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Attached is the daily news report for July 21.

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DAILY NEWS REPORT - UTAH

UTAH – TOP STORIES – JULY 21, 2017

1. **Study: High Economic Value of Quiet Recreation in Southern Utah**

UtahBusiness.com, July 21 | Press Release

Salt Lake City—Non-motorized (quiet) recreation activities like camping, hiking, hunting, mountain biking and wildlife viewing on public lands are a significant economic driver in local communities near where the recreation activities take place according to a new report by the independent firm ECONorthwest.

2. **ACT NOW: Stop the drilling on the doorstep of Dinosaur National Monument**

The Wilderness Society, July 21 | Caroline Mosley

Returning to an era of “drill, baby, drill,” proposed leasing directly abutting Dinosaur National Monument would discolor monument visitors’ experience and threaten the booming nearby outdoor recreation economy.

3. **Tread Lightly launches campaign to address recreational drone issues**

Ammoland.com, July 20 | Joe Evans

CENTERVILLE, Utah -(Ammoland.com)- Tread Lightly! today launched a public awareness campaign with the U.S. Forest Service to promote responsible use of unmanned aircraft systems, also called drones.

E&E/NATIONAL NEWS – TOP STORIES

1. **WHITE HOUSE: New communications chief has mixed record on climate**

E & E News, July 21 | Hannah Northey

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2. **NATIONAL MONUMENTS: Canyons of the Ancients survives Zinke's review**



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Some senators are dubious about whether a man who has downplayed warnings about climate change should help set policy for islands where rising seas threaten their livelihoods.

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The Trump administration pushed back this week on claims that it illegally delayed implementation of Obama-era adjustments to how royalties are calculated for fossil fuels from public lands.

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UTAH – FULL STORY

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Salt Lake City—Non-motorized (quiet) recreation activities like camping, hiking, hunting, mountain biking and wildlife viewing on public lands are a significant economic driver in local communities near where the recreation activities take place according to a new report by the independent firm ECONorthwest.

The report titled “Quiet Recreation on BLM-Managed Lands in Southwest Utah” shows that in 2015 the 364,000 quiet recreation visits to SW Utah BLM lands generated \$17.4 million in direct spending within 50 miles of the recreation sites. The study shows 204 Utah jobs are supported locally as a result of quiet recreation visits to BLM Land.

The report comes as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is updating their resource management plan for the Cedar City Region. The BLM’s Cedar City Field Office in Southern Utah oversees 2.1 million acres of public land within Iron and Beaver counties. This report is the first ever to quantify both the amount of quiet recreation and the spending associated with quiet recreation specifically on BLM lands in this region of Southern Utah.

“This report reaffirms the impact of outdoor recreation as an economic driver in Cedar City and throughout the state. Although this study looks at just one part of Utah, the numbers validate the work we have done statewide,” said Tom Adams, director of the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation. “Collaborating with local, state and federal land managers, we have created world-class outdoor recreation opportunities for Utah residents and visitors from around the world. Recreation opportunities like hunting, fishing, hiking and biking help diversify our economy and improve our quality of life.”

“At Cedar Sports, we are so proud of the opportunity to share the beauty of the Cedar City area with our amazing patrons and friends,” said Brynn Strain, Senior Manager of Cedar Sports. “The value beyond our own personal investment both in dollars and sweat is gratefully shared by so many as witnessed in the impressive economic impact numbers shown in this new report.”



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Researchers calculated the local economic contribution (jobs and income) generated by spending visitors who engaged in “quiet” recreation on BLM lands in the Cedar City Field Office. They based their calculations on 2015 visitation data from the BLM and spending data from the National Visitor Use Monitoring program. The study was commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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2. **ACT NOW: Stop the drilling on the doorstep of Dinosaur National Monument**

The Wilderness Society, July 21 | Caroline Mosley

Returning to an era of “drill, baby, drill,” proposed leasing directly abutting Dinosaur National Monument would discolor monument visitors’ experience and threaten the booming nearby outdoor recreation economy.

President Trump has made it clear that his administration values fossil fuel development above our lands and climate, and the latest victim could be the pristine night skies, rushing rivers and incredible prehistoric treasures around Dinosaur National Monument.

Until July 24, the American people can voice their concerns for the leasing of 65,000 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in northeastern Utah. Speak up – tell the BLM you don’t want to see drilling on the doorstep to Dinosaur National Monument!

Drilling next to the monument is strenuously and repeatedly objected by the National Park Service, conservation organizations and the local outdoor recreation community—the proposed oil and gas development would create air, light and noise pollution that would be seen from multiple vantage points in the monument, including the entrance road on the western boundary of the monument and the Canyon Visitor Center.

