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**From:** Scott Hommel  
**Sent:** 2017-08-09T19:59:09-04:00  
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#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 101<sup>st</sup> 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.*

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