

To: Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO[(b)(6)-White House Staff]gov]; Flynn, Matthew[(b)(6)-White House Staff]gov]; Uli, Gabriella M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6)-White House Staff]gov]; Murphy, Christine M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6)-White House Staff]gov]; Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6)-White House Staff]gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-24T15:39:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/24/17
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DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-24-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/24/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to WV with POTUS.

Meeting with DJ Gribbin at EEOB.

Lunch with Ambassadorial nominee to Portugal George Glass.

Meeting with Louisiana Delegation (Rep. Graves, Rep. Higgins, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Abraham).

Travel to West Virginia for Boy Scouts event with POTUS.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday: HOLD: Rural Prosperity Task Force Principals Breakfast; Meeting with Philip Howard, Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling; Call with Rep. Costa; Call with Senator Schatz; Travel to Ohio, American Heroes POTUS event.

Wednesday: Hold for Sen. Merkley; Tour with Mayor Bowser; Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson; Travel to El Paso, TX. (political event)

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NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country.

Media TODAY

(Saturday) SECRETARY ZINKE AND COLORADO SENATOR GARDNER ANNOUNCE MORE THAN \$50 MILLION FOR NATIONAL PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE

NPS Centennial Challenge Program is Matching \$20 Million in Congressional Funding with \$33 Million from Partner Organizations to Support Maintenance Projects at National Parks

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Colorado Senator Cory Gardner announced today that the National Park Service is teaming up with partners across the nation to distribute nearly \$50 million in high priority maintenance and infrastructure projects at 42 parks in 29 states. Congress provided \$20 million for the projects as part of the Centennial Challenge program which will be matched by \$33 million from more than 50 park partners to improve trails, restore buildings, and increase visitor access to parks.

Secretary Zinke and Senator Gardner made the announcement while visiting Rocky Mountain National Park, which will receive \$200,000 in federal funds matched by \$200,000 from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy to reduce deferred maintenance on the Alluvial Fan Trail.

(Potential) Zinke on confirmation of Bernhardt.

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National Park Service

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- July 26 (tent.): BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.

Office of Insular Affairs

- July 25: Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, regarding the LBJ Hospital in American Samoa.
- July 25 or 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

CONGRESSIONAL

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

10:00am: House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Natives Affairs Subcommittee Oversight Hearing Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa

Witness: Thomas Bussanich, Director of Budget, Insular Affairs

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:45am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing on S. 32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act; S. 90, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; S.357, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act; S.436, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act; S.467, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act; S.468, Historic Routes Preservation Act; S.614, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act; S.785, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act; S.837, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act; S.884, Small Miners Waiver Act; S.941, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act; S.1149, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation; S.1230, Water Rights Protection Act; S.1271, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and S.1548, Oregon Wildlands Act

Witness: John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, BLM

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States

Witness: Jason Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA

Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

Richard "Rick" Goeken- (pronounced "Gaykin") as Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife. Past experience: Smith Currie & Hancock LLP- Partner- (focusing on impact of federal environmental law and policy on access to public lands, federal contracts for the use of natural resources and development of private property.

Blake Deeley as Advisor for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Past experience:

Congressman David McKinley- Policy Advisor for Energy and Environmental, Subcommittees and staffer for House Congressional Coal Caucus.

5 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Deputy Secretary nominee David Bernhardt is expected to be voted on in the Senate on Monday.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech participated in a Senate hearing on Thursday. Nominee Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/24 National Boy Scout Jamboree (Glen Jean, WV)

7/29 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/22 - 2017 Lake Tahoe Summit invited by Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Heller (Lake Tahoe, CA)
8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)
8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)
8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)
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)

Emergency Management

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 76,250 (+5,662) acres and is 45 (+35)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 5,043 (+1,306) personnel, including 113 (+45) DOI personnel. There are 1,500 (no change) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. State Routes 140 and 49 remain impacted by the fire and are impeding access to Yosemite National Park. Additionally, high power transmission lines, which supply power to Yosemite National Park, have been impacted by the fire. The USGS reports that the Detwiler Fire has also disrupted service for 19 seismic sensors in the Northern California Seismic Network. These sensors provide coverage over the western side of the southern San Joaquin Valley, from the San Luis Reservoir to Coalinga and from Copperopolis to Visalia in the Sierra foothills. Once access to the area is possible, a detailed assessment of impacts and projected timeline for service repairs will be performed by USGS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel. Impacts to the earthquake monitoring capabilities of the USGS include the loss of ability to detect and locate small earthquakes in the immediate vicinity, along with increased uncertainty in the initial location of larger earthquakes in the immediate vicinity. Full containment of the Detwiler Fire is expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 226,000 acres and is 5-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 215 personnel, including 26 DOI personnel. There are 145 residential structures threatened and 50 evacuees. Twelve residences have been destroyed and the fire is threatening Sage Grouse habitat. Three civilian and two responder injuries have been reported. Full containment is expected on August 2.

USGS crews continue to support flood response operations in northern Illinois and northeastern Iowa due to heavy rains that fell on July 21 and July 22. USGS crews deployed over the weekend and made 15 discharge measurements to validate stage-discharge relations, ensure proper streamgauge operation, and assist the National Weather Service (NWS) with forecast information. Overall, 22 USGS streamgages in northern Illinois are above the NWS

flood stage and six USGS streamgages in Iowa are above the NWS flood stage. All streamgages in the affected areas appear to be functioning properly, and the USGS continues to coordinate and share information with the NWS, USACE, and other local emergency managers.

Outside Media of Interest

U.S. National Monument in Colorado to Remain Intact.

Reuters (7/21, Coffman) reports Secretary Zinke on Friday said that Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument "is no longer on a list of more than two dozen national monuments under review by the Trump administration for possible reduction or elimination." He has recommended that it be kept "intact, with no modifications." The story also appears at the New York Times (7/21, Reuters), U.S. News & World Report (7/21, Coffman).

\$53M To Go To US National Park Maintenance, Infrastructure.

The AP (7/22) reports on Saturday, Secretary Zinke "announced more than \$50 million for maintenance and infrastructure work at national parks." He spoke at Rocky Mountain National Park, accompanied by US Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO). According to the department \$20 million will come from Congress and \$33 million from "outside organizations."

Zinke In Denver Makes A Case For Energy Production On Public Lands.

The Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (7/22, Bunch) reports Secretary Zinke, speaking to the Western Conservative Summit on Friday in Denver, said that the US "should open up its public lands and shores for more energy production." He said, "I can tell ya, the war on American energy is over." One reason he gave is that US "national parks are about \$11.5 billion behind in maintenance and repairs, and public lands and wildlife refuges are about \$15 billion in need."

Climate Scientist Files Complaint On Trump Administration.

The AP (7/21) reported that Joel Clement, who until recently was director of the Department of Interior's Office of Policy Analysis, "says he was mistreated by officials in the administration of President Donald Trump for speaking about climate change." Clement was reassigned to a position in which he had no background, which he claims is a violation of his federal whistleblower protections. The story also appears at San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (7/21), U.S. News & World Report (7/21), Greeneville (TN) Sun (7/21, Fitzgerald), Washington (DC) Times (7/21), and KTOO-FM Juneau (AK) Juneau, AK (7/23, Rott).

Two Good Picks.

The Ketchikan (AK) Daily News (7/21, Picks) in an editorial praises the selection of Chris Oliver to be assistant administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and "Joe Balash as the U.S. Department of Interior's assistant secretary for land and mineral management." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in announcing the nomination said, "It's been a long time" since an assistant secretary in the Interior Department was from Alaska. The paper concludes, "it will be good to have people who already know Alaska in these positions."

Amarillo-area Helium Auction Brings In \$60M.

The Amarillo (TX) Globe News (7/23) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management sold nearly \$60 million in helium," in its "fourth annual Amarillo-area auction."

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Friday.

REG0007198 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities; Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Funding Solicitations and Reporting. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Funding Solicitation and Reporting. BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007184 BLM Alaska Native Claims Selection. The BLM provides notice that it will issue an appealable decision approving conveyance of the surface estate in certain lands to the Alaska Native village corporation of Tulkisarmute Incorporated, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, as amended (ANCSA). As provided by ANCSA, the BLM simultaneously will convey the subsurface estate in the same lands to Calista Corporation. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007189 BLM Rescission of a 2015 Rule: Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands. The BLM is proposing to rescind a 2015 final rule, "Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands," because the BLM has concluded that it is unnecessarily duplicative of State and some tribal regulations and that it imposes burdensome reporting requirements and other unjustified costs on the oil and gas industry. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) has concluded E.O. 12866 review and the BLM seeks DOI approval to publish the proposed rule ahead of a July 27, 2017, oral argument on the 2015 rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Proposed Rule 07/21/2017.

REG0007201 BOE Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Energy Project. BOEM announces the availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Cape Wind Energy Project, which is located in Federal waters between Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island. BOEM must issue the Final SEIS and publish this Notice as soon as possible to comply with a court order. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007119 FWS Lost Hills Solar Project, Kern County, California; Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan The proposed project includes the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a 20-megawatt solar photovoltaic power generating facility. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007199 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities: NPS Visitor Survey Card. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the NPS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection for the Visitor Survey Card (VSC). The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 07/21/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-25-17	Diana Ross	8:00 PM
7-26-17	Regina Spektor/Ben Folds	8:00 PM
7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emporer Concerto	8:15 PM
7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

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

Office of Insular Affairs

- July 25: Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, regarding the LBJ Hospital in American Samoa.
- July 25 or 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

CONGRESSIONAL

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

10:00am: House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Natives Affairs Subcommittee Oversight Hearing Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa

Witness: Thomas Bussanich, Director of Budget, Insular Affairs

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:45am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing on S. 32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act; S. 90, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; S.357, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act; S.436, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act; S.467, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act; S.468, Historic Routes Preservation Act; S.614, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act; S.785, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act; S.837, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act; S.884, Small Miners Waiver Act; S.941, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act; S.1149, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation; S.1230, Water Rights Protection Act; S.1271, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and S.1548, Oregon Wildlands Act

Witness: John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, BLM

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States

Witness: Jason Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA

Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

Richard "Rick" Goeken- (pronounced "Gaykin") as Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife. Past experience: Smith Currie & Hancock LLP- Partner- (focusing on impact of federal environmental law and policy on access to public lands, federal contracts for the use of natural resources and development of private property.

Blake Deeley as Advisor for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Past experience:

Congressman David McKinley- Policy Advisor for Energy and Environmental, Subcommittees and staffer for House Congressional Coal Caucus.

5 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Deputy Secretary nominee David Bernhardt is expected to be voted on in the Senate on Monday.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech participated in a Senate hearing on Thursday. Nominee Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/24 National Boy Scout Jamboree (Glen Jean, WV)

7/29 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/22 - 2017 Lake Tahoe Summit invited by Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Heller (Lake Tahoe, CA)

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

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

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)

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)

Emergency Management

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 76,250 (+5,662) acres and is 45 (+35)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 5,043 (+1,306) personnel, including 113 (+45) DOI personnel. There are 1,500 (no change) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. State Routes 140 and 49 remain impacted by the fire and are impeding access to Yosemite National Park. Additionally, high power transmission lines, which supply power to Yosemite National Park, have been impacted by the fire. The USGS reports that the Detwiler Fire has also disrupted service for 19 seismic sensors in the Northern California Seismic Network. These sensors provide coverage over the western side of the southern San Joaquin Valley, from the San Luis Reservoir to Coalinga and from Copperopolis to Visalia in the Sierra foothills. Once access to the area is possible, a detailed assessment of impacts and projected timeline for service repairs will be performed by USGS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel. Impacts to the earthquake monitoring capabilities of the USGS include the loss of ability to detect and locate small earthquakes in the immediate vicinity, along with increased uncertainty in the initial location of larger earthquakes in the immediate vicinity. Full containment of the Detwiler Fire is expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 226,000 acres and is 5-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 215 personnel, including 26 DOI personnel. There are 145 residential structures threatened and 50 evacuees. Twelve residences have been destroyed and the fire is threatening Sage Grouse habitat. Three civilian and two responder injuries have been reported. Full containment is expected on August 2.

USGS crews continue to support flood response operations in northern Illinois and northeastern Iowa due to heavy rains that fell on July 21 and July 22. USGS crews deployed

over the weekend and made 15 discharge measurements to validate stage-discharge relations, ensure proper streamgauge operation, and assist the National Weather Service (NWS) with forecast information. Overall, 22 USGS streamgages in northern Illinois are above the NWS flood stage and six USGS streamgages in Iowa are above the NWS flood stage. All streamgages in the affected areas appear to be functioning properly, and the USGS continues to coordinate and share information with the NWS, USACE, and other local emergency managers.

Outside Media of Interest

U.S. National Monument in Colorado to Remain Intact.

Reuters (7/21, Coffman) reports Secretary Zinke on Friday said that Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument "is no longer on a list of more than two dozen national monuments under review by the Trump administration for possible reduction or elimination." He has recommended that it be kept "intact, with no modifications." The story also appears at the New York Times (7/21, Reuters), U.S. News & World Report (7/21, Coffman).

\$53M To Go To US National Park Maintenance, Infrastructure.

The AP (7/22) reports on Saturday, Secretary Zinke "announced more than \$50 million for maintenance and infrastructure work at national parks." He spoke at Rocky Mountain National Park, accompanied by US Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO). According to the department \$20 million will come from Congress and \$33 million from "outside organizations."

Zinke In Denver Makes A Case For Energy Production On Public Lands.

The Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (7/22, Bunch) reports Secretary Zinke, speaking to the Western Conservative Summit on Friday in Denver, said that the US "should open up its public lands and shores for more energy production." He said, "I can tell ya, the war on American energy is over." One reason he gave is that US "national parks are about \$11.5 billion behind in maintenance and repairs, and public lands and wildlife refuges are about \$15 billion in need."

Climate Scientist Files Complaint On Trump Administration.

The AP (7/21) reported that Joel Clement, who until recently was director of the Department of Interior's Office of Policy Analysis, "says he was mistreated by officials in the administration of President Donald Trump for speaking about climate change." Clement was reassigned to a position in which he had no background, which he claims is a violation of his federal whistleblower protections. The story also appears at San Francisco (CA) Chronicle (7/21), U.S. News & World Report (7/21), Greeneville (TN) Sun (7/21, Fitzgerald), Washington (DC) Times (7/21), and KTOO-FM Juneau (AK) Juneau, AK (7/23, Rott).

Two Good Picks.

The Ketchikan (AK) Daily News (7/21, Picks) in an editorial praises the selection of Chris Oliver to be assistant administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and "Joe Balash as the U.S. Department of Interior's assistant secretary for land and mineral management." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in announcing the nomination said, "It's been a long time" since an assistant secretary in the Interior Department was from Alaska. The paper concludes, "it will be good to have people who already know Alaska in these positions."

Amarillo-area Helium Auction Brings In \$60M.

The Amarillo (TX) Globe News (7/23) reports, "The Bureau of Land Management sold nearly \$60 million in helium," in its "fourth annual Amarillo-area auction."

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Friday.

REG0007198 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities; Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Funding Solicitations and Reporting. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Funding Solicitation and Reporting. BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007184 BLM Alaska Native Claims Selection. The BLM provides notice that it will issue an appealable decision approving conveyance of the surface estate in certain lands to the Alaska Native village corporation of Tulkisarmute Incorporated, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, as amended (ANCSA). As provided by ANCSA, the BLM simultaneously will convey the subsurface estate in the same lands to Calista Corporation. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007189 BLM Rescission of a 2015 Rule: Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands. The BLM is proposing to rescind a 2015 final rule, "Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands," because the BLM has concluded that it is unnecessarily duplicative of State and some tribal regulations and that it imposes burdensome reporting requirements and other unjustified costs on the oil and gas industry. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) has concluded E.O. 12866 review and the BLM seeks DOI approval to publish the proposed rule ahead of a July 27, 2017, oral argument on the 2015 rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Proposed Rule 07/21/2017.

REG0007201 BOE Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Energy Project. BOEM announces the availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Cape Wind Energy Project, which is located in Federal waters between Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island. BOEM must issue the Final SEIS and publish this Notice as soon as possible to comply with a court order. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007119 FWS Lost Hills Solar Project, Kern County, California; Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan The proposed project includes the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a 20-megawatt solar photovoltaic power generating facility. Notice 07/21/2017.

REG0007199 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities: NPS Visitor Survey Card. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the NPS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection for the Visitor Survey Card (VSC). The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 07/21/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-25-17	Diana Ross	8:00 PM
7-26-17	Regina Spektor/Ben Folds	8:00 PM
7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emperor Concerto	8:15 PM
7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

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: Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Flynn, Matthew[(b)(6)-White House Staff gov]; Uli, Gabriella M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Murphy, Christine M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-25T13:48:39-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/25/17
Received: 2017-07-25T13:49:07-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-25-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/25/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

- **NOTE: BERNHARDT WINS SENATE CONFIRMATION:** Senators voted 53-43 Monday evening to confirm David Bernhardt's nomination as deputy secretary at Interior. Five members of the Democratic caucus - Michael Bennet, Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp, Angus King and Joe Manchin - joined all Republicans in supporting his bid to serve as Secretary Ryan Zinke's No. 2. "David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government," Zinke said in a statement after the vote.

- Bernhardt Day 1 will be August 1.

- **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to OH with POTUS.
Meeting with Philip Howard, Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling.
Call with Rep. Costa.
Call with Senator Schatz.
Travel to Ohio, American Heroes POTUS event.

THIS WEEK:

7/26 Wednesday: Hold for Sen. Merkley; Tour with Mayor Bowser; Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson; Travel to El Paso, TX. (political event)
7/27 Thursday: Las Cruces, NM Monuments Tour; helicopter tour of Organ mtns Desert peaks with Fort Bliss, roundtable with ranchers and stakeholders, meeting on border security, meeting with ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM, media availability, driving tour with BLM
7/28 Friday: Las Cruces, NM; Monuments Tour; hike in monument with veterans, tribal meetings, meeting with friends of organ mountains.
7/29 Saturday: Santa Fe, NM / Sabinoso Wilderness; Sabinoso Wilderness horseback riding with Senators Heinrich and Udall.
7/30 fly to Las Vegas NV, helicopter tour of basin and range NM and Gold Butte NM, TBD dinner with Senators.
7/31 Round table with Friends Group on monuments, round table with elected officials, meeting with Moapa tribe, red eye to D.C.