Threat of drilling (again)

This isn’t the first time Dinosaur National Monument has been threatened by oil and gas development—both in 2008 and 2013, the BLM attempted to issue oil and gas leases perilously close to the monument, but rousing objections caused them to reverse course on lease sales. Now, one of the same leases is up for auction again under an administration looking to drill on any last remaining undeveloped landscapes, regardless of their vicinity to our parks and monuments.



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Also at risk are proposed leases in the heart of nearby Desolation Canyon, home to undocumented petroglyphs and dinosaur tracks, being offered for sale for the third time in five years. What's even more ghastly is the minimal effort by the BLM to even consider the archaeological potential of the region—the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance contends that the BLM has surveyed less than 1 percent for cultural resources of the proposed leasing parcels.

Oil rigs at a monument entrance!?

Fossil hunters have been unearthing the bygone beasts in this monument for over 100 years, with the expansive mountainous formation situated between Utah and Colorado considered to have some of the most productive source of near-complete dinosaur skeletons in North America. But oil rigs at the entrance to the park sends a clear message that protecting our natural heritage and park visitors' experience is no longer a priority. The air, water and light pollution from drilling could chase away the thousands that come to float down the Green and Yampa Rivers, seek out trophy elk and hike deep sandstone canyons.

These proposed leases are part of a disturbing trend to sacrifice lands near our parks to the fossil fuel industry. With over 300,000 monument visitors in 2016 adding \$20 million to the local communities, the Dinosaur National Monument is not only a natural wonder, but an economic asset to Utah. The Trump administration will do all it can to empower polluters on public lands, and we must speak up before oil rigs take over undiscovered archaeological treasures.

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3. Tread Lightly launches campaign to address recreational drone issues

Ammoland.com, July 20 | Joe Evans

CENTERVILLE, Utah -(Ammoland.com)- Tread Lightly! today launched a public awareness campaign with the U.S. Forest Service to promote responsible use of unmanned aircraft systems, also called drones.

The campaign includes public service announcements, a dedicated web page, billboards and digital media.

The awareness campaign falls under Tread Lightly!'s Respected Access is Open Access program that addresses outdoor recreation issues and helps to educate people about responsible use to protect and enhance public land access.



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“There are lots of great places for the public to fly drones on lands managed by the Forest Service and other public lands, but over or near wildfires isn’t one of them,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “Members of the public who fly drones over or near wildfires pose serious threats to the safety of firefighters, pilots and the effectiveness of wildfire suppression operations.”

Tidwell added, “Incorporating this message into the Tread Lightly! Campaign helps our efforts to get the word out and helps prevent tragic accidents and wildfires unduly threatening lives, property, and natural and cultural resources.”

This new messaging about drones piggybacks on the existing “If You Fly, We Can’t” messaging created to protect against the disruption of aerial firefighting operations. Other public service advertisements will address issues such as user conflict and privacy, wildlife impact, zoning, and special use permits.

“As drones grow in popularity, so does the need to educate on responsible use and best practices,” said Casey Snider, Interim Executive Director. “Our goal is to show how to use these aircrafts respectfully and thoughtfully. In the case of wildfire, proper use can save lives and property.”

For more information on this new campaign, visit their [website](#).

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E&E/NATIONAL NEWS – FULL STORY

1. **WHITE HOUSE: New communications chief has mixed record on climate**

E & E News, July 21 | Hannah Northey

Anthony Scaramucci, who stepped up today as White House communications director, has a history of flip-flopping on climate change, once calling the science "irrefutable" before backpedaling before President Trump was elected.

Scaramucci, a lawyer, former Goldman Sachs investor and Trump fundraiser also known as "the Mooch," was appointed today as White House communications director — and shortly after the



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appointment, White House spokesman Sean Spicer resigned in protest. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Spicer's deputy, will move into the press secretary job.

Spicer, a veteran Washington, D.C., Republican communicator, drew the jabs of endless memes and "Saturday Night Live" during his half-year at the White House. Before addressing the press for the first time today at the White House, Scaramucci thanked Spicer and said, "I hope he goes on to make a tremendous amount of money."

A lawyer and hedge fund investor, Scaramucci worked at Goldman Sachs and founded the hedge fund management firm Skybridge Capital. He worked as a fundraiser for Trump's campaign after first supporting Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) for president in 2016. He has also been a senior vice president and chief strategy officer at the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The previous White House communications director, Mike Dubke, resigned in May.

Scaramucci has publicly weighed in on energy and climate issues.

Last March, Scaramucci appeared to acknowledge the threat of climate change, tweeting, "You can take steps to combat climate change without crippling the economy. The fact many people still believe CC is a hoax is disheartening."

Three months later, Scaramucci said during an interview with a financial publication that the science of climate change was "irrefutable" and called assertions that warming is a hoax "tragic."

"I find it tragic that so many people in this country believe global warming is some sort of elaborate hoax perpetuated by every credible scientist on the planet," Scaramucci said. "In addition to the whole humanity angle, investing in sustainable energy makes sense from an American national security perspective."

But by December, Scaramucci appeared to change his tune on the campaign trail and backpedaled during a sharp exchange with co-host Chris Cuomo on CNN's "New Day" in December, saying he wasn't a scientist.

"There was an overwhelming science that the earth was flat, there was an overwhelming science that we were the center of the world ... we get a lot of things wrong in the scientific community,"



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Scaramucci said. "I'm not suggesting we're not affecting the change, I don't know, I'm not a scientist."

Scaramucci today answered questions about reported friction with White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and his past criticism of Trump and insisted he's complying with ethics agreements.

Scaramucci said he and Priebus are "a little like brothers" who "rough each other up," adding that Priebus is a "dear friend" who was involved in his hiring and insisted they're both "teammates." He also acknowledged that he called Trump "a hack" in 2015 and said the president has still not forgotten.

"He brings it up every 15 seconds," he said, turning to the cameras and adding, "Mr. President, if you're listening, I personally apologize for the 50th time for saying that."

When asked if he would allow on-camera press briefings again, Scaramucci said, "If she supplies hair and makeup, I'll consider it." Scaramucci also said he would talk to Trump about holding a press conference soon.

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2. **NATIONAL MONUMENTS: Canyons of the Ancients survives Zinke's review**

E & E News, July 21 | Jennifer Yachnin

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke today said he will not recommend any alterations to the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado, making it the third site he has opted to remove from a review of dozens of national monuments.

Zinke had indicated in remarks to Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) last month that he was unlikely to recommend changes to the 178,000-acre site managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

"When the president and I began the monument review process, we absolutely realized that not all monuments are the same and that not all monuments would require modifications," Zinke said in a statement.



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"Canyons of the Ancients is gorgeous land," he added, "but its monument status as the most high-density Native American archaeological sites in the nation is clear. The history at this site spans thousands of years, and the federal protection of these objects and history will help us preserve this site for a thousand more years."

Last week, Zinke announced he would not recommend any alternations to either the Hanford Reach National Monument in Washington or Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho (Greenwire, July 13).

Zinke also indicated last month that he is "likely" to recommend the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana be unchanged, although he has yet to make an official announcement (E&E News PM, June 22).

President Trump in late April ordered a review of all national monuments created since 1996 that include more than 100,000 acres. Zinke opted to assess 27 national monuments, including five marine monuments.

Last month, he recommended significant reductions to the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah, although he has yet to provide specifics for those cuts. A final report on the monuments review is due Aug. 24.

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3. **INTERIOR: Senators wary of nominee who doubts 'catastrophic' warming**

E & E News, July 21 | Brittany Patterson

Some senators are dubious about whether a man who has downplayed warnings about climate change should help set policy for islands where rising seas threaten their livelihoods.

Doug Domenech, the administration's nominee to be assistant secretary of the Interior for insular affairs, appeared yesterday before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he got an earful from senators who don't like his track record on climate change.

"If confirmed, you're going to be responsible for some vulnerable communities, these island communities," Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) told Domenech. "Given your history of downplaying or ignoring climate change, why do you think you're the right person to help these communities?"



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If confirmed, Domenech would coordinate federal policy across seven island territories and other associated states in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean, all of which are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) warned that the islands that would be under the nominee's jurisdiction as assistant secretary are in jeopardy of disappearing under his watch.

"This is one of the most serious challenges facing our country and our world," King said. "And I hope you will, as we've had one of the witnesses already testify, take the occasion to look at the data and open your mind to change."

Franken pressed the nominee on his views regarding climate change, citing one of many editorials Domenech published over the last several years that cast doubt on the roles humans have played in changing the climate and called the Paris Agreement "vapid" (Climatewire, Nov. 22, 2016).

While he was director of the Fueling Freedom Project, part of the conservative think tank the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Domenech wrote in The Hill that humans may have an impact on climate change "perhaps but in very small ways."

"But the overarching consensus remains the climate change we are experiencing is by no means catastrophic," he continued.

