, that will require more steps to accomplish than I initially hoped.

In my first message to you, I reiterated the basic principle that public service is a public trust and to remind everyone of the basic premise of our Federal service and to confirm my expectation that employees abide by it.

After my first month as Deputy Secretary, and after reading certain comments I am troubled that there is not a universal sense in the Department of the Interior (Department) that those few employees who have failed to uphold these standards are appropriately being held accountable. Please be assured, that I am committed to ensuring that leaders at all levels of the Department are, themselves, ensuring that legally sound, measured, and decisive action is being taken. I want this message to be clear: it is the duty of managers to promptly and effectively take the necessary steps to resolve such issues when they arise.

I also want to convey that we can only take action when we are aware of misconduct. Such awareness often ultimately depends on an employee’s willingness to come forward. Despite the official duty articulated in the principles of ethical conduct that “[e]mployees shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption to appropriate authorities,” many might find it difficult to report misconduct because of a belief that nothing will be done or perhaps due to a fear of retaliation.

Therefore, it is important for you to know that reports of misconduct are taken seriously and that action is taken in a timely manner when appropriate. To that end, I will share the results of two Inspector General investigations that began with a report of employee misconduct and which resulted in accountability. In one case, the allegations concerned former Bureau of Land Management Office of Law Enforcement Supervisory Agent Dan Love’s misuse of his position for personal gain, securing privileges for both himself and family members, and misuse of Government equipment for personal purposes. The Department recently removed Mr. Love from Federal service. In the other, the allegations involved reports that former National Park Service Chief Ranger at Canaveral National Seashore, Edwin Correa, made unwanted sexual advances and inappropriate comments towards subordinates. The Department removed Mr. Correa as well.

I share these examples because you need to know that your leadership is listening. We will hold people accountable when we are informed that they have failed in their duties and obligations.

Although the law in large part prevents dissemination of the details of actions taken, I am sharing these examples because you need to know that the Department has taken concrete disciplinary action in cases of serious misconduct, including those involving senior officials. This message is part of our

commitment to be vigilant and tireless in its pursuit of an environment in which employees treat each other in a manner that is consistent with the law and in which there are consequences for failing to do so.

Finally, as it is vitally important for the health of the Department that employees disclose misconduct they witness or experience, the Department is committed to protecting those who step forward from retaliation. Therefore, I will also make this clear: the Department must be free from any retaliation or reprisal for reports of misconduct and I expect every leader to ensure this.

Moreover, it goes without saying that we must remember to treat each other, as well as members of the public, with dignity and fairness. Supervisors should recognize the contributions of deserving employees and have the courage to address the failings of those that fall short of meeting expectations.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to further improve the Department and fulfill its important missions. Please keep sending me "ideas;" I will continue to review them.

Sincerely,

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt

WH COMMS REPORT (new report filed Thursday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- ****All inquiries on Monument Review are being directed to the White House.**
- ****Multiple Inquiries** (CNN, CBS, Washington Post) –REQUEST-- Has Interior put out a statement about the Secretary's travel? Has he flown private planes, charters or government planes to get to events?—RESPONSE— Statement - Consistent with federal government travel rules, charter flights are used when either commercial flights are unavailable (the Interior Department has thousands of staff and assets and the most remote areas of the country spanning 12 time zones) or when the cost analysis makes it clear that a charter is the more responsible option.**
- ****Multiple Inquiries** (Reuters, Law 360, E&E News) –REQUEST-- I am writing a story for Westlaw about the 10th Circuit's decision today dismissing the case challenging the Interior Department's fracking regulations. Do you have a comment?—RESPONSE— In accordance with President Trump's Executive Order on "*Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth*" (March 18, 2017) and Secretary Zinke's Secretary's Order on "*American Energy Independence*," (March 29, 2017), we are expeditiously working on a new rule that will fulfill the President's and Secretary's vision of good jobs for hardworking American families and are continuing to take comments on the proposed rescission of the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule.**

Top Stories

- CNN: [Hunting is down in the US. The Trump administration wants to change that](#)
- Reuters: [Maryland proposes \\$9 billion plan to relieve traffic congestion](#)
- Los Alamos Daily Post: [Udall, Heinrich Urge President Trump To Reject Secretary Zinke's Recommended Changes To National Monuments](#)
- Springfield News-Leader: [Secretary Zinke rides horses, announces grant money for Missouri parks](#)
- KTUU (AK): [Department Interior to give \\$850,000 to Alaska for outdoor recreation](#)
- Seattle times-Opinion: [Congress must challenge Ryan Zinke's attack on national monuments](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Secretary Zinke is in Dallas speaking at an NRA Convention for women members.
- Saturday, Secretary Zinke will be in Austin, Texas, to tour the FEMA Control Center and meet part of the USGS team assisting in Hurricane Harvey relief.

- **September 25-26:** the Secretary will be in Washington, D.C., meeting with the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, speaking at the National Petroleum Council meeting, as well as meeting with various advocates and outside groups about the Horse and Burro issues. We don't expect any pro-active news at these.
- **September 27-29:** the Secretary is traveling to Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey and various National Park Assets in the Philadelphia area, including Valley Forge and meeting with County Commissioners.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD September 20 thru September 28, 2017 (Report from Wednesday, September 20)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- **September 25-26:** the Secretary will be in Washington, D.C., meeting with the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, speaking at the National Petroleum Council meeting, as well as meeting with various advocates and outside groups about the Horse and Burro issues. We don't expect any pro-active news at these.
- **September 27-29:** the Secretary is traveling to Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey and various National Park Assets in the Philadelphia area, including Valley Forge and meeting with County Commissions.
- **September 22:** Department-level Release: DOI and BLM will announce the totals from all September oil and gas lease sales.

National Park Service

- **September 25 (tent.):** Local NPS Release: The National Park Service will notify the public of the availability of Glacier National Park's Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will be available for a 30-day public review period. Following the public review, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties surrounding Lake McDonald, which includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed alternative includes management options for each property, including historic leasing, park or concessioner use, stabilization of properties or removal of buildings. Throughout the planning process, the park received local media and public interest with little to no controversy. Public comments were very supportive of historic leasing options.
- **September 25 (tent.):** National BLM Release: BLM will announce that it is seeking public nominations for open positions on 18 of its 36 Resource Advisory Councils (RACs). As published in a notice in the *Federal Register*, the BLM will consider nominations for 30 days.
- **September 27:** Local NPS Release: NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.
- **September 27:** The NPS National Capital Region's National Historic Landmark Program will host a stakeholder meeting as part of a joint research project underway by the NPS and the Organization of American Historians to identify potential National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer (LGBTQ) history in the region. Invited stakeholders include state historic preservation offices, staff from selected NCR parks, local LGBTQ history representatives, and local governments' historic preservation staff.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **September TBD:** National FWS Release: FWS will announce National Wildlife Refuge Week, which will take place October 8-14. Refuge Week is an annual celebration of the nation's wildlife conservation heritage and the national wildlife refuges that protect it. The timing provides notice for print and online media to announce the annual celebration and regional events for the public to plan ahead, as well as for the regions and refuges to begin preparing additional promotional information.

Bureau of Land Management

- **September 25:** The 60-day public comment period for the proposed rule to rescind the BLM's 2015 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule will end. The BLM's proposal rule aligns with Administration priorities to seek ways to reduce regulatory burdens and compliance costs. The BLM will review the comments received and take appropriate actions to address those that are substantive. Publication of a final rule in the Federal Register is anticipated in December 2017 or January 2018.
- **September 25 (tent.): National BLM Release:** BLM will issue a release regarding their announcement to seek nominations for 18 of their 36 Resource Advisory Councils.
- **September 26:** BLM-MT Butte Field Manager Scott Haight and Geologist David Williams will meet with Jefferson County and Montana Department of Environmental Quality in Boulder, MT, to discuss the future of the Montana Tunnels mine site. Montana Tunnels is an open pit mine in Jefferson County that has been inactive since 2008. It is behind on the state's bond request and owes Jefferson Co. \$5 million in back taxes, and the site is deteriorating. The meeting is the first to discuss the future of the mine site, including topics of bonding and scope of what's needed for eventual reclamation and site stabilization. The mine is located on a mix of private and BLM lands.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **September 26: U.S./Mexico Cooperative Process – Colorado River (“Minute 323”):** Minute 323 of the Water Treaty with Mexico will be signed by the United States and Mexico commissioners of the International Boundary and Water Commission. On June 12, the Governor's representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin States communicated to Secretary of the Interior Zinke their goal of finishing the drafting of the necessary U.S. (domestic) agreements needed to allow the U.S. and Mexico to finalize a cooperative agreement by mid-July (completion of these draft agreements would put the U.S. and Mexico in position to finalize a successor agreement to the current plan - known as Minute 319 - later this fall). The domestic agreements will also be signed on September 26. The State Department finalized consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in early August and is prepared to proceed when the Basin States clearances are complete. The State Department/IBWC will handle press.
- **September 27:** A ceremony celebrating the signing of Minute 323 to the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico will occur on the opening day of biennial Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt will attend and offer brief remarks.

Office of Insular Affairs

- **September 25: National OIA Release:** OIA will issue a media read-out regarding the Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian Visit with the Secretary
- **September TBD: OIA Release** American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools
- **September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance** ~ \$1.5 million
- **September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure** \$149,436; **Ebeye Special Needs** \$300,000; **Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177)** \$697,387
- **September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI** ~ \$10 million

CONGRESSIONAL (no change)

DOI TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE: Michele Singer (Interior Business Center, Director) will testify at hearing titled “DHS Financial Systems: Will Modernization Ever Be Achieved?” The IBC has been involved with the financial system overhaul at DHS; however, the recommendations have not been adopted. HS Committee is doing an oversight hearing to determine what went wrong and the path forward. DOI will be testifying on their recommendations to DHS and their role throughout the process.

Timing: 10 AM, September 26, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SENR HEARING: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks will hold a hearing on Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks. The hearing has been officially noticed, and Lena McDowall, Deputy Director for Management and Administration, will be testifying.

Timing: September 27, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is set to hold a hearing on the GAO's reports on human trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States. BIA is invited to discuss its law enforcement agencies' involvement in human trafficking investigations and partnerships with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement. This hearing was postponed from its initial date, July 26, 2017. Jason Thompson, the Acting Director of Justice Services, is tentatively set to testify.

Timing: September 27, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 56

3 confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 3 starting; 6 in process

NC-SES: 22 of 44 onboard; 2 starting; 4 in process

PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted

9/25 - Remarks at National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum (DC)

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

9/26 – National Clean Energy Week Symposium (DC)

9/26 - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)

Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

10/11 - Remarks at 2nd National Wildlife Refuge System Expo co-hosted by the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) (DC)

10/15 - National Congress of American Indians 74 Annual Convention (Milwaukee, WI)

10/15-17 – Heritage Annual President's Club Meeting (DC)

10/16 - Carlsbad Mayor's Energy Summit (Carlsbad, NM)

10/20 - TXOGA Lone Star Energy Forum (Woodlands, TX)

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

Declining

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)

10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)

10/4 - NOIA Fall Meeting (Cody, WY)

10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)

10/17 - National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (San Antonio, TX)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

NOTE: SBA Administrator has reached out directly to the Secretary requesting volunteers to help SBA meet emergency response demands (i.e. call center operators). The Secretary promised up to 200 people. SBA has expressed a need for 50 by the end of the week. Another 50-100 could go in the coming weeks.

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Maria was located approximately 350 miles to the south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and moving to the north at 7 miles per hour (mph). This general motion, with some decrease in forward speed, is expected through Tuesday. On the forecast track, the core of Maria will move well east of the southeastern coast of the United States during the next day or so. Maria is a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 80 mph. Additional weakening is forecast during the next 48 hours, and Maria will likely become a tropical storm by Tuesday night. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 70 miles from the storm's center, and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 230 miles.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect from Cape Lookout, North Carolina, to Duck, North Carolina. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect from north of Duck to the Virginia and North Carolina border, and from north of Surf City, North Carolina, to south of Cape Lookout. A Storm Surge Watch is in effect from Cape Lookout to Duck. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the warning area beginning Tuesday, and the combination of a dangerous storm surge and tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline. A storm surge of 2 to 4 feet is possible from Cape Lookout to Duck. Maria is expected to produce total rainfall accumulations of 1 to 2 inches over the Outer Banks of North Carolina through Wednesday.

Swells generated by Maria are increasing along portions of the southeastern United States coast and Bermuda, as well as along the mid-Atlantic coast today. Swells also continue to affect Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the northern coast of Hispaniola, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Bahamas. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT this morning, FEMA reports that following critical infrastructure updates:

Airports: Two failed generators, serving the San Juan Combined Center/Radar Approach Control, continue to cause a decline in San Juan arrival and departure flights. The Transportation Command has established airfield opening capabilities at St. Croix and St. Thomas, and a Mobile Air Traffic Control Tower is operational in St. Thomas.

Roads: In Puerto Rico, eight bridges have been reported as damaged, three of which are along major routes. There are no working traffic signals, and numerous road closures are being reported throughout the island. On the U.S. Virgin Islands, numerous routes have been identified as partially closed, with single lane alternating traffic due to debris.

Communication Systems: In Puerto Rico, one telecom carrier cellular phone coverage around San Juan airport has been restored and is providing unrestricted roaming capabilities to other telecom carriers to increase service to users in the area. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Puerto Rico are operating on generator power. PSAPs on the U.S. Virgin Islands are non-operational, and repairs are being delayed due to the lack of repair equipment. Mobile Emergency Response Support

(MERS) teams are being deployed in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Water: In St. Croix, an EPA Critical Water Assessment Team arrived yesterday to assess water potability. In St. Thomas, potable water service has been restored to the eastern side of the island. There is a two-day emergency water supply on hand.

Commodities: A total of 346,000 meals were scheduled to arrive in Puerto Rico yesterday, and 168,000 meals and 100,000 liters of water arrived in St. Croix. The SS Wright has docked in St. Thomas with 1,100,000 meals, 27 General Services Administration (GSA) vehicles, and 9,496 hygiene kits.

Power: Estimates indicate that nearly 100-percent of the customers in Puerto Rico are without power. The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) will resume normal work operations today, but only 20-percent of its workforce will be available to work. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, 99-percent of the customers in St. Thomas are without power, 100-percent of the customers in St. John are without power, and 90-percent of the customers in St. Croix are without power.

Hospitals: As of yesterday, 23 out of the 69 hospitals in Puerto Rico are in need of fuel. Power has been restored to the Centro Medico Hospital (Disaster Medical Assistance Team [DMAT] Base of Operations for critical and acute care services) in San Juan and to the San Pablo Hospital in Bayamón. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, the mobile hospital at Schneider Regional Medical Center has been re-established. St. Croix dialysis patients and their caregivers prioritized for medical evacuation departed on two flights September 24 for Atlanta supported by FEMA and the American Red Cross. A full assessment of Juan Luis is on-going and they are determining the need for a mobile hospital.

Fuel: There are no issues with amount of fuel in Puerto Rico; however, there are issues with the distribution of the fuel due to debris and road access and lack of power in gas stations. The Department of Energy, FEMA, the Defense Logistics Agency, and other Federal partners are working to facilitate fuel deliveries across the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico for generators at critical facilities and to assist with response efforts.

Guajataca Dam: Assessments of the dam have been completed by two USACE Safety Dam engineers. They have determined the dam to be at risk of failure and are coordinating to determine corrective actions. Evacuation orders remain in effect for approximately 70,000 residents.

There are 139 personnel supporting interagency efforts in response to Hurricane's Irma and Maria.

NPS reports that debris remains an issue at the Caribbean parks, preventing effective travel in those areas. Utilities remain out, and the NPS has implemented fuel rationing in order to extend generator capacity to power facilities for critical systems. Fuel siphoning will take place as needed to support critical systems. Approximately 48 hours of resources remain on the islands, to include food, water, and fuel. Parks are rationing supplies until boats can transport resupply goods. Communications have been a challenge for the last 48 hours, and satellite phones are being utilized. The NPS Incident Management Team (IMT) in Florida has finished loading critical supplies from the NPS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to transport to the Caribbean. The team is confirming final plans for the M/V Fort Jefferson, including port availability and coordination with FEMA via the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). The trip is estimated to take 78 hours.

NPS personnel from Virgin Islands National Park worked to prepare a marine vessel to transport personnel and supplies. The mission goal was transport of a 25-person San Juan National Historic Site maintenance crew at St. John back to San Juan in order to acquire to provide food and water to St. John. The boat did not get released from the harbor due to fuel availability, and personnel are working to reschedule the mission for today.

San Juan National Historic Site is reporting that 76 out of 96 employees are accounted for. (Virgin Islands National Park and Christiansted National Historic Site report 100-percent accountability.) An analysis was conducted of those staff who have yet to check in, and the majority of those personnel are located on the eastern side of Puerto Rico. There is a targeted effort to relay this information to local authorities. There is a large amount of debris in the area surrounding San Juan, and the park is working to secure an Incident Command Post (ICP) location at the Discovery Center for incoming IMT staff. Local park personnel are being integrated into the IMT structure. The park is reporting that two law enforcement personnel arrived in Puerto Rico yesterday, and 16 additional personnel are expected. A radio repeater in San Juan has been repaired.

NPS reporting on facilities within the contiguous United States are provided within the attached Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.

FWS has accounted for 47 of the 61 personnel in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Power outages and degraded communications continue to cause delays in contacting FWS personnel in the Caribbean. FWS Team 1, having arrived in Puerto Rico on September 22, has been working in the Aguadilla. They are working southward towards Cabo Rojo. The team has advised that communications are extremely difficult and require multiple relays between team members to maintain status checks. They continue to emphasize the need for additional food and water in areas where they have conducted operations. Yesterday, a single Type-3 IMT consisting of 11 team members continued coordination with FEMA in order to secure a flight. Coordination efforts are under way to consider other options for deployment of the team to Puerto Rico.

As of September 24, a total of 23 out of 30 USGS personnel have been accounted for, and USGS Emergency Management has elevated one employee to a search and rescue (SAR) priority through the FEMA NRCC. Employee accountability, the acquisition of fuel for generators, and water and food for staff are the USGS's current priorities. USGS employees have been able to obtain meals ready to eat (MREs) and bottled water. Additionally, USGS personnel were able to obtain fuel for a government truck. The USGS is working through local Puerto Rico contacts with the NPS and FEMA to meet the fuel, water, and food needs of the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center (CFWSC).

USGS is providing streamgauge information to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in support of a potential uncontrolled release of water from the Lago Toa Vaca and the Lago Guayabil in south-central Puerto Rico, northeast of the city of Ponce. At this time, the USACE is monitoring and coordinating with the USGS and the National Weather Service. There does not appear to be an imminent threat to the dams at this time.

Wildland Fire Reporting:

On September 23, the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) lowered the Fire Preparedness Level (PL) to 3. Under PL3, significant wildland fire activity is still occurring in multiple geographic areas, with Incident Management Teams (IMTs) actively engaged. Mobilization of resources through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) is moderate to heavy, and the potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal for the time of year.

The Winter Valley Fire (Initial Report) in Moffat, Colorado, (BLM) has burned 7,785 acres and is 75-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-3 IMT with 25 personnel assigned, including 5 DOI personnel. There are 12 residential structures threatened. The fire is threatening twelve residences, a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radio tower, Sage Grouse habitat, and a major transportation route through northwestern Colorado. Containment is expected on September 30.

The Sprague Fire in Glacier National Park, Montana, (NPS) has burned 16,790 (no change) acres and is 75 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-3 IMT with 90 (-56) personnel assigned, including 14 (-38) DOI personnel. There are 252 (no change) residential and 48 (no change) commercial structures threatened. There are 4 (no change) personnel sheltering in place. The fire still poses a significant threat to hundreds of structures in the area, of which, 149 structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On September 22, the evacuation order was lifted and replaced with an evacuation warning and area closures from the southern end of Lake McDonald to Logan Pass, including the North McDonald Road. Full containment is expected on November 1.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Secretary Of Interior Ryan Zinke Visits Austin To Talk Harvey.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (9/23, Goldenstein) reports that "about 16,000 Texans are still displaced and living in hotels and other temporary housing because of Hurricane Harvey, federal officials said Saturday." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Saturday came to Austin to "visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Joint Information Center and receive a department update on relief efforts at a local U.S. Geological Survey office." Zinke said "that recovery will be a 'marathon, not a sprint,' that lasts for years." He said, "This is going to take a long time for recovery. I would say we're probably at 20 percent."

All-out Effort To Save Forests, Reduce Fuels Urged.

The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (9/22, Aleshire) reports that "nearly 50,000 wildfires have burned 8 million acres across the country so far this year, prompting Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to order the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to give thinning, fuel reduction and forest restoration projects top priority." Zinke said, "This administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction

management to save lives, homes and wildlife habitat. It is well settled that the steady accumulation and thickening of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires. These fires are more damaging, more costly, and threaten the safety and security of both the public and firefighters.”

New BLM Pilot Approach Uses Outcome-based Grazing.

The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (9/22) reports that “officials with the Bureau of Land Management announced a new initiative this week to provide grazing permit holders an unprecedented level of flexibility in the management of livestock while also protecting the public lands.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in the release announcing the program, “Farmers and ranchers know the wildlife and the land they work better than anyone, it only makes sense that we would enlist them in conservation efforts. One of my top goals is for the government to be a better neighbor, land manager, and partner. I think it’s a great step in that direction. I applaud the team at BLM for coming up with this innovative program.”

Agencies Begin White House-Mandated Training For Every Fed On Consequences Of Leaks.

[Government Executive](#) (9/21, Katz) reports that federal employees are starting training on the consequences of leaks. The campaign against “the unauthorized disclosure of unauthorized information,” as well as “controlled unclassified information,” came at the direction of the White House. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster “last week sent a directive—subsequently obtained by several media outlets—to all federal agencies demanding they train their employees on the ‘serious consequences’ of improper leaks of such information by Sept. 22.”

Time Is Running Out To Save The Eisenhower Memorial.

In a piece for the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/24, Meadowcroft) reports, Micah Meadowcroft writes that “a final, superficial design change” to the proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial was approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts Wednesday morning. Meadowcroft says that “if the Gehry design is to be scrapped and something more like a monument and less like a disappointing sculpture garden is to be built, it will be up to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to decline to sign off on the project, on his own judgment or by direction of President Trump.”