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

(Last Night) **INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS CONFIRMATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

WASHINGTON – Today, Department of the Interior veteran David Bernhardt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the Interior’s Deputy Secretary. He will be sworn-in in the coming days.

“Finally, after months of waiting for confirmation in the Senate, I'm excited to welcome David Bernhardt back to the Department to serve as Interior's Deputy Secretary,” said Secretary Ryan Zinke. “David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government and make the Interior and our public lands work for the American economy. I look forward to swearing him in and having him on board to help put America First.”

AMERICAN HEROES: EMPLOYEES STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE AT INTERIOR

You don’t have to wear a cape to be a hero. At the Interior Department, ordinary men and women sometimes find themselves called to act in extraordinary circumstances. Many have gone above and beyond their job descriptions. Some get recognized, and others spend their time quietly protecting the nation’s public and tribal lands, and those who visit them.

DOI COMMS REPORT

National Park Service

- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.
- July 25: Local NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce a 30-day public comment period on the Glacier National Park Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). Following the public review and comment period, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties, including buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, adjacent to Lake McDonald. The proposed alternative uses an adaptive approach that identifies a sequence of management options for each property, which for most properties begins with historic leasing, park or concessioner use, or stabilization of properties. The last option in the adaptive management approach would be removal of buildings. The management plan has garnered local media and public interest with little to no controversy and a lot of interest in leasing the properties.

- 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to approve the shot for hunting waterfowl and coots. FWS has concluded that this type of shot left in the terrestrial or aquatic environments is unlikely to adversely affect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. Approving this shot formulation would increase the nontoxic shot options for hunters. Interested stakeholders include the Flyway Councils, state wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations and hunters.
- TBD: FWS Local Release: FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. There may be some controversy with cost estimates associated with this plan.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of July 24: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO Little Snake Field Office will announce a 30-day public scoping period for an environmental assessment evaluating a coal Lease by Application (LBA) from Peabody Energy's Twentymile Coal Foidel Creek Mine near Hayden. The LBA is for 640 acres of federal coal underneath private surface. The coal would be mined by underground methods with no surface disturbance. The mine estimates it could recover 4.1 million tons of coal, generating approximately \$13 million in royalties, half of which would go to the state. The lease would help the mine continue to employ 365 people.
- July 25: Local BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal

minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral withdrawal.

- July 21 -26: The sage-grouse task force team comprised of BLM, USGS, USFWS, USFS, and Western Governors' offices will work in four subgroups to review a draft plan in response to S.O. 3353. The subgroups pertain to plan and policy review, fire and invasive species, data and science and wildlife management.
- July 25 – 26: Local BLM Release: BLM-WY Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices will hold two open houses to discuss the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project with local communities. Public comments will be collected on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released last week.
- July 26: BLM acting Deputy Director for Operations John Ruhs will attend the Nevada Sheriffs' Association meeting and provide a "BLM 101" presentation.
- July 26: BLM-AK will participate in the annual Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) forum, focusing on issues that relate to potential sites within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and contaminated lands and mine sites in Alaska.
- July 26: BLM-CA Bishop Field Office will meet with representatives from Mono County, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a private landowner to discuss riparian habitat improvement for bi-state sage-grouse through alterations in county road maintenance and installation of culverts and drainage dips.

Bureau of Reclamation

- July 24-25: Reclamation will meet with stakeholders in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to kick off the stakeholder engagement process on the reinitiated ESA consultation on Klamath Project Operations. Organizations expected to attend the meeting include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, The Klamath Tribes, Klamath Water Users Association, and PacifiCorps.

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In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 250,000 (+24,000) acres and is 20 (+15)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 611 (+396) personnel, including 81 (+55) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (+4) residences have been destroyed and additional perimeter growth is expected over the next few days. Three (no change) civilian injuries and three (+1) responder injuries have been reported to date. Full containment is expected on August 2.

The Canyon Ferry and Helena Valley dams in Montana have been at an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Response Level 1 since July 6, when a magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred near Lincoln, Montana. The Bureau of Reclamation has returned both dams to normal operations as they did not identify any damage or issues as a result of the earthquake.

Outside Media of Interest

Senate Approves Nominee For No. 2 At Interior.

The AP (7/24) reports that the Senate in a vote of 53-43 on Monday confirmed David Bernhardt, a lawyer and former Interior Department official, as deputy Interior secretary. Democrats criticized Bernhardt "saying he continued to advise a California water district even after he withdrew his formal registration as a lobbyist last year." But Republicans "called Bernhardt a capable lawyer with vast experience in issues important to the West, including endangered species, water use and development of public lands."

Trump's Interior Dept To Chop Months Off How Long It Takes To Get An Oil Drilling Permit.

The Daily Caller (7/24, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department “plans on cutting wait times for oil and natural gas drilling permits on public lands to just 30 days, according to a senior agency official.” Vincent DeVito, energy policy adviser to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, said, “We do want to shrink it down to 30 days and to make all the processes as short as possible, but at the same time, making sure our environmental stewardship is not breached, all of which is completely doable.” DeVito said, “We intend to be a better business partner by harmonizing the environmental review process across the board, the one-stop-shopping type of model.”

Senate Democrats Call For An Investigation Of Climate Scientist Whistleblower Complaint.

The Washington Post (7/24, Eilperin) reports that “eight Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee asked the Interior Department’s deputy inspector general on Monday to investigate Secretary Ryan Zinke’s decision to reassign roughly 50 senior career officials last month, on the grounds that it could constitute an ‘abuse of authority.’” In the letter to Interior deputy IG Mary Kendall, which was “signed by all but three of the panel’s Democrats, the senators note that one of the reassigned Senior Executive Service officials – Joel Clement, the department’s top climate change official – has alleged he was punished for his work on the issue.” The senators wrote, “Any suggestion that the Department is reassigning SES employees to force them to resign, silence their voices, or to punish them for the conscientious performance of their public duties is extremely troubling and calls for the closest examination.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “said in an email that the secretary makes no apologies for his decision to place a slew of experienced career officials in different posts.” Swift said, “The president signed an executive order to reorganize the federal government for the future and the secretary has been absolutely out front on that issue. Senior executives are the highest paid employees in the federal government and signed up for the SES knowing that they could be called upon to work in different positions at any time. Congress meant for the SES to be a mobile force that are capable of taking on different assignments to meet the needs of the agency.” In an email, Interior IG spokeswoman Nancy K. DiPaolo said that the office “just received the letter and will promptly access resources and methods to meet the request. We currently do not have any related work.”

Marathon Markup To Tackle 21 Land, Renewable Energy Bills.

E&E Daily (7/24) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will begin consideration of 21 bills on Tuesday, “including bipartisan legislation to promote renewable energy development on public lands and a measure that would develop a central database for federal land properties.” Among the bills highlighted by the article is the “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2017” (H.R. 825), which “requires the Interior Department to identify ‘priority areas’ for wind and geothermal power development on federal lands.” The panel will “also take up H.R. 2199, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), which requires the Interior secretary to develop ‘a single, uniform database’ listing all ‘federal real property.’”

Interior Department Announces Plan To Gut Federal Fracking Regulations.

The Hill (7/24, Cama) reports the Trump administration seeks “to completely repeal Obama-era standards governing hydraulic fracturing on federal land.” The Bureau of Land

Management’s proposal is expected to be published today in the Federal Register. The Obama-era rules “set standards in areas such as disclosure of fracking chemicals and integrity of well casing.” The 2015 regulation “was the Obama administration’s attempt to update decades-old regulations to account for the explosive growth in fracking for oil and natural gas in recent years.” The Hill adds “the repeal is the latest in a long string of environmental regulations from Obama that Trump is working to undo.”

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No items cleared for the FR on Monday.

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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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-25T13:50:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/25/17
Received: 2017-07-25T13:51:00-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-25-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/25/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

- **NOTE: BERNHARDT WINS SENATE CONFIRMATION:** Senators voted 53-43 Monday evening to confirm David Bernhardt's nomination as deputy secretary at Interior. Five members of the Democratic caucus - Michael Bennet, Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp, Angus King and Joe Manchin - joined all Republicans in supporting his bid to serve as Secretary Ryan Zinke's No. 2. "David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government," Zinke said in a statement after the vote.

- Bernhardt Day 1 will be August 1.

- **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to OH with POTUS.
Meeting with Philip Howard, Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling.
Call with Rep. Costa.
Call with Senator Schatz.
Travel to Ohio, American Heroes POTUS event.

THIS WEEK:

7/26 Wednesday: Hold for Sen. Merkley; Tour with Mayor Bowser; Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson; Travel to El Paso, TX. (political event)
7/27 Thursday: Las Cruces, NM Monuments Tour; helicopter tour of Organ mtns Desert peaks with Fort Bliss, roundtable with ranchers and stakeholders, meeting on border security, meeting with ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM, media availability, driving tour with BLM
7/28 Friday: Las Cruces, NM; Monuments Tour; hike in monument with veterans, tribal meetings, meeting with friends of organ mountains.
7/29 Saturday: Santa Fe, NM / Sabinoso Wilderness; Sabinoso Wilderness horseback riding with Senators Heinrich and Udall.
7/30 fly to Las Vegas NV, helicopter tour of basin and range NM and Gold Butte NM, TBD

dinner with Senators.

7/31 Round table with Friends Group on monuments, round table with elected officials, meeting with Moapa tribe, red eye to D.C.

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

(Last Night) **INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS CONFIRMATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

WASHINGTON – Today, Department of the Interior veteran David Bernhardt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the Interior’s Deputy Secretary. He will be sworn-in in the coming days.

“Finally, after months of waiting for confirmation in the Senate, I'm excited to welcome David Bernhardt back to the Department to serve as Interior's Deputy Secretary,” said Secretary Ryan Zinke. “David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government and make the Interior and our public lands work for the American economy. I look forward to swearing him in and having him on board to help put America First.”

AMERICAN HEROES: EMPLOYEES STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE AT INTERIOR

You don’t have to wear a cape to be a hero. At the Interior Department, ordinary men and women sometimes find themselves called to act in extraordinary circumstances. Many have gone above and beyond their job descriptions. Some get recognized, and others spend their time quietly protecting the nation’s public and tribal lands, and those who visit them.

DOI COMMS REPORT

National Park Service

- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.
- July 25: Local NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce a 30-day public comment period on the Glacier National Park Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). Following the public review and comment period, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties, including buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, adjacent to Lake McDonald. The proposed alternative uses an adaptive approach that identifies a sequence of management options for each property, which for most properties begins with historic leasing, park or concessioner use, or stabilization of properties. The last option in the adaptive management approach would be

removal of buildings. The management plan has garnered local media and public interest with little to no controversy and a lot of interest in leasing the properties.

- 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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- July 21 -26: The sage-grouse task force team comprised of BLM, USGS, USFWS, USFS, and Western Governors' offices will work in four subgroups to review a draft plan in response to S.O. 3353. The subgroups pertain to plan and policy review, fire and invasive species, data and science and wildlife management.
- July 25 – 26: Local BLM Release: BLM-WY Pinedale and Rock Springs field offices will hold two open houses to discuss the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project with local communities. Public comments will be collected on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released last week.
- July 26: BLM acting Deputy Director for Operations John Ruhs will attend the Nevada Sheriffs' Association meeting and provide a "BLM 101" presentation.
- July 26: BLM-AK will participate in the annual Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) forum, focusing on issues that relate to potential sites within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and contaminated lands and mine sites in Alaska.
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Bureau of Reclamation

- July 24-25: Reclamation will meet with stakeholders in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to kick off the stakeholder engagement process on the reinitiated ESA consultation on Klamath Project Operations. Organizations expected to attend the meeting include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, The Klamath Tribes, Klamath Water Users Association, and PacifiCorps.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- July 26 (tent.): BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.

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- July 25: Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, regarding the LBJ Hospital in American Samoa.
- July 25 or 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four

Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

-
CONGRESSIONAL

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

10:00am: House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Natives Affairs Subcommittee Oversight Hearing Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa
Witness: Thomas Bussanich, Director of Budget, Insular Affairs

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:45am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing on S. 32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act; S. 90, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; S.357, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act; S.436, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act; S.467, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act; S.468, Historic Routes Preservation Act; S.614, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act; S.785, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act; S.837, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act; S.884, Small Miners Waiver Act; S.941, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act; S.1149, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation; S.1230, Water Rights Protection Act; S.1271, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and S.1548, Oregon Wildlands Act

Witness: John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, BLM

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States

Witness: Jason Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA

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Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech participated in a Senate hearing on Thursday.

Nominee Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/25 Ohio with POTUS. American Hero event.

7/26 fly to El Paso, TX

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/22 - 2017 Lake Tahoe Summit invited by Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Heller (Lake Tahoe, CA)
8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)
8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)
8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)
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)

Emergency Management

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 78,900 (+2,650) acres and is 60 (+15)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 5,013 (-30) personnel, including 132 (+19) DOI personnel. There are 1,500 (no change) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. Road closures on Highway 49 continue to impede access to Yosemite National Park, and high power transmission lines, which supply power to the park, continue to be impacted by the fire. Demobilization of resources is expected to begin today, and full containment of the Detwiler Fire expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 250,000 (+24,000) acres and is 20 (+15)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 611 (+396) personnel, including 81 (+55) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (+4) residences have been destroyed and additional perimeter growth is expected over the next few days. Three (no change) civilian injuries and three (+1) responder injuries have been reported to date. Full containment is expected on August 2.

The Canyon Ferry and Helena Valley dams in Montana have been at an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Response Level 1 since July 6, when a magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred near Lincoln, Montana. The Bureau of Reclamation has returned both dams to normal operations as they did not identify any damage or issues as a result of the earthquake.

Outside Media of Interest

Senate Approves Nominee For No. 2 At Interior.

The AP (7/24) reports that the Senate in a vote of 53-43 on Monday confirmed David Bernhardt, a lawyer and former Interior Department official, as deputy Interior secretary. Democrats criticized Bernhardt "saying he continued to advise a California water district even after he withdrew his formal registration as a lobbyist last year." But Republicans "called Bernhardt a capable lawyer with vast experience in issues important to the West, including endangered species, water use and development of public lands."

Trump's Interior Dept To Chop Months Off How Long It Takes To Get An Oil Drilling Permit.

The Daily Caller (7/24, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department “plans on cutting wait times for oil and natural gas drilling permits on public lands to just 30 days, according to a senior agency official.” Vincent DeVito, energy policy adviser to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, said, “We do want to shrink it down to 30 days and to make all the processes as short as possible, but at the same time, making sure our environmental stewardship is not breached, all of which is completely doable.” DeVito said, “We intend to be a better business partner by harmonizing the environmental review process across the board, the one-stop-shopping type of model.”

Senate Democrats Call For An Investigation Of Climate Scientist Whistleblower Complaint.

The Washington Post (7/24, Eilperin) reports that “eight Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee asked the Interior Department’s deputy inspector general on Monday to investigate Secretary Ryan Zinke’s decision to reassign roughly 50 senior career officials last month, on the grounds that it could constitute an ‘abuse of authority.’” In the letter to Interior deputy IG Mary Kendall, which was “signed by all but three of the panel’s Democrats, the senators note that one of the reassigned Senior Executive Service officials – Joel Clement, the department’s top climate change official – has alleged he was punished for his work on the issue.” The senators wrote, “Any suggestion that the Department is reassigning SES employees to force them to resign, silence their voices, or to punish them for the conscientious performance of their public duties is extremely troubling and calls for the closest examination.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “said in an email that the secretary makes no apologies for his decision to place a slew of experienced career officials in different posts.” Swift said, “The president signed an executive order to reorganize the federal government for the future and the secretary has been absolutely out front on that issue. Senior executives are the highest paid employees in the federal government and signed up for the SES knowing that they could be called upon to work in different positions at any time. Congress meant for the SES to be a mobile force that are capable of taking on different assignments to meet the needs of the agency.” In an email, Interior IG spokeswoman Nancy K. DiPaolo said that the office “just received the letter and will promptly access resources and methods to meet the request. We currently do not have any related work.”

Marathon Markup To Tackle 21 Land, Renewable Energy Bills.

E&E Daily (7/24) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will begin consideration of 21 bills on Tuesday, “including bipartisan legislation to promote renewable energy development on public lands and a measure that would develop a central database for federal land properties.” Among the bills highlighted by the article is the “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2017” (H.R. 825), which “requires the Interior Department to identify ‘priority areas’ for wind and geothermal power development on federal lands.” The panel will “also take up H.R. 2199, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), which requires the Interior secretary to develop ‘a single, uniform database’ listing all ‘federal real property.’”

Interior Department Announces Plan To Gut Federal Fracking Regulations.

The Hill (7/24, Cama) reports the Trump administration seeks “to completely repeal Obama-era standards governing hydraulic fracturing on federal land.” The Bureau of Land Management’s proposal is expected to be published today in the Federal Register. The Obama-era rules “set standards in areas such as disclosure of fracking chemicals and integrity of well casing.” The 2015 regulation “was the Obama administration’s attempt to update decades-old regulations to account for the explosive growth in fracking for oil and natural gas in recent years.” The Hill adds “the repeal is the latest in a long string of environmental regulations from Obama that Trump is working to undo.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Monday.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary’s box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-25-17	Diana Ross	8:00 PM
7-26-17	Regina Spektor/Ben Folds	8:00 PM
7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emperor Concerto	8:15 PM
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To: Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Flynn, Matthew[(b)(6)-White House Staff gov]; Uli, Gabriella M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Murphy, Christine M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-26T13:49:09-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/26/17
Received: 2017-07-26T13:49:38-04:00
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7/26/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
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-
Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to Texas.
Meeting with the NSC.
Meeting with Mike Catanzaro.
Meeting with Bannon.
Tour with Mayor Bowser.
Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson.
Travel to El Paso, TX for Border and Monuments Tour.

-
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Arrive Fort Bliss
Helicopter Tour of Organ Mountains
Travel to Las Cruces, NM
Roundtable with Ranchers & Stakeholders
Roundtable on Border Security
Meeting with Northern Ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM
HOLD: Media Availability
Driving Tour with BLM

-
Friday, July 28, 2017

Hike with Vet Voice Foundation
Meeting with Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Meeting with Mescalero Apache
Meeting with All Pueblo Council of Governors tribes
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Travel to Santa Fe, NM

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
Greet Senators and Rep. Lujan and Consolidate Vehicles.
Hike to Canyon Bottom // Horseback Riding & Hiking

Travel to Albuquerque, NM
Dinner with Senators

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Travel to Las Vegas (LAS)
Travel to Kirt's Grotto
Meeting with BLM Support Staff
Fly Over Tour of Gold Butte National Monument
Helicopter Tour departs Gold Butte National Monument en route Basin and Range National Monument
Lunch Meeting with BLM Staff
White River Narrows Rock Art Site Tour
Shaman Knob / Mt. Irish
Tour of Mt. Irish Petroglyph Site
Travel to Las Vegas Airport

Monday, July 31, 2017

Travel to Mesquite, NV
Roundtable with Friends of Gold Butte
Depart Mesquite, NV en route Overton, NV
Roundtable with Local County, City, and State Officials
Depart Overton, NV en route Moapa Tribal Facility
Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
Depart en route Las Vegas, NV
HOLD: potential other meeting
Wheels up Las Vegas, NV (LAS) en route Cincinnati, OH (CVG)
Wheels up Cincinnati, OH (CVG) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

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SECRETARY ZINKE TO VISIT NEW MEXICO FOR MONUMENT REVIEW

(WASHINGTON) - On Thursday, July 27, 2017, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will travel to New Mexico as part of the April 26, 2017 executive order to review select national monuments. Secretary Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by air, car and foot. He will meet with local stakeholders and elected officials who represent all sides of the issue. A press conference for credentialed members of the news media will be held on Thursday, July 27. Members of the news media who wish to RSVP for the press conference must email Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov.

DOI COMMS REPORT

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- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument

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General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

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Emergency Management

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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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-26T13:50:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/26/17
Received: 2017-07-26T13:50:56-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-26-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS –
7/26/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

-

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington and will travel to Texas.
Meeting with the NSC.
Meeting with Mike Catanzaro.
Meeting with Bannon.
Tour with Mayor Bowser.
Meeting with Rep. Aderholt and James Swanson.
Travel to El Paso, TX for Border and Monuments Tour.

-

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Arrive Fort Bliss
Helicopter Tour of Organ Mountains
Travel to Las Cruces, NM
Roundtable with Ranchers & Stakeholders
Roundtable on Border Security
Meeting with Northern Ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM
HOLD: Media Availability
Driving Tour with BLM

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Friday, July 28, 2017

Hike with Vet Voice Foundation
Meeting with Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Meeting with Mescalero Apache
Meeting with All Pueblo Council of Governors tribes
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Travel to Santa Fe, NM

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge

Greet Senators and Rep. Lujan and Consolidate Vehicles.
Hike to Canyon Bottom // Horseback Riding & Hiking
Travel to Albuquerque, NM
Dinner with Senators

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Travel to Las Vegas (LAS)
Travel to Kirt's Grotto
Meeting with BLM Support Staff
Fly Over Tour of Gold Butte National Monument
Helicopter Tour departs Gold Butte National Monument en route Basin and Range National Monument
Lunch Meeting with BLM Staff
White River Narrows Rock Art Site Tour
Shaman Knob / Mt. Irish
Tour of Mt. Irish Petroglyph Site
Travel to Las Vegas Airport

Monday, July 31, 2017

Travel to Mesquite, NV
Roundtable with Friends of Gold Butte
Depart Mesquite, NV en route Overton, NV
Roundtable with Local County, City, and State Officials
Depart Overton, NV en route Moapa Tribal Facility
Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
Depart en route Las Vegas, NV
HOLD: potential other meeting
Wheels up Las Vegas, NV (LAS) en route Cincinnati, OH (CVG)
Wheels up Cincinnati, OH (CVG) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

SECRETARY ZINKE TO VISIT NEW MEXICO FOR MONUMENT REVIEW
(WASHINGTON) - On Thursday, July 27, 2017, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will travel to New Mexico as part of the April 26, 2017 executive order to review select national monuments. Secretary Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by air, car and foot. He will meet with local stakeholders and elected officials who represent all sides of the issue. A press conference for credentialed members of the news media will be held on Thursday, July 27. Members of the news media who wish to RSVP for the press conference must email Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov.

DOI COMMS REPORT

National Park Service

- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.
- 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to approve the shot for hunting waterfowl and coots. FWS has concluded that this type of shot left in the terrestrial or aquatic environments is unlikely to adversely affect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. Approving this shot formulation would increase the nontoxic shot options for hunters. Interested stakeholders include the Flyway Councils, state wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations and hunters.
- TBD: FWS Local Release: FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. There may be some controversy with cost estimates associated with this plan.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of July 24: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO Little Snake Field Office will announce a 30-day public scoping period for an environmental assessment evaluating a coal Lease by Application (LBA) from Peabody Energy's Twentymile Coal Foidel Creek

Mine near Hayden. The LBA is for 640 acres of federal coal underneath private surface. The coal would be mined by underground methods with no surface disturbance. The mine estimates it could recover 4.1 million tons of coal, generating approximately \$13 million in royalties, half of which would go to the state. The lease would help the mine continue to employ 365 people.

- July 25: Local BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral withdrawal.
- July 21 -26: The sage-grouse task force team comprised of BLM, USGS, USFWS, USFS, and Western Governors' offices will work in four subgroups to review a draft plan in response to S.O. 3353. The subgroups pertain to plan and policy review, fire and invasive species, data and science and wildlife management.
- July 26: BLM acting Deputy Director for Operations John Ruhs will attend the Nevada Sheriffs' Association meeting and provide a "BLM 101" presentation.
- July 26: BLM-AK will participate in the annual Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) forum, focusing on issues that relate to potential sites within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and contaminated lands and mine sites in Alaska.
- July 26: BLM-CA Bishop Field Office will meet with representatives from Mono County, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a private landowner to discuss riparian habitat improvement for bi-state sage-grouse through alterations in county road maintenance and installation of culverts and drainage dips.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- July 26 (tent.): BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.

Office of Insular Affairs

- July 25 or 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

CONGRESSIONAL

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

9:45am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing on S. 32, California Desert Protection and Recreation Act; S. 90, Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; S.357, Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act;

S.436, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act; S.467, Mohave County Federal Land Management Act; S.468, Historic Routes Preservation Act; S.614, Recreation and Public Purposes Act Commercial Recreation Concessions Pilot Program Act; S.785, Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act; S.837, Southern Utah Open OHV Areas Act; S.884, Small Miners Waiver Act; S.941, Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act; S.1149, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to repeal a provision limiting the export of timber harvested from land conveyed to the Kake Tribal Corporation; S.1230, Water Rights Protection Act; S.1271, Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act; and S.1548, Oregon Wildlands Act

Witness: John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, BLM

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States

Witness: Jason Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Justice Services, BIA

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Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee vote scheduled Thursday.

Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony

General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)

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

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From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-27T15:47:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/27/17
Received: 2017-07-27T15:48:15-04:00
DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-27-17.docx

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Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

-
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-
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Media TODAY

SECRETARY ZINKE WELCOMES THREE TO INTERIOR

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke welcomed three new hires to the Department in the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of Communications, and the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. The new additions bring a combination of Congressional, Executive Branch, and private sector experience.

“I could not be happier with the way our Department has been staffing up in recent weeks. These new team members will help us more efficiently and effectively carryout the President's priorities on behalf of the American people,” Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said.

Richard Goeken has been hired as Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife. Goeken has over 20 years of legal experience, beginning as an Associate and then a Partner at Saltman & Stevens, P.C. In 2012, Saltman & Stevens merged with Smith Currie & Hancock, L.L.P., where Goeken was a Partner for the last five years. His career has focused on environmental law and policy. Goeken is a graduate of the College of William & Mary’s Law School.

Russell Newell returns to Interior as the Deputy Director of Communications. For the last five years, Newell has served as Director of Executive & Corporate Communication at Disney/ABC

Television Group. Newell also served as Director of Communications and Media Relations for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as Senior Media Advisor for Multi-National Forces-Iraq, and as a Public Affairs Officer and speechwriter at the Departments of State, Interior, and Homeland Security, as well as for Governor Jeb Bush.

Blake Deeley will serve as an Advisor in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. He has extensive experience on Capitol Hill, and was most recently a Policy Advisor in the Office of Congressman David McKinley of West Virginia and served as the lead staffer for the Congressional Coal Caucus. Prior to this, he was a Manager of Public Affairs at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, a Legislative Correspondent for Senator Mitch McConnell, and a Staff Assistant for Senator Rand Paul.

WEEK AHEAD July 26 thru August 3, 2017
Announcements/Releases/Events

- This week the Secretary is traveling to New Mexico and then Nevada to tour Monuments under review. We issued a media advisory with some details of his trip.
 - We continue to support the WH's "Hero's Week" through social media and a video from the Secretary to employees and stakeholders.
- TBD: will send out a press release "Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Mine Proposal to Create Jobs in Virginia and West Virginia"

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 27: National NPS Release: NPS release on 10 Parks Honoring American Heroes.
- July 28: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce the opening of a public comment period on an environmental assessment for proposed utility and roadway crossings and a visitor trail within Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
- July 28: National NPS Release: NPS will release a theme study focusing on significant historic properties of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era.
- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.
- July 31: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce another round of \$1.189 million in American Battlefield Protection Grants (planning) to aid in the research, documentation, and/or interpretation of significant American battlefields. Releases will be done at the local level of NPS sites receiving funds.
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- August 2: Local BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 2: Local BOEM Release: BOEM announces Gulf G&G PEIS, which is expected to publish in Federal Register on Aug. 4.
- 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: Note to Stakeholders to specific groups for educational outreach on the New National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program inviting them to participate in an informational call.
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- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- July 27: Director Angelle attends API Upstream Committee meeting with Acting ASLM MacGregor
- July 28: National BSEE News Brief: American Hero Week - BSEE Inspectors Keep Energy Production Safe

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- August 1: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE expects to announce publication of notices of availability for draft Environmental Assessments and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact prepared for a federal mining plan modification at the Bridger Mine in Wyoming. OSMRE will accept comments for 30 days.
- August 3: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE celebrates 40th Anniversary Observance of the signing of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. OSMRE confirmed Secretary will appear as the keynote speaker.

Land Buy-Back Program

- July 31: National LBBP Release: LBBP will put out a release and related outreach announcing a new Land Buy-Back Program strategy for addressing fractionation on Indian trust lands.

Office of Insular Affairs

- July 26: Local IA Release: Marshall Islands grants release announces Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for four Atolls (Sec 177) \$697,387.

CONGRESSIONAL

N/A

-

Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52
4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee vote scheduled Thursday.
Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony
General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball
(Whitefish/Kalispell)

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)

Emergency Management

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 81,250 (+1,250) acres and is 70 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 4,279 (-216) personnel, including 122 (-1) DOI personnel. There are 1,500 (no change) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. Communities, transportation routes, and power infrastructure continue to be threatened, including transmission lines that supply Yosemite National Park with power. Full containment of the Detwiler Fire expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 270,200 (+200) acres and is 62 (+28)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 598 (-58) personnel, including 81 (-15) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (no change) residences have been destroyed. Weather conditions today include 8 to 12 mile per hour winds, and Critical Fire Weather is expected in the area tomorrow. The need for additional resources is not anticipated at this time, and full containment is expected on August 2.

In Oregon, the Upper Mine Fire, located in Harney County (BLM), has burned 4,100 (-700) acres and is 40 (+40)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 187 (no change) personnel, including 69 (no change) DOI personnel. Three (+3) residences, Sage

Grouse Habitat, overhead power lines, and infrastructure are currently threatened by this fire. Outflow winds may result in some additional perimeter growth; however, full containment of this fire is expected on July 31.

In Montana, the Buffalo Fire, located in Powder River County (BLM), has burned 3,104 (-3) acres and is 80 (+46)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 268 (+109) personnel, including 45 (+18) DOI personnel. Significant resource demobilization is expected to start on July 29, and full containment of this fire is expected on July 30.

In Nevada, the Preacher Fire, located in Douglas County (BLM), has burned 5,386 (+735) acres and is 20 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 512 (+233) personnel, including 72 (-23) DOI personnel. Significant resource demobilization is expected to start tomorrow, and full containment of this fire is expected on July 29.

In Nevada, the Mahogany Fire, located in Humboldt County (BLM), has burned 5,000 (+500) acres and is 25 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 299 (-129) personnel, including 69 (-4) DOI personnel. There are 50 (+50) residences threatened; however, no evacuations are currently in place. Critical Sage Grouse Habitat, multiple recreation sites, federal communication sites, power grid transmission lines, a natural gas pipeline, and wildlife habitat are threatened. Full containment of this fire is expected on July 29.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary To Visit Las Cruces Amid Monuments Review.

The AP (7/26, Contreras) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “scheduled to visit Las Cruces this week in connection with the Trump administration’s review of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.” The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/26, Coleman) reports that “on Thursday, Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by helicopter then meet with elected officials, ranchers, academics, border security experts, and others local stakeholders ‘who represent all sides of the issue,’ according to the Interior Department.” On Friday, Zinke is scheduled to “hike with southern New Mexico veterans and then hold meetings with the Mescalero Apache, Fort Sill Tribe, and Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks “. On Saturday, Zinke will “hike and ride horseback with Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, both of whom are opposed to shrinking either monument.”

Dozens Of GOP Senators Urge Trump To Expand Offshore Drilling.

The Daily Caller (7/26, Pearce) reports that “three dozen Republican senators sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Wednesday supporting a plan that would increase access and development of offshore drilling along the U.S. east coast.” The Hill (7/26, Cama, Henry) reports that in the letter, “the senators said the government should write a drilling plan that would allow oil and gas leasing in areas not included in the 2017-2022 outline finalized by the Obama administration.” The senators wrote, “Offshore projects often have long lead times, so it is important to start today to make sure that the United States is planning for the future to maintain its steady and stable supply of production. We look forward to working with the Department of the Interior as you advance the new five-year program.”

Zinke Call Has Sullivan ‘Very Concerned’ After Tuesday Vote.

The Alaska Journal of Commerce (7/26, Brehmer) reports that “according to Sen. Dan Sullivan’s spokesman Mike Anderson, Sullivan took a phone call from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Wednesday.” Anderson said, “As a result of that call, he’s very concerned about Alaska’s economy.” The article speculates that the call may be tied to Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s opposition to Republican efforts to reform health insurance.

Trump Interior Nominee Has A History Of Contempt For The Agency She’s About To Lead.

The Huffington Post (7/26, D’angelo) reports that former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, who has been nominated to serve as assistant secretary of the Interior Department’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, could “join the likes of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and Energy Secretary Rick Perry as top Trump officials with vehement opposition to agencies they’re tasked with helping to lead.” The article notes that Combs “regularly sparred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over species listings, petitioning in 2015 to have protections removed for an endangered songbird native to central Texas.” Last week, “some 70 conservation groups sent a letter to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee urging members to reject the nomination, describing Combs as someone who ‘built her career favoring big corporations and special interests over the needs and survival of imperiled species.’”

Man Gets 68 Years In Prison In Bundy Ranch Standoff Case.

The AP (7/26, Ritter) reports that on Wednesday, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas sentenced Gregory Burleson of Phoenix “to 68 years in prison for his role as a gunman in a standoff that stopped federal agents from rounding up cattle near the Nevada ranch of anti-government activist Cliven Bundy three years ago.” The AP notes that prosecutors “had sought a maximum sentence of 73 years for...Burleson after he was convicted of threatening and assaulting a federal officer, obstruction and traveling across state lines in aid of extortion.” However, Navarro “knocked five years off the recommendation, noting that the 53-year-old Burleson has gone blind, has serious health issues and was once an informant for the FBI.”

Interior Provides \$635,885 For Micronesia Region.

The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (7/26) reports that acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has “made available \$635,885 for natural and cultural resource protection for all U.S. island jurisdictions in the Micronesia region.” Pula said, “It is reassuring to see the range of initiatives we have been able to support with this funding, from managing fisheries that support people’s livelihoods to suppressing the impacts of the damaging coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant. We are happy to support and bolster the collaborative efforts of conservation-minded leaders across the Micronesia region.”

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007206 NPS National Register of Historic Places, July 8, 2017. The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before July 8, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 07/26/2017.

REG0007214 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1029-0091; Requirements for Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations on Indian Lands. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection for the requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands in 30 CFR part 750. OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 07/26/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emperor Concerto	8:15 PM
7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-27T15:49:37-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/27/17
Received: 2017-07-27T15:50:03-04:00

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/27/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

-
NOTE: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has postponed their business meeting delaying the nominations of three Interior candidates.

-
Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Texas and New Mexico.
Arrive Fort Bliss
Helicopter Tour of Organ Mountains
Travel to Las Cruces, NM
Roundtable with Ranchers & Stakeholders
Roundtable on Border Security
Meeting with Northern Ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM
HOLD: Media Availability
Driving Tour with BLM

-
Friday, July 28, 2017

Hike with Vet Voice Foundation
Meeting with Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Meeting with Mescalero Apache
Meeting with All Pueblo Council of Governors tribes
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Travel to Santa Fe, NM

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
Greet Senators and Rep. Lujan and Consolidate Vehicles.
Hike to Canyon Bottom // Horseback Riding & Hiking
Travel to Albuquerque, NM
Dinner with Senators

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Travel to Las Vegas (LAS)
Travel to Kirt's Grotto
Meeting with BLM Support Staff
Fly Over Tour of Gold Butte National Monument
Helicopter Tour departs Gold Butte National Monument en route Basin and Range National Monument
Lunch Meeting with BLM Staff
White River Narrows Rock Art Site Tour
Shaman Knob / Mt. Irish
Tour of Mt. Irish Petroglyph Site
Travel to Las Vegas Airport

Monday, July 31, 2017

Travel to Mesquite, NV
Roundtable with Friends of Gold Butte
Depart Mesquite, NV en route Overton, NV
Roundtable with Local County, City, and State Officials
Depart Overton, NV en route Moapa Tribal Facility
Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
Depart en route Las Vegas, NV
HOLD: potential other meeting
Wheels up Las Vegas, NV (LAS) en route Cincinnati, OH (CVG)
Wheels up Cincinnati, OH (CVG) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

SECRETARY ZINKE WELCOMES THREE TO INTERIOR

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke welcomed three new hires to the Department in the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of Communications, and the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. The new additions bring a combination of Congressional, Executive Branch, and private sector experience.

“I could not be happier with the way our Department has been staffing up in recent weeks. These new team members will help us more efficiently and effectively carryout the President's priorities on behalf of the American people,” Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said.

Richard Goeken has been hired as Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife. Goeken has over 20 years of legal experience, beginning as an Associate and then a Partner at Saltman & Stevens, P.C. In 2012, Saltman & Stevens merged with Smith Currie & Hancock, L.L.P., where Goeken was a Partner for the last five years. His career has focused on environmental law and policy. Goeken is a graduate of the College of William & Mary's Law School.

Russell Newell returns to Interior as the Deputy Director of Communications. For the last five years, Newell has served as Director of Executive & Corporate Communication at Disney/ABC Television Group. Newell also served as Director of Communications and Media Relations for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as Senior Media Advisor for Multi-National Forces-Iraq, and as a Public Affairs Officer and speechwriter at the Departments of State, Interior, and Homeland Security, as well as for Governor Jeb Bush.

Blake Deeley will serve as an Advisor in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. He has extensive experience on Capitol Hill, and was most recently a Policy Advisor in the Office of Congressman David McKinley of West Virginia and served as the lead staffer for the Congressional Coal Caucus. Prior to this, he was a Manager of Public Affairs at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, a Legislative Correspondent for Senator Mitch McConnell, and a Staff Assistant for Senator Rand Paul.

WEEK AHEAD July 26 thru August 3, 2017

Announcements/Releases/Events

- This week the Secretary is traveling to New Mexico and then Nevada to tour Monuments under review. We issued a media advisory with some details of his trip.
- We continue to support the WH's "Hero's Week" through social media and a video from the Secretary to employees and stakeholders.

TBD: will send out a press release "Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Mine Proposal to Create Jobs in Virginia and West Virginia"

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 27: National NPS Release: NPS release on 10 Parks Honoring American Heroes.
- July 28: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce the opening of a public comment period on an environmental assessment for proposed utility and roadway crossings and a visitor trail within Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
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Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary To Visit Las Cruces Amid Monuments Review.

The AP (7/26, Contreras) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “scheduled to visit Las Cruces this week in connection with the Trump administration’s review of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.” The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/26, Coleman) reports that “on Thursday, Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by helicopter then meet with elected officials, ranchers, academics, border security experts, and others local stakeholders ‘who represent all sides of the issue,’ according to the Interior Department.” On Friday, Zinke is scheduled to “hike with southern New Mexico veterans and then hold meetings with the Mescalero Apache, Fort Sill Tribe, and Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks “. On Saturday, Zinke will “hike and ride horseback with Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, both of whom are opposed to shrinking either monument.”

Dozens Of GOP Senators Urge Trump To Expand Offshore Drilling.

The Daily Caller (7/26, Pearce) reports that “three dozen Republican senators sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Wednesday supporting a plan that would increase access and development of offshore drilling along the U.S. east coast.” The Hill (7/26, Cama, Henry) reports that in the letter, “the senators said the government should write a drilling plan that would allow oil and gas leasing in areas not included in the 2017-2022 outline finalized by the Obama administration.” The senators wrote, “Offshore projects often have long lead times, so it is important to start today to make sure that the United States is planning for the future to

maintain its steady and stable supply of production. We look forward to working with the Department of the Interior as you advance the new five-year program.”

Zinke Call Has Sullivan ‘Very Concerned’ After Tuesday Vote.

The Alaska Journal of Commerce (7/26, Brehmer) reports that “according to Sen. Dan Sullivan’s spokesman Mike Anderson, Sullivan took a phone call from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Wednesday.” Anderson said, “As a result of that call, he’s very concerned about Alaska’s economy.” The article speculates that the call may be tied to Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s opposition to Republican efforts to reform health insurance.

Trump Interior Nominee Has A History Of Contempt For The Agency She’s About To Lead.

The Huffington Post (7/26, D’angelo) reports that former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, who has been nominated to serve as assistant secretary of the Interior Department’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, could “join the likes of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and Energy Secretary Rick Perry as top Trump officials with vehement opposition to agencies they’re tasked with helping to lead.” The article notes that Combs “regularly sparred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over species listings, petitioning in 2015 to have protections removed for an endangered songbird native to central Texas.” Last week, “some 70 conservation groups sent a letter to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee urging members to reject the nomination, describing Combs as someone who ‘built her career favoring big corporations and special interests over the needs and survival of imperiled species.’”

Man Gets 68 Years In Prison In Bundy Ranch Standoff Case.

The AP (7/26, Ritter) reports that on Wednesday, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas sentenced Gregory Burleson of Phoenix “to 68 years in prison for his role as a gunman in a standoff that stopped federal agents from rounding up cattle near the Nevada ranch of anti-government activist Cliven Bundy three years ago.” The AP notes that prosecutors “had sought a maximum sentence of 73 years for...Burleson after he was convicted of threatening and assaulting a federal officer, obstruction and traveling across state lines in aid of extortion.” However, Navarro “knocked five years off the recommendation, noting that the 53-year-old Burleson has gone blind, has serious health issues and was once an informant for the FBI.”

Interior Provides \$635,885 For Micronesia Region.

The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (7/26) reports that acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has “made available \$635,885 for natural and cultural resource protection for all U.S. island jurisdictions in the Micronesia region.” Pula said, “It is reassuring to see the range of initiatives we have been able to support with this funding, from managing fisheries that support people’s livelihoods to suppressing the impacts of the damaging coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant. We are happy to support and bolster the collaborative efforts of conservation-minded leaders across the Micronesia region.”

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007206 NPS National Register of Historic Places, July 8, 2017. The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before July 8, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 07/26/2017.

REG0007214 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1029-0091; Requirements for Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations on Indian Lands. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection for the requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands in 30 CFR part 750. OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 07/26/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-28-17	ORFF: Carmina Burana; Beethoven: Emperor Concerto	8:15 PM
7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-27T15:49:37-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/27/17
Received: 2017-07-27T15:50:05-04:00

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/27/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

-
NOTE: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has postponed their business meeting delaying the nominations of three Interior candidates.

-
Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Texas and New Mexico.
Arrive Fort Bliss
Helicopter Tour of Organ Mountains
Travel to Las Cruces, NM
Roundtable with Ranchers & Stakeholders
Roundtable on Border Security
Meeting with Northern Ranchers on Rio Grande del Norte NM
HOLD: Media Availability
Driving Tour with BLM

-
Friday, July 28, 2017

Hike with Vet Voice Foundation
Meeting with Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Meeting with Mescalero Apache
Meeting with All Pueblo Council of Governors tribes
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Travel to Santa Fe, NM

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
Greet Senators and Rep. Lujan and Consolidate Vehicles.
Hike to Canyon Bottom // Horseback Riding & Hiking
Travel to Albuquerque, NM
Dinner with Senators

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Travel to Las Vegas (LAS)
Travel to Kirt's Grotto
Meeting with BLM Support Staff
Fly Over Tour of Gold Butte National Monument
Helicopter Tour departs Gold Butte National Monument en route Basin and Range National Monument
Lunch Meeting with BLM Staff
White River Narrows Rock Art Site Tour
Shaman Knob / Mt. Irish
Tour of Mt. Irish Petroglyph Site
Travel to Las Vegas Airport

Monday, July 31, 2017

Travel to Mesquite, NV
Roundtable with Friends of Gold Butte
Depart Mesquite, NV en route Overton, NV
Roundtable with Local County, City, and State Officials
Depart Overton, NV en route Moapa Tribal Facility
Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
Depart en route Las Vegas, NV
HOLD: potential other meeting
Wheels up Las Vegas, NV (LAS) en route Cincinnati, OH (CVG)
Wheels up Cincinnati, OH (CVG) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

SECRETARY ZINKE WELCOMES THREE TO INTERIOR

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke welcomed three new hires to the Department in the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of Communications, and the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. The new additions bring a combination of Congressional, Executive Branch, and private sector experience.

“I could not be happier with the way our Department has been staffing up in recent weeks. These new team members will help us more efficiently and effectively carryout the President's priorities on behalf of the American people,” Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said.

Richard Goeken has been hired as Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife. Goeken has over 20 years of legal experience, beginning as an Associate and then a Partner at Saltman & Stevens, P.C. In 2012, Saltman & Stevens merged with Smith Currie & Hancock, L.L.P., where Goeken was a Partner for the last five years. His career has focused on environmental law and policy. Goeken is a graduate of the College of William & Mary's Law School.

Russell Newell returns to Interior as the Deputy Director of Communications. For the last five years, Newell has served as Director of Executive & Corporate Communication at Disney/ABC Television Group. Newell also served as Director of Communications and Media Relations for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as Senior Media Advisor for Multi-National Forces-Iraq, and as a Public Affairs Officer and speechwriter at the Departments of State, Interior, and Homeland Security, as well as for Governor Jeb Bush.

Blake Deeley will serve as an Advisor in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. He has extensive experience on Capitol Hill, and was most recently a Policy Advisor in the Office of Congressman David McKinley of West Virginia and served as the lead staffer for the Congressional Coal Caucus. Prior to this, he was a Manager of Public Affairs at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, a Legislative Correspondent for Senator Mitch McConnell, and a Staff Assistant for Senator Rand Paul.

WEEK AHEAD July 26 thru August 3, 2017

Announcements/Releases/Events

- This week the Secretary is traveling to New Mexico and then Nevada to tour Monuments under review. We issued a media advisory with some details of his trip.
- We continue to support the WH's "Hero's Week" through social media and a video from the Secretary to employees and stakeholders.

TBD: will send out a press release "Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Mine Proposal to Create Jobs in Virginia and West Virginia"

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 27: National NPS Release: NPS release on 10 Parks Honoring American Heroes.
- July 28: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce the opening of a public comment period on an environmental assessment for proposed utility and roadway crossings and a visitor trail within Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
- July 28: National NPS Release: NPS will release a theme study focusing on significant historic properties of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era.
- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.
- July 31: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce another round of \$1.189 million in American Battlefield Protection Grants (planning) to aid in the research, documentation, and/or interpretation of significant American battlefields. Releases will be done at the local level of NPS sites receiving funds.
- July 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.

- July TBD: Denali National Park and Preserve will release a draft Long Range Transportation Plan for 30 days of public review and comment. The plan, developed over a three-year period, documents baseline conditions, examines funding options, and will help inform project priority setting. The plan focuses on the 90-mile-long park road and its importance to the visitor experience and resource protection, as well as its uses by concessionaire and in-holder buses, and private and administrative vehicles. Portions of the road, initially constructed nearly 100 years ago, have been subject to temporary closures in recent years, in part because slopes have become more unstable due to warming permafrost and other factors. Road use has increased as overall park visitation has grown to nearly 600,000 people per year.
- August 3: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett will hold a public meeting with Regional Director Stan Austin in Saint John, Virgin Islands to update the community on the administrative realignment of national park superintendents in the Caribbean to now report to the Caribbean parks group superintendent.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July 31: National FWS Release: FWS release on proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- July 31 (tent.): Local FWS Release: FWS plans to announce it is seeking public input to identify potential issues, concerns, impacts and alternatives to be considered in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial.
- July TBD: Local FWS Release: FWS and the State of Utah will issue a joint release regarding a court ruling putting the Utah Prairie Dog back under ESA protections.
- July 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.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
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Bureau of Land Management

- July 31: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV will issue a Temporary Closure and Temporary Restrictions of Specific Uses on Public Lands for the Burning Man event in Pershing County, NV, to begin set-up for the event which will begin on August 27. The closure will remain in

place until September 20. The event entails the largest Special Recreation Permit managed by the BLM.

- August 1-2: BLM-MT/Dakotas State Office will lead tribal site visits in Sidney to help determine if Federal land parcels that have been identified in the State of Montana's Indemnity Selection application are suitable for conveyance to the State according to the Enabling Act of 1889. Specifically, the site visits will inform determination of eligibility of the cultural sites in the area and assist in environmental assessment. The BLM has been coordinating with the State of Montana since 2015 to determine appropriate parcels to transfer to the State. Other participants include district employees and MT Department of Natural Resources.
- August 2: The BLM-UT Moab Field Office intends to approve Dawson Geophysical Co.'s three-dimensional geophysical seismic survey project. The project is located 26 miles northwest of Moab and encompasses approximately 38,700 acres. Seismic surveys are used to determine the location and size of oil and gas reservoirs. The project is slated to begin in September.
- August 2: BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.
- August 2: BLM-CA's Bakersfield Assistant Field Manager Becca Brooke/staff will meet with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to discuss the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) re-licensing process and study needs for the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project at Kerckhoff Dam, along the San Joaquin River, Fresno County, CA. PG&E is required to submit a Pre-Application for Development by November 2017 to begin a five-year re-licensing process. The 114-foot tall dam, built in 1920, is one of the primary features of the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project. It has two powerhouses. It produces 579 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.
- August 3: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold a land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with the SNPLMA, sale funds are used for the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquiring environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

U.S. Geological Survey

- July 26: Local USGS Release: USGS will release a study of water contaminants in Congaree National Park.
- August 1: Three Regional USGS-University Press Releases will go out to announce new host and consortium university partners for the Department of the Interior Alaska, Southeast, and Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (managed by USGS). These hosting agreements are made between universities and the USGS, and the press releases are joint between these entities.
- August 2: National USGS Release: USGS release regarding increased Salinity in U.S. Rivers that might degrade drinking water quality and water infrastructure.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 1: Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office with the parties of the Taos Indian Water Rights Settlement will meet in Taos to discuss the latest progress on implementing the

settlement. Each party will report out on its part of the project. There is significant local public and media interest and both are expected to attend.

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Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary To Visit Las Cruces Amid Monuments Review.

The AP (7/26, Contreras) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “scheduled to visit Las Cruces this week in connection with the Trump administration’s review of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.” The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/26, Coleman) reports that “on Thursday, Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by helicopter then meet with elected officials, ranchers, academics, border security experts, and others local stakeholders ‘who represent all sides of the issue,’ according to the Interior Department.” On Friday, Zinke is scheduled to “hike with southern New Mexico veterans and then hold meetings with the Mescalero Apache, Fort Sill Tribe, and Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks “. On Saturday, Zinke will “hike and ride horseback with Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, both of whom are opposed to shrinking either monument.”

Dozens Of GOP Senators Urge Trump To Expand Offshore Drilling.

The Daily Caller (7/26, Pearce) reports that “three dozen Republican senators sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Wednesday supporting a plan that would increase access and development of offshore drilling along the U.S. east coast.” The Hill (7/26, Cama, Henry) reports that in the letter, “the senators said the government should write a drilling plan that would allow oil and gas leasing in areas not included in the 2017-2022 outline finalized by the Obama administration.” The senators wrote, “Offshore projects often have long lead times, so it is important to start today to make sure that the United States is planning for the future to

maintain its steady and stable supply of production. We look forward to working with the Department of the Interior as you advance the new five-year program.”

Zinke Call Has Sullivan ‘Very Concerned’ After Tuesday Vote.

The Alaska Journal of Commerce (7/26, Brehmer) reports that “according to Sen. Dan Sullivan’s spokesman Mike Anderson, Sullivan took a phone call from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Wednesday.” Anderson said, “As a result of that call, he’s very concerned about Alaska’s economy.” The article speculates that the call may be tied to Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s opposition to Republican efforts to reform health insurance.

Trump Interior Nominee Has A History Of Contempt For The Agency She’s About To Lead.

The Huffington Post (7/26, D’angelo) reports that former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, who has been nominated to serve as assistant secretary of the Interior Department’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, could “join the likes of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and Energy Secretary Rick Perry as top Trump officials with vehement opposition to agencies they’re tasked with helping to lead.” The article notes that Combs “regularly sparred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over species listings, petitioning in 2015 to have protections removed for an endangered songbird native to central Texas.” Last week, “some 70 conservation groups sent a letter to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee urging members to reject the nomination, describing Combs as someone who ‘built her career favoring big corporations and special interests over the needs and survival of imperiled species.’”

Man Gets 68 Years In Prison In Bundy Ranch Standoff Case.

The AP (7/26, Ritter) reports that on Wednesday, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas sentenced Gregory Burleson of Phoenix “to 68 years in prison for his role as a gunman in a standoff that stopped federal agents from rounding up cattle near the Nevada ranch of anti-government activist Cliven Bundy three years ago.” The AP notes that prosecutors “had sought a maximum sentence of 73 years for...Burleson after he was convicted of threatening and assaulting a federal officer, obstruction and traveling across state lines in aid of extortion.” However, Navarro “knocked five years off the recommendation, noting that the 53-year-old Burleson has gone blind, has serious health issues and was once an informant for the FBI.”

Interior Provides \$635,885 For Micronesia Region.

The Saipan (MNP) Tribune (7/26) reports that acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has “made available \$635,885 for natural and cultural resource protection for all U.S. island jurisdictions in the Micronesia region.” Pula said, “It is reassuring to see the range of initiatives we have been able to support with this funding, from managing fisheries that support people’s livelihoods to suppressing the impacts of the damaging coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant. We are happy to support and bolster the collaborative efforts of conservation-minded leaders across the Micronesia region.”

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007206 NPS National Register of Historic Places, July 8, 2017. The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before July 8, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 07/26/2017.

REG0007214 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1029-0091; Requirements for Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations on Indian Lands. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection for the requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands in 30 CFR part 750. OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 07/26/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

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Sent: 2017-07-28T13:15:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/28/17
Received: 2017-07-28T13:16:23-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-28-17.docx](#)

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7/28/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

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Meeting with Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Meeting with Mescalero Apache
Meeting with All Pueblo Council of Governors tribes
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Travel to Santa Fe, NM

Saturday, July 29, 2017

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
Greet Senators and Rep. Lujan and Consolidate Vehicles.
Hike to Canyon Bottom // Horseback Riding & Hiking
Travel to Albuquerque, NM
Dinner with Senators

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Fly Over Tour of Gold Butte National Monument
Helicopter Tour departs Gold Butte National Monument en route Basin and Range National Monument
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White River Narrows Rock Art Site Tour
Shaman Knob / Mt. Irish

Tour of Mt. Irish Petroglyph Site
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Monday, July 31, 2017

Travel to Mesquite, NV
Roundtable with Friends of Gold Butte
Depart Mesquite, NV en route Overton, NV
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Depart Overton, NV en route Moapa Tribal Facility
Meeting with Moapa Band of Paiutes
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HOLD: potential other meeting
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Wheels up Cincinnati, OH (CVG) en route Washington, DC (DCA)

8/1 Day One Bernhardt.

NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

(Sent last night.) **READOUT OF SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE'S TRIP TO THE WEST (DAY ONE)**

Secretary meets with ranchers, local stakeholders on variety of topics
LAS CRUCES, New Mexico – Thursday, Secretary Ryan Zinke of the Department of the Interior participated in Day One of his five-day trip to the Western United States. Secretary Zinke started the morning with a helicopter tour of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, as part of his ongoing review of National Monument designations in the United States. Organ Mountains is one of the National Monuments under review in accordance with President Donald Trump's April 26, 2017 Executive Order 13792.

WEEK AHEAD July 26 thru August 3, 2017

- This week the Secretary is traveling to New Mexico and then Nevada to tour Monuments under review. We issued a media advisory with some details of his trip.
- We continue to support the WH's "Hero's Week" through social media and a video from the Secretary to employees and stakeholders.

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 28: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce the opening of a public comment period on an environmental assessment for proposed utility and roadway crossings and a visitor trail within Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
- July 28: National NPS Release: NPS will release a theme study focusing on significant historic properties of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era.
- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in

Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.

- July 31: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce another round of \$1.189 million in American Battlefield Protection Grants (planning) to aid in the research, documentation, and/or interpretation of significant American battlefields. Releases will be done at the local level of NPS sites receiving funds.
- July 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.
- July TBD: Denali National Park and Preserve will release a draft Long Range Transportation Plan for 30 days of public review and comment. The plan, developed over a three-year period, documents baseline conditions, examines funding options, and will help inform project priority setting. The plan focuses on the 90-mile-long park road and its importance to the visitor experience and resource protection, as well as its uses by concessionaire and in-holder buses, and private and administrative vehicles. Portions of the road, initially constructed nearly 100 years ago, have been subject to temporary closures in recent years, in part because slopes have become more unstable due to warming permafrost and other factors. Road use has increased as overall park visitation has grown to nearly 600,000 people per year.
- August 3: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett will hold a public meeting with Regional Director Stan Austin in Saint John, Virgin Islands to update the community on the administrative realignment of national park superintendents in the Caribbean to now report to the Caribbean parks group superintendent.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July 31: National FWS Release: FWS release on proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- July 31 (tent.): Local FWS Release: FWS plans to announce it is seeking public input to identify potential issues, concerns, impacts and alternatives to be considered in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial.
- July TBD: Local FWS Release: FWS and the State of Utah will issue a joint release regarding a court ruling putting the Utah Prairie Dog back under ESA protections.
- July 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.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18

hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.

- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.

Bureau of Land Management

- July 31: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV will issue a Temporary Closure and Temporary Restrictions of Specific Uses on Public Lands for the Burning Man event in Pershing County, NV, to begin set-up for the event which will begin on August 27. The closure will remain in place until September 20. The event entails the largest Special Recreation Permit managed by the BLM.
- August 1-2: BLM-MT/Dakotas State Office will lead tribal site visits in Sidney to help determine if Federal land parcels that have been identified in the State of Montana's Indemnity Selection application are suitable for conveyance to the State according to the Enabling Act of 1889. Specifically, the site visits will inform determination of eligibility of the cultural sites in the area and assist in environmental assessment. The BLM has been coordinating with the State of Montana since 2015 to determine appropriate parcels to transfer to the State. Other participants include district employees and MT Department of Natural Resources.
- August 2: The BLM-UT Moab Field Office intends to approve Dawson Geophysical Co.'s three-dimensional geophysical seismic survey project. The project is located 26 miles northwest of Moab and encompasses approximately 38,700 acres. Seismic surveys are used to determine the location and size of oil and gas reservoirs. The project is slated to begin in September.
- August 2: BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.
- August 2: BLM-CA's Bakersfield Assistant Field Manager Becca Brooke/staff will meet with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to discuss the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) re-licensing process and study needs for the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project at Kerckhoff Dam, along the San Joaquin River, Fresno County, CA. PG&E is required to submit a Pre-Application for Development by November 2017 to begin a five-year re-licensing process. The 114-foot tall dam, built in 1920, is one of the primary features of the Kerckoff hydroelectric project. It has two powerhouses. It produces 579 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.
- August 3: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold a land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with the SNPLMA, sale funds are used for the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquiring environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

U.S. Geological Survey

- August 1: Three Regional USGS-University Press Releases will go out to announce

new host and consortium university partners for the Department of the Interior Alaska, Southeast, and Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (managed by USGS). These hosting agreements are made between universities and the USGS, and the press releases are joint between these entities.

- August 2: National USGS Release: USGS release regarding increased Salinity in U.S. Rivers that might degrade drinking water quality and water infrastructure.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 1: Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office with the parties of the Taos Indian Water Rights Settlement will meet in Taos to discuss the latest progress on implementing the settlement. Each party will report out on its part of the project. There is significant local public and media interest and both are expected to attend.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 2: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- August 2: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
- August 2: Local BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 2: Local BOEM Release: BOEM announces Gulf G&G PEIS, which is expected to publish in Federal Register on Aug. 4.
- 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: Note to Stakeholders to specific groups for educational outreach on the New National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program inviting them to participate in an informational call.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- July 28: National BSEE News Brief: American Hero Week - BSEE Inspectors Keep Energy Production Safe

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- August 1: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE expects to announce publication of notices of availability for draft Environmental Assessments and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact prepared for a federal mining plan modification at the Bridger Mine in Wyoming. OSMRE will accept comments for 30 days.
- August 3: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE celebrates 40th Anniversary Observance of the signing of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. OSMRE confirmed Secretary will appear as the keynote speaker.

Land Buy-Back Program

- July 31: National LBBP Release: LBBP will put out a release and related outreach announcing a new Land Buy-Back Program strategy for addressing fractionation on Indian trust lands.

CONGRESSIONAL

August 3, 2017

10:00am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing to examine federal and nonfederal collaboration, including through the use of technology, to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and enhance firefighting safety and effectiveness.

Witness: Bryan Rice, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

-

Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee delayed their vote indefinitely.

Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/1 - Deputy Secretary Swearing-In

8/2 - (T) Secretary to visit USGS (Reston, VA)

8/2 - Sportsman Round table Access Event hosted at DOI

8/3 - DOI event - 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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)

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

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

Open invite - Detroit Economic Club

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony
General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball
(Whitefish/Kalispell)

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)

Emergency Management

The National Park Service (NPS) is reporting a partial closure at Cape Hatteras National Seashore due to a power outage. Officials from Hyde County say that on July 27, at 4:30 a.m. EDT, power went out to Ocracoke and Hatteras islands after a contractor drove a piling through the underground cable between the southern end of Bonner Bridge and the first riser pole on Hatteras Island. Due to current power restrictions, the Frisco Campground is closed through Friday, and due to mandatory evacuations of non-residents of Ocracoke Island, the Ocracoke Campground will be closed until the evacuation is lifted. The Ocracoke Visitor Center and Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permit Office will remain open unless excessive heat necessitates a closure. All other seashore facilities are open as scheduled.

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 81,550 (+300) acres and is 75 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 3,700 (-579) personnel, including 102 (-20) DOI personnel. There are 30 (-1,470) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. Communities, transportation routes, and power infrastructure continue to be threatened, including transmission lines that supply Yosemite National Park with power. Full containment of the Detwiler Fire expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 270,200 (no change) acres and is 80 (+18)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 553 (-45) personnel, including 67 (-14) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (no change) residences have been destroyed. The need for additional resources is not anticipated at this time, and full containment is expected on August 2.

In Montana, the Buffalo Fire, located in Powder River County (BLM), has burned 3,104 (no change) acres and is 80 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 354 (+86) personnel, including 69 (+24) DOI personnel. Significant resource demobilization is expected to start tomorrow, and full containment of this fire is expected on July 30.

In Nevada, the Preacher Fire, located in Douglas County (BLM), has burned 5,353 (-33) acres and is 72 (+52)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 521 (+9) personnel, including 82 (+10) DOI personnel. Numerous single family structures, developed subdivision properties, significant out buildings and structures, and local power transmission lines are threatened. Significant resource demobilization is expected to today, and full containment of this fire is expected on July 29.

In Nevada, the Mahogany Fire, located in Humboldt County (BLM), has burned 5,121 (+121) acres and is 45 (+20)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 311 (+12) personnel, including 65 (-4) DOI personnel. There are 50 (no change) residences threatened; however, no evacuations are currently in place. Continued fire spread is expected due to outflow winds from passing thunderstorms during the next 48 hours. Full containment of this fire is expected on July 29.

Outside Media of Interest

Report: Interior Chief Warns Alaska Senators On Health Care.

The AP (7/27, Daly) reports that the Alaska Dispatch News reported early Thursday that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “called Alaska’s two Republican senators to warn them of repercussions for the nation’s largest state if they failed to toe the Trump administration line on healthcare.” Sen. Dan Sullivan, who has supported repeal efforts, “told the newspaper that the call from Zinke heralded a ‘troubling message,’” but Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who has opposed several key GOP measures, “confirmed that she received a call from Zinke, but said she did not perceive the call as a threat against her or Alaska.”

Murkowski’s Committee Postponed Confirmation Vote For Trump Nominees. The Hill (7/27, Cama) reports Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “postponed a vote on six Trump administration nominees on Wednesday,” the “same day” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “allegedly threatened retribution against the Alaska Republican over her healthcare vote.” Zinke “called Murkowski and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) that afternoon, saying that her vote against debate on the ObamaCare repeal might steer the administration away from policies that benefit her state.” Murkowski’s staff didn’t “return requests for comment on whether the developments are linked, and the committee has not said why the meeting was postponed.” The article notes that six nominees include “Brenda Burman to be commissioner of reclamation at Interior; Susan Combs to be assistant secretary of the Interior for policy, management and budget; Doug Domenech to be assistant secretary of the Interior for insular affairs; Paul Dabbar to be undersecretary for science of the Department of Energy (DOE); David Jonas to be general counsel of the DOE; and Mark Wesley Menezes to be undersecretary of the DOE.”

The U.S. Interior Department Has A New Mission: To Make Money.

Bloomberg News (7/27, Traywick) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “aims to retool” his department “into a federal profit center focused on increasing energy production, according to a plan laid out by his special adviser, Vincent DeVito.” During an event in Washington on Thursday, DeVito stressed that the government must be run as if it were a business. He said that “the agency needs to offer federal leaseholders, whom he calls ‘investors,’ a reason to partner with the government, which hasn’t been a particularly good business partner in the past.” And “that means opening up more resources, making permitting easier and ‘aggressively’ cutting regulations on private industry.”

Interior Provides Palau \$5.4M Under Compact, Other Grants.

Marianas Variety (7/27) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula “made available \$5,463,578 to the Republic of Palau, most of which is the balance of remaining Compact grant assistance for fiscal year 2017.” Pula said, “We are honored to provide assistance to Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., on behalf of the U.S. under the Compact of Free Association. Furthermore, we are pleased to support proper land planning and management, as well as training in maintenance and infrastructure-upkeep. Both are critical to Palau as an island nation.”

Federal Register Listings

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REG0007146 BIA Indian Gaming; Approval of a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of South Dakota. This Notice announces the approval of a Proposed Gaming Compact Between the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation and the State of South Dakota governing Class III gaming. Notice 07/27/2017.

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WEEK AHEAD July 26 thru August 3, 2017

- This week the Secretary is traveling to New Mexico and then Nevada to tour Monuments under review. We issued a media advisory with some details of his trip.
- We continue to support the WH's "Hero's Week" through social media and a video from the Secretary to employees and stakeholders.

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 28: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce the opening of a public comment period on an environmental assessment for proposed utility and roadway crossings and a visitor trail within Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
- July 28: National NPS Release: NPS will release a theme study focusing on significant historic properties of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era.
- Week of July 24: Local NPS Release: The Reconstruction Era National Monument will hold three public listening sessions (not related to July 28 Reconstruction Era Theme Study) in

Beaufort, Port Royal, and St. Helena Island, South Carolina, as part of the development of a foundation document for this new park. Targeted stakeholder meetings will also be held in the respective communities during the day to identify the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the National Park Service in setting up these new areas and also provide input into the development of the foundation document and interpretive themes.

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Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- July 28: National BSEE News Brief: American Hero Week - BSEE Inspectors Keep Energy Production Safe

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Hearing to examine federal and nonfederal collaboration, including through the use of technology, to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and enhance firefighting safety and effectiveness.

Witness: Bryan Rice, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

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Political Appointee Update

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4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

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8/2 - (T) Secretary to visit USGS (Reston, VA)

8/2 - Sportsman Round table Access Event hosted at DOI

8/3 - DOI event - 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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)

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

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

Open invite - Detroit Economic Club

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony
General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball
(Whitefish/Kalispell)

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)

Emergency Management

The National Park Service (NPS) is reporting a partial closure at Cape Hatteras National Seashore due to a power outage. Officials from Hyde County say that on July 27, at 4:30 a.m. EDT, power went out to Ocracoke and Hatteras islands after a contractor drove a piling through the underground cable between the southern end of Bonner Bridge and the first riser pole on Hatteras Island. Due to current power restrictions, the Frisco Campground is closed through Friday, and due to mandatory evacuations of non-residents of Ocracoke Island, the Ocracoke Campground will be closed until the evacuation is lifted. The Ocracoke Visitor Center and Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permit Office will remain open unless excessive heat necessitates a closure. All other seashore facilities are open as scheduled.

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 81,550 (+300) acres and is 75 (+5)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 3,700 (-579) personnel, including 102 (-20) DOI personnel. There are 30 (-1,470) residential structures threatened and 4,968 (no change) evacuees. Communities, transportation routes, and power infrastructure continue to be threatened, including transmission lines that supply Yosemite National Park with power. Full containment of the Detwiler Fire expected on August 5.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 270,200 (no change) acres and is 80 (+18)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 553 (-45) personnel, including 67 (-14) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Sixteen (no change) residences have been destroyed. The need for additional resources is not anticipated at this time, and full containment is expected on August 2.

In Montana, the Buffalo Fire, located in Powder River County (BLM), has burned 3,104 (no change) acres and is 80 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 354 (+86) personnel, including 69 (+24) DOI personnel. Significant resource demobilization is expected to start tomorrow, and full containment of this fire is expected on July 30.

In Nevada, the Preacher Fire, located in Douglas County (BLM), has burned 5,353 (-33) acres and is 72 (+52)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 521 (+9) personnel, including 82 (+10) DOI personnel. Numerous single family structures, developed subdivision properties, significant out buildings and structures, and local power transmission lines are threatened. Significant resource demobilization is expected to today, and full containment of this fire is expected on July 29.

In Nevada, the Mahogany Fire, located in Humboldt County (BLM), has burned 5,121 (+121) acres and is 45 (+20)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 311 (+12) personnel, including 65 (-4) DOI personnel. There are 50 (no change) residences threatened; however, no evacuations are currently in place. Continued fire spread is expected due to outflow winds from passing thunderstorms during the next 48 hours. Full containment of this fire is expected on July 29.

Outside Media of Interest

Report: Interior Chief Warns Alaska Senators On Health Care.

The AP (7/27, Daly) reports that the Alaska Dispatch News reported early Thursday that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “called Alaska’s two Republican senators to warn them of repercussions for the nation’s largest state if they failed to toe the Trump administration line on healthcare.” Sen. Dan Sullivan, who has supported repeal efforts, “told the newspaper that the call from Zinke heralded a ‘troubling message,’” but Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who has opposed several key GOP measures, “confirmed that she received a call from Zinke, but said she did not perceive the call as a threat against her or Alaska.”

Murkowski’s Committee Postponed Confirmation Vote For Trump Nominees. The Hill (7/27, Cama) reports Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “postponed a vote on six Trump administration nominees on Wednesday,” the “same day” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “allegedly threatened retribution against the Alaska Republican over her healthcare vote.” Zinke “called Murkowski and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) that afternoon, saying that her vote against debate on the ObamaCare repeal might steer the administration away from policies that benefit her state.” Murkowski’s staff didn’t “return requests for comment on whether the developments are linked, and the committee has not said why the meeting was postponed.” The article notes that six nominees include “Brenda Burman to be commissioner of reclamation at Interior; Susan Combs to be assistant secretary of the Interior for policy, management and budget; Doug Domenech to be assistant secretary of the Interior for insular affairs; Paul Dabbar to be undersecretary for science of the Department of Energy (DOE); David Jonas to be general counsel of the DOE; and Mark Wesley Menezes to be undersecretary of the DOE.”

The U.S. Interior Department Has A New Mission: To Make Money.

Bloomberg News (7/27, Traywick) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “aims to retool” his department “into a federal profit center focused on increasing energy production, according to a plan laid out by his special adviser, Vincent DeVito.” During an event in Washington on Thursday, DeVito stressed that the government must be run as if it were a business. He said that “the agency needs to offer federal leaseholders, whom he calls ‘investors,’ a reason to partner with the government, which hasn’t been a particularly good business partner in the past.” And “that means opening up more resources, making permitting easier and ‘aggressively’ cutting regulations on private industry.”

Interior Provides Palau \$5.4M Under Compact, Other Grants.

Marianas Variety (7/27) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula “made available \$5,463,578 to the Republic of Palau, most of which is the balance of remaining Compact grant assistance for fiscal year 2017.” Pula said, “We are honored to provide assistance to Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., on behalf of the U.S. under the Compact of Free Association. Furthermore, we are pleased to support proper land planning and management, as well as training in maintenance and infrastructure-upkeep. Both are critical to Palau as an island nation.”

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007146 BIA Indian Gaming; Approval of a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of South Dakota. This Notice announces the approval of a Proposed Gaming Compact Between the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation and the State of South Dakota governing Class III gaming. Notice 07/27/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-29-17	Aretha Franklin	8:00 PM
8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

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: Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Flynn, Matthew[(b)(6)-White House Staff gov]; Uli, Gabriella M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Murphy, Christine M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-31T13:35:24-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/31/17
Received: 2017-07-31T13:36:48-04:00
DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-31-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/31/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: The Secretary cancelled his monument tour in Nevada in order to return to DC for the Cabinet meeting.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Monday, July 31, 2017

Overnight travel to Washington, DC
Cabinet Meeting.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 8/1: Swearing In David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary; meeting at the White House.; Meeting with Douglas Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army; Meeting with Sen. Merkley and Sen. Wyden; Bernhardt reception.

Wednesday 8/2: Sportsmen Roundtable; NEC Principals Meeting: Infrastructure; Tentative USGS Tour;

Thursday 8/3: Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout; Remarks at 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); Meeting with Tom Spoehr, Director, Center for National Defense, Heritage Foundation; Meeting with David Lasar

Friday 8/4: office

NEXT WEEK:

The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

(Sent Saturday) **SECRETARY ZINKE OPENS UP CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR EMERGENCY PRESCRIBED GRAZING**

Cattle to arrive on Refuge in coming days

JORDAN, MT – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) for

emergency grazing relief. Allotments will be made immediately available for ranchers who lost grazing land in the Lodgepole Complex fires.

"We have a saying that Montana is one small town with really long roads, and as a neighbor in that small town, the Department is dedicated to providing disaster relief and resources where possible," said Secretary Zinke. "When I talk about restoring trust between local communities and the federal government, and being a good neighbor, this is exactly what I mean. My staff and I heard from ranchers, equipment dealers, and other concerned citizens, and we all got to work. I applaud the quick work and flexibility of the team at the CMR for getting this done for the community."

(Sent Saturday) **SECRETARY ZINKE TO HOLD MEDIA AVAILABILITY IN BUNKERVILLE, NEVADA**

WASHINGTON – On Sunday, July 30, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will hold a media availability to discuss the ongoing National Monument review of both the Gold Butte and the Basin and Range National Monuments, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017 Executive Order 13792.

Secretary Zinke is in the midst of a multi-day swing through the Western United States, which will conclude Sunday. To date, he has met with advocacy groups, state and local officials, and Tribal leaders. The Secretary will be meeting with federal representatives and their staff over the course of the trip as well.

(Sent Friday) **READOUT OF SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE'S TRIP TO THE WEST (DAY TWO)**

Secretary hikes with veterans, continues his meetings with Tribal leaders and local stakeholders

LAS CRUCES, New Mexico – Friday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke participated in Day Two of his five-day trip to the Western United States. Secretary Zinke began the day hiking with members of both the Vet Voice Foundation, a veterans group, and the Sierra Club Military Outdoors; they traversed the Broad Canyon in New Mexico.

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Outstanding Invitations in Process

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9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)
9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)
9/12 Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)
Open invite - Detroit Economic Club
9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Declining

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8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony
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From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-07-31T13:36:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/31/17
Received: 2017-07-31T13:37:04-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-31-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS –
7/31/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: The Secretary cancelled his monument tour in Nevada in order to return to DC for the Cabinet meeting.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Monday, July 31, 2017

Overnight travel to Washington, DC
Cabinet Meeting.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 8/1: Swearing In David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary; meeting at the White House.; Meeting with Douglas Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army; Meeting with Sen. Merkley and Sen. Wyden; Bernhardt reception.

Wednesday 8/2: Sportsmen Roundtable; NEC Principals Meeting: Infrastructure; Tentative USGS Tour;

Thursday 8/3: Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout; Remarks at 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); Meeting with Tom Spoehr, Director, Center for National Defense, Heritage Foundation; Meeting with David Lasar

Friday 8/4: office

NEXT WEEK:

The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

(Sent Saturday) **SECRETARY ZINKE OPENS UP CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR EMERGENCY PRESCRIBED GRAZING**

Cattle to arrive on Refuge in coming days

JORDAN, MT – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) for emergency grazing relief. Allotments will be made immediately available for ranchers who lost grazing land in the Lodgepole Complex fires.

"We have a saying that Montana is one small town with really long roads, and as a neighbor in that small town, the Department is dedicated to providing disaster relief and resources where possible," said Secretary Zinke. "When I talk about restoring trust between local communities and the federal government, and being a good neighbor, this is exactly what I mean. My staff and I heard from ranchers, equipment dealers, and other concerned citizens, and we all got to work. I applaud the quick work and flexibility of the team at the CMR for getting this done for the community."

(Sent Saturday) **SECRETARY ZINKE TO HOLD MEDIA AVAILABILITY IN BUNKERVILLE, NEVADA**

WASHINGTON – On Sunday, July 30, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will hold a media availability to discuss the ongoing National Monument review of both the Gold Butte and the Basin and Range National Monuments, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017 Executive Order 13792.

Secretary Zinke is in the midst of a multi-day swing through the Western United States, which will conclude Sunday. To date, he has met with advocacy groups, state and local officials, and Tribal leaders. The Secretary will be meeting with federal representatives and their staff over the course of the trip as well.

(Sent Friday) **READOUT OF SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE'S TRIP TO THE WEST (DAY TWO)**

Secretary hikes with veterans, continues his meetings with Tribal leaders and local stakeholders

LAS CRUCES, New Mexico – Friday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke participated in Day Two of his five-day trip to the Western United States. Secretary Zinke began the day hiking with members of both the Vet Voice Foundation, a veterans group, and the Sierra Club Military Outdoors; they traversed the Broad Canyon in New Mexico.

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 31: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce another round of \$1.189 million in American Battlefield Protection Grants (planning) to aid in the research, documentation, and/or interpretation of significant American battlefields. Releases will be done at the local level of NPS sites receiving funds.
- July 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.
- July TBD: Denali National Park and Preserve will release a draft Long Range

Transportation Plan for 30 days of public review and comment. The plan, developed over a three-year period, documents baseline conditions, examines funding options, and will help inform project priority setting. The plan focuses on the 90-mile-long park road and its importance to the visitor experience and resource protection, as well as its uses by concessionaire and in-holder buses, and private and administrative vehicles. Portions of the road, initially constructed nearly 100 years ago, have been subject to temporary closures in recent years, in part because slopes have become more unstable due to warming permafrost and other factors. Road use has increased as overall park visitation has grown to nearly 600,000 people per year.

- August 3: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett will hold a public meeting with Regional Director Stan Austin in Saint John, Virgin Islands to update the community on the administrative realignment of national park superintendents in the Caribbean to now report to the Caribbean parks group superintendent.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July 31: National FWS Release: FWS release on proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- July 31 (tent.): Local FWS Release: FWS plans to announce it is seeking public input to identify potential issues, concerns, impacts and alternatives to be considered in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial.
- July TBD: Local FWS Release: FWS and the State of Utah will issue a joint release regarding a court ruling putting the Utah Prairie Dog back under ESA protections.
- July 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.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.

Bureau of Land Management

- July 31: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV will issue a Temporary Closure and Temporary Restrictions of Specific Uses on Public Lands for the Burning Man event in Pershing County, NV, to begin set-up for the event which will begin on August 27. The closure will remain in place until September 20. The event entails the largest Special Recreation Permit managed by the BLM.
- August 1-2: BLM-MT/Dakotas State Office will lead tribal site visits in Sidney to help

determine if Federal land parcels that have been identified in the State of Montana's Indemnity Selection application are suitable for conveyance to the State according to the Enabling Act of 1889. Specifically, the site visits will inform determination of eligibility of the cultural sites in the area and assist in environmental assessment. The BLM has been coordinating with the State of Montana since 2015 to determine appropriate parcels to transfer to the State. Other participants include district employees and MT Department of Natural Resources.

- August 2: The BLM-UT Moab Field Office intends to approve Dawson Geophysical Co.'s three-dimensional geophysical seismic survey project. The project is located 26 miles northwest of Moab and encompasses approximately 38,700 acres. Seismic surveys are used to determine the location and size of oil and gas reservoirs. The project is slated to begin in September.
- August 2: BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.
- August 2: BLM-CA's Bakersfield Assistant Field Manager Becca Brooke/staff will meet with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to discuss the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) re-licensing process and study needs for the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project at Kerckhoff Dam, along the San Joaquin River, Fresno County, CA. PG&E is required to submit a Pre-Application for Development by November 2017 to begin a five-year re-licensing process. The 114-foot tall dam, built in 1920, is one of the primary features of the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project. It has two powerhouses. It produces 579 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.
- August 3: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold a land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with the SNPLMA, sale funds are used for the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquiring environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

U.S. Geological Survey

- August 1: Three Regional USGS-University Press Releases will go out to announce new host and consortium university partners for the Department of the Interior Alaska, Southeast, and Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (managed by USGS). These hosting agreements are made between universities and the USGS, and the press releases are joint between these entities.
- August 2: National USGS Release: USGS release regarding increased Salinity in U.S. Rivers that might degrade drinking water quality and water infrastructure.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 1: Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office with the parties of the Taos Indian Water Rights Settlement will meet in Taos to discuss the latest progress on implementing the settlement. Each party will report out on its part of the project. There is significant local public and media interest and both are expected to attend.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 2: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of

Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

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- August 2: Local BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 2: Local BOEM Release: BOEM announces Gulf G&G PEIS, which is expected to publish in Federal Register on Aug. 4.
- 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: Note to Stakeholders to specific groups for educational outreach on the New National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program inviting them to participate in an informational call.
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- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- August 1: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE expects to announce publication of notices of availability for draft Environmental Assessments and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact prepared for a federal mining plan modification at the Bridger Mine in Wyoming. OSMRE will accept comments for 30 days.
- August 3: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE celebrates 40th Anniversary Observance of the signing of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. OSMRE confirmed Secretary will appear as the keynote speaker.

Land Buy-Back Program

- July 31: National LBBP Release: LBBP will put out a release and related outreach announcing a new Land Buy-Back Program strategy for addressing fractionation on Indian trust lands.

CONGRESSIONAL

August 3, 2017

10:00am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Hearing to examine federal and nonfederal collaboration, including through the use of technology, to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and enhance firefighting safety and effectiveness.

Witness: Bryan Rice, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

-

Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee delayed their vote indefinitely.

Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/1 - Deputy Secretary Swearing-In

8/2 - (T) Secretary to visit USGS (Reston, VA)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS –
7/31/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: The Secretary cancelled his monument tour in Nevada in order to return to DC for the Cabinet meeting.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Monday, July 31, 2017

Overnight travel to Washington, DC
Cabinet Meeting.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 8/1: Swearing In David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary; meeting at the White House.; Meeting with Douglas Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army; Meeting with Sen. Merkley and Sen. Wyden; Bernhardt reception.

Wednesday 8/2: Sportsmen Roundtable; NEC Principals Meeting: Infrastructure; Tentative USGS Tour;

Thursday 8/3: Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout; Remarks at 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); Meeting with Tom Spoehr, Director, Center for National Defense, Heritage Foundation; Meeting with David Lasar

Friday 8/4: office

NEXT WEEK:

The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

(Sent Saturday) **SECRETARY ZINKE OPENS UP CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR EMERGENCY PRESCRIBED GRAZING**

Cattle to arrive on Refuge in coming days

JORDAN, MT – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) for emergency grazing relief. Allotments will be made immediately available for ranchers who lost grazing land in the Lodgepole Complex fires.

"We have a saying that Montana is one small town with really long roads, and as a neighbor in that small town, the Department is dedicated to providing disaster relief and resources where possible," said Secretary Zinke. "When I talk about restoring trust between local communities and the federal government, and being a good neighbor, this is exactly what I mean. My staff and I heard from ranchers, equipment dealers, and other concerned citizens, and we all got to work. I applaud the quick work and flexibility of the team at the CMR for getting this done for the community."

(Sent Saturday) **SECRETARY ZINKE TO HOLD MEDIA AVAILABILITY IN BUNKERVILLE, NEVADA**

WASHINGTON – On Sunday, July 30, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will hold a media availability to discuss the ongoing National Monument review of both the Gold Butte and the Basin and Range National Monuments, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017 Executive Order 13792.

Secretary Zinke is in the midst of a multi-day swing through the Western United States, which will conclude Sunday. To date, he has met with advocacy groups, state and local officials, and Tribal leaders. The Secretary will be meeting with federal representatives and their staff over the course of the trip as well.

(Sent Friday) **READOUT OF SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE'S TRIP TO THE WEST (DAY TWO)**

Secretary hikes with veterans, continues his meetings with Tribal leaders and local stakeholders

LAS CRUCES, New Mexico – Friday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke participated in Day Two of his five-day trip to the Western United States. Secretary Zinke began the day hiking with members of both the Vet Voice Foundation, a veterans group, and the Sierra Club Military Outdoors; they traversed the Broad Canyon in New Mexico.

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 31: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce another round of \$1.189 million in American Battlefield Protection Grants (planning) to aid in the research, documentation, and/or interpretation of significant American battlefields. Releases will be done at the local level of NPS sites receiving funds.
- July 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.
- July TBD: Denali National Park and Preserve will release a draft Long Range

Transportation Plan for 30 days of public review and comment. The plan, developed over a three-year period, documents baseline conditions, examines funding options, and will help inform project priority setting. The plan focuses on the 90-mile-long park road and its importance to the visitor experience and resource protection, as well as its uses by concessionaire and in-holder buses, and private and administrative vehicles. Portions of the road, initially constructed nearly 100 years ago, have been subject to temporary closures in recent years, in part because slopes have become more unstable due to warming permafrost and other factors. Road use has increased as overall park visitation has grown to nearly 600,000 people per year.

- August 3: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett will hold a public meeting with Regional Director Stan Austin in Saint John, Virgin Islands to update the community on the administrative realignment of national park superintendents in the Caribbean to now report to the Caribbean parks group superintendent.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- July 31: National FWS Release: FWS release on proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- July 31 (tent.): Local FWS Release: FWS plans to announce it is seeking public input to identify potential issues, concerns, impacts and alternatives to be considered in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial.
- July TBD: Local FWS Release: FWS and the State of Utah will issue a joint release regarding a court ruling putting the Utah Prairie Dog back under ESA protections.
- July 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.
- July TBD: National FWS Release: FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with the Appropriations Act.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a final rule establishing the 2017-18 hunting seasons and bag limits for certain migratory game birds to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- July TBD: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.

Bureau of Land Management

- July 31: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV will issue a Temporary Closure and Temporary Restrictions of Specific Uses on Public Lands for the Burning Man event in Pershing County, NV, to begin set-up for the event which will begin on August 27. The closure will remain in place until September 20. The event entails the largest Special Recreation Permit managed by the BLM.
- August 1-2: BLM-MT/Dakotas State Office will lead tribal site visits in Sidney to help

determine if Federal land parcels that have been identified in the State of Montana's Indemnity Selection application are suitable for conveyance to the State according to the Enabling Act of 1889. Specifically, the site visits will inform determination of eligibility of the cultural sites in the area and assist in environmental assessment. The BLM has been coordinating with the State of Montana since 2015 to determine appropriate parcels to transfer to the State. Other participants include district employees and MT Department of Natural Resources.

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U.S. Geological Survey

- August 1: Three Regional USGS-University Press Releases will go out to announce new host and consortium university partners for the Department of the Interior Alaska, Southeast, and Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (managed by USGS). These hosting agreements are made between universities and the USGS, and the press releases are joint between these entities.
- August 2: National USGS Release: USGS release regarding increased Salinity in U.S. Rivers that might degrade drinking water quality and water infrastructure.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 1: Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office with the parties of the Taos Indian Water Rights Settlement will meet in Taos to discuss the latest progress on implementing the settlement. Each party will report out on its part of the project. There is significant local public and media interest and both are expected to attend.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 2: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of

Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

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- August 2: Local BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 2: Local BOEM Release: BOEM announces Gulf G&G PEIS, which is expected to publish in Federal Register on Aug. 4.
- 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: Note to Stakeholders to specific groups for educational outreach on the New National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program inviting them to participate in an informational call.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- August 1: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE expects to announce publication of notices of availability for draft Environmental Assessments and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact prepared for a federal mining plan modification at the Bridger Mine in Wyoming. OSMRE will accept comments for 30 days.
- August 3: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE celebrates 40th Anniversary Observance of the signing of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. OSMRE confirmed Secretary will appear as the keynote speaker.

Land Buy-Back Program

- July 31: National LBBP Release: LBBP will put out a release and related outreach announcing a new Land Buy-Back Program strategy for addressing fractionation on Indian trust lands.

CONGRESSIONAL

August 3, 2017

10:00am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Hearing to examine federal and nonfederal collaboration, including through the use of technology, to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and enhance firefighting safety and effectiveness.

Witness: Bryan Rice, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

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Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 52

4 nominated awaiting confirmation.

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee delayed their vote indefinitely.

Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

7/27-31 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/1 - Deputy Secretary Swearing-In

8/2 - (T) Secretary to visit USGS (Reston, VA)

8/2 - Sportsman Round table Access Event hosted at DOI

8/3 - DOI event - 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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)

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

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

Open invite - Detroit Economic Club

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony

General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball
(Whitefish/Kalispell)

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)

Emergency Management

On July 27, PCL Construction inadvertently drove a steel casing into a Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative underground transmission cable while building the new Bonner Bridge at the Oregon Inlet in North Carolina. This caused a loss of power for all of Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island. Because of the power loss, local authorities issued a mandatory evacuation order for all visitors until further notice, which includes the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. The National Park Service reports Hatteras and Ocracoke islands closed for visitor entry. Areas north of the Oregon Inlet remain open, as they have not been impacted by the power outage. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, which is located on Hatteras Island, is closed. The refuge will remain open to birders, anglers, and other personnel involved in outdoor recreation.

In California, the Detwiler Fire, located in Mariposa County (CAL FIRE), has burned 81,826 (+276) acres and is 90 (+15)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 2,390 (-1,310) personnel, including 19 (-83) DOI personnel. There are no (-30) residential structures threatened, and all evacuation orders have been lifted. Full containment of the Detwiler Fire is expected on August 7.

In Montana, the Lodgepole Complex Fire, located in Garfield County (BLM), has burned 270,723 (+523) acres and is 93 (+13)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 221 (-332) personnel, including 33 (-34) DOI personnel. There are 145 (no change) residential structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuees. Six (+3) responder injuries have been reported. Demobilization is under way. Full containment is expected on August 2.

In Nevada, the Mahogany Fire, located in Humboldt County (BLM), has burned 5,121 (no change) acres and is 99 (+54)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 111 (-200) personnel, including 37 (-28) DOI personnel. There are no (-50) residences threatened. Two (+2) responder injuries have been reported. Further perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment of this fire is expected on August 1.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Chief Ends Nevada Trip For Monday Cabinet Meeting.

The AP (7/30, RITTER, SONNER) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke toured two national monuments in Nevada on Sunday and canceled plans for meetings Monday in the Las Vegas area in order to head back to Washington, D.C., for what he said will be a Cabinet meeting involving President Donald Trump's top appointees." Zinke toured the Gold Butte and Basin and Range national monuments, "but he didn't say he's made any decisions about whether to downsize the two monuments created last year by President Barack Obama before he left office." Zinke said, "Monuments have been adjusted ...18 times before, Zinke said. "So I don't think there's too much question that a monument can be adjusted. Whether a monument can be rescinded or not, that is a question for the courts."

By Helicopter And On Horseback, Zinke Reviews Monuments.

The AP (7/28, Lee) reports that "ranchers who want to scale back two national monuments in New Mexico competed for attention with the outdoor recreation industry as U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke conducted a series of private stakeholder meetings linked to a nationwide review of 27 monuments approved by past presidents." Zinke "skipped a heavily attended public forum about the future of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico organized largely by monument supporters, amid a series of private meetings with ranchers, electric utility executives, irrigation district officials and some defenders of the monuments." The article says that Zinke's "tightly controlled visit, mostly away from the public's eye, is stirring concern among business owners — from fishing guides to local homebuilders — who say they increasingly depend on the flow of tourists and outdoor enthusiasts to the monuments."

Montana Refuge Opened To Ranchers Who Lost Grass To Fires.

The AP (7/29) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "opening the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge to grazing for ranchers who lost rangeland in a large wildfire in eastern Montana." Refuge manager Paul Santavy "says the fire left some ranchers with no rangeland for cattle to graze." According to the article, "individual agreements will need to be negotiated, but refuge managers plan to allow ranchers to move cows onto the refuge and complete the paperwork later."

Zinke Denies Threats In Calls.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (7/29, Oswald) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said Saturday that there was no threat in his calls to Alaska’s two Republican U.S. senators last week after one of them broke ranks with the GOP on a health care vote.” Zinke dismissed speculation in the media that the calls were “threatening.” He said, “That’s ridiculous. ... Quite frankly, it’s laughable.”

Federal Ranger To Testify In San Francisco Murder Trial.

The AP (7/28, Thanawala) reports that “a federal agency has agreed to allow a ranger to testify at a trial over a fatal San Francisco shooting with the ranger’s gun that became a flashpoint in the national immigration debate, a judge in San Francisco said Friday.” According to the article, “the scope of the ranger’s testimony will be determined by the judge who presides over Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez’s trial in the 2015 shooting of Kate Steinle, Judge Richard Loftus said.” Federal officials “had previously resisted efforts” to have Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski “testify about his stolen gun, but Loftus said the parties reached an agreement to produce the ranger as a witness.”

Energy Company Applies To Mine 4.1M Tons Of Coal In Colorado.

The AP (7/28) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “has to decide if it will allow an energy company to mine up to 4.1 million more tons of coal in northwest Colorado.” Peabody Energy has “applied to lease 1 more square mile (2.6 square kilometers) of federal coal west of Steamboat Springs as part of an ongoing mining operation.” The BLM “says it will make the decision under the President Donald Trump administration’s energy policies.”

Oil Group Fights Enviro’s Challenge To Offshore Drilling Order.

Law360 (7/28, Phillis) reported that the API asked an Alaska federal court to dismiss a complaint filed by environmental organizations challenging President Trump’s executive order looking to review drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic, arguing it was brought in the wrong court.

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Friday.

REG0007202 BOE Final Programmatic EIS for Geological & Geophysical Activities on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM is announcing the availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for evaluating potential environmental effects of geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) waters of the Gulf of Mexico. BOEM has a September 25, 2017, settlement agreement deadline for issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) based on the Final Programmatic EIS. Notice 07/28/2017.

REG0007193 FWS 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. This rulemaking will provide the annual update to the existing refuge-specific regulations. Proposed Rule 07/28/2017.

WOLF TRAP

Tickets in the Secretary’s box available. Please share with WH staff.

8-1-17	Nashville in Concert	8:00 PM
8-2-17	Punch Brothers	8:00 PM
8-3-17	Blondie & Garbage	7:30 PM
8-4-17	La La Land in Concert	8:30 PM

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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-01T15:55:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/1/17
Received: 2017-08-01T15:56:05-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-1-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

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NOTE: David Bernhardt sworn in as Deputy Secretary.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.
Swearing In David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary.
Meeting at the White House. Lunch with POTUS.
Meeting with Douglas Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army.
Meeting with Sen. Merkley and Sen. Wyden.
Bernhardt reception.
Meeting with Sebastian Gorka.

THIS WEEK:

- Wednesday 8/2: Sportsmen Roundtable; NEC Principals Meeting: Infrastructure; Tentative USGS Tour;
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- Friday 8/4: office

NEXT WEEK:

The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

SECRETARY ZINKE SWEARS IN DAVID BERNHARDT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY

WASHINGTON – This morning U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke swore in David Bernhardt as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. It was witnessed by members of his family and DOI staff.

"I'm excited to have David Bernhardt here to help me lead the Department of the Interior," said Secretary Zinke. "His extensive experience serving under two secretaries of the Interior and his legal expertise is exactly what we need to make government work more efficiently and effectively and help us expand access to public lands while continuing to protect them for future generations."

ZINKE APPLAUDS NOMINATION OF IDAHO'S RYAN NELSON TO SERVE AS INTERIOR SOLICITOR

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump announced today the nomination of Ryan Nelson of Idaho to serve as the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

As Solicitor, Nelson will be the chief attorney for the United States Department of the Interior, principal legal adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, and will oversee 400 employees, including 300 attorneys. He will be assisted by several Deputy Solicitors, Associate Solicitors, and eight Regional Solicitors.

“Ryan Nelson is coming to the Department of the Interior with a strong background in natural resources policy and law, stretching many years in both the public and private sector,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “Having a seasoned legal expert like Ryan, who is also a son of the West, will benefit the entire Department. I look forward to his speedy confirmation by the Senate.”

INTERIOR RELEASES \$3 MILLION TO HELP DEFRAY IMPACTS OF MIGRANTS FROM FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES TO GUAM, HAWAII, THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND AMERICAN SAMOA: SUPPLEMENTS \$30 MILLION PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 1, 2017) – Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula made available discretionary Compact impact funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, as an additional Federal contribution toward defraying the costs that Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa bear due to the presence of migrants from the freely associated states (FAS) of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Guam received \$1,491,000, Hawaii \$1,276,000, the CNMI \$231,000, and American Samoa \$2,000.

(Last Night) INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS MINE PROPOSAL TO CREATE JOBS IN VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON – Today U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia. The developers, Ramaco Resources, expect the mine to initially create 50 good-paying jobs and employ roughly 200 coal miners when the mine reaches its projected production level. The Berwind Coal Reserve is estimated to contain about 72 million tons of clean recoverable metallurgical coal, which is critical for infrastructure and is used for steel, roads, bridges, and building construction. The Berwind Mine will produce about 800,000 tons per year and will create jobs in some of the hardest-hit areas of Appalachian region including McDowell County, West Virginia as well as Buchanan and Tazewell Counties in Virginia.

Although the mine is on private land, the Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had a role in approving wildlife conservation plans for two species of crayfish in conjunction with the State of West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection.

(Yesterday) INTERIOR ANNOUNCES REVISED STRATEGY, POLICIES TO MORE EFFECTIVELY REDUCE FRACTIONATION OF TRIBAL LANDS

WASHINGTON – Following extensive analysis and feedback received from tribal leaders and American Indian landowners, the Department of the Interior today announced a revised strategy for the consolidation of fractional land interests through the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program). The strategy, which will more effectively allocate the remaining Program funds to reduce the maximum amount of fractional interests, includes a revised schedule for implementation, as well as new opportunities for tribal governments to use the Program's tools and systems to facilitate their own land consolidation initiatives.

The Program implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value. Interests consolidated through the Program are restored to tribal trust ownership. Since the Program began making offers in December 2013, about \$1.2 billion has been paid to landowners at 45 locations, more than 700,000 fractional interests have been consolidated, and the equivalent of over 2.1 million acres of land has been transferred to tribal governments. As a result, tribal ownership now exceeds 50 percent in almost 14,000 tracts of land, which strengthens tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and allows for investments in tribal infrastructure and community projects.

AGENCY RELEASES

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From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-01T15:55:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/1/17
Received: 2017-08-01T15:56:07-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-1-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/1/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: David Bernhardt sworn in as Deputy Secretary.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.
Swearing In David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary.
Meeting at the White House. Lunch with POTUS.
Meeting with Douglas Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army.
Meeting with Sen. Merkley and Sen. Wyden.
Bernhardt reception.
Meeting with Sebastian Gorka.

THIS WEEK:

- Wednesday 8/2: Sportsmen Roundtable; NEC Principals Meeting: Infrastructure; Tentative USGS Tour;
- Thursday 8/3: Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout; Remarks at 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); Meeting with Tom Spoehr, Director, Center for National Defense, Heritage Foundation; Meeting with David Lasar
- Friday 8/4: office

NEXT WEEK:

The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Media TODAY

SECRETARY ZINKE SWEARS IN DAVID BERNHARDT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY

WASHINGTON – This morning U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke swore in David Bernhardt as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. It was witnessed by members of his family and DOI staff.

"I'm excited to have David Bernhardt here to help me lead the Department of the Interior," said Secretary Zinke. "His extensive experience serving under two secretaries of the Interior and his legal expertise is exactly what we need to make government work more efficiently and effectively and help us expand access to public lands while continuing to protect them for future generations."

ZINKE APPLAUDS NOMINATION OF IDAHO'S RYAN NELSON TO SERVE AS INTERIOR SOLICITOR

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump announced today the nomination of Ryan Nelson of Idaho to serve as the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

As Solicitor, Nelson will be the chief attorney for the United States Department of the Interior, principal legal adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, and will oversee 400 employees, including 300 attorneys. He will be assisted by several Deputy Solicitors, Associate Solicitors, and eight Regional Solicitors.

“Ryan Nelson is coming to the Department of the Interior with a strong background in natural resources policy and law, stretching many years in both the public and private sector,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “Having a seasoned legal expert like Ryan, who is also a son of the West, will benefit the entire Department. I look forward to his speedy confirmation by the Senate.”

INTERIOR RELEASES \$3 MILLION TO HELP DEFRAY IMPACTS OF MIGRANTS FROM FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES TO GUAM, HAWAII, THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND AMERICAN SAMOA: SUPPLEMENTS \$30 MILLION PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 1, 2017) – Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula made available discretionary Compact impact funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, as an additional Federal contribution toward defraying the costs that Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa bear due to the presence of migrants from the freely associated states (FAS) of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Guam received \$1,491,000, Hawaii \$1,276,000, the CNMI \$231,000, and American Samoa \$2,000.

(Last Night) INTERIOR SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS MINE PROPOSAL TO CREATE JOBS IN VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON – Today U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia. The developers, Ramaco Resources, expect the mine to initially create 50 good-paying jobs and employ roughly 200 coal miners when the mine reaches its projected production level. The Berwind Coal Reserve is estimated to contain about 72 million tons of clean recoverable metallurgical coal, which is critical for infrastructure and is used for steel, roads, bridges, and building construction. The Berwind Mine will produce about 800,000 tons per year and will create jobs in some of the hardest-hit areas of Appalachian region including McDowell County, West Virginia as well as Buchanan and Tazewell Counties in Virginia.

Although the mine is on private land, the Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had a role in approving wildlife conservation plans for two species of crayfish in conjunction with the State of West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection.

(Yesterday) INTERIOR ANNOUNCES REVISED STRATEGY, POLICIES TO MORE EFFECTIVELY REDUCE FRACTIONATION OF TRIBAL LANDS

WASHINGTON – Following extensive analysis and feedback received from tribal leaders and American Indian landowners, the Department of the Interior today announced a revised strategy for the consolidation of fractional land interests through the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program). The strategy, which will more effectively allocate the remaining Program funds to reduce the maximum amount of fractional interests, includes a revised schedule for implementation, as well as new opportunities for tribal governments to use the Program's tools and systems to facilitate their own land consolidation initiatives.

The Program implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value. Interests consolidated through the Program are restored to tribal trust ownership. Since the Program began making offers in December 2013, about \$1.2 billion has been paid to landowners at 45 locations, more than 700,000 fractional interests have been consolidated, and the equivalent of over 2.1 million acres of land has been transferred to tribal governments. As a result, tribal ownership now exceeds 50 percent in almost 14,000 tracts of land, which strengthens tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and allows for investments in tribal infrastructure and community projects.

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- July 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.
- July TBD: Denali National Park and Preserve will release a draft Long Range Transportation Plan for 30 days of public review and comment. The plan, developed over a three-year period, documents baseline conditions, examines funding options, and will help inform project priority setting. The plan focuses on the 90-mile-long park road and its importance to the visitor experience and resource protection, as well as its uses by concessionaire and in-holder buses, and private and administrative vehicles. Portions of the road, initially constructed nearly 100 years ago, have been subject to temporary closures in recent years, in part because slopes have become more unstable due to warming permafrost and other factors. Road use has increased as overall park visitation has grown to nearly 600,000 people per year.
- August 3: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett will hold a public meeting with Regional Director Stan Austin in Saint John, Virgin Islands to update the community on the administrative realignment of national park superintendents in the Caribbean to now report to the Caribbean parks group superintendent.

Bureau of Land Management

- August 1-2: BLM-MT/Dakotas State Office will lead tribal site visits in Sidney to help determine if Federal land parcels that have been identified in the State of Montana's Indemnity Selection application are suitable for conveyance to the State according to the Enabling Act of 1889. Specifically, the site visits will inform determination of eligibility of the cultural sites in the area and assist in environmental assessment. The BLM has been coordinating with the State of Montana since 2015 to determine appropriate parcels to transfer to the State. Other participants include district employees and MT Department of Natural Resources.
- August 2: The BLM-UT Moab Field Office intends to approve Dawson Geophysical Co.'s three-dimensional geophysical seismic survey project. The project is located 26 miles northwest of Moab and encompasses approximately 38,700 acres. Seismic surveys are used to determine the location and size of oil and gas reservoirs. The project is slated to begin in September.
- August 2: BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.
- August 2: BLM-CA's Bakersfield Assistant Field Manager Becca Brooke/staff will meet with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to discuss the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) re-licensing process and study needs for the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project at Kerckhoff Dam, along the San Joaquin River, Fresno County, CA. PG&E is required to submit a Pre-Application for Development by November 2017 to begin a five-year re-licensing process. The 114-foot tall dam, built in 1920, is one of the primary features of the Kerckhoff hydroelectric project. It has two powerhouses. It produces 579 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.
- August 3: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold a land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with the SNPLMA, sale funds are used for the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquiring environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

U.S. Geological Survey

- August 1: Three Regional USGS-University Press Releases will go out to announce new host and consortium university partners for the Department of the Interior Alaska, Southeast, and Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (managed by USGS). These hosting agreements are made between universities and the USGS, and the press releases are joint between these entities.
- August 2: National USGS Release: USGS release regarding increased Salinity in U.S. Rivers that might degrade drinking water quality and water infrastructure.

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From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-02T13:46:19-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/2/17
Received: 2017-08-02T13:46:45-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-2-17.docx](#)

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REG0007212 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion - Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Nashville, TN N2770. 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 Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, in Nashville, Tennessee. The remains and objects were removed from the Hiwassee Old Town site, a Native American site in Polk County, Tennessee, in 1986 and 1987. Notice 08/01/2017.

REG0007213 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion - DOI-NPS-BIA, Washington, DC; and

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REG0007223 USGS Announcement of U.S. Geological Survey's National Geospatial Program 3D Elevation Program FY17 Informational Training Webinars USGS will provide 3D Elevation Program training webinars to prospective applicants. Notice 08/01/2017.

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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-02T13:46:19-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/2/17
Received: 2017-08-02T13:46:47-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-2-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/2/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.
Address Sportsmen Roundtable.
Attend NEC Principals Meeting on Infrastructure.
Call with Senator Alexander.
Attend Sportsmens Reception.

THIS WEEK:

Thursday 8/3: Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout; Remarks at 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); Meeting with Tom Spoehr, Director, Center for National Defense, Heritage Foundation; Meeting with David Lasar
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REG0007223 USGS Announcement of U.S. Geological Survey's National Geospatial Program 3D Elevation Program FY17 Informational Training Webinars USGS will provide 3D Elevation Program training webinars to prospective applicants. Notice 08/01/2017.

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: Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Flynn, Matthew[(b)(6)-White House Staff gov]; Uli, Gabriella M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Murphy, Christine M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]; Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO[(b)(6) - White House Staff gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-03T15:18:14-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/3/17
Received: 2017-08-03T15:18:42-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-3-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

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Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Today the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to voted out of Committee all three DOI nominees.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.
Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout.
NSC White House Meeting
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THIS WEEK:

Friday 8/4: office; FEMA event with the President.

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Media TODAY

(Yesterday) **SECRETARY ZINKE RECOMMENDS NO MODIFICATIONS TO UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced Montana’s Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument is no longer under review and that he will recommend to the President that no modifications be made to the monument. The monument was under review in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017 executive order.

“Today I’m announcing the review of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument has concluded and I am recommending to the President that no changes be made to the monument,” said Secretary Ryan Zinke. “The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago.”

SECRETARY ZINKE EXPANDS HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES AT 10 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

(WASHINGTON) In his latest effort to increase access to hunting and fishing on public lands and waters, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a proposal to open or expand opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges. If finalized, this would bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted.

“I grew up in the mountains of northwest Montana, where I spent my time hunting and fishing on our shared public lands. I was lucky to take my boys out on the same land that my dad and granddad took me,” said Secretary Zinke. “As the steward of our public lands, one of my top priorities is to open up access wherever possible for hunting and fishing so that more families have the opportunity to pass down the heritage. The last thing I want to see is hunting and fishing become elite sports. These ten refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.”

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- August 8: BLM-AK will continue work on the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed 211-mile controlled access road in the southern foothills of the Brooks Range. The Northwest Arctic Borough is now a cooperating agency. BLM-AK's monthly cooperating agency meeting is August 8. The public scoping period ends January 31, 2018.
- August 8: BLM-AK Associate State Director Ted Murphy will participate in a mining compliance inspection at the Constantine Mine near Haines.
- August 9-11: BLM-MT Tribal Coordinator Marcia Pablo will meet with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and possibly the Chairmen/Presidents of 14 tribes in the three-state area in August and September. BLM already has good standing with many of the tribes, and these meetings are meant to enhance and build relationships. She will meet with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe in Pablo, Montana, August 9-11; the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hadatsa, and Arikara), Standing Rock and Spirit Lake tribes in North Dakota the week of August 21; and the Rosebud, Pine Ridge, Lower Brule, Crow Creek, Cheyenne River, and Yankton tribes in South Dakota the week of September 11. Meetings will also be scheduled with the Fort Peck, Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne tribes in Montana.

U.S. Geological Survey

- August 7: National USGS Release: USGS release regarding increased Salinity in U.S. Rivers that might degrade drinking water quality and water infrastructure.
- August 8: National USGS Release: Major Flood Occurrence across North America and Europe Linked to Multi-Decade Ocean Pattern. New international study examining patterns of major floods led by USGS based on eighty years of major flood data from Europe and North America.
- August 9: National News Release: USGS to release a study of streams in 11 Midwestern states that found more than 180 pesticides, some at levels that could harm aquatic insects. On average, 54 pesticide compounds were detected in each stream.

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.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 3: Local BOEM Release: BOEM to put out release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP in Alaska.
- 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: Note to Stakeholders to specific groups for educational outreach on the New National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program inviting them to participate in an informational call.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- August 3: National BSEE News Brief: Unitization Creates Opportunity for Maximized Offshore Oil and Gas Production.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- August 3: National OSMRE Release: OSMRE celebrates 40th Anniversary Observance of the signing of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. OSMRE confirmed Secretary will appear as the keynote speaker.

CONGRESSIONAL

August 3, 2017

10:00am: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Hearing to examine federal and nonfederal collaboration, including through the use of technology, to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and enhance firefighting safety and effectiveness.

Witness: Bryan Rice, Director, Office of Wildland Fire

Political Appointee Update

Two new appointees started today bringing DOI politicals on board = 53

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Nominees Combs, Berman, and Domenech – Senate Committee delayed their vote indefinitely.

Nominee Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has been announced and the SENR hearing has been set for September 7.

Nominee Ryan Douglas Nelson of Idaho to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/3 - DOI event - 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act

8/4 - FEMA event with the President

8/5-20 - Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

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

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

Open invite - Detroit Economic Club

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Declining

7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)

8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)

8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)

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

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)

Emergency Management

In Montana, the Liberty Fire, located on the Flathead Reservation (BIA), began on July 15 and has burned 3,220 (+697) acres. The fire is 2-percent (+2) contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 260 (+65) personnel, including 116 (+4) DOI personnel. This fire is threatening cultural resources, timber allotments, and threatened and endangered species habitat in the area. An evacuation order has been issued for the Finley Creek and Placid Lake areas. Full containment is expected on September 25.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire began on July 29 in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) and has burned 2,500 (+1,300) acres. The fire is 5-percent (no change) contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 197 (+79) personnel assigned, including 19 (no change) DOI personnel. Significant perimeter growth is expected, which could eventually threaten the Park's Visitor Center and the Crater Lake community. Road, trail, and area closures are in effect, and the fire continues to threaten the habitat of the northern spotted owl, sensitive aquatic species, timber allotments, and recreation sites, including the Pacific Crest, Bald Crater Loop, and Bert Creek trails. Full containment is expected on August 14.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Chief Zinke Spares Another Monument, Recommends No Changes To Upper Missouri River Breaks.

The Washington Times (8/2, Wolfgang) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “spared another historic site,” announcing Wednesday “that he will not recommend any changes to the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.” Zinke said in a statement that “the 378,000-acre monument is no longer a part of his comprehensive review of more than two dozen monuments across the country.”

Seniors Snap Up US National Park Passes Before Price Hike.

The AP (8/2, Ridler) reports that “seniors are snapping up so many lifetime passes good for U.S. national parks and other recreation areas ahead of a steep price increase later this month that some government agencies have run out and started issuing vouchers.” The America the Beautiful Lifetime Senior Pass has “been available to buyers 62 and older for \$10 for the past two decades.” On Aug. 28, the price is increasing “700 percent, to \$80, after a measure passed by Congress late last year.”

Plaskett Touts Cooperation Amid ‘Crazy’ Washington Scene.

The Virgin Islands Daily News (8/3, O'CONNOR) reports that V.I. Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett “says she’s working to keep things moving,” despite the “gridlock” in Washington. At a press conference on St. Croix on Wednesday, Plaskett said that “the Washington arms race has had some effect on territorial interests.” For instance, the article notes that “the nomination of Douglas Domenech to head the Interior Department’s Office of Insular Affairs, which coordinates policy among U.S. territories and the federal government, has stalled.”

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007227 BIA Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects. The BIA has an interest in and establishes irrigation assessment rates for irrigation projects located on or associated with Indian reservations throughout the United States. This Notice announces that the BIA has adjusted the rates at several irrigation projects and facilities to reflect current costs of administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Notice 08/02/2017.

REG0007229 NPS National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions. NPS requests comments on the significance of properties nominated before July 15, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 08/02/2017.

REG0007177 ONRR Repeal of Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform. The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) is repealing the Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform Final Rule published July 1, 2016 (81 FR 43338), and effective January 1, 2017. Simultaneously, ONRR is reinstating the valuation regulations for Federal oil, Federal gas, and Federal and Indian coal that were in effect prior to January 1, 2017. Final Rule 08/02/2017.

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To: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
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From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-03T15:25:43-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/3/17
Received: 2017-08-03T15:26:09-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-3-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/3/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Today the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted out of Committee all three DOI nominees.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.
Meet and Greet with Chase Spano and Steve Armentrout.
NSC White House Meeting
Meeting with Tom Spoehr, Director, Center for National Defense, Heritage Foundation.
Meeting with Meeting with David Lesar, John Lesar and Casey Malmquist.

THIS WEEK:

Friday 8/4: office; FEMA event with the President.

NEXT WEEK:

The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

Remarks at 40th Anniversary Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

Media TODAY

(Yesterday) **SECRETARY ZINKE RECOMMENDS NO MODIFICATIONS TO UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced Montana’s Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument is no longer under review and that he will recommend to the President that no modifications be made to the monument. The monument was under review in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017 executive order.

“Today I’m announcing the review of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument has concluded and I am recommending to the President that no changes be made to the monument,” said Secretary Ryan Zinke. “The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago.”

SECRETARY ZINKE EXPANDS HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES AT 10 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

(WASHINGTON) In his latest effort to increase access to hunting and fishing on public lands and waters, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a proposal to open or expand opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges. If finalized, this would bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted.

“I grew up in the mountains of northwest Montana, where I spent my time hunting and fishing on our shared public lands. I was lucky to take my boys out on the same land that my dad and granddad took me,” said Secretary Zinke. “As the steward of our public lands, one of my top priorities is to open up access wherever possible for hunting and fishing so that more families have the opportunity to pass down the heritage. The last thing I want to see is hunting and fishing become elite sports. These ten refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.”

White House Comms Report (sent yesterday)

Press Inquiries:

- West Virginia Gazette (Ken Ward) - REQUEST-- What exactly are the provisions of the wildlife conservation plans mentioned? Did the FWS conduct a consultation with WVDEP and the mining operator prior to the issuance of the SMCRA permit? Was an incidental take permit issued? Does the company have a habitat conservation plan? What exactly has Interior done to speed up the process of accounting for ESA issues in the review of mining permits in West Virginia? – RESPONSE – TBD

- Las Vegas Review-Journal – REQUEST - would like to see a detailed schedule for Secretary Zinke's visit to Nevada, a list of all the people he met with while he was here, and where he was when he met with them. – RESPONSE – Secretary Zinke visited Nevada on Sunday, July 30. He began the day by flying to Gold Butte National Monument via helicopter. After arriving at Gold Butte, the Secretary hiked to the Falling Man Petroglyphs. Following the hike, he took an aerial tour of Gold Butte, and continued on to White River Narrows Basin and Range National Monument, where he toured the Monument, including the Mt. Irish Petroglyph site and City. The Secretary then held a media availability in Bunkerville (which was notified to press via a press advisory). Secretary Zinke met with or spoke to Bureau of Land Management employees, local officials, members of advocacy organizations like the Conservation Lands Foundation, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and Partners in Conservation, the UNLV Multi Cultural Center administrator, area ranchers, Senator Dean Heller, Attorney General Adam Laxalt, and local media. His itinerary included meetings and conversations with a wide cross-section of local officials, including many who claim to have been left out such as UNLV staff, Rep. Kihuen's office, and the Moapa Band of Paiutes officials. Senator Cortez-Mastro and her staff declined a meeting invitation. The Secretary spent Sunday touring the monument and meeting with local stakeholders, however due to the Cabinet meeting in Washington, D.C., Secretary Zinke had to shorten his trip. For those who were originally scheduled for meetings on

Monday, the secretary offered time to have the meetings on Sunday. For those organizations that turned down the offer to reschedule, they have been offered phone conversations with the secretary this week to ensure their voices are heard. In fact, the Secretary had a call with the Moapa Tribe yesterday.

Top Stories

- KTVQ Billings: Zinke recommends no modifications to Upper Missouri River Breaks ...
- Washington Post: The Energy 202: Trump to waive environmental rules to construct ...
- Billings Gazette: Missouri Breaks monument will stay as is, Ryan Zinke says

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- On Saturday, Aug 5 the Secretary departs for two weeks personal leave.
- No major speeches or media events this week
- Press Release: Secretary Zinke Recommends No Modifications to Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
- Thursday the Department will announce hunting and fishing is being expanded on 10 wildlife refuges.

WEEK AHEAD August 2 thru August 10, 2017

- The Secretary had a successful “Sportsman Summit” yesterday hosted by Fish and Wildlife.
- Today we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).
- August 2: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Notice to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). This was mandated by the courts. NO press release planned. Have draft talkers to use if needed.

NEXT WEEK:

- The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)
- Next week: TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- Next week: Announce that we will accept Sabanoso as wilderness (in NM). This is about access for sportsman on our public lands. The wilderness is currently surrounded by private land so we are working out the details on access/rights of way.
- August TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI will announced FWS proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.

AGENCY RELEASES

National Park Service

- August 2: Local NPS Release: NPS will announce another round of \$1.189 million in American Battlefield Protection Grants (planning) to aid in the research, documentation, and/or interpretation of significant American battlefields. Releases will be done at the local level of NPS sites receiving funds.

- August 2: National NPS Release: NPS will announce events regarding the solar eclipse taking place on August 21. Release gives generic information as well as safety tips for viewing the eclipse.
- August 3: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett will hold a public meeting with Regional Director Stan Austin in Saint John, Virgin Islands to update the community on the administrative realignment of national park superintendents in the Caribbean to now report to the Caribbean parks group superintendent.
- 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- August 3: FWS will deliver to the Federal Register, a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2018-19 hunting season to fulfill our responsibilities to the four international conventions to protect and manage migratory game birds. A prepared statement will be provided on our website with a link to the proposed rule.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: 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.
- August TBD: Local FWS Release: FWS plans to announce it is seeking public input in development of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed General Conservation Plan for oil and gas activities in Santa Barbara County, California. This action is not expected to be controversial.
- 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.
- August 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.

Bureau of Land Management

- August 3: Local BLM Release: BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold a land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance

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Importance: Normal
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Media TODAY

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“We are pleased that Governor Kenneth Mapp has prioritized CIP funding for USVI school maintenance and physical improvements,” said Pula. “We look forward to seeing the fruits of these efforts.”

FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS) FOR THE CAPE WIND ENERGY PROJECT.

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2016 remand order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in *Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility v. Hopper*, 827 F.3d 1077 (D.C. Cir. 2016).

The Final SEIS is available for review on the BOEM website at:
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In the Final SEIS for the Cape Wind Energy Project, BOEM examines the available geological survey data, including the geotechnical data and reports submitted to BOEM since the 2009 Final EIS, and any other relevant material that relate to the adequacy of the seafloor to support wind turbines in the lease area.

The Final SEIS also includes a summary of all the comments received on the Draft SEIS and BOEM's responses to those comments.

(DRAFT for MONDAY) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RYAN ZINKE STATEMENT ON SAGE GROUSE REPORT

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke received a report from the Sage-Grouse Task Force (SGTF) regarding possible plan and policy modifications to complement state efforts to improve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation and economic development on public lands. The report is the final product required by Secretarial Order 2249.

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Outside Media of Interest

Lisa Murkowski, Ryan Zinke Reach Health Care Detente Over Beers.

The Washington Times (8/3, Wolfgang) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted a photo of himself drinking Alaskan beer with Sen. Lisa Murkowski in what the Times describes as a "detente" after the two had quarreled over the senator's no vote on Affordable Care Act repeal. Zinke had "reacted by calling Ms. Murkowski and Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan, a Republican, and threatening to pull the plug on key Alaska projects," and the next day, "Ms. Murkowski delayed committee votes on several high-level nominees for the Interior Department, though committee officials denied that the move was retaliation to Mr. Zinke's threat."

Interior Watchdog Launches ‘Preliminary Investigation’ Into Zinke Calls.

The Hill (8/3, Henry) reports that the Interior Department’s Office of the Inspector General “says it has begun a ‘preliminary investigation’ into reports that Secretary Ryan Zinke made phone calls pushing Alaska’s senators to support a GOP healthcare bill or risk losing federal support for economic development efforts in their state.” In a letter to two House Democrats on Thursday, Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said, “The OIG is undertaking a preliminary investigation into this matter. We will advise you about what further action the results of this inquiry lead the OIG to take.”

Bernhardt Warns Employees Not To ‘Parrot’ Special Interests.

Greenwire (8/3) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt “told department employees this week that he expects respectful and healthy disagreement from them, but also an adherence to facts rather than ‘special interests.’” Bernhardt “pledged a commitment to public service and sought to align himself with the career employees he now leads in his first departmentwide email as Interior’s No. 2.” In an email sent Tuesday to all Interior employees, Bernhardt wrote, “Given the hyperbole of today’s public discourse, you and I, and everyone else within the Interior, really are in the soup together. We may not like it. But it is the way it is. This means my conduct will reflect on you. Yours will reflect on me and your other colleagues. All of our conduct reflects on the Secretary.”

DOI Doesn’t Know How Much Land \$815M Got.

The Daily Caller (8/3, Barton) reports that Interior Department officials “have no idea how much land was bought with \$815 million, nor if the properties are being used for their intended purpose, a government watchdog reported Wednesday.” According to the report, “the department’s officials couldn’t provide its inspector general (IG) with data about its land purchase programs.” The IG “consequently surveyed 108 programs and found that just 16 of those awarded 701 grants between 2014 and 2015 to purchase \$815 million worth of land.”

Trump Administration Touts Streamlining Of Mine Permit Review.

The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (8/3, Ward) reports that “in the run-up to President Trump’s visit,” to West Virginia, Administration officials – “with help from the coal industry and state political leaders – this week touted work” by the Interior Department “to speed up approval of a permit for a new underground coal mine that could bring 200 mining jobs to the depressed coalfields of McDowell County.” However, “the scope of what Interior officials did to ease the way for approval of a permit for the Berwind Mine...isn’t exactly clear yet.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Thursday.

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: 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]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-08-04T13:58:16-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/4/17
Received: 2017-08-04T13:58:45-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-4-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/4/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Status of the Secretary

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Office meetings and briefings.
FEMA 2017 Hurricane Preparedness Briefing.

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In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 3,600 (+1,100) acres. The fire is 5 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 197 (no change) personnel assigned, including 19 (no change) DOI personnel. Significant perimeter growth is expected over the next 24 hours, which could eventually threaten the Park's Visitor Center and the Crater Lake community. Road, trail, and area closures remain in effect, and the fire continues to threaten the habitat of the northern spotted owl, sensitive aquatic species, timber allotments, and recreation sites. Full containment is now forecast for August 16 (+2).

Three Cape Hatteras National Seashore campgrounds, closed due to a long duration power outage and evacuation order which began July 27, will reopen today at noon. Other facilities remained open throughout the event to permanent residents and non-resident property owners.

Outside Media of Interest

Lisa Murkowski, Ryan Zinke Reach Health Care Detente Over Beers.

The Washington Times (8/3, Wolfgang) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted a photo of himself drinking Alaskan beer with Sen. Lisa Murkowski in what the Times describes as a "detente" after the two had quarreled over the senator's no vote on Affordable Care Act repeal. Zinke had "reacted by calling Ms. Murkowski and Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan, a Republican, and threatening to pull the plug on key Alaska projects," and the next day, "Ms. Murkowski delayed committee votes on several high-level nominees for the Interior Department, though committee officials denied that the move was retaliation to Mr. Zinke's threat."

Interior Watchdog Launches ‘Preliminary Investigation’ Into Zinke Calls.

The Hill (8/3, Henry) reports that the Interior Department’s Office of the Inspector General “says it has begun a ‘preliminary investigation’ into reports that Secretary Ryan Zinke made phone calls pushing Alaska’s senators to support a GOP healthcare bill or risk losing federal support for economic development efforts in their state.” In a letter to two House Democrats on Thursday, Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said, “The OIG is undertaking a preliminary investigation into this matter. We will advise you about what further action the results of this inquiry lead the OIG to take.”

Bernhardt Warns Employees Not To ‘Parrot’ Special Interests.

Greenwire (8/3) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt “told department employees this week that he expects respectful and healthy disagreement from them, but also an adherence to facts rather than ‘special interests.’” Bernhardt “pledged a commitment to public service and sought to align himself with the career employees he now leads in his first departmentwide email as Interior’s No. 2.” In an email sent Tuesday to all Interior employees, Bernhardt wrote, “Given the hyperbole of today’s public discourse, you and I, and everyone else within the Interior, really are in the soup together. We may not like it. But it is the way it is. This means my conduct will reflect on you. Yours will reflect on me and your other colleagues. All of our conduct reflects on the Secretary.”

DOI Doesn’t Know How Much Land \$815M Got.

The Daily Caller (8/3, Barton) reports that Interior Department officials “have no idea how much land was bought with \$815 million, nor if the properties are being used for their intended purpose, a government watchdog reported Wednesday.” According to the report, “the department’s officials couldn’t provide its inspector general (IG) with data about its land purchase programs.” The IG “consequently surveyed 108 programs and found that just 16 of those awarded 701 grants between 2014 and 2015 to purchase \$815 million worth of land.”

Trump Administration Touts Streamlining Of Mine Permit Review.

The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (8/3, Ward) reports that “in the run-up to President Trump’s visit,” to West Virginia, Administration officials – “with help from the coal industry and state political leaders – this week touted work” by the Interior Department “to speed up approval of a permit for a new underground coal mine that could bring 200 mining jobs to the depressed coalfields of McDowell County.” However, “the scope of what Interior officials did to ease the way for approval of a permit for the Berwind Mine...isn’t exactly clear yet.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Thursday.

Doug Domenech
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US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

