

From: Hommel, Scott
To: [Renner, Elinor](mailto:Renner,Elinor)
Bcc: downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead for 10/24
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 6:33:56 PM
Attachments: [DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 10-24-17.docx](#)

Sharing with the team.

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

From: **Hommel, Scott** <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 6:32 PM

Subject: DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead for 10/24

To: Cabinet Affairs (b) (6) [REDACTED] McGinley, William J. EOP/WHO"

(b) (6) [REDACTED], Staff Secretary (b) (6) [REDACTED] Scott

Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

Please see attached.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
October 24, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of October 24, 2017

DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead

Presidential Initiatives and Awareness

- 1. GULF OF MEXICO OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 250:** The Proposed Notice of Sale Package for Lease Sale 250 was finalized on October 24th and sent to the Federal Register for publication. In terms of acreage, this will be the largest single oil and gas lease sale ever conducted by the United States, and the maximum acreage possible given the 5 year national oil and gas leasing plan under which BOEM is operating from the previous administration. The lease sale is scheduled to take place in March 2018.
Timing: October 24, 2017
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
- 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FEE INCREASES:** In response to Secretary Zinke's commitment to improve the visitor experience, the NPS will seek public comment on a proposal to implement peak-season, defined as its busiest contiguous five month period, fee increases for FY 2018. The implementation of a peak-season price structure would likely increase total entrance fee revenues from \$199.9M to \$268.5M annually - an increase of 34.3% over Fiscal Year 2016. All of the funds would be used to improve facilities, infrastructure, and visitor services, with an emphasis on maintenance projects that will enhance visitor experiences.
Timing: October 24, 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- 3. CRITICAL MINERALS REPORT:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. Staff Secretary is circulating a draft Executive Order (EO) directing Interior to help coordinate the appropriate agencies to undertake a government-wide approach to facilitate the domestic mining and processing of critical minerals. The Department is holding the release of the study to be issued in conjunction with the EO. DOI is awaiting the scheduling of the EO issuance.
Timing: October 2017
Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary
- 4. KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE:** Interior plans to exchange a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation. Through a separate agreement with the state, this will result in a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport capable of handling jet aircraft used for medical evacuations, which will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. This is a

critical issue to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young. Interior has submitted a scheduling proposal for POTUS to announce the land exchange during the White House Tribal Leaders Summit the week of November 13th.

Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

Timing: Week of November 13, 2013

5. **MEMORIAL BRIDGE PROJECT AND REBUILD THE PARKS INITIATIVE:** The Secretary has worked with NEC and OMB on legislative language to create an account funded by energy revenues that would address the \$11.5 billion in backlog in the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge maintenance. NEC has agreed to include this language in the infrastructure bill. The Secretary believes POTUS or VPOTUS should call on Congress separately to address the backlog. Senator Alexander has tentatively agreed to introduce legislation after this occurs. DOI has submitted a request that POTUS or VPOTUS announce this initiative with the Arlington Memorial Bridge as the backdrop. The National Park Service (NPS) is ready to award the contract for the bridge by November 17. NPS has secured all funding (\$227 million) for a complete rehabilitation under budget and in a single phase rather than multi-phase. This would be an ideal backdrop to show the Trump Administration is doing all it can to fix America's infrastructure, but that Congress needs to do its part to restore and rebuild the parks. We will submit a scheduling request to Cabinet Affairs offering the week of November 13 as an ideal date.
Timing: November 14-17, 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
6. **BOEM DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN:** On November 17, BOEM plans to publish the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the new National OCS Oil & Gas Program. Publication of the DPP is the first opportunity for the Administration to share proposed leasing areas with the public. Publication of the DPP follows the Request for Information that was published on July 3, in response to which BOEM received over 815,000 comments.
Timing: November 17, 2017
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
7. **INTERIOR DISASTER RELIEF PROPOSAL:** Interior has submitted a proposal for the President's consideration to call on Congress to give him the authority to lift environmental restrictions on resource-abundant lands to help develop construction materials to rebuild after a Presidentially-declared disaster. This proposal was submitted as a part of the National Security Council request for proposals. Interior is also working with OMB to submit legislative language to the supplemental appropriations bill.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
8. **MONUMENTS REQUEST:** Interior has submitted the final draft monuments report to Staff Secretary. Secretary Zinke plans to send the final report this week. Interior has also submitted specific monument recommendations for Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) to OLC for the form and legality review. Finally, Interior has submitted a scheduling request that POTUS travel to Utah to sign the proclamations for the BENM and GSENM. This issue is critical to the entire Utah delegation.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff

Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony

1. **UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislative hearing on S. 1870, Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017; S. 1953, Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010; and S. ___, Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act. Witness will Bryan Rice, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Timing: October 25, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

2. **UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee is set to host a legislative hearing on Rep. Don Young's H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017. Witness is John Tahsuda, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Timing: October 25, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

3. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Brenda Burman (BOR) and Susan Combs (A/S PMB) were passed out of committee August 3, 2017. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval.

Timing: October 25, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

Other/Awareness Only

1. **VETERANS ROUNDTABLE:** As part of National Hunting and Fishing Month, the Secretary is hosting a roundtable and listening session to hear from veterans on barriers to enjoying hunting and fishing access on our public lands. This is a part of the Secretary's ongoing efforts to highlight how motorized and mechanized travel restrictions on public lands limits access and the public's enjoyment. It will also focus on how veterans are currently participating in DOI programs and initiatives and how these initiatives can better serve them.

Timing: October 26, 2017

Contact: Todd Willens, Assistant Deputy Secretary

2. **SAGE GROUSE TASK FORCE MEETING:** On October 23rd-24th, the Sage Grouse Task Force met in Denver to discuss any additional issues or concerns raised by stakeholders, specific proposed policy changes, and any remaining issues that may require a plan amendment in connection with Secretary's Order 3353. The task force is led by the Governors of WY and CO and includes membership from the 11 sage-grouse States, BLM, Forest Service, Natural

Resources Conservation Service, USGS, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Deputy Secretary Bernhardt attended the meeting.

Timing: October 23-24, 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

3. **NV GEOTHERMAL LEASE SALE:** On October 24th, BLM-NV will host a competitive geothermal lease sale for 20 parcels located in the Battle Mountain, Carson City, Elko and Winnemucca Districts containing 38,208.46 acres for geothermal leasing. This will be the first online geothermal lease sale for NV. This lease sale is not expected to be controversial. At this time, the BLM cannot predict the level of bidding interest.

Timing: October 24, 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

4. **COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout October, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.
 - **Cordero Rojo Mine.** In mid-October, OSMRE plans to submit the Cordero Rojo Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE Headquarters for review and approval by ASLM. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
 - **Rosebud Mine.** On October 27, OSMRE anticipates publishing an NOA of a Draft EIS for Western Energy Company's Rosebud Mine proposed Permit Area F. The proposed permit area, which is located near Colstrip, MT, would add 6,746 acres to the 25,576-acre surface coal mine. The mine currently employs 400 people and produces 12.3 million tons per year.
 - **King II Mine Modification :** In mid- to late fall, BLM-CO expects to issue a decision on whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest Colorado by 951 acres, which would allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining. Montezuma County supports the modification, noting Federal mineral development's positive impacts on the region through jobs and tax revenue.

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

5. **COAL POLICY REVERSALS AND STREAM PROTECTION RULE:** In September ASLM directed OSMRE to rescind two policy documents- one on self-bonding and the second regarding the Clean Water Act. Both of these were put in place by the previous administration. OSMRE is also readying the final regulation to implement necessary changes to comply with P.L. 115-12, which nullified the Stream Protection Rule.

Timing: Early November 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

6. **HURRICANE IRMA RESPONSE/RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** Thirty-three employees from DOI bureaus and offices are currently supporting the FEMA Surge Capacity Force. An additional group of employees will begin supporting SBA activities on October 23. The group is comprised of volunteers supporting recovery efforts in Puerto Rico, Texas, the U.S. Virgin

Islands, Nevada, Florida, and Alabama. OEM is working with FEMA and SBA to deploy DOI employees at the end of October.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff

7. **HURRICANE MARIA RESPONSE/ RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** DOI bureaus and offices continue to transition to long-term response and recovery operations on Puerto Rico (including Vieques and Culebra) and the US Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John). DOI continues to staff a Liaison position at the FEMA Puerto Rico Joint Field Office to support interagency coordination between FEMA and DOI bureaus and offices, primarily FWS, NPS, USGS, and OEPC. Ongoing engagement is occurring with the lead agencies for the Recovery Support Functions including the Department of Commerce, Health and Human Services and FEMA. All DOI personnel, resident and responders, alike, are accounted for.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff
8. **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS:** During the recent wildland firefighting activity in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, California, DOI has contributed to major firefighting efforts using personnel and equipment from NPS, BLM, BIA, and FWS for a total of 463 (303 Overhead / 8 crews of 20 Type 2IA tactical) DOI personnel, which includes 1 helicopter, 1 fixed wing lead plane, and 49 major firefighting apparatus (engines, front loaders, pickups).
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff
9. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION:** On July 2nd, the Navajo government approved a two-year lease extension for continuing operation of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) through 2019. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation has a participation (quasi-ownership) interest in the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in decisions associated with the plant. Interior is facilitating a process being led by Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) to identify a possible future owner(s) to keep the plant generating power post-2019, since the current utility owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019. DOE transmitted two studies to DOI and Peabody that analyze energy efficiency and grid reliability respectively. EPA is working with Lazard and Peabody on analyzing calculations of Regional Haze Rule compliance.
Timing: October thru November 2017
Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
10. **WEST ELK MINE ROYALTY RATE REDUCTION:** In early December, BLM-CO expects to issue a decision on whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper expressed support for the royalty rate reduction, contingent on Mountain Coal Company exploring methane capture at the mine.
Timing: December 1-2, 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

11. **DOI ENERGY SUMMIT:** In support of the President's energy dominance agenda, Secretary Zinke will be hosting an all-day energy summit at DOI HQ on December 6, 2017. The summit will broadcast all aspects of the DOI's energy portfolio, including the economic benefits for the American taxpayer. The summit will definitively set forth the Administration's energy priorities. Participants will also include cabinet principles, members of congress, industry and NGO representatives.

Timing: December 6, 2017

Contact: Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy

Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions

1. **US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE TO ADDRESS CORMORANT ISSUE:** USFWS is planning to release a draft environmental assessment that could give some authority for local residents to kill cormorants in select circumstances. The birds, currently protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, are being blamed for waning fish populations in the Finger Lakes region of New York.
Timing: Late October 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
5. **IMPORTS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT TROPHIES FROM ZIMBABWE:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) plans to publish in the Federal Register a change to the permitting status for imports of African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe. After receiving information from Zimbabwe on a number of substantial improvements to their management program and elephant conservation efforts, FWS has determined that taking of African elephant trophy animals in Zimbabwe on or after January 21, 2016 (the date that Zimbabwe's new management plan was officially adopted) through 2017 would enhance the survival of African elephants, and import permits can be issued for these trophies.
Timing: Late October 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Release of High-Profile Grants

1. **URBAN PARTNERSHIP GRANTS:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife, will award over \$2 million in grants under their Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program. The grants fund multiple federal initiatives, including new and existing Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships and Urban Bird Treaty cities. NFWF will make its initial announcement and FWS will follow the next day.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. **CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE PROJECTS:** The NPS will announce the award of \$18 million in Centennial Challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred

maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-Federal funds.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

Travel by Secretary

October 30-November 5 **Secretary Zinke** on personal leave until November 5th.

November 10 **Secretary Zinke** traveling to Virginia to tour Manassas National Battlefield Park

From: Hommel, Scott
To: [Renner, Elinor](mailto:Renner.Elinor)
Bcc: downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead for 11/6
Date: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 7:02:15 PM
Attachments: [DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 11-6-17.docx](#)

Sharing with the team.

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

From: **Hommel, Scott** <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Tue, Nov 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Subject: DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead for 11/6

To: Cabinet Affairs (b) (6), "McGinley, William J. EOP/WHO"
(b) (6), Staff Secretary (b) (6)

Please see attached.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
November 7, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of November 6, 2017

DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead

Presidential Initiatives and Awareness

- 1. CRITICAL MINERALS REPORT:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. Staff Secretary has circulated a draft Executive Order (EO) directing Interior to help coordinate the appropriate agencies to undertake a government-wide approach to facilitate the domestic mining and processing of critical minerals. The Department is continuing to hold the release of the study to be issued in conjunction with the EO. DOI is awaiting the scheduling of the EO issuance and is preparing communications materials.
Timing: November 2017
Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary
- 2. MEMORIAL BRIDGE PROJECT AND REBUILD THE PARKS INITIATIVE:** The Secretary has worked with NEC and OMB on legislative language to create an account funded by energy revenues that would address the \$11.5 billion in backlog in the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge maintenance. NEC has agreed to include this language in the infrastructure bill. The Secretary believes POTUS or VPOTUS should call on Congress separately to address the backlog. Senator Alexander has tentatively agreed to introduce legislation after this occurs. We have submitted a request for POTUS to announce this initiative with the Arlington Memorial Bridge as the backdrop. The National Park Service (NPS) is ready to award the contract for the bridge by November 17. NPS has secured all funding (\$227 million) for a complete rehabilitation under budget and in a single phase rather than multi-phase. This would be an ideal backdrop to show the Trump Administration is doing all it can to fix America's infrastructure, but that Congress needs to do its part to restore and rebuild the parks. We have submitted a scheduling request to Cabinet Affairs offering the week of November 13.
Timing: November 15-17, 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- 3. BOEM DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN:** On November 17, BOEM aims to publish the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Program. Publication of the DPP is the first opportunity for the Administration to share proposed leasing areas with the public. Publication of the DPP follows the Request for Information that was published on July 3, in response to which BOEM received over 815,000 comments.
Timing: November 17, 2017
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

4. **INTERIOR DISASTER RELIEF PROPOSAL:** Interior has submitted a proposal for the President's consideration to call on Congress to give him the authority to lift environmental restrictions on resource-abundant lands to help develop construction materials to rebuild after a Presidentially-declared disaster. This proposal was submitted as a part of the National Security Council request for proposals. Interior also submitted the legislative language to OMB for consideration in the next supplemental appropriations bill.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
5. **MONUMENTS REQUEST:** Interior has submitted the final draft monuments report to Staff Secretary. Secretary Zinke plans to send the final report this week. Interior has also submitted specific monument recommendations for Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) to OLC for the form and legality review. Finally, Interior has submitted a scheduling request that POTUS travel to Utah to sign the proclamations for the BENM and GSENM. The Secretary has discussed this with the President.
Timing: Early December 2017
Contact: Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
6. **KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE:** Interior plans to exchange a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation. Through a separate agreement with the state, this will result in a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport capable of handling jet aircraft used for medical evacuations, which will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. This is a critical issue to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young. DOI is awaiting White House guidance on when to execute the exchange.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony

1. **LETTER TO SENATE LEADERSHIP:** Sec. Zinke has sent a letter to leaders McConnell and Schumer asking for action on DOI nominees. DOI nominees are facing unprecedented delays, particularly for noncontroversial nominees. The letter will likely garner press attention. WH OCL and Communications offices have signed off.
Timing: November 8, 2017
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs
2. **UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400. Witness will be John Tahsuda, Acting Asst. Secretary for Indian Affairs.
Timing: November 8, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

3. **UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.
Timing: November 9, 2017
Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs
4. **UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. Witness is pending.
Timing: November 15, 2017
Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs
5. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Brenda Burman (BOR) and Susan Combs (A/S PMB) were passed out of committee August 3, 2017. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. In addition, Sec. Zinke will be sending a letter to Leaders McConnell and Schumer, urging them to move forward on DOI nominees.
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs.
6. **PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT:** Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did not act on the issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.
Timing: TBD
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

Other/Awareness Only

1. **ACTION ON ADVISORY BOARDS:** This week, the Department announced the creation of two new advisory boards, the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee and the International Wildlife Conservation Council. The first board will advise on using public-private partnerships to enhance outdoor recreation. The second board will advise on responsible regulations and policies affecting international wildlife conservation efforts and sportsmen activities.
Timing: Week of November 6, 2017

Contact: Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

2. **COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout October, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.
 - **Belle Ayr Mine Plan Decision:** OSMRE anticipates forwarding a mining plan decision document with a recommendation for the Belle Ayr Mine Mining plan modification in early November 2017. The mine employs 259 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
 - **Cordero Rojo Mine.** The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for Cordero Mine mining plan modification was published on July 6, 2017, and comments were accepted for 30 days. The bureau will forward a mining plan decision document with a recommendation in late November 2017. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
 - **King II Mine Modification:** In mid- to late fall, BLM-CO expects to issue a decision on whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest Colorado by 951 acres. The modification would allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining. Montezuma County supports the modification, noting Federal mineral development's positive impacts on the region through jobs and tax revenue.

Timing: November 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

3. **NON-SUBSISTENCE TAKE RULE TO BE NULLIFIED:** Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed, and the President signed, a resolution of disapproval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule titled "Non-subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska" (non-subsistence take of wildlife rule). By operation of the CRA, the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule shall be treated as if it had never taken effect. However, because the CRA does not direct the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and reissue the pre-existing regulatory text, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is issuing a notice to effect the removal of any amendments, deletions, or other modifications made by the nullified rule and the reversion to the text of the regulations in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule.

Timing: November 8, 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

4. **STREAM PROTECTION RULE TO BE NULLIFIED:** Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed, and the President signed, a resolution of disapproval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule titled "Non-subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska" (non-subsistence take of wildlife rule). By operation of the CRA, the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule shall be treated as if it had never taken effect. However, because the CRA does not direct the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and reissue the pre-existing regulatory text, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is issuing a notice to effect the removal of any amendments, deletions, or other modifications made by the nullified rule and the reversion to the text of the

regulations in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule.

Timing: November 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

- 5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSIDERING HUNTING AND FISHING CHANGES IN ALASKA:** The NPS intends to initiate a rulemaking process that will consider changes to regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska (80 FR 65325) (promulgated in October 2015 and effective on November 23, 2015). Throughout this process, the NPS will consider the purpose of Secretarial Order 3347 (“Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation”) to advance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for all Americans. The NPS will also identify ways to improve recreational hunting and fishing cooperation, consultation, and communication with State of Alaska wildlife managers. The NPS will comply with all applicable laws governing the rulemaking process, including the requirement to provide an opportunity for public comment on any proposed regulatory changes under 5 U.S.C. 553. The NPS is not accepting comments on this announcement. The public will have an opportunity to comment when a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

Timing: November 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- 6. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE INCREASING ACCESS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS:** FWS will publish a final rule on the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the Federal Register notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach.

Timing: November 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- 7. ATLANTIC COAST AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINES:** Environmental compliance and signing required right-of-way and construction permits anticipated. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward. Both pipelines would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and are currently under environmental review and consideration by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by FERC, and a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated later in 2017.

Timing: November 2017

Contact: Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Parks
- 8. ATLANTIC OFFSHORE RENEWABLE RFF:** In late November, BOEM plans to publish a Request for Feedback (RFF) in the Federal Register seeking input on a proposed path forward for renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast. The RFF describes the process and factors used by BOEM to identify and forecast areas along the Atlantic Coast where future development is most likely and leasing should be focused.

Timing: Late November 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

- 9. NAVAJO GENERATING STATION:** On July 2nd, the Navajo government approved a two-year lease extension for continuing operation of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) through 2019. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation has a participation interest in the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in decisions associated with the plant. Interior is facilitating a process being led by Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) to identify a possible future owner(s) to keep the plant generating power post-2019, since the current utility owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019. The comment period for the NGS Extension Lease Environmental Assessment ended on Friday, November 3. Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are currently considering any relevant comments received during the comment period and anticipate issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by December 1.

Timing: December 2017

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

10. RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS IN THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN

ALASKA: The USGS currently is making pre-assessment public presentations in preparation for conducting resource assessments in response to Secretarial Order 3352, which directs the USGS to update assessments of the Alaska North Slope with emphasis on National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR), the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and State lands and waters. The content of the presentations will include descriptions of why the assessment is being done, what methods are being used, and specific documentation of the geological interpretations that form the foundation of the assessment. Meetings currently in progress focus on two geological formations in which significant oil discoveries have been announced in the past two years: the Nanushuk and Torok Formations. The Nanushuk Formation hosts two new discoveries, Pikka-Horseshoe and Willow. The assessment is tentatively scheduled for December 2017.

Timing: December 2017

Contact: Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

- 11. HURRICANE IRMA AND MARIA RESPONSE/RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** Fourteen employees from DOI bureaus and offices are currently deployed supporting the FEMA Surge Capacity Force. FEMA has determined that no additional DOI employees will be deployed as part of the Surge Capacity Force. In total, DOI successfully deployed 35 employees to support this effort. In addition, DOI has 33 employees supporting SBA activities. DOI personnel are assisting FEMA and SBA in Puerto Rico, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nevada, Florida, New York, California, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. DOI also continues to transition to long-term response and recovery operations on Puerto Rico (including Vieques and Culebra) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John). DOI personnel are providing technical expertise to interagency partners at the FEMA Puerto Rico Initial Operating Facility pertaining to natural and cultural resource protection, the safe removal of stranded vessels in the Caribbean, protection of critical habitats during response and recovery efforts, and analysis of landslide occurrences and threats in Puerto Rico. While recovery functions remain largely in the planning stages due to ongoing response efforts, DOI remains engaged with the lead agencies for the

Recovery Support Functions including the Department of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and FEMA. DOI's Deputy Secretary has been participating in the White House Principals Committee meetings on the hurricane recovery framework. The Department has assigned an Assistant Secretary to participate in the FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group.

Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs

12. WEST ELK MINE ROYALTY RATE REDUCTION: In early December, BLM-CO expects to issue a decision on whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper expressed support for the royalty rate reduction, contingent on Mountain Coal Company exploring methane capture at the mine.

Timing: December 1-2, 2017

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

13. NPR-A LEASE SALE: On December 6, BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts covering 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. This lease sale, the 13th since 1999, will be the first NPR-A oil and gas lease sale to occur via livestream video. This is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Further controversy is expected if BLM-AK modifies the Integrated Activity Plan prior to the sale. Bidding is expected to be moderate.

Timing: December 6, 2017

14. DOI ENERGY SUMMIT: In support of the President's energy dominance agenda, Secretary Zinke will be hosting an all-day energy summit at DOI HQ. The event was originally planned for December however; Interior is considering pushing this date until January or February after consultation with WH External Affairs. The summit will broadcast all aspects of the DOI's energy portfolio, including the economic benefits for the American taxpayer. The summit will definitively set forth the Administration's energy priorities. Participants will also include cabinet principles, members of congress, industry and NGO representatives.

Timing: December 2017 (tentative)

Contact: Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy

Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions

1. **BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE:** The BLM will announce the Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision approving the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. This is a 294-mile high voltage transmission line that will run from northeastern Oregon to southwestern Idaho, which will be operated by Idaho Power Company. Approval of the line will create 494 jobs during the 3-year construction period.

Timing: Week of November 13

Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

2. **US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE CORMORANT ISSUE:** USFWS is planning to release a draft environmental assessment that could give some authority for local residents to kill cormorants in select circumstances. The birds, currently protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, are being blamed for waning fish populations in the Finger Lakes region of New York and significant depredation throughout the eastern United States.
Timing: November 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3. **IMPORTS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT TROPHIES FROM ZIMBABWE:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) plans to publish in the Federal Register a change to the permitting status for imports of African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe. After receiving information from Zimbabwe on a number of substantial improvements to their management program and elephant conservation efforts, FWS has determined that taking of African elephant trophy animals in Zimbabwe on or after January 21, 2016 (the date that Zimbabwe's new management plan was officially adopted) through 2017 would enhance the survival of African elephants, and import permits can be issued for these trophies.
Timing: November 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks
4. **GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING PUBLIC COMMENT:** In January, the Department announced a final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYW) grizzly bear Distinct Populations Segment (DPS). An August 2017 the D.C. Circuit overturned the Western Great Lakes wolf Distinct Population Segment (DPS) delisting. The FWS will put out a notice announcing a 30-day public comment period seeking input on whether the ruling affects the June 30 delisting. FWS will also describe the strategy to recover grizzly bears in the lower 48 states of the United States and provide a brief recovery update for each ecosystem.
Timing: November 2017
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Release of High-Profile Grants

1. **URBAN PARTNERSHIP GRANTS:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife, will award over \$2 million in grants under their Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program. The grants fund multiple federal initiatives, including new and existing Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships and Urban Bird Treaty cities. NFWF will make its initial announcement and FWS will follow the next day.
Timing: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. **CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE PROJECTS:** The NPS will announce the award of \$18 million in Centennial Challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-Federal funds.
Timing: Ongoing

Contact: Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

Travel by Secretary

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| November 10 | Secretary Zinke traveling to Virginia to tour Manassas National Battlefield Park in advance of Veterans Day to interact with Boy Scouts and veteran volunteers. |
| November 21-28 | Secretary Zinke will be out on personal leave for the Thanksgiving holiday. |
| December 1-3 | Secretary Zinke is visiting Louisiana to do a coastal tour with Senator Bill Cassidy (LA) |
| December 4 | Secretary Zinke is potentially traveling to Utah with POTUS. |

From: Magallanes, Downey
To: [David Bernhardt](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Report
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2017 9:58:02 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT REPORT EO 13792 8-23-17.docx](#)

Below is the Draft Report we submitted. I know you said you gave your edits but it has changed somewhat. This did a full rotation (BLM-SOL-FWP-Randy) in the building and Rob Howarth has the redline if you want to see it. We will sit down with WH next week to talk through next steps. This is potentially going to made final and released next Friday. Assume you will want to surname before RKZ final signature when that happens.

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

From: **Magallanes, Downey** <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2017 at 6:01 PM
Subject: Draft Report
To: Staff Secretary (b) (6)
Cc: "Porter, Robert R. EOP/WHO" (b) (6) >, (b) (6) <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Michael J. EOP/WHO Catanzaro" <(b) (6)>, "Bremberg, Andrew P. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>

Here is the Draft Report.

I can also come over and brief tomorrow or Friday.

Downey

--

Downey Magallanes
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Senior Advisor and Counselor
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-501-0654 (desk)
202-706-9199 (cell)

--

Downey Magallanes
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Senior Advisor and Counselor
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-501-0654 (desk)
202-706-9199 (cell)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RYAN K. ZINKE

SUBJECT: Final Report Summarizing Findings of the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act.

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From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Alex Hinson](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Douglas Domenech](#); [Eli Nachmany](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [James Cason](#); [John Tanner](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Natalie Davis](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#)
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 12/1
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 1:37:57 PM
Attachments: [DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 12-01-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/01/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 12/1 –New Orleans, Louisiana – Site visit with BSEE/BOEM Leadership
 - o BOEM/BSEE All Hands Meeting
 - o Baton Rouge, LA - Dinner with Senator Cassidy and other stakeholders
- 12/2 – Baton Rouge, LA – Briefing with local officials at Center for Coastal and Deltaic Studies (Senator Cassidy and Kennedy in attendance)
 - o Thibodaux, LA – Meeting with wetlands stakeholders at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
 - o Airboat Tour with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion
 - o Dinner with local stakeholders

NEXT WEEK:

- 12/4 – UT – Participate in Antiquities Act Monument Review event with POTUS
- 12/5 – DC – Meeting with Dale Hall, Ducks Unlimited
 - o Meeting with Members of Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
 - o Meeting with World War I Centennial Commission
 - o White House Congressional Ball
- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - o Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - o Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

- o Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7-8 – Internal meetings

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in Phoenix, AZ

- Speaking at Western Governors Association and meeting with several Governors

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Tuesday, 11/28)

- N/A

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.
- **December TBD:** Arctic EA and proposed rule. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP. Alaskan delegation is supportive.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on H.R. 4419 (Rep. Newhouse), the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act. Alan Mikkelsen, the Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, will be the witness.

Timing: Thursday, November 30, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs irs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Thursday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on 4 bills. H.R. 1675 (Rep. DelBene), to establish a national program to identify and reduce landslide hazards, H.R. 4033 (Rep. Lamborn) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, a Discussion Draft amending the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970, and a Discussion Draft establishing a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Dave Applegate, Acting Deputy Director of USGS, will be witness.

Timing: Thursday, November 30, 2017

Contact: Blake Deeley, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING: The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee will be holding a hearing regarding the Administration's Hurricane Supplemental request. David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Thursday, November 30, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)
2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

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

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

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

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)
1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)
1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)
2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)
12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)
12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)
12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:

OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate efforts with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to assess the removal and salvage of displaced vessels throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. USFWS is also supporting the USCG under a

Pollution Removal Funding Authorization by providing best management practices and technical assistance with their operations.

Under a FEMA Mission Assignment and through coordination with OEPC and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a six-person NPS team (comprised of archaeologists and historic structure specialists) is assisting the State Historic Preservation Office of Puerto Rico with damage assessments and providing technical assistance on National Register Properties eligible for the National Register. This mission is expected to continue until December 23.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, OEPC is coordinating with FEMA, NPS, and members of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) to reach out to cultural institutions, archives, museums, and libraries to understand impacts and identify strategies to aid in stabilizing cultural resources and historic structures.

Four OEPC Field Coordinators (2 in Texas, 2 in Florida) have completed Mission Scoping Assessments for both states and draft recovery strategies are under development in Texas. NPS has provided two personnel to support OEPC efforts in Texas. Two additional Field Coordinators (1 OEPC, 1 USFWS) are deployed to the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Puerto Rico and work on the Mission Scoping Assessment is underway. Field Coordinators (1 OEPC, 1 NPS) are identifying impacts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and will deploy to the JFO next week.

DOI also has 27 employees supporting the Small Business Administration (SBA). The group is comprised of volunteers working in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, California, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The Office of Emergency Management is working with the SBA to deploy an additional 10 to 12 DOI personnel over the next two weeks. DOI support to the FEMA Surge Capacity Force has concluded and no additional deployments are anticipated.

Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake, Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware

On November 30 at 4:47 p.m. EST, a magnitude 4.1 earthquake occurred 6.4 miles east-northeast of Dover, Delaware, at a depth of five miles. The Delaware Emergency Management Agency noted that the epicenter was within the Bombay Hook NWR. According to USGS shake maps, several DOI assets experienced light to moderate shaking; however, no damage to DOI infrastructure has been reported. This is the largest earthquake in Delaware history and is the largest earthquake within a 90 mile radius since 1994 when a magnitude 4.6 earthquake occurred in Reading, Pennsylvania.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Oregon's 18 Timber Counties To Get \$1.4M In Federal Payments.

The [AP](#) (11/30) reports that “financially strapped counties in western Oregon that rely on logging revenue will receive nearly \$1.4 million that had been withheld by the federal government due to budget caps, authorities said Thursday.” The Association of O&C Counties announced “Thursdaythe counties will see the funds soon.” Interior

Secretary Ryan Zinke said Thursday the Bureau of Land Management “will issue payments totaling \$19.5 million to the 18 counties, including the \$1.4 million.” Zinke said in a statement, “My next priority is ensuring that these lands continue to provide sustainable timber harvests that support the community and strengthen the health of the forest.”

U.S. Interior Dept. Says Federal Energy, Mineral Revenues Rose By \$1 Billion.

[Reuters](#) (11/30, Volcovici) reports that “energy and mineral production on federal and tribal land generated \$7.1 billion in disbursements in fiscal year 2017, \$1 billion more than the previous year, the U.S. Interior Department said on Thursday.” Interior “attributed the increase in disbursements to a larger number of lease sales totaling higher acreage, efforts to streamline permitting and reduce regulatory burdens, and higher oil and gas prices experienced during the year.” Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue “disbursed \$1.44 billion to five western states, \$676 million to tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners and \$950 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports state and local parks.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “As the administration continues to cut red tape and end the overregulation of responsible energy development, we will be able to direct more funds to local communities and create more good-paying American jobs.”

Trump Expected To Shrink 2 Utah Monuments By Two-Thirds.

The [AP](#) (11/30, Daly) reports that President Trump will “announce plans next week to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments by nearly two-thirds, an action that environmentalists and tribal leaders called illegal and another affront to Native Americans.” The article says that “leaked documents obtained by The Associated Press show that Trump plans to shrink Bears Ears National Monument by nearly 85 percent and reduce Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by almost half.” Trump has told Sen. Orrin Hatch and “other Utah officials that he will follow the recommendation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to shrink both monuments, but the White House and Zinke’s office have not offered details about how they’d redraw the monument boundaries.”

Why A Newly Signed Water Agreement Is Good News For The Pechanga Band Of Luiseno Indians.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (11/30, Horseman) reports that “the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the federal government have finalized an agreement that protects the tribe’s access to regional groundwater, gives the tribe more than \$30 million for water infrastructure and settles a longstanding water rights dispute.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “along with Pechanga Tribal Chairman Mark Macarro and Rancho California Water District President Stephen Corona, signed the Pechanga Water Settlement Agreement on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at a Washington, D.C. ceremony.” In a news release, Zinke said: “The federal government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially tribal water rights.”

Arctic Drilling Hits Speed Bumps In U.S. Tax Bill.

[Reuters](#) (11/30, Gardner) reports in continuing coverage that the GOP's bid to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling hit an obstacle after a nonpartisan Senate official ruled that the exploration was subject to environmental assessments by the Interior Department. The official said the energy committee measure did not adequately consider requirements under a national environmental law. However, Republicans offered new language to the measure and said drilling would advance if the tax bill passes.

The Tree That Rocked The Music Industry.

[NPR](#) (11/30, Benincasa) reports that "new regulations on the international movements of rosewood have hit hard in parts of the music industry, which has long relied on rosewood as a 'tonewood' used in many kinds of instruments, including guitars, cellos and clarinets." According to the article, "the reason for the crackdown" is "Chinese consumers' growing demand for rosewood or 'hongmu' furniture." However, U.S. manufacturers "say the regulations are misguided," and some officials agree. Craig Hoover, who manages the CITES treaty for the United States at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "I think the question of whether we're regulating more than we need to is really the one that's on the table for us right now. And we need to examine whether or not there are things that we can let go, in terms of CITES controls, and still achieve the conservation results we want to achieve. So, I don't think we have come to the conclusion that we got it exactly right."

President And First Lady Light National Christmas Tree.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/30, story 14, 0:10, Muir) reported that President Trump and the First Lady lit the National Christmas Tree in Washington on Thursday. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/30, story 13, 0:15, Holt) reported that this year's event was co-hosted by Kathie Lee Gifford and "featured several performers including the Beach Boys."

DOI PRESS RELEASE

Under Budget & Ahead of Schedule: Secretary Zinke Announces Full Funding to Repair Arlington Memorial Bridge

Project saves taxpayers \$35 million - Shaves 18 months off construction time

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a \$227 million project to repair Arlington Memorial Bridge, a historic and critical transportation link to the nation's capital. As awarded, the project will save American taxpayers \$35 million and 1.5 years of estimated construction time.

"Repairing Arlington Memorial Bridge underscores President Trump's commitment to rebuilding American infrastructure and is a major step in addressing the National Park Service's \$11.3 billion maintenance backlog," **Secretary Zinke said.** "The bridge is one of the largest transportation infrastructure projects in National Park Service history."

Over the past six years, the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) have made emergency temporary repairs while planning the larger rehabilitation. Without a complete rehabilitation, the continued and accelerated deterioration of the bridge's concrete deck would have required it be closed by 2021.

The NPS, with the District of Columbia as co-signer, received a \$90 million FASTLANE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) secured an amendment to the fiscal year 2017 Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31), which directed \$30 million to the project. In order to complete the project in a single phase, the NPS will invest \$107 million of its annual transportation and construction funds. A "design-build" contract – meaning the contractor will both design the work and conduct the repairs – will save money and accelerate the project's completion time.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded and will manage the \$192 million contract with Kiewit Infrastructure Co. of Hanover, Maryland. \$35 million of the total project cost is for engineering, construction management, wetlands mitigation, and contingency, through the FHWA.

"We are happy to play a role in rehabilitating this iconic American bridge," **said Acting Federal Highway Administrator Brandye L. Hendrickson.** "Using state-of-the-art tools, techniques and engineering practices, we can improve the bridge's safety and ensure it remains an active part of the nation's capital."

The project has benefitted from strong support from local leaders and congressional representatives, including District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine (VA), and Members of Congress Barbara Comstock and Don Beyer (VA).

Major construction will start in fall 2018. It will replace the drawbridge span, rehabilitate the concrete approach spans, and replace the concrete deck. Workers will employ accelerated bridge construction techniques, including using prefabricated concrete deck panels. They will reset the stone curbs and light posts and restore the historic stone and metal cladding. The structure of the existing bascule span will be replaced with variable depth steel girders, which will significantly extend the useful life of the bridge while significantly reducing maintenance costs. The NPS will begin minor repairs to the bridge by the beginning of 2018.

Regarded as Washington's most beautiful bridge, Memorial Bridge symbolically links North and South in its alignment between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. The adjacent Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway terminus, the Watergate steps, and monumental equestrian statuary join with the bridge to create a formal western terminus of the National Mall at the edge of the Potomac River.