Domenech took a softer tone on climate science during his confirmation hearing.

"I do agree that the climate is changing and man has a role in that, and especially for the islands, they're particularly vulnerable, especially the low-lying atolls and islands are very vulnerable to sea-level rise," he said.

He added that he had already pledged to the governors and delegates of the islands under the Office of Insular Affairs' jurisdiction that he would work with them on climate change.

Interior's Office of Insular Affairs handles federal policy for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as oversees federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.



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Scientists have documented that the island communities are already facing rising seas, increased temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, which threaten their way of life. In some cases, such as with the Marshall Islands, those impacts are projected to displace the entire population.

King urged Domenech to seek out government-collected data from the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii as well as ice cores that illustrate the "unmistakable" connection between the proliferation of fossil fuels for manufacturing and the steep rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Franken and Domenech also sparred over a commonly used statistic that 97 percent of climate scientists agree humans are causing climate change, a number that Domenech said has been debunked.

The sparring over climate research came as part of a larger push by lawmakers at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing to press Department of Energy and Interior nominees on how they would use science in their respective agencies amid mounting concerns that it is being disregarded.

Domenech, who led the Trump administration's Interior transition team, previously spent eight years at the Interior Department, serving in multiple positions, notably as deputy chief of staff and deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs.

He was previously secretary of natural resources in Virginia under then-Gov. Bob McDonnell (R). He said in that position, he worked closely with fishermen on Tangier Island — a small town in the Chesapeake Bay that will likely have to be abandoned by midcentury due to sea-level rise and erosion — to help them reinforce the island's shoreline.

"My whole life has been trying to help people involved in the environment," he said. "I don't at all minimize that the climate is changing, and I would just say the head of the [U.S. Geological Survey] himself has said that we always need to keep in perspective that the climate of the Earth has always changed since the beginning of the planet, and it always will change."

'The future is uncertain'



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For residents across the U.S. Pacific islands and other insular territories, the impacts of climate change are already being felt, said Melissa Finucane, a senior researcher at the East-West Center and RAND Corp.

The 2014 National Climate Assessment estimates that sea surface temperatures across the U.S. Pacific will rise between 2.5 and 4.7 degrees Fahrenheit by 2090, bleaching economically important coral reefs. Rainfall has decreased and is expected to continue on that trajectory across most of the region, bringing the threat of more frequent and persistent drought and reducing access to drinking water.

In the western part of Micronesia, rainfall is projected to increase, which could boost the threat from flooding. Seas are rising faster than the average in the western tropical Pacific, and temperatures are rising across the region.

Changing rainfall patterns and sea-level rise can change entire ways of life for the diverse communities across the U.S. Pacific islands, Finucane said.

"As people have to move away and migrate to other places, there's a risk they'll lose their cultural practices and beliefs and so on," she said. "Pretty much everyone, whether you're on an island or not, needs some kind of plan for adapting to circumstances, and the challenge here is the future is uncertain."

'Disdain and distrust'?

The role of science in both the Interior and Energy departments was questioned by multiple senators yesterday.

Democrat Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico asked Brenda Burman, who has been nominated to be commissioner of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, if she would take science seriously as head of the nation's largest water provider.

"Frankly, what worries me the most about this current administration is some of the disdain and distrust directed at science data and in particular scientists," he said.



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Ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) said at the hearing that she intended to ask the inspector general to look into a claim by an Interior Department employee that his reassignment in the agency was because he spoke out about the impacts of climate change on Alaska Native communities (Climatewire , July 20).

Speaking to E&E News yesterday, Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said she plans to press Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about the accusations (E&E News PM, July 20).

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4. **LAW: Interior defends delay of royalties rule for fossil fuels**

E & E News, July 21 | Ellen M. Gilmer

The Trump administration pushed back this week on claims that it illegally delayed implementation of Obama-era adjustments to how royalties are calculated for fossil fuels from public lands.

In court [filings](#) yesterday, the Interior Department defended its authority to pause the previous administration's valuation rule while related litigation plays out.

At issue is an Obama administration update for valuation of coal, oil and gas produced on federal and tribal lands. The rule, which took effect in January, calls for a number of changes, including a requirement that companies calculate royalties based on the value of the fossil fuel they've produced at the first "arm's length" transaction.

While Obama Interior officials said the changes are needed to ensure fair returns for taxpayers on production of federal fossil fuels, energy companies challenged the measure in court, calling it overly burdensome and difficult to implement.

The Trump administration is working to revise the valuation rule and in February announced that it was postponing the Obama standards.

The postponement relied on authority under an Administrative Procedure Act provision that allows an agency to put off the effective date of a challenged rule during litigation "when justice so requires."



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The states of California and New Mexico filed suit over the delay in April and this summer asked the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to grant summary judgment in their favor.

They say the administration exceeded its authority and that the APA provision allowing agencies to postpone litigated rules applies only to measures that have not yet taken effect (Greenwire, April 27).

Justice Department lawyers representing the Trump administration pushed back yesterday.

"[Interior] determined that pending litigation raised legitimate concerns about the regulation's validity and that the postponement would prevent complicated, time-consuming, and costly corrective measures," they told the court.

They added that the states' interpretation of the APA provision would render it "superfluous" because many rules are challenged after they've taken effect.

The filing also previews the administration's argument in separate litigation over an Obama-era rule for methane emissions from oil and gas development on public and tribal lands. Interior relied on the same APA provision to delay implementation of critical elements of that rule, and environmentalists and states are challenging the action in court (Energywire, July 11).

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5. **INTERIOR: Nominees have mostly easy time at hearing**

E & E News, July 21 | Michael Doyle

Three Interior Department nominees survived their combined confirmation hearing yesterday, in a sign they could take their new positions soon.

One of the three will make history. Another already has.

Once confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate as Bureau of Reclamation commissioner, Brenda Burman would become the first woman to head the Western water agency since it was



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established in 1902. The 49-year-old lawyer and former park ranger is currently director of water strategy at the Salt River Project, which serves the Phoenix metropolitan area (E&E Daily, June 27).

A California native, Burman said she would bring to bear in her new job the experience she's gained working on Colorado River, Klamath Basin, Central Valley Project and various water rights issues.

"Water rights settlements take years of negotiations, years to secure congressional passage and then years to implement," Burman told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "You have to learn when to push, when to get out of the way and at times where to draw the line. Cooperation and principled leadership are key."

Another nominee, 72-year-old Texas resident Susan Combs, previously broke ground as the state's first female agriculture commissioner. The Vassar College and University of Texas School of Law graduate later served as the state's comptroller of public accounts (Greenwire, July 11).

Combs has been nominated for the crucial dollars-and-cents position of assistant secretary for policy, management and budget.

"Lessons that I have learned and skills that I have gained, for example in agency spending and purchasing, will serve as assets as we work to balance the books, make smart investments and increase the efficient operation of the department's important programs priorities," Combs said.

Pressed by Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) about the Trump administration's proposed 11 percent cut to the National Park Service's budget, Combs said she was "not a part" of the budget drafting but committed to working together to "find ways to increase revenues as well as reduce costs."

Environmentalists, though, challenge her background and perspective, which in the past has led her to harshly criticize aspects of the Endangered Species Act. She once referred to ESA listings as "incoming Scud missiles," a rhetorical jab she was reminded of yesterday.

"Combs' disturbing record shows she's an anti-wildlife zealot who fundamentally rejects Interior's conservation mission," said Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity, which joined 70-plus environmental groups in a letter opposing her nomination.



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Democratic senators touched only briefly on the issue, drawing from Combs a commitment to follow the law.

The third Interior Department nominee, Virginia resident Douglas W. Domenech, is slated to serve as assistant secretary for insular affairs. He previously served in the George W. Bush administration's Interior Department and as Virginia's secretary of natural resources. He also worked for a conservative think tank.

Domenech faced persistent questioning from Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) about his past statements that questioned man-made climate change. As sea levels rise, at what NOAA estimates at one-eighth of an inch annually, it could become a crucial issue for the Pacific Island territories.

"I do agree that the climate is changing, and that man has a role in that," Domenech said, adding that "my understanding of where scientists are today is that man definitely has an impact, and the question is, is it catastrophic?"

The Virginia Tech graduate said "studies" supported his assessments, but under Franken's questioning he did not name any in particular.

Pointedly, King urged Domenech to more closely study the science and said that "some of the islands you're responsible for may well disappear on your watch."

The questioning of the individual Interior nominees was truncated, as they were sharing the witness table with three Energy Department nominees, forcing lawmakers to jump from one to another. The mass grouping did, however, hint at senators' hopes for speeding up confirmations for departments that still have many vacancies in key slots.

"The process has been a little slower than some of us anticipated," acknowledged Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the Alaska Republican who chairs the committee.

On Wednesday night, the White House announced another Interior Department nomination, with Joseph Balash tapped for the post of assistant secretary for land and mineral management. A former Alaska state official, Balash is currently chief of staff for Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska).

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