Fracking Rule May See Jumbled Comeback As Court Tosses Case.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/22, Gilmer) reported that the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a case Thursday over a Department of the Interior fracking rule, which emanated from the Obama Administration. Although the lower court struck down the regulation with a 2016 ruling, the 10th Circuit overturned the lower court’s decision allowing the rule to take effect. However, the Trump Administration is working to rescind the regulation. The court dismissed the case without ruling on the main “legal question of whether the federal government has authority over the oil and gas extraction process.” The regulation faced opposition after passage wherein “Wyoming and other states argued that it was beyond BLM’s authority because the Safe Drinking Water Act put EPA in charge of fracking, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 subsequently assigned that power to state overseers.”

BLM Sale In Wyoming Nets \$38.7 Million In Bonus Bids.

The [AP](#) (9/23) reported that the Bureau of Land Management’s oil and gas lease sales in Wyoming brought \$38.7 million in bonus bids. Bids were made on 106,000 acres out of 113,000 Thursday. The bonus bid funds will be split between the federal government and Wyoming. Parcels were offered in Niobrara, Big Horn, Goshen, Sheridan, Washakie, and other counties.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/24, Richards) reports that “the news comes on the heels of a push from conservation advocates to rehash the federal leasing program, holding leasees to a higher standard so that oil and gas firms aren’t gathering up parcels of land that they don’t intend to drill in a timely manner.” The petitioners would “also like royalty rates for production to be in-line with revenue made on state and private land, leasing to cease on lands that do not have a strong potential for oil or gas production, and the minimum leasing bid to be increased.”

The Myths Used To Needlessly Delay The Cadiz Water Project, Debunked.

In a piece published by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/22, Hernandez, Rodriguez), Tracy Rafter Hernandez, chief executive of the Los Angeles County Business Federation, and Carlos Rodriguez, chief executive of the Baldy View chapter of the Building Industry Assn. of Southern California, writes that “for nearly a decade, the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project, which will

create a new water supply for 400,000 people and thousands of jobs, has followed the entire California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and approval process from start to finish — public comment periods, public hearings, board approvals and litigation, all of which concluded last year, when the 4th District Court of Appeal sustained every approval of the project and concluded that it could be operated safely and sustainably.” The authors say “it’s disappointing that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and her allies, including state Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), continue to perpetuate a series of myths about the Cadiz project as part of a campaign to derail it, including in a recent op-ed article for the Los Angeles Times.” The two provide “a few examples of the most common myths.” They “urge California’s leaders to continue to stand up for jobs, for citizens who need water, and for our state’s strong environmental review laws by rejecting sustained efforts to change the rules of the game for Cadiz or any other CEQA-approved project.”

Scientists: Desert Turtle Endangered, 100 Left In Arizona.

The [AP](#) (9/24, Windes) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the designation of the Sonoyta mud turtle as endangered last Wednesday, “citing threats from climate change to loss of habitat for the southern Arizona animal, whose numbers are believed to have dwindled to as low as 100 turtles.” Steve Spangle, a field supervisor with Fish and Wildlife’s Arizona Ecological Services, said in a release announcing the listing, “The Sonoyta mud turtle is clearly in danger of extinction.” He added, “Protecting it under the Endangered Species Act will marshal increased attention and the resources needed by our U.S. and Mexican conservation partners to improve and expand its dwindling habitat and populations.”

More Grizzly Bears Roaming Outside National Parks In Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (9/22, Moen) reports that “a growing number of grizzly bears are moving outside their established habitat in and around Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, causing more conflicts with humans, according to wildlife managers.” The article says that “the conflicts in Wyoming resulted in 39 grizzly bears being captured by state game managers in 2016,” and “twenty-two were killed for various reasons, such as a history of problems.”

Big Cypress, Everglades, State Parks Face Long Recovery.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/24, Staats) reports that Hurricane Irma “mangled Florida’s national and state parks, turning places meant to be enjoyed into disaster zones that could take weeks or longer to reopen.” The National Park Service has “sent some 380 workers from 95 national parks in 35 states to 15 parks in Irma’s path in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and the Caribbean.” At Big Cypress National Preserve, “crews have been clearing downed trees along Turner River Road, which had water too high to access for more than a week after the storm,” according to Park Service Ranger Brett Everitt. He “couldn’t provide a timeframe for reopening Big Cypress, but the Park Service reported a big step in that direction Friday with the restoration of power in Ochopee and the water plant coming back online.” Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/25).

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

No Items were cleared for the FR on Friday.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

Conversation Contents

Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Report

Attachments:

/22. Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Report/1.1 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 08-18-17.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Aug 18 2017 12:22:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Report
Attachments: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 08-18-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/18/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Today - Deputy Secretary Bernhardt is in Montana. Returning to Washington, DC tonight.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be on (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY: Billings, Montana in meetings with BLM senior leadership, BIA and BOR leadership. Heads back to Washington, DC this afternoon. Meeting with FWS Regional Director during layover in Denver, CO.

Media TODAY
No Press.

Press Inquiries:

•Many small inquiries.

****Multiple Inquiries on Charlottesville**CNN (Rene Marsh): REQUEST-- CNN is looking for a comment from leadership across the federal government including at Interior. Where does Secretary Zinke stand on the president's comments yesterday?—RESPONSE-- Below is the Secretary's statement on Charlottesville: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law." The Secretary and his office do not have a role in permitting events at local NPS sites. Please contact NPS regarding the permit process. Also, for additional background, then Congressman Zinke, the governor, senators and attorney general of Montana penned a letter in December denouncing a planned march in Zinke's hometown.**

•Washington Post: REQUEST--Writing today about the decision to rescind the bottled water ban at parks. The International Bottled Water Association and the Park Service have fought over this issue in Congress for years, and the question is why did Interior feel the need to step in as opposed to allowing it to play out. As part of congressional hearings on the matter, a Senate committee asked the NPS for an analysis of the ban's impact on visitors and operations at participating parks. I understand that analysis is complete but hasn't been made public. Will Interior make the analysis public or otherwise reveal what it says? Finally, there's an issue of appearances. Weeks after David Bernhardt's confirmation as Interior's deputy, the NPS water bottle ban was rescinded. Mr. Bernhardt's former lobbying firm represented one of the largest bottling companies in the United States, Nestle, which distributes Deer Park water. Did he play a role in the decision?—RESPONSE—1) In its commitment to providing a safe and world-class visitor experience, the National Park Service is discontinuing Policy Memorandum 11-03, commonly referred to as the "Water Bottle Ban." 2) The policy is being discontinued to expand healthy hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks. The ban removed the healthiest beverage choice at a variety of parks while still allowing sales of bottled sweetened drinks. 3) We will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, but ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park, particularly during hot summer visitation periods. 4) The change in policy came after an NPS internal review of the policy's aims and impact in close consultation with Department of the Interior leadership.

Top Stories

- E&E News: [Climate advisory group died quietly](#)
- E&E News: [Greens fault Zinke for overseas trip as report deadline looms](#)
- Sierra Sun Times: [Secretary Zinke Announces No Changes to Sand to Snow National Monument in California](#)
- Los Angeles Times: [Trump administration will keep hands off California's Sand to Snow National Monument](#)
- E&E News: [Zinke, NPS defend parks' Confederate memorials](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.
- August 17: DOI announced \$25.6 million in Historic Preservation Grants to states and tribes. Press release can be seen [HERE](#). DOI also issued state-by-state releases to each state and territory, regarding how much grant money each location received.
- August 17: Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt is in Montana and attended an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site. He

participated in a press avail yesterday afternoon.

WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- This week the Secretary is (b) (6) and out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)
- Today, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be returning from his Montana trip.
- August 23 (tent.): Department-level Release: DOI & Warm Springs Tribe Sign Agreement to Implement Land Buy-Back Program.

National Park Service:

- August 24: CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to wider audiences.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- August 22 (tent.): National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.

Bureau of Land Management:

- August 21: Local BLM Release: Ormat Nevada, Inc. plans to begin a 30-day flow and injection test of two existing geothermal wells near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, California. The BLM-CA Bishop Field Office, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest Mammoth Lakes Ranger District, approved the flow and injection test on August 1.
- August 21: Local BLM Release: The public comment period for BLM-NV's Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes in Eastern Nevada Preliminary Environmental Assessment closes.
- August 22-24: BLM-UT has been invited to attend the National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit in Salt Lake City, hosted by the State of Utah. The Summit will begin with a field tour of the Onaqui Herd Management Area followed by a tour of the BLM's Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility coordinated by Utah Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, Gus Warr. Registration is by invitation only.
- August 22 – 27: BLM will attend the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference in New Hampshire in conjunction with The International Off-Highway

Vehicle Administrators Association (INOHVAA) Conference. The BLM has been asked to present during both the INOHVAA and NOHVCC events.

•August 23: BLM national program lead for national monuments Tim Fisher and Deputy Division Chief for Recreation and Visitor Services Jeffrey McCusker will attend a presentation by an International Visitor Leadership Program on Conservation areas and Recreation. The presentation will be held at the Main Interior Building and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also attend.

•August 24: BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for Permit to Drill streamlining.

U.S. Geological Survey:

•TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.

Bureau of Reclamation:

•August 18 to 20: Continuation of two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. Exercise will evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

•August TBD: Local BOEM Release: BOEM Alaska releases Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.

•TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.

•TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.

•TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.

•TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Insular Affairs:

•August 18: Local OIA Release: Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387

•August 19: Local OIA Release: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

•August 20: Local OIA Release: Youth from Insular Areas - Junior Statesmen Program ~ \$375,000

Outside Interests:

Justice Department Announces Actions to Strengthen Public Safety in Indian Country

•DOJ will expand program that gives tribes access to federal crime data opioid awareness trainings in Alaska and California this week.

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

• New political started Monday, 8/14: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM
5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.
Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.
Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20- Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) reports that the well located approximately 96 miles to the south of Houma, Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico, referred to as

Green Canyon Block 200, is in the process of being temporarily abandoned. Increased well pressures observed during the preceding months were proven to be due to a faulty sensor. The lease holder, Fieldwood Energy, LLC, will continue to monitor well pressure during the two week process of abandoning the well. There has been no loss of well integrity, nor pollution observed.

In California, the South Fork Fire inside Yosemite National Park (NPS) has burned 2,407 (+111) acres and is 7 (+2)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 512 (+162) personnel, including 57 (+9) DOI personnel. There are 238 (no change) residential structures threatened. Three (+1) responder injuries have been reported to date. Voluntary evacuations remain in place in some areas surrounding the community of Wawona, and trail closures are in effect. The fire also threatens archaeological sites, critical habitat for the Yosemite toad, communications infrastructure, rare plant life, and a local water intake. Full containment is expected on September 3.

In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,428 (+85) acres and is 24 (+2)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 470 (+16) personnel assigned, including 130 (-1) DOI personnel. Two (+1) responder injuries have been reported to date. It may be necessary to close the main transportation route to the Twin Lakes and Inchelium areas during suppression activities over the next several days. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Department Issues Millions Of Dollars To ‘Protect’ Historical Landmarks.

The Washington Examiner (8/17, Siciliano) reports that the Interior Department announced Thursday “that it is sending tens of millions of dollars in historic preservation grants to help states preserve ‘our national heritage and history.’” Deputy Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt said, “These grants highlight the department’s and the National Park Service’s commitment to preserving our national history and heritage. Through valuable partnerships, we are able to help communities and protect the diverse historic places, culture and traditions unique to our country for future generations.” The funding included “\$21 million in grants, representing a total of \$58 million awarded to every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and partnering nations, according to the agency.” The department “pointed out that the funding was derived from fees paid to the Interior Department from oil companies’ offshore federal production leases.”

Driller Interest Is Tepid In Gulf-wide Oil And Gas Lease Sale.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (8/17) reports in continuing coverage that oil and gas companies offered \$121.1 million in high bids for 90 tracts in the Gulf of Mexico. Companies bid on far fewer tracts than the previous sale in March, largely because of the weak price environment.

Cities Brace For White Nationalist Rallies Post-Charlottesville.

The Washington Times (8/17, Noble) reports that San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee “accused the National Park Service of issuing a permit for an Aug. 26 Patriot Prayer rally without taking public safety concerns into proper consideration.” Lee said in a letter to Park Service officials, “San Francisco has a long and storied history of championing freedom of expression and First Amendment rights, but as we have witnessed in recent months, these types of rallies can quickly turn hateful and violent with tragic consequences.” He wrote, “Events in Charlottesville and Seattle are proof that rallies such as these attract extreme and racist fringe groups who only want to provide malice and incite brutality.”

Confederate Monuments To Stay At Gettysburg Battlefield.

The AP (8/17) reports that “officials with the National Park Service said the Confederate monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania will not be removed from the battlefield.” Katie Lawhon, senior adviser for the park service’s Gettysburg battlefield office, said that “the site-specific memorials are important, and the park service’s job is to historically and

objectively tell the stories the monuments commemorate.”

Birders And Naturalists Ponder The Fate Of The Greater Sage Grouse.

The New York Times (8/18, Axelson) reports that “a revision to the wildlife management plans for sage grouse in the West recently announced by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may mean more oil and gas drilling near sage grouse leks soon – and a new round of industry-versus-conservationist skirmishes over an issue that many thought had been settled.” On June 8, Zinke “announced that the sage grouse plans will be reviewed to ‘protect sage grouse and its habitat while also ensuring conservation efforts do not impede local economic opportunities’ to follow through on President Trump’s executive order on energy independence.” On August 7, Zinke “issued the order to revise the sage grouse plans, including modifying the policy on fluid-mineral leasing and development.”

Interior Senior Executives Left In The Dark Amid Reorg, Reassignments.

Federal News Radio (DC) (8/17, Ogrysko) reports that “some of the Interior Department’s longest-tenured and most experienced career executives say they’re feeling undervalued and overlooked as the agency begins a major effort to restructure and reorganize.” The article notes that “their criticisms come as Interior political leadership charges forward with a major reorganization effort that includes the reassignment of 30-to-50 senior executives back in June and another round of job transfers expected in the next few weeks.” Several Interior sources said “that the most recent round of reassignments created a ‘chilling effect’ in the department, and they fear how the reorganization effort will impact the workforce when the department’s executive cadre has had ‘absolutely no involvement whatsoever’ in crafting the agency’s plans.”

Climate Advisory Group Died Quietly.

E&E Publishing (8/17, Doyle, Patterson) reports that the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science, which was established in 2013, is “dead for now,” and “if it’s revived by the Trump administration, it will likely have a new mission.” According to Interior officials, “the panel has been stalled as the new administration considers what to do with advisory groups more broadly.” However, “if it’s revived, Interior officials signaled it will have fewer members and a different objective.”

Long-term Commitment To California’s Water Resources Is Essential.

In commentary for the Los Angeles Times (8/17, Friedman), California Assemblymember Laura Friedman writes that “to protect both water and National Parks and in response to increasing threats to the California desert’s national parks, national monuments and groundwater supplies,” she recently introduced Assembly Bill 1000 – the California Desert Protection Act. According to Friedman, the legislation “strengthens environmental protections in the ecologically fragile Mojave Desert and ensures that future water transfers from groundwater basins underlying desert lands do not adversely affect the region’s natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat.” Friedman points to “a series of direct challenges from the Trump administration toward existing federal protections to the California desert,” including a water project proposed by Cadiz Inc., as an impetus of the bill.

Lawmakers Should Stop Looking To The Energy Sector For More Federal Revenue.

Independent Institute research director and Utah State University Huntsman School of Business J. Fish Smith Professor in Public Choice William F. Shughart II argues in The Hill (8/17, Shughart) “Pundits Blog” that “a remarkable rise in America’s energy production and the creation of more than one million jobs” has presented a new challenge as oil and natural gas companies wrestle to hold on to those gains. He argues that the progress won “thanks to hydraulic fracturing” could “be cut short, however, if Congress singles out the industry by removing certain provisions of the tax code.” He urges Congress and the White House to “show an inclination to raise taxes on energy companies” as “raising effective tax rates on the oil and gas industry by denying credits and deductions available to most other businesses could send us down the wrong path, and it might not be possible to correct course fast enough.”

Governor Urges Trump To Drop Virginia From Offshore Drilling Plan.

Reuters (8/17, Gardner) reports Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe is urging the Trump Administration to exclude the state from a federal offshore oil and gas drilling plan, over concerns about revenue sharing and environmental issues. In a letter sent to Kelly Hammerle, the national program manager of the BOEM, McAuliffe said he could not trust President Trump to share revenues because he had proposed rescinding the revenue sharing program with Gulf Coast states where drilling already occurs. He also said the Administration is also working to cut funding “from the very agencies that would be charged with protecting Virginia’s coastal environment in the event that exploration went forward.”

**Federal Register Listings:
N/A**

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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928**

Conversation Contents

Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Update 08/17/017

Attachments:

**/24. Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Update 08/17/017/1.1
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET
AFFAIRS 08-17-17.docx**

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Aug 17 2017 11:56:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Bullock, Wesley" <wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Update 08/17/017
Attachments: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 08-17-17.docx

Attached and copied below:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/17/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Yields \$121 Million in High Bids on 508,096 Acres

NOTE: Today - Deputy Secretary Bernhardt is in Montana. This is his first trip as Deputy Secretary.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY-TOMORROW, 17-18: In Billings, Montana to give a speech at a reclaimed gold mine site to tout the important work undertaken, the donation of the company's water rights to a conservation group, and the conservation of the land to an elk migration corridor.

Media TODAY

Where: Mineral Hill Mine- Billings, Montana

When: 1:00 p.m. MST

Event: Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt- Speech

Press: Open

Press Inquiries:

From yesterday, 8/16

•Many small inquiries.

•Multiple Inquiries**Newsweek: REQUEST-- I'm a staff writer with Newsweek and am writing with a question about whether the National Park Service is considering pulling a permit for an alt-right rally next week at Crissy Field in San Francisco following the events in Charlottesville. President Trump condemned the violence committed on both sides in Charlottesville during a press conference yesterday. But House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi has questioned whether the Crissy Field event was approved by the NPS "under guidance from the White House." Has Secretary of the Interior Zinke had any hand in approving alt-right events on NPS public land? And has the White House offered any direction to your department or NPS about this issue? Does the Department of Interior have any comment about these rallies being held on public land?—RESPONSE-- Hello Graham. Below is the Secretary's statement in Charlottesville: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law." The Secretary and his office do not have a role in permitting events at local NPS sites. Please contact NPS regarding the permit process. Also, for additional background, then Congressman**

Zinke, the governor, senators and attorney general of Montana penned a letter in December denouncing a planned march in Zinke's hometown.

<https://www.google.com/amp/mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN14H04H>

● **Bloomberg: REQUEST--** I wanted to check on the monument review for an item in our published calendar of upcoming events. Is it still accurate to say that the deadline for the DOE's review of more than two dozen national monuments is Aug. 24 (as per the executive order Trump signed in April)? I recognize that some decisions have already been made/announced, though I also assume those conclusions would be formally reiterated in the final report. Can we expect it to be released publicly on Aug. 24, or sometime later, after it goes to the president?—**RESPONSE--** Yes the review period closes on the 24th. I don't have any information on the specific report yet.

Top Stories

- **Newsline: First Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease under Trump set for auction**
- **Marianas Variety: Governor: NMI to get \$125,000 for wildlife conservation projects**
- **HartEnergy E&P: US GoM Lease Sale Brings In \$121 Million In High Bids**

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- **Secretary is (b) (6)**. No public appearances scheduled.
- **Today, DOI announced no changes will be made to the Sand to Snow National Monument in Southern California.** The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- **Today, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico for \$121 million.** Press release can be seen on <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases>.
- **Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt is traveling today to Montana to speak at an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site.** He will have a press avail tomorrow afternoon.

WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **This week the Secretary is (b) (6)** and out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)
- **This Wednesday, 8/16, through Friday, 8/18, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be taking his first trip as Deputy Secretary, to Montana.**
- **Today: Department-Level Release: DOI announces an additional \$21 million for historic preservation grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and partnering nations, as well as \$4.6 million for historic preservation grants to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.** This funding, along with \$32.6 million awarded earlier this year under a continuing resolution, represents a total of \$58 million.
- **August 23 (tent.): Department-level Release: DOI & Warm Springs Tribe Sign Agreement to Implement Land Buy-Back Program.**

National Park Service:

- **August 24: CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.**
- **August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact.** Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.

●August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

●August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

●August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.

●August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to wider audiences.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

●August 22 (tent.): National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.

Bureau of Land Management:

●August 21: Local BLM Release: Ormat Nevada, Inc. plans to begin a 30-day flow and injection test of two existing geothermal wells near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, California. The BLM-CA Bishop Field Office, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest Mammoth Lakes Ranger District, approved the flow and injection test on August 1.

●August 21: Local BLM Release: The public comment period for BLM-NV's Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes in Eastern Nevada Preliminary Environmental Assessment closes.

●August 22-24: BLM-UT has been invited to attend the National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit in Salt Lake City, hosted by the State of Utah. The Summit will begin with a field tour of the Onaqui Herd Management Area followed by a tour of the BLM's Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility coordinated by Utah Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, Gus Warr. Registration is by invitation only.

●August 22 – 27: BLM will attend the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference in New Hampshire in conjunction with The International Off-Highway Vehicle Administrators Association (INOHVAA) Conference. The BLM has been asked to present during both the INOHVAA and NOHVCC events.

●August 23: BLM national program lead for national monuments Tim Fisher and Deputy Division Chief for Recreation and Visitor Services Jeffrey McCusker will attend a presentation by an International Visitor Leadership Program on Conservation areas and Recreation. The presentation will be held at the Main Interior Building and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also attend.

●August 24: BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for Permit to Drill streamlining.

U.S. Geological Survey:

●TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.

Bureau of Reclamation:

● **August 18 to 20: Continuation of two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. Exercise will evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **August TBD: Local BOEM Release: BOEM Alaska releases Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.**
- **TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.**

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement:

- **Today: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE will announce winners of AML awards for state environmental agencies. Five local releases will be distributed as well.**

Office of Insular Affairs:

- **Today: Local OIA Release: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million**
- **August 18: Local OIA Release: Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387**
- **August 19: Local OIA Release: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million**
- **August 20: Local OIA Release: Youth from Insular Areas - Junior Statesmen Program ~ \$375,000**

Outside Interests:

Justice Department Announces Actions to Strengthen Public Safety in Indian Country

- **DOJ will expand program that gives tribes access to federal crime data opioid awareness trainings in Alaska and California this week.**

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

- **New political started Monday, 8/14: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM**

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

●In California, the South Fork Fire inside Yosemite National Park (NPS) has burned 2,296 (+596) acres and is 5 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 350 (+97) personnel, including 48 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 238 (no change) residential structures threatened. Two (no change) responder injuries have been reported to date. Voluntary evacuations are under way in some areas surrounding the community of Wawona, and trail closures are in effect. In addition to structures, the fire also threatens archaeological sites, critical habitat for the Yosemite toad, communications infrastructure, rare plant life, and a local water intake. Full containment is expected on September 3.