Designed by the prominent architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, the low, Neoclassical bridge is 2,163 feet long and 60 feet wide. Except for the bascule (drawbridge) span in the bridge's center which is clad in metal, it is constructed from reinforced concrete faced with dressed North Carolina granite ashlar. When it opened in 1932, the bridge was the longest, heaviest and fastest opening drawbridge in the

world; the drawbridge last opened in 1961. Today, it carries 68,000 cars per day.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

N/A

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/01/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 12/1 – New Orleans, Louisiana – Site visit with BSEE/BOEM Leadership
 - BOEM/BSEE All Hands Meeting
 - Baton Rouge, LA - Dinner with Senator Cassidy and other stakeholders
- 12/2 – Baton Rouge, LA – Briefing with local officials at Center for Coastal and Deltaic Studies (Senator Cassidy and Kennedy in attendance)
 - Thibodaux, LA – Meeting with wetlands stakeholders at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
 - Airboat Tour with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion
 - Dinner with local stakeholders

NEXT WEEK:

- 12/4 – UT – Participate in Antiquities Act Monument Review event with POTUS
- 12/5 – DC – Meeting with Dale Hall, Ducks Unlimited
 - Meeting with Members of Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
 - Meeting with World War I Centennial Commission
 - White House Congressional Ball
- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7-8 – Internal meetings

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in Phoenix, AZ

- Speaking at Western Governors Association and meeting with several Governors

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Tuesday, 11/28)

- N/A

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.

- **December TBD:** Arctic EA and proposed rule. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP. Alaskan delegation is supportive.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on H.R. 4419 (Rep. Newhouse), the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act. Alan Mikkelsen, the Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, will be the witness.

Timing: Thursday, November 30, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Thursday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on 4 bills. H.R. 1675 (Rep. DeBene), to establish a national program to identify and reduce landslide hazards, H.R. 4033 (Rep. Lamborn) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, a Discussion Draft amending the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970, and a Discussion Draft establishing a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Dave Applegate, Acting Deputy Director of USGS, will be witness.

Timing: Thursday, November 30, 2017

Contact: Blake Deeley, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING: The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee will be holding a hearing regarding the Administration's Hurricane Supplemental request. David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Thursday, November 30, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process

- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)
 2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
 3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)
 Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
 Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club
~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)
 1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
 1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)
 1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)
 1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
 2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)
 2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
 12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
 12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)
 12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
 12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
 12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)
 12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)
 12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)
 12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
 1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
 2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
 2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:

OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate efforts with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to assess the removal and salvage of displaced vessels throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. USFWS is also supporting the USCG under a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization by providing best management practices and technical assistance with their operations.

Under a FEMA Mission Assignment and through coordination with OEPC and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a six-person NPS team (comprised of archaeologists and historic structure specialists) is assisting the State Historic Preservation Office of Puerto Rico with damage assessments and providing technical assistance on National Register Properties eligible for the National Register. This mission is expected to continue until December 23.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, OEPC is coordinating with FEMA, NPS, and members of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) to reach out to cultural institutions, archives, museums, and libraries to understand impacts and identify strategies to aid in stabilizing cultural resources and historic structures.

Four OEPC Field Coordinators (2 in Texas, 2 in Florida) have completed Mission Scoping Assessments for both states and draft recovery strategies are under development in Texas. NPS has provided two personnel to support OEPC efforts in Texas. Two additional Field Coordinators (1 OEPC, 1 USFWS) are deployed to the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Puerto Rico and work on the Mission Scoping Assessment is underway. Field Coordinators (1 OEPC, 1 NPS) are identifying impacts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and will deploy to the JFO next week.

DOI also has 27 employees supporting the Small Business Administration (SBA). The group is comprised of volunteers working in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, California, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The Office of Emergency Management is working with the SBA to deploy an additional 10 to 12 DOI personnel over the next two weeks. DOI support to the FEMA Surge Capacity Force has concluded and no additional deployments are anticipated.

Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake, Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware

On November 30 at 4:47 p.m. EST, a magnitude 4.1 earthquake occurred 6.4 miles east-northeast of Dover, Delaware, at a depth of five miles. The Delaware Emergency Management Agency noted that the epicenter was within the Bombay Hook NWR. According to USGS shake maps, several DOI assets experienced light to moderate shaking; however, no damage to DOI infrastructure has been reported. This is the largest earthquake in Delaware history and is the largest earthquake within a 90 mile radius since 1994 when a magnitude 4.6 earthquake occurred in Reading, Pennsylvania.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Oregon's 18 Timber Counties To Get \$1.4M In Federal Payments.

The [AP](#) (11/30) reports that “financially strapped counties in western Oregon that rely on logging revenue will receive nearly \$1.4 million that had been withheld by the federal government due to budget caps, authorities said Thursday.” The Association of O&C Counties announced “Thursday the counties will see the funds soon.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Thursday the Bureau of Land Management “will issue payments totaling \$19.5 million to the 18 counties, including the \$1.4 million.” Zinke said in a statement, “My next priority is ensuring that these lands continue to provide sustainable timber harvests that support the community and strengthen the health of the forest.”

U.S. Interior Dept. Says Federal Energy, Mineral Revenues Rose By \$1 Billion.

[Reuters](#) (11/30, Volcovici) reports that “energy and mineral production on federal and tribal land generated \$7.1 billion in disbursements in fiscal year 2017, \$1 billion more than the previous year, the U.S. Interior Department said on Thursday.” Interior “attributed the increase in disbursements to a larger number of lease sales totaling higher acreage, efforts to streamline permitting and reduce regulatory burdens, and higher oil and gas prices experienced during the year.” Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue “disbursed \$1.44 billion to five western states, \$676 million to tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners and \$950 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports state and local parks.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “As the administration continues to cut red tape and end the overregulation of responsible energy development, we will be able to direct more funds to local communities and create more good-paying American jobs.”

Trump Expected To Shrink 2 Utah Monuments By Two-Thirds.

The [AP](#) (11/30, Daly) reports that President Trump will “announce plans next week to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments by nearly two-thirds, an action that environmentalists and tribal leaders called illegal and another affront to Native Americans.” The article says that “leaked documents obtained by The Associated Press show that Trump plans to shrink Bears Ears National Monument by nearly 85 percent and reduce Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by almost half.” Trump has told Sen. Orrin Hatch and “other Utah officials that he will follow the recommendation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to shrink both monuments, but the White House and Zinke’s office have not offered details about how they’d redraw the monument boundaries.”

Why A Newly Signed Water Agreement Is Good News For The Pechanga Band Of Luiseno Indians.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (11/30, Horseman) reports that “the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the federal government have finalized an agreement that protects the tribe’s access to regional groundwater, gives the tribe more than \$30 million for water infrastructure and settles a longstanding water rights dispute.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “along with Pechanga Tribal Chairman Mark Macarro and Rancho California Water District President Stephen Corona, signed the Pechanga Water Settlement Agreement on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at a Washington, D.C. ceremony.” In a news release, Zinke said: “The federal government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially tribal water rights.”

Arctic Drilling Hits Speed Bumps In U.S. Tax Bill.

[Reuters](#) (11/30, Gardner) reports in continuing coverage that the GOP’s bid to open Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling hit an obstacle after a nonpartisan Senate official ruled that the exploration was subject to environmental assessments by the Interior Department. The official said the energy committee measure did not adequately consider requirements under a national environmental law. However, Republicans offered new language to the measure and said drilling would advance if the tax bill passes.

The Tree That Rocked The Music Industry.

[NPR](#) (11/30, Benincasa) reports that “new regulations on the international movements of rosewood have hit hard in parts of the music industry, which has long relied on rosewood as a ‘tonewood’ used in many kinds of instruments, including guitars, cellos and clarinets.” According to the article, “the reason for the crackdown” is “Chinese consumers’ growing demand for rosewood or ‘hongmu’ furniture.” However, U.S. manufacturers “say the regulations are misguided,” and some officials agree. Craig Hoover, who manages the CITES treaty for the United States at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “I think the question of whether we’re regulating more than we need to is really the one that’s on the table for us right now. And we need to examine whether or not there are things that we can let go, in terms of CITES controls, and still achieve the conservation results we want to achieve. So, I don’t think we have come to the conclusion that we got it exactly right.”

President And First Lady Light National Christmas Tree.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (11/30, story 14, 0:10, Muir) reported that President Trump and the First Lady lit the National Christmas Tree in Washington on Thursday. [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (11/30, story 13, 0:15, Holt) reported that this year’s event was co-hosted by Kathie Lee Gifford and “featured several performers including the Beach Boys.”

DOI PRESS RELEASE

Under Budget & Ahead of Schedule: Secretary Zinke Announces Full Funding to Repair Arlington Memorial Bridge

Project saves taxpayers \$35 million - Shaves 18 months off construction time

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a \$227 million project to repair Arlington Memorial Bridge, a historic and critical transportation link to the nation’s capital. As awarded, the project will save American taxpayers \$35 million and 1.5 years of estimated construction time.

“Repairing Arlington Memorial Bridge underscores President Trump’s commitment to rebuilding American infrastructure and is a major step in addressing the National Park Service’s \$11.3 billion maintenance backlog,” **Secretary Zinke said**. “The bridge is one of the largest transportation infrastructure projects in National Park Service history.”

Over the past six years, the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have made emergency temporary repairs while planning the larger rehabilitation. Without a complete rehabilitation, the continued and accelerated deterioration of the bridge’s concrete deck would have required it be closed by 2021.

The NPS, with the District of Columbia as co-signer, received a \$90 million FASTLANE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) secured an amendment to the fiscal year 2017 Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31), which directed \$30 million to the project. In order to complete the project in a single phase, the NPS will invest \$107 million of its annual transportation and construction funds. A “design-build” contract – meaning the contractor will both design the work and conduct the repairs – will save money and accelerate the project’s completion time.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded and will manage the \$192 million contract with Kiewit Infrastructure Co. of Hanover, Maryland. \$35 million of the total project cost is for engineering, construction management, wetlands mitigation, and contingency, through the FHWA.

“We are happy to play a role in rehabilitating this iconic American bridge,” **said Acting Federal Highway Administrator Brandye L. Hendrickson**. “Using state-of-the-art tools, techniques and engineering practices, we can improve the bridge’s safety and ensure it remains an active part of the nation’s capital.”

The project has benefitted from strong support from local leaders and congressional representatives, including District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine (VA), and Members of Congress Barbara Comstock and Don Beyer (VA).

Major construction will start in fall 2018. It will replace the drawbridge span, rehabilitate the concrete approach spans, and replace the concrete deck. Workers will employ accelerated bridge construction techniques, including using prefabricated concrete deck panels. They will reset the stone curbs and light posts and restore the historic stone and metal cladding. The structure of the existing bascule span will be replaced with variable depth steel girders, which will significantly extend the useful life of the bridge while significantly reducing maintenance costs. The NPS will begin minor repairs to the bridge by the beginning of 2018.

Regarded as Washington's most beautiful bridge, Memorial Bridge symbolically links North and South in its alignment between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. The adjacent Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway terminus, the Watergate steps, and monumental equestrian statuary join with the bridge to create a formal western terminus of the National Mall at the edge of the Potomac River.

Designed by the prominent architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, the low, Neoclassical bridge is 2,163 feet long and 60 feet wide. Except for the bascule (drawbridge) span in the bridge's center which is clad in metal, it is constructed from reinforced concrete faced with dressed North Carolina granite ashlar. When it opened in 1932, the bridge was the longest, heaviest and fastest opening drawbridge in the world; the drawbridge last opened in 1961. Today, it carries 68,000 cars per day.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

N/A

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Alex Hinson](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Douglas Domenech](#); [Eli Nachmany](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [James Cason](#); [John Tanner](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Natalie Davis](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#)
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 12/5
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 2:52:56 PM
Attachments: [DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 12-05-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/05/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK:

- 12/5 – DC – Meeting with Dale Hall, Ducks Unlimited
 - o Meeting with Montana Stock Growers Association
 - o Call with Reporters Regarding Monuments Report
 - o Meeting with Members of Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
 - o Meeting with World War I Centennial Commission
 - o White House Congressional Ball
- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - o Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - o Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - o Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7-8 – Internal meetings

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in Utah

- Conference Call with USDA Senior Advisor Brian Klippenstein
- Meeting with Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
- Participate in NEC meeting with EPA
- Attend Ducks Unlimited event on Capitol Hill

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

OF Interest

[Deseret News- Opinion: Gary Herbert: 5 myths about Bears Ears](#)

Governor Gary Herbert

December 4, 2017

The extraordinarily vast and beautiful area of southeastern Utah known to many as the Bears Ears region deserves protection for the benefit of all Americans for generations to come and for the special benefit of those Native Americans with rich ancestral ties to this land. In order to conserve these geologically, culturally and archaeologically rich lands, federal, state, tribal and local officials need to convene and craft legislation for a diverse array of special protections and responsible recreational uses. President Donald Trump's announcement Monday reopens the door for exactly the kind of sustainable management that the Bears Ears region needs.

By executive order, Trump has reduced the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) that President Barack Obama designated less than one year ago. That original designation created a supersize monument of about 1.35 million acres of federal land, which, when one accounts for all state and private inholdings, actually approaches 1.5 million acres. The entire state of Delaware is a little over 1.59 million acres. Both the creation and the reduction of this monument have come with controversy — controversy that has often been fueled by several false narratives.

Regardless of your heartfelt feelings about what Bears Ears National Monument represents, let's sift the facts from the fiction.

Myth: By reducing the size of BENM, these federal lands will be transferred to the state of Utah and/or private entities.

Fact: BENM was designated on federal lands that will remain under federal ownership regardless of monument status. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has adamantly opposed the wholesale transfer or privatization of federal public lands, and that commitment is reflected in this modification of monument boundaries.

Myth: Without national monument status, the vast landscape of the Bears Ears region will be subjected to unchecked exploitation.

Fact: Before Obama's monument declaration in December 2016, the Bears Ears region was mostly federal public land subject to a network of federal protections that conserve the area's natural beauty and archeological treasures. Trump's reconfiguration of the monument's boundaries does not change the federal ownership of these lands and maintains the existing system of federal protections.

Specifically, 11 "wilderness study areas" in the Bears Ears region prohibit most motorized travel, construction of new roads and development of oil, gas or coal. These wilderness study areas include many of the region's iconic locations: Cedar Mesa, Mancos Mesa and Cheese Box Canyon, to name a few. The region is also home to the Dark Canyon Wilderness, designated by Congress in 1984 and completely protected from motorized travel or natural resource extraction. Farther

south lies the famed Valley of the Gods, federally preserved as an “area of critical environmental concern” to ensure the integrity of beautiful scenic vistas.

Myth: Without national monument status, the Bears Ears region will be crisscrossed by coal mines, oil rigs and gas pipelines.

Fact: Mineral resources beneath Bears Ears are scarce. There is no developable oil and gas. The region’s nonrenewable resources, including uranium near the Daneros Mine, were actually outside the expansive monument boundaries declared by Obama. The integrity of the Bears Ears landscape, long kept intact before the creation of the monument, will almost certainly remain intact after Trump’s announcement. And to ensure this going forward, the state of Utah is asking for congressional legislation that will exclude the region from mineral extraction.

Myth: National monument status will protect the rich archaeological sites and artifacts in the Bears Ears region.

Fact: Looting and vandalism are ongoing problems because the region lacks sufficient federal law enforcement. Existing federal laws such as the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act are just two federal laws that protect precious cultural and scientific sites on federal land regardless of status. But the Bureau of Land Management’s law enforcement presence, once a formidable force in the area, has steadily declined due to federal budget constraints and workforce reductions. The designation of BENM brings no guarantees of improved law enforcement, but it does guarantee growing tourist visitation to vulnerable archaeological sites that will spread BLM resources even thinner and likely aggravate problems with looting and vandalism.

Myth: National monument status is a boon for outdoor recreation.

Fact: Monument status can limit specific activities enjoyed by outdoor recreationists, such as mountain biking, certain types of rock climbing and motorized travel on back roads. Managing public lands for the full spectrum of outdoor recreation activities and tailoring them to the specific terrain is best done through land management plans that take input from local tribal leaders and local land managers who understand the unique nature of the area and its possible uses for responsible recreation.

Strong protections for the federal public lands that Utahns know and love are in place. The sacred and precious antiquities of southern Utah continue to be protected through targeted use of the Antiquities Act and existing laws, regulations and land management plans. Long-term, meaningful protection depends on stronger enforcement of existing law and on new legislation tailored to the nuanced concerns of federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders. It depends on allowing meaningful co-management of tribal ancestral lands by our local tribes. It depends on smart, sustainable management to accommodate conservation alongside a variety of responsible uses. By reducing the BENM to a realistic and manageable size, the Trump administration has reopened the door for the kind of sustainable protection the Bears Ears region really needs.

Gary R. Herbert is the governor of Utah.

AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/1)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **December 5:** Secretary Zinke/DOI will support President Trump in announcing the full Monument Review report.
- **December 5:** Secretary Zinke is meeting with Dale Hall of Ducks Unlimited and members of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.
- **December 6:** Secretary Zinke is attending the Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Speaker Paul Ryan's Holiday Reception

Interior Social Media Updates

- **December 5: Department-level Blog Post:** DOI will publish a blog post celebrating the 70th birthday of Everglades National Park.

National Park Service

- **December 3 to 9:** WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Pacific Historic Parks, and other close park partners, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Oahu by the Empire of Japan. In addition to the main ceremony on the morning of December 7, other highlights of the week include ceremonies at the USS Oklahoma and USS Utah memorials, as well as the interment of MM1c Estelle Birdsell, who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona and who will now join his brother, Rayon Birdsell, who died in the attack 76 years ago, within the USS Arizona. Complete details are available at <http://pearlharborevents.com>.
- **December 6:** DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron, members of the Western Governors' Association and the states of Idaho and Nevada will visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss the parks aquatic invasive species program.
- **December TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **December 7: Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory

Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

Bureau of Land Management

- **December 6: National BLM Release:** BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts totaling 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. There have been 12 previous NPR-A lease sales since 1999, but this one will be the first NPR-A lease to take place using livestream video. In addition, this is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Bidding is expected to be moderate.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 28 parcels totaling 27,284 acres in Garfield and Mesa counties. The sale is not expected to be controversial due to the lack of a significant number of protests received and lack of media coverage.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties. The sale is expected to be controversial and is likely to be protested by environmental groups concerned with the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality. The bidding is expected to be robust.
- **December 7:** BLM-CO Colorado River Valley Field Office will provide an update on its inspection and enforcement program at the quarterly Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum in Rifle, CO. The BLM will then provide the update at the monthly Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, also in Rifle. Updates will focus on the status of current projects, permitting and leasing.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **December 5:** USGS will issue four Technical Announcements and do social media about new reports that assess the quality of drinking-water supplies in four regional aquifers across the nation. The four regional aquifers to be announced are: Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer, Glacial aquifer system, Piedmont and Blue Ridge crystalline-rock aquifers, and the Rio Grande aquifer system.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **December 5 and 7:** Rescheduled Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR for Sites Reservoir Project (CA): The Sites Project Authority and Reclamation cancelled the September 26 and September 28 public meetings and rescheduled them for December 5 (in Sacramento) and December 7 (in Maxwell). The comment period is also extended to January 15, 2018.
- **December 7:** On December 7 in Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration will hold a public

meeting on the Columbia River System Operations EIS to discuss the results of public scoping and provide a status update on progress made on the EIS and to further educate attendees on the NEPA process. A draft biological opinion is due in 2020, final environmental impact statement/record of decision in 2021. The two Reclamation facilities included in this process are Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam (both include hydropower facilities).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **December TBD:** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **December TBD:** ONRR issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$19,736 to Mid-Con Energy Operating, LLC, (Mid-Con) (formerly RDT Properties, Inc) on November 17, 2017. ONRR investigated Mid-Con's failure to submit production reports (form ONRR-4054) and found 68 violations on multiple Indian leases for the production months of September 2011 through January 2013.
- **December TBD:** ONRR anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$840 to Eight Round Inc., (Eight Round) the week of November 5, 2017. ONRR investigated Eight Round's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 12 violations on one Indian agreement for production months of April, 2012 through September, 2013.

Office of Insular Affairs

- **December 5: National OIA Release:** Compact Impact Assistance Received for Guam Public School Leaseback Program for FY2018 - Interior Provides \$6.7M in Support of Guam Governor's Priorities

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/4)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS: The House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water Power and Oceans will hold a legislative hearing on HR.4465 which has impacts on Bureau of Reclamation and Fish Wildlife Service. DOI will not be testifying but will provide a

statement for the record.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

EXPECTED HEARING: The Senate Energy Committee is expected to hold a hearing on December 12 regarding permitting reform. Details regarding the specifics the committee plans to emphasize are still being put together; however, James Cason (Associate Dep. Sec.) is tentatively scheduled to testify.

Timing: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS: Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing will be held on 12/5/17.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

4 PAS confirmed as of 11/16

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
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- Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

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- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

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

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

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

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)

2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

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

12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

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

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

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

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Overnight, a fast-moving and wind-fueled wildfire, the Thomas Fire, started in Ventura County in southern California. The fire originated just south of the Los Padres National Forest, near the community of Santa Paula, as a brush fire around 50 acres in size. Due to dry foliage, low humidity, and sustained winds of more than 30 miles per hour overnight, the fire has grown to 31,000 acres and is zero-percent contained. Ventura County officials reported there were approximately 500 firefighters on scene or en route, and that fixed wing aircraft and helicopters are expected by day break. Mandatory evacuations have been issued for nearly 7,800 residences and 150 structures have already been destroyed. The overall intensity of the fire and weather conditions are complicating response efforts. Extreme Fire Weather is forecast for the area today and the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for

much of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. A Wind Advisory and High Wind Warning was also issued due to strong surface winds with gusts up to 60 to 80 miles per hour. The Lake Casitas Recreation Area (USBOR), the closest DOI asset in the area, is to the northwest of the fire perimeter and has not reported any impacts.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump Reduces Size Of Grand Staircase, Bears Ears Monuments.

During a visit To Utah Monday, President Trump announced that he has reduced the size of Bears Ears National Monument by 85% and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by about half. Media coverage is somewhat mixed, highlighting both the positive response from officials and Utahans who see the move as an economic win for the state as well as the negative reaction from protesters and tribal and environmental groups who have vowed to mount a legal challenge.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 4, 0:25, Holt) reported that Trump is “dramatically scaling back” the sites, and [Breitbart](#) (12/4, Spiering) says he took “the unusual step...despite an outcry from leftist environmental groups.” Trump said, “With the action I’m taking today, we will not only give back your voice over the use of this land, we will also restore your access and your enjoyment. ... Public lands will once again be for public use.”

· **FIRST MONUMENT LAWSUITS FILED:** A coalition of environmental groups filed the [first lawsuit](#) challenging President Donald Trump's long-expected move to shrink the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument just hours after he [announced](#) his decision to significantly pare two national monuments in Utah. The groups argue in their complaint filed in Washington federal court that the Antiquities Act "does not authorize Presidents to abolish [national monuments] either in whole or in part, as President Trump's action attempts to do." And the Native American Rights Fund, representing the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, filed its [own challenge](#) the Bears Ears proclamation late Monday evening.

Interior Department Nomination Hearing Begins Tuesday For Hill Staffer With Idaho Ties.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (12/4, Barnhill) reports that Tuesday morning, a Senate committee will hear the nomination of Tim Petty to be the assistant Interior secretary for water and science. Petty has “worked for the Interior Department before – under then-Secretary and former Idaho governor Dirk Kempthorne.”

Congress Fights Over Whether To Allow Interior To Kill Wild Horses.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel) reports that to manage the overpopulation of wild horses, John Ruhs, the Bureau of Land Management’s director in Nevada, “wants Congress to lift restrictions on his agency to give it more flexibility to euthanize horses — not just when they’re old and sick — and sell more of them for private use, without dictating what the buyer can or cannot do with the animals.” The Senate “introduced a fiscal 2018 Interior-Environmental Protection Agency spending bill last

month that includes language prohibiting BLM from selling without restriction tens of thousands of excess horses on federal rangelands and banning the agency from euthanizing animals that have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption more than three times.” However, the House’s fiscal 2018 Interior appropriations legislation “contains a section that would lift restrictions on BLM to sell or, in specific circumstances, euthanize excess wild horses.”

Bill Could Make Drilling Off N.C. Coast More Likely.

The [Jacksonville \(NC\) Daily News](#) (12/4, Wagner) reports that the SECURE American Energy Act would make drilling off North Carolina more likely. The measure was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources, but it has not yet received a vote from the full chamber. The bill would grant Congress the sole power to establish moratoriums on offshore drilling and create National Marine Monuments. Gov. Roy Cooper has opposed offshore exploration, saying it risks the state’s coastal economies.

Navajo-Gallup Water Project Gains Pipeline Contract.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (12/4, Mimiaga) reports that “Navajo and Jicarilla-Apache Nation communities in New Mexico are one step closer to receiving domestic and commercial water supplies as part of a \$1.13 billion federal construction project.” Construction began on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply project “in 2013 with completion estimated for 2024.” The article notes that “it is being built by the Bureau of Reclamation, city of Gallup, Navajo Nation and Indian Health Service.”

Hunt Elephants To Save Them? Some Countries See No Other Choice.

In continuing coverage of the controversy over the decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service last month “to allow hunters to bring home trophies from elephants killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia,” the [New York Times](#) (12/4, Nuwer) reports that “whether the proceeds from big-game hunting should be used to protect threatened and endangered species is a difficult question to answer.” The article notes that “in some areas, including in Namibia and Zimbabwe, the strategy has helped revive wildlife populations.” However, “in others, including Tanzania, hunting has fed corruption and decimated species.” Vern Buchanan Urges Donald Trump To Ban African Lion Trophies. The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (12/4, Derby) reports that Rep. Vern Buchanan, co-chairman of the Animal Protection Caucus in Congress, is urging President Trump “to restore the ban on allowing African lion trophies to be brought into the United States.” Buchanan said, “Allowing lion heads to be brought into the U.S. as trophies will only encourage the slaughter of these magnificent animals. President Trump should reverse his Interior secretary’s decision and keep the ban on African lion trophies.”

National Park Lovers Should Applaud Trump’s Monument Decision.

In an op-ed on the [Fox News](#) (12/4) website, ex-Rep. Jason Chaffetz praises President Trump’s decision to reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Staircase-Escalante National Monuments as “an example of his policies that will benefit every

American who enjoys national parks and monuments.” Chaffetz argues that national monument designations “have strained land management budgets and limited public access to beautiful places.”

DOI PRESS RELEASE:

President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres

Modifications protect paleontological resources, Native American artifacts and other objects of historic or scientific interest while restoring traditional use and access to public land

SALT LAKE CITY – Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump today signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of [Utah's Bears Ears National Monument \(BENM\)](#) and [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument \(GSENM\)](#). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

"No one values the splendor of Utah more than the people of Utah – and no one knows better how to use it. Families will hike and hunt on land they have known for generations, and they will preserve it for generations to come." **said President Donald J. Trump.** "The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time we ended this abusive practice. Public lands will once again be for public use."

"I thank President Trump for his leadership on the Monument Review and for keeping his promise to make sure the rural voice is heard once again," **said Secretary Zinke.** "As I visited the Monuments in Utah, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. The people of Utah overwhelmingly voiced to us that public land should be protected not for the special interests, but for the citizens of our great country who use them, and this is what President Trump is doing today. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase will remain under federal protection, will adhere to the spirit and letter of the Antiquities Act, and -- even after our modification -- combined will still be nearly twice the size of Rhode Island."

"By acting on Secretary Zinke's thoughtful recommendations, President Trump has restored balance to our public lands discussion," **said Governor Gary Herbert of Utah.** "We are pleased that Utahns once again have a voice in the process of determining appropriate uses of these public lands that we love. By reducing these super-sized monuments to a size consistent with the intent of the law, new doors of dialogue have opened up that will allow thoughtful, long-term protection of these federal lands. Federal, state, local and tribal officials can now convene to craft

legislation for appropriate special protections and responsible recreational uses."

"Thank you Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane, and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated," **said San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally**. "Thank you Senator Hatch. You and your staff have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being a fighter for San Juan County and our people. Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15,000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and the economy of San Juan County."

"I'm thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of federal lands in Utah," **said Senator Orrin Hatch**. "The President's proclamation represents a balanced solution and a win for everyone on all sides of this issue. It also represents a new beginning in the way national monuments are designated, paving the way for more local input, and taking into account the actual letter and intent of the Antiquities Act, which calls for the 'smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.'"

Bears Ears National Monument: The BENM will now encompass two monument units, Shash Jáa and Indian Creek, which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Shash Jáa is approximately 129,980 acres and Indian Creek is approximately 71,896 acres. Collectively, at approximately 201,876 acres in size, Bears Ears remains larger than Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park combined. The new proclamation allows for increased public access to the land and restores traditional use allowance for activities like cattle grazing and motorized recreation, and tribal collection of wood and herbs. Objects that remain within monument boundaries include: the "Bears Ears" buttes, Lime Ridge Clovis Site, Moon House Ruin, Doll House Ruin, Indian Creek Rock Art, and Newspaper Rock. The federal lands excluded from the monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the President's proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jáa unit of the monument and will be expanded to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County. The President and Secretary will also request that Congress formally allocate Tribal co-management of the monument.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: The GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM. The three new monument areas collectively total 1,003,863 acres, which is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the BLM.

In the 20 years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified by the proclamation have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those objects. The modified monument includes important objects identified in the original designation, including those areas with the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline, Grosvenor Arch, Old Paria Townsite, Dance Hall Rock, and relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows Federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with

the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007672 BLM Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Delay and Suspension of Certain Requirements -- This final rule temporarily suspends or delays certain requirements in the BLM final rule, "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation," published in November 2016. This final rule postpones the implementation of such requirements for one year until January 17, 2019, while the BLM considers whether to revise or rescind the 2016 final rule. Final Rule 12/01/2017

REG0007621 BOE Notice of Availability for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2018 -- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is announcing the availability of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2018 (Final SEIS). The Final SEIS will inform decisions on each of the two proposed region wide lease sales scheduled to be held in 2018. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0006845 FWS Financial Assistance: Wildlife Restoration, Sport Fish Restoration, Hunter Education and Safety -- FWS is updating the regulations that are the administrative rules for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs and subprograms. Proposed Rule 12/01/2017

REG0007652 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of a 5-yr Status Review of the Alaska-Breeding Population of Steller's Eider -- The FWS is initiating a 5-year status review of the Alaska-breeding population of Steller's eider under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The FWS requests any new information on the threatened species that has become available since the last review over a 60-day comment period. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007655 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan; Orange County Utilities, Malcolm Road Water Supply Facility, Orange County, FL -- The FWS has received an application from Orange County Utilities for an incidental take permit (ITP) that would authorize take of approximately 10.9 acres of occupied threatened sand skink habitat incidental to the construction of a water supply facility on property jointly owned by Orange County and the City of Orlando, Florida. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007667 FWS Issuance of Recovery Permits and Interstate Commerce Permits

January 2, 2017, through June 30, 2017 -- This batched notice informs the public of the issuance of Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007668 FWS U.S. Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007669 FWS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Depredation Orders -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007670 NPS National Register of Historic Places, November 18, 2017 -- The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before November 18, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 12/01/2017

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/05/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK:

- 12/5 – DC – Meeting with Dale Hall, Ducks Unlimited
 - Meeting with Montana Stock Growers Association
 - Call with Reporters Regarding Monuments Report
 - Meeting with Members of Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
 - Meeting with World War I Centennial Commission
 - White House Congressional Ball
- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7-8 – Internal meetings

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in Utah

- Conference Call with USDA Senior Advisor Brian Klippenstein
- Meeting with Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
- Participate in NEC meeting with EPA
- Attend Ducks Unlimited event on Capitol Hill

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

OF Interest

[Deseret News- Opinion: Gary Herbert: 5 myths about Bears Ears](#)

Governor Gary Herbert

December 4, 2017

The extraordinarily vast and beautiful area of southeastern Utah known to many as the Bears Ears region deserves protection for the benefit of all Americans for generations to come and for the special benefit of those Native Americans with rich ancestral ties to this land. In order to conserve these geologically, culturally and archaeologically rich lands, federal, state, tribal and local officials need to convene and craft legislation for a diverse array of special protections and responsible recreational uses. President Donald Trump's announcement Monday reopens the door for exactly the kind of sustainable management that the Bears Ears region needs.

By executive order, Trump has reduced the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) that President Barack Obama designated less than one year ago. That original designation created a supersize monument of about 1.35 million acres of federal land, which, when one accounts for all state and private inholdings, actually approaches 1.5 million acres. The entire state of Delaware is a little over 1.59 million acres. Both the creation and the reduction of this monument have come with controversy — controversy that has often been fueled by several false narratives.

Regardless of your heartfelt feelings about what Bears Ears National Monument represents, let's sift the facts from the fiction.

Myth: By reducing the size of BENM, these federal lands will be transferred to the state of Utah and/or private entities.

Fact: BENM was designated on federal lands that will remain under federal ownership regardless of monument status. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has adamantly opposed the wholesale transfer or privatization of federal public lands, and that commitment is reflected in this modification of monument boundaries.

Myth: Without national monument status, the vast landscape of the Bears Ears region will be subjected to unchecked exploitation.

Fact: Before Obama's monument declaration in December 2016, the Bears Ears region was mostly federal public land subject to a network of federal protections that conserve the area's natural beauty and archeological treasures. Trump's reconfiguration of the monument's boundaries does not change the federal ownership of these lands and maintains the existing system of federal protections.

Specifically, 11 "wilderness study areas" in the Bears Ears region prohibit most motorized travel, construction of new roads and development of oil, gas or coal. These wilderness study areas include many of the region's iconic locations: Cedar Mesa, Mancos Mesa and Cheese Box Canyon, to name a few. The region is also home to the Dark Canyon Wilderness, designated by Congress in 1984 and completely protected from motorized travel or natural resource extraction. Farther south lies the famed Valley of the Gods, federally preserved as an "area of critical environmental concern" to ensure the integrity of beautiful scenic vistas.

Myth: Without national monument status, the Bears Ears region will be crisscrossed by coal mines, oil rigs and gas pipelines.

Fact: Mineral resources beneath Bears Ears are scarce. There is no developable oil and gas. The region's nonrenewable resources, including uranium near the Daneros Mine, were actually outside the expansive monument boundaries declared by Obama. The integrity of the Bears Ears landscape, long kept intact before the creation of the monument, will almost certainly remain intact after Trump's announcement. And to ensure this going forward, the state of Utah is asking for congressional legislation that will exclude the region from mineral extraction.

Myth: National monument status will protect the rich archaeological sites and artifacts in the Bears Ears region.

Fact: Looting and vandalism are ongoing problems because the region lacks sufficient federal law enforcement. Existing federal laws such as the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act are just two federal laws that protect precious cultural and scientific sites on federal land regardless of status. But the Bureau of Land Management's law enforcement presence, once a formidable force in the area, has steadily declined due to federal budget constraints and workforce reductions. The designation of BENM brings no guarantees of improved law enforcement, but it does guarantee growing tourist visitation to vulnerable archaeological sites that will spread BLM resources even thinner and likely aggravate problems with looting and vandalism.

Myth: National monument status is a boon for outdoor recreation.

Fact: Monument status can limit specific activities enjoyed by outdoor recreationists, such as mountain biking, certain types of rock climbing and motorized travel on back roads. Managing public lands for the full spectrum of outdoor recreation activities and tailoring them to the specific terrain is best done

through land management plans that take input from local tribal leaders and local land managers who understand the unique nature of the area and its possible uses for responsible recreation.

Strong protections for the federal public lands that Utahns know and love are in place. The sacred and precious antiquities of southern Utah continue to be protected through targeted use of the Antiquities Act and existing laws, regulations and land management plans. Long-term, meaningful protection depends on stronger enforcement of existing law and on new legislation tailored to the nuanced concerns of federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders. It depends on allowing meaningful co-management of tribal ancestral lands by our local tribes. It depends on smart, sustainable management to accommodate conservation alongside a variety of responsible uses. By reducing the BENM to a realistic and manageable size, the Trump administration has reopened the door for the kind of sustainable protection the Bears Ears region really needs.

Gary R. Herbert is the governor of Utah.

AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/1)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **December 5:** Secretary Zinke/DOI will support President Trump in announcing the full Monument Review report.
- **December 5:** Secretary Zinke is meeting with Dale Hall of Ducks Unlimited and members of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.
- **December 6:** Secretary Zinke is attending the Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Speaker Paul Ryan's Holiday Reception

Interior Social Media Updates

- **December 5: Department-level Blog Post:** DOI will publish a blog post celebrating the 70th birthday of Everglades National Park.

National Park Service

- **December 3 to 9:** WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Pacific Historic Parks, and other close park partners, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Oahu by the Empire of Japan. In addition to the main ceremony on the morning of December 7, other highlights of the week include ceremonies at the USS Oklahoma and USS Utah memorials, as well as the interment of MM1c Estelle Birdsell, who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona and who will now join his brother, Rayon Birdsell, who died in the attack 76 years ago, within the USS Arizona. Complete details are available at <http://pearlharborevents.com>.
- **December 6:** DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron, members of the Western Governors' Association and the states of Idaho and Nevada will visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss the parks aquatic invasive species program.
- **December TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **December 7: Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

Bureau of Land Management

- **December 6: National BLM Release:** BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts totaling 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. There have been 12 previous NPR-A lease sales since 1999, but this one will be the first NPR-A lease to take place using livestream video. In addition, this is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Bidding is expected to be moderate.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 28 parcels totaling 27,284 acres in Garfield and Mesa counties. The sale is not expected to be controversial due to the lack of a significant number of protests received and lack of media coverage.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties. The sale is expected to be controversial and is likely to be protested by environmental groups concerned with the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality. The bidding is expected to be robust.
- **December 7:** BLM-CO Colorado River Valley Field Office will provide an update on its inspection and enforcement program at the quarterly Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum in Rifle, CO. The BLM will then provide the update at the monthly Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, also in Rifle. Updates will focus on the status of current projects, permitting and leasing.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **December 5:** USGS will issue four Technical Announcements and do social media about new reports that assess the quality of drinking-water supplies in four regional aquifers across the nation. The four regional aquifers to be announced are: Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer, Glacial aquifer system, Piedmont and Blue Ridge crystalline-rock aquifers, and the Rio Grande aquifer system.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **December 5 and 7:** Rescheduled Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR for Sites Reservoir Project (CA): The Sites Project Authority and Reclamation cancelled the September 26 and September 28 public meetings and rescheduled them for December 5 (in Sacramento) and December 7 (in Maxwell). The comment period is also extended to January 15, 2018.
- **December 7:** On December 7 in Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration will hold a public meeting on the Columbia River System Operations EIS to discuss the results of public scoping and provide a status update on progress made on the EIS and to further educate attendees on the NEPA process. A draft biological opinion is due in 2020, final environmental impact statement/record of decision in 2021. The two Reclamation facilities included in this process are Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam (both include hydropower facilities).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **December TBD:** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **December TBD:** ONRR issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$19,736 to Mid-Con Energy Operating, LLC, (Mid-Con) (formerly RDT Properties, Inc) on November 17, 2017. ONRR investigated Mid-Con's failure to submit production reports (form ONRR-4054) and found 68 violations on multiple Indian leases for the production months of September 2011 through January 2013.
- **December TBD:** ONRR anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$840 to Eight Round Inc., (Eight Round) the week of November 5, 2017. ONRR investigated Eight Round's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 12 violations on one Indian agreement for production months of April, 2012 through September, 2013.

Office of Insular Affairs

- **December 5: National OIA Release:** Compact Impact Assistance Received for Guam Public School Leaseback Program for FY2018 - Interior Provides \$6.7M in Support of Guam Governor's Priorities

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/4)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS: The House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water Power and Oceans will hold a legislative hearing on HR.4465 which has impacts on Bureau of Reclamation and Fish Wildlife Service. DOI will not be testifying but will provide a statement for the record.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

EXPECTED HEARING: The Senate Energy Committee is expected to hold a hearing on December 12 regarding permitting reform. Details regarding the specifics the committee plans to emphasize are still being put together; however, James Cason (Associate Dep. Sec.) is tentatively scheduled to testify.

Timing: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS: Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing will be held on 12/5/17.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

4 PAS confirmed as of 11/16

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
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SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)

3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

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

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

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

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

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Declining

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

12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

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

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

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

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Overnight, a fast-moving and wind-fueled wildfire, the Thomas Fire, started in Ventura County in southern California. The fire originated just south of the Los Padres National Forest, near the community of Santa Paula, as a brush fire around 50 acres in size. Due to dry foliage, low humidity, and sustained winds of more than 30 miles per hour overnight, the fire has grown to 31,000 acres and is zero-percent

contained. Ventura County officials reported there were approximately 500 firefighters on scene or en route, and that fixed wing aircraft and helicopters are expected by day break. Mandatory evacuations have been issued for nearly 7,800 residences and 150 structures have already been destroyed. The overall intensity of the fire and weather conditions are complicating response efforts. Extreme Fire Weather is forecast for the area today and the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for much of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. A Wind Advisory and High Wind Warning was also issued due to strong surface winds with gusts up to 60 to 80 miles per hour. The Lake Casitas Recreation Area (USBOR), the closest DOI asset in the area, is to the northwest of the fire perimeter and has not reported any impacts.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump Reduces Size Of Grand Staircase, Bears Ears Monuments.

During a visit To Utah Monday, President Trump announced that he has reduced the size of Bears Ears National Monument by 85% and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by about half. Media coverage is somewhat mixed, highlighting both the positive response from officials and Utahans who see the move as an economic win for the state as well as the negative reaction from protesters and tribal and environmental groups who have vowed to mount a legal challenge.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 4, 0:25, Holt) reported that Trump is “dramatically scaling back” the sites, and [Breitbart](#) (12/4, Spiering) says he took “the unusual step...despite an outcry from leftist environmental groups.” Trump said, “With the action I’m taking today, we will not only give back your voice over the use of this land, we will also restore your access and your enjoyment. ... Public lands will once again be for public use.”

- **FIRST MONUMENT LAWSUITS FILED:** A coalition of environmental groups filed the [first lawsuit](#) challenging President Donald Trump's long-expected move to shrink the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument just hours after he [announced](#) his decision to significantly pare two national monuments in Utah. The groups argue in their complaint filed in Washington federal court that the Antiquities Act "does not authorize Presidents to abolish [national monuments] either in whole or in part, as President Trump's action attempts to do." And the Native American Rights Fund, representing the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, filed its [own challenge](#) the Bears Ears proclamation late Monday evening.

Interior Department Nomination Hearing Begins Tuesday For Hill Staffer With Idaho Ties.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (12/4, Barnhill) reports that Tuesday morning, a Senate committee will hear the nomination of Tim Petty to be the assistant Interior secretary for water and science. Petty has “worked for the Interior Department before – under then-Secretary and former Idaho governor Dirk Kempthorne.”

Congress Fights Over Whether To Allow Interior To Kill Wild Horses.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel) reports that to manage the overpopulation of wild horses, John Ruhs, the Bureau of Land Management’s director in Nevada, “wants Congress to lift restrictions on his agency to give it more flexibility to euthanize horses — not just when they’re old and sick — and sell more of them for private use, without dictating what the buyer can or cannot do with the animals.” The Senate “introduced a fiscal 2018 Interior-Environmental Protection Agency spending bill last month that includes language prohibiting BLM from selling without restriction tens of thousands of excess horses on federal rangelands and banning the agency from euthanizing animals that have been unsuccessfully

offered for adoption more than three times.” However, the House’s fiscal 2018 Interior appropriations legislation “contains a section that would lift restrictions on BLM to sell or, in specific circumstances, euthanize excess wild horses.”

Bill Could Make Drilling Off N.C. Coast More Likely.

The [Jacksonville \(NC\) Daily News](#) (12/4, Wagner) reports that the SECURE American Energy Act would make drilling off North Carolina more likely. The measure was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources, but it has not yet received a vote from the full chamber. The bill would grant Congress the sole power to establish moratoriums on offshore drilling and create National Marine Monuments. Gov. Roy Cooper has opposed offshore exploration, saying it risks the state’s coastal economies.

Navajo-Gallup Water Project Gains Pipeline Contract.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (12/4, Mimiaga) reports that “Navajo and Jicarilla-Apache Nation communities in New Mexico are one step closer to receiving domestic and commercial water supplies as part of a \$1.13 billion federal construction project.” Construction began on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply project “in 2013 with completion estimated for 2024.” The article notes that “it is being built by the Bureau of Reclamation, city of Gallup, Navajo Nation and Indian Health Service.”

Hunt Elephants To Save Them? Some Countries See No Other Choice.

In continuing coverage of the controversy over the decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service last month “to allow hunters to bring home trophies from elephants killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia,” the [New York Times](#) (12/4, Nuwer) reports that “whether the proceeds from big-game hunting should be used to protect threatened and endangered species is a difficult question to answer.” The article notes that “in some areas, including in Namibia and Zimbabwe, the strategy has helped revive wildlife populations.” However, “in others, including Tanzania, hunting has fed corruption and decimated species.” Vern Buchanan Urges Donald Trump To Ban African Lion Trophies. The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (12/4, Derby) reports that Rep. Vern Buchanan, co-chairman of the Animal Protection Caucus in Congress, is urging President Trump “to restore the ban on allowing African lion trophies to be brought into the United States.” Buchanan said, “Allowing lion heads to be brought into the U.S. as trophies will only encourage the slaughter of these magnificent animals. President Trump should reverse his Interior secretary’s decision and keep the ban on African lion trophies.”

National Park Lovers Should Applaud Trump’s Monument Decision.

In an op-ed on the [Fox News](#) (12/4) website, ex-Rep. Jason Chaffetz praises President Trump’s decision to reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Staircase-Escalante National Monuments as “an example of his policies that will benefit every American who enjoys national parks and monuments.” Chaffetz argues that national monument designations “have strained land management budgets and limited public access to beautiful places.”

DOI PRESS RELEASE:

President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres
Modifications protect paleontological resources, Native American artifacts and other objects of historic or scientific interest while restoring traditional use and access to public land

SALT LAKE CITY – Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President

Donald J. Trump today signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of [Utah's Bears Ears National Monument \(BENM\)](#) and [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument \(GSENM\)](#). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

"No one values the splendor of Utah more than the people of Utah – and no one knows better how to use it. Families will hike and hunt on land they have known for generations, and they will preserve it for generations to come." **said President Donald J. Trump.** "The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time we ended this abusive practice. Public lands will once again be for public use."

"I thank President Trump for his leadership on the Monument Review and for keeping his promise to make sure the rural voice is heard once again," **said Secretary Zinke.** "As I visited the Monuments in Utah, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. The people of Utah overwhelmingly voiced to us that public land should be protected not for the special interests, but for the citizens of our great country who use them, and this is what President Trump is doing today. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase will remain under federal protection, will adhere to the spirit and letter of the Antiquities Act, and -- even after our modification -- combined will still be nearly twice the size of Rhode Island."

"By acting on Secretary Zinke's thoughtful recommendations, President Trump has restored balance to our public lands discussion," **said Governor Gary Herbert of Utah.** "We are pleased that Utahns once again have a voice in the process of determining appropriate uses of these public lands that we love. By reducing these super-sized monuments to a size consistent with the intent of the law, new doors of dialogue have opened up that will allow thoughtful, long-term protection of these federal lands. Federal, state, local and tribal officials can now convene to craft legislation for appropriate special protections and responsible recreational uses."

"Thank you Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane, and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated," **said San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally.** "Thank you Senator Hatch. You and your staff have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being a fighter for San Juan County and our people. Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15,000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and the economy of San Juan County."

"I'm thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of federal lands in Utah," **said Senator Orrin Hatch.** "The President's proclamation represents a balanced solution and a win for everyone on all sides of this issue. It also represents a new beginning in the way national monuments are designated, paving the way for more local input, and taking into account the actual letter and intent of the Antiquities Act, which calls for the 'smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.'"

Bears Ears National Monument: The BENM will now encompass two monument units, Shash Jáa and Indian Creek, which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Shash Jáa is approximately 129,980 acres and Indian Creek is approximately 71,896 acres. Collectively, at approximately 201,876 acres in size, Bears Ears remains larger than Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park combined. The new proclamation allows for increased public access to the land and restores traditional use allowance for activities like cattle grazing and motorized

recreation, and tribal collection of wood and herbs. Objects that remain within monument boundaries include: the "Bears Ears" buttes, Lime Ridge Clovis Site, Moon House Ruin, Doll House Ruin, Indian Creek Rock Art, and Newspaper Rock. The federal lands excluded from the monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the President's proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jáa unit of the monument and will be expanded to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County. The President and Secretary will also request that Congress formally allocate Tribal co-management of the monument.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: The GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM. The three new monument areas collectively total 1,003,863 acres, which is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the BLM.

In the 20 years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified by the proclamation have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those objects. The modified monument includes important objects identified in the original designation, including those areas with the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline, Grosvenor Arch, Old Paria Townsite, Dance Hall Rock, and relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows Federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM-managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings

attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007672 BLM Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Delay and Suspension of Certain Requirements -- This final rule temporarily suspends or delays certain requirements in the BLM final rule, "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation," published in November 2016. This final rule postpones the implementation of such requirements for one year until January 17, 2019, while the BLM considers whether to revise or rescind the 2016 final rule. Final Rule 12/01/2017

REG0007621 BOE Notice of Availability for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2018 -- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is announcing the availability of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2018 (Final SEIS). The Final SEIS will inform decisions on each of the two proposed region wide lease sales scheduled to be held in 2018. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0006845 FWS Financial Assistance: Wildlife Restoration, Sport Fish Restoration, Hunter Education and Safety -- FWS is updating the regulations that are the administrative rules for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs and subprograms. Proposed Rule 12/01/2017

REG0007652 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of a 5-yr Status Review of the Alaska-Breeding Population of Steller's Eider -- The FWS is initiating a 5-year status review of the Alaska-breeding population of Steller's eider under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The FWS requests any new information on the threatened species that has become available since the last review over a 60-day comment period. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007655 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan; Orange County Utilities, Malcolm Road Water Supply Facility, Orange County, FL -- The FWS has received an application from Orange County Utilities for an incidental take permit (ITP) that would authorize take of approximately 10.9 acres of occupied threatened sand skink habitat incidental to the construction of a water supply facility on property jointly owned by Orange County and the City of Orlando, Florida. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007667 FWS Issuance of Recovery Permits and Interstate Commerce Permits January 2, 2017, through June 30, 2017 -- This batched notice informs the public of the issuance of Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007668 FWS U.S. Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007669 FWS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Depredation Orders -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 12/01/2017

REG0007670 NPS National Register of Historic Places, November 18, 2017 -- The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before November 18, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 12/01/2017

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Alex Hinson](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Douglas Domenech](#); [Eli Nachmany](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [James Cason](#); [John Tanner](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Natalie Davis](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#)
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 12/6
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 5:02:27 PM
Attachments: [DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 12-06-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/06/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK:

- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - o Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - o Call with Senator King
 - o Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - o Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7 – Internal meetings
- 12/8 – Meeting with Governor Martinez

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Meeting with Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/1)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **December 6:** Secretary Zinke is attending the Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Speaker Paul Ryan's Holiday Reception

Interior Social Media Updates

- **December 5: Department-level Blog Post:** DOI will publish a blog post celebrating the 70th birthday of Everglades National Park.

National Park Service

- **December 3 to 9:** WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Pacific Historic Parks, and other close park partners, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Oahu by the Empire of Japan. In addition to the main ceremony on the morning of December 7, other highlights of the week include ceremonies at the USS Oklahoma and USS Utah memorials, as well as the interment of MM1c Estelle Birdsell, who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona and who will now join his brother, Rayon Birdsell, who died in the attack 76 years ago, within the USS Arizona. Complete details are available at <http://pearlharborevents.com>.
- **December 6:** DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron, members of the Western Governors' Association and the states of Idaho and Nevada will visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss the parks aquatic invasive species program.
- **December TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **December 7: Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

Bureau of Land Management

- **December 6: National BLM Release:** BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts totaling 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. There have been 12 previous NPR-A lease sales since 1999, but this one will be the first NPR-A lease to take place using livestream video. In addition, this is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Bidding is expected to be moderate.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 28 parcels totaling 27,284 acres in Garfield and Mesa counties. The sale is not expected to be controversial due to the lack of a significant number of protests received and lack of media coverage.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties. The sale is

expected to be controversial and is likely to be protested by environmental groups concerned with the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality. The bidding is expected to be robust.

- **December 7:** BLM-CO Colorado River Valley Field Office will provide an update on its inspection and enforcement program at the quarterly Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum in Rifle, CO. The BLM will then provide the update at the monthly Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, also in Rifle. Updates will focus on the status of current projects, permitting and leasing.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **December 5 and 7:** Rescheduled Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR for Sites Reservoir Project (CA): The Sites Project Authority and Reclamation cancelled the September 26 and September 28 public meetings and rescheduled them for December 5 (in Sacramento) and December 7 (in Maxwell). The comment period is also extended to January 15, 2018.
- **December 7:** On December 7 in Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration will hold a public meeting on the Columbia River System Operations EIS to discuss the results of public scoping and provide a status update on progress made on the EIS and to further educate attendees on the NEPA process. A draft biological opinion is due in 2020, final environmental impact statement/record of decision in 2021. The two Reclamation facilities included in this process are Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam (both include hydropower facilities).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **December TBD:** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **December TBD:** ONRR issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$19,736 to Mid-Con Energy Operating, LLC, (Mid-Con) (formerly RDT Properties, Inc) on November 17, 2017. ONRR investigated Mid-Con's failure to submit production reports (form ONRR-4054) and found 68 violations on multiple Indian leases for the production months of September 2011 through January 2013.
- **December TBD:** ONRR anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$840 to Eight Round Inc., (Eight Round) the week of November 5, 2017. ONRR investigated Eight Round's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 12 violations on one Indian agreement for production months of April, 2012 through September, 2013.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/4)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a

legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

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12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

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

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

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

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Thomas Fire in southern California continues to burn out of control due to strong and erratic winds. The fire has burned approximately 55,000 (+24,000) acres and is zero-percent (no change) contained. Due to the complexity and scope of this incident, accurate reporting is a challenge for responders. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 1,776 (+1,276) personnel assigned. Evacuations have been ordered for 28,000 residents. There are 12,000 structures threatened by this fire and 150 (no change) structures have been destroyed. There are a few small parcels of BLM lands within the updated fire perimeter; however, the impact to these lands is unknown at this time. The Governor of California has declared a State of Emergency for Ventura County due to the Thomas Fire. While winds remain an issue today, forecasts indicate that Thursday will be an extremely dangerous day for fire activity in the area, as winds will reach 20 to 40 miles per hour, with gusts exceeding 65 miles per hour over higher terrain and in wind prone areas. Fuels in the area are very dry and will continue to support significant fire activity, with high rates of spread. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch through Friday.

Due to the close proximity to the office and employee homes in the area of the Thomas Fire, BOEM and BSEE initiated and completed employee accountability for the Pacific Regional Office located in Camarillo, CA (approximately 14 miles away). All DOI personnel are accounted and BOEM has identified six employees that evacuated the area, but do not require assistance at this time. Although the office remains open, unscheduled leave and telework has been afforded to personnel and administrative leave has been granted to employees in the evacuation zones or zones adjacent that could be impacted.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

After Bears Ears, Trump Administration Ponders More Changes To National Monuments.

In the wake of President Trump's proclamations reducing the size of the Bears Ears and GrandStaircase-Escalante national monuments, [USA Today](#) (12/5, Korte) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending he "scale back four more national monuments...and make modifications to at least four more, continuing an unprecedented blitz of presidential action to ease restriction on public lands." Zinke "is recommending that Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Gold Butte in Nevada," and "boundary changes to two marine national monuments: the Pacific Remote Islands and the Rose Atoll." Zinke also recommended modifications to Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, Northeast

Canyons and Seamounts in Massachusetts, and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Eilperin) reports that Zinke “said he was ‘fairly confident’ Trump would accept all of his recommendations, and he intends to brief him ‘multiple times’ in coming weeks to get his sign-off.”

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (12/6, Nash), [Reuters](#) (12/5, Volcovici), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Schneider), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Staff, Agencies), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, D'Angelo), [BuzzFeed](#) (12/5, Dalrymple), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (12/5, Gardner).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/5, Roth), [KPVI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5).

Zinke Defends Monument Reductions, Supports Badger-Two Medicine. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/5, Chaney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a call with reporters on Tuesday “repeated an earlier proposal to create a new, 130,000-acre monument in Montana protecting the Badger-Two Medicine region surrounded by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.” Zinke said, “I think there’s a really great opportunity for the Badger-Two Medicine as the number of crowds and visitors continue to break records in Glacier (National Park). Here’s a virtually untapped area and a chance to do it right. There’s the possibility of revenue from tourism and an untapped culture. I think it’s deserving of monument status.”

Also reporting are [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (12/5) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (12/5, Jochim).

Jessamine County Site At Camp Nelson Could Be Kentucky’s First National Monument. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (12/5, Kocher) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “formally recommended Tuesday that Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park should be one of three new national monuments in the country.” Zinke said in a statement, “Camp Nelson is one of the places where our nation was made stronger and history was made. As a key depot, training center and hospital, Camp Nelson recruited and trained thousands of African-American war heroes who helped restore the Union.” Rep. Andy Barr said in a statement that he “can think of no site more deserving of the distinction than the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park where thousands of African American slaves found freedom. ...I strongly encourage President Trump to follow through” on Zinke’s recommendation.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lane Report](#) (12/5).

Zinke Questions Legality, Offers Few Specifics About Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument’s Fate. The [Oregonian](#) (12/5, Theen) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “offered few additional details Tuesday about the administration’s plans for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon.”

Zinke said, “We have not set down in specifics on what an adjusted boundary would look like.” The article notes that “Zinke’s final recommendations included some of the same language from the September draft plan, saying the Oregon boundary should be revised to ‘address impacts on private lands’ and commercial timber harvest.”

Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/5), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, Perkowski), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (12/5, Arthur), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/5, Urness), [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (12/5, Burns), and [KOBI-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (12/5).

Zinke Recommends Shrinking Nevada Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending reducing the size of the Gold Butte National Monument. Zinke “said Tuesday he would focus changes on the site’s water districts.” He “declined to specify how much land he wants to remove from monument status in Nevada.”

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/5, Saunders, Brean) and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (12/5, O’Neal).

New Mexico National Monuments To Remain Intact. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that “the boundaries of New Mexico’s two national monuments that were under review will remain intact, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says modifications will be made to protect the long-standing culture of grazing and to ensure hunters and anglers don’t lose access.” Zinke on Tuesday said “his decision to keep Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and the Rio Grande Del Norte national monuments the same size followed discussions with the governor, the state’s congressional delegation, ranchers and conservationists.” He “said the administration was comfortable with the New Mexico monuments and wanted to ensure they could be actively managed in perpetuity.”

Also reporting are [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (12/5, Ortiz), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5).

Interior Secretary Wants To Maintain Katahdin Woods Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “reiterated his support for a ‘made in Maine’ solution that keeps intact the boundaries of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.” Zinke “recommended that timbering should be permitted on the property and that infrastructure upgrades and public access for ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting should be prioritized in a management plan.” Rep. Bruce Poliquin said Zinke’s recommendation “strikes the right balance.” He called Zinke’s recommendation “a smart compromise that will help ensure traditional uses of the land and sustainable forest management are safeguarded, along with the jobs they support in the area.”

Also reporting are the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (12/5, Miller), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/5, Sambides), the [Boston Globe](#) (12/5), and [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (12/5).

Newhouse Praises Interior Decision To Maintain Hanford Reach National Monument. [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (12/5) reports that Rep. Dan Newhouse in a statement praised the decision to not change the Hanford Reach National Monument. Newhouse said, “In June, I shared my concerns with Secretary Zinke and the administration that no modifications should be made to the Hanford Reach National Monument. I am pleased that after today’s report by the Interior Department, this national treasure will continue to be open to public access for future generations to enjoy.”

[Fortune: Ryan Zinke Fires Back After Patagonia Says 'the President Stole Your Land'](#)

Alana Abramson
December 5, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fired back at Patagonia on Tuesday after the outdoor apparel company made a high-profile protest to President Donald Trump’s decision to shrink two national monuments.

Patagonia posted a message on its website Monday night under a blaring headline, “The President Stole Your Land.” The message was in a response to Trump drastically reducing the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah hours earlier. “This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history,” the company said.

Zinke said on Fox and Friends Tuesday, “It’s interesting you know, these companies that make their products other places, on foreign shores.”

“There is not one square inch that leaves the federal estate but we do restore national forest to a National Forest, restore wilderness, and we open up our public land to the public, greater access, making sure hunting and fishing rights, grazing,” he added. “There are multigenerational ranching families that found their livelihood being threatened.”

“We need to make sure we’re actively managing our lands,” he said. “Public use is important, and our land is for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and not special interest groups.”

In a 2012 blog post, Patagonia explained that the company had 16 factories worldwide, including in the United States. The company said it manufactured some of its clothing overseas partially because of trade agreements like NAFTA, which Trump frequently railed against in the 2016 campaign for eliminating American jobs.

“We cannot make a claim to be a ‘Made in America’ company; we have always sourced at least half our products outside the U.S.,” the company wrote at the time. “It

is very difficult for clothing companies to find factories in the U.S. that meet our standards; the textile industry is much smaller; the work has shifted overseas.”

Some of members of the Trump Administration are associated with companies that produced work overseas, as well. A Washington Post report published in July found that First Daughter Ivanka Trump’s company exclusively manufactures products overseas. Trump, a senior White House advisor, stepped down from her company after her father became president, although the New York Times reported she transferred her assets to a trust and still has veto power over potential deals.

Navajo Nation Sues Trump Over Utah Monument Reduction.

[The Hill](#) (12/5, Cama) reports that “the Navajo Nation and four other American Indian tribes said Tuesday they had sued President Trump to undo his action reducing the Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah.” The lawsuit, “which the tribes had long promised, argues that Trump did not have the legal authority to remove more than 80 percent of the land protections that former President Barack Obama had established in 2016.” The tribes wrote in a statement, “Through the Antiquities Act, Congress delegated to the president the limited authority to designate national monuments and retained to itself the power to revoke or modify national monuments.” They continued, “The proclamation signed by President Trump today is so extreme that it revokes and replaces Bears Ears and thereby violates the Antiquities Act and seizes authority that the Constitution vests solely in Congress.”

Omaha Tribe Mismanaged \$13.9 Million In Federal Flood-assistance Grants, Audit Finds.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (12/5, Hammel) reports that “a recent audit slammed the Omaha Tribe for mismanaging \$13.9 million in federal flood-assistance grants, and for ‘contracting with itself’ to generate ‘artificial profits’ that covered its required matching funds.” The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General “said that the tribe’s accounting and record-keeping were so ‘unreliable and in such disarray’ that it should receive no further funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency until it can show that repair work was done, and done at a reasonable price.” The inspector general’s report added that “the tribe’s poor record-keeping has been a long-running problem that resulted in sanctions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 2011 to 2013.”

9th Circ. Gives Navajo Partial Win In Waters Rights Suit.

[Law360](#) (12/5, Lidgett) reports that “a Ninth Circuit panel on Monday gave the Navajo Nation a partial win in its water rights suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, ruling that a district court’s dismissal of its breach of trust claim was not warranted, and sent the claim back to the lower court to consider it on its merits.”

Oil Companies Clamping Down On Methane Leaks.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/5, Osborne) reports the American Petroleum Institute announced a voluntary program to reduce methane emissions “even as the Trump

administration takes steps to roll back existing environmental regulations targeting those emissions.” Starting next year 26 companies will implement standards that include “employing advanced leak detection technology and replacing older equipment prone to leaks across their U.S. operations.” However, “the announcement did little to assuage criticism of the oil and gas industry for its longstanding fights against climate change regulation, which included fighting the Obama administration’s methane efforts.”

House Moderates Opposes Allowing Arctic Oil Drilling In Tax Bill.

[McClatchy](#) (12/5, Daugherty) reports that some moderate House of Representative Republicans sent “a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging the upper chamber to pass a tax bill without oil-drilling concessions in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.” The letter stated that “for decades, Congress has voted to prohibit oil and gas development in the Refuge, with the overwhelming support of the American public.” The letter added, “support for this protection remains strong today. After years of debate, the Arctic Refuge stands as a symbol of our nation’s strong and enduring natural legacy.” The letter was not successful as the plan was passed by the Senate.

DOI PRESS RELEASE:

Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released [the final report](#) outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

- **Keep federal lands federal** - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by whichever agency managed the land before designation
- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we

agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the

Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

Interior Jumps into the Top Ten Best Places to Work

WASHINGTON – Last night, the Partnership for Public Service announced its yearly report titled "The Best Places to Work." In the first year under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump towards reaching that goal.

"Interior should be hands-down the best place to work in the federal government, and we're going to get there," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "What kid growing up doesn't look at a Park Ranger, a law enforcement officer, or a paleontologist and say, 'I want to do that when I grow up!'" During my confirmation hearing I pledged to make Interior the best place to work, and I'm happy to see we are already making progress. In the years to come we will reorganize the force to push more resources to the front lines and clean up the culture of harassment and discrimination. Moving from 11th to 9th is a nice step, but I won't be satisfied until we're No. 1."

Federal employee engagement government-wide rose 2.1 points from 2016 for an overall score of 61.5 out of 100—the largest increase in the history of the rankings. These results build on a 2.5-point improvement the previous two years, demonstrating a concerted effort by agencies across government to improve how employees view their leaders and their jobs.

According to bestplacestowork.org, here are a few data points about the Department of the Interior this year:

- The Department of the Interior's 2017 employee engagement score is 63.9 out of 100, placing DOI at 9 out of 18 large agencies.
- The Department of the Interior's employee engagement score improved by 2.9 points since last year. The government-wide engagement score is 61.5, up 2.1 points from last year. DOI's 2017 score is 2.4 points higher than the government-wide score.
- Many issues – from pay to teamwork to strategic management – influence how employees view their workplaces and rate their engagement. Effective leadership was once again the key driver of employee engagement across government in 2017. Employees gave leadership at your agency a score of 55.1 out of 100.
- One important question to pay attention to as you review your data is whether your employees think the survey results will be used to make the organization better. At DOI, 34.4 percent of employees believe the results will be used to make improvements.

The website bestplacestowork.org is a subsidiary of the Partnership for Public Service. The group website states that, "The annual Best Places to Work in the

Federal Government rankings are produced by the nonprofit, nonpartisan [Partnership for Public Service](#). The 2016 rankings include the views of more than 421,000 civil servants from 379 federal organizations on a wide range of workplace topics. Since the first rankings were released in 2003, they have provided a mechanism to hold agency leaders accountable for the health of their organizations; serve as an early warning sign for agencies in trouble; and offer a road-map for improvement."

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007616 BIA Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Oregon -- This Notice announces approval of an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Tribal-State Compact for Regulation of Class III Gaming between the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the State of Oregon governing Class III gaming. The amended compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice in the Federal Register. Notice 12/05/2017

REG0007597 ONRR Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information under the Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding regulations. The ONRR is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 12/05/2017

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/06/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK:

- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - Call with Senator King
 - Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7 – Internal meetings
- 12/8 – Meeting with Governor Martinez

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Meeting with Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/1)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **December 6:** Secretary Zinke is attending the Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Speaker Paul Ryan's Holiday Reception

Interior Social Media Updates

- **December 5: Department-level Blog Post:** DOI will publish a blog post celebrating the 70th birthday of Everglades National Park.

National Park Service

- **December 3 to 9:** WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Pacific Historic Parks, and other close park partners, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Oahu by the Empire of Japan. In addition to the main ceremony on the morning of December 7, other highlights of the week include ceremonies at the USS Oklahoma and USS Utah memorials, as well as the interment of MM1c Estelle Birdsell, who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona and who will now join his brother, Rayon Birdsell, who died in the attack 76 years ago, within the USS Arizona. Complete details are available at <http://pearlharborevents.com>.
- **December 6:** DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron, members of the Western Governors' Association and the states of Idaho and Nevada will visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss the parks aquatic invasive species program.
- **December TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison

National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **December 7: Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

Bureau of Land Management

- **December 6: National BLM Release:** BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts totaling 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. There have been 12 previous NPR-A lease sales since 1999, but this one will be the first NPR-A lease to take place using livestream video. In addition, this is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Bidding is expected to be moderate.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 28 parcels totaling 27,284 acres in Garfield and Mesa counties. The sale is not expected to be controversial due to the lack of a significant number of protests received and lack of media coverage.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties. The sale is expected to be controversial and is likely to be protested by environmental groups concerned with the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality. The bidding is expected to be robust.
- **December 7:** BLM-CO Colorado River Valley Field Office will provide an update on its inspection and enforcement program at the quarterly Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum in Rifle, CO. The BLM will then provide the update at the monthly Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, also in Rifle. Updates will focus on the status of current projects, permitting and leasing.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **December 5 and 7:** Rescheduled Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR for Sites Reservoir Project (CA): The Sites Project Authority and Reclamation cancelled the September 26 and September 28 public meetings and rescheduled them for December 5 (in Sacramento) and December 7 (in Maxwell). The comment period is also extended to January 15, 2018.
- **December 7:** On December 7 in Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration will hold a public meeting on the Columbia River System Operations EIS to discuss the results of public scoping and provide a status update on progress made on the EIS and to further educate attendees on the NEPA process. A draft biological opinion is due in 2020, final environmental impact statement/record of decision in 2021. The two Reclamation facilities included in this process are Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam (both include hydropower facilities).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **December TBD:** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **December TBD:** ONRR issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$19,736 to Mid-Con Energy Operating, LLC, (Mid-Con) (formerly RDT Properties, Inc) on November 17, 2017. ONRR investigated Mid-Con's failure to submit production reports (form ONRR-4054) and found 68 violations on multiple Indian leases for the production months of September 2011 through January 2013.

- **December TBD:** ONRR anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$840 to Eight Round Inc., (Eight Round) the week of November 5, 2017. ONRR investigated Eight Round's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 12 violations on one Indian agreement for production months of April, 2012 through September, 2013.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/4)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS: The House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water Power and Oceans will hold a legislative hearing on HR.4465 which has impacts on Bureau of Reclamation and Fish Wildlife Service. DOI will not be testifying but will provide a statement for the record.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

EXPECTED HEARING: The Senate Energy Committee is expected to hold a hearing on December 12 regarding permitting reform. Details regarding the specifics the committee plans to emphasize are still being put together; however, James Cason (Associate Dep. Sec.) is tentatively scheduled to testify.

Timing: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS: Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing will be held on 12/5/17.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

4 PAS confirmed as of 11/16

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)
2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)
Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)
1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)
2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)
12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)
12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)
12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Thomas Fire in southern California continues to burn out of control due to strong and erratic winds. The fire has burned approximately 55,000 (+24,000) acres and is zero-percent (no change) contained. Due to the complexity and scope of this incident, accurate reporting is a challenge for responders. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 1,776 (+1,276) personnel assigned. Evacuations have been ordered for 28,000 residents. There are 12,000 structures threatened by this fire and 150 (no change) structures have been destroyed. There are a few small parcels of BLM lands within the updated fire perimeter; however, the impact to these lands is unknown at this time. The Governor of California has declared a State of Emergency for Ventura County due to the Thomas Fire. While winds remain an issue today, forecasts indicate that Thursday will be an extremely dangerous day for fire activity in the area, as winds will reach 20 to 40 miles per hour, with gusts exceeding 65 miles per hour over higher terrain and in wind prone areas. Fuels in the area are very dry and will continue to support significant fire activity, with high rates of spread. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag

Warning and High Wind Watch through Friday.

Due to the close proximity to the office and employee homes in the area of the Thomas Fire, BOEM and BSEE initiated and completed employee accountability for the Pacific Regional Office located in Camarillo, CA (approximately 14 miles away). All DOI personnel are accounted and BOEM has identified six employees that evacuated the area, but do not require assistance at this time. Although the office remains open, unscheduled leave and telework has been afforded to personnel and administrative leave has been granted to employees in the evacuation zones or zones adjacent that could be impacted.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

After Bears Ears, Trump Administration Ponders More Changes To National Monuments.

In the wake of President Trump's proclamations reducing the size of the Bears Ears and GrandStaircase-Escalante national monuments, [USA Today](#) (12/5, Korte) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending he "scale back four more national monuments...and make modifications to at least four more, continuing an unprecedented blitz of presidential action to ease restriction on public lands." Zinke "is recommending that Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Gold Butte in Nevada," and "boundary changes to two marine national monuments: the Pacific Remote Islands and the Rose Atoll." Zinke also recommended modifications to Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts in Massachusetts, and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Eilperin) reports that Zinke "said he was 'fairly confident' Trump would accept all of his recommendations, and he intends to brief him 'multiple times' in coming weeks to get his sign-off."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (12/6, Nash), [Reuters](#) (12/5, Volcovici), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Schneider), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Staff, Agencies), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, D'Angelo), [BuzzFeed](#) (12/5, Dalrymple), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (12/5, Gardner).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/5, Roth), [KPVI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5).

Zinke Defends Monument Reductions, Supports Badger-Two Medicine. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/5, Chaney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a call with reporters on Tuesday "repeated an earlier proposal to create a new, 130,000-acre monument in Montana protecting the Badger-Two Medicine region surrounded by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex." Zinke said, "I think there's a really great opportunity for the Badger-Two Medicine as the number of crowds and visitors continue to break records in Glacier (National Park). Here's a virtually untapped area and a chance to do it right. There's the possibility of revenue from tourism and an untapped culture. I think it's deserving of monument status."

Also reporting are [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (12/5) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (12/5, Jochim).

Jessamine County Site At Camp Nelson Could Be Kentucky's First National Monument. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (12/5, Kocher) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "formally recommended Tuesday that Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park should be one of three new national monuments in the country." Zinke said in a statement, "Camp Nelson is one of the places where our nation was made stronger and history was made. As a key depot, training center and hospital, Camp Nelson recruited and trained thousands of African-American war heroes who helped restore the Union." Rep. Andy Barr said in a statement that he "can think of no site more deserving of the distinction than the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park where thousands of African American

slaves found freedom. ...I strongly encourage President Trump to follow through” on Zinke’s recommendation.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lane Report](#) (12/5).

Zinke Questions Legality, Offers Few Specifics About Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument’s Fate. The [Oregonian](#) (12/5, Theen) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “offered few additional details Tuesday about the administration’s plans for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon.” Zinke said, “We have not set down in specifics on what an adjusted boundary would look like.” The article notes that “Zinke’s final recommendations included some of the same language from the September draft plan, saying the Oregon boundary should be revised to ‘address impacts on private lands’ and commercial timber harvest.”

Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/5), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, Perkowski), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (12/5, Arthur), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/5, Urness), [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (12/5, Burns), and [KOB-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (12/5).

Zinke Recommends Shrinking Nevada Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending reducing the size of the Gold Butte National Monument. Zinke “said Tuesday he would focus changes on the site’s water districts.” He “declined to specify how much land he wants to remove from monument status in Nevada.”

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/5, Saunders, Brean) and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (12/5, O’Neal).

New Mexico National Monuments To Remain Intact. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that “the boundaries of New Mexico’s two national monuments that were under review will remain intact, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says modifications will be made to protect the long-standing culture of grazing and to ensure hunters and anglers don’t lose access.” Zinke on Tuesday said “his decision to keep Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and the Rio Grande Del Norte national monuments the same size followed discussions with the governor, the state’s congressional delegation, ranchers and conservationists.” He “said the administration was comfortable with the New Mexico monuments and wanted to ensure they could be actively managed in perpetuity.”

Also reporting are [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (12/5, Ortiz), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5).

Interior Secretary Wants To Maintain Katahdin Woods Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “reiterated his support for a ‘made in Maine’ solution that keeps intact the boundaries of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.” Zinke “recommended that timbering should be permitted on the property and that infrastructure upgrades and public access for ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting should be prioritized in a management plan.” Rep. Bruce Poliquin said Zinke’s recommendation “strikes the right balance.” He called Zinke’s recommendation “a smart compromise that will help ensure traditional uses of the land and sustainable forest management are safeguarded, along with the jobs they support in the area.”

Also reporting are the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (12/5, Miller), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/5, Sambides), the [Boston Globe](#) (12/5), and [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (12/5).

Newhouse Praises Interior Decision To Maintain Hanford Reach National Monument. [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (12/5) reports that Rep. Dan Newhouse in a statement praised the decision to not change the Hanford Reach National Monument. Newhouse said, “In June, I shared my concerns with Secretary Zinke and the administration that no modifications should be made to the Hanford Reach National Monument. I am pleased that after today’s report by the Interior Department, this national treasure will continue to be open to public access for future generations to enjoy.”

[Fortune: Ryan Zinke Fires Back After Patagonia Says 'the President Stole Your Land'](#)

Alana Abramson
December 5, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fired back at Patagonia on Tuesday after the outdoor apparel company made a high-profile protest to President Donald Trump's decision to shrink two national monuments.

Patagonia posted a message on its website Monday night under a blaring headline, "The President Stole Your Land." The message was in a response to Trump drastically reducing the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah hours earlier. "This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history," the company said.

Zinke said on Fox and Friends Tuesday, "It's interesting you know, these companies that make their products other places, on foreign shores."

"There is not one square inch that leaves the federal estate but we do restore national forest to a National Forest, restore wilderness, and we open up our public land to the public, greater access, making sure hunting and fishing rights, grazing," he added. "There are multigenerational ranching families that found their livelihood being threatened."

"We need to make sure we're actively managing our lands," he said. "Public use is important, and our land is for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and not special interest groups."

In a 2012 blog post, Patagonia explained that the company had 16 factories worldwide, including in the United States. The company said it manufactured some of its clothing overseas partially because of trade agreements like NAFTA, which Trump frequently railed against in the 2016 campaign for eliminating American jobs.

"We cannot make a claim to be a 'Made in America' company; we have always sourced at least half our products outside the U.S.," the company wrote at the time. "It is very difficult for clothing companies to find factories in the U.S. that meet our standards; the textile industry is much smaller; the work has shifted overseas."

Some of members of the Trump Administration are associated with companies that produced work overseas, as well. A Washington Post report published in July found that First Daughter Ivanka Trump's company exclusively manufactures products overseas. Trump, a senior White House advisor, stepped down from her company after her father became president, although the New York Times reported she transferred her assets to a trust and still has veto power over potential deals.

Navajo Nation Sues Trump Over Utah Monument Reduction.

[The Hill](#) (12/5, Cama) reports that "the Navajo Nation and four other American Indian tribes said Tuesday they had sued President Trump to undo his action reducing the Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah." The lawsuit, "which the tribes had long promised, argues that Trump did not have the legal authority to remove more than 80 percent of the land protections that former President Barack Obama had established in 2016." The tribes wrote in a statement, "Through the Antiquities Act, Congress delegated to the president the limited authority to designate national monuments and retained to itself the power to revoke or modify national monuments." They continued, "The proclamation signed by President Trump today is so extreme that it revokes and replaces Bears Ears and thereby violates the Antiquities Act and seizes authority that the Constitution vests solely in Congress."

Omaha Tribe Mismanaged \$13.9 Million In Federal Flood-assistance Grants, Audit Finds.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (12/5, Hammel) reports that “a recent audit slammed the Omaha Tribe for mismanaging \$13.9 million in federal flood-assistance grants, and for ‘contracting with itself’ to generate ‘artificial profits’ that covered its required matching funds.” The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General “said that the tribe’s accounting and record-keeping were so ‘unreliable and in such disarray’ that it should receive no further funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency until it can show that repair work was done, and done at a reasonable price.” The inspector general’s report added that “the tribe’s poor record-keeping has been a long-running problem that resulted in sanctions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 2011 to 2013.”

9th Circ. Gives Navajo Partial Win In Waters Rights Suit.

[Law360](#) (12/5, Lidgett) reports that “a Ninth Circuit panel on Monday gave the Navajo Nation a partial win in its water rights suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, ruling that a district court’s dismissal of its breach of trust claim was not warranted, and sent the claim back to the lower court to consider it on its merits.”

Oil Companies Clamping Down On Methane Leaks.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/5, Osborne) reports the American Petroleum Institute announced a voluntary program to reduce methane emissions “even as the Trump administration takes steps to roll back existing environmental regulations targeting those emissions.” Starting next year 26 companies will implement standards that include “employing advanced leak detection technology and replacing older equipment prone to leaks across their U.S. operations.” However, “the announcement did little to assuage criticism of the oil and gas industry for its longstanding fights against climate change regulation, which included fighting the Obama administration’s methane efforts.”

House Moderates Opposes Allowing Arctic Oil Drilling In Tax Bill.

[McClatchy](#) (12/5, Daugherty) reports that some moderate House of Representative Republicans sent “a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging the upper chamber to pass a tax bill without oil-drilling concessions in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.” The letter stated that “for decades, Congress has voted to prohibit oil and gas development in the Refuge, with the overwhelming support of the American public.” The letter added, “support for this protection remains strong today. After years of debate, the Arctic Refuge stands as a symbol of our nation’s strong and enduring natural legacy.” The letter was not successful as the plan was passed by the Senate.

DOI PRESS RELEASE:

Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released [the final report](#) outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

- **Keep federal lands federal** - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by whichever agency managed the land before designation

- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The

Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

Interior Jumps into the Top Ten Best Places to Work

WASHINGTON – Last night, the Partnership for Public Service announced its yearly report titled "The Best Places to Work." In the first year under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump towards reaching that goal.

"Interior should be hands-down the best place to work in the federal government, and we're going to get there," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "What kid growing up doesn't look at a Park Ranger, a law enforcement officer, or a paleontologist and say, 'I want to do that when I grow up!?' During my confirmation hearing I pledged to make Interior the best place to work, and I'm happy to see we are already making progress. In the years to come we will reorganize the force to push more resources to the front lines and clean up the culture of harassment and discrimination. Moving from 11th to 9th is a nice step, but I won't be satisfied until we're No. 1."

Federal employee engagement government-wide rose 2.1 points from 2016 for an overall score of 61.5 out of 100—the largest increase in the history of the rankings. These results build on a 2.5-point improvement the previous two years, demonstrating a concerted effort by agencies across government to improve how employees view their leaders and their jobs.

According to bestplacestowork.org, here are a few data points about the Department of the Interior this year:

- The Department of the Interior's 2017 employee engagement score is 63.9 out of 100, placing DOI at 9 out of 18 large agencies.
- The Department of the Interior's employee engagement score improved by 2.9 points since last year. The government-wide engagement score is 61.5, up 2.1 points from last year. DOI's 2017 score is 2.4 points higher than the government-wide score.
- Many issues – from pay to teamwork to strategic management – influence how employees view their workplaces and rate their engagement. Effective leadership was once again the key driver of employee engagement across government in 2017. Employees gave leadership at your agency a score of 55.1 out of 100.
- One important question to pay attention to as you review your data is whether your employees think the survey results will be used to make the organization better. At DOI, 34.4 percent of employees believe the results will be used to make improvements.

The website bestplacestowork.org is a subsidiary of the Partnership for Public Service. The group website states that, "The annual Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings are produced by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service. The 2016 rankings include the views of more than 421,000 civil servants from 379 federal organizations on a wide range of workplace topics. Since the first rankings were released in 2003, they have provided a mechanism to hold agency leaders accountable for the health of their organizations; serve as an early warning sign for agencies in trouble; and offer a road-map for improvement."

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007616 BIA Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Oregon -- This Notice announces approval of an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Tribal-State Compact for Regulation of Class III Gaming between the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the State of Oregon governing Class III gaming. The amended compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice in the Federal Register. Notice 12/05/2017

REG0007597 ONRR Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information under the Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding regulations. The ONRR is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 12/05/2017

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [James Cason](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Bauserman, Christine](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [David Bernhardt](#)
Subject: Fwd: DOI Report 9/19/2017
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:53:50 PM
Attachments: [DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 09-19-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/19/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Meeting with Carl Higbie, CNCS and Gina Cross, Acting Director of CNCS/AmeriCorps

Meeting with National Parks of New York Conservancy

This Week:

9/20: Travel to Missouri. Remarks at Gala Dinner Event - Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

9/21: Confirmed Ribbon Cutting Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

Travel to Dallas, TX.

9/22: Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).

9/23: Washington. Wolf Trap Annual Gala.

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

MEDIA TODAY

MEDIA ON NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW

Trump May Strip Protections From 10 National Monuments.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper) reports that the Trump Administration's plan to reduce "protections at America's national monuments appears far more expansive than previously reported, targeting 10 of the nation's most ecologically sensitive landscapes and marine preserves for diminished protection." The plan submitted last month by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "would shrink the borders at half a dozen monuments and ocean preserves and open four others up for uses such as commercial fishing, logging and coal mining, according to a copy of the blueprint obtained by the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post." The Times says the plan, if enacted, would have a "dramatic" impact on the West.

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Turkewitz, Popovich, McCann) lists the 10 monuments "designated for changes under Mr. Zinke's proposal." They are: Bears Ears, Utah; Gold Butte, Nevada; Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah; Cascade-Siskiyou, Oregon and California; Pacific Remote Islands, Pacific Ocean; Rose Atoll, Pacific Ocean; Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, New Mexico; Rio Grande del Norte, New Mexico; and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Atlantic Ocean.

David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 11, 0:20) that President Trump has

suggested “that former presidents wrongly seized the property.” [USA Today](#) (9/18, Sullivan) writes that the draft report quotes Zinke saying adherence to the 1906 Antiquities Act definitions “were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management.”

[Reuters](#) (9/18, Harvey, Volcovici, Gardner) reports that “Zinke also called for relaxing current restrictions within some of the monuments’ boundaries for activities such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing.” The [AP](#) (9/18, Daly) says that the draft report recommendations “cap an unprecedented four-month review based on Trump’s claim that 1906 Antiquities Act has been misused by recent presidents to create oversized monuments that hinder energy development, grazing and other uses.”

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18) reports that Zinke also “suggests exploring the possibility of recognising three new national monuments: Kentucky’s Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army outpost where African American regiments trained; the Mississippi home of murdered civil rights leader Medgar Evers; and the Badger-Two Medicine area in Montana, which is sacred ground for the Blackfoot Nation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Eilperin) reports that “environmental and outdoor recreation groups threatened Monday to sue if President Trump adopts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s leaked proposal to alter nearly a dozen national monuments, while grazing, fishing and other groups welcomed the recommendations.” Meanwhile, “former Interior secretary Sally Jewell, who oversaw several of the monument designations Zinke is proposing to alter, said in an interview Monday that ‘the protections that are written into the proclamations are in many cases what he’s trying to undo, in his recommendations to President Trump.’” She added, “It’s a monument in name only if all the activities that are identified by Secretary Zinke are allowed to occur.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/18, O’Donoghue) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, “criticized the monument leak.” Bishop said in a statement, “The fact this was leaked is troubling and merits an immediate and thorough investigation. The president should have the time to evaluate the secretary’s review and develop actions without the encumbrance of incomplete information being leaked to the press.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper), the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (9/18, Rogers), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/18), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/18, Roth), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, DeMille), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/18), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, Coleman), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (9/18, Hart), [Newsweek](#) (9/18, Paton), [TIME](#) (9/18), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18), [The Week](#) (9/18, Weber), [The Verge](#) (9/18, Becker), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/18), [KFVE-TV Honolulu](#) Honolulu (9/18), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (9/18).

4 US Monuments To Be Scaled Back Hold Artifacts, Key Habitat. The [AP](#) (9/18, McCOMBS) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “recommendation to shrink four sprawling national monuments in the U.S. West jeopardizes protections for ancient cliff dwellings, scenic canyons and habitat for endangered fish and threatened Mojave desert tortoises.” The affected monuments include Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, along with Nevada’s Gold Butte and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou.

Leaked Memo: Zinke Wants Smaller Monuments, But How Small? The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19, Maffly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “clearly has his sights on trimming national monuments in southern Utah, but his official report to President Donald Trump is so short on specifics it remains unclear where any ‘revised’ boundaries to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante would fall.” Zinke’s “call for a smaller Bears Ears is not sitting well with the Navajo Nation, one of five tribes that proposed the monument.” According to Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, “that recommendation – along with Zinke’s request that Congress make other conservation designations – contradict all the input provided by the tribe.”

Also reporting are [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, O'Donoghue), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, Edwards), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18).

Applause, Criticism Greet Leak Of Zinke’s Monument Recommendations. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/18, Martin, Brean) reports that the Gold Butte recommendation was “applauded by Republicans and denounced by Democrats.” Sen. Dean Heller, said the designation is “an example of extreme overreach and the failed Washington-knows-best mentality.” Rep. Dina Titus said: “Secretary Zinke leaked a memo in the middle of the night because he knows his plan to hack away at monuments like Gold Butte is an overreach opposed by the majority of Americans.”

The [AP](#) (9/18, Ritter) reports that the leaked memo brought “a measured cheer from the head of a southern Nevada water district with springs in the area.” Kevin Brown, general manager of the Virgin Valley Water District, “said Monday that the boundary change his agency sought from Zinke covers about 25 square miles (65 square kilometers) in the Virgin Mountains.”

Also reporting are the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, Thomas), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18, Rosch), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18).

Zinke Recommendation To Cut Cascade-Siskiyou Questioned. The [AP](#) (9/18, Selsky) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal “recommending downsizing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has several errors, one of the people who was behind the creation of the monument said Monday.” A memo “justifying his recommendation that the boundaries of the monument, which lies mostly in Oregon and crosses over into California, be ‘revised’ says motor vehicles aren’t allowed in it.” Dave Willis, the chairman of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, asked, “There are hundreds of roads inside this monument. I live on private land inside the monument. Do we walk or ride horses?”

Also reporting are the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/18, Thenen), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (9/18, Daly), and [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (9/18, Roth).

No Boundary Changes For New Mexico’s 2 National Monuments. The [AP](#) (9/18, Bryan) reports that the recommendations for the Rio Grande del Norte monument and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monument “would remain unchanged under recommendations made by U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, providing some relief to the groups that had come out in support of the designations.” The recommendations “do call for making public access a priority as well as the pursuit of congressional authority to enable Native American tribes to help manage cultural areas within the boundaries.”

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular) reports that the memo was “met Monday with wide-ranging reactions from Doña Ana County residents and New Mexico’s federal lawmakers.”

Also reporting are [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/18, Oxford), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/17,

Peerman), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/18, Grubs), and [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (9/18, Ortiz).

Zinke Would Allow Trees To Be Cut At Katahdin Woods & Waters. The [AP](#) (9/18, Sharp) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow trees to be cut on parts of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and to ensure that ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting are taken into account in a management plan that’s being drawn up.” According to the article, “it was unclear what Zinke meant when he recommended ‘active timber management’ to promote a healthy forest on the 87,500-acre (35,410-hectare) property.” However, “an environmental group said commercial logging would ‘almost certainly’ trigger a lawsuit.” Lisa Pohlmann of the Natural Resources Council of Maine said, “Commercial logging could cause substantial harm to the natural resources protected by the monument and to the economic and recreation benefits already emerging at Katahdin Woods and Waters.”

In an editorial, the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/19) says “that uncertainty is the biggest danger of the destructive and unnecessary process that has been unleashed on the region by the Trump administration and its allies here in Maine.” According to the paper, “even people who initially opposed the idea of a federally managed park in the Maine woods were ready to give it a try.” However, “with constant political interference, it won’t have much of a chance.”

Also reporting are the [Boston Globe](#) (9/19, Abel), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/18, Miller), and the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Sambides).

Zinke: Open Up First Atlantic Monument To Commercial Fishing. The [AP](#) (9/18, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended opening up the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. Zinke’s memo “states that instead of prohibiting commercial fishing, the government should allow it in the area under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which is the primary law governing the U.S.’s marine fisheries and meant to prevent overfishing and guarantee a safe source of seafood.” His memo says “that the monument was established ‘to protect geologic features, natural resources, and species,’ but regulators have charged that it disrupts their ability ‘to manage species to balance protection with commercial fishing.’”

Tribune Editorial: Zinke’s Report Leaves A Monumental Mess. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19) criticizes the draft report for making the “future of those monuments, especially Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante...even more muddled than it was before.” According to the paper, “Zinke’s report is so maddeningly vague that it provides the White House with little guidance on just what it should do, and what legal rationale it should offer for doing it.” The paper expects that “the path forward now is more confusion, more litigation, more bad blood among neighbors, between Native American Nations and county governments, less time devoted to working up a specific management plan for Bears Ears that might, if everyone approached it in good faith, work out a lot better for everyone than some of us think.”

Mormons Are Among The Few Who Want Less Federally Protected Land. Their History Explains Why. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Colbert), Christine Colbert examines why Mormons are some of the those who are most “opposed to government control of Western lands.” According to Colbert, it boils down to “distrust of the federal government” and “distrust of the outside world.” She concludes that “until Mormon leaders declare their support for such stewardship and call for the preservation of our nation’s greatest treasures, Utah politicians will

continue to bend Trump's ear toward privatization and resource development, reflecting their culture's historical distrust and proprietary notions regarding the very lands that really belong to all of us, not just a few."

WH COMMS REPORT (new report filed Monday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries.
- ****Many inquiries regarding monument review and the leaked memo** All inquiries are being directed to the White House.**
- The Times Independent: (Molly Marcello) –**REQUEST**-- I'm contacting you again with a question, this time related to Bears Ears National Monument. We just got word that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed suit against San Juan County's Commissioners regarding meetings they held with Secretary Zinke and DOI staff in May and June. Because these meetings were not publicly posted and the subjects for discussion included issues over which the commissioners have jurisdiction, the lawsuit argues that these meetings violated Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act. I've attached the complaint for reference. Here's what I'm wondering: How did these meetings between DOI staff and San Juan County's elected officials come to be? Were the commissioners invited to speak with Secretary Zinke and staff? Or did the commissioners ask for meetings? What was discussed during these meetings? And, would DOI have any comment on the lawsuit itself?—**RESPONSE**— The Department does not have a comment on the lawsuit concerning outside parties.

Top Stories

- **Associated Press:** [Interior chief urges shrinking 4 national monuments in West](#)
- **Washington Times:** [Ryan Zinke recommends that Trump scale back 10 national monuments](#)
- **Wall Street Journal:** [Interior Report Recommends Cuts or Changes to Seven National Land Monuments](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Interior's Zinke: Trump has 'a lot of Roosevelt in him'](#)
- **THE HILL:** [Interior Dept recommends reducing Bears Ears, other protected land: report](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Shrink at least 4 national monuments and modify a half-dozen others, Zinke tells Trump](#)
- **E&E News:** [Zinke recommends shrinking as many as 6 sites](#)
- **Albuquerque Journal:** [Feds suggest no boundary change at NM monuments](#)
- **San Francisco Chronicle:** [Interior Secretary vows to increase fishing, hunting on federal lands](#)
- **Las Vegas Review Journal:** [Zinke wants to trim Gold Butte, other national monuments](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- **This past weekend, Interior announced the winner of the Federal Duck Stamp art awards. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).**
- This week, DOI will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories.

Wednesday, Secretary Zinke will travel to Springfield, Missouri, to participate in the opening of a new wildlife museum with Bass Pro Shops.

- On Friday, Secretary Zinke will be in Dallas to speak at an NRA Convention for women members.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD thru September 21, 2017 (Report from Thursday 9/14)

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 20, where he will travel to Springfield, MO, to participate in the ribbon cutting and the opening of the “Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.”
- This week we are working with our federal, state, and Tribal partners to support the WH and FEMA with the Hurricane recovery and wildfire response. The NPS Director is in the USVI to oversee response efforts.
- September 18 [POSTPONED TO END OF WEEK]: Department-level Release: DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. (Delayed)
- TBD: Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech was confirmed by the Senate the evening of September 13. We will issue a statement and photo of his swearing-in asap.

National Park Service

- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS Pacific West Region will announce the new superintendent of Redwood National and State Parks.
- September TBD: 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- September 19: Local FWS Release: FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the endangered finding for the ʻiʻiwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media. [Sent to Federal Register on Friday]
- September TBD: Public comment period opening for voluntary wildlife conservation opportunity designed with Montana ranchers, regulatory certainty for the next 20 years through a Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Participants can voluntarily take steps to conserve the Sprague’s pipit, McCown’s longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird’s sparrow, and greater sage-grouse on their property while conducting their general business operations.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of September 18: Local BLM Release: BLM-AZ will announce the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust

for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.

- September 19: BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will meet with landowners from around the Pumpkin Buttes Traditional Cultural Property to discuss concerns with a proposed Programmatic Agreement that would streamline and define that tribal consultation about federal projects within three miles of the area would take place. The meeting will be staffed by local BLM management and subject matter experts on oil and gas development and cultural resources from the Buffalo Field Office. The public and media will be invited.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

U.S. Geological Survey

- September 21: National USGS Release: USGS will put out a release regarding a nature article on the potential release of mercury currently stored in permafrost.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- September 15-19 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is due to be completed on Sep 15.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: Gulf G&G PEIS Record of Decision.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce Marine Minerals
- Rule.

Office of Insular Affairs

- September TBD: OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools.
- September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387.
- September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- September TBD: National ONRR Release: ONRR will announce Secretary's appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct. 4.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- Week of September 18: Director Angelle is concluding his visits to the top 20 lessees in the Gulf

CONGRESSIONAL (updated)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

9:30am: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business Meeting to consider the nominations of Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Interior, Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, and Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. (ALL PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE)

10 AM: BLM official to testify before SENR committee: John Ruhs (Acting Deputy Director for Operation, BLM) will testify before the SENR Committee regarding “Vegetation Management Requirements for Electricity Assets on Federal Lands” and on Section 2310 of S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act, and H.R. 1873, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. This hearing is of particular interest as the Administration is seeking solutions to mitigate wildfires by active management solutions. Sec. Zinke was the author of this legislation when he was in Congress.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (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; 3 starting; 6 in process

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

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

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (Updates are Bold)

Accepted

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

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

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

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

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

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

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

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)

Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

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

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

Declining

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

9/18 – Concordia Annual Summit (NYC)

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

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

9/20 – Remarks to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (DC)

9/21 - Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) (DC)

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

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

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

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

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

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

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

10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)

10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

UPDATE: Senior Advisor David Mihalic has been made coordinator of DOI interactions with FEMA. 467 DOI employees have volunteered to assist, 24 are now set to deploy under wave 9 (depart date Sept 21). Another 26 are set to deploy on Wave 10 (Sept. 25). This will bring the total to 50. They will receive training from FEMA in Anniston, AL.

Hurricane Maria:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Maria was located approximately 205 miles to the southeast of St. Croix and moving west-northwest at 9 miles per hour (mph). This general motion is expected to continue through Wednesday. On this track, the eye of Maria will move over the northeastern Caribbean Sea today and approach the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico tonight into Wednesday. Maximum sustained winds are near 155 miles per hour mph, with higher gusts. Maria is a Category 4 hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next day or two, but Maria is forecast to remain an extremely dangerous Category 4 or 5 hurricane as it approaches the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 30 miles from the storm's center, and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 125 miles.

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, the British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat. A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Anguilla, and from Isla Saona to Puerto Plata. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Antigua, Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Lucia, and Martinique. Hurricane conditions should spread throughout portions of the Hurricane Warning area in the Leeward Islands this morning, and hurricane conditions should spread through the remainder of the Hurricane Warning area later today and Wednesday. A dangerous storm surge accompanied by large and destructive waves will raise water levels by as much as 7 to 11 feet above normal tide levels in the Hurricane Warning area near where the center of Maria moves across the Leeward Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands could see a storm surge of 6 to 9 feet.

Maria is expected to produce 10 to 15 inches of rainfall in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and the central and southern Leeward Islands, with isolated amounts of 20 inches. Puerto Rico is forecast to receive 12 to 18 inches, with isolated amounts of 25 inches possible. The northern Leeward Islands could receive 4 to 8 inches of rainfall, with isolated amounts of 10 inches possible. This rainfall could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

On September 18, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands. This declaration provides Public Assistance for all islands in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands and includes debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance.

On September 18, the President also approved an Emergency Declaration for Puerto Rico. This declaration provides for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance for all 78 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Maria Response:

DOI currently has 49 personnel supporting 1 FEMA Mission Assignment (MA) in response to impending landfall of Hurricane Maria.

DOI Maria Quick Response Teams (QRT) 1 and 2 received U.S. Marshals Service special deputations on September 18, while staged in Orlando, Florida. The teams are scheduled to travel to Puerto Rico today for public safety and security missions.

Internal Maria response activities:

The NPS Caribbean Parks have evacuated non-essential staff from St. John and relocated most staff and family to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Three Eastern Incident Management Teams (EIMT) resources have been dispatched to Puerto Rico. All personnel arrived at the San Juan National Historic Site on September 18, and a Type-3 IMT will manage the relocation of Virgin Islands National Park and Christiansted National Historic Site personnel. The IMT will also manage re-entry to both locations following the storm, as well as support post re-entry operations. Twenty-five NPS maintenance employees and 6 Special Event Team (SET) members remain on St. John. Fourteen NPS employees and one USGS employee remain on St. Croix. Shelter locations have been identified for all personnel remaining on St. John and St. Croix.

USGS reports that the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center (CFWSC) office in Puerto Rico is closed and will remain closed until further notice. Twelve personnel deployed 14 temporary sensors on the southern and eastern coasts of Puerto Rico from Fajardo to Ponce as part of a training exercise in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma Response:

DOI currently has 202 personnel supporting 10 FEMA MAs in response to Hurricane Irma.

In Florida, 27 USGS personnel retrieved storm surge sensors and began analyzing data. To date, 121 surge sensors have been retrieved, 5 sensors were lost, and 32 sensors have been processed. Forty high water marks (HWMs) have been flagged, and 33 HWMs were surveyed. The USGS is coordinating with FEMA Region 4 to amend this MA to perform additional HWMs in the Florida Keys. In Georgia, 3 USGS personnel were in the field retrieving storm surge sensors and analyzing data. All (58) surge sensors have been retrieved, and 42 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed. In South Carolina, 3 personnel processed surge sensor data from 66 (all previously deployed) surge sensors. Ten rapid deployment gages (RDGs) deployed for Irma remain in the field, and 32 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed.

DOI assets associated with public safety and security, have begun demobilization, though some teams may be retained for Hurricane Maria response.

Internal Irma response activities:

NPS reports that the Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) continues to operate its

Incident Command Post (ICP) from the Krome Center in Homestead, Florida. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, evacuations of non-essential personnel have been conducted. Parks have implemented severe weather plans. In Florida, Big Cypress, Biscayne, Everglades, Dry Tortugas, De Soto, Fort Matanzas, Timucuan, Fort Pulaski, and Cumberland Island remain closed. (Complete park details are available in the Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reports that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has 2 (1) shelters open, with a total population estimated at 20 (-4). Restoration of power remains a limiting factor to recovery for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

USGS reports that 36 gages in Florida are down, and 50 gages have been repaired to date. Eighteen personnel were in the field yesterday repairing gages and making discharge measurements under USGS inherent authority. There have been 157 discharge measurements in Florida in response to Irma.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Harvey Response:

There are 60 DOI personnel currently supporting 4 FEMA Mission Assignments for Harvey response and recovery.

Twenty-two USGS personnel were in the field yesterday flagging and surveying HWMs in Texas. A total of 1,200 locations have had HWMs flagged, with 464 locations surveyed to date.

Hurricane Jose:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Jose was located approximately 240 miles east-northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and moving toward the north at near 9 mph. This general motion is expected to continue through today, with a turn to the northeast anticipated tonight. Maximum sustained winds are near 75 mph, with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected today, but Jose should begin to gradually weaken on Wednesday. Dangerous surf and rip currents are expected along the eastern coast of the U.S.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect from Watch Hill, Rhode Island to Hull, Massachusetts, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect along portions of Long Island, New York and from New Haven, Connecticut to Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin in the warning area early Wednesday, and tropical storm conditions are possible in the watch area beginning tonight. Jose is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 1 to 3 inches over eastern Long Island, southeastern Connecticut, southern Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts. Rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches are expected for Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod through Wednesday. This rainfall could cause isolated flooding. Jose is also expected to produce total rain accumulations of less than inch along the northern mid-Atlantic coast and from southeastern New York to coastal Maine through Wednesday.

Wildland Fire Updates:

No update was provided for the Sprague Fire for the most recent operational period. Reporting will resume as incident status summaries are published.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park has burned 15,826 (no change) acres and is 22 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 2 (-39) personnel assigned, including 1 (+1) DOI employee. There are 0 (-39) residential

structures threatened. Crater Lake National Park reports that the North Entrance is closed until further notice due to fire activity. Several trails within Crater Lake National Park are closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. Northern Spotted Owl habitat, sensitive aquatic species, Forest Service timber sale groves, and other sensitive plant and animal species are threatened by the fire. Full containment is expected on October 15.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump's Western Firefighters.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) applauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for issuing a memorandum last week instructing land managers and park superintendents to exercise the “full authority” of their bureaus to clear dying trees and brush in federal lands in order to “proactively work to prevent forest fires.” The Journal adds that Congress can help the Administration’s efforts to promote better forest management with legislation that reduces litigation against such efforts against fire damage.

MGM Pitches Bridgeport Casino As Feds Delay Tribes’ Expansion.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (9/18, Pazniokas) reports that MGM Resorts International “launched a glitzy new campaign Monday to expand into Connecticut, an effort that curiously coincides with the Trump administration, at least temporarily, halting the state’s two federally recognized tribes’ from building a casino in East Windsor to compete with a new MGM resort in Springfield, Mass.” MGM, “after telling legislators for two years they would be foolish to approve the tribes’ plan without an open competition, now is seeking legislation in special session granting it exclusive rights to build a waterfront casino resort in Bridgeport, a gateway to the lucrative New York City gambling market.”

Lawsuit Aims To Block Oil Drilling On US Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Sonner) reports environmentalists have sued the BLM “to try to stop it from allowing oil and gas drilling on a vast stretch of federal land in Nevada, where the government is reversing protections put in place nine months ago under the Obama administration.” The Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity say the BLM “illegally failed to consider potential consequences of hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, ranging from harm to the greater sage grouse to contamination of fragile desert water sources and emission of climate-altering greenhouse gases.”

Stop Seismic Testing Off NC Coast.

In an editorial, the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/18) opposes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. It raises concerns that “the testing, and the drilling should exploration proceed, could put coastal marine life in danger.” It also points out that “the truly ludicrous thing about the argument for exploration” is that “oil prices are depressed (excluding the post-hurricane situation) and there are plenty of reserves.”

Will The Southland Wind Up Holding Much Of The \$17-billion Bill For The Delta Water Tunnels?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Boxall) reports that some of California’s “biggest water districts” are “expected to decide if they want to sign on to California WaterFix — a long-planned proposal to construct two massive tunnels that would change the way water supplies move through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” Supporters have “long have operated under

the assumption that the cost, now estimated at nearly \$17 billion, would be split among customers of the big government water projects according to the size of their contracts for delta supplies.” According to the article, “under that scenario, the largely urban agencies supplied by the State Water Project would pick up 55% of the tunnel tab, and the largely agricultural districts supplied by the federal Central Valley Project would pay for 45%.” However, “as the votes approach, there are growing doubts that agriculture will agree to pay that much.”

Additional Coverage: Legislation Introduced To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam National Battlefield.

Additional coverage that legislation has been introduced “to have a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee removed from Antietam National Battlefield” was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (9/18, Dearth) and [Stars And Stripes](#) (9/17, REID).

Hurricane Maria Forecast To Strike Puerto Rico Wednesday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, lead story, 2:15, Muir) reported Hurricane Maria strengthened to a Category 4 on Monday as it “bear[s] down on some of the [Caribbean] islands, just now recovering from Irma.” In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) reported Maria is “making a beeline towards some of the same Caribbean islands decimated less than two weeks ago by Irma, lashing the Caribbean island of Martinique, [and] barreling towards Puerto Rico.”

USGS May Look At The Entire Williston Basin For A New Oil Estimate.

The [Prairie Public News \(ND\)](#) (9/18, Thompson) reports that Sen. John Hoeven and others recently asked US Geological Survey for an updated assessment of the oil in the Bakken and Three Forks formations. State mineral resources director Lynn Helms “said USGS is now talking about a full Williston Basin-wide assessment in a few years.” But “there’s been no official word from USGS.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS: (new)

Items were cleared for the FR on Monday.

REG0007361 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Non-Competitive Lease of Public Land in Johnson County, WY -- The BLM proposes to lease a 0.87-acre parcel of land in Johnson County, Wyoming, for residential purposes to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized trespass. The BLM seeks public comments for 45 days. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007436 BOR Charter Renewal: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group -- Notice of Charter renewal for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group in advance of the scheduled Sept. 20, 2017 meeting. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007403 FWS Foreign Endangered Species and Marine Mammals Issuance of Permits Issuance (First applicant Feld) -- This notice informs the public that the Service has issued 4 Endangered Species Act permits and 1 Marine Mammal Protection Act permit from August 3 through August 14, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007406 FWS Foreign Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit (First applicant Philly Zoo) -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received

by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits.
Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007407 FWS Agency Information Collection Activities; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations (1018-0095) -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection necessary to monitor the success of experimental population reintroduction and recovery efforts. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.
Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007304 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY N2838 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky. The remains were removed from Fox Field in Mason County, Kentucky, and from Steubenville in Jefferson County, Ohio. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007320 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI N2842 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The remains and objects were removed from Saginaw County, Michigan, in 1970. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007337 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. DOI, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA N2789 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office, in Sacramento, California. The remains and objects were removed from Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties in California in the 1970's. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007342 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robbins Museum of Archaeology, Middleborough, MA N2776 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robbins Museum of Archaeology in Middleborough, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007343 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA N2777 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007384 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2737 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were

removed from sites in Hughes and Buffalo Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007385 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2813 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were collected from Buffalo County, South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007386 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE, and State Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, SD N2812 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. The remains and objects were removed from Buffalo County, South Dakota, in 1961. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007387 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2738 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Brule, Corson, and Lyman Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007412 OSM Grant Notification for Fiscal Year 2018 -- The OSMRE is notifying the public that it intends to award grants during fiscal year 2018 to eligible applicants: (1) for purposes authorized under the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program; and (2) for regulating coal mining within their jurisdictional borders under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The OSMRE invites written comments until December 15, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/19/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Meeting with Carl Higbie, CNCS and Gina Cross, Acting Director of CNCS/AmeriCorps

Meeting with National Parks of New York Conservancy

This Week:

9/20: Travel to Missouri. Remarks at Gala Dinner Event - Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

9/21: Confirmed Ribbon Cutting Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ. Travel to Dallas, TX.

9/22: Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).

9/23: Washington. Wolf Trap Annual Gala.

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

MEDIA TODAY

MEDIA ON NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW

Trump May Strip Protections From 10 National Monuments.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper) reports that the Trump Administration's plan to reduce "protections at America's national monuments appears far more expansive than previously reported, targeting 10 of the nation's most ecologically sensitive landscapes and marine preserves for diminished protection." The plan submitted last month by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "would shrink the borders at half a dozen monuments and ocean preserves and open four others up for uses such as commercial fishing, logging and coal mining, according to a copy of the blueprint obtained by the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post." The Times says the plan, if enacted, would have a "dramatic" impact on the West.

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Turkewitz, Popovich, McCann) lists the 10 monuments "designated for changes under Mr. Zinke's proposal." They are: Bears Ears, Utah; Gold Butte, Nevada; Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah; Cascade-Siskiyou, Oregon and California; Pacific Remote Islands, Pacific Ocean; Rose Atoll, Pacific Ocean; Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, New Mexico; Rio Grande del Norte, New Mexico; and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Atlantic Ocean.

David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 11, 0:20) that President Trump has suggested "that former presidents wrongly seized the property." [USA Today](#) (9/18, Sullivan) writes that the draft report quotes Zinke saying adherence to the 1906 Antiquities Act definitions "were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management."

[Reuters](#) (9/18, Harvey, Volcovici, Gardner) reports that "Zinke also called for relaxing current restrictions within some of the monuments' boundaries for activities such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing." The [AP](#) (9/18, Daly) says that the draft report recommendations "cap an unprecedented four-month review based on Trump's claim that 1906 Antiquities Act has been

misused by recent presidents to create oversized monuments that hinder energy development, grazing and other uses.”

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18) reports that Zinke also “suggests exploring the possibility of recognising three new national monuments: Kentucky’s Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army outpost where African American regiments trained; the Mississippi home of murdered civil rights leader Medgar Evers; and the Badger-Two Medicine area in Montana, which is sacred ground for the Blackfeet Nation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Eilperin) reports that “environmental and outdoor recreation groups threatened Monday to sue if President Trump adopts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s leaked proposal to alter nearly a dozen national monuments, while grazing, fishing and other groups welcomed the recommendations.” Meanwhile, “former Interior secretary Sally Jewell, who oversaw several of the monument designations Zinke is proposing to alter, said in an interview Monday that ‘the protections that are written into the proclamations are in many cases what he’s trying to undo, in his recommendations to President Trump.’” She added, “It’s a monument in name only if all the activities that are identified by Secretary Zinke are allowed to occur.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/18, O’Donoghue) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, “criticized the monument leak.” Bishop said in a statement, “The fact this was leaked is troubling and merits an immediate and thorough investigation. The president should have the time to evaluate the secretary’s review and develop actions without the encumbrance of incomplete information being leaked to the press.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper), the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (9/18, Rogers), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/18), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/18, Roth), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, DeMille), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/18), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, Coleman), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (9/18, Hart), [Newsweek](#) (9/18, Paton), [TIME](#) (9/18), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18), [The Week](#) (9/18, Weber), [The Verge](#) (9/18, Becker), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/18), [KFVE-TV Honolulu](#) Honolulu (9/18), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (9/18).

4 US Monuments To Be Scaled Back Hold Artifacts, Key Habitat. The [AP](#) (9/18, McCOMBS) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “recommendation to shrink four sprawling national monuments in the U.S. West jeopardizes protections for ancient cliff dwellings, scenic canyons and habitat for endangered fish and threatened Mojave desert tortoises.” The affected monuments include Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, along with Nevada’s Gold Butte and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou.

Leaked Memo: Zinke Wants Smaller Monuments, But How Small? The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19, Maffly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “clearly has his sights on trimming national monuments in southern Utah, but his official report to President Donald Trump is so short on specifics it remains unclear where any ‘revised’ boundaries to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante would fall.” Zinke’s “call for a smaller Bears Ears is not sitting well with the Navajo Nation, one of five tribes that proposed the monument.” According to Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, “that recommendation – along with Zinke’s request that Congress make other conservation designations – contradict all the input provided by the tribe.”

Also reporting are [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, O’Donoghue), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, Edwards), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18).

Applause, Criticism Greet Leak Of Zinke’s Monument Recommendations. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/18, Martin, Brean) reports that the Gold Butte recommendation was “applauded by

Republicans and denounced by Democrats.” Sen. Dean Heller, said the designation is “an example of extreme overreach and the failed Washington-knows-best mentality.” Rep. Dina Titus said: “Secretary Zinke leaked a memo in the middle of the night because he knows his plan to hack away at monuments like Gold Butte is an overreach opposed by the majority of Americans.”

The [AP](#) (9/18, Ritter) reports that the leaked memo brought “a measured cheer from the head of a southern Nevada water district with springs in the area.” Kevin Brown, general manager of the Virgin Valley Water District, “said Monday that the boundary change his agency sought from Zinke covers about 25 square miles (65 square kilometers) in the Virgin Mountains.”

Also reporting are the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, Thomas), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18, Rosch), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18).

Zinke Recommendation To Cut Cascade-Siskiyou Questioned. The [AP](#) (9/18, Selsky) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal “recommending downsizing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has several errors, one of the people who was behind the creation of the monument said Monday.” A memo “justifying his recommendation that the boundaries of the monument, which lies mostly in Oregon and crosses over into California, be ‘revised’ says motor vehicles aren’t allowed in it.” Dave Willis, the chairman of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, asked, “There are hundreds of roads inside this monument. I live on private land inside the monument. Do we walk or ride horses?”

Also reporting are the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/18, Theen), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (9/18, Daly), and [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (9/18, Roth).

No Boundary Changes For New Mexico’s 2 National Monuments. The [AP](#) (9/18, Bryan) reports that the recommendations for the Rio Grande del Norte monument and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monument “would remain unchanged under recommendations made by U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, providing some relief to the groups that had come out in support of the designations.” The recommendations “do call for making public access a priority as well as the pursuit of congressional authority to enable Native American tribes to help manage cultural areas within the boundaries.”

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular) reports that the memo was “met Monday with wide-ranging reactions from Doña Ana County residents and New Mexico’s federal lawmakers.”

Also reporting are [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/18, Oxford), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#)(9/17, Peerman), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#)(9/18), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/18, Grubs), and [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (9/18, Ortiz).

Zinke Would Allow Trees To Be Cut At Katahdin Woods & Waters. The [AP](#) (9/18, Sharp) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow trees to be cut on parts of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and to ensure that ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting are taken into account in a management plan that’s being drawn up.” According to the article, “it was unclear what Zinke meant when he recommended ‘active timber management’ to promote a healthy forest on the 87,500-acre (35,410-hectare) property.” However, “an environmental group said commercial logging would ‘almost certainly’ trigger a lawsuit.” Lisa Pohlmann of the Natural Resources Council of Maine said, “Commercial logging could cause substantial harm to the natural resources protected by the monument and to the economic and recreation benefits already emerging at Katahdin Woods and Waters.”

In an editorial, the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/19) says “that uncertainty is the biggest danger of the destructive and unnecessary process that has been unleashed on the region by the Trump administration and its allies here in Maine.” According to the paper, “even people who initially opposed

the idea of a federally managed park in the Maine woods were ready to give it a try.” However, “with constant political interference, it won’t have much of a chance.”

Also reporting are the [Boston Globe](#) (9/19, Abel), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/18, Miller), and the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Sambides).

Zinke: Open Up First Atlantic Monument To Commercial Fishing. The [AP](#) (9/18, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended opening up the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. Zinke’s memo “states that instead of prohibiting commercial fishing, the government should allow it in the area under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which is the primary law governing the U.S.’s marine fisheries and meant to prevent overfishing and guarantee a safe source of seafood.” His memo says “that the monument was established ‘to protect geologic features, natural resources, and species,’ but regulators have charged that it disrupts their ability ‘to manage species to balance protection with commercial fishing.’”

Tribune Editorial: Zinke’s Report Leaves A Monumental Mess. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19) criticizes the draft report for making the “future of those monuments, especially Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante...even more muddled than it was before.” According to the paper, “Zinke’s report is so maddeningly vague that it provides the White House with little guidance on just what it should do, and what legal rationale it should offer for doing it.” The paper expects that “the path forward now is more confusion, more litigation, more bad blood among neighbors, between Native American Nations and county governments, less time devoted to working up a specific management plan for Bears Ears that might, if everyone approached it in good faith, work out a lot better for everyone than some of us think.”

Mormons Are Among The Few Who Want Less Federally Protected Land. Their History Explains Why. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Colbert), Christine Colbert examines why Mormons are some of the those who are most “opposed to government control of Western lands.” According to Colbert, it boils down to “distrust of the federal government” and “distrust of the outside world.” She concludes that “until Mormon leaders declare their support for such stewardship and call for the preservation of our nation’s greatest treasures, Utah politicians will continue to bend Trump’s ear toward privatization and resource development, reflecting their culture’s historical distrust and proprietary notions regarding the very lands that really belong to all of us, not just a few.”

WH COMMS REPORT (new report filed Monday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries.
- **Many inquiries regarding monument review and the leaked memo** **All inquiries are being directed to the White House.**
- The Times Independent: (Molly Marcello) **–REQUEST–** I’m contacting you again with a question, this time related to Bears Ears National Monument. We just got word that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed suit against San Juan County's Commissioners regarding meetings they held with Secretary Zinke and DOI staff in May and June. Because these meetings were not publicly posted and the subjects for discussion included issues over which the commissioners have jurisdiction, the lawsuit argues that these meetings violated Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act. I've attached the complaint for reference. Here's what I'm wondering: How did these meetings between DOI staff and San Juan County's elected officials come to be? Were the commissioners invited to speak with Secretary Zinke and staff? Or did the commissioners ask for

meetings? What was discussed during these meetings? And, would DOI have any comment on the lawsuit itself?—**RESPONSE**— The Department does not have a comment on the lawsuit concerning outside parties.

Top Stories

- **Associated Press:** [Interior chief urges shrinking 4 national monuments in West](#)
- **Washington Times:** [Ryan Zinke recommends that Trump scale back 10 national monuments](#)
- **Wall Street Journal:** [Interior Report Recommends Cuts or Changes to Seven National Land Monuments](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Interior's Zinke: Trump has 'a lot of Roosevelt in him'](#)
- **THE HILL:** [Interior Dept recommends reducing Bears Ears, other protected land: report](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Shrink at least 4 national monuments and modify a half-dozen others, Zinke tells Trump](#)
- **E&E News:** [Zinke recommends shrinking as many as 6 sites](#)
- **Albuquerque Journal:** [Feds suggest no boundary change at NM monuments](#)
- **San Francisco Chronicle:** [Interior Secretary vows to increase fishing, hunting on federal lands](#)
- **Las Vegas Review Journal:** [Zinke wants to trim Gold Butte, other national monuments](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- **This past weekend, Interior announced the winner of the Federal Duck Stamp art awards. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).**
- This week, DOI will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories.
- Wednesday, Secretary Zinke will travel to Springfield, Missouri, to participate in the opening of a new wildlife museum with Bass Pro Shops.
- On Friday, Secretary Zinke will be in Dallas to speak at an NRA Convention for women members.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD thru September 21, 2017 (Report from Thursday 9/14)

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 20, where he will travel to Springfield, MO, to participate in the ribbon cutting and the opening of the “Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.”
- This week we are working with our federal, state, and Tribal partners to support the WH and FEMA with the Hurricane recovery and wildfire response. The NPS Director is in the USVI to oversee response efforts.
- September 18 [POSTPONED TO END OF WEEK]: Department-level Release: DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. (Delayed)
- TBD: Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech was confirmed by the Senate the evening of September 13. We will issue a statement and photo of his swearing-in asap.

National Park Service

- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS Pacific West Region will announce the new superintendent of Redwood National and State Parks.
- September TBD: 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- September 19: Local FWS Release: FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the endangered finding for the i'iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media. [Sent to Federal Register on Friday]
- September TBD: Public comment period opening for voluntary wildlife conservation opportunity designed with Montana ranchers, regulatory certainty for the next 20 years through a Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Participants can voluntarily take steps to conserve the Sprague's pipit, McCown's longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird's sparrow, and greater sage-grouse on their property while conducting their general business operations.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of September 18: Local BLM Release: BLM-AZ will announce the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.
- September 19: BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will meet with landowners from around the Pumpkin Buttes Traditional Cultural Property to discuss concerns with a proposed Programmatic Agreement that would streamline and define that tribal consultation about federal projects within three miles of the area would take place. The meeting will be staffed by local BLM management and subject matter experts on oil and gas development and cultural resources from the Buffalo Field Office. The public and media will be invited.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

U.S. Geological Survey

- September 21: National USGS Release: USGS will put out a release regarding a nature article on the potential release of mercury currently stored in permafrost.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- September 15-19 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is due to be completed on Sep 15.

- September TBD: National BOEM Release: Gulf G&G PEIS Record of Decision.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce Marine Minerals
- Rule.

Office of Insular Affairs

- September TBD: OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools.
- September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387.
- September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- September TBD: National ONRR Release: ONRR will announce Secretary’s appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct. 4.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- Week of September 18: Director Angelle is concluding his visits to the top 20 lessees in the Gulf

CONGRESSIONAL (updated)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

9:30am: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business Meeting to consider the nominations of Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Interior, Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, and Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. (ALL PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE)

10 AM: BLM official to testify before SENR committee: John Ruhs (Acting Deputy Director for Operation, BLM) will testify before the SENR Committee regarding “Vegetation Management Requirements for Electricity Assets on Federal Lands” and on Section 2310 of S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act, and H.R. 1873, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. This hearing is of particular interest as the Administration is seeking solutions to mitigate wildfires by active management solutions. Sec. Zinke was the author of this legislation when he was in Congress.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (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; 3 starting; 6 in process

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

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

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (Updates are Bold)

Accepted

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

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

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

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

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

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

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

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)

Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

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

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

Declining

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

9/18 – Concordia Annual Summit (NYC)

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

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

9/20 – Remarks to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (DC)

9/21 - Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) (DC)

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

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

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

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

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

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

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

10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)

10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

UPDATE: Senior Advisor David Mihalic has been made coordinator of DOI interactions with FEMA. 467 DOI employees have volunteered to assist, 24 are now set to deploy under wave 9 (depart date Sept 21). Another 26 are set to deploy on Wave 10 (Sept. 25). This will bring the total to 50. They will receive training from FEMA in Anniston, AL.

Hurricane Maria:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Maria was located approximately 205 miles to the southeast of St. Croix and moving west-northwest at 9 miles per hour (mph). This general motion is expected to continue through Wednesday. On this track, the eye of Maria will move over the northeastern Caribbean Sea today and approach the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico tonight into Wednesday. Maximum sustained winds are near 155 miles per hour mph, with higher gusts. Maria is a Category 4 hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next day or two, but Maria is forecast to remain an extremely dangerous Category 4 or 5 hurricane as it approaches the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 30 miles from the storm's center, and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 125 miles.

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, the British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat. A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Anguilla, and from Isla Saona to Puerto Plata. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Antigua, Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Lucia, and Martinique. Hurricane conditions should spread throughout portions of the Hurricane Warning area in the Leeward Islands this morning, and hurricane conditions should spread through the remainder of the Hurricane Warning area later today and Wednesday. A dangerous storm surge accompanied by large and destructive waves will raise water levels by as much as 7 to 11 feet above normal tide levels in the Hurricane Warning area near where the center of Maria moves across the Leeward Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands could see a storm surge of 6 to 9 feet.

Maria is expected to produce 10 to 15 inches of rainfall in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and the central and southern Leeward Islands, with isolated amounts of 20 inches. Puerto Rico is forecast to receive 12 to 18 inches, with isolated amounts of 25 inches possible. The northern Leeward Islands could receive 4 to 8 inches of rainfall, with isolated amounts of 10 inches possible. This rainfall could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

On September 18, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands. This declaration provides Public Assistance for all islands in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands and includes debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance.

On September 18, the President also approved an Emergency Declaration for Puerto Rico. This declaration provides for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance for all 78 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Maria Response:

DOI currently has 49 personnel supporting 1 FEMA Mission Assignment (MA) in response to impending landfall of Hurricane Maria.

DOI Maria Quick Response Teams (QRT) 1 and 2 received U.S. Marshals Service special deputations on September 18, while staged in Orlando, Florida. The teams are scheduled to travel to Puerto Rico today for public safety and security missions.

Internal Maria response activities:

The NPS Caribbean Parks have evacuated non-essential staff from St. John and relocated most staff and family to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Three Eastern Incident Management Teams (EIMT) resources have been dispatched to Puerto Rico. All personnel arrived at the San Juan National Historic Site on September 18, and a Type-3 IMT will manage the relocation of Virgin Islands National Park and Christiansted National Historic Site personnel. The IMT will also manage re-entry to both locations following the storm, as well as support post re-entry operations. Twenty-five NPS maintenance employees and 6 Special Event Team (SET) members remain on St. John. Fourteen NPS employees and one USGS employee remain on St. Croix. Shelter locations have been identified for all personnel remaining on St. John and St. Croix.

USGS reports that the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center (CFWSC) office in Puerto Rico is closed and will remain closed until further notice. Twelve personnel deployed 14 temporary sensors on the southern and eastern coasts of Puerto Rico from Fajardo to Ponce as part of a training exercise in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma Response:

DOI currently has 202 personnel supporting 10 FEMA MAs in response to Hurricane Irma.

In Florida, 27 USGS personnel retrieved storm surge sensors and began analyzing data. To date, 121 surge sensors have been retrieved, 5 sensors were lost, and 32 sensors have been processed. Forty high water marks (HWMs) have been flagged, and 33 HWMs were surveyed. The USGS is coordinating with FEMA Region 4 to amend this MA to perform additional HWMs in the Florida Keys. In Georgia, 3 USGS personnel were in the field retrieving storm surge sensors and analyzing data. All (58) surge sensors have been retrieved, and 42 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed. In South Carolina, 3 personnel processed surge sensor data from 66 (all previously deployed) surge sensors. Ten rapid deployment gages (RDGs) deployed for Irma remain in the field, and 32 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed.

DOI assets associated with public safety and security, have begun demobilization, though some teams may be retained for Hurricane Maria response.

Internal Irma response activities:

NPS reports that the Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) continues to operate its Incident Command Post (ICP) from the Krome Center in Homestead, Florida. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, evacuations of non-essential personnel have been conducted. Parks have implemented severe weather plans. In Florida, Big Cypress, Biscayne, Everglades, Dry Tortugas, De Soto, Fort Matanzas, Timucuan, Fort Pulaski, and Cumberland Island remain closed. (Complete park details are available in the Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reports that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has 2 (1) shelters open, with a total population estimated at 20 (-4). Restoration of power remains a limiting factor to recovery for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

USGS reports that 36 gages in Florida are down, and 50 gages have been repaired to date. Eighteen personnel were in the field yesterday repairing gages and making discharge measurements under USGS inherent authority. There have been 157 discharge measurements in Florida in response to Irma.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Harvey Response:

There are 60 DOI personnel currently supporting 4 FEMA Mission Assignments for Harvey response and recovery.

Twenty-two USGS personnel were in the field yesterday flagging and surveying HWMs in Texas. A total of 1,200 locations have had HWMs flagged, with 464 locations surveyed to date.

Hurricane Jose:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Jose was located approximately 240 miles east-northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and moving toward the north at near 9 mph. This general motion is expected to continue through today, with a turn to the northeast anticipated tonight. Maximum sustained winds are near 75 mph, with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected today, but Jose should begin to gradually weaken on Wednesday. Dangerous surf and rip currents are expected along the eastern coast of the U.S.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect from Watch Hill, Rhode Island to Hull, Massachusetts, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect along portions of Long Island, New York and from New Haven, Connecticut to Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin in the warning area early Wednesday, and tropical storm conditions are possible in the watch area beginning tonight. Jose is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 1 to 3 inches over eastern Long Island, southeastern Connecticut, southern Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts. Rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches are expected for Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod through Wednesday. This rainfall could cause isolated flooding. Jose is also expected to produce total rain accumulations of less than inch along the northern mid-Atlantic coast and from southeastern New York to coastal Maine through Wednesday.

Wildland Fire Updates:

No update was provided for the Sprague Fire for the most recent operational period. Reporting will resume as incident status summaries are published.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park has burned 15,826 (no change) acres and is 22 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 2 (-39) personnel assigned, including 1 (+1) DOI employee. There are 0 (-39) residential structures threatened. Crater Lake National Park reports that the North Entrance is closed until further notice due to fire activity. Several trails within Crater Lake National Park are closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. Northern Spotted Owl habitat, sensitive aquatic species, Forest Service timber sale groves, and other sensitive plant and animal species are threatened by the fire. Full containment is expected on October 15.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump's Western Firefighters.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) applauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for issuing a memorandum last week instructing land managers and park superintendents to exercise the "full authority" of their bureaus to clear dying trees and brush in federal lands in order to "proactively work to prevent forest fires." The Journal adds that Congress can help the Administration's efforts to promote better forest management with legislation that reduces litigation against such efforts against fire damage.

MGM Pitches Bridgeport Casino As Feds Delay Tribes' Expansion.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (9/18, Pazniokas) reports that MGM Resorts International "launched a glitzy new campaign Monday to expand into Connecticut, an effort that curiously coincides with the Trump administration, at least temporarily, halting the state's two federally recognized tribes' from building a casino in East Windsor to compete with a new MGM resort in Springfield, Mass." MGM, "after telling legislators for two years they would be foolish to approve the tribes' plan without an open competition, now is seeking legislation in special session granting it exclusive rights to build a waterfront casino resort in Bridgeport, a gateway to the lucrative New York City gambling market."

Lawsuit Aims To Block Oil Drilling On US Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Sonner) reports environmentalists have sued the BLM “to try to stop it from allowing oil and gas drilling on a vast stretch of federal land in Nevada, where the government is reversing protections put in place nine months ago under the Obama administration.” The Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity say the BLM “illegally failed to consider potential consequences of hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, ranging from harm to the greater sage grouse to contamination of fragile desert water sources and emission of climate-altering greenhouse gases.”

Stop Seismic Testing Off NC Coast.

In an editorial, the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/18) opposes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. It raises concerns that “the testing, and the drilling should exploration proceed, could put coastal marine life in danger.” It also points out that “the truly ludicrous thing about the argument for exploration” is that “oil prices are depressed (excluding the post-hurricane situation) and there are plenty of reserves.”

Will The Southland Wind Up Holding Much Of The \$17-billion Bill For The Delta Water Tunnels?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Boxall) reports that some of California’s “biggest water districts” are “expected to decide if they want to sign on to California WaterFix — a long-planned proposal to construct two massive tunnels that would change the way water supplies move through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” Supporters have “long have operated under the assumption that the cost, now estimated at nearly \$17 billion, would be split among customers of the big government water projects according to the size of their contracts for delta supplies.” According to the article, “under that scenario, the largely urban agencies supplied by the State Water Project would pick up 55% of the tunnel tab, and the largely agricultural districts supplied by the federal Central Valley Project would pay for 45%.” However, “as the votes approach, there are growing doubts that agriculture will agree to pay that much.”

Additional Coverage: Legislation Introduced To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam National Battlefield.

Additional coverage that legislation has been introduced “to have a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee removed from Antietam National Battlefield” was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (9/18, Dearth) and [Stars And Stripes](#) (9/17, REID).

Hurricane Maria Forecast To Strike Puerto Rico Wednesday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/18, lead story, 2:15, Muir) reported Hurricane Maria strengthened to a Category 4 on Monday as it “bear[s] down on some of the [Caribbean] islands, just now recovering from Irma.” In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) reported Maria is “making a beeline towards some of the same Caribbean islands decimated less than two weeks ago by Irma, lashing the Caribbean island of Martinique, [and] barreling towards Puerto Rico.”

USGS May Look At The Entire Williston Basin For A New Oil Estimate.

The [Prairie Public News \(ND\)](#) (9/18, Thompson) reports that Sen. John Hoeven and others recently asked US Geological Survey for an updated assessment of the oil in the Bakken and Three Forks formations. State mineral resources director Lynn Helms “said USGS is now talking about a full Williston Basin-wide assessment in a few years.” But “there’s been no official word from USGS.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS: (new)

Items were cleared for the FR on Monday.

REG0007361 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Non-Competitive Lease of Public Land in Johnson County, WY -- The BLM proposes to lease a 0.87-acre parcel of land in Johnson County, Wyoming, for residential purposes to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized trespass. The BLM seeks public comments for 45 days. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007436 BOR Charter Renewal: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group -- Notice of Charter renewal for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group in advance of the scheduled Sept. 20, 2017 meeting. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007403 FWS Foreign Endangered Species and Marine Mammals Issuance of Permits Issuance (First applicant Feld) -- This notice informs the public that the Service has issued 4 Endangered Species Act permits and 1 Marine Mammal Protection Act permit from August 3 through August 14, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007406 FWS Foreign Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit (First applicant Philly Zoo) -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007407 FWS Agency Information Collection Activities; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations (1018-0095) -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection necessary to monitor the success of experimental population reintroduction and recovery efforts. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007304 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY N2838 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky. The remains were removed from Fox Field in Mason County, Kentucky, and from Steubenville in Jefferson County, Ohio. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007320 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI N2842 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The remains and objects were removed from Saginaw County, Michigan, in 1970. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007337 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. DOI, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA N2789 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office, in Sacramento, California. The remains and objects were removed from Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties in California in the 1970's. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007342 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robbins Museum of Archaeology, Middleborough, MA N2776 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

(NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robbins Museum of Archaeology in Middleborough, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007343 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA N2777 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007384 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2737 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Hughes and Buffalo Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007385 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2813 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were collected from Buffalo County, South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007386 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE, and State Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, SD N2812 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. The remains and objects were removed from Buffalo County, South Dakota, in 1961. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007387 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2738 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Brule, Corson, and Lyman Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007412 OSM Grant Notification for Fiscal Year 2018 -- The OSMRE is notifying the public that it intends to award grants during fiscal year 2018 to eligible applicants: (1) for purposes authorized under the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program; and (2) for regulating coal mining within their jurisdictional borders under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The OSMRE invites written comments until December 15, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

From: Downey Magallanes
To: [David Bernhardt](mailto:David.Bernhardt)
Subject: Fwd: Draft Report
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 5:37:03 PM
Attachments: [attachedFile.html](#)
[DRAFT Final Report EO 13792 SOL 8 18 17.docx](#)

SOL edits. Have not reviewed.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jorjani, Daniel" <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Date: August 18, 2017 at 4:36:01 PM EDT
To: "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Draft Report

Downey - Please see attached. Dan

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

From: **Moody, Aaron** <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Re: Draft Report
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Peg Romanik <peg.romanik@sol.doi.gov>, Richard Goeken <richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov>, "Brown, Laura" <Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov>, Kevin Haugrud <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>

Dan-?

Attached are consolidated comments from DLR and DPW for your review and to transmit to Downey as you think appropriate.? Let us know if we can help further or answer any questions.

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495
?

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On Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 2:39 PM, Haugrud, Kevin <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Once we get everyone's comments, let's send to Dan and he can forward to Downey or others after he's reviewed.

On Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 1:45 PM, Moody, Aaron <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Peg & Rick-

Attached are our comments/edits on this. Would you like to add to it? I'd be happy to then send it back to Downey or have you or anyone else on this chain do so.? Just let me know.

-Aaron

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495
?

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From: **Brown, Laura** <laura.brown@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 10:24 AM
Subject: Re: Draft Report
To: "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Aaron Moody <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>, "Goeken, Richard" <richard.goeken@sol.doi.gov>, "Romanik, Peg" <peg.romanik@sol.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, "Haugrud, Kevin" <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>

Aaron and I propose that we consolidate SOL comments.? DLR is happy to take the lead and we will send around our markup to the SOL team to further consolidate comments. We should have a DLR draft by this afternoon.?

On Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 7:13 PM, Magallanes, Downey <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Attached is the Draft Report for EO 13792

Sent separately to David.

Sending to only Kathy Benedetto and Randy Bowman besides this group.

--

Downey Magallanes
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Senior Advisor and Counselor
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-501-0654 (desk)
202-706-9199 (cell)

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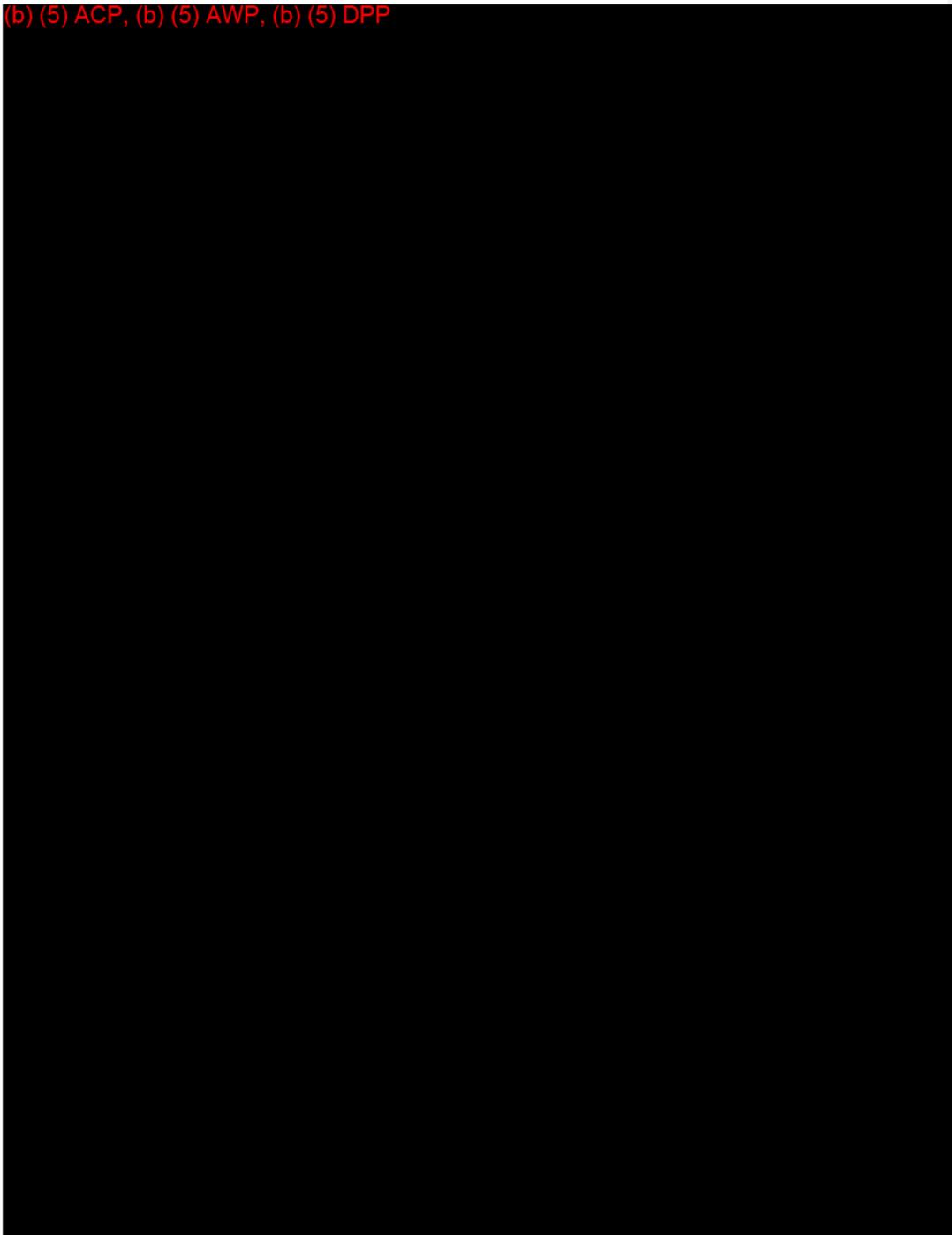
Laura Brown, Associate Solicitor
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202 208-6545
Cell: 202 359-2712
Fax: 202 219-1792
Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov

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DRAFT- Deliberative- Not for Distribution

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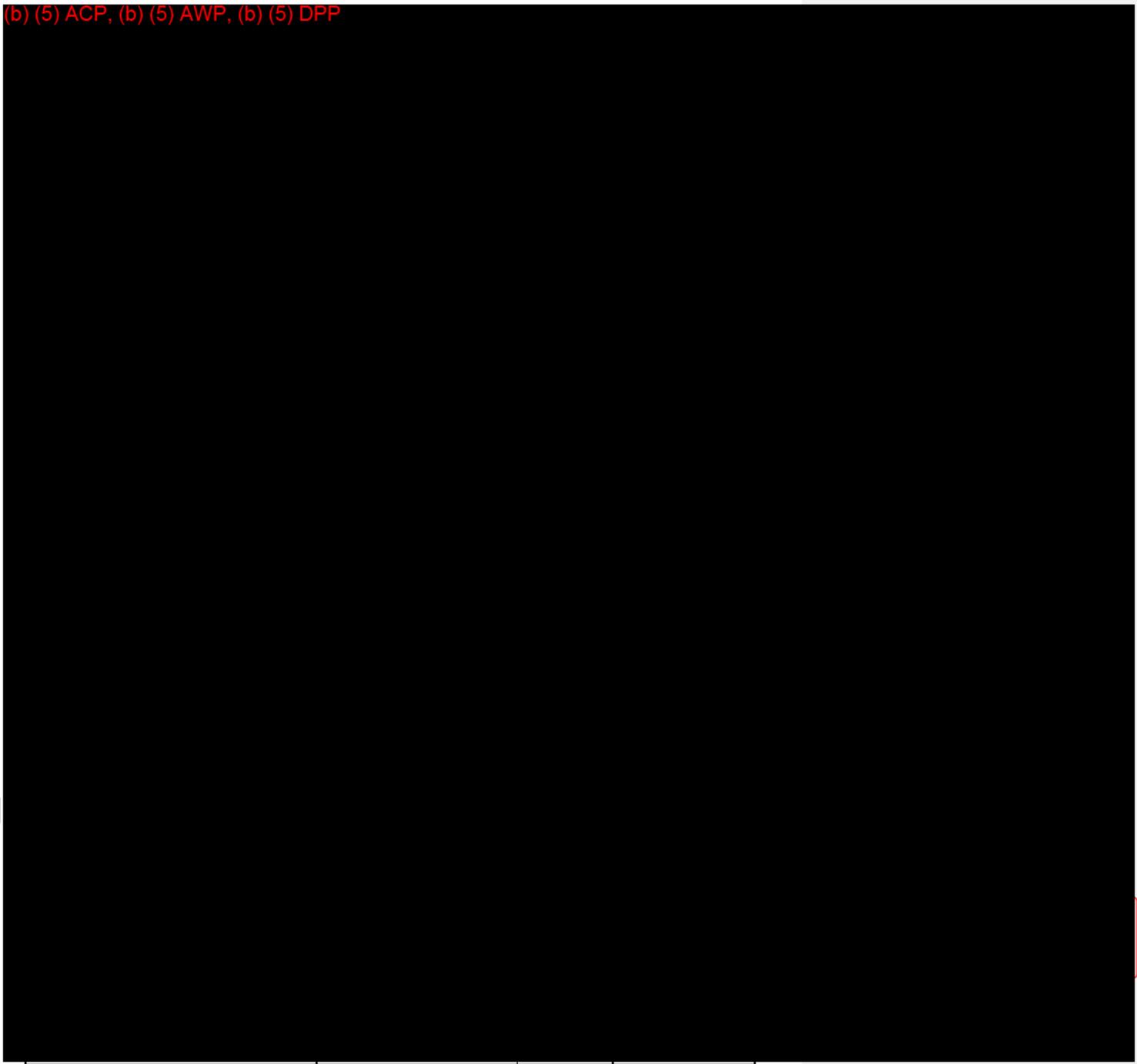


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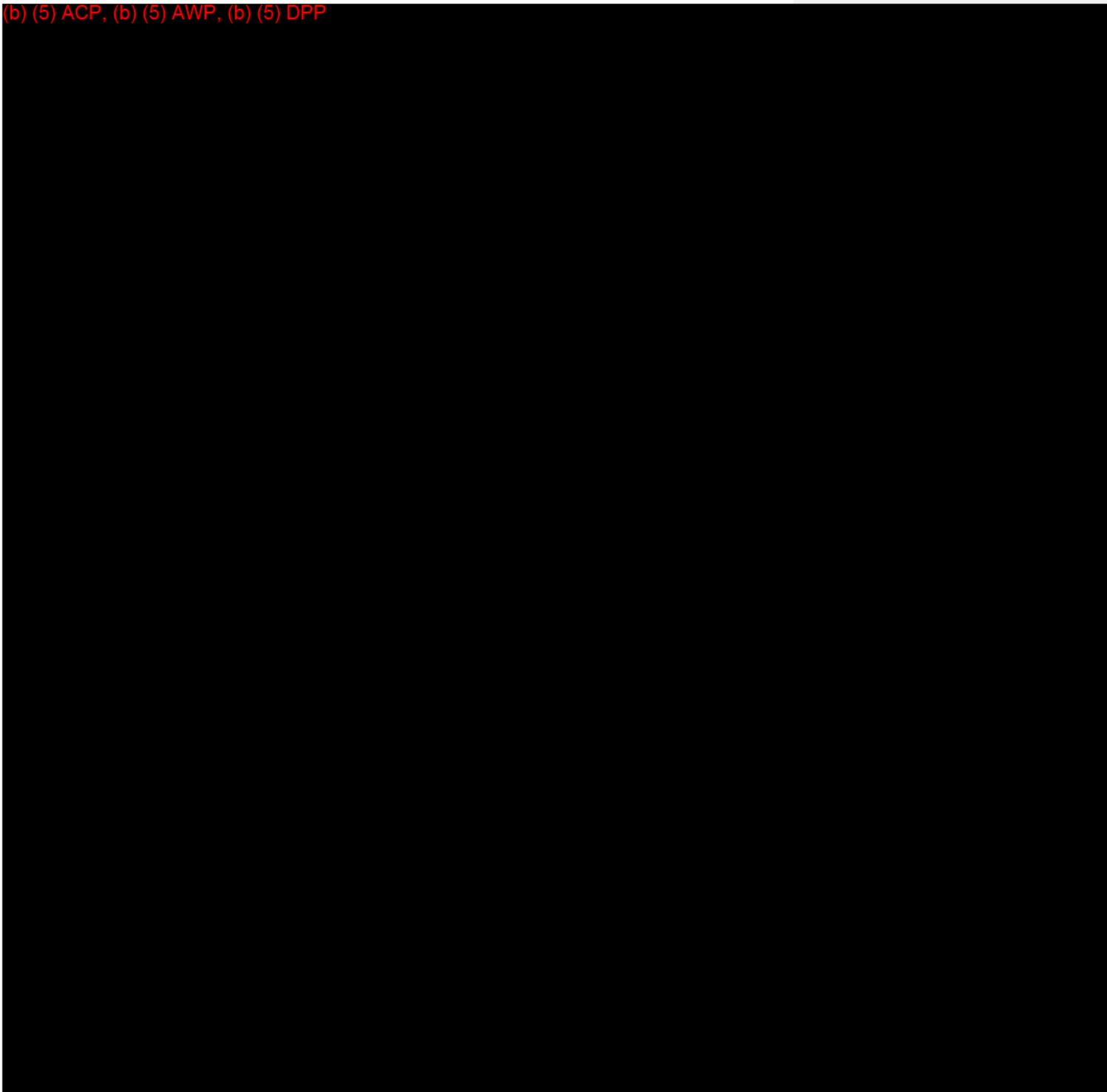
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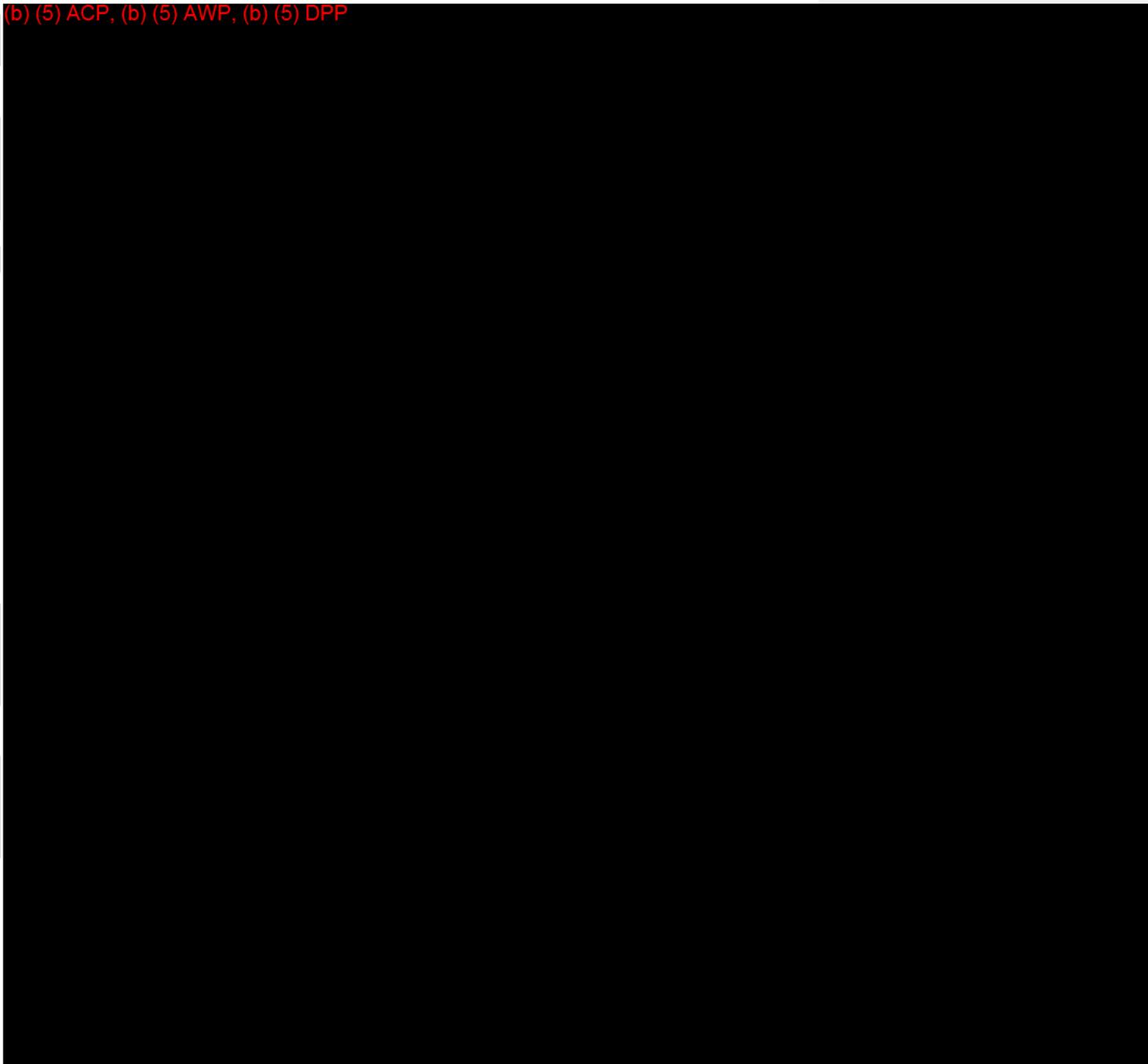
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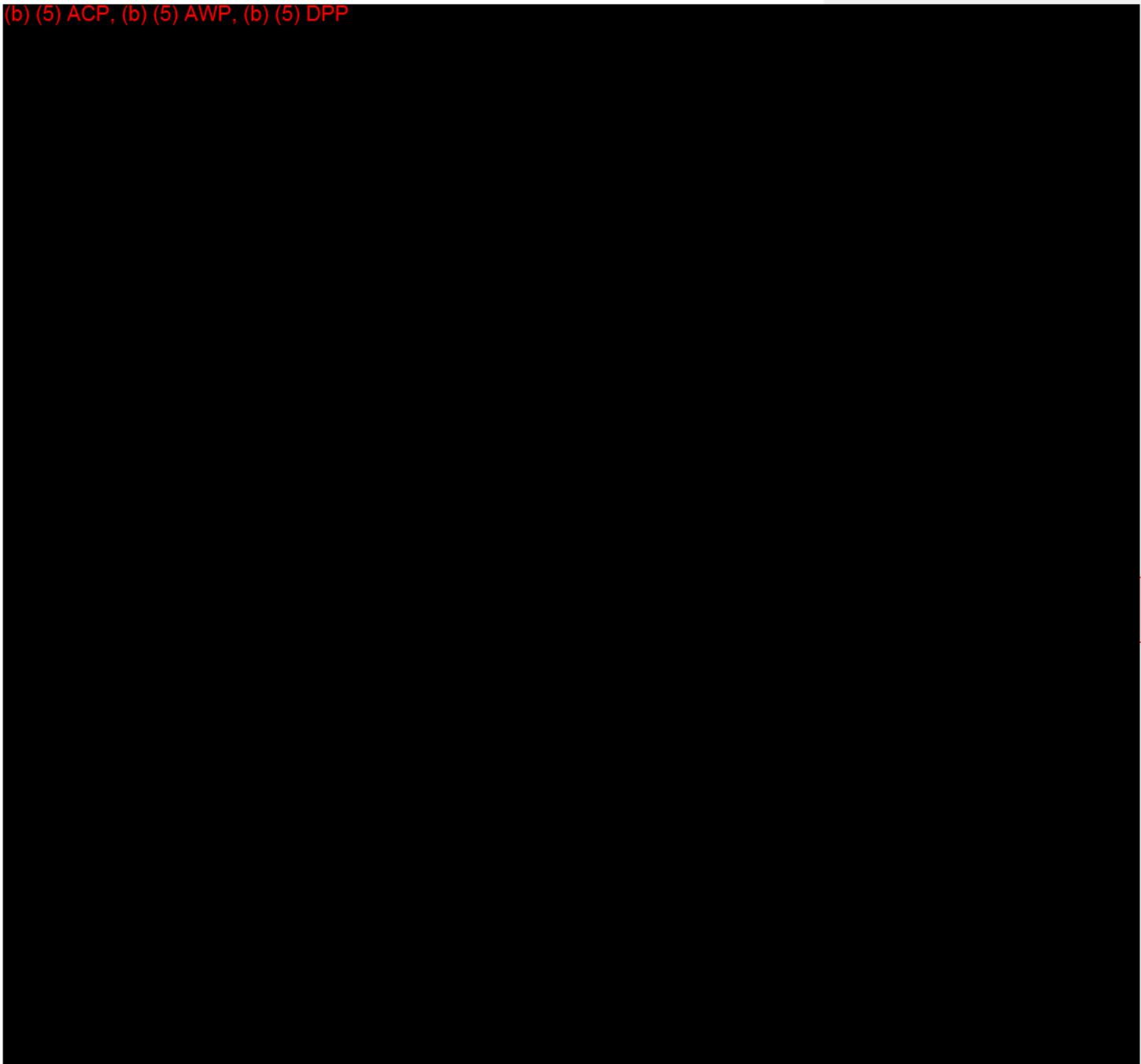
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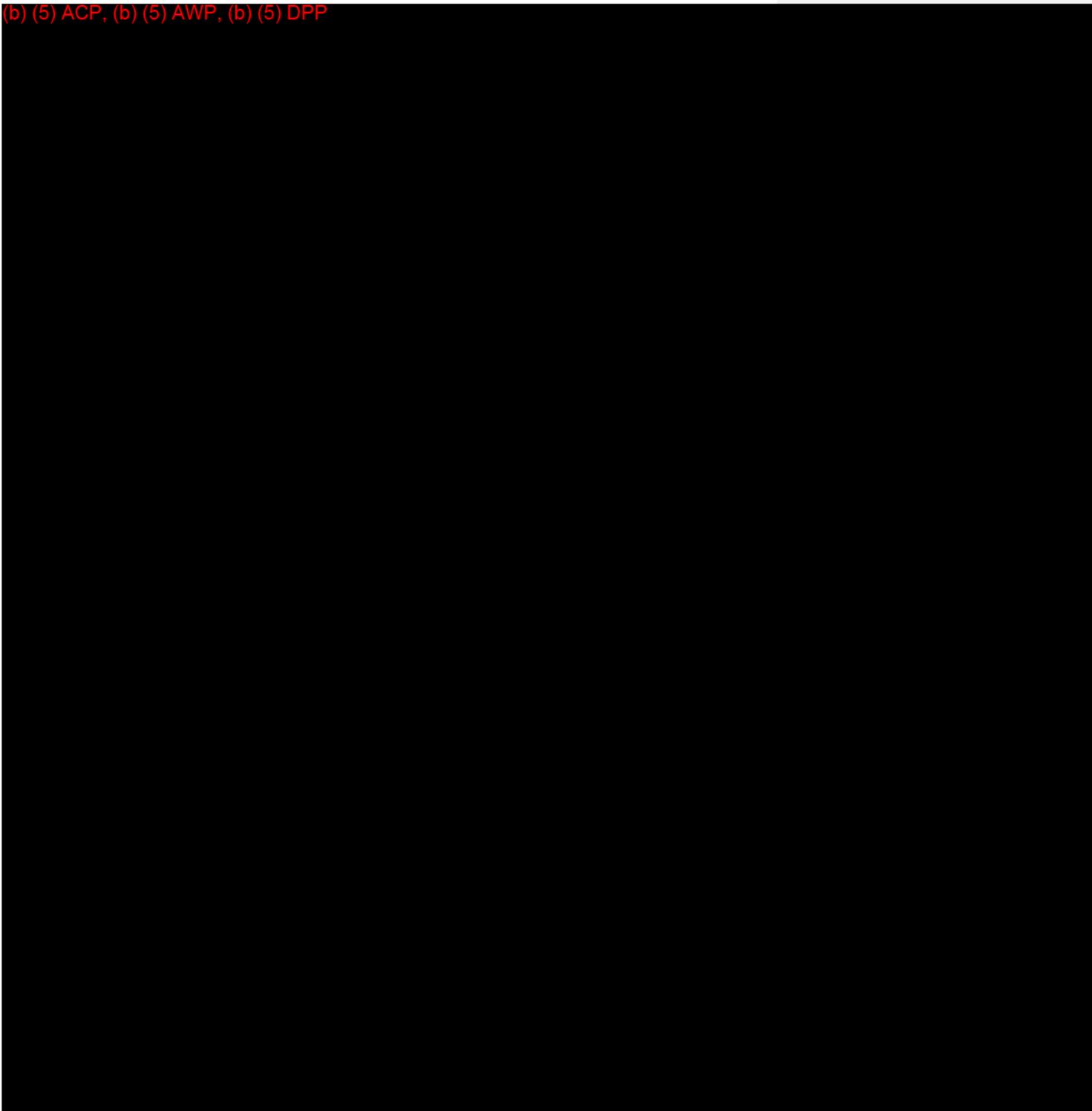
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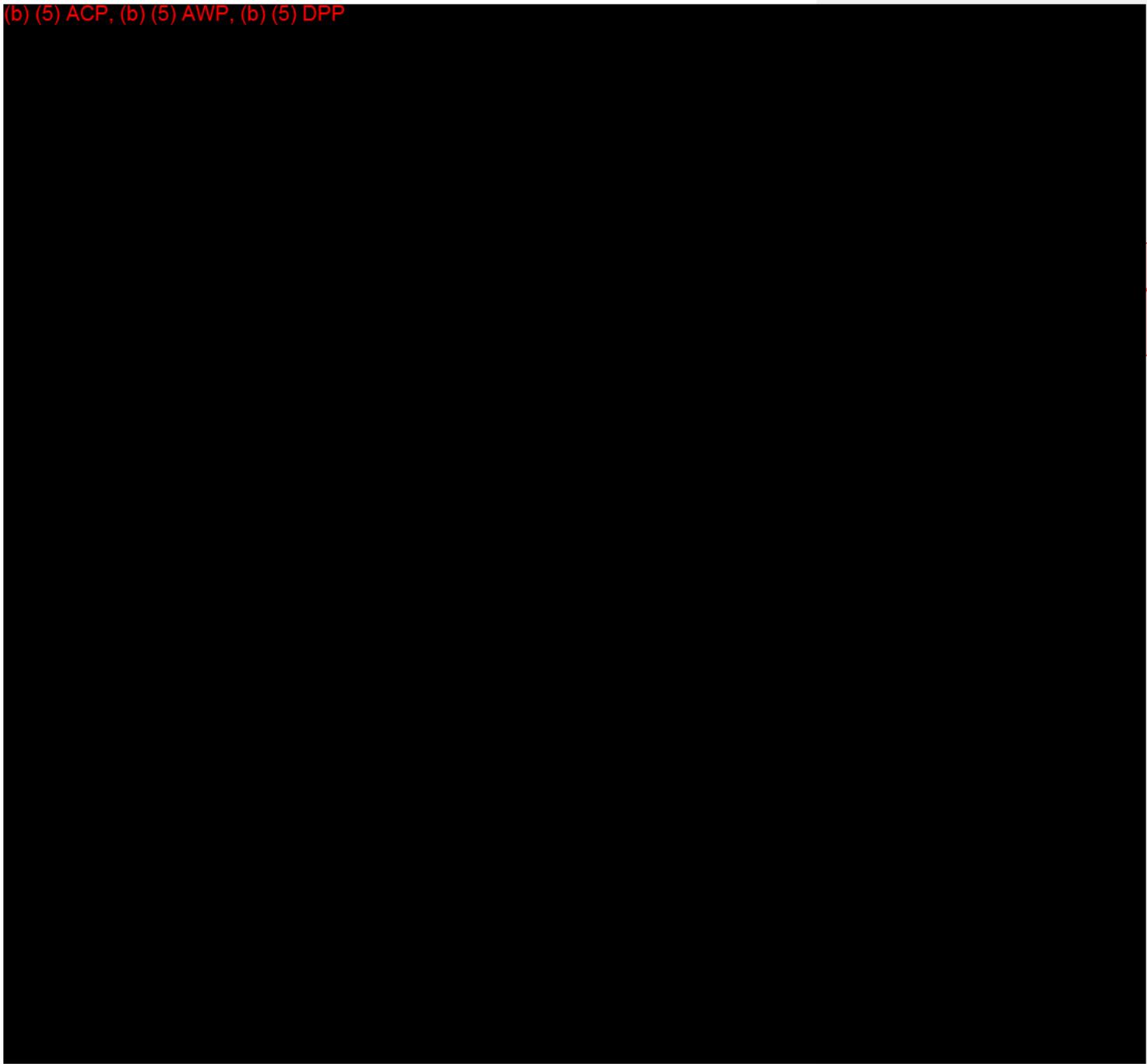
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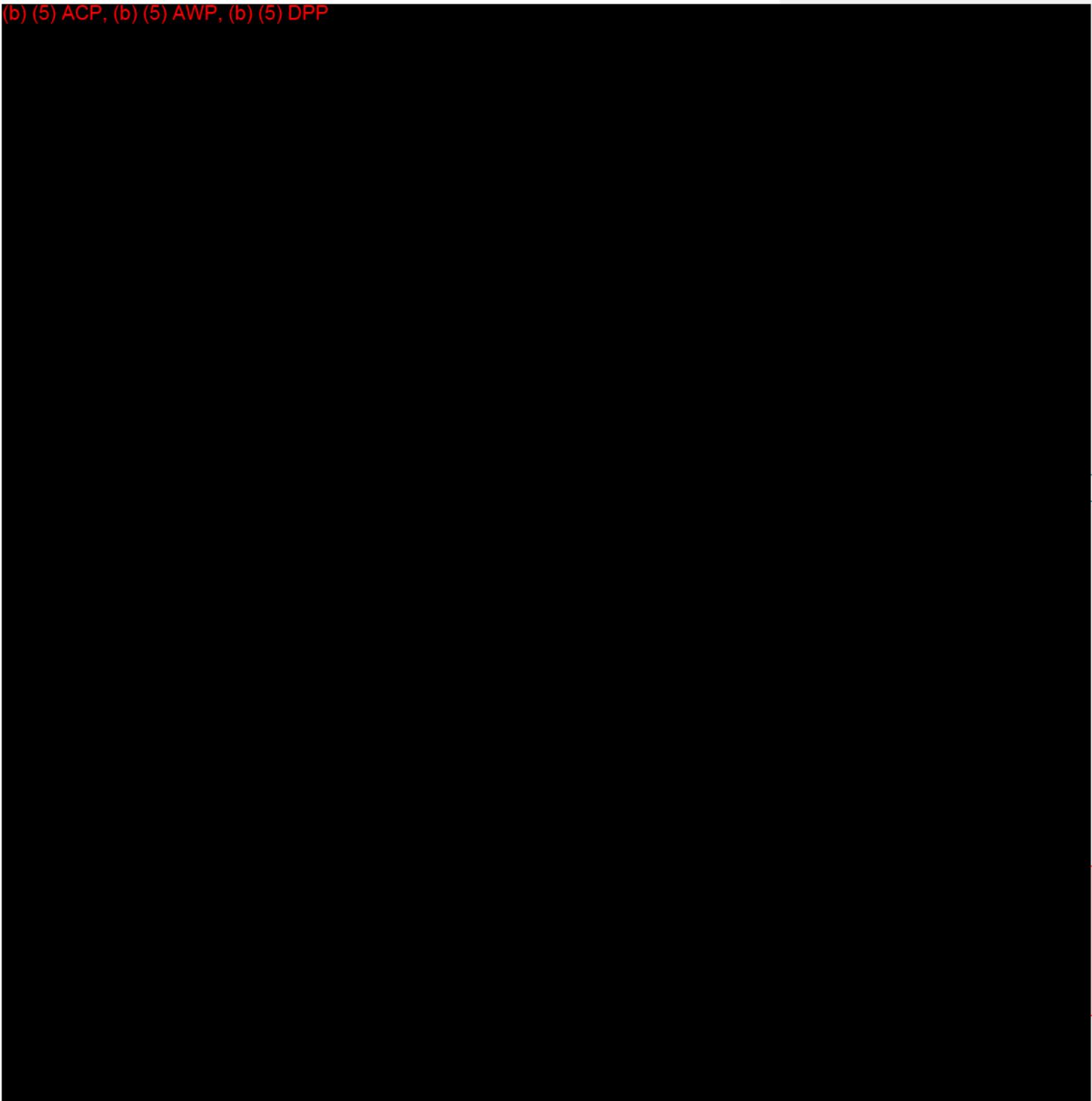
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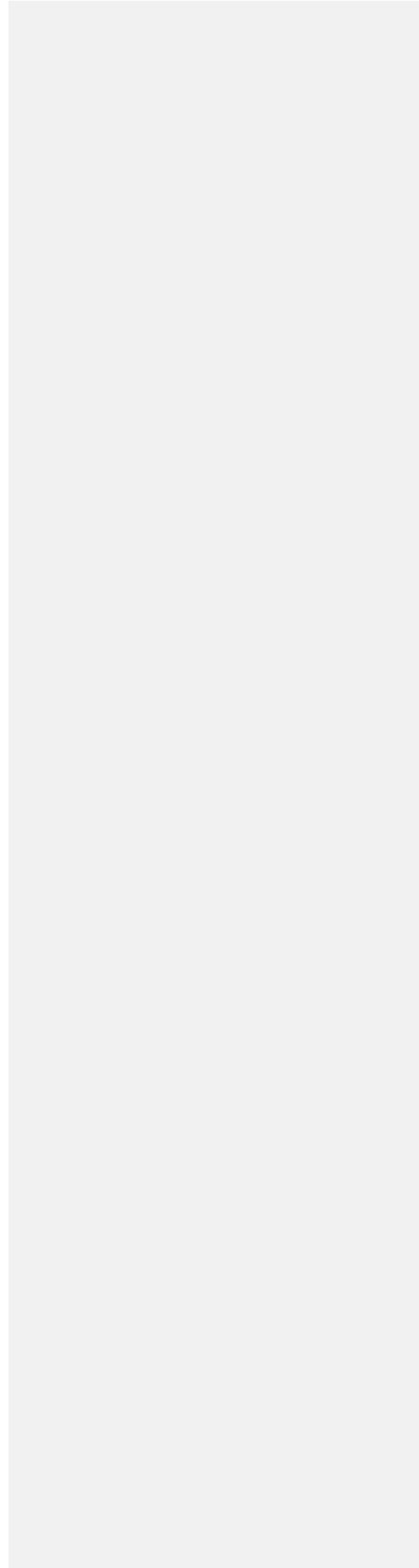


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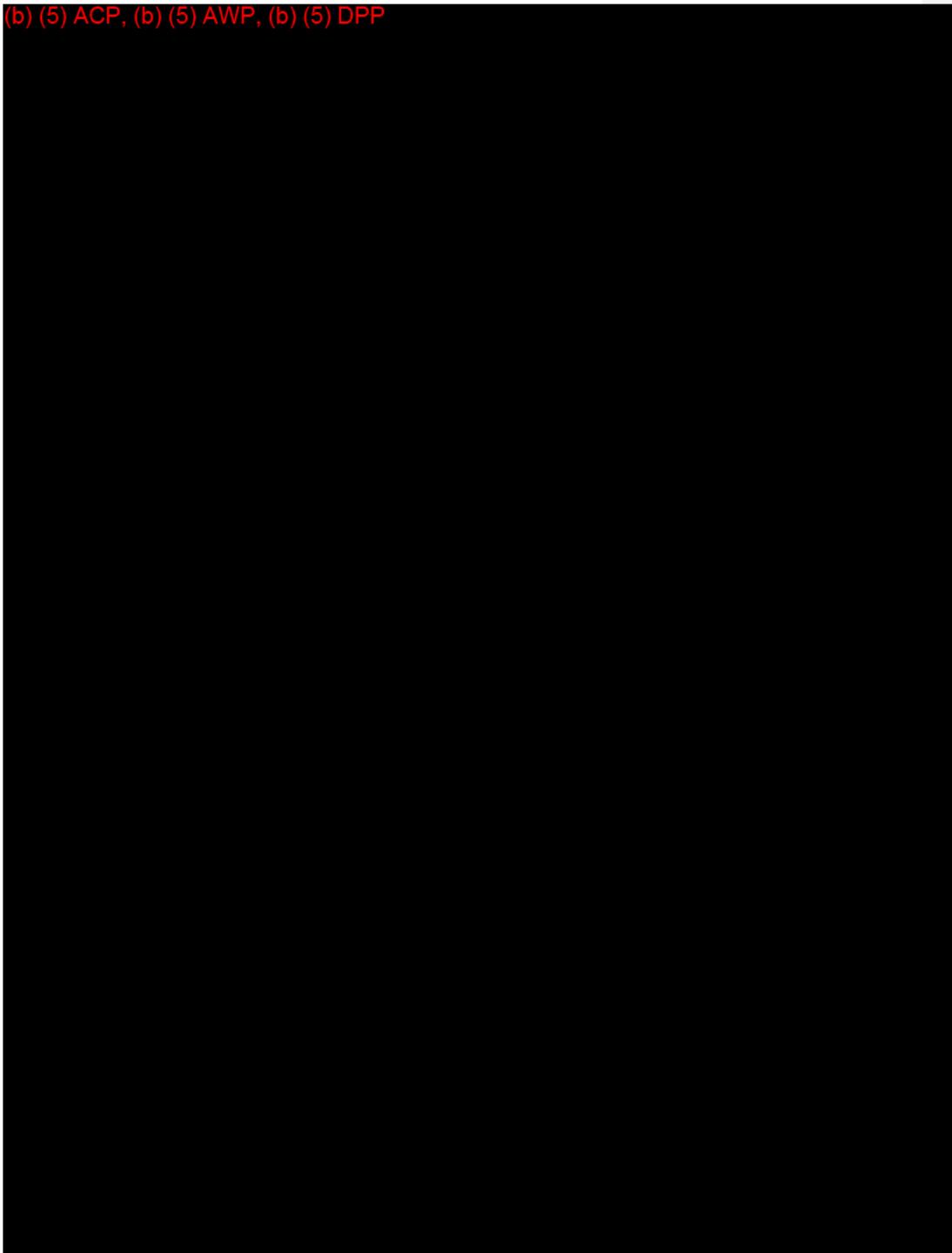


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From: Magallanes, Downey
To: [Robert Howarth](#)
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 6:42:26 PM
Attachments: [Bears Ears Modification Proc DRAFT 8 24 17 v2 to DJ and JH.docx](#)

--

Downey Magallanes
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Senior Advisor and Counselor
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-501-0654 (desk)
202-706-9199 (cell)

DRAFT – Internal – Not for Distribution

MODIFYING THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

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DRAFT – Internal – Not for Distribution

(b) (5) DPP

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text in callout box]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

From: Downey Magallanes
To: [David Bernhardt](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Brown, Laura](#); [Kevin Haugrud](#)
Subject: Re: Bears Ears NM Draft Memo and Draft Proclamation
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 5:44:14 PM

Thanks Dan. David, I have preliminarily reviewed and had discussions with Aaron. It is awaiting resource information by BLM. I have edits and questions, however I think in the interest of if time please feel free to dig in (if you weren't already doing so). I will circulate edits back with the group.

On Aug 17, 2017, at 7:37 PM, Jorjani, Daniel <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

David - Please don't read this version. It has not been signed off on by Downey. Please wait until you receive the approved version directly from her. Dan

On Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 4:26 PM, Jorjani, Daniel <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

David and Downey: Please find attached the BENM draft memo and proclamation.

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

From: **Brown, Laura** <laura.brown@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 4:18 PM
Subject: Bears Ears NM Draft Memo and Draft Proclamation
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, Kevin Haugrud <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: "Moody, Aaron" <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>

Attorney Work Product/Attorney-Client Privileged Communication

Dan and Jack: Attached is a draft memo regarding the Bears Ears National Monument and a draft Proclamation. We recommend that this version be sent to David and Downey for their review. As you can see from the comment bubbles there are still a few things we are working on with BLM.

--

Laura Brown, Associate Solicitor
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202 208-6545
Cell: 202 359-2712
Fax: 202 219-1792
Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov

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From: Howarth, Robert
To: [Magallanes, Downey](mailto:Magallanes.Downey)
Subject: Re: Bears Ears
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 5:34:45 AM

Good morning ...I am on it!

Please be sure to forward to me the document we discussed last yesterday.

Thanks, Rob

On Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 10:31 PM, Magallanes, Downey

<downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

do you want to start working on this? still have to go back and forth but not sure if this is helpful to get this now.

as far as i am concerned only Bernhardt needs to given opportunity to see this. Kathy and Kate can be given until COB 5pm. but then its going over to WH in draft.

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

From: **Magallanes, Downey** <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 10:29 PM

Subject: Re: Bears Ears

To: "Moody, Aaron" <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>

Cc: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, Kevin Haugrud

<jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>, "Brown, Laura" <Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov>

Looking good. Here are my edits. Who are we waiting on for policy input?

On Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 5:52 PM, Moody, Aaron <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED/ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

Downey-

Per your requests earlier today, attached are (1) a revised proclamation, in track changes from the previous version, (2) a new memo, in track changes from the previous version, (3) a clean copy of the memo (note that this still includes a couple of placeholders for policy input), and (4) a new map. Here's a quick summary of the changes to the documents:

(b) (5) - ACP, (b) (5) - DPP, (b)(5) AWP

[REDACTED]

(b) (5) DPP, (b) (5) ACP, (b) (5) AWPP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Of course let us know if you have questions or would like to discuss.

Thanks!

-Aaron

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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--

Downey Magallanes
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Senior Advisor and Counselor
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-501-0654 (desk)
202-706-9199 (cell)

--

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--

Robert Howarth
Deputy Director for Correspondence and FOIA Management
Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-3181
202-208-4451 (direct)
202-549-8961 (cell)

From: Downey Magallanes
To: [Daniel Jorjani](mailto:daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov)
Cc: [David Bernhardt](mailto:David.Bernhardt@sol.doi.gov); [Todd Willens](mailto:Todd.Willens@sol.doi.gov); [Aaron Moody](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)
Subject: Re: Bears Ears
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 9:41:24 PM

Ok I will transmit all. Thank you.

On Dec 1, 2017, at 8:59 PM, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Unless you want it transmitted via a different channel, yes, it is ready to go.

It now contains all edits - unless you or David want to edit further.

Aaron is finishing up the GSE bibliography and that complete final GSR set of materials will go to you this evening.

For the overall report, you have the final draft. Once you've chosen which edits to approve, it should also go over to Porter.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2017, at 8:37 PM, Downey Magallanes
<downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Am i sending to staff sec? Thanks.

On Dec 1, 2017, at 5:08 PM, Jorjani, Daniel
<daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Downey - Final complete BENM package.

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

From: **Moody, Aaron** <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 1, 2017 at 5:02 PM
Subject: Bears Ears
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: "Brown, Laura" <Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov>, Joshua Hanson <joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov>

Dan-

Attached are final, clean versions of (1) the Proclamation (the proclamation now includes a (b)(5) DPP (b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]), (2) the Memo, (3) the Map, and (4) the bibliography. This is the entire package for this monument.

We're working on GSENM now in accordance with our discussions regarding the (b)(5) DPP (b)(5) ACP [REDACTED] area.

-Aaron

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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<Bears Ears Modification Proc DRAFT CLEAN 12 1 17 445pm.docx>

<BENM_12012017.pdf>

<Bears Ears Bibliography_12.01.2017.docx>

<Bears Ears Modification Memo DRAFT 12 1 17 CLEAN.docx>

From: Howarth, Robert
To: [Tanner, John](#)
Cc: [David Bernhardt](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Scott Cameron](#)
Subject: Re: Expedited surname for response letter to Durbin
Date: Monday, December 11, 2017 5:54:05 PM
Attachments: [Draft response to Durbin 12 11 17.docx](#)

Hello all...suggested redline changes...Aaron's comment still outstanding.

Rob

On Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 4:53 PM, Tanner, John <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please respond with surname by 10am tomorrow.

--

John Tanner
Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
United States Department of the Interior

--

Robert Howarth
Deputy Director for Correspondence and FOIA Management
Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-3181
202-208-4451 (direct)
202-549-8961 (cell)

(b) (5) DPP

[Redacted]

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

From: John Tanner
To: [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Swift, Heather](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Hinson, Alex](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Jason Larrabee](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Scott Cameron](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Wynn, Todd](#); [James Cason](#); [Joe Balash](#); [Brenda Burman](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#)
Subject: Re: FINAL PRODUCTS: Year accomplishments
Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 10:20:07 AM

I would use the word "worked" instead of "persuaded"

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 28, 2017, at 9:13 AM, Newell, Russell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Made John's changes below. Changed "requested" to "persuaded" Work?

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Interior Releases Comprehensive List of Accomplishments under President Trump & Secretary Zinke

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a **list of accomplishments** that the Department has achieved under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Ryan Zinke. The accomplishments represent the unique balance of development, conservation, and preservation that the Department is charged with overseeing, including leading in American Energy Dominance, restoring public access to public lands, and providing regulatory relief for hard working American citizens.

“The President promised the American people that their voices would be heard and that we would prioritize American interests, and I'm proud to say that this year the Department of the Interior has made good on those promises,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Across the Department we are striking the right balance to protect our greatest treasures and also generate the revenue and energy our country needs. We ended the war on coal, and we restored millions of acres of public land for traditional multiple use. We expanded access for recreation, hunting and fishing on public lands, and also started looking at new ways to rebuild our National Parks. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Next year will be an exciting year for the Department and the American people.”

Throughout Secretary Zinke’s Senate confirmation process, he made many promises to the American tax payer, and the list of

accomplishments shows how the Department is keeping the promises that were made.

Below is a summary of major accomplishments according to Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities at the Department.

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department opened public access to the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine sportsmen opportunities in the country, expanded hunting and fishing access on 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and successfully defended a mineral withdrawal near the Grand Canyon and supports a withdrawal north of Yellowstone.

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department held the second largest offshore wind lease sale, ended the Obama-era ban on coal mining on federal lands, and increased energy revenues to states and Tribes by more than a billion dollars.

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

At Secretary Zinke's recommendation, the President restored traditional multiple-use public access to over a million acres of land in Utah while creating five distinct monument units at Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. Under Zinke's leadership, the Department also opened up the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for emergency cattle grazing after a wildfire, and reopened U.S. Virgin Islands National Park ahead of the busy Christmas tourism season, helping the Islands' economic recovery.

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

President Trump nominated the first Alaska Native woman to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and issued the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe. Secretary Zinke signed the Pechanga water rights settlement, restored the rights of Alaska Natives to sell handicrafts, and asked Congress to formally designate Tribal co-management of Shash-Jaa area of Bears Ears National Monument.

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department increased energy revenues to states by more than a billion dollars over the previous year.

6. Protect our people and the border

President Trump and Secretary Zinke successfully persuaded Congress authorize full funding of the compact with Palau in order to

strengthen the United States strategic defense in the Pacific. Hundreds of DOI law enforcement officers deployed to evacuate, prepare and respond to hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

7. Strike a regulatory balance

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda by more than 50-percent, initiated 21 deregulatory actions, saving the economy \$3.8 billion over time.

8. Modernize our infrastructure

Secretary Zinke announced repairs to the historic Arlington Memorial Bridge, which carries 68,000 vehicles a day, will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule. The Secretary approved important infrastructure projects like the Boardman/Hemingway Transmission Line and the Mountain Valley Pipeline while also approving more than \$80 million for parks and recreation grants.

9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors.

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

Partnership for Public Service announced in its "The Best Places to Work" survey the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump towards reaching that goal. Additionally, the Secretary announced the Department would be dog friendly in an effort to boost morale and attract top candidates.

###

2017 DOI Accomplishments

Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities –

- **Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt**

- **Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**
- **Restore trust and be a good neighbor**
- **Ensuring sovereignty means something.**
- **Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**
- **Protect our people and the border.**
- **Strike a regulatory balance.**
- **Modernize our infrastructure.**
- **Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years.**
- **Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.**

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Obama-Era Sage-Grouse Plans, Improves Conservation and Strengthens Communication Between States and Federal Government](#) (BLM)
- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Expand Access for Sportsmen on Public and Private Lands-Prioritize Hunter Engagement, Improve Federal-State Conservation Efforts](#) (USFWS)
- [Yellowstone Grizzly Bear's Strong Recovery Leads to Delisting](#) (USFWS)
- [Department of the Interior Hosts the First Sportsman's Access Summit](#) (USFWS, BLM & NPS)
- [Interior Overturns Ban on Affordable Lead Ammo and Fishing Tackle](#) (USFWS)
- [Secretary Zinke Announces \\$1.1 Billion in Funding to State Wildlife Agencies](#) (USFWS)
- [Secretary Zinke Establishes "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee to Leverage Public Private Partnerships and Investment on Public Lands](#) (NPS, USFWS & BLM)

- [Secretary Zinke Announces 10 Wildlife Refuges Will Open or Expand Public Access for Hunting and Fishing \(USFWS\)](#)
- [Interior Strengthens Commitment to Hunting and Fishing by Declaring October as National Hunting and Fishing Month \(USFWS\)](#)
- [Secretary Zinke Hosts First-Ever Veterans Roundtable to Expand Access to Public Lands for Service Members \(BLM, NPS & USFWS\)](#)
- [16,000 Acres in the Sabinoso Wilderness Opened Up to the Public for the First Time Ever. \(BLM\)](#)
- [Secretary Announces the Creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council \(USFWS\)](#)

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

- [Secretary Zinke Calls for Enhanced Exploration of Energy Opportunities with the Development of the Outer Continental Shelf \(BSEE & BOEM\)](#)
- [Interior Held Second Largest Offshore Wind Sale Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina \(BOEM\)](#)
- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Jumpstart Alaskan Energy Production NPR-A, 1002 and Offshore \(\(BLM\) \(BOEM\) \(USGS\)](#)
- [Secretary Zinke Signs Comprehensive Energy Order to End the Obama Ban on Coal Mining on Federal Lands and Review Costly Mitigation Policies \(DOI\)](#)
- [Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale Ever in United States \(BOEM & BSEE\)](#)
- [Secretary Zinke Issues Lease for \\$56 Million Tons of Coal in Central Utah \(BLM\)](#)

- [Secretarial Order Establishes Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting](#) (BLM, BOEM, BSEE & NPS)
- [New Interior Department Survey Shows Huge Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources](#) in Alaska (BOEM, USGS & BLM)

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

- [President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Proclamations to Adjust Boundaries of National Monuments](#) (BLM)
- [Zinke Applauded for Helping to Release Funds Long Overdue for Swain County, North Carolina](#) (DOI)
- [Zinke Submits Recommendations to President on National Monuments: Restores Multiple-Use and Maintains all Public Lands](#) (DOI)
- [Secretary Zinke Travels to Florida to Assess Hurricane Damage to National Parks and Fast Track Recovery Efforts](#) (NPS)
- [Interior Authorizes Full Decision Making Power to Bikini Islands Over Annual Budget](#) (OIA)
- [Secretary Opens the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for Emergency Grazing After Wildfire](#) (USFWS)
- [Ahead of Two Category Five Hurricanes, Zinke Expedited Release of Funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands](#) (OIA & NPS)
- [National Park Service Completes the Reopening of the Virgin Islands National Park After Hurricane Irma Devastates the Island](#) (NPS)

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

- [Tara Mac Lean Sweeney Becomes First-Ever Female Alaska Native Nominated to Serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs](#) (BIA)

- [Water Rights Settlement Signed with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians](#) (BIA)

- [Secretary Zinke Established a Royalty Policy Committee to Improve Energy Leases on Federal Land and Waters, Giving Tribes a seat at the Table](#) (ONRR)

- [Alaskan Natives Have Rights Restored to Sell Handicrafts](#) (BIA)

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

- [Energy Disbursements Grow by \\$1 Billion Over Previous Year](#) (ONRR)

- [BLM Issues Timber Payments of Nearly \\$20 Million to Rural Oregon Counties](#) (BLM)

- [Utah Coal Lease Approved for \\$22 Million](#) (BLM)

- [Gulf of Mexico Lease Generates \\$275 Million](#) (BSEE)

- [Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales Net \\$317 Million in Revenue](#) (BLM & BSEE)

6. Protect our people and the border

- [Secretary Takes Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildland Fires](#) (BLM, OWF, NPS, USFWS & BIA)

- [Seminole Tribe Receives Presidential Emergency Declaration](#) (BIA)

- [Secretary Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, State and Local Stakeholders](#) (DOI)
- [Bureau of Indian Affairs Coordinates with Indian Health Service to Provide Naloxone Training to BIA Officers to Reverse Effects of Opioid Overdose](#) (BIA)
- [Quick Response by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff Assists the Power-Starved Communities of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands](#) (USFW)
- [Trump and Zinke's Budget Plan Approved, Authorizes Full Funding of Palau Compact Agreement, Strengthening U.S. Strategic Defense in the Pacific](#) (OIA)

7. Strike a regulatory balance

- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Costly and Burdensome Red Tape in Order to Advance American Energy](#) (DOI)
- [Department of Interior Outlines Costly and Burdensome Regulations to Repeal or Rewrite to Achieve American Energy Dominance](#) (DOI)
- [Interior Streamlines Permitting Process Under the National Environmental Policy Act](#) (DOI)
- [Environmental Impact Statements Limited to 150 Pages](#) (DOI)
- [Interior Reduces the Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda by More than 50%](#) (DOI)

8. Modernize our infrastructure

- [Interior Approves Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project that Creates Jobs and Improves Energy Infrastructure](#) (BLM)
- [Secretary Zinke Announces the Arlington Memorial Bridge Project is Under Budget and Ahead of Schedule](#) (NPS)
- [Secretary Zinke Announces Nearly \\$32 Million in Boating Infrastructure, Recreation and Tourism Grants](#)
- [Secretary Announces more than \\$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure](#) (NPS)

9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

- [The Secretary is Crafting a Plan to Reorganize the Department of the Interior](#) (DOI)

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

- [Secretary Zinke Outlines Plan to Combat Workplace Harassment](#) (DOI)
- [In an Effort to Boost Employee Morale and be More Competitive in Attracting New Employees, the Department of the Interior Announces First Ever, “Doggy Days”](#) (DOI)
- [Interior Moves Up into the Top Ten of “Best Places to Work”](#) (DOI)

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



On Wed, Dec 27, 2017 at 7:44 PM, John Tanner <john_tanner@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

In #4 you need to change "deputy secretary for Indian affairs" to "assistant secretary for Indian affairs"

#6 what do you mean by "successfully requested?" Is making the request what we are counting? Or was the funding authorized? Maybe a better way to say it would be "began the process of working with Congress to authorize full funding..."

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 27, 2017, at 5:20 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Below is the final press release and list of accomplishments (also attached) that we will issue to press tomorrow morning. If you have any major issues with this please respond to me TONIGHT.

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Interior Releases Comprehensive List of Accomplishments under President Trump & Secretary Zinke

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a **list of accomplishments** that the Department has achieved under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Ryan Zinke. The accomplishments represent the unique balance of development, conservation, and preservation that the Department is charged with overseeing, including leading in American Energy Dominance, restoring public access to public lands, and providing regulatory relief for hard working American citizens.

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###

2017 DOI Accomplishments

Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities –

- **Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt**
- **Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**
- **Restore trust and be a good neighbor**
- **Ensuring sovereignty means something.**
- **Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**
- **Protect our people and the border.**
- **Strike a regulatory balance.**
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- **Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years.**
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1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Obama-Era Sage-Grouse Plans, Improves Conservation and Strengthens Communication Between States and Federal Government](#) (BLM)
- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Expand Access for Sportsmen on Public and Private Lands-Prioritize Hunter Engagement, Improve Federal-State Conservation Efforts](#) (USFWS)
- [Yellowstone Grizzly Bear's Strong Recovery Leads to Delisting](#) (USFWS)

- [Department of the Interior Hosts the First Sportsman's Access Summit](#) (USFWS, BLM & NPS)

- [Interior Overturns Ban on Affordable Lead Ammo and Fishing Tackle](#) (USFWS)

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- [Secretary Zinke Establishes "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee to Leverage Public Private Partnerships and Investment on Public Lands](#) (NPS, USFWS & BLM)

- [Secretary Zinke Announces 10 Wildlife Refuges Will Open or Expand Public Access for Hunting and Fishing](#) (USFWS)

- [Interior Strengthens Commitment to Hunting and Fishing by Declaring October as National Hunting and Fishing Month](#) (USFWS)

- [Secretary Zinke Hosts First-Ever Veterans Roundtable to Expand Access to Public Lands for Service Members](#) (BLM, NPS & USFWS)

- [16,000 Acres in the Sabinoso Wilderness Opened Up to the Public for the First Time Ever](#). (BLM)

- [Secretary Announces the Creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council](#) (USFWS)

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

- [Secretary Zinke Calls for Enhanced Exploration of Energy Opportunities with the Development of the Outer Continental Shelf](#) (BSEE & BOEM)

- [Interior Held Second Largest Offshore Wind Sale Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina](#) (BOEM)

- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Jumpstart Alaskan Energy Production NPR-A, 1002 and Offshore](#) ((BLM) (BOEM) (USGS)

- [Secretary Zinke Signs Comprehensive Energy Order to End the Obama Ban on Coal Mining on Federal Lands and Review Costly Mitigation Policies](#) (DOI)

- [Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale Ever in United States](#) (BOEM & BSEE)

- [Secretary Zinke Issues Lease for \\$56 Million Tons of Coal in Central Utah](#) (BLM)

- [Secretarial Order Establishes Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting](#) (BLM, BOEM, BSEE & NPS)

- [New Interior Department Survey Shows Huge Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources](#) in Alaska (BOEM, USGS & BLM)

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

- [President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Proclamations to Adjust Boundaries of National Monuments](#) (BLM)

- [Zinke Applauded for Helping to Release Funds Long Overdue for Swain County, North Carolina](#) (DOI)

- [Zinke Submits Recommendations to President on National Monuments: Restores Multiple-Use and Maintains all Public Lands](#) (DOI)

- [Secretary Zinke Travels to Florida to Assess Hurricane Damage to National Parks and Fast Track Recovery Efforts](#) (NPS)

- [Interior Authorizes Full Decision Making Power to Bikini Islands Over Annual Budget](#) (OIA)

- [Secretary Opens the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for Emergency Grazing After Wildfire](#) (USFWS)

- [Ahead of Two Category Five Hurricanes, Zinke Expedited Release of Funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands](#) (OIA & NPS)

- [National Park Service Completes the Reopening of the Virgin Islands National Park After Hurricane Irma Devastates the Island](#) (NPS)

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

- [Tara Mac Lean Sweeney Becomes First-Ever Female Alaska Native Nominated to Serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs](#) (BIA)

- [Water Rights Settlement Signed with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians](#) (BIA)

- [Secretary Zinke Established a Royalty Policy Committee to Improve Energy Leases on Federal Land and Waters, Giving Tribes a seat at the Table](#) (ONRR)

- [Alaskan Natives Have Rights Restored to Sell Handicrafts](#) (BIA)

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

- [Energy Disbursements Grow by \\$1 Billion Over Previous Year](#) (ONNR)
- [BLM Issues Timber Payments of Nearly \\$20 Million to Rural Oregon Counties](#) (BLM)
- [Utah Coal Lease Approved for \\$22 Million](#) (BLM)
- [Gulf of Mexico Lease Generates \\$275 Million](#) (BSEE)
- [Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales Net \\$317 Million in Revenue](#) (BLM & BSEE)

6. Protect our people and the border

- [Secretary Takes Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildland Fires](#) (BLM, OWF, NPS, USFWS & BIA)
- [Seminole Tribe Receives Presidential Emergency Declaration](#) (BIA)
- [Secretary Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, State and Local Stakeholders](#) (DOI)

- [Bureau of Indian Affairs Coordinates with Indian Health Service to Provide Naloxone Training to BIA Officers to Reverse Effects of Opioid Overdose](#) (BIA)

- [Quick Response by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff Assists the Power-Starved Communities of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands](#) (USFW)

- [Trump and Zinke's Budget Plan Approved, Authorizes Full Funding of Palau Compact Agreement, Strengthening U.S. Strategic Defense in the Pacific](#) (OIA)

7. Strike a regulatory balance

- [Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Costly and Burdensome Red Tape in Order to Advance American Energy](#) (DOI)

- [Department of Interior Outlines Costly and Burdensome Regulations to Repeal or Rewrite to Achieve American Energy Dominance](#) (DOI)

- [Interior Streamlines Permitting Process Under the National Environmental Policy Act](#) (DOI)

- [Environmental Impact Statements Limited to 150 Pages](#) (DOI)

- [Interior Reduces the Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda by More than 50%](#) (DOI)

8. Modernize our infrastructure

- [Interior Approves Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project that Creates Jobs and Improves Energy Infrastructure](#) (BLM)

- [Secretary Zinke Announces the Arlington Memorial Bridge Project is Under Budget and Ahead of Schedule](#) (NPS)

- [Secretary Zinke Announces Nearly \\$32 Million in Boating Infrastructure, Recreation and Tourism Grants](#)

- [Secretary Announces more than \\$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure](#) (NPS)

9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

- [The Secretary is Crafting a Plan to Reorganize the Department of the Interior](#) (DOI)

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

- [Secretary Zinke Outlines Plan to Combat Workplace Harassment](#) (DOI)

- [In an Effort to Boost Employee Morale and be More Competitive in Attracting New Employees, the Department of the Interior Announces First Ever, “Doggy Days”](#) (DOI)

- [Interior Moves Up into the Top Ten of “Best Places to Work”](#) (DOI)

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

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

From: Magallanes, Downey
To: Swift, Heather
Cc: Laura Rigas; Hinson, Alex; Russell Newell; Daniel Jorjani; Aaron Moody; David Bernhardt; Willens, Todd
Subject: Re: For Review - Monument Report press release
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 12:19:26 PM

Anything in red dropped- greens additions. Thanks.

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 12:19 PM, Magallanes, Downey <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 11:12 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Secretary Zinke Recommends Preserving All Federal Lands, Rescinding No National Monuments, Adding Three New Ones

WASHINGTON –Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke published **the final report** outlining recommendations he made to the President on **some** national monument designat **ed under**under the Antiquities Act.

Among the recommendations, Secretary Zinke outlined plans to:

- **Preserve all federal lands** - Not a single acreage of federal land will be removed from the federal estate. No land will be sold or transferred to private or state entities. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by the **U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, whichever** agency **that** managed it before designation
- **Rescind no national monuments** - All 27 monuments under review will remain monuments
- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended **creating examining three sites as potential new monuments** The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries to four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure **public access to encourage more** hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue - - from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated. I did not recommend rescinding any monument.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows Federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

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False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

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False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###

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Downey Magallanes
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
U.S. Department of the Interior
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-706-9199

--

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Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
U.S. Department of the Interior
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202-706-9199

From: Jorjani, Daniel
To: [Rigas, Laura](#)
Cc: [Swift, Heather](#); [Hinson, Alex](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Aaron Moody](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Wynn, Todd](#); [John Tanner](#)
Subject: Re: For Review - Monument Report press release
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 12:42:43 PM
Attachments: [Press release report agm.docx](#)

SOL edits attached -



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

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On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 12:10 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all --
Please send edits no later than 1pm. Thanks!

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 11:12 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Secretary Zinke Recommends Preserving All Federal Lands, Rescinding No National Monuments, Adding Three New Ones

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Among the recommendations, Secretary Zinke outlined plans to:

- **Preserve all federal lands** - Not a single acreage of federal land will be removed from the federal estate. No land will be sold or transferred to private or state entities.

If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, whichever agency managed it before designation

- **Rescind no national monuments** - All 27 monuments under review will remain monuments
- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended creating three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries to four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure access for hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue - from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated. I did not recommend rescinding any monument.”

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False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

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False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

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(b) (5) DPP, (b) (5) ACP

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From: Tanner, John
To: Jorjani, Daniel
Cc: Rigas, Laura; Swift, Heather; Hinson, Alex; Russell Newell; Magallanes, Downey; Aaron Moody; David Bernhardt; Willens, Todd; Wynn, Todd
Subject: Re: For Review - Monument Report press release
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 12:55:28 PM

I made one small edit to the Google doc.

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 12:41 PM, Jorjani, Daniel <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:
SOL edits attached -



Daniel H. Jorjani
Principal Deputy Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building, Suite 6356
202-219-3861 (Voice)
202-706-9018 (Cell)

daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov

This electronic message contains information generated by the US Department of the Interior solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

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###

--

John Tanner
Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
United States Department of the Interior

From: Chambers, Micah
To: [Laura Rigas](#)
Cc: [Magallanes, Downey](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Todd Willens](#); [John Tanner](#); [Wynn, Todd](#); [Benjamin Cassidy](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Jason Larrabee](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Cameron, Scott](#); [James Cason](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Nachmany, Eli](#); [John Bockmier](#); [Hinson, Alex](#)
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: 2017 Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 3:22:40 PM

(b) (5) DPP

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 10:27 AM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all —

To mirror the Secretary's priorities, below are the "top 10" accomplishments we are planning to release on Thursday along with our extensive list of accomplishments, which are attached.

Please review carefully and provide any edits to John Bockmier (CC'd) **by tomorrow (Wednesday) at 12n**. Please review for accuracy and also to ensure we have not left out any major items.

Many thanks,

Laura

2017 DOI Accomplishments

1. **Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt**

Opened up the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine habitat in the country for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife – making it available for the first time ever for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The 16,000-acre Sabinoso was previously wholly surrounded by non-federal land, making it inaccessible to the general public. However, a donation of 3,595 acres (formerly known as the Rimrock Rose Ranch) that are adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness was accepted by the Secretary and is now public.

2. **Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**

Announced the completion of the nation's seventh competitive lease sale for renewable wind energy in federal waters. A Wind Energy Area of 122,405 acres offshore Kitty Hawk, North Carolina received the high bid of over \$9 million. The project will continue Interior's commitment to sustainable energy and strengthen our energy independence.

3. **Restore trust & be a good neighbor**

Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

4. **Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something**

Supported the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe, when President Trump authorized sending Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officers to the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The declaration came with a surge of 75 volunteer officers from the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, various other Interior bureaus, and other Tribal Nations. Two dozen BIA and tribal officers were also used to provide law enforcement and emergency services.

5. **Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**

Office of Natural Resources Revenue released disbursements from energy and minerals production on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled \$7.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2017, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over the previous year. States received \$1.44 billion, Tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners received nearly \$676 million, and \$950 million went toward the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which invests in outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation in America's state and local parks.

6. **Protect our people and the border**

Worked round the clock to resume normal operations and public tours at the visitor center and Castillo San Cristóbal area of San Juan National Historic Site. The National Park Service is an important tourism factor in Puerto Rico, generating more than \$100 million in economic activity every year for the island.

7. **Strike a regulatory balance**

Reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda more than 50-percent. Initiated 21 deregulatory actions, with 11 of them complete. These efforts will save \$3.8 billion over time, based on a \$261 million annual number.

8. **Modernize our infrastructure**

Working with other federal partners, ensured the Arlington Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation project will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule: the project will be completed 1.5 years sooner due to design build procedures and will come under budget by \$35 million.

9. **Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years**

The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors.

10. **Achieving our goals, leading our team forward**

Partnership for Public Service announced its yearly report titled "The Best

Places to Work." In the first year under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump toward reaching that goal.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

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Micah Chambers
Deputy Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: Swift, Heather
To: [Chambers, Micah](#)
Cc: [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Todd Willens](#); [John Tanner](#); [Wynn, Todd](#); [Benjamin Cassidy](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Jason Larrabee](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Cameron, Scott](#); [James Cason](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Nachmany, Eli](#); [John Bockmier](#); [Hinson, Alex](#)
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: 2017 Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 3:24:56 PM

(b) (5) DPP

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

On Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 3:21 PM, Chambers, Micah <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5) DPP

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 10:27 AM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all —

To mirror the Secretary's priorities, below are the "top 10" accomplishments we are planning to release on Thursday along with our extensive list of accomplishments, which are attached.

Please review carefully and provide any edits to John Bockmier (CC'd) **by tomorrow (Wednesday) at 12n**. Please review for accuracy and also to ensure we have not left out any major items.

Many thanks,
Laura

2017 DOI Accomplishments

1. **Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt**

Opened up the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine habitat in the country for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife – making it available for the first time ever for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The 16,000-acre Sabinoso was previously wholly surrounded by non-federal land, making it inaccessible to the general public. However, a donation of 3,595 acres (formerly known as the Rimrock Rose Ranch) that are adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness was accepted by the Secretary and is now public.

2. **Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**

Announced the completion of the nation's seventh competitive lease sale for renewable wind energy in federal waters. A Wind Energy Area of 122,405 acres offshore Kitty Hawk, North Carolina received the high bid of over \$9 million. The project will continue Interior's commitment to sustainable

energy and strengthen our energy independence.

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

Supported the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe, when President Trump authorized sending Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officers to the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The declaration came with a surge of 75 volunteer officers from the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, various other Interior bureaus, and other Tribal Nations. Two dozen BIA and tribal officers were also used to provide law enforcement and emergency services.

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

Office of Natural Resources Revenue released disbursements from energy and minerals production on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled \$7.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2017, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over the previous year. States received \$1.44 billion, Tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners received nearly \$676 million, and \$950 million went toward the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which invests in outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation in America's state and local parks.

6. Protect our people and the border

Worked round the clock to resume normal operations and public tours at the visitor center and Castillo San Cristóbal area of San Juan National Historic Site. The National Park Service is an important tourism factor in Puerto Rico, generating more than \$100 million in economic activity every year for the island.

7. Strike a regulatory balance

Reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda more than 50-percent. Initiated 21 deregulatory actions, with 11 of them complete. These efforts will save \$3.8 billion over time, based on a \$261 million annual number.

8. Modernize our infrastructure

Working with other federal partners, ensured the Arlington Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation project will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule:

the project will be completed 1.5 years sooner due to design build procedures and will come under budget by \$35 million.

9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors.

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

Partnership for Public Service announced its yearly report titled "The Best Places to Work." In the first year under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump toward reaching that goal.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

--

Micah Chambers
Deputy Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: Bockmier, John
To: [Swift, Heather](#)
Cc: [Chambers, Micah](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Todd Willens](#); [John Tanner](#); [Wynn, Todd](#); [Benjamin Cassidy](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Jason Larrabee](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Cameron, Scott](#); [James Cason](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Nachmany, Eli](#); [Hinson, Alex](#)
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: 2017 Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 3:33:05 PM

Thanks Micah

John M. Bockmier



Senior Advisor - Communications
Office of the Secretary MIB 6222
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

202.208.3636 Office
202.897.7399 Cell

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(b) (5) DPP
[Redacted]

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Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director

U.S. Department of the Interior
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--

Micah Chambers
Deputy Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: Laura Rigas
To: [Scott Hommel](#)
Cc: [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [James Cason](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Bauserman, Christine](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Russell Newell](#)
Subject: Re: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/9/17
Date: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 8:05:14 PM

Congrats!! #GoTeam

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Aug 9, 2017, at 5:59 PM, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

#1. Awesome team.

Scott C. Hommel
Chief of Staff
Department of the Interior

On Aug 9, 2017, at 2:06 PM, Domenech, Douglas
<douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Attached and copied below.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR
CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/9/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

VOTED BEST REPORT! ☺

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn will be on leave August 14-18.

NOTE: DOI is gathering emergency management information for the Territory of Guam in light of comments from the President of

North Korea. There are 58 DOI personnel located on the combination of Guam and Saipan. DOI personnel, where not assigned specific actions/activities according to local emergency procedures pertinent to their assigned duties, act in accordance with local government direction. There are no known emergency action plans specific to DOI activities in the area with respect to a threat such as nuclear attack.

Status of the Secretary

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

Status of the Deputy Secretary

In Washington, DC.

Office meetings and briefings.

Media TODAY

GRAZING TO CONTINUE ON PARTS OF CRATERS OF THE MOON - DECISION ADVANCES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

WASHINGTON – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced that livestock grazing will continue on BLM-managed portions of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho. The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration's effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation.

“By working together with our stakeholders, we can strike a balance of various uses in this iconic national monument while also serving the greater community,” said BLM Acting Director Michael Nedd. “Our multiple-use mission helps ensure that public lands—including Craters of the Moon—work for local communities and visitors alike.”

SECRETARY ZINKE EXPANDS HUNTING AND FISHING

OPPORTUNITIES AT 10 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

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

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

SECRETARY ZINKE MOVES TO ACCEPT 3,595 ACRES OF WILDERNESS FOR SPORTSMEN'S ACCESS TO SABINOSO WILDERNESS AREA IN NEW MEXICO

WASHINGTON – Following a trip to New Mexico, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced he and the Department - through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - are in the process of accepting the donation of 3,595 acres (formerly known as the Rimrock Rose Ranch) that are adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness to be included as part of the wilderness.

If approved, the donated land will provide public access to the 16,000-acre Sabinoso Wilderness, which is wholly surrounded by private land. By adding the donated land, the Sabinoso will connect with neighboring BLM land and make the Sabinoso accessible to the public for the first time ever.

White House Report (Yesterday)

Press Inquiries:

· CBS News & NBC News: REQUEST-- I have interviewed Joel Clement for tonight's NBC Nightly News broadcast. I am looking to get a response to his claims from the DOI. —RESPONSE—
Statement on the whistleblower The Department does not comment on ongoing matters such as whistleblower complaints. We look forward to working with the Office of Special Counsel to address any questions they might have about this matter. Regarding the shuffling of SES at DOI: The President signed an executive order to reorganize the federal government for the future and the Secretary has been absolutely out front on that issue. In fact, he mentioned a Department-wide, front lines-focused reorganization on his first day address to all employees. The purpose of the Senior Executive Service is to ensure that the executive management of the government of the United States is responsive to the needs, policies, and goals of the Nation and otherwise is of the highest quality. Senior executives are the highest paid employees in the federal government and signed up for the SES knowing that they could be called upon to work in different positions at any time. Congress meant for the SES to be a mobile force that are capable of taking on different assignments to meet the needs of the agency. Personnel moves among the Senior Executive Service are being conducted to better serve the taxpayer and the Department's operations.

· KXLH TV Helena, MT (Mike Dennison): - REQUEST – Comment on the ad from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers? – RESPONSE - Secretary Zinke is carrying out the review of some national monuments in accordance with the April 26 executive order. Of the hundreds of national monuments, 27 were put under review. So far, the Secretary has recommended that no changes be made to five monuments. The Secretary has visited monuments in half a dozen states and met with stakeholders who represent all sides of the issues. In fact, the Secretary recently took the time to meet with and hike with members of the group that is running the ads while he was in New Mexico. The Secretary is dedicated to ensuring all voices are heard in this process.

· Various inquiries regarding local national park programs.

Top Stories

· Las Vegas Review Journal: Feds to relax rules protecting sage grouse in Nevada, 10 other states

· Denver Post: Trump team relaxes land-use rules for saving sage grouse, opening more of the West for fossil fuels development

· USA Today: Greater sage-grouse: Conservation changes praised, provoke alarm

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Potential POTUS Event August 25 with Secretary Zinke related to the 101st anniversary of the National Park Service.

Secretary is on personal leave. No public appearances scheduled.

Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

Tomorrow DOI will issue a press release announcing the addition of 3,600 acres of land to the Sabinoso Wilderness Area in New Mexico

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

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

- Aug 9: DOI will issue a press release announcing the addition of 3,600 acres of land to the Sabinoso Wilderness Area in New Mexico
- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI will announced FWS proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August 10: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the unveiling of Unveil Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer Program for the 2017 North American Total Solar Eclipse.

- August 11: Rep. Tom McClintock will be visiting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The purpose of the visit is to meet with the superintendent and receive a tour of the parks. Among topics likely to be discussed are annual visitation, tree mortality from drought, wildland fire, and maintenance backlog progress.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August 9: Local FWS Release: FWS announces six-month deadline extension for the final listing determination for the Texas Hornshell
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS plans to announce \$4,254,638 in Tribal Wildlife Grant awards to federally recognized tribes for 25 projects in 14 states to fund a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Bureau of Land Management

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

U.S. Geological Survey

- August 9: National USGS Release: USGS will release a study of streams in 11 Midwestern states that found more than 180 pesticides, some at levels that could harm aquatic insects. On average, 54 pesticide compounds were detected in each stream.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed above-ground water storage facility off-stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a

comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.

- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.

- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 10: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders regarding the draft EIS for G&G Activities in GOM.

- August 11: National BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.

- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.

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

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

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

- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals

Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

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

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 51

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

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

Outstanding Invitations in Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jeffersons Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/8-12 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament (Missoula, MT)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 53,076 (+1,062) acres and is 47 (+22)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 468 (+65) personnel, which includes 123 (-3) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Full containment is expected on August 13.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 23 (+4)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384 (-13) personnel assigned, including 15 (+1) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park are closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Uncertainty As National Monument Review Deadline Nears.

The St. George (UT) Spectrum (8/8, DeMille) reports that “two weeks ahead of a Trump administration deadline to complete a review of 27 national monuments, including Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, the status remains uncertain for most of them.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “already issued a preliminary recommendation to shrink the Bears Ears monument, and over the course of the past several weeks he has said that five others should remain monuments and go untouched.” However, “the details behind what might happen at Bears Ears and the fate of the 21 other monuments remain a question mark.”

Sage Grouse Conservation Changes Praised, Provoke Alarm.

The AP (8/8, Gruver, Brown) reports that the Trump Administration has “opened the door to industry-friendly changes to a sweeping plan imposed by his predecessor to protect a ground-dwelling bird across vast areas of the West.” Representatives of the ranching and energy industries lauded “the policy shift as needed to give states flexibility.” However, wildlife advocates are concerned “that the proposed changes would undercut a hard-won struggle to protect the greater sage grouse.”

Scientist Claims Administration Punishing Him For Speaking Out About Climate Change.

Chip Reid of the VideoCBS Evening News (8/8, story 5, 2:30, Mason) reported on an interview with US Interior Department scientist Joel Clement about “what happens to a government scientist

who speaks up about” climate change. For the past seven years, Clement has been working in Alaskan villages that “are literally melting into the Arctic Ocean.” Clement addressed the issue last month at the UN, and six days later, “he was one of about 50 department employees who were assigned to new jobs.” Clement has filed a whistleblower complaint, saying, “I believe that the Trump Administration is retaliating against me for disclosing these risks to these Alaskan native villages.”

Commentary: Slaughtering Wild Horses Would Be Simplistic And Cruel.

In an op-ed for the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (8/9, Hammer), Rob Hammer, the proprietor of Wild Horse Tourist, opposes an amendment to the Interior Department’s 2018 spending bill introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart “that would send thousands of America’s wild horses to slaughterhouses.” Hammer argues that the “proposal to simply slaughter these cherished symbols of our national heritage amounts to greed-driven cruelty and should be stripped from the Appropriations Bill before final Congressional approval.” Instead, Hammer supports “comprehensive approaches that generally include some combination of administering long-acting birth control, retiring grazing leases, increasing lease fees, reapportioning AUM allotments, protecting large predators, returning herd areas to their original acreage and repopulating zeroed areas.”

After Trump Warning Of “Fire And Fury,” North Korea Threatens Strike On Guam.

President Trump’s warning to North Korea, which was followed by Pyongyang threat to strike Guam, are garnering heavy media attention, including the lead reports on all three networks newscasts. Reuters (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard) reports, warned North Korea it would be met with “fire and fury like the world has never seen.” Stephen Ganyard said on VideoABC World News Tonight (8/8, story 2, 1:15, Muir) that “to hear this language out of a US president, it’s something we have never heard before, and it certainly puts the world on notice.” Media reports cast the developments as presenting Trump with his greatest challenge yet of his presidency, with analysts and commentators taking a decidedly dim view of his rhetoric. The Los Angeles Times (8/8, Hennigan, Cloud, Bierman), for example, reports that the President’s “dramatic threat of annihilation raised fresh fears of a confrontation with North Korea,” and “in many ways mirrors his North Korean counterpart’s,” the New York Times (8/8, Baker, Sang-Hun) refers to “chilling language that evoked the horror of a nuclear exchange,” and a Washington Post (8/8) editorial criticizes the President’s “unsettling threat,” which it calls “reckless

and unnecessary. In its bombast, it resembled nothing so much as Kim Jong Un's regular denunciations of the United States, frantic and hyperbolic." Dealing with the threat posed by the North, the Post argues, "will require patient pressure and skilled diplomacy, perhaps for years. Instead, Mr. Trump has strut into the arena with a jarring rhetorical grenade."

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Tuesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

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

<DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-9-17.docx>

From: Magallanes, Downey
To: Jorjani, Daniel
Cc: David Bernhardt
Subject: Re: monument report
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017 11:32:59 PM
Attachments: [Monument Report 11-27+ld + aqm + kih.docx](#)

See attached- I responded to all comments and posed some new questions. I also changed the Cascade-Siskiyou section more so need feedback on that.

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 2:17 PM, Jorjani, Daniel <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:
FYI

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

From: **Moody, Aaron** <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 2:12 PM
Subject: Re: monument report
To: "Haugrud, Kevin" <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: "Jorjani, Daniel" <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, "Brown, Laura" <Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov>

Attached is a version that makes conforming edits in the remaining paragraphs to conform to Jack's suggestion. From my perspective, this is ok to go to David and Downey.

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 12:09 PM, Haugrud, Kevin <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov> wrote:
I have comments in two places (I used comment balloons so they are easy to see). (b) (5)
- ACP

[REDACTED]. Aaron has reviewed the second edit and is okay with it.

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 11:29 AM, Jorjani, Daniel <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:
Jack - any comments?

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 11:28 AM, Moody, Aaron <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Ann has no comments so the prior version is comprehensive (subject to any you or Jack have). thanks!

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 10:42 AM, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Thank you. Please get Ann's comments, then resend to me.



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

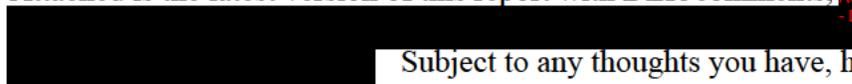
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Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 30, 2017, at 10:27 AM, Moody, Aaron <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Dan-

Attached is the latest version of this report with DLR comments,  (b) (5) - ACP, (b) (5) - DPP

 Subject to any thoughts you have, happy to send these back to her or have you do so.

I have not shared with Ann, although I did compare it to the last version we commented on and it appears all comments on the marine/DPW monuments were incorporated into this version.

-Aaron

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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<Monument Report 11-27+ld + agm.docx>

--

Downey Magallanes
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
U.S. Department of the Interior
downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
202-706-9199

DRAFT- Deliberative- Not for Distribution

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RYAN K. ZINKE

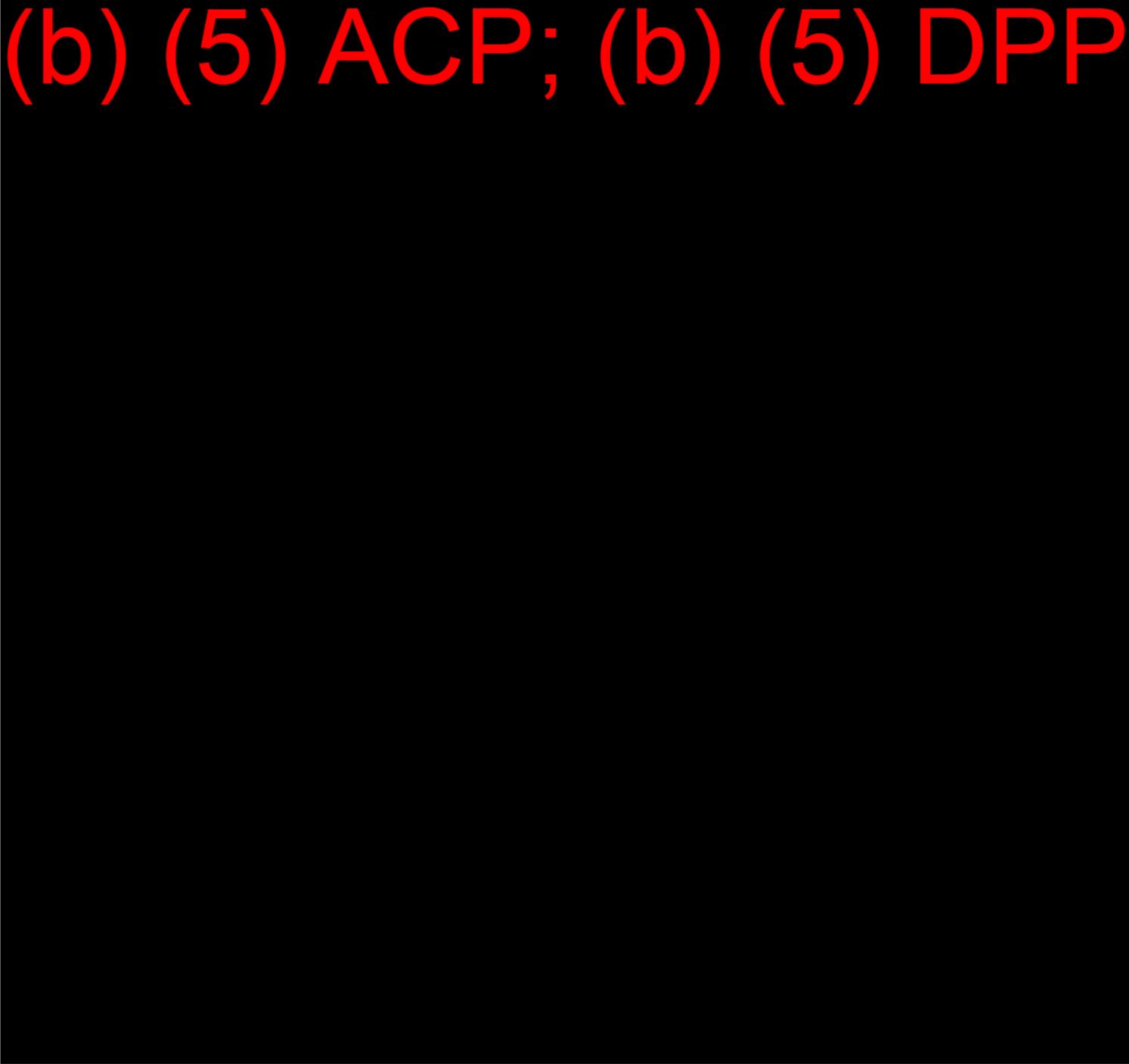
SUBJECT: Final Report Summarizing Findings of the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act

(b) (5) ACP; (b) (5) DPP

(b) (5) ACP; (b) (5) DPP

Draft Deliberative – Not for Distribution

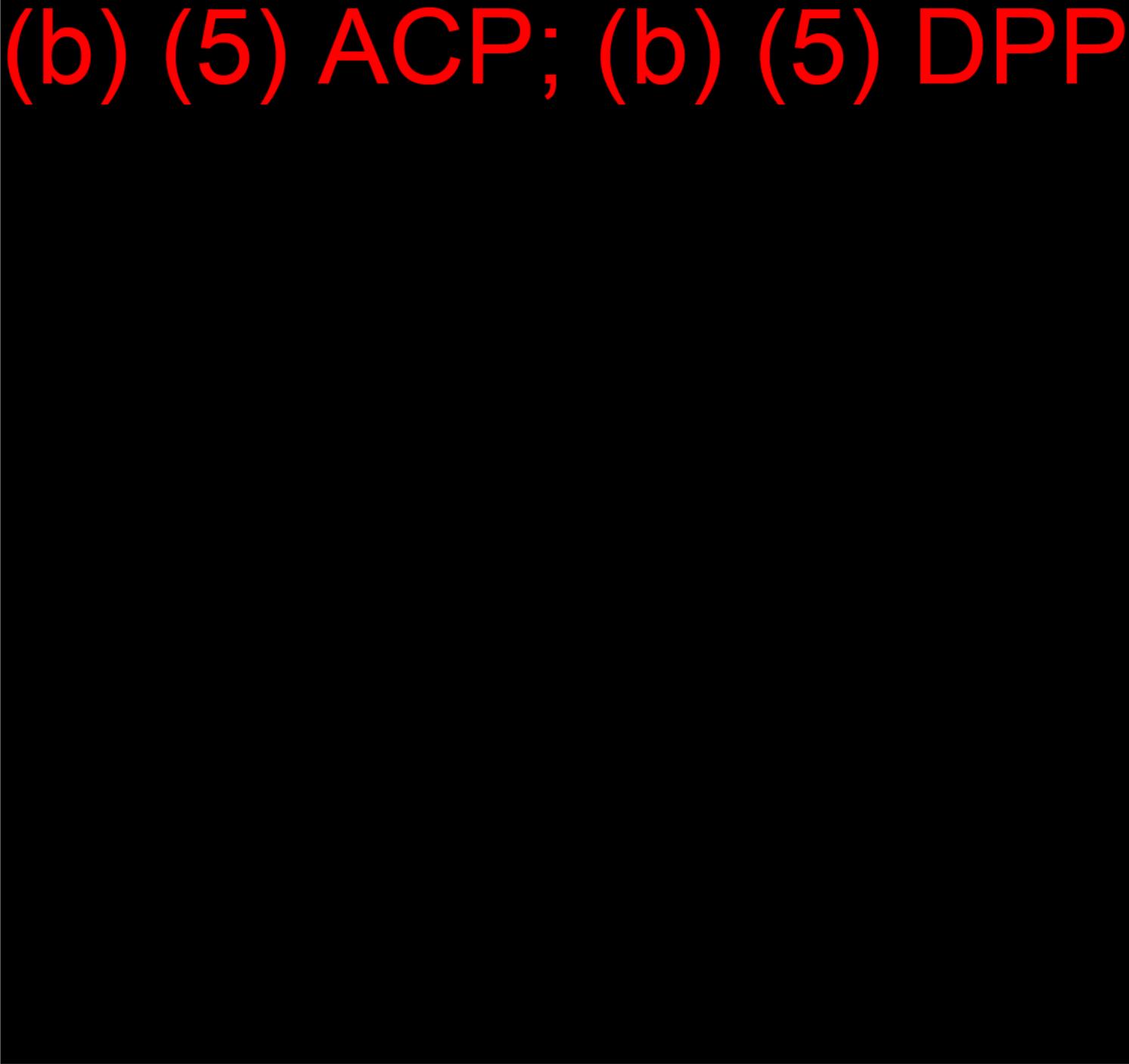
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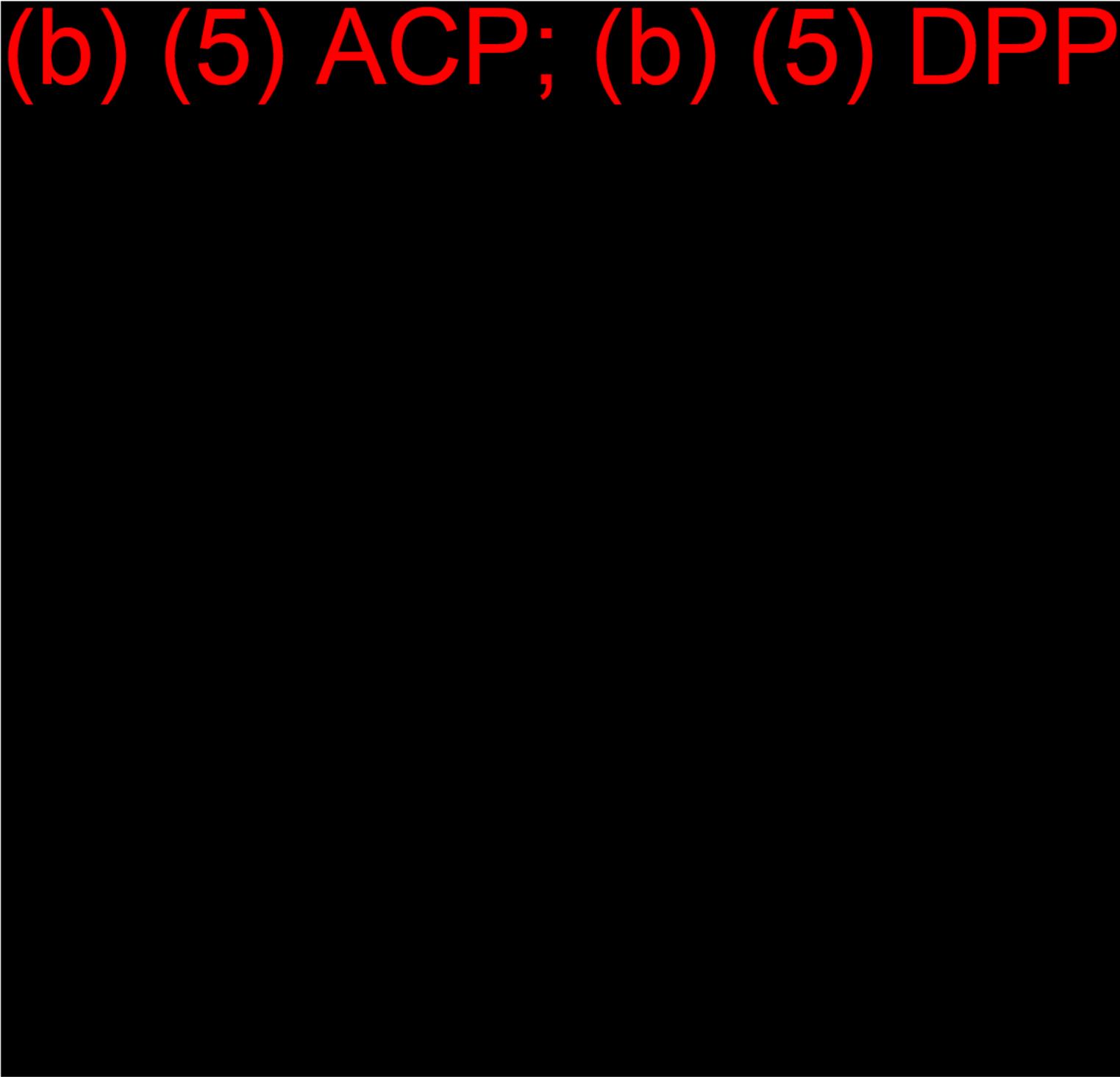
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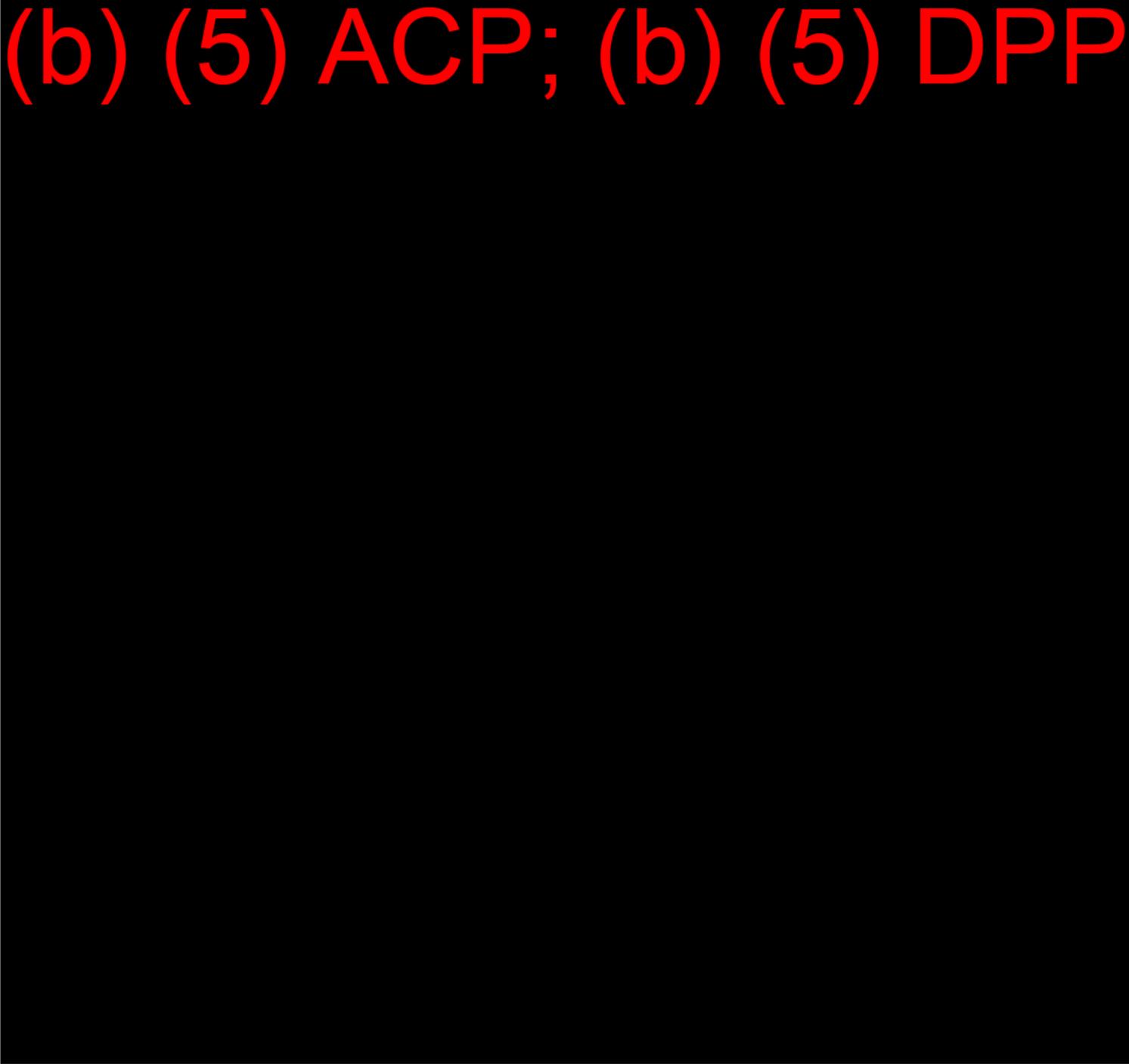


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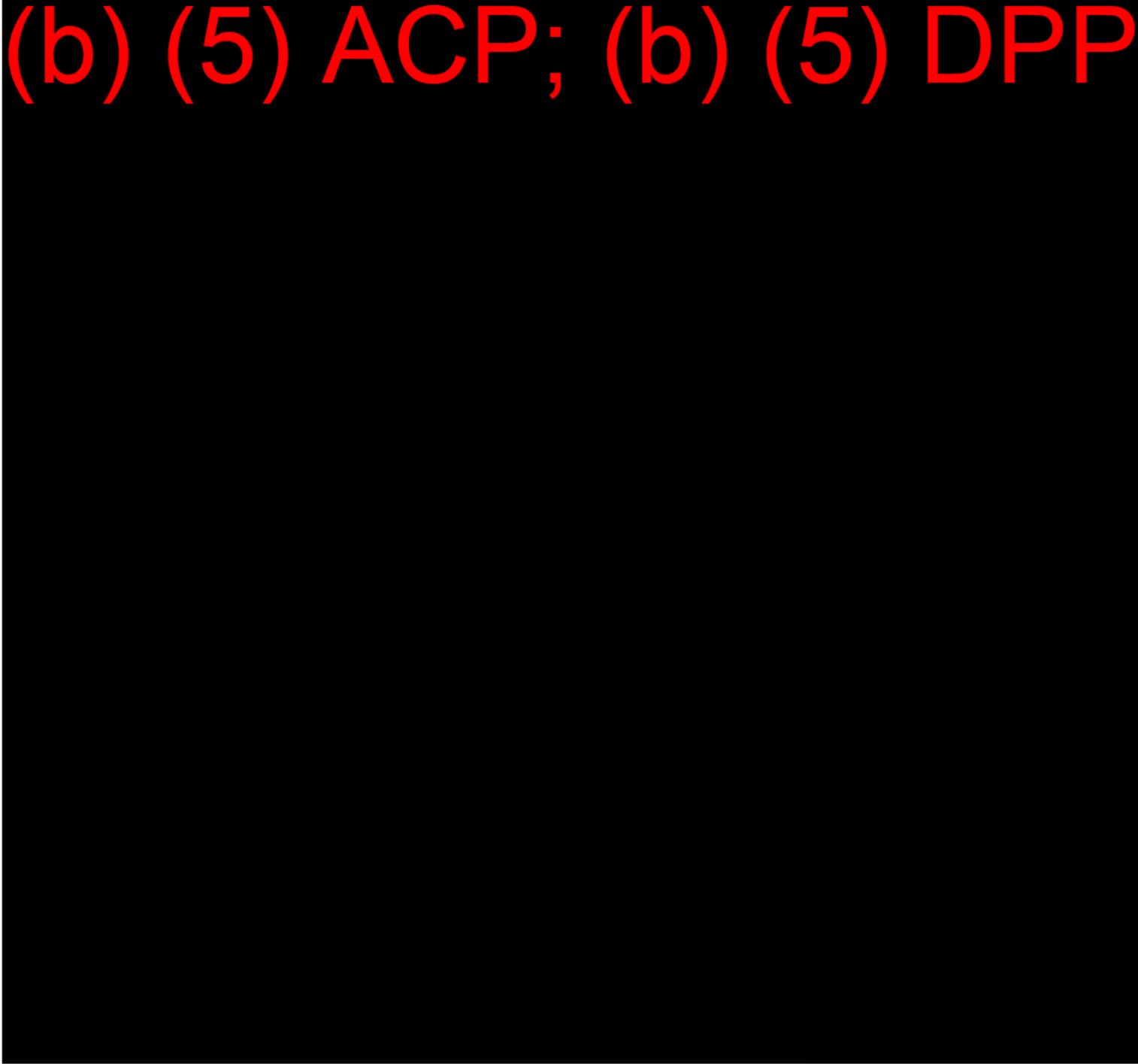
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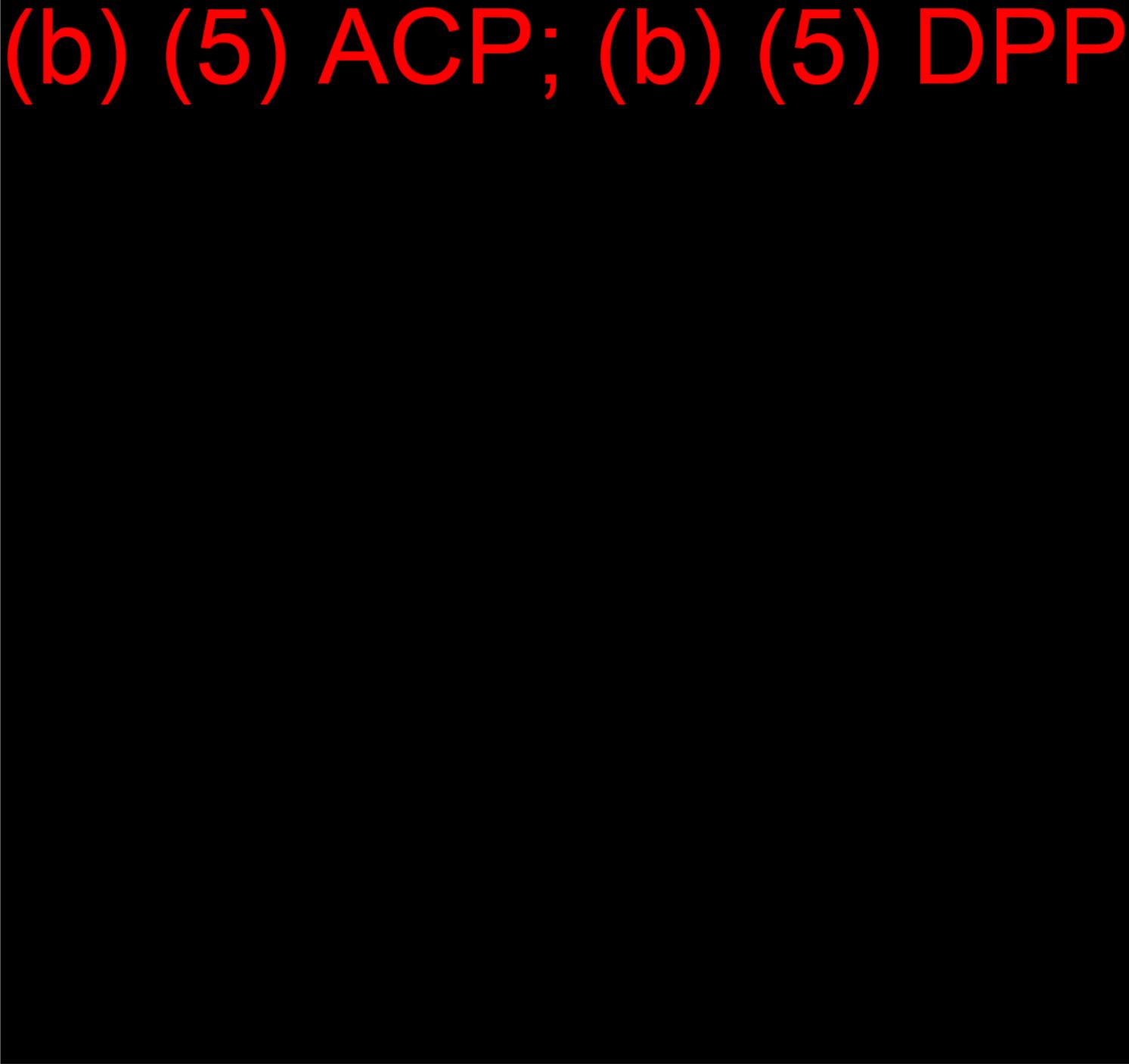
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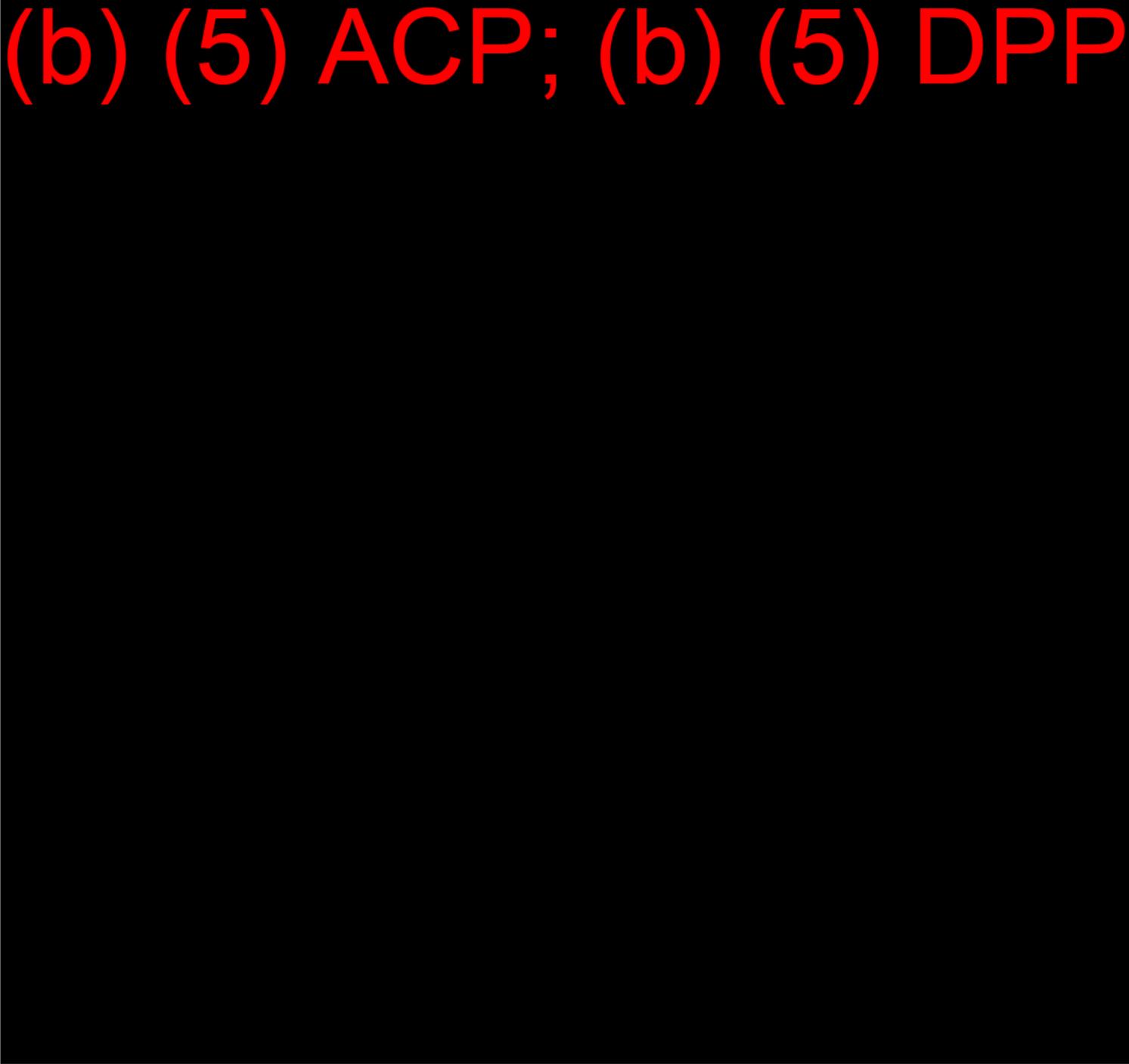


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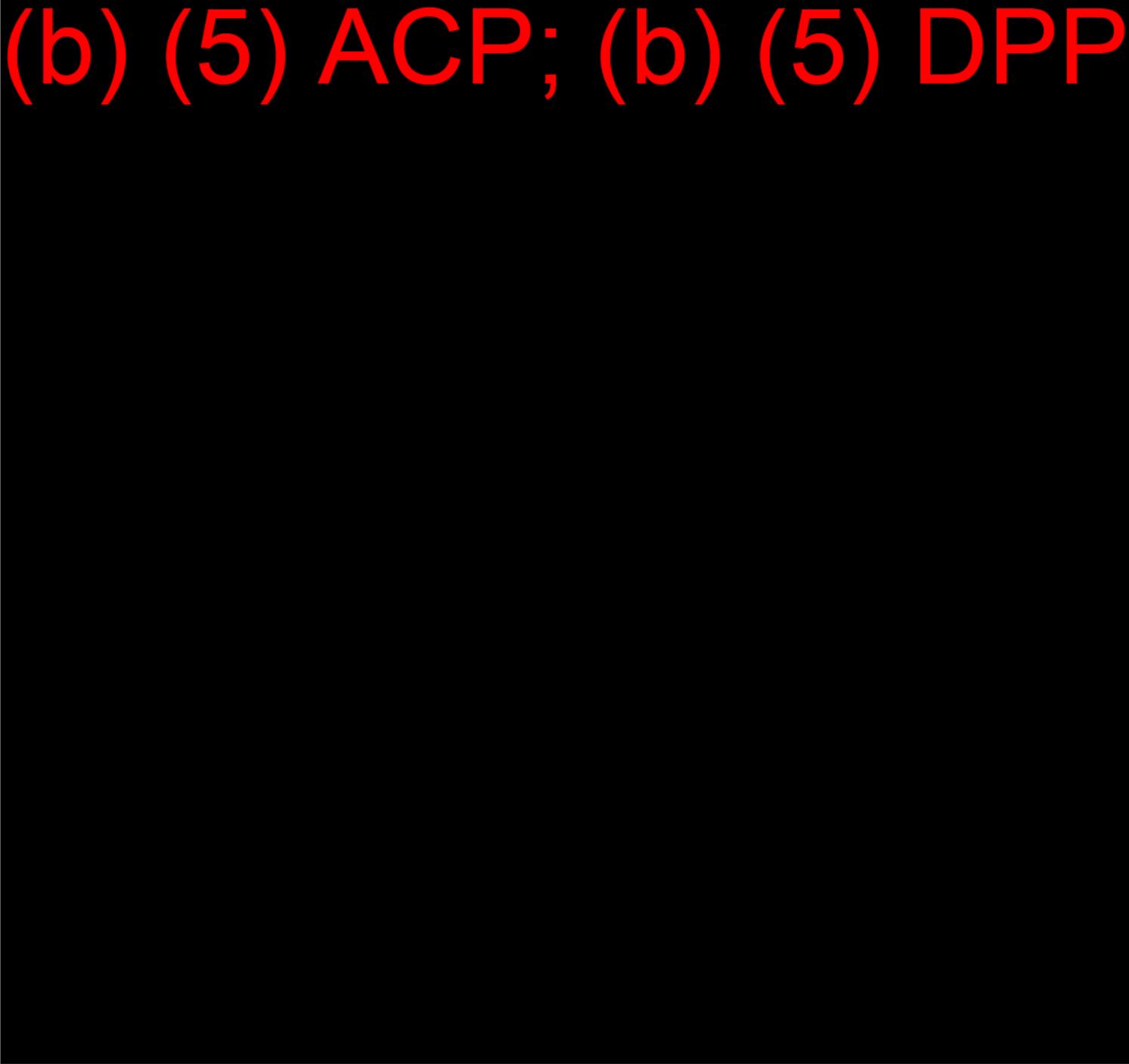
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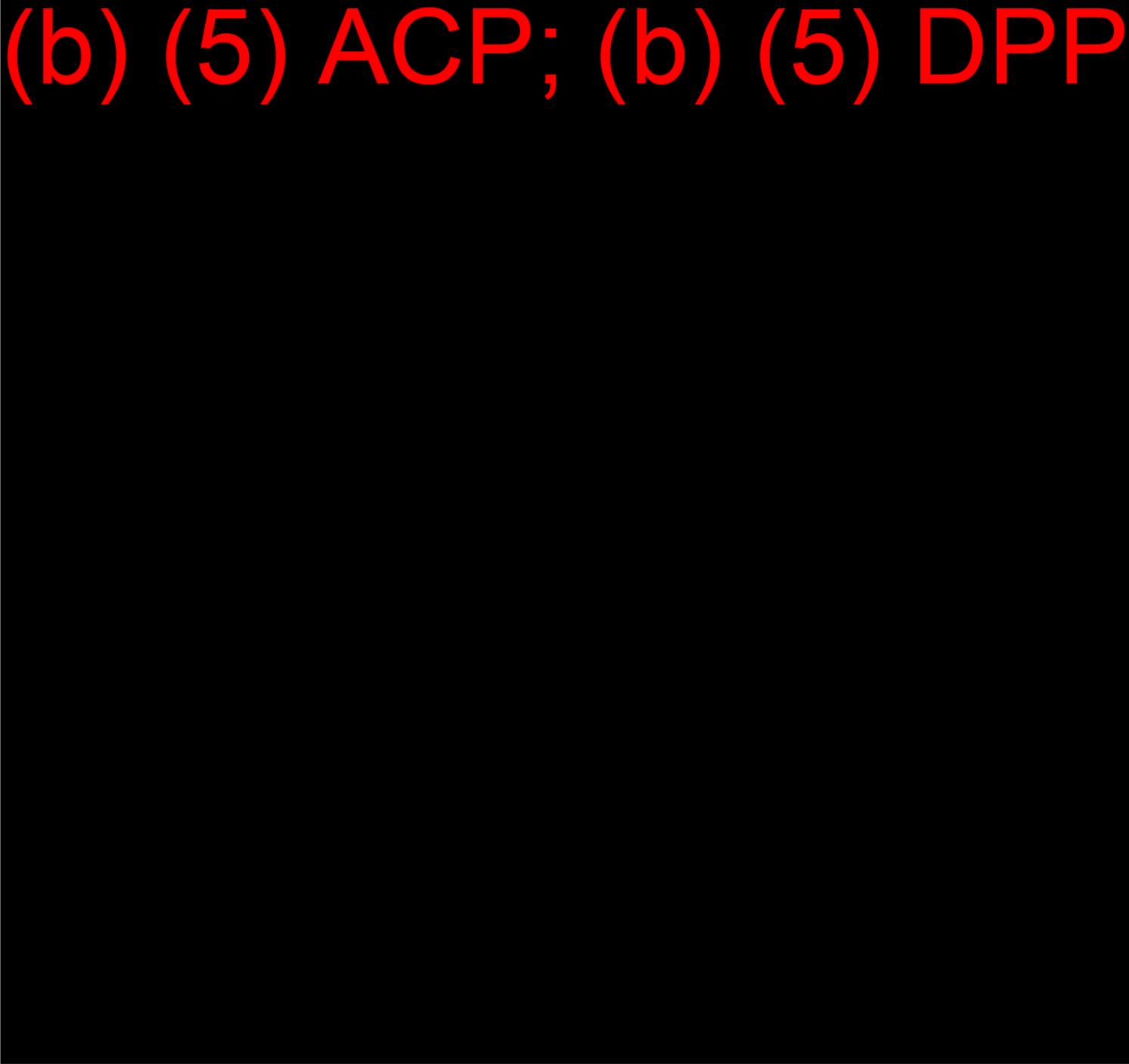


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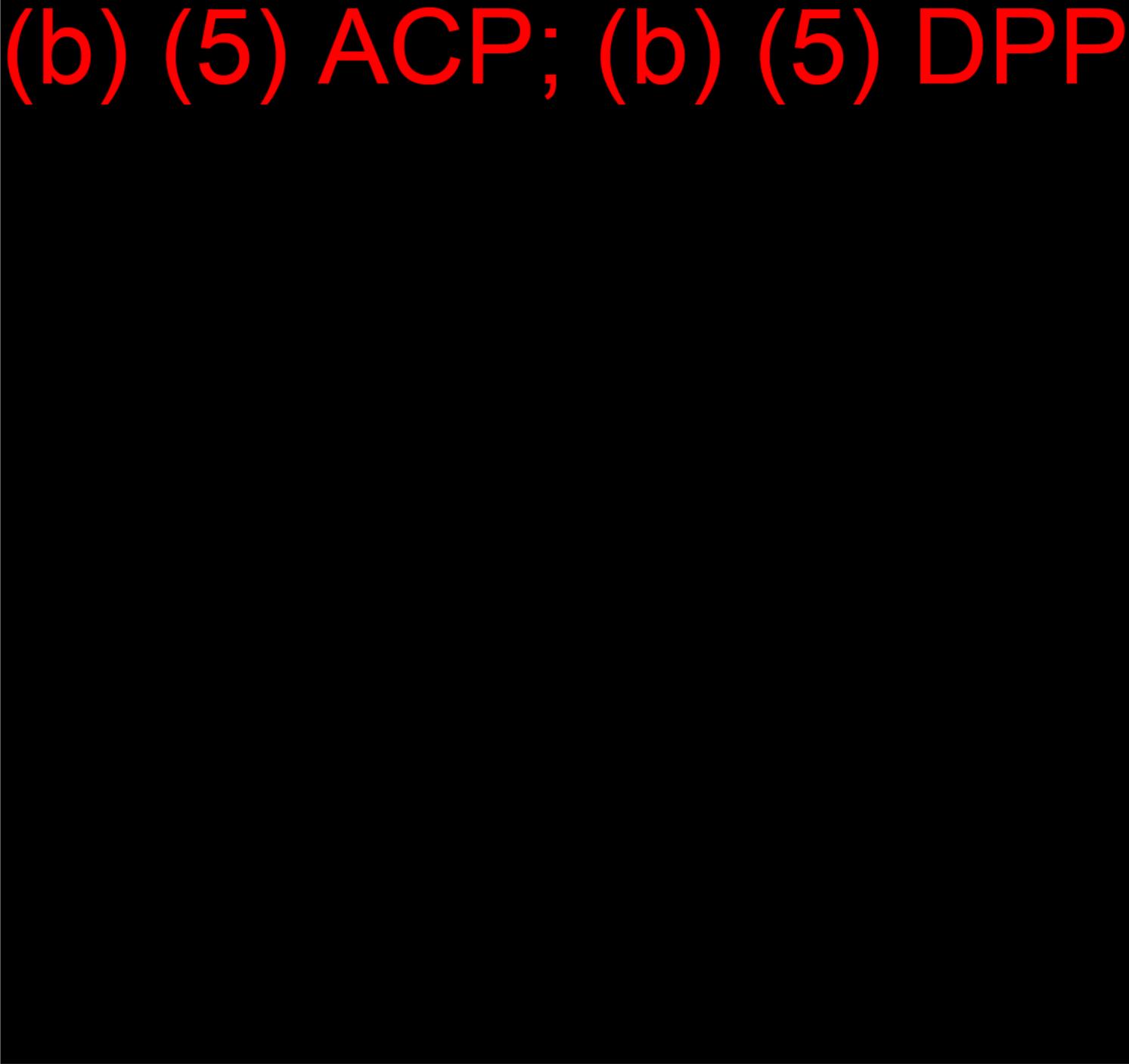
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(b) (5) ACP; (b) (5) DPP

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Draft Deliberative – Not for Distribution

From: Heather Swift
To: [Downey Magallanes](mailto:Downey.Magallanes)
Subject: Re: one-pagers
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 5:38:18 PM

Thanks.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Dec 2, 2017, at 4:49 PM, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Date: December 2, 2017 at 12:34:13 PM EST
To: Aaron Moody <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>, downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov, **David Bernhardt - (b) (6)**, todd_willens@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: one-pagers

Aaron - The thanks go to you and your team. Docs attached.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Moody, Aaron" <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>
Date: December 2, 2017 at 12:28:25 PM EST
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: "Brown, Laura" <Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov>, Joshua Hanson <joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: one-pagers

Dan-

Attached are revised one-pagers that Downey requested.
Of course let me know if you'd like me to just send them

her way.

thanks!

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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<mime-attachment.html>

<12.2.17 - BENM & GSENM Proclamation One-Pagers.docx>

<mime-attachment.html>

From: Todd Wynn
To: [Heather Swift](mailto:Heather.Swift@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; [Laura Rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov); russell_newell@ios.doi.gov; todd_willens@ios.doi.gov; scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov; [David Bernhardt - \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:David_Bernhardt_-_b_6@ios.doi.gov); john_tanner@ios.doi.gov; john_tahsuda@bia.gov; bsteed@blm.gov; steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Press release UT monuments
Date: Saturday, December 02, 2017 6:36:53 PM

Yep. We are working on Governor quote. Made phone calls and emails no word yet but I'm sure we will get it. What time are you trying to get this out by Monday?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2017, at 11:35 AM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Below is the final press release cleared by SOL. Pardon if there are hanging punctuation marks. I'm on my phone. A hard copy edit will be done when it's put in the delivery system.

Please let me know if you have any issues.

External/Congressional can you get quotes?

President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres

Modifications protect paleontological resources, Native American artifacts and other objects of historic or scientific interest while restoring traditional use and access to public land

(SALT LAKE CITY) Acting upon the recommendation of Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump today signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

POTUS STATEMENT

ZINKE STATEMENT

GOVERNOR STATEMENT

BENALLY STATEMENT

HATCH STATEMENT

Bears Ears National Monument: The BENM will now encompass two monument units, Shah Jaa and Indian Creek, which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Shah Jaa is approximately 129,979 acres and Indian Creek is approximately 71,896 acres. Collectively, at approximately 201,875 acres in size, Bears Ears remains larger than both Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park combined. The new proclamation allows for increased public access to the land and restores traditional use allowance for activities like cattle grazing and motorized recreation, and tribal collection of wood and herbs. Objects that remain within monument boundaries include: the "Bears Ears" buttes, Lime Ridge Clovis Site, Moon House Ruin, Doll House Ruin, Indian Creek Rock Art, and Newspaper Rock. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the President's proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jaa unit of the monument and will be expanded to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County. The President and Secretary also request that Congress formally allocate Tribal co-management of the monument.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: The GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM. The three new monument areas collectively total 1,003,863 acres, which is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the BLM.

In the twenty years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified by the proclamation have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those objects. The modified monument includes important objects identified in the original designation, including those areas with the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge,

Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline, Grosvenor Arch, Old Paria Townsite, Dance Hall Rock, and relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

***Myth:** No president has shrunk a monument.*

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include Pres. John F. Kennedy removing 2882 acres from Bandelier, Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

***Myth:** The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.*

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only Federal land may be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

***Myth:** Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.*

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

***Myth:** The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.*

False: No national parks are under review. Of the 27 national monuments that are under review, only 2 are managed by the NPS and neither of them were recommended for rescission or boundary adjustments. The Secretary has continually committed he is against the sale/transfer/privatization of public lands, especially national parks. While two of the monuments are managed by the NPS - much like historic sites, national recreation areas, and national seashores - none of them are National Parks.

***Myth:** The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.*

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and residents, and

ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior