

To: Martha Maciel[mmaciel@blm.gov]
From: Curtis, Erin
Sent: 2017-11-08T11:58:09-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Look West: Budd-Falen keeps busy
Received: 2017-11-08T11:58:16-05:00

INTERIOR

Zinke hires former Navy SEALs as recreation czar, deputy chief

Rob Hotakainen, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke today said he has added two former Navy SEALs to his management team, including one who will be charged with overseeing outdoor recreation.

Zinke said he has hired former special operators Mike Argo as his deputy chief of staff and Rick May to oversee the agency's efforts to improve recreational opportunities on public lands.

"We used to have a Bureau of Recreation — we're bringing recreation back," Zinke said. "So I've hired a former Navy SEAL captain to evaluate our public lands and look at the recreation opportunities, so the American public can enjoy our lands."

Michael Argo. Argo/LinkedIn

Zinke made the announcement at the department's headquarters, during an event honoring the 11,000 veterans who work for the Interior Department.

In July, Zinke said that expanding recreational access to public lands and waters would be one of his top priorities as Interior secretary. Zinke at the time said he would create a new advisory committee, charged with expanding public-private partnerships to improve the experience for visitors on public lands (*E&E News PM*, July 18).

Today, Zinke announced the panel had officially been established.

May served as commander of SEAL Team Five, according to a 2002 news article published by the *Honolulu Advertiser*.

Argo previously worked at the Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center and as a strategist in the Office of Naval Intelligence. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, where he played football. He was described by one former colleague on his LinkedIn page as an "exceptional people person." He has a master's in geography from Central Connecticut State University.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, once an Interior agency, was charged with planning outdoor recreation opportunities. It was founded in 1962 and then absorbed into a different agency in the 1970s.

Reporter Michael Doyle contributed.

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916-978-5101

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

From: **Timothy Murphy** <tmurphy@blm.gov>

Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 7:32 AM
Subject: Fwd: Look West: Budd-Falen keeps busy
To: Erin Curtis <ecurtis@usbr.gov>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>
Date: November 8, 2017 at 6:47:44 AM MST
To: <tmurphy@blm.gov>
Subject: Look West: Budd-Falen keeps busy
Reply-To: Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>

Rumored BLM director pushes extremist agenda to counties

Budd-Falen keeps busy

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Headwaters
of the
Crooked
River in the
Ochoco
National
Forest,
Crook
County,
Oregon. [US](#)
[Forest](#)
[Service](#)

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has yet to nominate a permanent director at the Bureau of Land Management, but his rumored pick is not laying low.

Karen Budd-Falen's county land use plans, which seek to undermine U.S. government authority on national public lands, have turned up in Oregon and Montana this month.

Officials in Crook County, Oregon hired Budd-Falen as a consultant to help

with a plan that was voted down last year after being warned that it violated federal law. Unworried about the legal concerns, and with a new county judge and commissioners now in place, the county is poised to approve the plan today, even though the final draft was only made public last Friday.

Budd-Falen's agenda got a much colder welcome in Ravalli County, Montana last week, where commissioners shot down a proposal to have Budd-Falen make a four-hour presentation to county officials. The state legislator backing Budd-Falen's plans, Rep. Theresa Manzella, is still trying to bring Budd-Falen to Montana next week for a private event, but won't reveal who's funding the trip.

Quick hits

Colorado town passes ballot measure giving more local control over oil and gas drilling; legal challenges likely

Denver Post

Bundy trial delayed as judge tells prosecutors to look for video they say doesn't exist

NPR | Los Angeles Times | Las Vegas Review-Journal | Oregonian

Senate staffer says Trump will travel to San Juan County in attempt to shrink Bears Ears National Monument

San Juan Record

Congress frustrated by lack of nominations, unfilled positions at Interior; Zinke hires Navy SEALs for top jobs

E&E News | E&E News

Zinke appointee oversees tribal loan program despite role in disastrous loan that's still tied up in court

[ProPublica](#)

Tester asks Forest Service to let fire scientists attend conference, discuss climate change

[Missoulian](#)

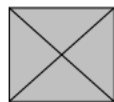
Oregon county rushes to approve land use plan despite warnings from legal counsel

[OPB](#)

Editorial: Shrinking Cascade-Siskiyou “shows contempt not just for Oregonians but for all Americans”

[Eugene Register-Guard](#)

Quote of the day



*It is imperative that you permit these folks to share their work with the public and the larger wildfire community. **Our best land management practices are science-based and collaborative.** Failing to share new research hampers both of these goals.”*

—Senator Jon Tester, [The Missoulian](#)

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