●In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,343 (+193) acres and is 22 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 454 (+104) personnel assigned, including 131 (+23) DOI personnel. One (no change) responder injury has been reported to date. It may be necessary to close the main transportation route to the Twin Lakes and Inchelium areas during suppression activities over the next several days. Full containment is

expected on August 31.

●The National Park Service (NPS) reports a drowning fatality that occurred on August 14 in the vicinity of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area/Glen Canyon Dam. NPS Rangers were alerted to the situation via multiple calls advising of a man failing to resurface. The deceased was recovered by NPS Rangers and later determined to be a Bureau of Indian Affairs Wildland Firefighter. Circumstances surrounding the drowning are unknown, and particulars pertaining to bureau affiliation/employment status of the deceased have not been verified as of this report.

●The Green Canyon Block 200 well, an oil well in 2,700 feet of water located 110 miles off the coast of Houma, Louisiana, is experiencing a rise in pressure which presents the possibility for an oil leak, however no leak has been detected. The pressure in the last 24 hours is averaging 9,873 Pounds per square inch (PSI). The system is rated at 10,000 PSI (rated test values 1.5 times that). The well head tree cap has been removed, and the tree running tool has been installed. Function testing of the intervention package is still ongoing and pressure bleed down procedure has not yet started. No leaks have been detected from the well head or associated equipment and an ROV continues to monitor the system on a 24 hour basis. Once the tree cap was removed the annular master valve had to be closed to ensure the well head remains secure. Closing this valve restricted ability to monitor the well pressure. Once the function tests are completed, the master valve will be reopened and monitoring of the well pressure will resume. Well pressure was averaging near 9,873 PSI at 2:45 a.m. Aug 16 when the well head tree cap was removed.

Outside Media of Interest

8/16/17-8/17/17

Interior Secretary Removes 1 California Monument From Review:

The AP (8/16) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "will not recommend that any changes be made to the Sand to Snow National Monument in Southern California." Zinke "says in a statement Wednesday the monument is no longer under the Interior Department review ordered by President Donald Trump in April." He "says the monument has some of the most diverse terrain in the West and is home to "incredible" geographic, biologic and archaeological history."

The 10 National Monuments Trump Is Most Likely To Shrink:

USA Today (8/16, Roth) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "wrapping up his review of nearly two dozen national monuments targeted for downsizing or elimination by the Trump administration." By next week, Zinke is "supposed to send to President Trump recommendations on the future of those land monuments, which were created or expanded by presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton." The article posts a gallery of "the monuments Trump is most likely to downsize or eliminate, in alphabetical order, based on interviews with supporters and opponents of the monuments review."

Trump Won't Remove Civil War Statues:

The Daily Caller (8/16, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department "won't be removing monuments to Confederate soldiers at national battlefields that are 'an important part of our country's history,' according to a spokesman." Spokesman Jeremy Barnum said, "The National Park Service is committed to safeguarding these

memorials while simultaneously educating visitors holistically and objectively about the actions, motivations and causes of the soldiers and states they commemorate." The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told reporters in July that battlefield monuments were worth preserving for their historical value." During his visit to Antietam National Battlefield, Zinke said, "Don't rewrite history. Understand it for what it is and teach our kids the importance of looking at our magnificent history as a country and why we are what we are."

Aamodt Meetings Spark Anger, Frustration:

The Santa Fe New Mexican (8/17, Stelnicki) reports that "discontent over the implementation of the Aamodt water-rights settlement took center stage at a pair of meetings Wednesday, with non-Pueblo residents of the Pojoaque Basin north of Santa Fe expressing their frustration, anxiety and even anger about matters that concern the next steps for water use in the valley." According to the article, "at a town hall in Pojoaque, impassioned valley residents told Alan Mikkelsen, the deputy commissioner of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, that they were unhappy to be excluded from recent closed-door meetings over roadway easement disputes held by Mikkelsen's agency, Santa Fe County and four pueblos." The article says that "more than once, Mikkelsen told the crowd that the private meetings had been organized to resolve the roadway concerns without going to court." The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (8/16, Last) reports that "Mikkelsen also said that if push came to shove, the federal government has a responsibility to side with the pueblos, and Indian tribes rarely lose in court."

Coal Makes A Comeback:

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/16) writes that despite the Obama Administration's many efforts to reduce coal consumption and production through regulation, the Trump Administration has spurred coal production and exports through regulatory reform, such as repealing the steam rule, dismantling the power, ash, and methane rules, reopening coal leases, and rescinding the royalty revaluation. The Journal notes that the largest increase in coal exports is to countries with supposedly better climate records, and concludes that the last three quarters of data – while not necessarily indicative of a long-term trend – offer optimistic news to coal states.

Heavily Regulated Coal Mining Has High Standards:

In an op-ed for the Gillette (WY) News Record (8/16, Deti), Travis Deti, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "to allow for the continued leasing of federal coal at fair market value." According to Deti. "the decision is not a step to open more lands to mining. Rather, it merely ended an ill-conceived moratorium that was never intended to exist for more than three years anyway."

BLM Looks To Approve Arch Coal's Request For Royalty Rate Reductions:

Crested Butte News (8/17, Todd) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "appears poised to approve Arch Coal's recent request for a renewed royalty rate reduction (RRR) on coal they've been digging from particularly troublesome areas of the West Elk Mine in Somerset." According to the article, "while the decision is not yet final, it appears likely to land in the coal mine's favor, as noted in a recent letter from the BLM to Colorado Governor Hickenlooper." Gunnison County Commissioners and High County Conservation Advocates have "written letters opposing the reduction."

Producers Bid \$121 Million For Gulf Of Mexico Blocks:

Reuters (8/16, Hampton) reports major oil producers pushed high bids during the Gulf of Mexico offshore auction to \$121 million, almost seven times greater than a year ago, as interest returned for deepwater exploration. Producers said that the Gulf of Mexico is more attractive, as operational cost cutting has helped projects become profitable at a lower break even. Shell claimed the largest number of blocks, with 19 high bids worth a combined \$25.1 million. Chevron followed with 15 high bids for \$27.9 million, while Anadarko won 10 blocks for \$10.6 million and ExxonMobil took seven blocks for \$20.4 million. A second Reuters (8/17) report says producers bid on 90 tracts covering 508,096 acres, according to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The sale offered 76 million acres and a reduced royalty rate for shallow water leases. A total of 99 bids were submitted by 27 companies, worth a total \$137 million.

Lawmakers Push Interior To Expand Offshore Drilling:

The Hill (8/16, Henry) reports more than 100 lawmakers wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging the Administration to allow oil and gas drilling in more areas off the coast of the US. The letter said, "Just as today's energy security is the result of production set in motion by decisions made years ago, the decisions on [Outer Continental Shelf] leasing and development facing the department today will lay the groundwork for our energy and national security for decades." However, another group of lawmakers asked the department to block drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic as part of its ongoing review.

National Parks Service Ends Ban On Disposable Water Bottles:

The AP (8/16, Silber) reports that "the federal government announced Wednesday it will eliminate a policy that allowed national parks like the Grand Canyon to ban the sale of bottled water in an effort to curb litter." The National Parks Service "said in a statement it made the decision to 'expand hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks.'" International Bottled Water Association spokeswoman Jill Culora "praised the Park Service's decision in a statement, calling the policy 'seriously flawed' and noted it still allowed other less healthy beverages that are packaged in heavier types of containers." Officials said that "parks will still promote recycling of plastic water bottles, and many have worked with partners to provide free water in bottle-filling stations."

Federal Register Listings:

Cleared for the FR on Wednesday, 8/16

REG0007278 BLM: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NDM 94112, North Dakota. The BLM informs the public that Emerald Oil, Inc. filed a petition under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 for reinstatement of an expired oil and gas lease in North Dakota. The BLM is proposing to reinstate the lease because the lessee has met the statutory requirements for reinstatement. Notice 08/16/2017

REG0007264 FWS: Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2017-18 Season. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain Tribes on Federal Indian reservations, off reservation trust lands, and ceded lands for the 2017--18 migratory bird hunting season. Proposed

Rule 08/16/2017

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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928**

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/16/17

Attachments:

/26. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/16/17/1.1 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 16 2017 12:36:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, "Bullock, Wesley" <wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/16/17
Attachments: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 08/16/17
Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Today- DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: Today through Friday, 8/18, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be taking his first trip as Deputy Secretary to Montana.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and

Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY: In Washington, DC. Office- meetings and briefings. Traveling to Billings, MT later today.
Thursday, August 17: Visiting Yellowstone National Park
Friday, August 18: Several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and meeting with BOR; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

Press Inquiries

•E&E News (Rob Hotakainen) – REQUEST - I'm doing a short story for tomorrow's Greenwire on confederate monuments in national parks, a request from editors that came out of a meeting today. – RESPONSE – Zinke quote: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law."

•E&E News (Mike Doyle): REQUEST-- On the advisory committee on climate change and the decision to let its charter lapse. I would like to know: Will a climate change advisory committee be revived? If so, how will it be changed? Timing? Are there other advisory committees that have lapsed?—RESPONSE-- We are currently reviewing all boards and commissions that fall under the Department. The board review period is still ongoing. Final decision on the boards will not be made until we thoroughly review each board and conclude the review period in September or thereafter.

•Alaska Dispatch News (Alex DeMarban): REQUEST-- I understand Interior has received plans from sub-agencies, such as BOEM, on how to go about updating previous assessments for ANWR and NPRA. But I understand that a final plan has not yet been released by Interior. Isn't that correct? Any idea when that might be released?—RESPONSE-- updating the assessment is a lengthy process and the Department and its bureaus and agencies are diligently working together. At this time the Department does not have a final product. Will let you know when that is coming.

•Flathead Beacon (Tristan Scott) – REQUEST - Can you provide any comment on this poll? It shows a lack of support for the Secretary's proposal to privatize campgrounds and review national monuments. Take a look and let me know. It's done by the Global Strategy Group, which works with Democrats, for what it's worth. I'll attach the poll below. Thanks in advance. – RESPONSE - Ad claims 1. 0:18 The monument review will block access to public lands and "block you out" -- FALSE. The review of national monuments in no way changes the federal ownership of lands. Also, the review is being conducted to see where access could be expanded for hunting, fishing, recreation, economic development, grazing, and other uses - that is the exact opposite of blocking access. -- 0:22 Zinke proposes private ownership of campgrounds -- FALSE. Many National Parks have business partners who manage and maintain campgrounds and other accommodations, such is the case in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. These partnerships have been happening for decades. In order to meet growing visitation at our parks and also help address the backlog in deferred maintenance on projects like campgrounds, lodges, restrooms and more, the Secretary is interested in continuing and expanding these partnerships where appropriate. The land and campgrounds would always remain under National Parks. -- Regarding the "poll" -- It is based in fiction and intentionally misleads respondents. The pollster falsely states there is a proposal to privatize and decrease public lands. This could not be farther from the truth, no such proposals exist because the Secretary is ardently against such proposals. In fact, since being sworn into office, the only thing Secretary Zinke has done to change the amount of public lands is to start the process of accepting a donation to add thousands of acres of private land to a wilderness area in New Mexico. The Secretary and the President have both said on countless occasions that they will not sell or transfer public lands. Any attempt to say otherwise is a lie.

Top Stories:

•E&E News: Judge, citing climate risks, halts Mont. mine expansion

- New Mexico Political Report: Deadline looms on Zinke's National Monument recommendations
- Alaska Dispatch News: ConocoPhillips launches drilling at a North Slope oil field

Top Stories

- E&E News: [Judge, citing climate risks, halts Mont. mine expansion](#)
- New Mexico Political Report: [Deadline looms on Zinke's National Monument recommendations](#)
- Alaska Dispatch News: [ConocoPhillips launches drilling at a North Slope oil field](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments:

- Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.
- Today, Interior announced \$52 million in Wildlife grants. The press release can be found [HERE](#). Press releases were also sent to each state, highlighting what grants they each received.
- Today, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will travel to Montana to attend an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site.

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017:

- Today, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August 17: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$21 million in grants to the 59 State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). NPS will also announce \$4.4 million in grants from Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes.
- August 18: National NPS Release: Revocation of NPS Policy Memo 11-03, *Disposable Plastic Water Bottle Recycling and Reduction*
- August 18: National NPS Release: Revocation of Director's Order #100, *Resource Stewardship for the 21st Century*
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$18 million in Centennial Challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-Federal funds.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: FWS plans to publish in the Federal Register a change to the permitting status for imports of African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe.
- August 15: National FWS Release: FWS announced more than \$52 million in funding to Native American tribes and state wildlife agencies through the Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program and the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. The funds, which are provided by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, give support for a diverse array of species and habitats across the country. Under the SWG program, more than \$48 million will support species and habitats listed in approved state wildlife action plans. All 50 state and U.S. territorial wildlife agencies have these plans, which proactively protect species in greatest conservation need. Projects funded through SWG involve research, monitoring, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management and other activities. More than \$4 million in TWG funds to Native American and Alaska Native tribes in 14 states will support fish and wildlife conservation and key partnerships. The awards will benefit 25 projects that encompass a wide range of wildlife and habitats, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

Bureau of Land Management

- **Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date TBD. Participants: BLM OCL (Careers)**
- **August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.**
- **August TBD: BLM will publish a proposed rule to suspend or delay requirements from the "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties and Resources Conservation" (Venting and Flaring) for 18 months until July 17, 2018.**

Bureau of Reclamation

- **August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.**
- **August 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.**
- **TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.**

Office of Wildland Fire

- **August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.**

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

• **New political started Monday: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM**
5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

• In California, the South Fork Fire, which began on August 13, is burning inside Yosemite National Park (NPS) just east of Wawona, CA. The fire has burned 1,700 acres and is 0-percent contained. Currently under management by the South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team (IMT), this fire will transition to a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) at 9:00 a.m. EDT today. Current perimeter growth is toward the northern and northeastern flanks of the fire, away from the Wawona community; however, Wawona remains on alert and, with the assistance of Park Service personnel, ready to communicate and execute evacuation orders, if required. Air quality and visibility in the vicinity of the fire, including Wawona, is or is expected to become unhealthy/hazardous as the fire continues.

• In Oregon, the Nena Fire located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 39,526 (-474) acres and is 90 (+10)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 299

(-123) personnel assigned, including 45 (-39) DOI personnel. Management will transition to a Type-3 IMT today. Six structures were destroyed in total; however, no structures are threatened at this time. Full containment is expected today.

• In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,150 (no change) acres and is 22 (+4)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 350 (+14) personnel assigned, including 108 (+15) DOI personnel. One (+1) responder injury has been reported. Resource availability and steep terrain have hindered direct attack strategies and tactics. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/15/17-8/16/17

Mille Lacs Band Gets Federal Grant To Study Walleye Habitat:

The St. Cloud (MN) Times (8/15) reports that the Interior Department “announced Tuesday that it allocated \$993,310 to Minnesota state wildlife agencies” through the Tribal Wildlife Grant and State Wildlife Grants programs. It is among \$48 million being distributed the Interior Department announced Tuesday. Among the grants is a Tribal Wildlife Grant of \$199,07 to “help the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe identify walleye habitat in Mille Lacs Lake.”

With Wildlife And Scenic Views, Interior Department Attracts Large Social Media Following:

The Washington Times (8/15, Wolfgang) report that the Interior Department’s “massive online following” has “remained constant...driven primarily by daily posts featuring wildlife, scenic landscapes and breathtaking views of the nation’s national parks.” The Department’s “following on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and other platforms is rivaled only by NASA, the Pentagon and President Trump.” The Times adds that Interior “views its accounts in a fundamentally different way. A key aspect is offering Americans an easy way to see gorgeous sites from across the country that they never have viewed in person and, in some cases, may have never even heard of.” According to the Times, the Interior Department has 3.95 million Twitter followers, compared with the Energy Department’s 753,000 and the Justice Department’s 1.45 million.

Public Lands Group Launches Ad Campaign Targeting Zinke:

The Flathead (MT) Beacon (8/15, Scott) reports that “with less than 10 days remaining before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s deadline to determine whether some national monuments should be scaled back, a local conservation group has launched a high-ticket ad campaign calling on the Whitefish native to protect public lands.” In addition to the \$500,000 ad purchase, the Western Values Project “released a new poll claiming support is slipping for Zinke in his home state of Montana.” According to the poll, “Zinke’s job approval fell after voters heard about efforts to privatize public lands and dropped further after voters heard about potential plans to privatize public campgrounds.” Interior Spokesperson Heather Swift said, “It is based in fiction and intentionally misleads respondents. The pollster falsely states there is a proposal to privatize and decrease public lands. This could not be farther from the truth. No such proposals exist because the Secretary is ardently against such proposals.”

Missouri Congressman Clay: We Must Protect Historic Sites Connected To The Civil Rights Movement:

The Missourinet (8/15, Hauswirth) reports that the House has approved Rep. William Lacy Clay’s “bipartisan bill to authorize the National Park Service to establish a program to protect places that were significant in the 20th century civil rights struggle.” Clay’s bill “directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to identify and create a national network of historic sites, stories and educational programs connected to the modern civil rights movement.” The legislation is called the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017.

Fearing Violence, California Lawmakers Ask National Park Service To Rescind Permit For San Francisco ‘Alt-right’ Rally.

The Los Angeles Times (8/15, McGreevy) reports that “citing concern over violent clashes at a Charlottesville rally of white nationalists last weekend, a group of California lawmakers called Tuesday for the National Park Service to rescind a permit issued for a pro-Trump rally scheduled for Aug. 26 in San Francisco.

More Closed-Door Meetings For Planned Regional Water System:

The AP (8/15) reports that “Santa Fe County, four pueblos and the U.S. Department of the Interior

have scheduled more closed-door meetings this week about roadway disputes that threaten to impede funding for a planned regional water system in the Pojoaque Basin.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs “says some county roads trespass on tribal land.” According to the article, “the meetings suggest an intensified emphasis on reaching a resolution to the disputes as the Bureau of Reclamation prepares to begin construction on the water system next summer.”

Trump, Don't Take Our National Parks Away From Veterans:

For the “Pundits” blog of The Hill (8/15, Eaton, Contributor), Major General Paul D. Eaton, US Army (Ret.), managing director of Vet Voice Foundation, writes that veterans “value our nation’s public lands – places that we as service members fought to protect, and that we seek out for healing and renewal after coming home from war.” For this reason, Eaton feels veterans “must speak out about the Trump administration’s troubling approach to public lands stewardship.” He claims that “although they have only been in office for a short time, the president and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have already threatened the great strides on conservation and responsible energy development that have taken place under the last few presidential administrations.” Eaton concludes that “if President Trump and his administration really care about veterans, they would do well to remember how critical our national parks and public lands are to us, and to all Americans, and stop taking steps to diminish them by doing favors for their friends in the fossil fuel industry.”

Under New Interior Department Plan, Sage Grouse Will Suffer:

In a piece for the High Country (CO) News (8/15, Lyons), James Lyons, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and lecturer and research scholar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, wants Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to recognize that the greatest threat to economic development in sage grouse territory is not the existing sage grouse conservation plans, but the threat of losing the ‘regulatory certainty’ that they provide.” He warns, “lose the predictability necessary to encourage investment in the sagebrush landscape, and its communities are likely to become endangered along with the Greater sage grouse.” According to Lyons, “the Zinke directive, announced in conjunction with the sage grouse review, risks snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, particularly as it emphasizes that sage grouse conservation must not impede President Donald Trump’s efforts to achieve American energy dominance.”

Zinke Has Only One Legal Option For Katahdin Woods And Waters: Retain Its Monument Status:

In an op-ed for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/15, Moffa, Schindler), Anthony Moffa, a visiting professor of law, and Sarah Schindler, a professor of law and Glassman Faculty Research Scholar at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland, argue that the only recommendation that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke can make regarding the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument that is “legally and equitably permissible” is that “the monument status must be retained.” The authors argue that the other options of revocation and diminishment would “overstep the president’s authority.” According to the authors only the option of retaining the designation “complies with the Antiquities Act, upholds the agreement between the former landowners and the government, and respects the investment that people of this state have already made in and around the monument.”

Congress, Keep The West Wild — Or At Least What’s Left Of It:

For the “Pundits” blog of The Hill (8/15, Super, Contributor), David A. Super, a professor of law at Georgetown Law, urges Congress to reject the proposed Historic Routes Preservation Act, S. 468 and H.R. 3270. According to Super, “far from ‘preserving’ anything, this legislation would likely ruin what little we still have of the wild West, from open landscapes to rugged communities to truly wild animals.”

North Dakota Awarded \$10 Million From Feds For DAPL Protest Costs.

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (8/15, Hageman) reports that the Justice Department “awarded North Dakota \$10 million to help cover the costs associated with the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, the state’s senators said Tuesday.” According to the Tribune, “the \$10 million represents only a portion of the \$38 million the state and Morton County have incurred from the months long protests, during which some 1,400 law enforcement officers assisted.

Jurors Begin Deliberating In Trial Of Four Bundy Supporters In Nevada.

Reuters (8/16, Smith) reports that “jurors at a federal court in Nevada began deliberations on Tuesday in the retrial of four men accused of numerous charges for acting as gunmen in the 2014 standoff led by renegade rancher Cliven Bundy against federal authorities.”

Federal Register Listings

Cleared for the FR on Tuesday, 8/15

REG0007272 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN N2819. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority in Knoxville, Tennessee. The remains and objects were removed from multiple sites in Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties in Alabama. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007273 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN N2823. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority and in the physical custody of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. The remains and objects were removed from sites in Franklin County, Alabama, from 1973 to 1979. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007274 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN N2824. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority and in the physical custody of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. The remains and objects were removed from sites in Colbert and Lauderdale Counties in Alabama in the 1930s and in the 1980s. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007283 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT N2825 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. The remains were removed from a village near Anvik, Yukon-Koyukuk Borough, Alaska, in 1937. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007284 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, and Nevada State Museum, Carson City, NV N2826. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, and in the physical custody of the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, Nevada. The remains and objects were removed from sites near Pyramid Lake in Washoe County, Nevada, between 1954 and 1979. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007285 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock, AR N2513. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. The remains were removed from a bluff shelter in Madison County, Arkansas, in 1991. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007286 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock, AR N2717. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. The remains were removed from a salvage operation in Randolph County, Arkansas, in 1888. Notice 08/15/2017

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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928**

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/15/2017

Attachments:

/28. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/15/2017/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-15-17.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 15 2017 13:14:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Luke Bullock <wlbullock88@gmail.com>
To:
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/15/2017
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Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/15/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, through Friday, 8/18, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be taking his first trip as Deputy Secretary to Montana.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

Today, 8/15

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Later this Week:

Wednesday, August 16: traveling to Bozeman, MT.

Thursday, August 17: meetings

Friday, August 18: several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and meeting with BOR; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

-

Press Inquiries:

8/14 (From Yesterday, 8/14)

Many small inquiries.

•**Reuters: REQUEST**-- I understand that the Department of the Interior made an offer to a Presidential Management Fellow finalist this year regarding a position at the Department, but that the offer was rescinded. Can DOI provide any further information on this case, and whether the agency is participating in the PMF program this year? If so, how many PMFs do you anticipate having this year?—**RESPONSE**-- we have been confirmed to receive one and are hopeful for a second. Not all agencies get a fellow because there simply are not enough to go around, therefore receiving two is not a given either. I do not have information on specific individuals at this time. Whatever information you're receiving about uncertainty at Interior is not accurate.

•**S&P Global: REQUEST**-- I am looking into how many federal regulations have been proposed and finalized since President Trump took office compared with past administrations. Does the Department of Interior have info/stats on how many regulations it has proposed or finalized since January 21 versus the same period in prior years?—**RESPONSE**—You can run reports on rules and regulations at federalregister.gov. A better comparison would be compared to January 20-August 15 of 2009 rather than last year.

•**National Park Traveler: REQUEST**-- In light of the administration's desire to reduce the federal workforce, and the budget, there has been talk of reorganizing the Interior Department and, I assume, the Park Service, to, in effect, do the same with less and manage to keep visitor experience high and impacts to park resources low. Has any progress been made in this reorganization effort that you can share? —**RESPONSE**-- Improving the visitor experience, health of the land, and the overall well-being of the Parks is at the top of the Secretary's list of priorities, which is why the Secretary's planned reorganization will allow the Department to push more resources to the frontlines, rather than in offices in D.C. The Department also plans to look at expanding and duplicating successful public-private partnerships that are already happening in Parks, such as making smart investments of federal dollars to leverage even more private funding, like in the case with ongoing improvements to the Gateway Arch at the National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis.

Top Stories:

- **New York Times:** In South Texas, Threat of Border Wall Unites Naturalists and Politicians
- **Forbes:** Survey Says...Offshore Seismic is Safe
- **Bloomberg BNA:** Sage Grouse Protection Changes May Yield Benefits, States Say
- **Editorial-Wall Street Journal:** Washington's Wild Grouse Chase

Top Issues and Accomplishments:

- Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.
- Wednesday, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will travel to Montana to attend an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site.
- This week the Department will issue 3 press releases – 2 announcing grants and one rescinding Obama-era National Park Service regulation "Directors Order 100"

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

•Wednesday, 8/16, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

• TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).

• TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

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• August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.

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Bureau of Land Management

• Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date TBD. Participants: BLM OCL (Careers)

• August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.
- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

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CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

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Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

- New political started Monday: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Oregon, the **Nena Fire** located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 40,000 (no change) acres and is 80 (+20)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 422 (-22) personnel

assigned, including 84 (-8) DOI personnel. Though the threat is minimal, 141 (no change) residential and 2 (no change) commercial structures remain threatened. Additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected on August 16.

In Washington, the **Bridge Creek Fire** on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,150 (+32) acres and is 18 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 336 (+23) personnel assigned, including 93 (+11) DOI personnel. The fire continues to threaten cultural and natural resources. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/14-8/15

Lawmakers Urge Feds To Bar Atlantic, Eastern Gulf Drilling.

Law360 (8/14, Lidgett) reports that “a bipartisan coalition of more than 60 U.S. House of Representatives members told the federal government on Friday to make the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern Gulf of Mexico off-limits for oil and gas leasing.” Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. and Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo “led a group of lawmakers in sending a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke saying that the two areas should not be included in the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.”

NJ Spotlight (8/15, Johnson) reports that in a letter, New Jersey’s congressional delegation wrote, “The reopening of this process not only endangers New Jersey’s coastal economy, but also ignores the will of the local communities that would be most impacted by oil drilling – including over 120 municipalities, 1,200 elected officials, 41,000 businesses, and 500,000 fishing families from up and down the Atlantic coast who have all voiced their opposition to oil and gas activities.” The Trump Administration will “close comments on Thursday on the first step to develop a new program for oil and gas exploration on the outer continental shelf along virtually the entire nation’s coasts.”

E&E News: ConocoPhillips drills new Alaska site (8/15, DeMarban)

ConocoPhillips Alaska has launched drilling at a new site of viscous oil, the latest sign that the oil industry is recovering from its long slump. Low oil prices led the company to delay the \$460 million project last year, but now the company expects oil to be flowing by year's end. The field on the North Slope is expected to produce about 8,000 barrels a day, adding to the 530,000-barrel daily production the slope has posted so far this year. The project, called 1H NEWS, taps into some of the slope's biggest opportunities: viscous oil and its stickier cousin, heavy oil. Companies have so far focused on Alaska's easier-flowing, cheaper-to-produce light oil (Alex DeMarban, original story published by: Alaska Daily News, Aug. 13). — AAA

E&E News: Chevron to recommit to North Sea (8/15, Thomas)

Chevron Corp. is preparing to double down on its commitment to North Sea oil fields. The company is reconsidering plans to develop the Rosebank oil and gas field, in which it has a majority stake. Chevron will also make a final investment decision soon on whether to extend the life of its Captain Field, which has been producing for 20 years. Greta Lydecker, president and managing director of Chevron Upstream Europe, said the company has been working to reduce the Rosebank project's costs since the oil price crash of mid-2014.

Federal Government Halts Drilling At North Dakota Well Site.

The AP (8/14) reports that “the federal government has halted the drilling of oil wells near a

North Dakota resort boat ramp at the request of the Three Affiliated Tribes.” Tribal Chairman Mark Fox “says the tribe appealed the federal permit of the drilling site because it violates tribal setback requirements from the lake.” The Interior Board of Land Appeals has “delayed the project in response to the tribe’s appeal last week.”

Judge’s Rulings Lead To Tense Moments In Bundy Case In Vegas.

The AP (8/14, Ritter) reports that “restrictions placed by a federal judge on what defendants can say about being at Cliven Bundy’s ranch in April 2014 are leading to tense moments in the Las Vegas retrial of four men accused of wielding assault-style weapons to stop federal agents from rounding up cattle belonging to the anti-government figure.” Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro “refused Monday to order a mistrial sought by the defense attorney for Eric Parker, a defendant who Navarro ordered off the witness stand last week before telling the jury to disregard his testimony.” According to Las Vegas lawyer Robert Draskovich, “such a dramatic step involving a defendant in the presence of a jury is unusual and might draw scrutiny from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.”

Greens, Industry Upset About Gulf Exploration Rules.

E&E Publishing (8/14, Gronewold) reports on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s programmatic environmental impact statement on “geophysical exploration for oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico.” The agency “generally concluded that allowing more seismic testing in the Gulf poses minimal risk to marine habitats.” It is recommending “some restrictions” and critics say the proposed rules “don’t go far enough in protecting marine life.” Meanwhile, the International Association of Geophysical Contractors said that the rules “are unscientific” and put “energy exploration at risk.”

Baltimore Mayor Pugh Pledges To Remove Confederate Monuments.

The Baltimore Sun (8/14, Broadwater) reports that Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh “pledged to Monday take down Confederate-era monuments in Baltimore — and said she has asked contractors for estimates on how much it will cost.” Former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake “appointed a commission of academics and officials to review Baltimore’s four Confederate monuments in 2015 after the shooting deaths of nine African-Americans in a historically black South Carolina church by a white man who had posted photographs of himself with the Confederate battle flag.” The memorials include the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Confederate Women’s Monument, the Roger B. Taney Monument, and the Robert E. Lee and Thomas. J. “Stonewall” Jackson Monument. The commission appointed by Rawlings-Blake “suggested the Lee and Jackson statue be offered to the National Park Service to place in Chancellorsville, Va., where the two Confederate generals last met in 1863.”

Gettysburg Park Hasn’t Received Complaints About Confederate Monuments, Won’t Remove Any Statues.

The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (8/14, Robinson) reports that “in the wake of white supremacist rally and ensuing violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, Gettysburg National Military Park has not received any new complaints about its Confederate monuments at the park, said spokeswoman Katie Lawhon.” According to the article, “more than 1,300 monuments, markers and plaques are housed at the park to memorialize the historic battle, including a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and a Confederate flag on display in the museum.” The park “maintains that the memorials are important to the cultural landscape and has no plans to remove any monuments or statues.”

Caltech And Others Get \$4.9 Million For Earthquake Warning System.

The Los Angeles Daily Breeze (8/14) reports that "Caltech and six other institutions were awarded a total of \$4.9 million in funds by the U.S. Geological Survey" yesterday "for the development of an earthquake-warning system on the West Coast." Caltech was "awarded funds along with Central Washington University, UC Berkeley, the universities of Oregon, Washington and Nevada-Reno, and UNAVCO, a geological-science research nonprofit." The USGS "also announced the purchase of about \$1 million in sensor equipment to be used in the ShakeAlert system, which is designed to give residents several seconds of advance warning of an earthquake, allowing them to quickly seek shelter or take precautionary actions to limit damage."

Federal Register Listings

Cleared for the FR on Monday, 8/14

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REG0007250 BIA: Pueblo of Santa Clara Liquor Ordinance; Amendments. This Notice publishes amendments to the Santa Clara Pueblo Liquor Code which regulates the control, possession, and sale of liquor on the Santa Clara Pueblo trust lands in conformity with the laws of the State of New Mexico, where applicable and necessary. Notice 08/14/2017

REG0007226 BLM: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Greater Phoenix Project, Lander County, Nevada. The BLM announces the availability of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for Newmont USA Limited's proposed expansion of its existing Phoenix Mine, a gold and copper mining and beneficiation operation, southwest of Battle Mountain, Nevada. The BLM requests public comments on the Draft EIS for the Greater Phoenix Project for 45 days. Notice. 08/14/2017

REG0007220 FWS: Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District's Probation Tank Replacement Project in Felton, Santa Cruz County, California. The San Lorenzo Valley Water District has applied for an incidental take permit under section 10(a) (1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act. The application addresses the anticipated take of the endangered Mount Hermon June beetle and Zayante band-winged grasshopper incidental to the replacement of a degraded water storage tank. Notice 08/14/2017

REG0007261 USGS: Federal Advisory Committee: National Geospatial Advisory Committee Notice of Public Meeting on September 6-7, 2017. Meeting Waiver Request approved 07/21/2017. Notice 08/14/2017

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Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov
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(Friday, 8/11)

Many small inquiries.

- **E&E News: REQUEST--** Does the department plan to offer employee buyouts or early outs any time soon, or wait until fiscal 2019? Does the department plan to issue another round of reassignment notices to senior executives soon? If so, when and which agency(ies)? I am hearing NPS and possibly another round at BLM.—**RESPONSE--** We don't have anything to announce on the reorganization right now. The Secretary plans to release his plan once everything has been finalized.
- **Reuters: REQUEST--** I'm working on a story about North Korea's threat to come up with a plan by mid-August that would include missile strike plans against Guam. I'm curious whether there are any plans to issue an advisory to visitors, businesses, airlines regarding Guam tourism and airspace based on North Korea's warning?—**RESPONSE—** Referred to NSC

Top Stories

- **New York Times:** [27 National Monuments Are Under](#)
- **KWRG New Mexico:** [Zinke Supports Acceptance of 3,595 Acres of Wilderness for Sportsmen's Access to Sabinoso Wilderness](#)

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Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

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27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch.

The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Friedman, Popovich, McCann) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection." However, "not all of the monuments are truly in the administration's crosshairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes." The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

Free Map Denotes Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

The AP (8/13) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage "isn't allowing signs on highways to direct motorists to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument," but now there's a map. The Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument has "created a new topographical map that identifies key features, like the loop road." The maps are "available for free at the monument visitor stations in Millinocket and Patten and at the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce."

Whose National Monument Claims Are Disingenuous? Not Ours. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (8/11, Gosar), Rep. Paul A. Gosar attacks Rep. Raúl Grijalva for penning an op-ed criticizing a letter signed by 17 members of Congress providing comments on the review of national monuments. Gosar takes issue with Grijalva's "eccentric far-left Earthrights International v. Treasury, Case No. 22-1500_000636

environmentalism” and his apparent conflicts of interest. Gosar urges Grijalva “to drop the partisan nonsense, debate these issues’ merits and let’s work together to solve problems facing hard-working Arizonans.”

Scientists Urge No Changes To Cascade-Siskiyou Monument (Guest Opinion). In an op-ed for the Oregonian (8/13, Parker, Trail, Williams), Michael Parker, Ph.D., professor and chair of the biology program at Southern Oregon University; Pepper Trail, Ph.D., a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and conservation co-chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society; and Jack Williams, Ph.D., the senior scientist for Trout Unlimited and a former Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to propose no changes to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. They urge Zinke “to respect the science, the grassroots collaboration and the sustained support of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Gov. Kate Brown.”

National Monuments Support Jobs, Innovation. In an op-ed for the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (8/12, Hayes), Marne Hayes, the executive director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors, writes that “Montana may have dodged a bullet” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared the Missouri River Breaks safe from changes, but our western neighbors are still experiencing the fear and uncertainty of the ongoing review process.” According to Hayes, “that’s why business leaders from across the West converged in Montana last week to protest changes to western national monuments still in the crosshairs of Sec. Zinke’s review.” Hayes argues that “rolling back existing protections in any of these states is just not good for business. It also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines every other existing monument, including the Upper Missouri River Breaks.”

Fleeing To The Mountains. In his column for the New York Times (8/12, Kristof), Nicholas Kristof writes that “public lands are at risk today.” According to Kristof, “more aggressively than past administrations,” the Trump Administration is “systematically handing over America’s public lands for private exploitation in ways that will scar the land forever.” Kristof encourages readers to visit public lands to get a sense of “what is being lost.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Appointee Wants More Hunting And Fishing On Federal Lands.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow more hunting and fishing on federal wildlife refuges, relaxing regulations in some places, opening up moose and turkey hunting in other places,” was provided by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/11), U.S. News & World Report (8/11), and the Roseburg (OR) News-Review (8/11, Urness).

US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.

The U.S. News & World Report (8/11, Ridler) reports that “cattle grazing will continue” at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve “following a challenge by an environmental group, federal officials announced this week.” The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said in a statement Wednesday said grazing on BLM-administered portions of the monument “not covered by lava flows will stay at about 99 percent of current levels.” The bureau said in a written statement, “The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration’s effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation.”

BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (8/12, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “approved a plan to remove up to 100 wild horses from private and other land southeast of Rangely this fall, a decision made more controversial due to activists’ concerns that animals could end up being euthanized.” The bureau “said Friday it plans to use a helicopter operation to round up horses that have strayed outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area.” The decision, “which is subject to a 30-day appeal period, also will allow future gathers to remove other horses outside the management area.”

U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.

USA Today (8/12, James) reports that U.S. and Mexican officials are “finalizing a water-sharing deal for the Colorado River, and a newly released summary of the accord’s key points shows negotiators have agreed on a cooperative approach geared toward boosting reservoir levels and trying to stave off a severe shortage.” The document, “which federal officials have circulated among water agencies, outlines a series of joint measures that build on the current 5-year agreement, which expires at the end of this year.” The article says that “the new accord – titled Minute No. 323 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty – is expected to be signed sometime this fall, perhaps as early as September, and would remain in effect through 2026.”

Forbes: Survey Says...Offshore Seismic is Safe

(8/11, Bradley, Jr.) Late last month, Delaware Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons released a joint statement
Earthrights International v. Treasury, Case No. 22-1500_000637

opposing seismic surveying in the Atlantic Ocean. Their worry is that such preparatory drilling work for oil and natural gas below the ocean floor would negatively impact marine life along the Atlantic coast. Their fears are unfounded. Atlantic drilling would create economic benefits at virtually no environmental cost. As environmental economists understand, wealth is health; that is, economic prosperity redounds to individuals and families in ways that result in longer and better living.

Federal Register Listings

Cleared for the FR on Friday, 8/11

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REG0007245 BLM. Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for BNI Coal Ltd.'s Coal Lease-by-Application NDM-102083, Oliver County, ND. The BLM announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for BNI Coal, Ltd.'s Federal Coal Lease-by-Application (LBA) for public review and comment. The BLM will hold a public hearing on the EA, Fair Market Value, and Maximum Economic Recovery of the coal resources contained in the proposed lease tract near Center, North Dakota. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007197 BOE. Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP) in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. BOEM is announcing the availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Liberty DPP in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area in the Alaska Region. This Notice announces a 90-day public comment period and five public hearings on the Draft EIS scheduled in October 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007249 BOR. Notice of Availability for the Sites Reservoir Project Draft EIR/EIS and Feasibility Report. Reclamation, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Federal lead agency, and the Sites Project Authority, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency, announce that the Sites Reservoir Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and Draft Feasibility Report are available for public review and comment for 60 days. Public meetings on the Project are scheduled for September 26 and 28, 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0006832 FWS. Amenity Fees at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY. Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement annual hunting and fishing fees and special permit fees for commercial recreational activities. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007232 FWS. Incidental Take Permit Applications Received to Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma. This notice provides public review for incidental take permit applications under the American Burying Beetle amended Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) from NGPL PipeCo, LLC and Subsidiaries; Wildhorse Terminal, LLC; and Antioch Operating, LLC. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007236 FWS. Proposed HCP for Sierra Pacific Industries Forest Practices in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA: Environmental Impact Statement. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is proposing to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern spotted owl and the California spotted owl. The Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed HCP that would cover activities including timber harvest and forest management activities on SPI's 1.6 million acres of private forest lands in California. Notice 08/11/2017

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

"Hommel, Scott" <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Hommel, Scott" <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 14 2017 12:46:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/14/17

Great report Natalie.

Scott

On Mon, Aug 14, 2017 at 2:00 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/14/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

Today and Tuesday (8/14-8/15)

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Later this Week:

Wednesday August 16: traveling to Bozeman, MT.

(b) (5)

- CANCELLED

Thursday August 17: meetings

Friday August 18: several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and most likely meeting with BOR- they are in the same building; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

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Press Inquiries:

(Friday, 8/11)

Many small inquiries.

- **E&E News: REQUEST--** Does the department plan to offer employee buyouts or early outs any time soon, or wait until fiscal 2019? Does the department plan to issue another round of reassignment notices to senior executives soon? If so, when and which agency(ies)? I am hearing NPS and possibly another round at BLM.—**RESPONSE--** We don't have anything to announce on the reorganization right now. The Secretary plans to release his plan once everything has been finalized.
- **Reuters: REQUEST--** I'm working on a story about North Korea's threat to come up with a plan by mid-August that would include missile strike plans against Guam. I'm curious whether there are any plans to issue an advisory to visitors, businesses, airlines regarding Guam tourism and airspace based on North Korea's warning?—**RESPONSE—**Referred to NSC

Top Stories

- **New York Times:** [27 National Monuments Are Under](#)
- **KWRG New Mexico:** [Zinke Supports Acceptance of 3,595 Acres of Wilderness for Sportsmen's Access to Sabinoso Wilderness](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

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WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

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- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS plans to announce \$4,254,638 in Tribal Wildlife Grant awards to

federally recognized tribes for 25 projects in 14 states to fund a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

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REG0007236 FWS. Proposed HCP for Sierra Pacific Industries Forest Practices in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA: Environmental Impact Statement. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is proposing to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern spotted owl and the California spotted owl. The Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed HCP that would cover activities including timber harvest and forest management activities on SPI's 1.6 million acres of private forest lands in California. Notice 08/11/2017

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 14 2017 12:53:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hommel, Scott" <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/14/17

Thank you Scott!

On Mon, Aug 14, 2017 at 2:46 PM, Hommel, Scott <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Great report Natalie.

Scott

On Mon, Aug 14, 2017 at 2:00 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/14/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

Today and Tuesday (8/14-8/15)

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Later this Week:

Wednesday August 16: traveling to Bozeman, MT.

(b) (5)

- CANCELLED

Thursday August 17: meetings

Friday August 18: several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and most likely meeting with BOR- they are in the same building; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

-

Press Inquiries:

(Friday, 8/11)

Many small inquiries.

- **E&E News: REQUEST--** Does the department plan to offer employee buyouts or early outs any time soon, or wait until fiscal 2019? Does the department plan to issue another round of reassignment notices to senior executives soon? If so, when and which agency(ies)? I am hearing NPS and possibly another round at BLM.—**RESPONSE--** We don't have anything to announce on the reorganization right now. The Secretary plans to release his plan once everything has been finalized.
- **Reuters: REQUEST--** I'm working on a story about North Korea's threat to come up with a plan by mid-August that would include missile strike plans against Guam. I'm curious whether there are any plans to issue an advisory to visitors, businesses, airlines regarding Guam tourism and airspace based on North Korea's warning?—**RESPONSE—** Referred to NSC

Top Stories

- **New York Times: [27 National Monuments Are Under](#)**

- **KWRG New Mexico:** [Zinke Supports Acceptance of 3,595 Acres of Wilderness for Sportsmen's Access to Sabinoso Wilderness](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.
- Later this week DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS plans to announce \$4,254,638 in Tribal Wildlife Grant awards to federally recognized tribes for 25 projects in 14 states to fund a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and

adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed aboveground water storage facility off stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.
- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.
- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

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CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

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Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

- New political started today: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Oregon, the **Nena Fire** located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 40,000 (+16,000) acres. The fire is 60 (+56)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 444 (+204) personnel assigned, including 92 (-5) DOI personnel. There are 141 (no change) residential and 2 (no change) commercial structures threatened. There are 75 (no change) evacuees and 120 (no change) residents subject to shelter in place. There have been 3 (+2) responder injuries to date. Additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected on August 16.

Also in Oregon, the **Spruce Lake Fire** in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,885 (+151) acres. The fire is 45 (+14)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 IMT with 401 (+18) personnel assigned, including 37 (+20) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The West Rim Drive and Rim Trail from Rim Village to North Junction have reopened. The evacuation notice for Rim Village and park headquarters has been lifted. Full containment is expected on August 31.

In Washington, the **Bridge Creek Fire** began on August 9 on the Colville Reservation (BIA) and has burned 1,118 acres. The fire is 13-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 313 personnel assigned, including 82 DOI personnel. The fire threatens cultural and natural resources, a critical transportation corridor, and recreation areas. The fire also has the potential to impact the Colville Tribe local government. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/11-8/14

Wall Street Journal: Washington's Wild Grouse Chase-Interior moves to ease land-use limits that are needlessly punitive.

(8/11, Opinion) The biggest economic-policy achievement of the Trump Administration so far is regulatory relief, and the latest example concerns a flamboyant fowl known as the greater sage grouse.

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REG0006832 FWS. Amenity Fees at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY. Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement annual hunting and fishing fees and special permit fees for commercial recreational activities. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007232 FWS. Incidental Take Permit Applications Received to Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma. This notice provides public review for incidental take permit applications under the American Burying Beetle amended Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) from

NGPL PipeCo, LLC and Subsidiaries; Wildhorse Terminal, LLC; and Antioch Operating, LLC. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007236 FWS. Proposed HCP for Sierra Pacific Industries Forest Practices in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA: Environmental Impact Statement. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is proposing to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern spotted owl and the California spotted owl. The Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed HCP that would cover activities including timber harvest and forest management activities on SPI's 1.6 million acres of private forest lands in California. Notice 08/11/2017

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/11/17

Attachments:

/31. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/11/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-11-17.docx

"Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Aug 11 2017 12:38:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Getto, Leila" <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt <dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/11/17
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-11-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/11/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Next Wednesday DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn will be (b) (6) . Natalie Davis will prepare the report and participate in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

NEXT WEEK

Wednesday August 16: traveling to Bozeman, MT.

(b) (5)

Friday August 18: several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

White House Report (Yesterday - Thursday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries, and many requests for interviews with Secretary Zinke.
- New Mexico Political Report: REQUEST-- I had a few questions about yesterday's announcement about Sabinoso and the donated land. The secretary has not actually decided to accept the lands, is that correct? The language in your press release says "intend to finalize the process to consider whether to accept the donation." On that note, what is the process that needs to be completed, besides the "realty actions" mentioned in the press release? My understanding was that sportsmen had hoped the transfer could occur before bowhunting season starts on Sept. 1. But the press release says the process is expected to take 3-4 months.—RESPONSE-- A final decision on whether to accept the land will be made after considering the results of the ongoing NEPA process. The Bureau of Land Management must complete the NEPA process to ensure that potential impacts from the donation have been considered. A formal decision as to whether to accept the donation will then be made. The BLM is working expeditiously to complete the NEPA process so that a final decision may be made as soon as possible. That process is expected to take 3-4 months.
- Denver 5280: REQUEST-- How many current Colorado Interior employees are there? Has there been a change in employment since January? And are there currently vacant spots?—RESPONSE-- Total DOI employees stationed in Colorado: as of December 24, 2016: 6,465: As of July 8, 2017: 6,950
- E&E News and Huffington Post – Request for comment on Secretary Zinke's personal legal proceedings regarding a D.C. apartment. – RESPONSE – Referred reporter to the Zinke's

personal attorney.

Top Stories

- USA Today: Republicans making progress on longtime goal for more local control of federal lands
- Sun Herald: Zinke supports opening access to New Mexico wilderness site
- Washington Examiner: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke proposes expansion of hunting and fishing at 10 natural wildlife refuges
- Los Alamos Daily Post: Udall, Heinrich, Luján Welcome Interior Department Announcement On Sabinoso Wilderness Access
- Albuquerque Journal: Zinke moves to provide public access to Sabinoso
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Zinke backs plan for Sabinoso Wilderness gateway

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.

Next week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

Yesterday, DOI issued a press release announcing the addition of 3,600 acres of land to the Sabinoso Wilderness Area in New Mexico. The press release can be found [HERE](#).

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

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- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
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Bureau of Land Management

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- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for

Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.

- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed above-ground water storage facility off-stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.
- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.
- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 11: National BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

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CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

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Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 51

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jeffersons Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

The National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) increased the National Preparedness Level (PL) from PL 4 to PL 5 yesterday evening. This is the highest PL possible and reflects a

high degree of wildfire activity, a major commitment of fire resources, and the probability that severe conditions will continue for at least a few days

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 55,787 (-1,364) acres and is 98 (+13)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 360 (-104) personnel, which includes 127 (no change) DOI personnel. There is a minimal risk to resources in the fire area, and an additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected today.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,734 (+53) acres. The fire is 31 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 383 (-1) personnel assigned, including 17 (+2) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The forecast for the next 48 hours includes thunderstorm activity that has the potential to generate gusty and erratic winds. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Republicans Making Progress On Longtime Goal For More Local Control Of Federal Lands.

[USA Today](#) (8/10, Sullivan) reports that nearly "eight months into an all-Republican-led effort, it's clear that shift is under way" in the way "the more than 25% of the country that is owned by the federal government is managed." USA Today describes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "views on the evolving Republican House public lands strategy" as "complicated," saying he "says he wants to be a good steward and opposes turning over federal land to local or state governments or private interests." Although "raising revenue from public lands seems in tune with the goals of House Republicans such as Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah, Zinke is not entirely on board with all their agenda." Zinke, USA Today adds, "is steeped in the history of his department but also devoted to the mission to make the country's natural resources pay."

DOI Spent Thousands On Personal Travel.

The Daily Caller (8/10, Pearce) reports that Interior Department employees "spent nearly \$40,000 in 2015 and 2016 on inappropriate travel costs," according to an independent audit. The report "faulted the agency's controls, saying they 'weren't effective in ensuring that all non-payroll costs were appropriate and complied with the Act's administrative requirements.'" The audit focused on the Interior Department's implementation of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act.

Complaint Filed In Federal Court In Washington D.C. Against U.S. Dept. Of Interior Over Proposed Elk Grove Casino.

Elk Grove News (CA) (8/10) reports that an amended complaint has been filed "in U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. by Stand Up For California (SUFC) against the U.S. Department of the Interior challenging recent decisions that have helped the Wilton Rancheria's pursuit of a \$400 million casino to be located in Elk Grove City limits." The complaint, "which was filed on behalf of casino watchdog group SUFC and three Elk Grove residents, continues to challenge the validity of the decision to place the 36-acre parcel located at the site of the unfinished Outlets Collection at Elk Grove shopping center into federal trust. Placement of the parcel into federal trust is required for any Indian casino on non-tribal land." At the center of the argument is "that the decision was made in violation of 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act. SUFC contends the decision made by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Lawrence Roberts, lacked the authority under the Vacancies Reform Act (VRA)."

Feds Put Off Decision On Texas Hornshell's Status.

The Santa Fe New Mexican (8/11, Chacón) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "delayed a decision Thursday on whether to add the last remaining native mussel in New Mexico to the endangered species list, raising concerns about its future amid efforts in Congress to reform the Endangered Species Act." The FWS "announced it was delaying a listing decision on the Texas hornshell for six months and

would reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.”

Yellowstone Park Vehicle Traffic Nearing Capacity.

The AP (8/10, Moen) reports that “sometime within the next four to six years, Yellowstone National Park is expected to reach its capacity for being able to handle all the vehicles that tourists drive through the park.” The National Park Service on Thursday “released a pair of studies looking at traffic and parking in the nation’s first national park and visitor demographics and expectations.” According to the agency, “potential solutions include instituting a reservation system or passenger shuttles to control the number of visitors during peak times for the busiest attractions in the park, but no decisions will be made for at least a couple of years.” Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said in a statement, “Historic and recent trends demonstrate that visitation will increase over the long-term, therefore, it is imperative for us to plan now. Good visitor use management will allow the park to protect resources, encourage access, and improve experiences.”

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Thursday.

REG0007204 BLM Closure on Public Lands of Yellowstone Bridge in Linn County, OR. The BLM announces that a temporary closure of the Yellowstone Bridge to motorized vehicles is in effect on public lands administered by the Cascades Field Office in Linn County, Oregon. The closure is necessary to ensure public safety. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007248 BOR Notice of Availability of a Draft EIS/EIR for the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project This Notice announces the availability for public review and comment of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) for the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project (SLLPIP) jointly prepared by Reclamation, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Federal lead agency, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency. Reclamation has scheduled public hearings on August 30 and 31. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007240 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund - Fee Collection and Coal Production Reporting and Form OSM-1, Coal Reclamation Fee Report. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund - Fee Collection and Coal Production Reporting (30 CFR part 870) and the implementing form. OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007242 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Certification of Blasters in Federal Program States and on Indian Lands. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the certification of blasters in Federal program states and on Indian lands (30 CFR part 955) and for the related form. OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007243 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Permanent Program Performance

Standards - Surface and Underground Mining Activities. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Permanent Program Performance Standards - Surface Mining Activities and Underground Mining Activities (30 CFR parts 816 and 817). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007251 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Underground Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Underground Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans (30 CFR part 784). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007252 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds (30 CFR part 872). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/10/2017.

REG0007253 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Subsidence Insurance Program Grants. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information relating to Subsidence Insurance Program Grants (30 CFR part 887). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/10/2017.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

To: <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani
<daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori"
<lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine"
<christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton
<caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron"
<aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd"
<todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Getto, Leila"
<leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, David Bernhardt
<dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>

CC: Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17

Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-10-17.docx

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/10/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

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NOTE: The National Wildfire Multi-Agency Coordinating Group will increase the National Preparedness Level (PL) to its highest level, PL 5 at 4:00 pm MST. At this time, nearly all available firefighting suppression assets and people are committed.

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- S&P Global - REQUEST-- I'm working on a story about BP's recent discovery of new gas reserves in the Mancos Shale, located in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. The well is on federal land, like much of the Mancos is. My question is this: since the inauguration of President Trump, have there been any efforts made by BLM/DOI to increase potential access to the San Juan and Piceance Basins for oil and gas producers? –RESPONSE-- here is a secretarial order Secretary Zinke signed to increase access and streamline permitting of energy projects on federal lands <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/zinke-signs-secretarial-order-streamline-process-federal-onshore-oil-and-gas-leasing>
- San Francisco Chronicle – REQUEST - Would love to talk to anyone there about the status of the monument review, what's going into the process, how determinations are being made, what's up for California. – RESPONSE – Nothing to announce at this time on California monuments. Of the hundreds of national monuments across the country, 27 were put under review. So far, five monuments have been removed from the review process and the Secretary recommended that no size modifications be made to them (Craters of the Moon, Hanford Reach, Canyons of the Ancients, Grand Canyon Parashant, and Upper Missouri Breaks). The secretary also submitted an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument on June 10th. Since May, Secretary Zinke has personally visited eight national monument sites in six states. He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary meets with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue. In an effort to make the process transparent and give people a voice in the process, the secretary opened up a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

Top Stories

- Las Vegas Review Journal: EDITORIAL: Protecting the rural West from the environmental-judicial complex
- Williamson Daily News: Officials applaud mine proposal to create jobs in WV
- San Gabriel Valley Tribune: San Bernardino rep asks Trump to shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, citing ski resort and mining
- High Country News: Interior's new sage grouse recommendations at a glance

Top Issues and Accomplishments

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- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed above-ground water storage facility off-stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.
- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.
- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 10: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders regarding the draft EIS for G&G Activities in GOM.
- August 11: National BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

-

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

-

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 51

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jeffersons Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 57,151 (+4,075) acres and is 85 (+38)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 464 (-4) personnel, which includes 127 (+4) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Significant resource demobilization is projected to begin today, and full containment is expected on August 12.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 31 (+8)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384 (no change) personnel assigned, including 15 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Although some additional perimeter growth is expected, fire behavior has been moderated by a wetting rain that fell over the entire fire area. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Examiner (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking "to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with

the wildlife.” The change would “bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted,” according to the department.

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The AP (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico.” According to the article, “if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow” for the Sabinoso Wilderness “to be accessed without trespassing.” Zinke “said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority.” He said in a statement, “I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways.”

Enviros Sue Over ‘Sham’ Monument Review.

The Daily Caller (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity “filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump’s administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.” The Interior Department “has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that “a recap of the secretary’s schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded.”

Climate Reports May Slow Trump’s Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

Bloomberg News (8/9, Sullivan) reports that “a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump’s effort to roll back federal climate regulations.” Bloomberg says “a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday” and “its conclusion will be similar to previous years’ versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it’s man-made and it’s dangerous.” Meanwhile, “that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe.” Analysts say “both reports are at odds with Trump’s contention that climate change is a ‘hoax’ and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama’s efforts to address the issue.”

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

The Guardian (UK) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam’s location, “within range of North Korean medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang.” The US has “a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was used during the Vietnam war.” According to the article, “though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US military’s presence, it is also essential to the island’s economy, second only to tourism.”

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the Detroit News (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that “North Korea’s threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically.” To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump “to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories.” Lennox argues that “it’s time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

Conversation Contents

Fwd: WEEK-AHEAD: August 30-September 7

Attachments:

**/19. Fwd: WEEK-AHEAD: August 30-September 7/1.1
WEEKAHEADAugust30thruSeptember7-2017.docx**

"Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 29 2017 13:16:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
"Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO"
(b) (6), "Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), "Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), "Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), "Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO" (b) (6)
To:
BCC: natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: WEEK-AHEAD: August 30-September 7
Attachments: WEEKAHEADAugust30thruSeptember7-2017.docx

WEEK AHEAD August 30 thru September 7, 2017 Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- *This week the Secretary is ...*
- **September TBD: Department-level Release:** DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.
- **August 31: Participating in Smoky Mountains National Park Chimney Tops 2 Fire Report press conference.**

National Park Service

- **August 31:** The Great Smoky Mountains National Park Chimney Tops 2 Fire Review Report is scheduled for public release. The release will be announced at a press conference hosted at the park.
- **August 31:** Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) will visit Manassas National Battlefield Park for a park tour and visit to an adjacent property that was recently acquired in part through an American Battlefield Protection Program grant to the Civil War Trust. Sen. Kaine may invite a limited number of media to join him on his visit. He will be guided by park superintendent Brandon Bies

and other park staff.

- **August TBD: Local NPS Release:** NPS announces new superintendents at St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and Arkansas Post National Memorial.
- **August TBD: Local NPS Release:** NPS announces new superintendents at Little Bighorn National Battlefield National Monument.
- **August/September TBD: CLOSE HOLD:** In late August or early September, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore will begin a 30-day public comment period on a Draft Environmental Assessment that reevaluates personal watercraft (PWC) use at the national lakeshore. The preferred alternative in this Draft EA calls for the continued implementation of the 2005 special regulation amended to include a requirement that all PWCs operating in the national lakeshore meet the 2010 EPA air quality emissions standards within two years.
- **September 1: Local NPS Release:** Lake Mead National Recreation Area will enter into the National Park Service's first Wi-Fi contract. Once installed, the fee-based service will be available at the park's nine developed areas.
- **September 1:** Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) will visit Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and will meet with Acting Superintendent Nancy Finley. The itinerary may include a boat tour to view Miner's Castle or other areas.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **August TBD:** FWS will announce that after reviewing updated information, it will again authorize imports of wild and wild-managed lions from South Africa taken during 2017-2019. In 2016, FWS listed the lion in eastern and southern Africa as threatened under the ESA. FWS contacted each of the countries within this region that have conducted trophy lion hunts in the past few years to obtain information on the country's lion population, management of lions, and how sport hunting has contributed to survival of the species. FWS then authorized the import of wild and wild managed lion sport-hunted trophies in 2016. Outreach in the form of a blog is planned.
- **August 29:** FWS will host the inaugural Cooperating Agencies meeting for the National Bison Range Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS). The meeting will include representatives from the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Lake County and Sanders County. On **August 30**, FWS will host a third public scoping meeting in Missoula. Outreach in the form of a news release has gone out to alert people to the public scoping meeting.
- **September 5 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- **September 6:** National FWS Release: FWS will announce that the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, chaired by Secretary Zinke, is approving funding for the first round of FY 2018 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants, as well as land acquisitions and lease agreements for national wildlife refuges using Migratory Bird Conservation Fund money. The MBCC will also hear a report on NAWCA small grants, which were approved by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council earlier this year. The announcement will coincide with the MBCC meeting taking place at Main Interior Building.
- **September TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a make a final listing determination and designate critical habitat for Guadalupe fescue in Texas. The designation

includes approximately 7,815 acres entirely within the Big Bend National Park; accordingly, the economic and other impacts of critical habitat designation were determined to be very low. Few economic activities in Big Bend National Park affected listed plant habitats, and the listing and critical habitat designation for this species is not likely to have any effect on border security activities. This action is not expected to be controversial. Outreach will include an email to stakeholders. FWS is required by settlement agreement to publish the finding in the *Federal Register* by September 9, so needs to submit the action to the *Federal Register* by September 2.

Bureau of Land Management

- **August 31: Local BLM Release:** BLM-UT will post a Notice of Competitive Lease Sale, environmental assessment, and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact, for parcels to be offered in the December 2017 Quarterly Lease Sale. Seventy-five parcels totaling 94,040 acres in the Vernal and Price Field Offices will be proposed for sale. Several parcels have been controversial due to their proximity to Dinosaur National Monument, two have been deferred.
- **September 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 10 parcels totaling 1,227 acres in Cheyenne, Baca, Kiowa, Yuma, Morgan, and Weld Counties, CO. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- **September 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-AZ anticipates announcing the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.
- **September 7-8:** BLM-MT Acting State Director Jon Raby, Deputy State Director Don Judice, District Manager Diane Friez, and Field Manager Loren Wickstrom will join OMB examiners Mike Hagen and Ben Burnett on a tour of the Bakken Region in ND. While in ND they will meet with tribal representatives at the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.
- **September 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 62 parcels totaling 15,731 acres in Eddy, Chaves, Quay, Curry, Roosevelt, and Lea Counties, NM. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- **September 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 10 parcels totaling 1,227 acres in Cheyenne, Baca, Kiowa, Yuma, Morgan, and Weld Counties, CO. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **August 30: National BOR Release:** The Bureau of Reclamation will announce two projects selected to commence Basin Studies; the Rio Grande Basin Study in New Mexico and the Eloy and Maricopa-Stanfield Basin Study in Arizona. Reclamation will provide \$1,178,000 in funding and the non-Federal partners will provide \$1,197,000. Basin Studies are collaborative studies, cost-shared with non-Federal partners, which help ensure sustainable water supplies by identifying strategies to address imbalances in water supply and demand.
- **August 31: National BOR Release:** BOR will announce that the Huntley Project Office in Montana and the Salt River Project in Arizona were recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- **August 30-September 6: Local OSMRE Releases:** OSMRE will put out state releases on outstanding reclamation awards with quotes from state congressional delegations and the Deputy

Secretary.

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **September 1:** ONRR will send letter to EITI International officially withdrawing US from the EITI Initiative.
- **September TBD: National ONRR Release:** ONRR will announce Secretary's appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **August 30 (Ongoing):** BSEE is posting Hurricane Harvey Activity Statistics daily at 2 pm EDT reporting activity of oil and gas operators in the Gulf of Mexico reinstating production and re-manning evacuated platforms and drilling rigs. Damage reports will be added to the updates as BSEE receives reports.

Conversation Contents

Interior Daily Comms Report 08/18/17

Attachments:

/21. Interior Daily Comms Report 08/18/17/2.1 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 08-18-17.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Fri Aug 18 2017 12:20:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To: (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6), "EOP/WHO" (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6)

Subject: Interior Daily Comms Report 08/18/17

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/18/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Today - Deputy Secretary Bernhardt is in Montana. Returning to Washington, DC tonight.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY: Billings, Montana in meetings with BLM senior leadership, BIA and BOR leadership. Heads back to Washington, DC this afternoon. Meeting with FWS Regional Director during layover in Denver, CO.

Media TODAY

No Press.

Press Inquiries:

•Many small inquiries.

****Multiple Inquiries on Charlottesville**CNN (Rene Marsh): REQUEST-- CNN is looking for a comment from leadership across the federal government including at Interior. Where does Secretary Zinke stand on the president's comments yesterday?—RESPONSE-- Below is the Secretary's statement on Charlottesville: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent**

white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law." The Secretary and his office do not have a role in permitting events at local NPS sites. Please contact NPS regarding the permit process. Also, for additional background, then Congressman Zinke, the governor, senators and attorney general of Montana penned a letter in December denouncing a planned march in Zinke's hometown.

•Washington Post: REQUEST--Writing today about the decision to rescind the bottled water ban at parks. The International Bottled Water Association and the Park Service have fought over this issue in Congress for years, and the question is why did Interior feel the need to step in as opposed to allowing it to play out. As part of congressional hearings on the matter, a Senate committee asked the NPS for an analysis of the ban's impact on visitors and operations at participating parks. I understand that analysis is complete but hasn't been made public. Will Interior make the analysis public or otherwise reveal what it says? Finally, there's an issue of appearances. Weeks after David Bernhardt's confirmation as Interior's deputy, the NPS water bottle ban was rescinded. Mr. Bernhardt's former lobbying firm represented one of the largest bottling companies in the United States, Nestle, which distributes Deer Park water. Did he play a role in the decision?—RESPONSE—1) In its commitment to providing a safe and world-class visitor experience, the National Park Service is discontinuing Policy Memorandum 11-03, commonly referred to as the "Water Bottle Ban." 2) The policy is being discontinued to expand healthy hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks. The ban removed the healthiest beverage choice at a variety of parks while still allowing sales of bottled sweetened drinks. 3) We will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, but ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park, particularly during hot summer visitation periods. 4) The change in policy came after an NPS internal review of the policy's aims and impact in close consultation with Department of the Interior leadership.

Top Stories

- E&E News: [Climate advisory group died quietly](#)
- E&E News: [Greens fault Zinke for overseas trip as report deadline looms](#)
- Sierra Sun Times: [Secretary Zinke Announces No Changes to Sand to Snow National Monument in California](#)
- Los Angeles Times: [Trump administration will keep hands off California's Sand to Snow National Monument](#)
- E&E News: [Zinke, NPS defend parks' Confederate memorials](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.
- August 17: DOI announced \$25.6 million in Historic Preservation Grants to states and tribes. Press release can be seen [HERE](#). DOI also issued state-by-state releases to each state and territory, regarding how much grant money each location received.
- August 17: Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt is in Montana and attended an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site. He participated in a press avail yesterday afternoon.

WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- This week the Secretary is (b) (6) and out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)
- Today, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be returning from his Montana trip.
- August 23 (tent.): Department-level Release: DOI & Warm Springs Tribe Sign Agreement to Implement Land Buy-Back Program.

National Park Service:

- August 24:** CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.
- August TBD:** National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD:** National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD:** National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD:** National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.
- August TBD:** National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to wider audiences.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- August 22 (tent.):** National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.

Bureau of Land Management:

- August 21:** Local BLM Release: Ormat Nevada, Inc. plans to begin a 30-day flow and injection test of two existing geothermal wells near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, California. The BLM-CA Bishop Field Office, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest Mammoth Lakes Ranger District, approved the flow and injection test on August 1.
- August 21:** Local BLM Release: The public comment period for BLM-NV's Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes in Eastern Nevada Preliminary Environmental Assessment closes.
- August 22-24:** BLM-UT has been invited to attend the National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit in Salt Lake City, hosted by the State of Utah. The Summit will begin with a field tour of the Onaqui Herd Management Area followed by a tour of the BLM's Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility coordinated by Utah Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, Gus Warr. Registration is by invitation only.
- August 22 – 27:** BLM will attend the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference in New Hampshire in conjunction with The International Off-Highway Vehicle Administrators Association (INOHVAA) Conference. The BLM has been asked to present during both the INOHVAA and NOHVCC events.
- August 23:** BLM national program lead for national monuments Tim Fisher and Deputy Division Chief for Recreation and Visitor Services Jeffrey McCusker will attend a presentation by an International Visitor Leadership Program on Conservation areas and Recreation. The presentation will be held at the Main Interior Building and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also attend.
- August 24:** BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for

Permit to Drill streamlining.

U.S. Geological Survey:

•TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.

Bureau of Reclamation:

•August 18 to 20: Continuation of two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. Exercise will evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

•August TBD: Local BOEM Release: BOEM Alaska releases Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
•TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
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Climate Advisory Group Died Quietly.

E&E Publishing (8/17, Doyle, Patterson) reports that the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science, which was established in 2013, is “dead for now,” and “if it’s revived by the Trump administration, it will likely have a new mission.” According to Interior officials, “the panel has been stalled as the new administration considers what to do with advisory groups more broadly.” However, “if it’s revived, Interior officials signaled it will have fewer members and a different objective.”

Long-term Commitment To California’s Water Resources Is Essential.

In commentary for the Los Angeles Times (8/17, Friedman), California Assemblymember Laura Friedman writes that “to protect both water and National Parks and in response to increasing threats to the California desert’s national parks, national monuments and groundwater supplies,” she recently introduced Assembly Bill 1000 – the California Desert Protection Act. According to Friedman, the legislation “strengthens environmental protections in the ecologically fragile Mojave Desert and ensures that future water transfers from groundwater basins underlying desert lands do not adversely affect the region’s natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat.” Friedman points to “a series of direct challenges from the Trump administration toward existing federal protections to the California desert,” including a water project proposed by Cadiz Inc., as an impetus of the bill.

Lawmakers Should Stop Looking To The Energy Sector For More Federal Revenue.

Independent Institute research director and Utah State University Huntsman School of Business J. Fish Smith Professor in Public Choice William F. Shughart II argues in The Hill (8/17, Shughart) “Pundits Blog” that “a remarkable rise in America’s energy production and the creation of more than one million jobs” has presented a new challenge as oil and natural gas companies wrestle to hold on to those gains. He argues that the progress won “thanks to hydraulic fracturing” could “be cut short, however, if Congress singles out the industry by removing certain provisions of the tax code.” He urges Congress and the White House to “show an inclination to raise taxes on energy companies” as “raising effective tax rates on the oil and gas industry by denying credits and deductions available to most other businesses could send us down the wrong path, and it might not be possible to correct course fast enough.”

Governor Urges Trump To Drop Virginia From Offshore Drilling Plan.

Reuters (8/17, Gardner) reports Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe is urging the Trump Administration to exclude the state from a federal offshore oil and gas drilling plan, over concerns about revenue sharing and environmental issues. In a letter sent to Kelly Hammerle, the national program manager of the BOEM, McAuliffe said he could not trust President Trump to share revenues because he had proposed rescinding the revenue sharing program with Gulf Coast states where drilling already occurs. He also said the Administration is also working to cut funding “from the very agencies that would be charged with protecting Virginia’s coastal environment in the event that exploration went forward.”

Federal Register Listings:

N/A

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Aug 18 2017 12:22:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6),
(b) (6), "Flynn, Matthew J.
EOP/WHO" (b) (6),
(b) (6),
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interior Daily Comms Report 08/18/17
Attachments: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR
CABINET AFFAIRS 08-18-17.docx

On Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 2:20 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/18/17
Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Today - Deputy Secretary Bernhardt is in Montana. Returning to Washington, DC tonight.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY: Billings, Montana in meetings with BLM senior leadership, BIA and BOR leadership. Heads back to Washington, DC this afternoon. Meeting with FWS Regional Director during layover in Denver, CO.

Media TODAY

No Press.

Press Inquiries:

•Many small inquiries.

****Multiple Inquiries on Charlottesville****CNN (Rene Marsh): REQUEST-- CNN is looking for a comment from leadership across the federal government including at Interior. Where does Secretary Zinke stand on the president's comments yesterday?—RESPONSE-- Below is the Secretary's statement on Charlottesville: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law." The Secretary and his office do not have a role in permitting events at local NPS sites. Please contact NPS regarding the permit process. Also, for additional background, then Congressman Zinke, the governor, senators and attorney general of Montana penned a letter in December denouncing a planned march in Zinke's hometown.

•Washington Post: REQUEST--Writing today about the decision to rescind the bottled water ban at parks. The International Bottled Water Association and the Park Service have fought over this issue in Congress for years, and the question is why did Interior feel the need to step in as opposed to allowing it to play out. As part of congressional hearings on the matter, a Senate committee asked the NPS for an analysis of the ban's impact on visitors and operations at participating parks. I understand that analysis is complete but hasn't been made public. Will Interior make the analysis public or otherwise reveal what it says? Finally, there's an issue of appearances. Weeks after David Bernhardt's confirmation as Interior's deputy, the NPS water bottle ban was rescinded. Mr. Bernhardt's former lobbying firm represented one of the largest bottling companies in the United States, Nestle, which distributes Deer Park water. Did he play a role in the decision?—RESPONSE—1) In its commitment to providing a safe and world-class visitor experience, the National Park Service is discontinuing Policy Memorandum 11-03, commonly referred to as the "Water Bottle Ban." 2) The policy is being discontinued to expand healthy hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks. The ban removed the healthiest beverage choice at a variety of parks while still allowing sales of bottled sweetened drinks. 3) We will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, but ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park, particularly during hot summer visitation periods. 4) The change in policy came after an NPS internal review of the policy's aims and impact in close consultation with Department of the Interior leadership.

Top Stories

- E&E News: [Climate advisory group died quietly](#)
- E&E News: [Greens fault Zinke for overseas trip as report deadline looms](#)
- Sierra Sun Times: [Secretary Zinke Announces No Changes to Sand to Snow National Monument in California](#)
- Los Angeles Times: [Trump administration will keep hands off California's Sand to Snow National Monument](#)
- E&E News: [Zinke, NPS defend parks' Confederate memorials](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Secretary is (b) (6) No public appearances scheduled.
- August 17: DOI announced \$25.6 million in Historic Preservation Grants to states and tribes. Press release can be seen [HERE](#). DOI also issued state-by-state releases to each state and territory, regarding how much grant money each location received.
- August 17: Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt is in Montana and attended an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site. He participated in a press avail yesterday afternoon.

WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- This week the Secretary is (b) (6) and out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)
- Today, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be returning from his Montana trip.
- August 23 (tent.): Department-level Release: DOI & Warm Springs Tribe Sign Agreement to Implement Land Buy-Back Program.

National Park Service:

- August 24: CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to wider audiences.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- August 22 (tent.): National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.

Bureau of Land Management:

- August 21: Local BLM Release: Ormat Nevada, Inc. plans to begin a 30-day flow and injection test of two existing geothermal wells near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, California. The BLM-CA Bishop Field Office, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest Mammoth Lakes Ranger District, approved the flow and injection test on August 1.
- August 21: Local BLM Release: The public comment period for BLM-NV's Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes in Eastern Nevada Preliminary Environmental Assessment closes.
- August 22-24: BLM-UT has been invited to attend the National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit in Salt Lake City, hosted by the State of Utah. The Summit will begin with a field tour of the Onaqui Herd Management Area followed by a tour of the BLM's Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility coordinated by Utah Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, Gus Warr. Registration is by invitation only.
- August 22 – 27: BLM will attend the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference in New Hampshire in conjunction with The International Off-Highway Vehicle Administrators Association (INOHVAA) Conference. The BLM has been asked to

present during both the INOHVAA and NOHVCC events.

•August 23: BLM national program lead for national monuments Tim Fisher and Deputy Division Chief for Recreation and Visitor Services Jeffrey McCusker will attend a presentation by an International Visitor Leadership Program on Conservation areas and Recreation. The presentation will be held at the Main Interior Building and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also attend.

•August 24: BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for Permit to Drill streamlining.

U.S. Geological Survey:

•TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.

Bureau of Reclamation:

•August 18 to 20: Continuation of two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. Exercise will evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

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Federal News Radio (DC) (8/17, Ogrysko) reports that “some of the Interior Department’s longest-tenured and most experienced career executives say they’re feeling undervalued and overlooked as the agency begins a major effort to restructure and reorganize.” The article notes that “their criticisms come as Interior political leadership charges forward with a major reorganization effort that includes the reassignment of 30-to-50 senior executives back in June and another round of job transfers expected in the next few weeks.” Several Interior sources said “that the most recent round of reassignments created a ‘chilling effect’ in the department, and they fear how the reorganization effort will impact the workforce when the department’s executive cadre has had ‘absolutely no involvement whatsoever’ in crafting the agency’s plans.”

Climate Advisory Group Died Quietly.

E&E Publishing (8/17, Doyle, Patterson) reports that the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science, which was established in 2013, is “dead for now,” and “if it’s revived by the Trump administration, it will likely have a new mission.” According to Interior officials, “the panel has been stalled as the new administration considers what to do with advisory groups more broadly.” However, “if it’s revived, Interior officials signaled it will have fewer members and a different objective.”

Long-term Commitment To California’s Water Resources Is Essential.

In commentary for the Los Angeles Times (8/17, Friedman), California Assemblymember Laura Friedman writes that “to protect both water and National Parks and in response to increasing threats to the California desert’s national parks, national monuments and groundwater supplies,” she recently introduced Assembly Bill 1000 – the California Desert Protection Act. According to Friedman, the legislation “strengthens environmental protections in the ecologically fragile Mojave Desert and ensures that future water transfers from groundwater basins underlying desert lands do not adversely affect the region’s natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat.” Friedman points to “a series of direct challenges from the Trump administration toward existing federal protections to the California desert,” including a water project proposed by Cadiz Inc., as an impetus of the bill.

Lawmakers Should Stop Looking To The Energy Sector For More Federal Revenue.

Independent Institute research director and Utah State University Huntsman School of Business J. Fish Smith Professor in Public Choice William F. Shughart II argues in The Hill (8/17, Shughart) “Pundits Blog” that “a remarkable rise in America’s energy production and the creation of more than one million jobs” has presented a new challenge as oil and natural gas companies wrestle to hold on to those gains. He argues that the progress won “thanks to hydraulic fracturing” could “be cut short, however, if Congress singles out the industry by removing certain provisions of the tax code.” He urges Congress and the White House to “show an inclination to raise taxes on energy companies” as “raising effective tax rates on the oil and gas industry by denying credits and deductions available to most other businesses

could send us down the wrong path, and it might not be possible to correct course fast enough.”

Governor Urges Trump To Drop Virginia From Offshore Drilling Plan.

Reuters (8/17, Gardner) reports Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe is urging the Trump Administration to exclude the state from a federal offshore oil and gas drilling plan, over concerns about revenue sharing and environmental issues. In a letter sent to Kelly Hammerle, the national program manager of the BOEM, McAuliffe said he could not trust President Trump to share revenues because he had proposed rescinding the revenue sharing program with Gulf Coast states where drilling already occurs. He also said the Administration is also working to cut funding “from the very agencies that would be charged with protecting Virginia’s coastal environment in the event that exploration went forward.”

Federal Register Listings:

N/A

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**Natalie Davis
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U.S. Department of the Interior
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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Conversation Contents

Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Report 08/17/17

Attachments:

/23. Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Report 08/17/17/1.1
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET
AFFAIRS 08-17-17.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Aug 17 2017 11:57:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6), "Flynn, Matthew J. EOP/WHO" (b) (6),
(b) (6),
(b) (6),
(b) (6)
Subject: Interior Daily Cabinet Affairs Report 08/17/17
Attachments: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR
CABINET AFFAIRS 08-17-17.docx

Attached and copied below:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/17/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Yields \$121 Million in High Bids on 508,096 Acres

NOTE: Today - Deputy Secretary Bernhardt is in Montana. This is his first trip as Deputy Secretary.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6) Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country.

(Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY-TOMORROW, 17-18: In Billings, Montana to give a speech at a reclaimed gold mine site to tout the important work undertaken, the donation of the company's water rights to a conservation group, and the conservation of the land to an elk migration corridor.

Media TODAY

Where: Mineral Hill Mine- Billings, Montana

When: 1:00 p.m. MST

Event: Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt- Speech

Press: Open

Press Inquiries:

From yesterday, 8/16

•Many small inquiries.

•**Multiple Inquiries****Newsweek: REQUEST-- I'm a staff writer with Newsweek and am writing with a question about whether the National Park Service is considering pulling a permit for an alt-right rally next week at Crissy Field in San Francisco following the events in Charlottesville. President Trump condemned the violence committed on both sides in Charlottesville during a press conference yesterday. But House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi has questioned whether the Crissy Field event was approved by the NPS "under guidance from the White House." Has Secretary of the Interior Zinke had any hand in approving alt-right events on NPS public land? And has the White House offered any direction to your department or NPS about this issue? Does the Department of Interior have any comment about these rallies being held on public land?—RESPONSE-- Hello Graham. Below is the Secretary's statement in Charlottesville: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law." The Secretary and his office do not have a role in permitting events at local NPS sites. Please contact NPS regarding the permit process. Also, for additional background, then Congressman Zinke, the governor, senators and attorney general of Montana penned a letter in December denouncing a planned march in Zinke's hometown.**

<https://www.google.com/amp/mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN14H04H>

• **Bloomberg: REQUEST-- I wanted to check on the monument review for an item in our published calendar of upcoming events. Is it still accurate to say that the deadline for the DOE's review of more than two dozen national monuments is Aug. 24 (as per the executive order Trump signed in April)? I recognize that some decisions have already been made/announced, though I also assume those conclusions would be formally reiterated in the final report. Can we expect it to be released publicly on Aug. 24, or sometime later, after it goes to the president?—RESPONSE-- Yes the review period closes on the 24th. I don't have any information on the specific report yet.**

Top Stories

•**Newsline: First Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease under Trump set for auction**

- **Marianas Variety: Governor: NMI to get \$125,000 for wildlife conservation projects**
- **HartEnergy E&P: US GoM Lease Sale Brings In \$121 Million In High Bids**

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- **Secretary is (b) (6)**. No public appearances scheduled.
- **Today, DOI announced no changes will be made to the Sand to Snow National Monument in Southern California. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).**
- **Today, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico for \$121 million. Press release can be seen on <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases>.**
- **Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt is traveling today to Montana to speak at an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site. He will have a press avail tomorrow afternoon.**

WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **This week the Secretary is (b) (6) and out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)**
- **This Wednesday, 8/16, through Friday, 8/18, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be taking his first trip as Deputy Secretary, to Montana.**
- **Today: Department-Level Release: DOI announces an additional \$21 million for historic preservation grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and partnering nations, as well as \$4.6 million for historic preservation grants to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. This funding, along with \$32.6 million awarded earlier this year under a continuing resolution, represents a total of \$58 million.**
- **August 23 (tent.): Department-level Release: DOI & Warm Springs Tribe Sign Agreement to Implement Land Buy-Back Program.**

National Park Service:

- **August 24: CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.**
- **August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.**
- **August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.**
- **August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.**
- **August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.**
- **August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to**

wider audiences.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

●**August 22 (tent.): National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.**

Bureau of Land Management:

●**August 21: Local BLM Release: Ormat Nevada, Inc. plans to begin a 30-day flow and injection test of two existing geothermal wells near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, California. The BLM-CA Bishop Field Office, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest Mammoth Lakes Ranger District, approved the flow and injection test on August 1.**

●**August 21: Local BLM Release: The public comment period for BLM-NV's Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes in Eastern Nevada Preliminary Environmental Assessment closes.**

●**August 22-24: BLM-UT has been invited to attend the National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit in Salt Lake City, hosted by the State of Utah. The Summit will begin with a field tour of the Onaqui Herd Management Area followed by a tour of the BLM's Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility coordinated by Utah Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, Gus Warr. Registration is by invitation only.**

●**August 22 – 27: BLM will attend the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference in New Hampshire in conjunction with The International Off-Highway Vehicle Administrators Association (INOHVAA) Conference. The BLM has been asked to present during both the INOHVAA and NOHVCC events.**

●**August 23: BLM national program lead for national monuments Tim Fisher and Deputy Division Chief for Recreation and Visitor Services Jeffrey McCusker will attend a presentation by an International Visitor Leadership Program on Conservation areas and Recreation. The presentation will be held at the Main Interior Building and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also attend.**

●**August 24: BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for Permit to Drill streamlining.**

U.S. Geological Survey:

●**TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.**

Bureau of Reclamation:

●**August 18 to 20: Continuation of two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. Exercise will evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **August TBD: Local BOEM Release: BOEM Alaska releases Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.**
- **TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.**

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement:

- **Today: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE will announce winners of AML awards for state environmental agencies. Five local releases will be distributed as well.**

Office of Insular Affairs:

- **Today: Local OIA Release: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million**
- **August 18: Local OIA Release: Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387**
- **August 19: Local OIA Release: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million**
- **August 20: Local OIA Release: Youth from Insular Areas - Junior Statesmen Program ~ \$375,000**

Outside Interests:

Justice Department Announces Actions to Strengthen Public Safety in Indian Country

- **DOJ will expand program that gives tribes access to federal crime data opioid awareness trainings in Alaska and California this week.**

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

- **New political started Monday, 8/14: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM**

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

● **In California, the South Fork Fire inside Yosemite National Park (NPS) has burned 2,296 (+596) acres and is 5 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 350 (+97) personnel, including 48 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 238 (no change) residential structures threatened. Two (no change) responder injuries have been reported to date. Voluntary evacuations are under way in some areas surrounding the community of Wawona, and trail closures are in effect. In addition to structures, the fire also threatens archaeological sites, critical habitat for the Yosemite toad, communications infrastructure, rare plant life, and a local water intake. Full containment is expected on September 3.**

● **In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,343 (+193) acres and is 22 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 454 (+104) personnel assigned, including 131 (+23) DOI personnel. One (no change) responder injury has been reported to date. It may be necessary to close the main transportation route to the Twin Lakes and Inchelium areas during suppression activities over the next several days. Full containment is expected on August 31.**

● **The National Park Service (NPS) reports a drowning fatality that occurred on August 14 in the vicinity of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area/Glen Canyon Dam. NPS Rangers were alerted to the situation via multiple calls advising of a man failing to resurface. The deceased was recovered by NPS Rangers and later determined to be a Bureau of Indian Affairs Wildland Firefighter. Circumstances surrounding the drowning are unknown, and particulars pertaining to bureau affiliation/employment status of the deceased have not been verified as of this report.**

●The Green Canyon Block 200 well, an oil well in 2,700 feet of water located 110 miles off the coast of Houma, Louisiana, is experiencing a rise in pressure which presents the possibility for an oil leak, however no leak has been detected. The pressure in the last 24 hours is averaging 9,873 Pounds per square inch (PSI). The system is rated at 10,000 PSI (rated test values 1.5 times that). The well head tree cap has been removed, and the tree running tool has been installed. Function testing of the intervention package is still ongoing and pressure bleed down procedure has not yet started. No leaks have been detected from the well head or associated equipment and an ROV continues to monitor the system on a 24 hour basis. Once the tree cap was removed the annular master valve had to be closed to ensure the well head remains secure. Closing this valve restricted ability to monitor the well pressure. Once the function tests are completed, the master valve will be reopened and monitoring of the well pressure will resume. Well pressure was averaging near 9,873 PSI at 2:45 a.m. Aug 16 when the well head tree cap was removed.

Outside Media of Interest 8/16/17-8/17/17

Interior Secretary Removes 1 California Monument From Review:

The AP (8/16) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "will not recommend that any changes be made to the Sand to Snow National Monument in Southern California." Zinke "says in a statement Wednesday the monument is no longer under the Interior Department review ordered by President Donald Trump in April." He "says the monument has some of the most diverse terrain in the West and is home to "incredible" geographic, biologic and archaeological history."

The 10 National Monuments Trump Is Most Likely To Shrink:

USA Today (8/16, Roth) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "wrapping up his review of nearly two dozen national monuments targeted for downsizing or elimination by the Trump administration." By next week, Zinke is "supposed to send to President Trump recommendations on the future of those land monuments, which were created or expanded by presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton." The article posts a gallery of "the monuments Trump is most likely to downsize or eliminate, in alphabetical order, based on interviews with supporters and opponents of the monuments review."

Trump Won't Remove Civil War Statues:

The Daily Caller (8/16, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department "won't be removing monuments to Confederate soldiers at national battlefields that are 'an important part of our country's history,' according to a spokesman." Spokesman Jeremy Barnum said, "The National Park Service is committed to safeguarding these memorials while simultaneously educating visitors holistically and objectively about the actions, motivations and causes of the soldiers and states they commemorate." The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told reporters in July that battlefield monuments were worth preserving for their historical value." During his visit to Antietam National Battlefield, Zinke said, "Don't rewrite history. Understand it for what it is and teach our kids the importance of looking at our magnificent history as a country and why we are what we are."

Aamodt Meetings Spark Anger, Frustration:

The Santa Fe New Mexican (8/17, Stelnicki) reports that “discontent over the implementation of the Aamodt water-rights settlement took center stage at a pair of meetings Wednesday, with non-Pueblo residents of the Pojoaque Basin north of Santa Fe expressing their frustration, anxiety and even anger about matters that concern the next steps for water use in the valley.” According to the article, “at a town hall in Pojoaque, impassioned valley residents told Alan Mikkelsen, the deputy commissioner of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, that they were unhappy to be excluded from recent closed-door meetings over roadway easement disputes held by Mikkelsen’s agency, Santa Fe County and four pueblos.” The article says that “more than once, Mikkelsen told the crowd that the private meetings had been organized to resolve the roadway concerns without going to court.” The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (8/16, Last) reports that “Mikkelsen also said that if push came to shove, the federal government has a responsibility to side with the pueblos, and Indian tribes rarely lose in court.”

Coal Makes A Comeback:

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/16) writes that despite the Obama Administration’s many efforts to reduce coal consumption and production through regulation, the Trump Administration has spurred coal production and exports through regulatory reform, such as repealing the steam rule, dismantling the power, ash, and methane rules, reopening coal leases, and rescinding the royalty revaluation. The Journal notes that the largest increase in coal exports is to countries with supposedly better climate records, and concludes that the last three quarters of data – while not necessarily indicative of a long-term trend – offer optimistic news to coal states.

Heavily Regulated Coal Mining Has High Standards:

In an op-ed for the Gillette (WY) News Record (8/16, Deti), Travis Deti, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “to allow for the continued leasing of federal coal at fair market value.” According to Deti. “the decision is not a step to open more lands to mining. Rather, it merely ended an ill-conceived moratorium that was never intended to exist for more than three years anyway.”

BLM Looks To Approve Arch Coal’s Request For Royalty Rate Reductions:

Crested Butte News (8/17, Todd) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “appears poised to approve Arch Coal’s recent request for a renewed royalty rate reduction (RRR) on coal they’ve been digging from particularly troublesome areas of the West Elk Mine in Somerset.” According to the article, “while the decision is not yet final, it appears likely to land in the coal mine’s favor, as noted in a recent letter from the BLM to Colorado Governor Hickenlooper.” Gunnison County Commissioners and High County Conservation Advocates have “written letters opposing the reduction.”

Producers Bid \$121 Million For Gulf Of Mexico Blocks:

Reuters (8/16, Hampton) reports major oil producers pushed high bids during the Gulf of Mexico offshore auction to \$121 million, almost seven times greater than a year ago, as interest returned for deepwater exploration. Producers said that the Gulf of Mexico is more attractive, as operational cost cutting has helped projects become profitable at a lower break even. Shell claimed the largest number of blocks, with 19 high bids worth a combined \$25.1 million. Chevron followed with 15 high bids for

\$27.9 million, while Anadarko won 10 blocks for \$10.6 million and ExxonMobil took seven blocks for \$20.4 million. A second Reuters (8/17) report says producers bid on 90 tracts covering 508,096 acres, according to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The sale offered 76 million acres and a reduced royalty rate for shallow water leases. A total of 99 bids were submitted by 27 companies, worth a total \$137 million.

Lawmakers Push Interior To Expand Offshore Drilling:

The Hill (8/16, Henry) reports more than 100 lawmakers wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging the Administration to allow oil and gas drilling in more areas off the coast of the US. The letter said, "Just as today's energy security is the result of production set in motion by decisions made years ago, the decisions on [Outer Continental Shelf] leasing and development facing the department today will lay the groundwork for our energy and national security for decades." However, another group of lawmakers asked the department to block drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic as part of its ongoing review.

National Parks Service Ends Ban On Disposable Water Bottles:

The AP (8/16, Silber) reports that "the federal government announced Wednesday it will eliminate a policy that allowed national parks like the Grand Canyon to ban the sale of bottled water in an effort to curb litter." The National Parks Service "said in a statement it made the decision to 'expand hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks.'" International Bottled Water Association spokeswoman Jill Culora "praised the Park Service's decision in a statement, calling the policy 'seriously flawed' and noted it still allowed other less healthy beverages that are packaged in heavier types of containers." Officials said that "parks will still promote recycling of plastic water bottles, and many have worked with partners to provide free water in bottle-filling stations."

Federal Register Listings:

Cleared for the FR on Wednesday, 8/16

REG0007278 BLM: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease NDM 94112, North Dakota. The BLM informs the public that Emerald Oil, Inc. filed a petition under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 for reinstatement of an expired oil and gas lease in North Dakota. The BLM is proposing to reinstate the lease because the lessee has met the statutory requirements for reinstatement. Notice 08/16/2017

REG0007264 FWS: Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2017-18 Season. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain Tribes on Federal Indian reservations, off reservation trust lands, and ceded lands for the 2017--18 migratory bird hunting season. Proposed Rule 08/16/2017

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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
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202.208.4928**

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/16/17

Attachments:

/25. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/16/17/1.1 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 16 2017 12:38:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
(b) (6), "Flynn, Matthew J. EOP/WHO" (b) (6),
To: (b) (6),
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/16/17
Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: Today- DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: Today through Friday, 8/18, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be taking his first trip as Deputy Secretary to Montana.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

TODAY: In Washington, DC. Office- meetings and briefings. Traveling to Billings, MT later today.
Thursday, August 17: Visiting Yellowstone National Park
Friday, August 18: Several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and meeting with BOR; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

Press Inquiries

•E&E News (Rob Hotakainen) – REQUEST - I'm doing a short story for tomorrow's Greenwire on

confederate monuments in national parks, a request from editors that came out of a meeting today. – **RESPONSE** – Zinke quote: "The racism, bigotry, and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for. We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law."

•**E&E News (Mike Doyle): REQUEST--** On the advisory committee on climate change and the decision to let its charter lapse. I would like to know: Will a climate change advisory committee be revived? If so, how will it be changed? Timing? Are there other advisory committees that have lapsed?—**RESPONSE--** We are currently reviewing all boards and commissions that fall under the Department. The board review period is still ongoing. Final decision on the boards will not be made until we thoroughly review each board and conclude the review period in September or thereafter.

•**Alaska Dispatch News (Alex DeMarban): REQUEST--** I understand Interior has received plans from sub-agencies, such as BOEM, on how to go about updating previous assessments for ANWR and NPRA. But I understand that a final plan has not yet been released by Interior. Isn't that correct? Any idea when that might be released?—**RESPONSE--** updating the assessment is a lengthy process and the Department and its bureaus and agencies are diligently working together. At this time the Department does not have a final product. Will let you know when that is coming.

•**Flathead Beacon (Tristan Scott) – REQUEST -** Can you provide any comment on this poll? It shows a lack of support for the Secretary's proposal to privatize campgrounds and review national monuments. Take a look and let me know. It's done by the Global Strategy Group, which works with Democrats, for what it's worth. I'll attach the poll below. Thanks in advance. – **RESPONSE -** Ad claims 1. 0:18 The monument review will block access to public lands and "block you out" -- **FALSE.** The review of national monuments in no way changes the federal ownership of lands. Also, the review is being conducted to see where access could be expanded for hunting, fishing, recreation, economic development, grazing, and other uses - that is the exact opposite of blocking access. -- 0:22 Zinke proposes private ownership of campgrounds -- **FALSE.** Many National Parks have business partners who manage and maintain campgrounds and other accommodations, such is the case in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. These partnerships have been happening for decades. In order to meet growing visitation at our parks and also help address the backlog in deferred maintenance on projects like campgrounds, lodges, restrooms and more, the Secretary is interested in continuing and expanding these partnerships where appropriate. The land and campgrounds would always remain under National Parks. -- Regarding the "poll" -- It is based in fiction and intentionally misleads respondents. The pollster falsely states there is a proposal to privatize and decrease public lands. This could not be farther from the truth, no such proposals exist because the Secretary is ardently against such proposals. In fact, since being sworn into office, the only thing Secretary Zinke has done to change the amount of public lands is to start the process of accepting a donation to add thousands of acres of private land to a wilderness area in New Mexico. The Secretary and the President have both said on countless occasions that they will not sell or transfer public lands. Any attempt to say otherwise is a lie.

Top Stories:

- E&E News: Judge, citing climate risks, halts Mont. mine expansion**
- New Mexico Political Report: Deadline looms on Zinke's National Monument recommendations**
- Alaska Dispatch News: ConocoPhillips launches drilling at a North Slope oil field**

Top Stories

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Top Issues and Accomplishments:

- Secretary is on (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.**
- Today, Interior announced \$52 million in Wildlife grants. The press release can be found [HERE](#). Press releases were also sent to each state, highlighting what grants they each received.**
- Today, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale**

titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will travel to Montana to attend an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site.

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017:

- Today, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August 17: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$21 million in grants to the 59 State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). NPS will also announce \$4.4 million in grants from Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes.
- August 18: National NPS Release: Revocation of NPS Policy Memo 11-03, *Disposable Plastic Water Bottle Recycling and Reduction*
- August 18: National NPS Release: Revocation of Director's Order #100, *Resource Stewardship for the 21st Century*
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$18 million in Centennial Challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-Federal funds.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: FWS plans to publish in the Federal Register a change to the permitting status for imports of African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe.
- August 15: National FWS Release: FWS announced more than \$52 million in funding to Native American tribes and state wildlife agencies through the Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program and the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. The funds, which are provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, give support for a diverse array of species and habitats across the country. Under the SWG program, more than \$48 million will support species and habitats listed in approved state wildlife action plans. All 50 state and U.S. territorial wildlife agencies have these plans, which proactively protect species in greatest conservation need. Projects funded through SWG involve research, monitoring, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management and other activities. More than \$4 million in TWG funds to Native American and Alaska Native tribes in 14 states will support fish and wildlife conservation and key partnerships. The awards will benefit 25 projects that encompass a wide range of wildlife and habitats, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date TBD. Participants: BLM OCL

(Careers)

- **August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.**
- **August TBD: BLM will publish a proposed rule to suspend or delay requirements from the "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties and Resources Conservation" (Venting and Flaring) for 18 months until July 17, 2018.**

Bureau of Reclamation

- **August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.**
- **August 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.**
- **TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.**
- **TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.**

Office of Wildland Fire

- **August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.**

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

- **New political started Monday: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM**
- 5 nominated awaiting confirmation:**
- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.**
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.**
- Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.**
- Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.**
- Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.**

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)
9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)
9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)
9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)
9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)
9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)
9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)
9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)
9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)
9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)
9/28-30 - Council for National Policy
Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)
Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)
Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)
8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)
8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)
8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)
8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)
8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)
9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)
9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)
9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)
9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)
9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)
9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)
10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)
10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)
10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)
10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

• In California, the South Fork Fire, which began on August 13, is burning inside Yosemite National Park (NPS) just east of Wawona, CA. The fire has burned 1,700 acres and is 0-percent contained. Currently under management by the South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team (IMT), this fire will transition to a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) at 9:00 a.m. EDT today. Current perimeter growth is toward the northern and northeastern flanks of the fire, away from the Wawona community; however, Wawona remains on alert and, with the assistance of Park Service personnel, ready to communicate and execute evacuation orders, if required. Air quality and visibility in the vicinity of the fire, including Wawona, is or is expected to become unhealthy/hazardous as the fire continues.

• In Oregon, the Nena Fire located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 39,526 (-474) acres and is 90 (+10)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 299 (-123) personnel assigned, including 45 (-39) DOI personnel. Management will transition to a Type-3 IMT today. Six structures were destroyed in total; however, no structures are threatened at this time. Full containment is expected today.

• In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,150 (no change) acres and is 22 (+4)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 350 (+14) personnel assigned, including 108 (+15) DOI personnel. One (+1) responder injury has been reported. Resource availability and steep terrain have hindered direct attack strategies and tactics. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/15/17-8/16/17

Mille Lacs Band Gets Federal Grant To Study Walleye Habitat:

The St. Cloud (MN) Times (8/15) reports that the Interior Department “announced Tuesday that it allocated \$993,310 to Minnesota state wildlife agencies” through the Tribal Wildlife Grant and State Wildlife Grants programs. It is among \$48 million being distributed the Interior Department announced Tuesday. Among the grants is a Tribal Wildlife Grant of \$199,07 to “help the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe identify walleye habitat in Mille Lacs Lake.”

With Wildlife And Scenic Views, Interior Department Attracts Large Social Media Following:

The Washington Times (8/15, Wolfgang) report that the Interior Department’s “massive online following” has “remained constant...driven primarily by daily posts featuring wildlife, scenic landscapes and breathtaking views of the nation’s national parks.” The Department’s “following on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and other platforms is rivaled only by NASA, the Pentagon and President Trump.” The Times adds that Interior “views its accounts in a fundamentally different way. A key aspect is offering Americans an easy way to see gorgeous sites from across the country that they never have viewed in person and, in some cases, may have never even heard of.” According to the Times, the Interior Department has 3.95 million Twitter followers, compared with the Energy Department’s 753,000 and the Justice Department’s 1.45 million.

Public Lands Group Launches Ad Campaign Targeting Zinke:

The Flathead (MT) Beacon (8/15, Scott) reports that “with less than 10 days remaining before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s deadline to determine whether some national monuments should be scaled back, a local conservation group has launched a high-ticket ad campaign calling on the Whitefish native to protect public lands.” In addition to the \$500,000 ad purchase, the Western Values Project “released a new poll claiming support is slipping for Zinke in his home state of Montana.” According to the poll, “Zinke’s job approval fell after voters heard about efforts to privatize public lands and dropped further after voters heard about potential plans to privatize public campgrounds.” Interior Spokesperson Heather Swift said, “It is based in fiction and intentionally misleads respondents. The pollster falsely states there is a proposal to privatize and decrease public lands. This could not be farther from the truth. No such proposals exist because the Secretary is ardently against such proposals.”

Missouri Congressman Clay: We Must Protect Historic Sites Connected To The Civil Rights Movement:

The Missourinet (8/15, Hauswirth) reports that the House has approved Rep. William Lacy Clay’s “bipartisan bill to authorize the National Park Service to establish a program to protect places that were significant in the 20th century civil rights struggle.” Clay’s bill “directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to identify and create a national network of historic sites, stories and educational programs connected to the modern civil rights movement.” The legislation is called the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017.

Fearing Violence, California Lawmakers Ask National Park Service To Rescind Permit For San Francisco ‘Alt-right’ Rally.

The Los Angeles Times (8/15, McGreevy) reports that “citing concern over violent clashes at a Charlottesville rally of white nationalists last weekend, a group of California lawmakers called Tuesday for the National Park Service to rescind a permit issued for a pro-Trump rally scheduled for Aug. 26 in San Francisco.

More Closed-Door Meetings For Planned Regional Water System:

The AP (8/15) reports that “Santa Fe County, four pueblos and the U.S. Department of the Interior have scheduled more closed-door meetings this week about roadway disputes that threaten to impede funding for a planned regional water system in the Pojoaque Basin.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs “says some county roads trespass on tribal land.” According to the article, “the meetings suggest an intensified emphasis on reaching a resolution to the disputes as the Bureau of Reclamation prepares to begin construction on the water system next summer.”

Trump, Don’t Take Our National Parks Away From Veterans:

For the “Pundits” blog of The Hill (8/15, Eaton, Contributor), Major General Paul D. Eaton, US Army (Ret.), managing director of Vet Voice Foundation, writes that veterans “value our nation’s public lands – places that we as service members fought to protect, and that we seek out for healing and renewal after coming home from war.” For this reason, Eaton feels veterans “must speak out about the Trump administration’s troubling approach to public lands stewardship.” He claims that “although they have only been in office for a short time, the president and Interior

Secretary Ryan Zinke have already threatened the great strides on conservation and responsible energy development that have taken place under the last few presidential administrations.” Eaton concludes that “if President Trump and his administration really care about veterans, they would do well to remember how critical our national parks and public lands are to us, and to all Americans, and stop taking steps to diminish them by doing favors for their friends in the fossil fuel industry.”

Under New Interior Department Plan, Sage Grouse Will Suffer:

In a piece for the High Country (CO) News (8/15, Lyons), James Lyons, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and lecturer and research scholar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, wants Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to recognize that the greatest threat to economic development in sage grouse territory is not the existing sage grouse conservation plans, but the threat of losing the ‘regulatory certainty’ that they provide.” He warns, “lose the predictability necessary to encourage investment in the sagebrush landscape, and its communities are likely to become endangered along with the Greater sage grouse.” According to Lyons, “the Zinke directive, announced in conjunction with the sage grouse review, risks snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, particularly as it emphasizes that sage grouse conservation must not impede President Donald Trump’s efforts to achieve American energy dominance.”

Zinke Has Only One Legal Option For Katahdin Woods And Waters: Retain Its Monument Status:

In an op-ed for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (8/15, Moffa, Schindler), Anthony Moffa, a visiting professor of law, and Sarah Schindler, a professor of law and Glassman Faculty Research Scholar at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland, argue that the only recommendation that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke can make regarding the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument that is “legally and equitably permissible” is that “the monument status must be retained.” The authors argue that the other options of revocation and diminishment would “overstep the president’s authority.” According to the authors only the option of retaining the designation “complies with the Antiquities Act, upholds the agreement between the former landowners and the government, and respects the investment that people of this state have already made in and around the monument.”

Congress, Keep The West Wild — Or At Least What’s Left Of It:

For the “Pundits” blog of The Hill (8/15, Super, Contributor), David A. Super, a professor of law at Georgetown Law, urges Congress to reject the proposed Historic Routes Preservation Act, S. 468 and H.R. 3270. According to Super, “far from ‘preserving’ anything, this legislation would likely ruin what little we still have of the wild West, from open landscapes to rugged communities to truly wild animals.”

North Dakota Awarded \$10 Million From Feds For DAPL Protest Costs.

The Bismarck (ND) Tribune (8/15, Hageman) reports that the Justice Department “awarded North Dakota \$10 million to help cover the costs associated with the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, the state’s senators said Tuesday.” According to the Tribune, “the \$10 million represents only a portion of the \$38 million the state and Morton County have incurred from the months long protests, during which some 1,400 law enforcement officers assisted.

Jurors Begin Deliberating In Trial Of Four Bundy Supporters In Nevada.

Reuters (8/16, Smith) reports that “jurors at a federal court in Nevada began deliberations on Tuesday in the retrial of four men accused of numerous charges for acting as gunmen in the 2014 standoff led by renegade rancher Cliven Bundy against federal authorities.”

Federal Register Listings

Cleared for the FR on Tuesday, 8/15

REG0007272 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN N2819. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority in Knoxville, Tennessee. The remains and objects were removed from multiple sites in Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties in Alabama. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007273 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN N2823. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

(NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority and in the physical custody of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. The remains and objects were removed from sites in Franklin County, Alabama, from 1973 to 1979. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007274 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN N2824. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority and in the physical custody of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. The remains and objects were removed from sites in Colbert and Lauderdale Counties in Alabama in the 1930s and in the 1980s. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007283 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT N2825 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. The remains were removed from a village near Anvik, Yukon-Koyukuk Borough, Alaska, in 1937. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007284 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, and Nevada State Museum, Carson City, NV N2826. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, and in the physical custody of the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, Nevada. The remains and objects were removed from sites near Pyramid Lake in Washoe County, Nevada, between 1954 and 1979. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007285 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock, AR N2513. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. The remains were removed from a bluff shelter in Madison County, Arkansas, in 1991. Notice 08/15/2017

REG0007286 NPS: Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock, AR N2717. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. The remains were removed from a salvage operation in Randolph County, Arkansas, in 1888. Notice 08/15/2017

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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928**

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/15/2017

Attachments:

/27. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/15/2017/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-15-17.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 15 2017 13:16:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6), "Flynn, Matthew J. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6),
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 08/15/2017
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-15-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/15/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, through Friday, 8/18, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt will be taking his first trip as Deputy Secretary to Montana.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

Today, 8/15

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Later this Week:

Wednesday, August 16: traveling to Bozeman, MT.

Thursday, August 17: meetings

Friday, August 18: several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and meeting with BOR; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

-

Press Inquiries:

8/14 (From Yesterday, 8/14)

Many small inquiries.

•Reuters: REQUEST-- I understand that the Department of the Interior made an offer to a Presidential Management Fellow finalist this year regarding a position at the Department, but that the offer was rescinded. Can DOI provide any further information on this case, and whether the agency is participating in the PMF program this year? If so, how many PMFs do you anticipate having this year?—RESPONSE-- we have been confirmed to receive one and are hopeful for a second. Not all agencies get a fellow because there simply are not enough to go around, therefore receiving two is not a given either. I do not have information on specific individuals at this time. Whatever information you're receiving about uncertainty at Interior is not accurate.

•S&P Global: REQUEST-- I am looking into how many federal regulations have been proposed and finalized since President Trump took office compared with past administrations. Does the Department of Interior have info/stats on how many regulations it has proposed or finalized since January 21 versus the same period in prior years?—RESPONSE—You can run reports on rules and regulations at [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov). A better comparison would be compared to January 20-August 15 of 2009 rather than last year.

•National Park Traveler: REQUEST-- In light of the administration's desire to reduce the federal workforce, and the budget, there has been talk of reorganizing the Interior Department and, I assume, the Park Service, to, in effect, do the same with less and manage to keep visitor experience high and impacts to park resources low. Has any progress been made in this reorganization effort that you can share?—RESPONSE-- Improving the visitor experience, health of the land, and the overall well-being of the Parks is at the top of the Secretary's list of priorities, which is why

the Secretary's planned reorganization will allow the Department to push more resources to the frontlines, rather than in offices in D.C. The Department also plans to look at expanding and duplicating successful public-private partnerships that are already happening in Parks, such as making smart investments of federal dollars to leverage even more private funding, like in the case with ongoing improvements to the Gateway Arch at the National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis.

Top Stories:

- **New York Times: In South Texas, Threat of Border Wall Unites Naturalists and Politicians**
- **Forbes: Survey Says...Offshore Seismic is Safe**
- **Bloomberg BNA: Sage Grouse Protection Changes May Yield Benefits, States Say**
- **Editorial-Wall Street Journal: Washington's Wild Grouse Chase**

Top Issues and Accomplishments:

- **Secretary is on (b) (6) . No public appearances scheduled.**
- **Wednesday, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.**
- **Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will travel to Montana to attend an event dedicating the reclamation and preservation of a new wildlife corridor at the former Mineral Hill mine site.**
- **This week the Department will issue 3 press releases – 2 announcing grants and one rescinding Obama-era National Park Service regulation "Directors Order 100"**

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

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National Park Service

- **August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.**

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- **Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date TBD. Participants: BLM OCL (Careers)**
- **August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.**

Bureau of Reclamation

- **August 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.**
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CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

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Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

- **New political started Monday: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM**

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

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Emergency Management

In Oregon, the Nena Fire located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 40,000 (no change) acres and is 80 (+20)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 422 (-22) personnel assigned, including 84 (-8) DOI personnel. Though the threat is minimal, 141 (no change) residential and 2 (no change) commercial structures remain threatened. Additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected on August 16.

In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 1,150 (+32) acres and is 18 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 336 (+23) personnel assigned, including 93 (+11) DOI personnel. The fire continues to threaten cultural and natural resources. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/14-8/15

Lawmakers Urge Feds To Bar Atlantic, Eastern Gulf Drilling.

Law360 (8/14, Lidgett) reports that "a bipartisan coalition of more than 60 U.S. House of Representatives members told the federal government on Friday to make the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern Gulf of Mexico off-limits for oil and gas leasing." Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. and Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo "led a group of lawmakers in sending a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke saying that the two areas should not be included in the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program."

NJ Spotlight (8/15, Johnson) reports that in a letter, New Jersey's congressional delegation wrote, "The reopening of this process not only endangers New Jersey's coastal economy, but also ignores the will of the local communities that would be most impacted by oil drilling – including over 120 municipalities, 1,200 elected

officials, 41,000 businesses, and 500,000 fishing families from up and down the Atlantic coast who have all voiced their opposition to oil and gas activities." The Trump Administration will "close comments on Thursday on the first step to develop a new program for oil and gas exploration on the outer continental shelf along virtually the entire nation's coasts."

E&E News: ConocoPhillips drills new Alaska site (8/15, DeMarban)

ConocoPhillips Alaska has launched drilling at a new site of viscous oil, the latest sign that the oil industry is recovering from its long slump. Low oil prices led the company to delay the \$460 million project last year, but now the company expects oil to be flowing by year's end. The field on the North Slope is expected to produce about 8,000 barrels a day, adding to the 530,000-barrel daily production the slope has posted so far this year. The project, called 1H NEWS, taps into some of the slope's biggest opportunities: viscous oil and its stickier cousin, heavy oil. Companies have so far focused on Alaska's easier-flowing, cheaper-to-produce light oil (Alex DeMarban, original story published by: Alaska Daily News, Aug. 13). — AAA

E&E News: Chevron to recommit to North Sea (8/15, Thomas)

Chevron Corp. is preparing to double down on its commitment to North Sea oil fields. The company is reconsidering plans to develop the Rosebank oil and gas field, in which it has a majority stake. Chevron will also make a final investment decision soon on whether to extend the life of its Captain Field, which has been producing for 20 years. Greta Lydecker, president and managing director of Chevron Upstream Europe, said the company has been working to reduce the Rosebank project's costs since the oil price crash of mid-2014.

Federal Government Halts Drilling At North Dakota Well Site.

The AP (8/14) reports that "the federal government has halted the drilling of oil wells near a North Dakota resort boat ramp at the request of the Three Affiliated Tribes." Tribal Chairman Mark Fox "says the tribe appealed the federal permit of the drilling site because it violates tribal setback requirements from the lake." The Interior Board of Land Appeals has "delayed the project in response to the tribe's appeal last week."

Judge's Rulings Lead To Tense Moments In Bundy Case In Vegas.

The AP (8/14, Ritter) reports that "restrictions placed by a federal judge on what defendants can say about being at Cliven Bundy's ranch in April 2014 are leading to tense moments in the Las Vegas retrial of four men accused of wielding assault-style weapons to stop federal agents from rounding up cattle belonging to the anti-government figure." Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro "refused Monday to order a mistrial sought by the defense attorney for Eric Parker, a defendant who Navarro ordered off the witness stand last week before telling the jury to disregard his testimony." According to Las Vegas lawyer Robert Draskovich, "such a dramatic step involving a defendant in the presence of a jury is unusual and might draw scrutiny from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco."

Greens, Industry Upset About Gulf Exploration Rules.

E&E Publishing (8/14, Gronewold) reports on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's programmatic environmental impact statement on "geophysical exploration for oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico." The agency "generally concluded that allowing more seismic testing in the Gulf poses minimal risk to marine habitats." It is recommending "some restrictions" and critics say the proposed rules "don't go far enough in protecting marine life." Meanwhile, the International Association of

Geophysical Contractors said that the rules “are unscientific” and put “energy exploration at risk.”

Baltimore Mayor Pugh Pledges To Remove Confederate Monuments.

The Baltimore Sun (8/14, Broadwater) reports that Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh “pledged to Monday take down Confederate-era monuments in Baltimore — and said she has asked contractors for estimates on how much it will cost.” Former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake “appointed a commission of academics and officials to review Baltimore’s four Confederate monuments in 2015 after the shooting deaths of nine African-Americans in a historically black South Carolina church by a white man who had posted photographs of himself with the Confederate battle flag.” The memorials include the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Confederate Women’s Monument, the Roger B. Taney Monument, and the Robert E. Lee and Thomas. J. “Stonewall” Jackson Monument. The commission appointed by Rawlings-Blake “suggested the Lee and Jackson statue be offered to the National Park Service to place in Chancellorsville, Va., where the two Confederate generals last met in 1863.”

Gettysburg Park Hasn’t Received Complaints About Confederate Monuments, Won’t Remove Any Statues.

The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (8/14, Robinson) reports that “in the wake of white supremacist rally and ensuing violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, Gettysburg National Military Park has not received any new complaints about its Confederate monuments at the park, said spokeswoman Katie Lawhon.” According to the article, “more than 1,300 monuments, markers and plaques are housed at the park to memorialize the historic battle, including a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and a Confederate flag on display in the museum.” The park “maintains that the memorials are important to the cultural landscape and has no plans to remove any monuments or statues.”

Caltech And Others Get \$4.9 Million For Earthquake Warning System.

The Los Angeles Daily Breeze (8/14) reports that “Caltech and six other institutions were awarded a total of \$4.9 million in funds by the U.S. Geological Survey” yesterday “for the development of an earthquake-warning system on the West Coast.” Caltech was “awarded funds along with Central Washington University, UC Berkeley, the universities of Oregon, Washington and Nevada-Reno, and UNAVCO, a geological-science research nonprofit.” The USGS “also announced the purchase of about \$1 million in sensor equipment to be used in the ShakeAlert system, which is designed to give residents several seconds of advance warning of an earthquake, allowing them to quickly seek shelter or take precautionary actions to limit damage.”

Federal Register Listings

Cleared for the FR on Monday, 8/14

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REG0007250 BIA: Pueblo of Santa Clara Liquor Ordinance; Amendments. This Notice publishes amendments to the Santa Clara Pueblo Liquor Code which regulates the control, possession, and sale of liquor on the Santa Clara Pueblo trust lands in conformity with the laws of the State of New Mexico, where applicable and necessary.
Notice 08/14/2017

REG0007226 BLM: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Greater Phoenix Project, Lander County, Nevada. The BLM announces the availability of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for Newmont USA Limited's proposed expansion of its existing Phoenix Mine, a gold and copper mining and beneficiation operation, southwest of Battle Mountain, Nevada. The BLM requests public comments on the Draft EIS for the Greater Phoenix Project for 45 days. Notice. 08/14/2017

REG0007220 FWS: Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District's Probation Tank Replacement Project in Felton, Santa Cruz County, California. The San Lorenzo Valley Water District has applied for an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act. The application addresses the anticipated take of the endangered Mount Hermon June beetle and Zayante band-winged grasshopper incidental to the replacement of a degraded water storage tank. Notice 08/14/2017

REG0007261 USGS: Federal Advisory Committee: National Geospatial Advisory Committee Notice of Public Meeting on September 6-7, 2017. Meeting Waiver Request approved 07/21/2017. Notice 08/14/2017

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**Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928**

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/14/17

Attachments:

/30. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/14/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-14-17.docx

"Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 14 2017 11:57:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6), "Flynn, Matthew J. EOP/WHO"
(b) (6),
(b) (6),
(b) (6), (b) (6)
CC: Douglas Domenech <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/14/17
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-14-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/14/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

NOTE: This Wednesday, 8/16, DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold a large offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn are (b) (6). Natalie Davis is preparing the report and participating in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

Today and Tuesday (8/14-8/15)

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Later this Week:

Wednesday August 16: traveling to Bozeman, MT.

(b) (5)

. CANCELLED

Thursday August 17: meetings

Friday August 18: several media hits; meeting with BLM and BIA employees and most likely meeting with BOR- they are in the same building; return to DC that afternoon/evening.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

Press Inquiries:

(Friday, 8/11)

Many small inquiries.

- **E&E News: REQUEST--** Does the department plan to offer employee buyouts or early outs any time soon, or wait until fiscal 2019? Does the department plan to issue another round of reassignment notices to senior executives soon? If so, when and which agency(ies)? I am hearing NPS and possibly another round at BLM.—**RESPONSE--** We don't have anything to announce on the reorganization right now. The Secretary plans to release his plan once everything has been finalized.
- **Reuters: REQUEST--** I'm working on a story about North Korea's threat to come up with a plan by mid-August that would include missile strike plans against Guam. I'm curious whether there are any plans to issue an advisory to visitors, businesses, airlines regarding Guam tourism and airspace based on North Korea's warning?—**RESPONSE** —Referred to NSC

Top Stories

- **New York Times:** 27 National Monuments Are Under
- **KWRG New Mexico:** Zinke Supports Acceptance of 3,595 Acres of Wilderness for Sportsmen's Access to Sabinoso Wilderness

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Secretary is (b) (6) . No public appearances scheduled.

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WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

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- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

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Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

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Emergency Management

In Oregon, the **Nena Fire** located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 40,000 (+16,000) acres. The fire is 60 (+56)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 444 (+204) personnel assigned, including 92 (-5) DOI personnel. There are 141 (no change) residential and 2 (no change) commercial structures threatened. There are 75 (no change) evacuees and 120 (no change) residents subject to shelter in place. There have been 3 (+2) responder injuries to date. Additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected on August 16.

Also in Oregon, the **Spruce Lake Fire** in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,885 (+151) acres. The fire is 45 (+14)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 IMT with 401 (+18) personnel assigned, including 37 (+20) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The West Rim Drive and Rim Trail from Rim Village to North Junction have reopened. The evacuation notice for Rim Village and park headquarters has been lifted. Full containment is expected on August 31.

In Washington, the **Bridge Creek Fire** began on August 9 on the Colville Reservation (BIA) and has burned 1,118 acres. The fire is 13-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 313 personnel assigned, including 82 DOI personnel. The fire threatens cultural and natural resources, a critical transportation corridor, and recreation areas. The fire also has the potential to impact the Colville Tribe local government. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/11-8/14

Wall Street Journal: Washington's Wild Grouse Chase-Interior moves to ease land-use limits that are needlessly punitive.

(8/11, Opinion) The biggest economic-policy achievement of the Trump Administration so far is regulatory relief, and the latest example concerns a flamboyant fowl known as the greater sage grouse.

The Interior Department this week announced it would consider changes to 15 federal land-use

plans across more than 60 million acres that are designed to protect the sage grouse, which roams some 180 million acres across 11 Western states. The sage grouse population ebbs and flows, usually with weather patterns, and a 2015 report from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies found that mating males had increased 63% in the preceding two years.

27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch.

The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Friedman, Popovich, McCann) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection.” However, “not all of the monuments are truly in the administration’s crosshairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes.” The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

Free Map Denotes Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

The AP (8/13) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage “isn’t allowing signs on highways to direct motorists to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument,” but now there’s a map. The Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument has “created a new topographical map that identifies key features, like the loop road.” The maps are “available for free at the monument visitor stations in Millinocket and Patten and at the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce.”

Whose National Monument Claims Are Disingenuous? Not Ours. In an op-ed for the Arizona Republic (8/11, Gosar), Rep. Paul A. Gosar attacks Rep. Raúl Grijalva for penning an op-ed criticizing a letter signed by 17 members of Congress providing comments on the review of national monuments. Gosar takes issue with Grijalva’s “eccentric far-left environmentalism” and his apparent conflicts of interest. Gosar urges Grijalva “to drop the partisan nonsense, debate these issues’ merits and let’s work together to solve problems facing hard-working Arizonans.”

Scientists Urge No Changes To Cascade-Siskiyou Monument (Guest Opinion). In an op-ed for the Oregonian (8/13, Parker, Trail, Williams), Michael Parker, Ph.D., professor and chair of the biology program at Southern Oregon University; Pepper Trail, Ph.D., a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and conservation co-chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society; and Jack Williams, Ph.D., the senior scientist for Trout Unlimited and a former Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to propose no changes to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. They urge Zinke “to respect the science, the grassroots collaboration and the sustained support of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Gov. Kate Brown.”

National Monuments Support Jobs, Innovation. In an op-ed for the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (8/12, Hayes), Marne Hayes, the executive director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors, writes that “Montana may have dodged a bullet” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared the Missouri River Breaks safe from changes, but our western neighbors are still experiencing the fear and uncertainty of the ongoing review process.” According to Hayes, “that’s why business leaders from across the West converged in Montana last week to protest changes to western national monuments still in the crosshairs of Sec. Zinke’s review.” Hayes argues that “rolling back existing protections in any of these states is just not good for business. It also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines every other existing monument, including the Upper Missouri River Breaks.”

Fleeing To The Mountains. In his column for the New York Times (8/12, Kristof), Nicholas Kristof writes that “public lands are at risk today.” According to Kristof, “more aggressively than past administrations,” the Trump Administration is “systematically handing over America’s public lands for private exploitation in ways that will scar the land forever.” Kristof encourages readers to visit public lands to get a sense of “what is being lost.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Appointee Wants More Hunting And Fishing On Federal Lands.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow more hunting and fishing on federal wildlife refuges, relaxing regulations in some places, opening up moose and turkey hunting in other places,” was provided by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/11), U.S. News & World Report (8/11), and the Roseburg (OR) News-Review (8/11, Urness).

US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.

The U.S. News & World Report (8/11, Ridler) reports that “cattle grazing will continue” at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve “following a challenge by an environmental group, federal officials announced this week.” The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said in a statement Wednesday said grazing on BLM-administered portions of the monument “not covered by lava flows will stay at about 99 percent of current levels.” The bureau said in a written statement, “The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration’s effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation.”

BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (8/12, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “approved a plan to remove up to 100 wild horses from private and other land southeast of Rangely this fall, a decision made more controversial due to activists’ concerns that animals could end up being euthanized.” The bureau “said Friday it plans to use a helicopter operation to round up horses that have strayed outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area.” The decision, “which is subject to a 30-day appeal period, also will allow future gathers to remove other horses outside the management area.”

U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.

USA Today (8/12, James) reports that U.S. and Mexican officials are “finalizing a water-sharing deal for the Colorado River, and a newly released summary of the accord’s key points shows negotiators have agreed on a cooperative approach geared toward boosting reservoir levels and trying to stave off a severe shortage.” The document, “which federal officials have circulated among water agencies, outlines a series of joint measures that build on the current 5-year agreement, which expires at the end of this year.” The article says that “the new accord – titled Minute No. 323 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty – is expected to be signed sometime this fall, perhaps as early as September, and would remain in effect through 2026.”

Forbes: Survey Says...Offshore Seismic is Safe

(8/11, Bradley, Jr.) Late last month, Delaware Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons released a joint statement opposing seismic surveying in the Atlantic Ocean. Their worry is that such preparatory drilling work for oil and natural gas below the ocean floor would negatively impact marine life along the Atlantic coast.

Their fears are unfounded. Atlantic drilling would create economic benefits at virtually no

environmental cost. As environmental economists understand, wealth is health; that is, economic prosperity redounds to individuals and families in ways that result in longer and better living.

Federal Register Listings

Cleared for the FR on Friday, 8/11

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REG0007245 BLM. Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for BNI Coal Ltd.'s Coal Lease-by-Application NDM-102083, Oliver County, ND. The BLM announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for BNI Coal, Ltd.'s Federal Coal Lease-by-Application (LBA) for public review and comment. The BLM will hold a public hearing on the EA, Fair Market Value, and Maximum Economic Recovery of the coal resources contained in the proposed lease tract near Center, North Dakota. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007197 BOE. Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP) in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. BOEM is announcing the availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Liberty DPP in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area in the Alaska Region. This Notice announces a 90-day public comment period and five public hearings on the Draft EIS scheduled in October 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007249 BOR. Notice of Availability for the Sites Reservoir Project Draft EIR/EIS and Feasibility Report. Reclamation, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Federal lead agency, and the Sites Project Authority, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency, announce that the Sites Reservoir Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and Draft Feasibility Report are available for public review and comment for 60 days. Public meetings on the Project are scheduled for September 26 and 28, 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0006832 FWS. Amenity Fees at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY. Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement annual hunting and fishing fees and special permit fees for commercial recreational activities. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007232 FWS. Incidental Take Permit Applications Received to Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma. This notice provides public review for incidental take permit applications under the American Burying Beetle amended Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) from NGPL PipeCo, LLC and Subsidiaries; Wildhorse Terminal, LLC; and Antioch Operating, LLC. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007236 FWS. Proposed HCP for Sierra Pacific Industries Forest Practices in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA: Environmental Impact Statement. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is proposing to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern spotted owl and the California spotted owl. The Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed HCP that would cover activities including timber harvest and forest management activities on SPI's 1.6 million acres of private forest lands in California. Notice 08/11/2017

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17

Attachments:

/33. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-10-17.docx

/33. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17/2.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-10-17.docx

"Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Aug 10 2017 12:17:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), "Flynn, Matthew" (b) (6), "Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), "Murphy, Christine M. EOP/WHO" (b) (6), "Uli, Gabriella M. EOP/WHO" (b) (6)
CC: Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-10-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/10/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: The National Wildfire Multi-Agency Coordinating Group will increase the National Preparedness Level (PL) to its highest level, PL 5 at 4:00 pm MST. At this time, nearly all available firefighting suppression assets and people are committed.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn will be (b) (6). Natalie Davis will prepare the report and participate in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

White House Report (Yesterday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries, and many requests for interviews with Secretary Zinke.
- S&P Global - REQUEST-- I'm working on a story about BP's recent discovery of new gas reserves in the Mancos Shale, located in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. The well is on federal land, like much of the Mancos is. My question is this: since the inauguration of President Trump, have there been any efforts made by BLM/DOI to increase potential access to the San Juan and Piceance Basins for oil and gas producers? –RESPONSE-- here is a secretarial order Secretary Zinke signed to increase access and streamline permitting of energy projects on federal lands <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/zinke-signs-secretarial-order-streamline-process-federal-onshore-oil-and-gas-leasing>
- San Francisco Chronicle – REQUEST - Would love to talk to anyone there about the status of the monument review, what's going into the process, how determinations are being made, what's up for California. – RESPONSE – Nothing to announce at this time on California monuments. Of the hundreds of national monuments across the country, 27 were put under review. So far, five monuments have been removed from the review process and the Secretary recommended that no size modifications be made to them (Craters of the Moon, Hanford Reach, Canyons of the Ancients, Grand Canyon Parashant, and Upper Missouri Breaks). The secretary also submitted an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument on June 10th. Since May, Secretary Zinke has personally visited eight national monument sites in six states. He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary meets with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue. In an effort to make the process transparent and give people a voice in the process, the secretary opened up a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

Top Stories

- Las Vegas Review Journal: EDITORIAL: Protecting the rural West from the environmental-judicial complex
- Williamson Daily News: Officials applaud mine proposal to create jobs in WV

- San Gabriel Valley Tribune: San Bernardino rep asks Trump to shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, citing ski resort and mining
- High Country News: Interior's new sage grouse recommendations at a glance

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Secretary is (b) (6). No public appearances scheduled.

This week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be (b) (6) out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI will announced FWS proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August 10: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the unveiling of Unveil Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer Program for the 2017 North American Total Solar Eclipse.
- August 11: Rep. Tom McClintock will be visiting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The purpose of the visit is to meet with the superintendent and receive a tour of the parks. Among topics likely to be discussed are annual visitation, tree mortality from drought, wildland fire, and maintenance backlog progress.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS plans to announce \$4,254,638 in Tribal Wildlife Grant awards to federally recognized tribes for 25 projects in 14 states to fund a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed above-ground water storage facility off-stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.
- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental

Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.

- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 10: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders regarding the draft EIS for G&G Activities in GOM.
- August 11: National BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

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CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

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Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 51

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jeffersons Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)

8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)

8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)

8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 57,151 (+4,075) acres and is 85 (+38)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 464 (-4) personnel, which includes 127 (+4) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Significant resource demobilization is projected to begin today, and full containment is expected on August 12.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 31 (+8)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384

(no change) personnel assigned, including 15 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Although some additional perimeter growth is expected, fire behavior has been moderated by a wetting rain that fell over the entire fire area. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Examiner (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking "to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife." The change would "bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted," according to the department.

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The AP (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico." According to the article, "if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow" for the Sabinoso Wilderness "to be accessed without trespassing." Zinke "said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority." He said in a statement, "I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways."

Enviros Sue Over 'Sham' Monument Review.

The Daily Caller (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity "filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump's administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior's (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act." The Interior Department "has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that "a recap of the secretary's schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded."

Climate Reports May Slow Trump's Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

Bloomberg News (8/9, Sullivan) reports that "a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump's effort to roll back federal climate regulations." Bloomberg says "a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed

report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday” and “its conclusion will be similar to previous years’ versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it’s man-made and it’s dangerous.” Meanwhile, “that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe.” Analysts say “both reports are at odds with Trump’s contention that climate change is a ‘hoax’ and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama’s efforts to address the issue.”

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

The Guardian (UK) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam’s location, “within range of North Korean medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang.” The US has “a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was used during the Vietnam war.” According to the article, “though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US military’s presence, it is also essential to the island’s economy, second only to tourism.”

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the Detroit News (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that “North Korea’s threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically.” To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump “to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories.” Lennox argues that “it’s time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

"Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Aug 10 2017 12:18:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers