

To: Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Nachmany, Eli[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]
From: Newell, Russell
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:15:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: DOI Daily Comms
Received: 2017-09-28T12:15:34-04:00
WH Daily comms update 9-26.docx

did a daily comms report go out yesterday?

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208 6232
@Interior

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mashburn, Lori** <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM
Subject: Fwd: DOI Daily Comms
To: "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>

Hey Russell,

Did a report similar to the one below go out yesterday afternoon? If so, would you mind forwarding to me?

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hinson, Alex** <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 26, 2017 at 4:00 PM
Subject: DOI Daily Comms
To: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6) White House Staff .gov>, "Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6) Kaelan Dorr .gov>, "Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6)-Kelly Love .gov>, "Levell, Leah V. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6) .gov>, "Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6)-Jessica Ditto .gov>

INTERIOR

WASHINGTON
9/26/2017

DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

TO: White House Cabinet Affairs Communications

FROM: Heather Swift & Laura Rigas

SUBJECT: Communications Update

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
 - ** Multiple inquiries into Secretary Zinke's speech to the National Petroleum Council regarding the 30% assessment. Solicitor has advised (b)(5) **
- Fairfield Sun Times: (Darryl Flowers) **REQUEST** I hope you can help with a story I'm working on. Regarding National Monuments, are you aware of any that exists under "co management" with a non federal agency, group, corporation or other entity? I have been unable to find any such management arrangements for a National Monument, only that the U.S. Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management are in charge of National Monuments. **RESPONSE** Any co management of federal land with non-federal entities is prohibited by Congress. The existing administrative arrangement is (b)(5)
- Law 360: (Juan Carlos Rodrigues) **REQUEST** I am writing a feature story on Thursday regarding the 10th Circuit's ruling on the BLM's fracking rule. I would like to get a comment from the BLM or DOI about whether or not the government is interpreting the rule as meaning that the 2015 rule is now in effect? And if so, how will implementation of the rule proceed? **RESPONSE** In accordance with President Trump's Executive Order on "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth" (March 18, 2017) and Secretary Zinke's Secretary's Order on "American Energy Independence," (March 29, 2017), we are expeditiously working on a new rule that will fulfill the President's and Secretary's vision of good jobs for hardworking American families and are continuing to take comments on the proposed rescission of the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule.

Top Stories

- **Fox News:** [Zinke: One third of Interior employees 'not loyal' to Trump team](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Ryan Zinke plans overhaul because Interior Department employees 'not loyal'](#)
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Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- September 27-29, Secretary Zinke is traveling to Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey and various National Park Assets in the Philadelphia area, including Valley Forge, and will be meeting with County Commissioners. There is a press avail while at Valley Forge and members of the press may join Secretary Zinke on a tour of the National Park.
- Friday, Secretary Zinke will give a policy speech at The Heritage Foundation on Energy.

###

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

To: Newell, Russell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Nachmany, Eli[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:18:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: DOI Daily Comms
Received: 2017-09-28T12:19:21-04:00

no

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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INTERIOR
WASHINGTON
9/26/2017

DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

TO: White House Cabinet Affairs Communications

FROM: Heather Swift & Laura Rigas

SUBJECT: Communications Update

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
 - ** Multiple inquiries into Secretary Zinke's speech to the National Petroleum Council regarding the 30% assessment. Solicitor has advised [\(b\)\(5\)](mailto:(b)(5)@ios.doi.gov) **
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[\(b\)\(5\)](mailto:(b)(5)@ios.doi.gov)
 - Law 360: (Juan Carlos Rodrigues) **REQUEST** I am writing a feature story on Thursday regarding the 10th Circuit's ruling on the BLM's fracking rule. I would like to get a comment from the BLM or DOI about whether or not the government is interpreting the rule as meaning that the 2015 rule is now in effect? And if so, how will implementation of the rule proceed? **RESPONSE** In accordance with President Trump's Executive Order on "*Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth*" (March 18, 2017) and Secretary Zinke's Secretary's Order on "*American Energy Independence*," (March 29, 2017), we are expeditiously working on a new rule that will fulfill the President's and Secretary's vision of good jobs for hardworking American families and are continuing to take comments on the proposed rescission of the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule.

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
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From: Newell, Russell
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:21:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: DOI Daily Comms
Received: 2017-09-28T12:21:28-04:00

thanks

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208 6232
@Interior

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:18 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

no

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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<[\(b\)\(6\)-Jessica Ditto@ios.doi.gov](mailto:(b)(6)-Jessica Ditto@ios.doi.gov)>

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[\(b\)\(5\)@ios.doi.gov](mailto:(b)(5)@ios.doi.gov)

- Law 360: (Juan Carlos Rodrigues) **REQUEST** I am writing a feature story on Thursday regarding the 10th Circuit's ruling on the BLM's fracking rule. I would like to get a comment from the BLM or DOI about whether or not the government is interpreting the rule as meaning that the 2015 rule is now in effect? And if so, how will implementation of the rule proceed? **RESPONSE** In accordance with President Trump's Executive Order on "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth" (March 18, 2017) and

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###

--
Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:51:04-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:51:56-04:00

roger

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:46 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

I actually don't believe that is necessary now that I am aware that it was a government contract. That was if it had been a gift to the department.

FYI we do plan on running the story in the a.m.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:43 PM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Zack, why do you think this is needed for the flight? https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf
- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather - just got out of a meeting and heading to another now that begins at 1:30. Will call in a few minutes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338
Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you’ve rarely interacted with. We’re all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Receptions Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy,

sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:44:24-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:45:10-04:00

ah, sorry. that's my word salad. I haven't talked with the Secretary about personally paying for official government travel.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:41 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

You said: "I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel."

Sorry, that means you haven't had the opportunity to discuss what with the Secretary? Reimbursement? Clearing the flights with ethics department? Sorry I know it's getting late. Just want to make sure I have things correct.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:25 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Roger. He had multiple official government events and meetings on both sides of the trip. On the front end, an event ending at 7:45PM and on the back end meetings beginning again at 8:30AM. No commercial flights were available which merited the late flight. Of course this was pre-approved by the ethics office. Every single trip the secretary goes on is pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office. I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:03 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Nope, I know they're government travel. But just wanted to know about the use of a chartered jet for government work. Just want to know if he has to reimburse. Tom Price just said he would for the private flights he booked.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:57 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Sorry – the St. Thomas flights, and the flight to the WGA meeting.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:48 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Are you asking if the Secretary plans to reimburse DOI for the Secretary's flights for official business?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Does Zinke intend to reimburse DOI for any of the charter flights?

Thank you,

Ben

From: Ben Lefebvre

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:12 PM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?

Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

Thank you,

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From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:03 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?

Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,

Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland

and

Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

.

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.
The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(

Secretary and

4

staff

)

was

paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Zack Colman
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:46:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:46:34-04:00

I actually don't believe that is necessary now that I am aware that it was a government contract. That was if it had been a gift to the department.

FYI we do plan on running the story in the a.m.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:43 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Zack, why do you think this is needed for the flight? https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi Heather - just got out of a meeting and heading to another now that begins at 1:30. Will call in a few minutes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338
Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you've rarely interacted with. We're all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started

writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,
-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News

White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?

2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:41:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:41:29-04:00

You said: "I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel."

Sorry, that means you haven't had the opportunity to discuss what with the Secretary? Reimbursement? Clearing the flights with ethics department? Sorry I know it's getting late. Just want to make sure I have things correct.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:25 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Roger. He had multiple official government events and meetings on both sides of the trip. On the front end, an event ending at 7:45PM and on the back end meetings beginning again at 8:30AM. No commercial flights were available which merited the late flight. Of course this was pre-approved by the ethics office. Every single trip the secretary goes on is pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office. I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:03 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Nope, I know they're government travel. But just wanted to know about the use of a chartered jet for government work. Just want to know if he has to reimburse. Tom Price just said he would for the private flights he booked.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

-

Heather Swift
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No, that appears to be a July tweet.

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4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

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Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

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5/17

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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

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(waiting on cost)

6/26

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The Secretary had

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Flight Plan:

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(
Secretary and
4
staff
)

was
paid out of the DOI budget

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-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:54:16-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:55:03-04:00

Waiting on the letters of approval for flight and speaking engagement. Both come from the ethics office.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:51 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

roger

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:46 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

I actually don't believe that is necessary now that I am aware that it was a government contract. That was if it had been a gift to the department.

FYI we do plan on running the story in the a.m.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

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Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:43 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
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Zack, why do you think this is needed for the flight? https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

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Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
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engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

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Zack Colman

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From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

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E&E News

White House correspondent

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Thanks,

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Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

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Hi there,

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Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Receptions Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

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So, to clarify:

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6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:43:14-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:44:02-04:00

Zack, why do you think this is needed for the flight? https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf
- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:53:00-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:53:47-04:00

is your piece running tonight or tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:41 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

You said: "I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel."

Sorry, that means you haven't had the opportunity to discuss what with the Secretary? Reimbursement? Clearing the flights with ethics department? Sorry I know it's getting late. Just want to make sure I have things correct.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:25 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Roger. He had multiple official government events and meetings on both sides of the trip. On the front end, an event ending at 7:45PM and on the back end meetings beginning again at 8:30AM. No commercial flights were available which merited the late flight. Of course this was pre-approved by the ethics office. Every single trip the secretary goes on is pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office. I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel.

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:03 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Nope, I know they're government travel. But just wanted to know about the use of a chartered jet for government work. Just want to know if he has to reimburse. Tom Price just said he would for the private flights he booked.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

-

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Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:57 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Sorry – the St. Thomas flights, and the flight to the WGA meeting.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Are you asking if the Secretary plans to reimburse DOI for the Secretary's flights for

official business?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Does Zinke intend to reimburse DOI for any of the charter flights?

Thank you,

Ben

From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:12 PM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?

Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

Thank you,

Ben

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Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?

Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,

Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland

and

Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

.

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(

Secretary and

4

staff

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

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-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:41 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
You said: "I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel."

Sorry, that means you haven't had the opportunity to discuss what with the Secretary? Reimbursement? Clearing the flights with ethics department? Sorry – I know it's getting late. Just want to make sure I have things correct.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:25 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Roger. He had multiple official government events and meetings on both sides of the trip. On the front end, an event ending at 7:45PM and on the back end meetings beginning again at 8:30AM. No commercial flights were available which merited the late flight. Of course this was pre-approved by the ethics office. Every single trip the secretary goes on is pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office. I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel.

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Nope, I know they're government travel. But just wanted to know about the use of a chartered jet for government work. Just want to know if he has to reimburse. Tom Price just said he would for the private flights he booked.

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To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

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Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Are you asking if the Secretary plans to reimburse DOI for the Secretary's flights for official business?

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heather,

Does Zinke intend to reimburse DOI for any of the charter flights?

Thank you,
Ben

From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:12 PM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?
Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

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Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

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It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

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Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,
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From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland
and
Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(

Secretary and

4

staff

)

was

paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: [@bjlefebvre](https://twitter.com/bjlefebvre)

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Zack Colman
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:58:12-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:58:25-04:00

Oy. Sorry to hear that. Will look out for it.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:55 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Our ethics officer is out of the office due to a death in the family so it's taking a bit.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:54 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Waiting on the letters of approval for flight and speaking engagement. Both come from the ethics office.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:51 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
roger

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:46 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
I actually don't believe that is necessary now that I am aware that it was a government contract.
That was if it had been a gift to the department.
FYI we do plan on running the story in the a.m.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:43 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Zack, why do you think this is needed for the flight? https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf
- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking

engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi Heather - just got out of a meeting and heading to another now that begins at 1:30.
Will call in a few minutes.
Sent from my iPhone
On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338 Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM

To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you've rarely interacted with. We're all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships

with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That’s not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I’m operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,
-Zack

--
Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-
Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--
Zack Colman
E&E News

White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman
<zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Receptions Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:54:36-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:54:47-04:00

I think tonight.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:53 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

is your piece running tonight or tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:50 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
No problem. I know how it is....

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You said: "I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel."

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Department of the Interior
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Hi Heather,

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Thank you,
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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

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4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

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firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

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(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland
and
Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and
meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(
Secretary and
4
staff
)

was
paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.
Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:54:42-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:55:29-04:00

Our ethics officer is out of the office due to a death in the family so it's taking a bit.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:54 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Waiting on the letters of approval for flight and speaking engagement. Both come from the ethics office.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:51 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

roger

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:46 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

I actually don't believe that is necessary now that I am aware that it was a government contract. That was if it had been a gift to the department.

FYI we do plan on running the story in the a.m.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:43 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Zack, why do you think this is needed for the flight? https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf
- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather - just got out of a meeting and heading to another now that begins at 1:30. Will call in a few minutes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338 Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM

To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you've rarely interacted with. We're all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Receptions Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:31:03-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:31:50-04:00

Did you ever inquire into whether Sally Jewell or Ken Salazar personally paid for official government travel?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:25 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Roger. He had multiple official government events and meetings on both sides of the trip. On the front end, an event ending at 7:45PM and on the back end meetings beginning again at 8:30AM. No commercial flights were available which merited the late flight. Of course this was pre-approved by the ethics office. Every single trip the secretary goes on is pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office. I have not had the opportunity to discuss that with the Secretary however the trip is fully compliant and approved government travel.

-

Heather Swift
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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:03 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Nope, I know they're government travel. But just wanted to know about the use of a chartered jet for government work. Just want to know if he has to reimburse. Tom Price just said he would for the private flights he booked.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:57 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Sorry – the St. Thomas flights, and the flight to the WGA meeting.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:48 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Are you asking if the Secretary plans to reimburse DOI for the Secretary's flights for official business?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Does Zinke intend to reimburse DOI for any of the charter flights?

Thank you,

Ben

From: Ben Lefebvre

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:12 PM

To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?

Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

Thank you,

Ben

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Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?

Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,

Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland

and

Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

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Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

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6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(
Secretary and
4
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-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

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Department of the Interior

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Department of the Interior

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\$12,375

(

Secretary and

4

staff

)

was

paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Jorjani, Daniel[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]
Cc: Joshua Campbell[joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov]; Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:16:50-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:17:42-04:00

Great. Can I get this from somebody in the ethics office that I can provide to the POLITICO and EE reporters?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

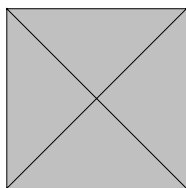
On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 6:01 PM, Jorjani, Daniel <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Looks good. I've added one more word in red highlighting.

"The Scheduling Office meets weekly with the Departmental Ethics Office and the Division of General Law to ensure that all travel is reviewed and approved in advance and that it is fully compliant with all laws, rules, and regulations.

Consistent with this process, the trip was reviewed and approved in advance by both the Departmental Ethics Office and the Division of General Law.

In short, the trip including the Secretary's address to the hockey developmental squad was completely compliant with all applicable ethics and travel laws, rules, and regulations."



Daniel H. Jorjani
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☎ +202-706-9018 (Cell)
✉ daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov

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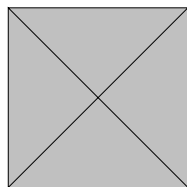
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one edit in pink

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I do not recall that the DAEO, per the normal course of business, signs letters for travel. His schedule is discussed on a weekly basis with the DAEO, as you know. There are other travel approval documents, as I understand it, which always seemed secondary to the weekly DAEO screening. But his schedule is cleared through the means that we understand it to be with the DAEO. Anyone who can shed any additional light on this please feel free to do so, as I have moved away from ordinary ethics questions as a general matter.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:22 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Josh, I don't think we had a signed letter, do you? I certainly don't have one, though we don't normally have an official letter of clearance for events.

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:10 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Caroline and Dan, I'm on a tight deadline for a reporter. Can you track this down for me?

- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zack Colman** <zcolman@eenews.net>
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
To: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Receptions Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

--

Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Scheduling & Advance
[Caroline Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ebbs, Stephanie
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:00:47-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA
Received: 2017-09-28T18:01:05-04:00

Thank you

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:51:51 PM
To: Ebbs, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

Hey thanks for your patience. This is what I found out..... It is not an Interior Department owned plane however it was contracted by EPA through the Interior's Office of Aviation Services and DOI Business Center as part of a longstanding multi-agency agreement. OAS keeps a list of government-approved vendors and assists other agencies with booking flights with them when needed. The total amount of the order was about \$14,000 which the EPA reimburses DOI for.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:19 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Hey Heather,

Were you able to find out if this was an Interior Dept plane? Would you be able to confirm if and how much EPA reimbursed Interior for it?

Thanks

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 7:21:57 PM
To: Ebbs, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

NOT for the record.

DOI has the [Office of Aviation Services](#) but the folks who work there have all gone home for the day so I won't have an answer about protocol for you until the morning. It's my understanding that OAS has a longstanding agreement with other Federal agencies for aviation needs.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:52 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

It looks like EPA paid for the flight from Tulsa airport to Guymon Municipal airport. EPA says the administrator was meeting with a representative of the Irrigators association and some state officials. I'm just not sure how these interagency agreements work and why Interior would have been involved, it doesn't look like there was anyone from Interior on the trip

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Ebbs, Stephanie
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:36:10 PM
To: Swift, Heather
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

It was a trip to Oklahoma, July 27. I don't know much more than what CBS is reporting at this point so it's kind of unclear

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:32:50 PM
To: Ebbs, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

I would need to know the trip you're asking about in order to try to track down protocol. Date? Bureaus? Destination? Anything?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:31 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Thanks. Do you know what the protocol is for why a flight would be interagency if the secretary is not on the trip?

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:28:17 PM
To: Ebbs, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

Not aware of this. It was not a Zinke trip.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:21 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Hey Heather,

Can you tell me any more about this?

<https://twitter.com/juliannagoldman/status/913164411090751488>

Stephanie Ebbs

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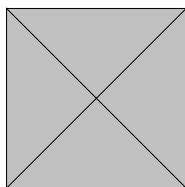
To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Joshua Campbell[joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov]; Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]
From: Jorjani, Daniel
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:01:55-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T18:02:41-04:00

Looks good. I've added one more word in red highlighting.

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Daniel H. Jorjani
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☎ • 202-219-3861 (Voice)
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• daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov

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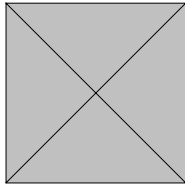
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Sent from my iPhone

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: **Zack Colman** <zcolman@eenews.net>
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
To: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
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4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
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6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

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Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Scheduling & Advance
[Caroline Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:03:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:03:59-04:00

Nope, I know they're government travel. But just wanted to know about the use of a chartered jet for government work. Just want to know if he has to reimburse. Tom Price just said he would for the private flights he booked.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:01 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:57 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Sorry – the St. Thomas flights, and the flight to the WGA meeting.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Are you asking if the Secretary plans to reimburse DOI for the Secretary's flights for official business?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heather,

Does Zinke intend to reimburse DOI for any of the charter flights?

Thank you,
Ben

From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:12 PM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?

Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

Thank you,
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Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:03 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?

Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,
Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland
and
Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(

Secretary and

4

staff

)

was

paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

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Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

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Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:56:28-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T17:56:37-04:00

And did his staff consult with the ethics department before booking that flight?

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

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To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:45:54-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T17:46:12-04:00

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To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
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To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:48:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T17:49:01-04:00

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Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T18:01:01-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T18:01:48-04:00

Ben I am getting the sense that you believe these were not official government trips for some reason. Is that what you're getting at?

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The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:
\$12,375

(
Secretary and
4
staff
)

was
paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:55:49-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T17:56:00-04:00

The Beechcraft from Las Vegas to Glacier International, yeah.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Are you asking if the Secretary plans to reimburse DOI for the Secretary's flights for official business?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heather,

Does Zinke intend to reimburse DOI for any of the charter flights?

Thank you,
Ben

From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:12 PM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?

Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

Thank you,
Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:03 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?

Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,
Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland
and
Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost)

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Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:29:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T15:29:14-04:00

Ed Keable? Or Keeble?

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Also, Ed Keeble, a career official in the Solicitor's office is an advisory on the board.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:26 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heather,

What role, if any, did the ERB have in the SES shuffle that hit the news back in June?

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Mary Pletcher is a career staffer

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:18 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heahter,

Just to verify – Is Mary a career staff or political staff member?

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Thank you. As you can see on page 2, career official, Mary Pletcher is an advisory on the board as well.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Here's the doc.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Ben, I don't understand why you're always so difficult and defensive. I'm trying to get you answers and in order to do that I need to have relevant information about your request. Can you please just tell me what document you're looking at with the roster of the ERB, because I know for a fact you're wrong.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:47 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Shall I put you down for "Interior declined to multiple requests for comment?"

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Which document are you looking at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:40 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hope you are well. I see that the Interior Department's executive resource board consists solely of the department's political staff.

I know that the Office of Personnel Management recommended that ERBs have a mix of political, career, SES and non-career staff (recommendations [here](#)). What is the reason that DOI decided to ignore the OPM recommendations and sit only political staff on the ERB? Is there concern that too many people on the ERB have backgrounds in energy industry lobbying or personal ties to the Secretary, which may impede independent analysis?

Did the Secretary's office consider any career employees for possible placement on the ERB?

To verify, this is the complete make-up of the ERB:

David Bernhardt
Scott Cameron
James Cason
Scott Hommel
Daniel Jorjani
Katherine MacGregor
White House Liason Lori Mashburn
Andrea Travineck
Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Which document are you looking at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPRO
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
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Twitter: @bjlefebvre

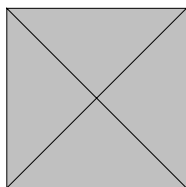
To: Jorjani, Daniel[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]
Cc: Joshua Campbell[joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov]; Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:22:00-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T17:22:49-04:00

one edit in pink

"The Scheduling Office meets weekly with the Departmental Ethics Office and the Division of General Law to ensure that all travel is reviewed and approved in advance and that it is fully compliant with all laws, rules, and regulations.

Consistent with this process, the trip was reviewed and approved in advance by both the Departmental Ethics Office and the Division of General Law.

In short, the trip including the Secretary's address to the hockey developmental squad was completely compliant with all ethics and travel laws, rules, and regulations."



Daniel H. Jorjani
U.S. Department of the Interior
Acting Solicitor & Principal Deputy Solicitor
Main Interior Building, Suite 6356
☎ +202 219 3861 (Voice)
☎ +202 706 9018 (Cell)
✉ daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Joshua Campbell <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

I do not recall that the DAEO, per the normal course of business, signs letters for travel. His schedule is discussed on a weekly basis with the DAEO, as you know. There are other travel approval documents, as I understand it, which always seemed secondary to the weekly DAEO screening. But his schedule is cleared through the means that we understand it to be with the DAEO. Anyone who can shed any additional light on this please feel free to do so, as I have moved away from ordinary ethics questions as a general matter.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:22 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Josh, I don't think we had a signed letter, do you? I certainly don't have one,

though we don't normally have an official letter of clearance for events.

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:10 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Caroline and Dan, I'm on a tight deadline for a reporter. Can you track this down for me?

- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zack Colman** <zcolman@eenews.net>
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
To: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

--

Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Scheduling & Advance
Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

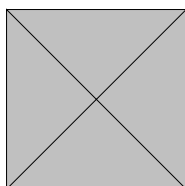
To: Joshua Campbell[joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov]
Cc: Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Jorjani, Daniel
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:19:47-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T17:20:34-04:00

Heather How about this for a statement. It has been reviewed and approved by Ethics and General Law. Feel free to edit. I think you get the gist

"The Scheduling Office meets weekly with the Departmental Ethics Office and the Division of General Law to ensure that all travel is reviewed and approved in advance and that it is fully compliant with all laws, rules, and regulations.

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Daniel H. Jorjani
U.S. Department of the Interior
Acting Solicitor & Principal Deputy Solicitor
Main Interior Building, Suite 6356
☎ •202-219-3861 (Voice)
•202-706-9018 (Cell)
•daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov

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Zack

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Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Scheduling & Advance
[Caroline Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Todd Willens
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:08:03-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FOR FINAL REVIEW - OpEd Vietnam Memorial Donation
Received: 2017-09-28T17:08:10-04:00

It did not leave me with that impression

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:40 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thank you. Is it too "me" and "I" -centric?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:38 PM, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Nicely written.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On Sep 28, 2017, at 11:56 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

To run in the local Pennsylvania Paper. Deadline COB

Butler County American Legion Again Hears the Call to

Serve

By Secretary Ryan Zinke

Few memorials evoke as strong an emotional response as the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., does. Like the war itself, the memorial is different from all the others surrounding it. Appropriately, it stirs an overwhelming feeling that you only understand if you've been there.

For those who have never been to experience – and I say experience rather than see – the Vietnam War Memorial, it's a stark black granite wall, etched with the name of every American who gave their life in Vietnam listed in chronological order. Among the names of the fallen, you'll also see the fingerprints, cheek prints, and tears of their loved ones on the wall. People do not just come to see the wall, they come to touch it and feel the sacrifice of our nation.

As the Secretary of the Interior, I am the steward of our lands, memorials, and monuments. It's my job to oversee our nation's war memorials on the National Mall. Caring for our Vietnam War Memorial would not be possible without the support of thousands of veterans across the country.

Earlier this month, the Butler County American Legion Riders drove down to meet me in Washington, D.C. After dealing with some traffic on their way in, the 200-strong group arrived on three buses. Led by President Dennis Christie and Treasurer Bill McNutt, the group hand-delivered a \$40,778.28 check for the upkeep of the Vietnam War Memorial as well as building of the future museum.

Their efforts, coupled with those of Rolling Thunder chapters who wake up at the crack of dawn (sometimes earlier) to wash the wall before thousands of tourists arrive, will help maintain the memorial and keep the memory of these fallen heroes alive for years to come.

Vietnam War veterans have always held a special place in my heart. I served 23 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL, and although my career in the military began in 1985, my instructors and mentors were all Vietnam vets. They are the toughest of the tough, mentally and physically. The missions they talked about and the tactics they taught us still give me shivers.

I had the honor of serving for 23 years, but one of my proudest moments in uniform came in the spring of 2016, long after I retired and when I was a Congressman. I had the honor and privilege of pinning more than 1,500 Montana Vietnam War veterans. In a formal ceremony, each veteran was presented with a pin, thanked for their service, and given a hearty Bravo Zulu and welcome home. It was 50 years after the start of the Vietnam War. The honor was long overdue, but that didn't mean it should have been forgotten.

After putting their lives on the line for their country, for their brothers and sisters in arms, and for freedom, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsman of Butler County once again gave what they could as civilians - their time and money - to preserving and honoring the fallen in history. A big and hearty Bravo Zulu to the Butler County American Legion who once again heard and answered the call to serve.

###

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Ebbs, Stephanie[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:51:51-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA
Received: 2017-09-28T17:52:40-04:00

Hey thanks for your patience. This is what I found out..... It is not an Interior Department owned plane however it was contracted by EPA through the Interior's Office of Aviation Services and DOI Business Center as part of a longstanding multi-agency agreement. OAS keeps a list of government-approved vendors and assists other agencies with booking flights with them when needed. The total amount of the order was about \$14,000 which the EPA reimburses DOI for.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:19 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Hey Heather,

Were you able to find out if this was an Interior Dept plane? Would you be able to confirm if and how much EPA reimbursed Interior for it?

Thanks

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 7:21:57 PM
To: Ebbs, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

NOT for the record.

DOI has the Office of Aviation Services but the folks who work there have all gone home for the day so I won't have an answer about protocol for you until the morning. It's my understanding that OAS has a longstanding agreement with other Federal agencies for aviation needs.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:52 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

It looks like EPA paid for the flight from Tulsa airport to Guymon Municipal airport. EPA says the administrator was meeting with a representative of the Irrigators association and some state officials. I'm just not sure how these interagency agreements work and why Interior would have been involved, it doesn't look like there was anyone from Interior on the trip

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

[@stephebbs](#)

From: Ebbs, Stephanie
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:36:10 PM
To: Swift, Heather
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

It was a trip to Oklahoma, July 27. I don't know much more than what CBS is reporting at this point so it's kind of unclear

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:32:50 PM

To: Ebbs, Stephanie

Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

I would need to know the trip you're asking about in order to try to track down protocol.
Date? Bureaus? Destination? Anything?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:31 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Thanks. Do you know what the protocol is for why a flight would be interagency if the secretary is not on the trip?

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:28:17 PM

To: Ebbs, Stephanie

Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

Not aware of this. It was not a Zinke trip.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:21 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Hey Heather,

Can you tell me any more about this?

<https://twitter.com/juliannagoldman/status/913164411090751488>

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

To: heather_swift@ios.doi.gov[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC[Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov]
From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: 2017-09-28T17:36:40-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Politico Inquiry
Received: 2017-09-28T17:36:55-04:00

This is what we're sending:

Secretaries Perdue and Zinke used a U.S. Air Force plane to survey the ongoing Lolo Peak wildfire near Missoula, Montana. The military plane was used because of a very tight travel window, with no viable commercial airline options to transport two secretaries, security details, and associated USDA, Forest Service, and Interior staff to Missoula in the time required.

The Department of Agriculture is not the billing agency. That would be the USAF 1st Airlift Squadron. USDA and Interior split the cost of the trip.

I am attempting to determine what USDA's share was.

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To: Todd Willens[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:39:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FOR FINAL REVIEW - OpEd Vietnam Memorial Donation
Received: 2017-09-28T16:40:42-04:00

Thank you. Is it too "me" and "I" -centric?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:38 PM, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Nicely written.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116](#)
Washington, DC 20240

On Sep 28, 2017, at 11:56 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

To run in the local Pennsylvania Paper. Deadline COB

Butler County American Legion Again Hears the Call to Serve

By Secretary Ryan Zinke

Few memorials evoke as strong an emotional response as the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., does. Like the war itself, the memorial is different from all the others surrounding it. Appropriately, it stirs an overwhelming feeling that you only understand if you've been there.

For those who have never been to experience – and I say experience rather than see – the Vietnam War Memorial, it's a stark black granite wall, etched with the name of every American who gave their life in Vietnam listed in chronological order. Among the names of the fallen, you'll also see the fingerprints, cheek prints, and tears of their loved ones on the wall. People do not just come to see the wall, they come to touch it and feel the sacrifice of our nation.

As the Secretary of the Interior, I am the steward of our lands, memorials, and monuments. It's my job to oversee our nation's war memorials on the National Mall. Caring for our Vietnam War Memorial would not be possible without the support of thousands of veterans across the country.

Earlier this month, the Butler County American Legion Riders drove down to meet me in Washington, D.C. After dealing with some traffic on their way in, the 200-strong group arrived on three buses. Led by President Dennis Christie and Treasurer Bill McNutt, the group hand-delivered a \$40,778.28 check for the upkeep of the Vietnam War Memorial as well as building of the future museum.

Their efforts, coupled with those of Rolling Thunder chapters who wake up at the crack of dawn (sometimes earlier) to wash the wall before thousands of tourists arrive, will help maintain the memorial and keep the memory of these fallen heroes alive for years to come.

Vietnam War veterans have always held a special place in my heart. I served 23 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL, and although my career in the military began in 1985, my instructors and mentors were all Vietnam vets. They are the toughest of the tough, mentally and physically. The missions they talked about and the tactics they taught us still give me shivers.

I had the honor of serving for 23 years, but one of my proudest moments in uniform came in the spring of 2016, long after I retired and when I was a Congressman. I had the honor and privilege of pinning more than 1,500 Montana Vietnam War veterans. In a formal ceremony, each veteran was presented with a pin, thanked for their service, and given a hearty Bravo Zulu and welcome home. It was 50 years after the start of the Vietnam War. The honor was long overdue, but that didn't mean it should have

been forgotten.

After putting their lives on the line for their country, for their brothers and sisters in arms, and for freedom, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsman of Butler County once again gave what they could as civilians - their time and money - to preserving and honoring the fallen in history. A big and hearty Bravo Zulu to the Butler County American Legion who once again heard and answered the call to serve.

###

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:35:43-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T16:36:31-04:00

On the other line. Totally agree taxpayers have the right to know the cost of government trips. Working on the rest!

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:32 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Just tried calling you. I was able to find the chartered flight and the cost of the trip through a government contracting database for \$12,253 by Choice Aviation LLC. Now, they do have years-worth of federal contracts, so I am inclined to agree with you at this point that the stuff about the Nielson family is coincidental.

That said – there's a compelling public interest to shed light on the cost of travel, especially given how this practice has been employed by multiple members of the administration. We have enough to write a story just highlighting the cost of this trip.

I would certainly take such an email as, at this point, I don't have anything on the record from you all. I would like to see who else was on the plane, which has not been answered. Also, I would like to see an explanation of how the speech at the Golden Knights camp was official government business.

Like I said, we have enough to write something. You can give me a call at 248.563.9744 if you'd like to discuss further.

Thank you,

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:26 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

It is not standard procedure for a "signed and dated letter of clearance" for trip itineraries... Are you willing to take an email from an ethics officer that says the trip was cleared in advance?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf
- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather - just got out of a meeting and heading to another now that begins at 1:30. Will call in a few minutes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338
Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM

To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you’ve rarely interacted with. We’re all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships with

comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC[Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov]
From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:47:42-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: FW: Question from Politico on the Secretary's use of military aircraft
Received: 2017-09-28T16:47:54-04:00

Just got this. Same reporter?

From: Wilkins, Jake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Blair, David D. - OC, Washington, DC <David.D.Blair@oc.usda.gov>; Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <Meghan.Rodgers@oc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Question from Politico on the Secretary's use of military aircraft

Question about SP's travel with Zinke.

--



Jake Wilkins

Office of Communications

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202)720-2168
Cell: (202)515-6851

From: Ben Lefebvre [<mailto:blefebvre@politico.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:37 PM
To: SM.OC.Press <Press@oc.usda.gov>
Subject: Question from Politico on the Secretary's use of military aircraft

Hello,

I hope all is well. I was hoping you could help me with the following question: USDA Sec. Sonny Purdue flew Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to Montana using military aircraft in August, to view wildfires in the states. I was told that the Agriculture Department did not bill Interior for the travel. Is that correct? How much did the flight cost, or how much was DOI's share of the flight cost?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

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To: Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov];
daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]
From: Joshua Campbell
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:32:28-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T16:32:39-04:00

I do not recall that the DAEO, per the normal course of business, signs letters for travel. His schedule is discussed on a weekly basis with the DAEO, as you know. There are other travel approval documents, as I understand it, which always seemed secondary to the weekly DAEO screening. But his schedule is cleared through the means that we understand it to be with the DAEO. Anyone who can shed any additional light on this please feel free to do so, as I have moved away from ordinary ethics questions as a general matter.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:22 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Josh, I don't think we had a signed letter, do you? I certainly don't have one, though we don't normally have an official letter of clearance for events.

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:10 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Caroline and Dan, I'm on a tight deadline for a reporter. Can you track this down for me?

- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zack Colman** <zcolman@eenews.net>
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
To: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

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I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

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6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

--

Caroline Boulton
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Scheduling & Advance
Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Todd Willens
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:38:35-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FOR FINAL REVIEW - OpEd Vietnam Memorial Donation
Received: 2017-09-28T16:38:43-04:00

Nicely written.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On Sep 28, 2017, at 11:56 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

To run in the local Pennsylvania Paper. Deadline COB

Butler County American Legion Again Hears the Call to Serve

By Secretary Ryan Zinke

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For those who have never been to experience and I say experience rather than see the Vietnam War Memorial, it's a stark black granite wall, etched with the name of every American who gave their life in Vietnam listed in chronological order. Among the names of the fallen, you'll also see the fingerprints, cheek prints, and tears of their loved ones on the wall. People do not just come to see the wall, they come to touch it and feel the sacrifice of our nation.

As the Secretary of the Interior, I am the steward of our lands, memorials, and

monuments. It's my job to oversee our nation's war memorials on the National Mall. Caring for our Vietnam War Memorial would not be possible without the support of thousands of veterans across the country.

Earlier this month, the Butler County American Legion Riders drove down to meet me in Washington, D.C. After dealing with some traffic on their way in, the 200-strong group arrived on three buses. Led by President Dennis Christie and Treasurer Bill McNutt, the group hand-delivered a \$40,778.28 check for the upkeep of the Vietnam War Memorial as well as building of the future museum.

Their efforts, coupled with those of Rolling Thunder chapters who wake up at the crack of dawn (sometimes earlier) to wash the wall before thousands of tourists arrive, will help maintain the memorial and keep the memory of these fallen heroes alive for years to come.

Vietnam War veterans have always held a special place in my heart. I served 23 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL, and although my career in the military began in 1985, my instructors and mentors were all Vietnam vets. They are the toughest of the tough, mentally and physically. The missions they talked about and the tactics they taught us still give me shivers.

I had the honor of serving for 23 years, but one of my proudest moments in uniform came in the spring of 2016, long after I retired and when I was a Congressman. I had the honor and privilege of pinning more than 1,500 Montana Vietnam War veterans. In a formal ceremony, each veteran was presented with a pin, thanked for their service, and given a hearty Bravo Zulu and welcome home. It was 50 years after the start of the Vietnam War. The honor was long overdue, but that didn't mean it should have been forgotten.

After putting their lives on the line for their country, for their brothers and sisters in arms, and for freedom, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsman of Butler County once again gave what they could as civilians - their time and money - to preserving and honoring the fallen in history. A big and hearty Bravo Zulu to the Butler County American Legion who once again heard and answered the call to serve.

###

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Zack Colman
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:32:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T16:33:11-04:00

Hi Heather,

Just tried calling you. I was able to find the chartered flight and the cost of the trip through a government contracting database for \$12,253 by Choice Aviation LLC. Now, they do have years-worth of federal contracts, so I am inclined to agree with you at this point that the stuff about the Nielson family is coincidental.

That said – there's a compelling public interest to shed light on the cost of travel, especially given how this practice has been employed by multiple members of the administration. We have enough to write a story just highlighting the cost of this trip.

I would certainly take such an email as, at this point, I don't have anything on the record from you all. I would like to see who else was on the plane, which has not been answered. Also, I would like to see an explanation of how the speech at the Golden Knights camp was official government business.

Like I said, we have enough to write something. You can give me a call at 248.563.9744 if you'd like to discuss further.

Thank you,

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:14:16-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T16:15:07-04:00

Several congressional spouses were.

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Fort Bliss supplied and paid for the helo.

The CODEL Was Norway, Greenland, AK. She was on the entire CODEL.

-

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:11 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

And more follow-up:

When you say Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter, does that mean DOI did not pay for its use? Any idea on cost?

Did Mrs. Zinke attend the Norway leg of the trip? I'm just confused if the Greenland/Norway leg of that trip was an official CODEL, or if the CODEL was just the Alaska bit.

Thank you,

Ben

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Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)

No, that appears to be a July tweet.

2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?

It was a BLM helicopter. (I don't immediately have the cost information available)

3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?

Fort Bliss supplied a helicopter so the Secretary and Ft Bliss personnel were able to discuss their needs and concerns as related to the monument. Reasoning - it is difficult to survey a half million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half.

4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?

The Secretary has not been to Florida.

5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,

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Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland

and

Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

.
Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks
Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

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(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.
The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(
Secretary and
4
staff
)

was

paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Heather Swift
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:11:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T16:11:53-04:00

Yes. It's also on Zinke's twitter act. Lots of pix.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Sep 28, 2017, at 4:10 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Whoops, 1) Should have been this Tweet:

<https://twitter.com/SteveDaines/status/900727259920834560>

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 4:03 PM
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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:14:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T16:14:58-04:00

Fort Bliss supplied and paid for the helo.

The CODEL Was Norway, Greenland, AK. She was on the entire CODEL.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 4:11 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

And more follow-up:

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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:03:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
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To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ebbs, Stephanie
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:19:14-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA
Received: 2017-09-28T16:20:15-04:00

Hey Heather,

Were you able to find out if this was an Interior Dept plane? Would you be able to confirm if and how much EPA reimbursed Interior for it?

Thanks

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 7:21:57 PM
To: Ebbs, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

NOT for the record.

DOI has the [Office of Aviation Services](#) but the folks who work there have all gone home for the day so I won't have an answer about protocol for you until the morning. It's my understanding that OAS has a longstanding agreement with other Federal agencies for aviation needs.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:52 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

It looks like EPA paid for the flight from Tulsa airport to Guymon Municipal airport. EPA says the administrator was meeting with a representative of the Irrigators association and some state officials. I'm just not sure how these interagency agreements work and why Interior would have been involved, it doesn't look like there was anyone from Interior on the trip

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

From: Ebbs, Stephanie
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:36:10 PM
To: Swift, Heather
Subject: Re: Private flight with EPA

It was a trip to Oklahoma, July 27. I don't know much more than what CBS is reporting at this point so it's kind of unclear

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From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:32:50 PM
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I would need to know the trip you're asking about in order to try to track down protocol.

Date? Bureaus? Destination? Anything?

-

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On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:31 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Thanks. Do you know what the protocol is for why a flight would be interagency if the secretary is not on the trip?

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From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
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Not aware of this. It was not a Zinke trip.

-

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On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:21 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com> wrote:

Hey Heather,

Can you tell me any more about this?

<https://twitter.com/juliannagoldman/status/913164411090751488>

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5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's

reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?

Mrs. Zinke personally paid for all of her expenses while traveling on the CODEL and in Alaska.

6. For the flights on AF1 to visit the Boy Scout jamboree and the Youngstown POTUS rally, did DOI pay anything toward the flights?

Yes. (I do not have this information immediately available)

Thank you,
Ben

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland
and
Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and

meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(

Secretary and

4

staff

)

was

paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather.Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior.Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can

exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31 United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:50:22-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T15:51:02-04:00

Thank you. A few more. Sorry for the dribble dribble on this.

1. The August flight to Ravalli County, that was tied to this August 24 Tweet? (Re: This: <https://twitter.com/Scavino45/status/889679192685780992>)
2. What transportation was used for his visit to Basin & Range Monument visit on July 30? (<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke/status/891861787234058240>) If military or charter, reasoning and cost?
3. Did the Secretary use a military vehicle to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June? If so, reasoning and cost?
4. Did the Secretary use a charter flight to visit Florida in April? If so, reasoning and cost?
5. I see on the Secretary Trip Summary that Mrs. Zinke was with him during the Alaska trip in May. Did she also travel with him to Norway (i.e., the leg of the trip before the events in Alaska)? If so, did DOI pay anything for her travel, lodging or food budget? Or did the Zinke's reimburse DOI her part of the trip out of their private bank accounts?
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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Zack Colman
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:06:30-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T16:06:44-04:00

Hi Heather,

Just wanted to follow up to make sure we're on the same page for what I'm looking for now:

- 1) The signed and dated OK from the Office of Aviation Services at Interior.
- 2) The cost of the flight.
- 3) This signed and dated form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf
- 4) A signed and dated letter of clearance from the Interior ethics office that the speaking engagement on June 26, 2017 at the Las Vegas Golden Knights camp was for official government business and cleared by the ethics department.

I don't envision getting this done today, for obvious reasons, so happy to keep working with you on this.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

I'm here.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:07 PM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi Heather - just got out of a meeting and heading to another now that begins at 1:30. Will

call in a few minutes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338
Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM

To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you've rarely interacted with. We're all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,
-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil

and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:32:00-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T15:34:13-04:00

Ok. Thank you.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:22 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

working on the trip aspect. I have no additional information regarding the SES reassignments but have put in a request.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:10 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Thank you. Any progress with whether this board had any role in the SES shuffle reported in June?

Also, you can nevermind that request re: charter and military flights. I found the Sec. Trip Summary document online. So that answers my questions.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Also, Ed Keeble, a career official in the Solicitor's office is an advisory on the board.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:26 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heather,

What role, if any, did the ERB have in the SES shuffle that hit the news back in June?

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Mary Pletcher is a career staffer

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:18 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hi Heahter,

Just to verify – Is Mary a career staff or political staff member?

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Thank you. As you can see on page 2, career official, Mary Pletcher is an advisory on the board as well.

-

Heather Swift
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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Here's the doc.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Ben, I don't understand why you're always so difficult and defensive. I'm trying to get you answers and in order to do that I need to have relevant information about

your request. Can you please just tell me what document you're looking at with the roster of the ERB, because I know for a fact you're wrong.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:47 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Shall I put you down for "Interior declined to multiple requests for comment?"

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Which document are you looking at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:40 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Hope you are well. I see that the Interior Department's executive resource board consists solely of the department's political staff.
I know that the Office of Personnel Management recommended that ERBs have a mix of political, career, SES and non-career staff (recommendations [here](#)). What is the reason that DOI decided to ignore the OPM recommendations and sit only political staff on the ERB? Is there concern that too many people on the ERB have backgrounds in energy industry lobbying or personal ties to the Secretary, which may impede independent analysis?
Did the Secretary's office consider any career employees for possible placement on the ERB?

To verify, this is the complete make-up of the ERB:

David Bernhardt
Scott Cameron
James Cason
Scott Hommel
Daniel Jorjani

Katherine MacGregor
White House Liason Lori Mashburn
Andrea Travineck
Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:35:25-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T15:36:24-04:00

Keable. my bad.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:32 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Ok. Thank you.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:22 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Mary Pletcher is a career staffer

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:26 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:21 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Here's the doc.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:50 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

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Proton: bjlefevre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefevre

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:35:09-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: question form Politico on Secretary travel
Received: 2017-09-28T15:36:29-04:00

Apart from events with POTUS/VPOTUS, the Secretary took military air once. He was invited by USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue to go to a wildfire camp at a Type 1 fire in Ravalli County Montana in August. The fire claimed the life of one firefighter. It is still burning but 90% contained. The USDA and DOI co-manage wildfire fighting on federal lands. The USDA was the lead on the trip. DOI has not been billed for it.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost/staff)

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland
and
Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a charter

.

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

, please contact SENR for more details about their choice of aircraft

Payment: the Secretary and

1

staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.
(waiting on cost)

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.
The Secretary had

a

speaking engagement in the evening in Nevada and
meetings

in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan:

8:30PM

Las Vegas -->

1:40AM

Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and staff to the event on time.

Payment:

\$12,375

(
Secretary and
4
staff
)

was
paid out of the DOI budget

.

-

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Has Secretary Zinke used military aircraft for travel during his time as Interior Secretary, and, if such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? You can exclude travel with the POTUS on Air Force 1.

Also, has Secretary Zinke used charter flights for official travel during his time as Secretary? If such travel happened, how much are the trips estimated to have cost? I see on his public calendar that only a few flights were explicitly described as commercial flights, a July 30-31

United flight from LAS to IAD, for example. Were any of the trips listed in his public calendar on chartered flights?

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

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Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:10:42-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T15:10:52-04:00

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To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:22:08-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T15:22:56-04:00

working on the trip aspect. I have no additional information regarding the SES reassignments but have put in a request.

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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:04:03-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T15:04:46-04:00

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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T14:23:27-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T14:25:13-04:00

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From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T14:18:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T14:19:01-04:00

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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T14:20:19-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T14:21:47-04:00

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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:37:33-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T13:37:46-04:00

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To: Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: ryanzinke
Sent: 2017-09-28T14:27:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Washington Post reporter
Received: 2017-09-28T14:34:48-04:00

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Lolita Zinke <[REDACTED]>
Date: 09/28/2017 10:53 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Ryan Zinke (b) (6) [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Washington Post reporter

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Coffin <AndrewC@reaganranch.org>
Date: September 28, 2017 at 12:32:15 AM GMT+3
To: (b) (6) - Lola Zinke [REDACTED]
Subject: Washington Post reporter

Hi Lola,

I'm headed up to the ranch, but wanted to quickly let you know but just before leaving the office I received a voicemail from a Washington Post reporter who said she was writing a story about Sec Zinke's travel, and wanted more information about his event here in April. I have not called her back and spoken to her, and probably will not do so... Unless someone on your end thinks that would be helpful.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.

Hope you and the secretary are well.

Andrew

Sent from my iPhone

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:26:08-04:00
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Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

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From: Zack Colman
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To: Eli Nachmany[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
From: Laura Rigas
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:02:36-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds
Received: 2017-09-28T13:02:49-04:00

Should this be BCC? Thx.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>
Date: September 28, 2017 at 7:01:28 AM HST
To: Scott Angelle <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>, Thomas Baptiste <tbaptiste@blm.gov>, Christine Bauserman <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Preston Beard <preston.beard@bsee.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) David Bernhardt >, "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Wesley Bullock <wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Campbell <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Gavin Clarkson <gavin.clarkson@bia.gov>, Marshall Critchfield <marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov>, "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Landon Davis <ldavis@osmre.gov>, Blake Deeley <blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, William Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Austin Ewell <austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Funes <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Goeken <richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, Alex Hinson <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Kaster <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Lawkowski <gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov>, Katharine MacGregor <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, Alan Mikkelsen <amikkelsen@usbr.gov>, Eli Nachmany <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Ryan Nichols <ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov>, Brian Pavlik

<brian_pavlik@nps.gov>, Brendan Quinn <brendan_quinn@ios.doi.gov>, "Renner, Elinor" <elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Rusty Roddy <russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, James Schindler <james.schindler@boem.gov>, Greg Sheehan <Greg_J_Sheehan@fws.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>, Lacey Smethers <lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov>, "Smith, Steven" <steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Stolte <christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Stephen Wackowski <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Williams <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, Cally Younger <cyounger@blm.gov>

Subject: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds

Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds

**John Siciliano and Josh Seigel
September 28, 2017**

The Energy Department is not pulling its weight on developing energy on its own lands, according to a study out this hour from the National Academies of Sciences.

The Interior Department, headed by Ryan Zinke, on the other hand, has led by example on that front.

Less on renewables: “While other government agencies, such as the Department of the Interior, have examined and marketed opportunities to promote renewable resource development on public lands, [the Department of Energy] appears to have done much less,” according to the report.

Perry’s agency has the skills: “But with DOE’s depth and breadth of skills and technical capabilities with energy resources, it too could leverage such opportunities and play a major role in forging private-public partnerships in land development serving the national interest. The agency has varying degrees of responsibility over 164 sites in 32 states.”

Paul DeCotis, chairman of the committee that wrote the report, said if the Energy Department begins looking at energy development opportunities, it would help achieve the Trump administration’s “national objective of energy independence and greater national security.”

Energy pays the bills: “Development of such lands has the potential to turn idle properties into valuable income-generating assets,” DeCotis said. “With the most cost-effective resources developed at the most appropriate sites, DOE lands can serve as a commercial and research hub for innovative energy technologies.”

Cut out coal mining: The report says coal and uranium mining should not be considered. “DOE should eliminate fossil and uranium resource sites from further consideration for development when compelling factors exist related to current and foreseeable use, and the environmental, legal or other factors that tend to be associated with developing those resources.”

Oil and natural gas: The analysis showed “limited opportunities for oil and gas development on DOE lands, due to the size of the property needed for development.”

Thumbs up to solar: “In follow-on work, DOE should conduct an expanded analysis of solar photovoltaic and solar thermal that goes beyond [costs] to consider technical, economic and market potential.”

Study wind subsidies: “DOE should perform a sensitivity study that illustrates the potential for wind development on DOE-managed lands that addresses federal incentives such as investment tax credits, production tax credits, and renewable energy credits.”

--

Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:08:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T13:09:59-04:00

I'm here.

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Department of the Interior
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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:21:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T13:22:02-04:00
[ERB doc.pdf](#)

Here's the doc.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Ben, I don't understand why you're always so difficult and defensive. I'm trying to get you answers and in order to do that I need to have relevant information about your request. Can you please just tell me what document you're looking at with the roster of the ERB, because I know for a fact you're wrong.

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:47 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Shall I put you down for "Interior declined to multiple requests for comment?"

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
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Desk: 703-647-8775
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Sent: 2017-09-28T13:03:29-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds
Received: 2017-09-28T13:03:42-04:00

yes

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208 6232
@Interior

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:02 PM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Should this be BCC? Thx.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>
Date: September 28, 2017 at 7:01:28 AM HST
To: Scott Angelle <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>, Thomas Baptiste <tbaptiste@blm.gov>, Christine Bauserman <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Preston Beard <preston.beard@bsee.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) David Bernhardt >, "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Wesley Bullock <wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Campbell <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Gavin Clarkson <gavin.clarkson@bia.gov>, Marshall Critchfield <marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov>, "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Landon Davis <ldavis@osmre.gov>, Blake Deeley <blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, William Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Austin Ewell <austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Funes <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Richard

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John Siciliano and Josh Seigel

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Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

To: Newell, Russell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Nachmany, Eli
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:04:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds
Received: 2017-09-28T13:04:18-04:00

Sorry all

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Office of Communications

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To: Nachmany, Eli[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Newell, Russell
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:05:35-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds
Received: 2017-09-28T13:05:47-04:00

it's okay. it happens.

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208 6232
@Interior

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:04 PM, Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sorry all

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Sincerely,
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Date: September 28, 2017 at 7:01:28 AM HST

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Cc: Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Newell, Russell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
From: Nachmany, Eli
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:03:08-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds
Received: 2017-09-28T13:03:16-04:00

Yes this is 100% my bad

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To: Newell, Russell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Nachmany, Eli[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:06:57-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds
Received: 2017-09-28T13:07:49-04:00

I for one have never made a mistake. Never. :-P You'll survive Eli. It only FEELS LIKE you're dying of embarrassment.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:05 PM, Newell, Russell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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(202) 208 6232
@Interior

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 1:02 PM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Should this be BCC? Thx.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>
Date: September 28, 2017 at 7:01:28 AM HST
To: Scott Angelle <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>, Thomas Baptiste <tbaptiste@blm.gov>, Christine Bauserman <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Preston Beard <preston.beard@bsee.gov>, Kathleen Benedetto <kbenedetto@blm.gov>, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) David Bernhardt>, "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Wesley Bullock <wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Campbell <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Gavin Clarkson <gavin.clarkson@bia.gov>, Marshall Critchfield <marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov>, "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Landon Davis <ldavis@osmre.gov>, Blake Deeley <blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov>, Douglas Domenech <doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, William Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Austin Ewell <austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Funes <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Goeken <richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, Alex Hinson <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Kaster <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Gary Lawkowski <gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov>, Katharine MacGregor <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, Alan Mikkelsen <amikkelsen@usbr.gov>, Eli Nachmany <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Ryan Nichols <ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov>, Brian Pavlik <brian_pavlik@nps.gov>, Brendan Quinn

<brendan_quinn@ios.doi.gov>, "Renner, Elinor"
<elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>,
Rusty Roddy <russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, James Schindler
<james.schindler@boem.gov>, Greg Sheehan <Greg_J_Sheehan@fws.gov>,
Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>, Lacey Smethers
<lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov>, "Smith, Steven"
<steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Stolte
<christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift
<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>,
Aaron Thiele <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea Travnicek
<andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Stephen Wackowski
<stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens
<todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Williams
<timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, Cally Younger <cyounger@blm.gov>

Subject: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds

Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds

John Siciliano and Josh Seigel

September 28, 2017

The Energy Department is not pulling its weight on developing energy on its own lands, according to a study out this hour from the National Academies of Sciences.

The Interior Department, headed by Ryan Zinke, on the other hand, has led by example on that front.

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Perry’s agency has the skills: “But with DOE’s depth and breadth of skills and technical capabilities with energy resources, it too could leverage such opportunities and play a major role in forging private-public partnerships in land development serving the national interest. The agency has varying degrees of responsibility over 164 sites in 32 states.”

Paul DeCotis, chairman of the committee that wrote the report, said if the Energy Department begins looking at energy development opportunities, it would help achieve the Trump administration’s “national objective of energy independence and greater national security.”

Energy pays the bills: “Development of such lands has the potential to turn idle

properties into valuable income-generating assets,” DeCotis said. “With the most cost-effective resources developed at the most appropriate sites, DOE lands can serve as a commercial and research hub for innovative energy technologies.”

Cut out coal mining: The report says coal and uranium mining should not be considered. “DOE should eliminate fossil and uranium resource sites from further consideration for development when compelling factors exist related to current and foreseeable use, and the environmental, legal or other factors that tend to be associated with developing those resources.”

Oil and natural gas: The analysis showed “limited opportunities for oil and gas development on DOE lands, due to the size of the property needed for development.”

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Study wind subsidies: “DOE should perform a sensitivity study that illustrates the potential for wind development on DOE-managed lands that addresses federal incentives such as investment tax credits, production tax credits, and renewable energy credits.”

--

Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:50:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:51:09-04:00

Ben, I don't understand why you're always so difficult and defensive. I'm trying to get you answers and in order to do that I need to have relevant information about your request. Can you please just tell me what document you're looking at with the roster of the ERB, because I know for a fact you're wrong.

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Heather Swift
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@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:45 PM

To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Which document are you looking at?

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Department of the Interior
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Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

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Scott Cameron

James Cason

Scott Hommel

Daniel Jorjani

Katherine MacGregor

White House Liason Lori Mashburn

Andrea Travineck

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](#)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Scott Angelle[scott.angelle@bsee.gov]; Thomas Baptiste[tbaptiste@blm.gov]; Christine Bauserman[christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Preston Beard[preston.beard@bsee.gov]; Kathleen Benedetto[kbenedetto@blm.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b)(6)-David Bernhardt]; Boulton, Caroline[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Wesley Bullock[wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Joshua Campbell[joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Gavin Clarkson[gavin.clarkson@bia.gov]; Marshall Critchfield[marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov]; Davis, Natalie[natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Landon Davis[ladavis@osmre.gov]; Blake Deeley[blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; William Dove[william_dove@ios.doi.gov]; Austin Ewell[austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov]; Jason Funes[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila_getto@ios.doi.gov]; Richard Goeken[richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov]; Casey Hammond[casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov]; Alex Hinson[alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Amanda Kaster[amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov]; Gary Lawkowski[gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov]; Katharine MacGregor[kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; David Mihalic[david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov]; Alan Mikkelsen[amikkelsen@usbr.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Newell, Russell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Ryan Nichols[ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov]; Brian Pavlik[brian_pavlik@nps.gov]; Brendan Quinn[brendan_quinn@ios.doi.gov]; Renner, Elinor[elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Rusty Roddy[russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov]; James Schindler[james.schindler@boem.gov]; Greg Sheehan[Greg_J_Sheehan@fws.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Lacey Smethers[lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov]; Smith, Steven[steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov]; Christopher Stolte[christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Aaron Thiele[aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Andrea Travnicek[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Stephen Wackowski[stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov]; Todd Willens[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Timothy Williams[timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov]; Cally Younger[cyounger@blm.gov]

From: Nachmany, Eli

Sent: 2017-09-28T13:01:28-04:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: *News Alert* Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds

Received: 2017-09-28T13:01:40-04:00

Washington Examiner: Zinke beating Perry on energy development on public lands, study finds

John Siciliano and Josh Seigel
September 28, 2017

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--

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Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:57:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:58:08-04:00

If you already know I'm wrong, then please tell me the relevant, correct information. Are the nine people listed on the ERB? Are there other people on the ERB that are not on that list? Did Interior consider any career staff for placement on the ERB? Not sure why you need a document to answer those questions.

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Ben, I don't understand why you're always so difficult and defensive. I'm trying to get you answers and in order to do that I need to have relevant information about your request. Can you please just tell me what document you're looking at with the roster of the ERB, because I know for a fact you're wrong.

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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:47 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:
Shall I put you down for "Interior declined to multiple requests for comment?"

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

Which document are you looking at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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David Bernhardt
Scott Cameron
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Scott Hommel
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Katherine MacGregor
White House Liason Lori Mashburn
Andrea Travineck
Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:45:29-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:46:24-04:00

Which document are you looking at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:47:25-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:47:35-04:00

Shall I put you down for "Interior declined to multiple requests for comment?"

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board

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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Ben Lefebvre
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:40:24-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:40:41-04:00

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Scott Cameron
James Cason
Scott Hommel
Daniel Jorjani
Katherine MacGregor
White House Liason Lori Mashburn
Andrea Travineck
Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre
Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro
Desk: 703-647-8775
Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537
Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com
Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]
From: Todd Willens
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:34:53-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:35:00-04:00

Political with a career advisor.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:24 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Does the ERB have career staff on it?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ben Lefebvre** <blefebvre@politico.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:21 PM
Subject: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
To: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Hello,

Hope you are well. I see that the Interior Department's executive resource board consists solely of the department's political staff.

I know that the Office of Personnel Management recommended that ERBs have a mix of political, career, SES and non-career staff (recommendations [here](#)). What is the reason that DOI decided to ignore the OPM recommendations and sit only political staff on the ERB? Is there concern that too many people on the ERB have backgrounds in energy industry lobbying or personal ties to the Secretary, which may impede independent analysis?

Did the Secretary's office consider any career employees for possible placement on the ERB?

To verify, this is the complete make-up of the ERB:

David Bernhardt

Scott Cameron

James Cason

Scott Hommel

Daniel Jorjani

Katherine MacGregor

White House Liason Lori Mashburn

Andrea Travineck

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Willens, Todd[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:23:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:24:43-04:00

Does the ERB have career staff on it?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
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To: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Ben Lefebvre[blefebvre@politico.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:38:10-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:39:01-04:00

Which document are you looking at?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:21 PM, Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com> wrote:

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Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens

Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Jim Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]
From: Todd Willens
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:29:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Question from Politico on DOI's executive resource board
Received: 2017-09-28T12:30:05-04:00

Jim is better than me on ERB technical answers.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On Sep 28, 2017, at 12:24 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Does the ERB have career staff on it?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Thank you,

Ben Lefebvre

Oil & gas policy reporter, POLITICOPro

Desk: 703-647-8775

Mobile/WhatsApp: 313-473-0537

Proton: bjlefebvre@protonmail.com

Twitter: @bjlefebvre

To: Zack Colman[zcolman@eenews.net]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:19:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T12:20:19-04:00

Career ethics officials vet and approve every single trip the Secretary goes on. Can you give me a ring and chat off the record? 202-208-5338 Info may change your story.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:40 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form:
https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM

To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>

Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you’ve rarely interacted with. We’re all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It's just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we're very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that's when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I've had enough good relationships with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman

E&E News

White House correspondent

c: 248-563-9744

o: 202-446-0408

twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:

Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Receptions Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: Anthony Adragna[aadragna@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:20:58-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CORRECTION - ME
Received: 2017-09-28T12:21:45-04:00

Just talked to DB. He did a modest amount of legal work but was never a lobbyist.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:41 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No. David was never a lobbyist for Cadiz. I'm checking with him on if he provided legal services for that specific project.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:40 AM, Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com> wrote:

Is his disclosure incorrect then?

Under Section 4 — Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year — Number 16 is Cadiz Inc. for "legal services."

<https://www.politicopro.com/f/?id=0000015b-f3e9-de0a-a15f-fff92f3d0001>

--

Anthony Adragna
Energy Reporter
POLITICO
Cell: 571-351-0749
Desk: 703-647-8563
aadragna@politico.com
[@AnthonyAdragna](https://twitter.com/AnthonyAdragna)

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10:29 AM
To: Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com>
Subject: Re: CORRECTION - ME

Cadiz has never been a client of his.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:29 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I don't think that's true.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:27 AM, Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com> wrote:

Ok. We'll update to say he did legal work on the project. Thanks for flagging.

--

Anthony Adragna
Energy Reporter
POLITICO
Cell: 571-351-0749
Desk: 703-647-8563
aadragna@politico.com
@AnthonyAdragna

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 9:47 AM

To: Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com>

Subject: CORRECTION - ME

Hey Anthony - the blurb below incorrectly states Bernhardt was a lobbyist for Cadiz... He was never a lobbyist for Cadiz.

CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ: The Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chambers, Micah
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:14:09-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: FW: Ryan Zinke
Received: 2017-09-28T12:15:01-04:00

Please see the follow up request from American Legion Magazine requesting to a piece on Zinke. Obviously it went to you already, but I was pinged on it as well, so just flagging it. Gracias.
Micah

From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:30 AM
To: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org>
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

Good morning, Ms. Swift.

I am circling back to see if Secretary Zinke has some availability for an interview with American Legion Magazine. As the nation's largest veterans service organization, we'd love to share his story with his fellow Legion members and veterans.

I'd be happy to share the questions in advance.

Please let me know if you need additional information from me and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Henry

Henry Howard
Deputy Director
Media and Communications
The American Legion

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

Hello, Mr. Howard. Thank you for your follow-up note. Secretary Zinke has only been in office for two days, and I'm sure you can imagine, he has many pressing matters on his schedule. We will be in touch when he has availability.

Thank you for your continued interest,

Heather Swift

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 8:47 AM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Good morning, Ms. Swift.

I thought I would circle back to this to see about the best way to proceed with this request. Please let me know if you need additional information from me.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry

From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:20 PM
To: 'Thiele, Aaron'
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Thank you for the introduction, Aaron.

Ms. Swift, I represent The American Legion's Media and Communications Division. As the largest veterans service organization, we regularly profile our members for our national magazine, which goes out to our more than 2 million members monthly. Even better: It's a dedicated audience of veterans. Independent audits have shown that American Legion Magazine ranks first among 179 U.S. publications in terms of reader frequency.

We'd like to include Secretary Zinke in an upcoming edition. Please let me know what would be some good next steps to proceed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Henry,

Heather Swift is the press secretary at DOI. Now that the Secretary has been confirmed and resigned his house seat she will be the best point of contact to try and make this work.

Best,

Aaron

Aaron Thiele

Senior Legislative Assistant

1419 Longworth HOB | 202-225-3211 |

From: Howard, Henry J. [<mailto:HHoward@legion.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Thiele, Aaron
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Hi Aaron,

Now that Mr. Zinke has been confirmed – and I am thinking about this – I thought I would circle back to this interview request for American Legion Magazine. What would be the best way to proceed to set something up? I am available to travel to DC when convenient.

Thanks!

Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 8:23 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

I'm sure that would be good. I'll get the doi emails for his scheduler and comms director at doi and I'm sure it wouldn't be any trouble to arrange something.

On Jan 23, 2017, at 6:00 PM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Agreed, we can certainly wait until he is confirmed. Why don't we agree to touch base again afterward?

Thanks again,

Henry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2017, at 5:15 PM, Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org> wrote:

Aaron,

Thanks for getting back to us so quickly. I think Henry would be happy to

set that up, as I am sure we are expecting to see his confirmation in the coming days/weeks.

Matthew J. Shuman

Director

Legislative Division

The American Legion

O: 202-263-5755

C: 202-304-8428

@LegionInDC

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 5:14 PM

To: Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org>; Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org>

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Henry/Matthew

So the Congressman is still not doing any interviews until after his confirmation. With that said, I know Congressman Zinke would be more happy to try and set up an interview after his confirmation.

Sorry about that.

Aaron

From: Howard, Henry J. [<mailto:HHoward@legion.org>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Thiele, Aaron; Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Great, Aaron! Thanks for your quick response.

As you probably know, Mr. Zinke is a member of the Legion and we'd like to feature his story – military and public service life to our 2+ million readers. Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Cheers,

Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Shuman, Matthew J.; Howard, Henry J.
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Hey Matt,

Henry, it's great to meet you. I'd be happy to check into this, I'm not sure if he is doing interviews (per transition request) or if it was only regarding DOI issues. But I'll talk to some folks and see if we can work something out.

Best,

Aaron

From: Shuman, Matthew J. [<mailto:MShuman@legion.org>]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 2:44 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.; Thiele, Aaron
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Aaron,

Happy Monday! I hope this email finds you well. Please allow me to introduce you to Henry Howard, our Deputy Director in The American Legion's Medial and Communication Division. Henry is working on an idea (read below) that involves your boss. You know I am a HUGE fan of Mr. Zinke, and anything I can do to incorporate him into the Legion, I am going to do.

I realize your office is going through some transition right now, but Henry and I would love to get this moving.

Thanks, Aaron!

Matthew J. Shuman

Director

Legislative Division

The American Legion

O: 202-263-5755

C: 202-304-8428

@LegionInDC

From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org>
Subject: Ryan Zinke

Hi Matthew,

I'm heading to Iowa tomorrow to interview Legionnaire and ambassador to China nominee Terry Branstad. I thought it also would be wise to set up an interview with Ryan Zinke, Legionnaire and of course Interior secretary nominee.

Is that something you could help coordinate?

Thanks!

Henry

Henry Howard

Deputy Director

Media and Communications

Phone 317.630.1289

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

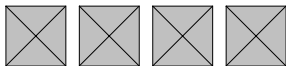
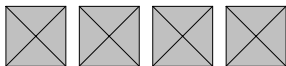
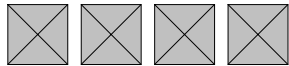
<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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<~WRD065.jpg>

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--

Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]
From: Zack Colman
Sent: 2017-09-28T11:40:39-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline
Received: 2017-09-28T11:40:52-04:00

Oh, and one last thing – regardless of whatever happened with this travel, did an ethics official happen to sign off on it before the flight occurred? Would have had to sign this form:

https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/di-2000_2014_fillable_0.pdf

Thanks!

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Zack Colman
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:38 AM
To: 'Swift, Heather' <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

But, brava, nonetheless. Brava, indeed.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

That's what you think! That's 90 seconds wasted on googling the perfect gif I'm not going to get back.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Sure thing, Heather. I recall meeting you at a Washington Examiner event back in the day when I used to work there – not trying to be a faceless reporter you’ve rarely interacted with. We’re all humans here, ha.

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Thank you, Zack! I REALLY appreciate it. I promise you nobody has asked your line of questioning so I don't expect you to get scooped on anything.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi Heather,

Sorry about all the back and forth here. It’s just that my editor feels we have enough confirmed here through SEC filings, FEC filings, government databases, etc., to put a lot of this together. Given the attention being paid right now to planes and all that stuff, we’re very sensitive to getting jumped by someone else given the weird nature of our publishing time (which, as a constantly nervous reporter, might be a little understandable, hopefully).

Ultimately, we can give you until 6 a.m. tomorrow at the absolute latest – that’s when everything gets through the system en route to publishing. I was hoping to get something by late afternoon to ensure I had all I needed before I started writing, but it is what it is, I can hold off. I’ve had enough good relationships with comms staff in this administration and the last and try to do everyone a solid by not writing before I have all the facts – too often people already have the story written

before they even reach out. That's not the case here, seriously.

Sorry to have been a little snippy earlier. I think if you ask around that most people find me to be a fair reporter, and I hope you understand some of the constraints under which I'm operating. I know you have your own constraints, so this is the olive branch.

Thanks,
-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>; Noelle Straub <nstraub@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Your request is not the only thing I'm working on today, Zack. I have multiple requests from EE alone and an entire national press corps I also work with. I'd appreciate some flexibility on your deadline.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Heather – I can do by 4 pm today. I think that is a reasonable amount of time considering I sent the request at the start of the business day.

-Zack

--

Zack Colman
E&E News
White House correspondent
c: 248-563-9744
o: 202-446-0408
twitter: @zcolman

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net>
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Zinke chartered flight - 3:30p ET deadline

Hey Zack, I might need a little more time to track this down. Can you do by 10 tomorrow?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:16 AM, Zack Colman <zcolman@eenews.net> wrote:
Hi there,

Zack Colman here, White House correspondent with E&E News. Hope this finds you well.

Had some questions about Sec. Zinke's June 26 flight from Las Vegas to Kalispell, Mont. Was wondering who paid for that and how much it cost. Also, who else was on the plane?

I thought it was worth asking since the plane is owned by Jay Nielson, a board member of the Yellowstone Recreations Fund and former executive in Nielson & Associates, an oil and gas drilling business that, along with Wyoming based Iron Creek Energy, sold to Texas based drillers Legacy LP. He's the son of James Nielson, the scion of a oil and gas drilling business (started by Glenn Nielson) who has donated more than \$100,000 to Republican candidates and campaign committees, who owns a company (Y Tex) with 10s of thousands of government contracts and who owns a ski resort in an area that as recently as 2011 was being considered for additional wildlife protection by the Interior Department (Sleeping Giant).

All that said what is Mr. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?

Sec. Zinke also appears to have spoken to Bill Foley's NHL hockey team in Las Vegas before jumping aboard this chartered flight. What was the nature of that visit, and how did it affect his ability to avoid needing to take a chartered flight? Were other commercial flights available that would have gotten Sec. Zinke to Kalispell?

So, to clarify:

1. Who paid for Sec. Zinke's flight from Las Vegas to Whitefish?
2. How much did that flight cost?
3. Who was on the flight?
4. What is Sec. Zinke's relationship to the Nielsons?
5. What was the nature of Sec. Zinke's visit to the Golden Knights development camp and how did that affect his ability to get a commercial flight to Kalispell?
6. Were there other commercial flights available that Sec. Zinke could have made?

I have a 3:30 pm deadline. Please let me know if you have any responses by then.

Thanks,

Zack

To: kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov[kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: scott.angelle@bsee.gov[scott.angelle@bsee.gov]; tbaptiste@blm.gov[tbaptiste@blm.gov];
christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov[christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov];
preston.beard@bsee.gov[preston.beard@bsee.gov]; kbenedetto@blm.gov[kbenedetto@blm.gov];
(b)(6)-David Bernh... d Bernhardt (b)(6)-David Bernh... d Bernhardt ;
caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov];
wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov[wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov];
scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov[scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov];
joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov[joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov];
james_cason@ios.doi.gov[james_cason@ios.doi.gov];
micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov];
gavin.clarkson@bia.gov[gavin.clarkson@bia.gov];
marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov[marshall_critchfield@ios.doi.gov];
natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov[natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov]; ldavis@osmre.gov[ldavis@osmre.gov];
blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov[blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov];
Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov[Vincent_DeVito@ios.doi.gov];
doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov[doug_domenech@ios.doi.gov];
william_dove@ios.doi.gov[william_dove@ios.doi.gov];
austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov[austin_ewell@ios.doi.gov];
jason_funes@ios.doi.gov[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]; leila_getto@ios.doi.gov[leila_getto@ios.doi.gov];
richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov[richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov];
casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov[casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov];
alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov[alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov];
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daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov[daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov];
amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov[amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov];
gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov[gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov];
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov];
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eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov[eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov];
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ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov[ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov]; brian_pavlik@nps.gov[brian_pavlik@nps.gov];
brendan_quinn@ios.doi.gov[brendan_quinn@ios.doi.gov];
elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov[elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov];
Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov[Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov];
russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov[russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov];
james.schindler@boem.gov[james.schindler@boem.gov];
Greg_J_Sheehan@fws.gov[Greg_J_Sheehan@fws.gov];
aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov];
lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov[lacey_smethers@ios.doi.gov];
steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov[steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov];
christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov[christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov];
heather_swift@ios.doi.gov[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; john.tahsuda@bia.gov[john.tahsuda@bia.gov];
aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov[aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov];
andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov];
stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov[stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov];
todd_willens@ios.doi.gov[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov];
timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov[timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov]; cyounger@blm.gov[cyounger@blm.gov]
From: Natalie Davis (via Google Sheets)
Sent: 2017-09-28T10:42:44-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Politicals- Contact Info - Invitation to edit
Received: 2017-09-28T10:42:55-04:00

natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:

Politics- Contact Info

Hi all,

Over the past couple weeks, some politicals have moved offices and may have changed their phone numbers/assistants/etc.

When you have a moment, can you check your info and make sure it is up to date?

Thanks!

[Open in Sheets](#)

Google Sheets: Create and edit spreadsheets online.

Google Inc. 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because someone shared a spreadsheet with you from Google Sheets.

To: Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T10:44:51-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Wash Post inquiry
Received: 2017-09-28T10:45:57-04:00

Dan, below is a rather extensive inquiry I received from Washington Post regarding the secretary's travel. Can you please give me a quick call? I have one question. (b)(6)

- OVERALL questions
- How many flights has Sec. Zinke taken on government or charter jets? Can you please provide the aircraft manifest, type of plane, destinations, dates of use, purpose, cost of the trip and source of payment for the trips?
- On what trips did Sec. Zinke's wife Lola and/or other members of Sec. Zinke's family join?
- The calendar says that spouses attended a cultural briefing with local reindeer herders on May 26 in Norway. Was Lola Zinke one of the spouses?
- Did Sec. Zinke take steps to limit the costs of his travel? If so, what were they?
- Virgin Islands
 - What was the official purpose of the U.S. Virgin Islands trip during Zinke's first month as Interior secretary?
 - What was the cost of the trip?
 - Did Sec. Zinke's wife Lola attend?
 - While some flights appear to be commercial, others are not shown, including multiple flights on March 31. Can you please provide the manifest, type of plane, cost of the trip and source of payment for the trips?
- Big Sky event
 - Sec. Zinke was in Big Sky in March 17-19, the same time Sen. Daines hosted a "weekend in the Montana mountains" benefiting the Daines Big Sky Committee. He attended multiple Daines receptions and stayed the night at Daines' home. A fundraiser flyer says requested contributions were \$3,000 for PACs, \$1,500 for personal.
 - What was the policy purpose of this trip?
 - Was this a political trip?
 - Who paid for Zinke's travel to the political events?
- Atlanta
 - What was the purpose of Sec. Zinke's trip to the NRA Institute for Legislative Action event in Atlanta on April 28? Was this a political event? What was the cost of flying on Air Force One, and did the DOI reimburse any other agencies for the seats of Sec. Zinke, Lola Zinke or his staff?
- April 12-20
 - During the trip, Sec. Zinke spoke at the Reagan Center in Santa Barbara and campaigned for Greg Gianforte. Was this a political trip? What was the cost for this trip, and who covered the expenses?
 - On April 15 and 16, Sec. Zinke was in Santa Barabra, including a meeting with former Congressman Bob Lagomarsino. What was the meeting about? Did these home trips entail personal or official use? The items don't say that it was "personal travel" or "paid for personally" - was it?
 - On April 17, Sec. Zinke went to the Reagan Ranch Center and met the vice president of the Young America's Foundation. What was the official policy purpose of this trip? What was the cost for this trip, and who covered the expenses?
- May 5-13: Montana, Utah, California, Montana
 - What was the official policy purpose of Sec. Zinke's trip on May 5-13?
 - During the trip, Sec. Zinke gave keynote remarks to the RNC Spring Meeting Dinner and attended a rally for Greg Gianforte. Was this a political trip? What was the cost for this trip,

- and who covered the expenses?
- On May 8 and May 9, Sec. Zinke traveled in a B200 Turboprop 8-passenger plane, the calendar states. Can you please provide the manifest, cost of the trip, owner of the jet and source of payment for the trips?
 - Sec. Zinke spent that weekend at home in Kalispell, Montana. He then flew to Dulles and home on Monday. Federal regulations say employees' official travel should by no means include personal use. Did these home trips entail personal use?
 - May 25-June 2: Norway, Greenland, Alaska, Idaho
 - What was the official purpose of this trip?
 - Sec. Zinke attended a reception for Rep. Don Young at Sullivan's Steakhouse. Was this a political trip? What was the cost for this trip, and who covered the expenses?
 - Sec. Zinke flew from Boise to L.A. on June 2. The June 3 and 4 dates say "Personal travel // Paid for personally" in Santa Barbara. What did Sec. Zinke pay for? How much did he pay? At what rate did he pay for the travel personally? What aircraft did he fly on? What was the total cost to government?
 - June 25-28: Nevada, Montana
 - On June 25, Sec. Zinke attended the Rule of Law Defense Fund Reception & Dinner, where he sat at a dinner table with leaders of the casino industry, the NRA, the Chamber of Commerce and Koch Industries. What was the policy purpose of Sec. Zinke's attendance? Was this a political event?
 - On June 26, Sec. Zinke flew from Las Vegas to Kalispell on a private plane tied to a Republican donor. Can you please provide the aircraft manifest, purpose, cost of the trip and source of payment for the trips? It appears Sec. Zinke spent the night afterward at his home in Whitefish; is that correct, and wouldn't that convey personal use?
 - July 20-22: Colorado
 - On July 20, Sec. Zinke gave remarks in Denver at the American Legislative Exchange Council. He also attended a Colorado Republican Committee roundtable and gave remarks at the Western Conservative Summit.
 - What was the official policy purpose of these trips? Were these trips political or personal? What were Sec. Zinke's remarks at these trips. What was the cost for this trip, and who covered the expenses?

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Anthony Adragna[aadragna@politico.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T10:41:25-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CORRECTION - ME
Received: 2017-09-28T10:42:12-04:00

No. David was never a lobbyist for Cadiz. I'm checking with him on if he provided legal services for that specific project.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:40 AM, Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com> wrote:

Is his disclosure incorrect then?

Under Section 4 — Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year — Number 16 is Cadiz Inc. for "legal services."

<https://www.politicopro.com/f/?id=0000015b-f3e9-de0a-a15f-fff92f3d0001>

--

Anthony Adragna
Energy Reporter
POLITICO
Cell: 571-351-0749
Desk: 703-647-8563
aadragna@politico.com
[@AnthonyAdragna](https://twitter.com/AnthonyAdragna)

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10:29 AM
To: Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com>
Subject: Re: CORRECTION - ME

Cadiz has never been a client of his.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:29 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I don't think that's true.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 10:27 AM, Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com> wrote:

Ok. We'll update to say he did legal work on the project. Thanks for flagging.

--

Anthony Adragna
Energy Reporter
POLITICO
Cell: 571-351-0749
Desk: 703-647-8563
aadragna@politico.com
@AnthonyAdragna

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 9:47 AM

To: Anthony Adragna <aadragna@politico.com>

Subject: CORRECTION - ME

Hey Anthony - the blurb below incorrectly states Bernhardt was a lobbyist for Cadiz... He was never a lobbyist for Cadiz.

CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ: The Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC[Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:24:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: heads up
Received: 2017-09-28T15:25:32-04:00

Hey Michawn, just wanted to give you a heads up I am mentioning Sec. Purdue in a press inquiry. I was asked about Secretary Zinke's use of military air assets and will list the joint trip.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:26:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: heads up
Received: 2017-09-28T15:26:59-04:00

Sounds good. We did the same re Montana.

Thanks,
Michawn

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 3:25 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hey Michawn, just wanted to give you a heads up I am mentioning Sec. Purdue in a press inquiry. I was asked about Secretary Zinke's use of military air assets and will list the joint trip.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Marsh, Rene[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Levitt, Ross[Ross.Levitt@turner.com]; Wallace, Gregory[gregory.wallace@turner.com]
From: Marsh, Rene
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:14:15-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T15:14:30-04:00

Thank you Heather

— René Marsh
CNN
Correspondent
Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN
Office: 202- 777-7249

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 2:13 PM
To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>
Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>
Subject: Re: CNN

I don't have that information immediately available. Will put a request in.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 2:09 PM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Thank you Heather.

What type of aircraft were these private planes? What was the cost for these trips that came out of the DOI budget?

Thank you
— René Marsh
CNN
Correspondent
Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 2:05 PM
To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>
Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>
Subject: Re: CNN

Rene - also want to add on the Alaska portion that was part of the CODEL arranged by Senate ENR.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:17 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:56 AM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks Heather.

What type of planes were these charter flights? Can you please check and confirm?

We are also looking to get a better understanding about why commercial flights were listed as not an option for the 5/17 trip?

There was no commercial flight available for the route/schedule. Getting around in the Arctic Circle is not like catching a flight out of Washington, D.C.

For the 6/26 trip what were the times of his commitment?

What time were the events scheduled for in Nevada? What time was the speaking engagement scheduled for the next morning in Montana?

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CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

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Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 11:31 AM

To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>

Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>

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To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC[Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T15:37:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: heads up
Received: 2017-09-28T15:38:33-04:00

do you recall if that was considered a white house mission trip

-

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Department of the Interior
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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
<Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov> wrote:

Sounds good. We did the same re Montana.
Thanks,
Michawn

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 3:25 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hey Michawn, just wanted to give you a heads up I am mentioning Sec. Purdue in a press inquiry. I was asked about Secretary Zinke's use of military air assets and will list the joint trip.

-

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From: 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press
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From: Swift, Heather
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Sent: 2017-09-28T14:09:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T14:09:53-04:00

Thank you Heather.

What type of aircraft were these private planes? What was the cost for these trips that came out of the DOI budget?

Thank you
— René Marsh
CNN
Correspondent
Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN
Office: 202- 777-7249

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 2:05 PM
To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>
Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>
Subject: Re: CNN

Rene - also want to add on the Alaska portion that was part of the CODEL arranged by Senate ENR.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:17 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:56 AM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press

<interior_press@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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There was no commercial flight available for the route/schedule. Getting around in the Arctic Circle is not like catching a flight out of Washington, D.C.

For the 6/26 trip what were the times of his commitment?

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The event ended around 8:00PM in NV. He arrived in MT around 2:00AM and the Secretary had meetings with governors and public lands advocates the following morning beginning at 8:45AM. The Western Governors Association - led by a Democratic governor - invited the Secretary to speak.

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Yes - the Secretary flew to Nevada and the USVI on a commercial, coach, government fare. He got to Alaska by way of the CODEL which was arranged by the Senate. He left Alaska on a commercial, coach, government fare.

Thank you,

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CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 11:31 AM

To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>

Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>

Subject: Re: CNN

I sent this to Hannah Lang.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Also attending the ceremonies were the Danish Prime Minister and Governor Mapp.

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland with additional stops in Alaska
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a

charter.

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

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6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting. The Secretary had two speaking engagements, in the evening in Nevada and in the morning in Montana.

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CNN

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We do it here too.

Heather Swift

Press Secretary

Department of the Interior

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<interior_press@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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> Correspondent

> Twitter: @Rene MarshCNN

> Office: 202- 777-7249

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From: Marsh, Rene
Sent: 2017-09-28T14:09:17-04:00
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Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T14:10:50-04:00

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>> Rene Marsh

>> CNN

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>> Sent from my iPhone

>

>

To: 'Swift, Heather'[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: Rein, Lisa
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:13:24-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: hi Heather
Received: 2017-09-28T13:13:36-04:00

Hi Heather

Take until COB Friday that is fine, I know it's a lot of q's.

Would be happy if you have any insight to share about former secretaries' travel, yes. And of course, travel is a huge part of the job.. What's interesting about Sec Zinke's is that he also is at a fair number of political events as well....

Many thanks

From: Swift, Heather [mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Rein, Lisa <Lisa.Rein@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: hi Heather

Lisa, I'm crashing on your questions but will need more time than COB today so expect them tomorrow.

Are you looking into previous Secretary's travel as well? As you noted, Interior secretaries travel a lot, so I want to make sure the piece is framed in that light. We have tens of thousands of staff based at over a thousand locations across 12 time zones.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 3:18 PM, Rein, Lisa <Lisa.Rein@washpost.com> wrote:

Sorry for the delay. I was going to do the firing story, which I found really interesting, but Darryl put it into the piece yesterday on the secretary's comments at the event Monday. I might have framed it differently, as in here's an agency that is really taking misconduct seriously.. but so be it. I am definitely interested in this misconduct stuff.

So-It's a legitimate question and yes we are trying to learn more about all Cabinet secretaries' travel priorities and patterns in the wake of the Price stuff. In the meantime, though, we are considering a separate story on Sec Zinke, in part because we have more information about his travel given that Interior secretaries do a fair amount of travel.

Lisa Rein
Staff Reporter
Washington Post
202-334-5190
Cell 202-821-3120

@Reinwapo

[Send me a confidential tip](#)

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.[MShuman@legion.org]
From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:16:37-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke
Received: 2017-09-28T13:16:52-04:00

Thank you so much for the quick reply. I happen to be in DC October 16-17. If it fits Secretary Zinke's schedule, I could arrange to meet anytime Monday the 16th or first thing in the morning on the 17th. If those dates don't work, no worries, we can work out another time.

Thanks again.

Cheers,

Henry

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

Hello Henry - thanks for reaching out. The Secretary is traveling this week and next but will work on getting this on his schedule. Thanks again!

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:29 AM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Good morning, Ms. Swift.

I am circling back to see if Secretary Zinke has some availability for an interview with American Legion Magazine. As the nation's largest veterans service organization, we'd love to share his story with his fellow Legion members and veterans.

I'd be happy to share the questions in advance.

Please let me know if you need additional information from me and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Henry

Henry Howard

Deputy Director

Media and Communications

The American Legion

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 8:52 AM

To: Howard, Henry J.

Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.

Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

Hello, Mr. Howard. Thank you for your follow-up note. Secretary Zinke has only been in office for two days, and I'm sure you can imagine, he has many pressing matters on his schedule.

We will be in touch when he has availability.

Thank you for your continued interest,

Heather Swift

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 8:47 AM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Good morning, Ms. Swift.

I thought I would circle back to this to see about the best way to proceed with this request. Please let me know if you need additional information from me.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Henry

From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:20 PM
To: 'Thiele, Aaron'
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Thank you for the introduction, Aaron.

Ms. Swift, I represent The American Legion's Media and Communications Division. As the largest veterans service organization, we regularly profile our members for our national magazine, which goes out to our more than 2 million members monthly. Even better: It's a dedicated audience of veterans. Independent audits have shown that American Legion Magazine ranks first among 179 U.S. publications in terms of reader frequency.

We'd like to include Secretary Zinke in an upcoming edition. Please let me know what would be some good next steps to proceed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Henry,

Heather Swift is the press secretary at DOI. Now that the Secretary has been confirmed and resigned his house seat she will be the best point of contact to try and make this work.

Best,
Aaron

Aaron Thiele

Senior Legislative Assistant
1419 Longworth HOB | 202-225-3211 |

From: Howard, Henry J. [mailto:HHoward@legion.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Thiele, Aaron
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Hi Aaron,

Now that Mr. Zinke has been confirmed – and I am thinking about this – I thought I would circle back to this interview request for American Legion Magazine. What would be the best way to proceed to set something up? I am available to travel to DC when convenient.

Thanks!
Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 8:23 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

I'm sure that would be good. I'll get the doi emails for his scheduler and comms director at doi and I'm sure it wouldn't be any trouble to arrange something.

On Jan 23, 2017, at 6:00 PM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Agreed, we can certainly wait until he is confirmed. Why don't we agree to touch base again afterward?

Thanks again,
Henry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2017, at 5:15 PM, Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org> wrote:

Aaron,
Thanks for getting back to us so quickly. I think Henry would be happy to set that up, as I am sure we are expecting to see his confirmation in the coming days/weeks.

Matthew J. Shuman

Director
Legislative Division
The American Legion
O: 202-263-5755
C: 202-304-8428
@LegionInDC

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 5:14 PM

To: Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org>; Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org>

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Henry/Matthew

So the Congressman is still not doing any interviews until after his confirmation. With that said, I know Congressman Zinke would be more happy to try and set up an interview after his confirmation.

Sorry about that.

Aaron

From: Howard, Henry J. [<mailto:HHoward@legion.org>]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 3:50 PM

To: Thiele, Aaron; Shuman, Matthew J.

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Great, Aaron! Thanks for your quick response.

As you probably know, Mr. Zinke is a member of the Legion and we'd like to feature his story – military and public service life to our 2+ million readers. Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Cheers,
Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 3:01 PM

To: Shuman, Matthew J.; Howard, Henry J.

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Hey Matt,

Henry, it's great to meet you. I'd be happy to check into this, I'm not sure if he is doing

interviews (per transition request) or if it was only regarding DOI issues.
But I'll talk to some folks and see if we can work something out.

Best,
Aaron

From: Shuman, Matthew J. [mailto:MShuman@legion.org]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 2:44 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.; Thiele, Aaron
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Aaron,
Happy Monday! I hope this email finds you well. Please allow me to introduce you to Henry Howard, our Deputy Director in The American Legion's Medial and Communication Division. Henry is working on an idea (read below) that involves your boss. You know I am a HUGE fan of Mr. Zinke, and anything I can do to incorporate him into the Legion, I am going to do.

I realize your office is going through some transition right now, but Henry and I would love to get this moving.

Thanks, Aaron!

Matthew J. Shuman

Director
Legislative Division
The American Legion
O: 202-263-5755
C: 202-304-8428
@LegionInDC

From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org>
Subject: Ryan Zinke

Hi Matthew,

I'm heading to Iowa tomorrow to interview Legionnaire and ambassador to China nominee Terry Branstad. I thought it also would be wise to set up an interview with Ryan Zinke, Legionnaire and of course Interior secretary nominee.

Is that something you could help coordinate?

Thanks!
Henry

Henry Howard
Deputy Director
Media and Communications
Phone 317.630.1289

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: David Bernhardt
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:19:31-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Help
Received: 2017-09-28T12:19:39-04:00

I did a modest amount of legal services for them but it was never registered lobbying.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 8:30 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

was Cadiz ever a client?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:18 AM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Will do

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Sep 28, 2017, at 9:17 AM, David Bernhardt < [\(b\)\(6\) David Bernhardt](mailto:(b)(6) David Bernhardt) > wrote:

Heather: This article is false. I was never a lobbyist for Cadiz. I want a correction.

CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ: The Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said

Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

Sent from my iPhone

To: Howard, Henry J.[HHoward@legion.org]
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.[MShuman@legion.org]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:18:18-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke
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I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry

From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:20 PM
To: 'Thiele, Aaron'
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Thank you for the introduction, Aaron.

Ms. Swift, I represent The American Legion's Media and Communications Division. As the largest veterans service organization, we regularly profile our members for our national magazine, which goes out to our more than 2 million members monthly. Even better: It's a dedicated audience of veterans. Independent audits have shown that American Legion Magazine ranks first among 179 U.S. publications in terms of reader frequency.

We'd like to include Secretary Zinke in an upcoming edition. Please let me know what would be some good next steps to proceed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Henry

From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Henry,

Heather Swift is the press secretary at DOI. Now that the Secretary has been confirmed and resigned his house seat she will be the best point of contact to try and make this work.

Best,

Aaron

Aaron Thiele

Senior Legislative Assistant

1419 Longworth HOB | 202-225-3211 |

From: Howard, Henry J. [<mailto:HHoward@legion.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:51 PM

To: Thiele, Aaron

Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Hi Aaron,

Now that Mr. Zinke has been confirmed – and I am thinking about this – I thought I would circle back to this interview request for American Legion Magazine. What would be the best way to proceed to set something up? I am available to travel to DC when convenient.

Thanks!

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From: Thiele, Aaron [<mailto:Aaron.Thiele@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 8:23 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

I'm sure that would be good. I'll get the doi emails for his scheduler and comms director at doi and I'm sure it wouldn't be any trouble to arrange something.

On Jan 23, 2017, at 6:00 PM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Agreed, we can certainly wait until he is confirmed. Why don't we agree to touch base again afterward?

Thanks again,

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Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2017, at 5:15 PM, Shuman, Matthew J. <MShuman@legion.org> wrote:

Aaron,

Thanks for getting back to us so quickly. I think Henry would be happy to set that up, as I am sure we are expecting to see his confirmation in the coming days/weeks.

Matthew J. Shuman

Director

Legislative Division

The American Legion

O: 202-263-5755

C: 202-304-8428

@LegionInDC

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Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Henry/Matthew

So the Congressman is still not doing any interviews until after his confirmation. With that said, I know Congressman Zinke would be more happy to try and set up an interview after his confirmation.

Sorry about that.

Aaron

From: Howard, Henry J. [<mailto:HHoward@legion.org>]

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To: Thiele, Aaron; Shuman, Matthew J.

Subject: RE: Ryan Zinke

Great, Aaron! Thanks for your quick response.

As you probably know, Mr. Zinke is a member of the Legion and we'd like to feature his story – military and public service life to our 2+ million readers. Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Cheers,

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Hey Matt,

Henry, it's great to meet you. I'd be happy to check into this, I'm not sure if he is doing interviews (per transition request) or if it was only regarding DOI issues. But I'll talk to some folks and see if we can work something out.

Best,

Aaron

From: Shuman, Matthew J. [<mailto:MShuman@legion.org>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 2:44 PM
To: Howard, Henry J.; Thiele, Aaron
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Aaron,

Happy Monday! I hope this email finds you well. Please allow me to introduce you to Henry Howard, our Deputy Director in The American Legion's Medial and Communication Division. Henry is working on an idea (read below) that involves your boss. You know I am a HUGE fan of Mr. Zinke, and anything

I can do to incorporate him into the Legion, I am going to do.

I realize your office is going through some transition right now, but Henry and I would love to get this moving.

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Is that something you could help coordinate?

Thanks!

Henry

Henry Howard

Deputy Director

Media and Communications

Phone 317.630.1289

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To: Marsh, Rene[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Levitt, Ross[Ross.Levitt@turner.com]; Wallace, Gregory[gregory.wallace@turner.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:17:30-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T12:18:17-04:00

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 11:56 AM, 'Marsh, Rene' via Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks Heather.

What type of planes were these charter flights? Can you please check and confirm?

We are also looking to get a better understanding about why commercial flights were listed as not an option for the 5/17 trip?

There was no commercial flight available for the route/schedule. Getting around in the Arctic Circle is not like catching a flight out of Washington, D.C.

For the 6/26 trip what were the times of his commitment?

What time were the events scheduled for in Nevada? What time was the speaking engagement scheduled for the next morning in Montana?

The event ended around 8:00PM in NV. He arrived in MT around 2:00AM and the Secretary had meetings with governors and public lands advocates the following morning beginning at 8:45AM. The Western Governors Association - led by a Democratic governor - invited the Secretary to speak.

Is it safe to assume the secretary flew commercial from Washington D.C. to places like Vegas, Alaska and St. Croix before boarding the private flights in those places?

Yes - the Secretary flew to Nevada and the USVI on a commercial, coach, government fare. He got to Alaska by way of the CODEL which was arranged by the Senate. He left Alaska on a commercial, coach, government fare.

Thank you,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 11:31 AM
To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>
Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>
Subject: Re: CNN

I sent this to Hannah Lang.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Also attending the ceremonies were the Danish Prime Minister and Governor Mapp.

Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix

Reason: No commercial flight were available

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland with additional stops in Alaska

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The Committee organized and utilized a

charter.

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks

Reason: Commercial flights were not an option

Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.

The Secretary had two speaking engagements, in the evening in Nevada and in the morning in Montana.

Flight Plan: Las Vegas --> Kalispell

Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and necessary staff to the event on time.

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The Secretary took a military jet once with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue after he was invited by USDA to attend a briefing at a wildfire camp in Montana. The fire was one of the most high-priority in the country and a firefighter had died battling the blaze earlier in the summer. (The two departments co-manage wildfire fighting efforts for the federal government.)

The Secretary also travels military jet when he travels with POTUS or VPOTUS. There have been three such trips to Cincinnati, West Virginia, and Atlanta.

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior Press@ios.doi.gov

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Morning Heather,

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We are looking to find out has the Secretary chartered private planes for his travels while in office? Government/military planes during his time in office? How many times? Was commercial considered as the first option? Justification for flying private?

Thank you,
Rene Marsh
CNN

On 9/22/17, 12:53 PM, "Heather Swift" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

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>

> Apologies. That's annoying on our part. Sorry we are doubling up. Will check with them and circle back if there are any outstanding questions.

>

> — René Marsh

> CNN

> Correspondent

> Twitter: @Rene MarshCNN

> Office: 202- 777-7249

>

>

> On 9/22/17, 12:43 PM, "Heather Swift" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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>

> Heather Swift
> Press Secretary
> Department of the Interior

>

>

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<interior_press@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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>>

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>> CNN

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

>

To: David Bernhardt (b)(6)-David Bernhardt
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T12:20:41-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Help
Received: 2017-09-28T12:21:27-04:00

TY

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:19 PM, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) David Bernhardt > wrote:

I did a modest amount of legal services for them but it was never registered lobbying.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 8:30 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

was Cadiz ever a client?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:18 AM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Will do

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Sep 28, 2017, at 9:17 AM, David Bernhardt <(b)(6) David Bernhardt > wrote:

Heather: This article is false. I was never a lobbyist for Cadiz. I want a correction.

CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ: The

Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

Sent from my iPhone

To: Marsh, Rene[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Levitt, Ross[Ross.Levitt@turner.com]; Wallace, Gregory[gregory.wallace@turner.com]
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T11:31:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T11:31:58-04:00

I sent this to Hannah Lang.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

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> Twitter: @Rene MarshCNN

> Office: 202- 777-7249

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To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.[MShuman@legion.org]
From: Howard, Henry J.
Sent: 2017-09-28T11:29:41-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke
Received: 2017-09-28T11:30:52-04:00

Good morning, Ms. Swift.

I am circling back to see if Secretary Zinke has some availability for an interview with American Legion Magazine. As the nation's largest veterans service organization, we'd love to share his story with his fellow Legion members and veterans.

I'd be happy to share the questions in advance.

Please let me know if you need additional information from me and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Henry

Henry Howard

Deputy Director

Media and Communications

The American Legion

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Howard, Henry J.
Cc: Shuman, Matthew J.
Subject: Re: Ryan Zinke

Hello, Mr. Howard. Thank you for your follow-up note. Secretary Zinke has only been in office for two days, and I'm sure you can imagine, he has many pressing matters on his schedule. We will be in touch when he has availability.
Thank you for your continued interest,
Heather Swift

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 8:47 AM, Howard, Henry J. <HHoward@legion.org> wrote:

Good morning, Ms. Swift.

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Sorry about that.

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Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Levitt, Ross[Ross.Levitt@turner.com]; Wallace, Gregory[gregory.wallace@turner.com]
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Sent: 2017-09-28T11:56:37-04:00
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Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T11:56:57-04:00

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Reason: No commercial flight available to get the Secretary and necessary staff to the event on
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Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget

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There have been three such trips to Cincinnati, West Virginia, and Atlanta.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Morning Heather,

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To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Marsh, Rene[Rene.Marsh@cnn.com]
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov[interior_press@ios.doi.gov]; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Levitt, Ross[Ross.Levitt@turner.com]; Wallace, Gregory[gregory.wallace@turner.com]
From: Marsh, Rene
Sent: 2017-09-28T11:56:37-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T11:56:48-04:00

Thanks Heather.

What type of planes were these charter flights? Can you please check and confirm?

We are also looking to get a better understanding about why commercial flights were listed as not an option for the 5/17 trip?

For the 6/26 trip what were the times of his commitment?

What time were the events scheduled for in Nevada? What time was the speaking engagement scheduled for the next morning in Montana?

Is it safe to assume the secretary flew commercial from Washington D.C. to places like Vegas, Alaska and St. Croix before boarding the private flights in those places?

Thank you,

— René Marsh

CNN

Correspondent

Twitter: @Rene_MarshCNN

Office: 202- 777-7249

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 11:31 AM
To: "Marsh, Rene" <Rene.Marsh@cnn.com>
Cc: "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, "russell_newell@ios.doi.gov" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Levitt, Ross" <Ross.Levitt@turner.com>, Gregory Wallace <gregory.wallace@turner.com>
Subject: Re: CNN

I sent this to Hannah Lang.

Three Charter Flights

3/31

Trip: USVI Centennial Transfer Day Ceremony (The 100 year anniversary of the Danish government turning over the Virgin Islands to the United States. DOI has jurisdiction over territories)

Also attending the ceremonies were the Danish Prime Minister and Governor Mapp.
Flight Plan: St Croix --> St Thomas --> St Croix
Reason: No commercial flight were available
Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

5/17

Trip: CODEL to Norway and Greenland with additional stops in Alaska
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee organized the Arctic CODEL. The
Committee organized and utilized a

charter.

Flight Plan: Deadhorse, AK --> Alpine, AK --> Fairbanks
Reason: Commercial flights were not an option
Payment: the Secretary and staff tickets were paid out of the DOI budget.

6/26

Las Vegas to Kalispell, MT for the Western Governors Association annual meeting.
The Secretary had two speaking engagements, in the evening in Nevada and in the morning in
Montana.

Flight Plan: Las Vegas --> Kalispell

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From: Marsh, Rene
Sent: 2017-09-28T11:20:50-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: CNN
Received: 2017-09-28T11:21:03-04:00

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To: David Bernhardt [REDACTED] Magallanes,
Downey[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov]; James
Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Rigas,
Laura[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]
From: MacGregor, Katharine
Sent: 2017-09-28T10:40:30-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: V+F
Received: 2017-09-28T10:40:37-04:00

Hey Folks - I just signed off on the FRN for the V+F compliance date push. It will push upcoming compliance dates in the rule from January 2018 to January 2019. This does not hold back our ongoing efforts to put out a fully revised V+F rule. I'm awaiting for next steps from Exec Sec on when it will be available in the reading room and when it will publish. Of note, OMB and EPA accepted many of our comments. I've asked BLM to put together some specifics for comms so they can be prepared. It looks like it will be something the Secretary can announce in his speech tomorrow. Again - this is just the first step with this rule.
-K

--

Kate MacGregor
Acting Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C ST NW
Room 6625
Washington DC 20240
202 208 3671 (Direct)

To: Todd Willens[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Amy Holley[Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov]; Andrea Travnicek[andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]; Aurelia Skipwith[aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov]; Cally Younger[cyounger@blm.gov]; Caminiti, Mariagrazia[Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov]; Catherine Gulac[Catherine_Gulac@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b)(6)-David Bernhardt]; Douglas Domenech[douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Edward Keable[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov]; Elinor Renner[elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tahsuda[john.tahsuda@bia.gov]; Juliette Lillie[juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov]; Katharine Macgregor[katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Kathleen Benedetto[kbenedetto@blm.gov]; Kerry Rae[kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov]; Kevin Haugrud[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov]; Maureen Foster[maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Michael Black[mike.black@bia.gov]; Nikolao Pula[Nikolao_Pula@ios.doi.gov]; Richard Cardinale[Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Cameron[scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Timothy Williams[Timothy_Williams@ios.doi.gov]; Vincent Devito[vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov]

From: Rees, Gareth

Sent: 2017-09-28T16:26:28-04:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Weekly Report to the Secretary - September 28, 2017

Received: 2017-09-28T16:26:37-04:00

[Weekly Report to the Secretary 092817.docx](#)

Good Afternoon All,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

--

Gareth C. Rees

Office to the Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 202 208 6291

Fax: 202 208 1873

Cell: 202 957 8299

Weekly Report to the Secretary 09/28/17

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: David Bernhardt
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:36:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FYI - Interior set to overhaul sage grouse plans
Received: 2017-09-28T16:36:24-04:00

Ok we can talk when you get back

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 3:28 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks - I would love to talk about this. I won't be in the office until after the Secretary's speech at Heritage. Can talk on the phone though.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES

Interior set to overhaul sage grouse plans

Scott Streater, E&E News reporter
Published: Thursday, September 28, 2017

The Trump administration is ready to fundamentally change greater sage grouse conservation plans covering millions of acres in 10 Western states.

The Interior Department as early as tomorrow plans to publish a *Federal Register* notice reopening the federal grouse plans finalized in September 2015, including the possible revision of amendments to 98 Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land use plans that formed the backbone of the conservation blueprint for the bird.

The move was first reported in *The New York Times*, which quoted state leaders saying Interior officials told them during a conference call this week that they planned to pursue amendments to the plan. Without providing details, the newspaper reported that publication of the notice will kick off a 45-day public comment period during which anyone can suggest changes to the plans.

Amending dozens of BLM resource management plans and Forest Service land use plans would require extensive environmental analysis and public comment that would likely take years to complete.

Representatives of Interior and BLM didn't respond to requests for more information on the planned *Register* notice or changes to the federal grouse plans, which have been sharply criticized by some state leaders, the oil and gas and mining industries, and congressional Republicans.

The decision to reopen the sage grouse plans follows a report recommending changes to the plans from a team of mostly federal regulators who were directed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review the grouse plans.

The review team's report to Zinke last month recommended, among other things, the possibility of amending the land use plans that were altered by the grouse plans to incorporate stronger grouse protection measures ([Greenwire](#), Aug. 7).

Specifically, the review team report recommended exploring amending resource management plans "to remove or modify sagebrush focal area designations."

The Obama-era grouse plans designated 10 million acres of sagebrush focal areas in six Western states. They are considered the most critical grouse habitat and are described as "essential for the species' survival."

Environmental groups today said reopening the plans would be a major step back in a collaborative process spanning years that produced grouse conservation plans strong enough to convince the Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the bird for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

But Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, said the industry trade groups is "pleased that BLM is moving forward with amending the plans."

Sgamma said the process to develop the Obama-era blueprint was based on "an elaborate facade of cooperation" and that they "were not done in a truly collaborative fashion."

Zinke had already issued a memo directing BLM to take steps to implement the sage grouse review team's recommendations changing the federal plans.

And last week, just two years after the Obama grouse plans had been

finalized, Interior allowed a two-year moratorium on new mining claims within sagebrush focal areas to expire ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 22).

The moratorium was put in place while BLM conducted an environmental impact statement to determine whether all, part or none of the 10 million acres should be withdrawn from new mining claims for 20 years or more in the name of protecting the sage grouse and some of its most important habitat.

That EIS won't be completed until next year. But now, the entire area is open to mining activity.

Environmentalist angst

Conservation groups responded today with a flood of negative comments about the possible amendments to the grouse plans.

"It wasn't broken and it didn't need fixing," National Audubon Society President and CEO David Yarnold said in a statement. "But if you break it, it becomes your legacy and that's not something Zinke's hero, Teddy Roosevelt, would ever have done."

Instead of making changes, "It's time to implement these plans on the ground," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

Any move to fundamentally change the grouse plans ignores the enormous collaborative effort and years of work to devise the plans that are considered perhaps the greatest federal conservation effort in the Interior Department's history, O'Mara and others said.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R), Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) and Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) all supported the plans.

Mead and Hickenlooper sent a letter to Zinke last spring urging him not to make "wholesale changes" to the Obama-era conservation blueprint ([Greenwire](#), May 31).

Both Mead and Sandoval have expressed in recent weeks concerns with aspects of the review team's recommendations.

"Instead of listening to the governors, local leaders, ranchers and others who worked for years on an unparalleled plan to conserve fragile habitat while meeting the needs of communities, Zinke is looking to sell out the sagebrush to his friends in the fossil fuel industry," Tiernan Sittenfeld, the League of Conservation Voters' senior vice president for government affairs, said in a statement.

"This is yet another example of the Trump administration undermining sound management of our public lands," Sittenfeld said.

The Western Values Project released documents last month indicating the grouse plan review team's recommended amendments addressed almost every concern highlighted by the Western Energy Alliance ([E&E News PM](#), Aug. 17).

"These actions put at risk not only sagebrush landscapes but the communities in the rural West whose economies rely on more than just the oil and gas industry," Chris Saeger, executive director of the Western Values Project, said in a statement today.

More than just the health of the sage grouse is at stake, said Nada Culver, senior director of policy and planning at the Wilderness Society.

"Moving forward to cut a broad swath through this landmark conservation effort will risk the important balance that was struck to protect the greater sage grouse and the more than 350 other species these lands support, while also ensuring these iconic landscapes are available to those who value them for work and play," Culver said.

To: David Bernhardt (b)(6)-David Bernhardt
From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:27:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FYI - Interior set to overhaul sage grouse plans
Received: 2017-09-28T16:28:10-04:00

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From: Swift, Heather
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:21:50-04:00
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Subject: FYI - Interior set to overhaul sage grouse plans
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Scott Streater, E&E News reporter

Published: Thursday, September 28, 2017

The Trump administration is ready to fundamentally change greater sage grouse conservation plans covering millions of acres in 10 Western states.

The Interior Department as early as tomorrow plans to publish a *Federal Register* notice reopening the federal grouse plans finalized in September 2015, including the possible revision of amendments to 98 Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land use plans that formed the backbone of the conservation blueprint for the bird.

The move was first reported in *The New York Times*, which quoted state leaders saying Interior officials told them during a conference call this week that they planned to pursue amendments to the plan. Without providing details, the newspaper reported that publication of the notice will kick off a 45-day public comment period during which anyone can suggest changes to the plans.

Amending dozens of BLM resource management plans and Forest Service land use plans would require extensive environmental analysis and public comment that would likely take years to complete.

Representatives of Interior and BLM didn't respond to requests for more information on the planned *Register* notice or changes to the federal grouse plans, which have been sharply criticized by some state leaders, the oil and gas and mining industries, and congressional Republicans.

The decision to reopen the sage grouse plans follows a report recommending changes to the plans from a team of mostly federal regulators who were directed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review the grouse plans.

The review team's report to Zinke last month recommended, among other things, the possibility of amending the land use plans that were altered by the grouse plans to incorporate stronger grouse protection measures ([Greenwire](#), Aug. 7).

Specifically, the review team report recommended exploring amending resource management plans "to remove or modify sagebrush focal area designations."

The Obama-era grouse plans designated 10 million acres of sagebrush focal areas in six Western states. They are considered the most critical grouse habitat and are described as "essential for the species' survival."

Environmental groups today said reopening the plans would be a major step back in a collaborative process spanning years that produced grouse conservation plans strong enough to convince the Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the bird for protection under the Endangered

Species Act.

But Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, said the industry trade groups is "pleased that BLM is moving forward with amending the plans."

Sgamma said the process to develop the Obama-era blueprint was based on "an elaborate facade of cooperation" and that they "were not done in a truly collaborative fashion."

Zinke had already issued a memo directing BLM to take steps to implement the sage grouse review team's recommendations changing the federal plans.

And last week, just two years after the Obama grouse plans had been finalized, Interior allowed a two-year moratorium on new mining claims within sagebrush focal areas to expire ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 22).

The moratorium was put in place while BLM conducted an environmental impact statement to determine whether all, part or none of the 10 million acres should be withdrawn from new mining claims for 20 years or more in the name of protecting the sage grouse and some of its most important habitat.

That EIS won't be completed until next year. But now, the entire area is open to mining activity.

Environmentalist angst

Conservation groups responded today with a flood of negative comments about the possible amendments to the grouse plans.

"It wasn't broken and it didn't need fixing," National Audubon Society President and CEO David Yarnold said in a statement. "But if you break it, it becomes your legacy and that's not something Zinke's hero, Teddy Roosevelt, would ever have done."

Instead of making changes, "It's time to implement these plans on the ground," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

Any move to fundamentally change the grouse plans ignores the enormous collaborative effort and years of work to devise the plans that are considered perhaps the greatest federal conservation effort in the Interior Department's history, O'Mara and others said.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R), Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) and Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) all supported the plans.

Mead and Hickenlooper sent a letter to Zinke last spring urging him not to make "wholesale changes" to the Obama-era conservation blueprint ([Greenwire](#), May 31).

Both Mead and Sandoval have expressed in recent weeks concerns with aspects of the review team's recommendations.

"Instead of listening to the governors, local leaders, ranchers and others who worked for years on an unparalleled plan to conserve fragile habitat while meeting the needs of communities, Zinke is looking to sell out the sagebrush to his friends in the fossil fuel industry," Tiernan Sittenfeld, the League of Conservation Voters' senior vice president for government affairs, said in a statement.

"This is yet another example of the Trump administration undermining sound management of our public lands," Sittenfeld said.

The Western Values Project released documents last month indicating the grouse plan review

team's recommended amendments addressed almost every concern highlighted by the Western Energy Alliance (*E&E News PM*, Aug. 17).

"These actions put at risk not only sagebrush landscapes but the communities in the rural West whose economies rely on more than just the oil and gas industry," Chris Saeger, executive director of the Western Values Project, said in a statement today.

More than just the health of the sage grouse is at stake, said Nada Culver, senior director of policy and planning at the Wilderness Society.

"Moving forward to cut a broad swath through this landmark conservation effort will risk the important balance that was struck to protect the greater sage grouse and the more than 350 other species these lands support, while also ensuring these iconic landscapes are available to those who value them for work and play," Culver said.

To: Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]
From: David Bernhardt
Sent: 2017-09-28T16:24:59-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FYI - Interior set to overhaul sage grouse plans
Received: 2017-09-28T16:25:07-04:00

I want to talk to you about this first thing tomorrow. I think we have a messaging opportunity that could use your creativity and foresight. Nothing is happening with sage grouse this week.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2017, at 3:22 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Interior set to overhaul sage grouse plans

Scott Streater, E&E News reporter

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To: Caroline Boulton[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b)(6)-David Bernhardt]; Douglas Domenech[douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Newell, Russell[russell_newell@ios.doi.gov]
Cc: Natalie Davis[natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mashburn, Lori
Sent: 2017-09-28T13:48:14-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 9/28
Received: 2017-09-28T13:49:05-04:00
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 09-28-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/28/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

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

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

Meeting regarding Shawnee Trust

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Santa Fe, NM.

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

9/29 – DC – Various meetings

MEDIA TODAY

N/A

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD September 27 thru October 5, 2017

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- **September TBD: Department-level Release:** DOI and BLM will announce the totals from all September oil and gas lease sales.

- **October 5: Department-level Release:** DOI and BOEM press release on Proposed Notice of Sale for Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 250.

National Park Service

- **September 27 (tent.): Local NPS Release:** NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.
- **September 29: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release regarding National Public Lands Day that will highlight the upcoming entrance fee-free day and volunteer service projects.
- **October 2 (tent.): National NPS Release:** NPS will announce the Director's Partnership Awards, which recognizes 17 NPS partners who supported six different complex, multi-year projects, including historic building rehab and trail construction projects.
- **September/October TBD: National NPS Release:** Historic Preservation Tax Credits: NPS and/or DOI 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

- **September TBD: Local FWS Release:** By September 29, FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a final listing determination for the Kenk's amphipod, a crustacean from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. This action is not controversial. Stakeholders are the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail, Fort A.P. Hill, and the NPS.
- **September TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce a six-month extension of the final determination of list the Louisiana pine snake, found in Louisiana and Texas. While the Louisiana pine snake listing is controversial, the six-month extension is not expected to be controversial.
- **September TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the Candy darter, a fish found in Virginia and West Virginia, proposed ESA listing. This action is not expected to be controversial.
- **September TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the proposed listings of three Southeast darters. FWS plans to propose ESA listing determinations for the bridled darter, holiday darter and trispot darter, three fish found in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. This action is not controversial.
- **September TBD: Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the final listing of four Everglades plants the Everglades bully, Florida pineland crabgrass, pineland sandmat and Florida prairie-clover, plants that occur in south Florida.

This action is not controversial.

- **September TBD: Local FWS Release(s):** FWS will send 12-month findings on 25 species, finding that none warrant ESA protections. These findings are for 14 Nevada springsnail species, Barbour's map turtle, Big Blue Springs cave crayfish, Bicknell's thrush, black-backed woodpecker, boreal toad, fisher, Florida Keys mole skink, Great Sand Dunes tiger beetle, Kirtland's snake, Pacific walrus and San Felipe gambusia. Outreach will be conducted on a region-by-region basis, including news releases with supporting FAQs where appropriate, to be sent to stakeholders and members of Congress. Some findings may be controversial. The Bicknell's thrush, fisher and Pacific walrus will likely attract significant media attention.
- **October 2: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce National Wildlife Refuge Week, which will take place October 8-14. Refuge Week is an annual celebration of the nation's wildlife conservation heritage and the national wildlife refuges that protect it. The timing provides notice for print and online media to announce the annual celebration and regional events for the public to plan ahead, as well as for the regions and refuges to begin preparing additional promotional information.

Bureau of Land Management

- **September 28 (tent.): National BLM Release:** BLM will issue a release regarding their announcement to seek nominations for 18 of their 36 Resource Advisory Councils.
- **October 2:** The 30-day comment period for the public to submit suggestions for priorities not yet considered for Round 11 of the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative concludes. Existing priorities include use of innovative technology for preserving and interpreting archaeological resources; public outreach and education on archaeology; development and application of archaeological contexts; and archaeological identification and evaluation research.
- **October 2:** BLM-NM Acting State Director Aden Seidlitz and Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Kate MacGregor will speak at the annual New Mexico Oil and Gas Association conference.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **September 27-29:** Reclamation will join the Colorado River Basin States and other stakeholders in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for collaborative discussions of Colorado River issues, challenges and solutions, at the biennial Colorado River Symposium.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **October 3 (tent.): National BSEE Release:** BSEE will put out a read-out highlighting BSEE Director Angelle's activities and meetings in Anchorage, Alaska. Social media platforms will be used to amplify News Brief.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- **October 2:** Gavin Clarkson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Energy and Economic Development will lead a consultation on revisions of the “Licensed Indian Traders” regulations at the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) 2017 Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference, River Spirit Casino Resort, 8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK.

CONGRESSIONAL

UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a roundtable on “Best Practices in Tribal Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement: Federal Permitting and Infrastructure Project Review in Indian Country.” The federal panel is set to include USACE, FCC, and DOT. A DOI participant is pending but will likely discuss permitting and ROWs.

Timing: 2:30 pm, September 28, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding an oversight hearing on “Doubling Down on Indian Gaming: Examining New Issues and Opportunities for Success in the Next 30 Years.” The Department has been asked to speak to the challenges of off reservation gaming and any new policies on the overall issue. Witness is set to be John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Chairman of the NIGC, Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, has also been asked to testify on the federal panel.

Timing: 2:30 pm, October 4, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 56

3 confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

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

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

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

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 4 starting; 7 in process

NC-SES: 21 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 3 in process

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

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)
11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)
Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)
Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

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

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

Declining

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy
10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)
10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)
10 /3 12th Annual Government to Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation (DC)
10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)
10/4 - NOIA Fall Meeting (Cody, WY)
10/5 – Alamocita Creek Land Protection and Access Project Celebration and Tour (Pie Town, NM)
10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)
10/15-17 – Heritage Annual President's Club Meeting (DC)
10/16 - Carlsbad Mayor's Energy Summit (Carlsbad, NM)
10/20 - TXOGA Lone Star Energy Forum (Woodlands, TX)
11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)
10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)
10/17 – Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project Completion Ceremony (Folsom, CA)
10/17 - National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (San Antonio, TX)
10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)
11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, Tropical Storm Maria was located approximately 275 miles to the east-northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and moving toward the east-northeast at 8 miles per hour (mph). The storm is expected to accelerate eastward through tonight and then turn back toward the east-northeast on Friday. On the

forecast track, Maria will move away from the eastern coast of the U.S. and pass well to the south of Canada during the next couple of days.

The National Weather Service is reporting that all coastal watches and warnings associated with Tropical Storm Maria have been discontinued; however, swells generated by Maria continue to affect the eastern coast of the U.S., portions of Canada, and Bermuda.

As of 4:00 a.m. EDT this morning, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Operations Center (NOC) reports the following critical infrastructure updates:

Puerto Rico: Sixteen confirmed fatalities have been reported in Puerto Rico, and approximately 44-percent of the population remains without drinking water services. A Boil Water Notice is in effect. Nineteen (19) wastewater treatment facilities are closed, and 24 are in an unknown operational status. Thirty-seven (37) of 69 hospitals had assessments conducted, and 29 are operational at time of report. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will deploy five 250-bed Federal Medical Stations and two Disaster Medical Assistance Team caches by September 29.

The Guajataca Dam's reservoir pool continues to decline, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing 900 "super" sandbags to assist in the dam's stability. Assessments of roads indicate more than 18 bridges are damaged, and at least 7 of those are National Highway System bridges. One Incident Response Coordination team, eight Health and Medical Task Forces, one Service Access Team, one Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Team, and two Joint Patient Assessment Tracking Teams are engaged in San Juan. Fifteen U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) National Strike Force personnel are expected to arrive in Puerto Rico today to conduct post-storm assessments and recovery operations. A USCG Mobile Medical Unit deployed from Travis Air Force Base in California and is expected to arrive in Borinquen today.

U.S. Virgin Islands: Media sources report one fatality in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Three (3) of 9 water systems in St. Croix tested positive for E.coli bacteria and will require disinfection of their cistern-based systems. Incident Support Bases (ISBs) are being established at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas and at Limetree Bay on St. Croix. The Department of Defense is working to fulfill a request by St. Croix for a mobile medical facility. Power has been restored to the Cyril E. King Airport, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) tower is operational. The airport is expected to open with limited commercial operations today. Major debris and sinkholes are impacting roads and bridges, making some impassable.

Other Federal Reporting:

The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) advised of an explosion that occurred yesterday at the Techno Gas Company in Corozal, Puerto Rico. The explosion resulted in injuries to three workers. According to reports, the resulting fire is under control, but the surrounding area has been evacuated. Communications in the area remain extremely limited.

On September 27, the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4341-DR) for the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a result of Hurricane Irma beginning on September 4 and continuing. The declaration provides for Individual and Public Assistance for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and associated lands. The Public Assistance is for a period of up to 30 days from the start of the incident period, and FEMA is authorized to provide federal funding for emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct federal assistance, at 100-percent of the total eligible costs. The declaration also provides for Hazard Mitigation.

There are 155 personnel supporting interagency efforts in response to Hurricane's Irma and Maria.

USGS had 30 personnel surveying high water marks (HWMs) and processing data in Florida yesterday, along with 3 personnel in Puerto Rico, Georgia, and South Carolina.

The interagency Federal Search and Rescue Coordination Group (FSARCG) demobilized yesterday afternoon.

NPS reports that the generator for the headquarters building at Virgin Islands National Park was restored yesterday. At the San Juan National Historic Site, the focus has shifted to emergency stabilization efforts, and logistics are being finalized for the arrival of the M/V Fort Jefferson into the Port of San Juan. Security at San Juan remains a concern. A fuel vendor has been identified, and the park is working to secure the funding with the vendor. A Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) is being prepared for shipment to the San Juan National Historic Site to support communications.

In Florida, Big Cypress National Preserve remains closed with 5 buildings reported to have roof and water damage. Saw teams continue to clear roads and debris. Biscayne National Park reports drywall damage at the visitor's center and continues hazard mitigation and debris removal efforts. Everglades National Park continues to locate derelict vessels and clear hazards and debris. The park expects to have teams in the marina basins this week in order to determine the need for dredging. Displaced employees from Flamingo are currently being housed at Pine Island housing. Wastewater and water treatment plants continue to function erratically as repairs are pursued. Further details on specific parks are contained within the attached Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.

As of September 27, the USFWS has accounted for 60 of the 61 USFWS personnel in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The last employee is believed to have been located, but confirmation is pending. To date, the USFWS has mobilized nearly 100 personnel in support of response and recovery operations. USFWS Team 1 continues to complete life and wellness checks in the Cabo Rojo area with a priority of delivering supplies to affected employees. USFWS Team 2, comprised of a 14-person Type-3 Incident Management Team (IMT), assisted with debris removal and parrot cage repair. The team also planned to travel, via aircraft, to Vieques to deliver

supplies during the operational period, while a portion of the team will go to Cabo Rojo to deliver satellite phones and other supplies. USFWS Region 4 is considering rotation of staff to maintain team presence in Puerto Rico in the coming weeks. Four USFWS aircraft are being made available to support USFWS and FEMA missions in Puerto Rico. Aircraft will depart from southern Florida and arrive in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico beginning September 28. The Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is conducting inventory and working with local police to continue welfare checks. The Culebra NWR continues clearing operations, debris removal, and assistance to the community. Vieques NWR is working with the Vieques Fire Department to clear roads. The USFWS has cross-trained personnel to operate equipment and chainsaws. All USFWS heavy equipment on Vieques is being used to assist the community with road clearing.

With respect to Hurricane Harvey recovery:

There are 15 DOI employees supporting interagency response/recovery including 10 USGS personnel in the field in Texas yesterday flagging and surveying HWMs.

Wildland Fire Reporting:

The Sprague Fire in Glacier National Park, Montana, (NPS) has burned 16,927 (+137) acres and is 75 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-3 IMT with 71 (-4) personnel assigned, including 4 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 252 (no change) residential and 48 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Minimal fire behavior was observed yesterday, but moderate fire behavior is expected over the next 72 hours. A total of 405 structures continue to be threatened by the fire activity, with 149 of these structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Road, trail, and area closures remain in effect. Full containment is expected on November 1.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Three Trump Cabinet Secretaries To Visit Pennsylvania This Week.

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports that “the heads of the Interior, Labor and Energy departments under President Donald Trump are coming to Pennsylvania this week for a trio of unrelated events.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will “visit Valley Forge National Historical Park in King of Prussia on Thursday to learn about the facility and meet staff.” Also on Thursday, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta will “tour Signature Building Systems in Moosic to see the modular home builder while Energy Secretary Rick Perry will tour the Jeddo coal mine in Ebervale.”

Zinke, Pruitt Welcome Aggregates Industry To DC.

[Aggregate Research Industries](#) (9/27) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt “welcomed the aggregates industry to Washington, DC during the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association’s Legislative & Policy Forum/Fall Board Meeting.” Both officials

commented “on the burden of over-regulation facing businesses in the country.” Zinke said, “If I didn’t think that it could be done, I wouldn’t be the Secretary. We have good people and we have great plans and great assets. We need to put them together and allow industry to innovate, think out of the box and get the job done. That’s not too much to ask for a great country like ours.”

New Mexico Gets \$1.1M For Outdoor Recreation Projects.

The AP (9/27) reports that the US Department of the Interior announced \$1.1 million in federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for New Mexico to use on outdoor recreation and conservation projects. All 50 states are obtaining a portion of the \$93 million set for distribution from the fund. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) “said the fund in the past has protected places such as Ute Mountain near New Mexico’s northern border and Valles Caldera in the Jemez Mountains.”

Yes, Trump Can Revoke National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (9/27, Wood), Jonathan Wood, an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation and an adjunct fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center, argues that “nothing in the Antiquities Act forbids the president from revoking or shrinking a national monument.” For support, Wood points to history: “Seven presidents have shrunk national monuments, including President William Howard Taft, who reduced the Navajo National Monument by nearly 90 percent.” Furthermore, Wood argues that “there is a reason we allow presidents to undo the actions of their predecessors. A president who could unilaterally set policy forever would have far too much power and be free of political checks and balances.”

Don’t Let Fake Narrative Block Monuments Review.

In an op-ed for the Flathead (MT) Beacon (9/27, Denowh), Chuck Denowh, the policy director of United Property Owners of Montana, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “made an admirable attempt to solicit input from Montanans about how national monuments have affected our state.” Denowh is dismayed “that effort has been drowned out by fake advertisements aimed at misleading Montanans and funded by out-of-state environmental groups.” Denowh dismisses the claim that the monuments review will “result in the federal government selling federal land to private entities” as “ridiculous.”

Op-Ed: We Must Protect Wild Utah.

In an op-ed for the Deseret (UT) News (9/27, Abdo), Mike Abdo writes that the Antiquities Act was “rightfully and appropriately invoked in the creation” of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Bears Ears National Monument. Abdo calls on citizens to speak out against Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s plan “to eviscerate and exploit our national monuments.”

Thomas Mitchell: Zinke’s National Monument Modifications Too Modest.

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (9/27, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell calls Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations on national monuments "far too modest." He notes that "Zinke recommended unspecified changes to the Gold Butte boundaries but totally ignored the massive 700,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument that straddles the border between Nye and Lincoln counties, even though members of the Congressional Western Caucus recommended reducing it to 2,500 acres – 'the smallest area compatible,' as the law says, to protect the Indian petroglyphs there."

Obama-Era Fracking Rule May Soon Go Back Into Effect, Or Not.

Wyoming Public Radio (9/27, McKim) reports that after a federal appellate court vacated a 2015 decision which stopped an Obama Administration Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fracking rule, the March 2015 rule may go into effect. The Sublette (WY) Examiner (9/27, Ufford) reports that Wyoming, among other states, challenged the March 2015 BLM rule by "arguing the BLM does not have regulatory authority over fracking on public lands and that states' regulations provide sufficient guidance." Comments regarding the fracking rule were due to the BLM by Monday, Sept. 25.

· **Independent Oil, Gas Producers Push For The Withdrawal Of Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.** DailyEnergyInsider (9/27, Randolph) reports that Monday the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), and the Western Energy Alliance presented the Bureau of Land Management with comments urging the end of its March 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule on Native American and federal lands. According to the comments, rescinding the rule would allow the industry to save more than \$220 million each year. The comments come after the BLM's recent proposal to retract the March 2015 rule. The comments also said, "the Associations are grateful that BLM now realizes that the one-size-fits-all solution the agency issued in 2015 was not an appropriate mechanism to address unsubstantiated public concern about hydraulic fracturing."

Common Sense Protection For Crooked River Ranch.

In an op-ed for the Bend (OR) Bulletin (9/27, Walden), Rep. Greg Walden writes that in response to the wildfire threat, residents of Crooked River Ranch have "done their part by thinning and trimming junipers to create defensible space around their homes." However, "encumbered by the red tape of a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the federal government on the adjacent Bureau of Land Management-managed land has not done its part, leaving the community in harm's way." Walden has introduced legislation the Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act that "makes very targeted, common sense changes to allow for practical management of the fire fuels that surround Crooked River Ranch." According to Walden, "this legislation simply moves the WSA boundary a few hundred yards back to the canyon rim, giving firefighters the defensive space they need to help save the Crooked River Ranch community from the potential of a devastating wildfire."

US, Mexico Reach Deal To Conserve Colorado River Water.

The AP (9/27, Lee, Elliott) reports that “the United States and Mexico unveiled an agreement Wednesday to preserve the overtaxed Colorado River, including spending millions of dollars on conservation and environmental projects and drawing up plans to deal with any shortages amid drought and climate change.” The United States “pledged to invest \$31.5 million in water conservation projects in Mexico, such as lining irrigation ditches with concrete to reduce leaks and upgrading irrigation equipment to use less water.” The nine-year agreement is “an amendment to a 1944 treaty that governs how the U.S. and Mexico share and manage the river, which flows through both nations. It expands on a 2012 amendment that expires at the end of this year.”

Also reporting are the Los Angeles Times (9/27, Montero), the Las Vegas Review-Journal(9/27, Brea), the Arizona Republic (9/27, Loomis), the Arizona Republic (9/27), and the Los Angeles Times (9/27, Montero).

US Agency To Decide If Pacific Walrus Is Threatened Species.

The AP (9/27, Joling) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “faces a deadline this week to decide whether the iconic Pacific walrus will join the polar bear on the threatened species list.” The agency “under a court settlement has until Saturday to decide whether the Pacific walrus should be put on the list because of threats to its sea ice habitat due to climate change.”

National Parks Struggle With A Mounting Crisis: Too Many Visitors.

The New York Times (9/27, Turkewitz) reports that the number of national park visitors has “reached an unprecedented level, leaving many tourists frustrated and many environmentalists concerned about the toll of overcrowding.” In 2016, the National Park Service “tracked a record 331 million visits, and after a busy summer, the system is likely to surpass that number this year.” The article notes that “the crowding problem comes as the system faces the dual threat of a funding shortage and climate change.”

Giant Naked Woman Sculpture Planned For National Mall.

WJLA-TV Washington (9/27, Carter-Conneen) reports that “this fall, National Mall visitors might be surprised to find a giant sculpture of a naked woman near the Washington Monument.” For a third year, organizers of Catharsis on the Mall “plan to bring music, art and activism to the National Mall over Veteran’s Day weekend.” If their “permit is approved, the sculpture would become a temporary fixture, allowed to stand there for four months.” National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterst said, “They do have the requirement of having at least one person with it at all times. You can’t abandon structures or property as part of the vigil.”

Ranger: Yosemite Rock Fall Kills 1, Injures Another.

The AP (9/27, Press) reports that “a rock fall Wednesday on the granite face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park killed one person and injured another at the height of climbing season, an official said.” The injured person was transported to a hospital near the park. The article says that “officials didn’t provide details on the size of the rock fall, but climbers posted pictures on social media from hundreds of feet up the wall showing billowing white dust moments after the crash.”

Storms Amplified USVI’s Economic Crisis.

The New York Times (9/27, A1, Peters) reports that “the one-two punch of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria 14 days later” severely hurt the US Virgin Islands, which even before the storms “had barely enough cash to keep the government funded for three days” and a debt “so large that Wall Street stopped lending it money.” As the islands’ 103,000 residents “wait for doctors, medicine, fuel and manpower to rebuild the flattened communications and power grid, the economic toll from the storms is only starting to come to light.”

ZINKE WON'T SPEAK TO MINING GROUP: Zinke dropped out of addressing the National Mining Association's annual fall meeting at the Trump Hotel next week, the group tells ME. "He was scheduled, but is not speaking now," NMA spokesman Luke Popovich said. "He will not be attending." NMA did not give the reason for the cancellation, and Interior did not respond to questions. The meeting, first reported in The Intercept, drew criticism for NMA money flowing into a business of which Trump is still a majority owner. Zinke has also come under fire from public watchdog Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington for addressing the American Petroleum Institute at the hotel and conducting at least one lunch there.

INTERIOR TO SEEK COMMENT ON SAGE GROUSE PLANS: The Interior Department could as early as today issue a request for public comment on potential changes to how it manages sage grouse populations in the West, including to make it easier for fossil fuel development and livestock grazing, according to sources familiar with the situation. Zinke in August ordered staff to move forward on internal staff recommendations to change BLM's land-use conservation plans for the bird, revise guidelines for fossil fuel leases and allow states to set population targets.

CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ: The Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007379 BOR Draft EIS and Scoping Meetings for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley

Project/State Water Project -- Reclamation announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for analyzing potential modifications to the continued long-term operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) in coordination with the State Water Project (SWP). The modifications are likely to benefit aquatic species listed under the Endangered Species Act in the Central Valley to avoid jeopardy and destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat for those species. Reclamation invites comments on the scope of the EIS by November 24, 2017. Notice 09/27/2017

REG0007453 FWS Migratory Bird Hunting; Supplemental Proposals for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations for the 2018-19 Hunting Season; Notice of Meetings -- This Supplemental Proposed Rule provides alternatives for the 2018-19 waterfowl hunting season, announces the Service's Regulations Committee meeting, and provides Flyway Council recommendations from their March 2017 meetings. Proposed Rule 09/27/2017

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