

From: Domenech, Douglas
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Nancy Guiden](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [James Cason](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Bauserman, Christine](#); [Laura Rigas](#)
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 4/20/17
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:02:11 PM
Attachments: [DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 4-20-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 4/20/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary is traveling in California until today, **then** traveling to **Montana for personal time.**

TODAY: Personal Day. Fly to Montana.

Fri. 4/21: Personal Day.

Sat. 4/22: Off

Sun. 4/23: Fly to Washington, DC.

Mon. 4/24: All day meeting with Outdoor Recreation Industry at Shenandoah National Park.

Tue. 4/25: Outdoor Industry press conference at Press Club

Wed. 4/26: Meetings. Australia Minister for Energy and the Environment. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership dinner.

Thu. 4/27: Meeting with Utah Governor and delegation.

Fri. 4/28: Speak at NRA meeting in Atlanta.

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. Various AK events 5/29-5/31.

Media Announcements Today

Interior Announcements Planned for April 20.

NPS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Thursday, April 20, 2017 - Statement from the Merrell and Standefer Families

This morning the Merrell and Standefer families are still praying for a miracle in Grand Canyon National Park. Today, April 20, the search for Lou Ann Merrell and Jackson Standefer will continue on a limited basis. After carefully considering all the information available to us, and based on our personal knowledge of the search area, we support Grand Canyon National Park's (GCNP) decision to scale back the search.

We thank the GCNP staff for their exemplary service. We know they have done everything possible since Saturday, April 15, to find Lou Ann and Jackson. We also know countless people were praying for a much different outcome than this one. We felt your prayers and were sustained by them in ways we cannot begin to describe. We are profoundly grateful for the support that continues to pour in from across the country.

We thank GCNP, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Uintah County (Utah) search and rescue, Merrell Boot Co., SKYTEC of Chattanooga, TN, Xanterra Hospitality, and all others who volunteered their time, talents and equipment in the effort to find Lou Ann and Jackson.

GCNP is expected to release information about the search effort. Please direct all search related questions to GCNP. We ask that you please continue to pray for our families, as our loved ones are still missing, and please respect our privacy at this time.

Thank you - The Merrell and Standefer families

The US Geological Survey: USGS will announce its First Ecosystem-wide Study of Changing Sea Depths at Five Large Florida Coral Reefs - The study compared sea floor measurements from the 1930s-1980s to the 1990s-2000s and found the combined effect of rising seas from climate change and sea floor erosion has already increased water depths more than what most scientists expected to occur by 2100, and reefs are not keeping up.

Executive Orders

Awaiting next EO on offshore energy. (Early May?) Requesting NOT May 1.

Awaiting EO on National Monuments. (Early May?)

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

4/24 Outdoor Recreation Industry Council at Shenandoah National Park

4/25 Outdoor Industries Association press event at the National Press Club accepted

4/26 Migratory Bird Conservation Commission accepted

4/26 TRCP Dinner (DC) accepted

4/27 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership BBQ (DC, REI)

4/27 Western Caucus Members Only Luncheon (DC, Capitol)

4/28 NRA Leadership Forum, George World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

5/1 Offshore Technology Conference (Houston, TX)

5/3 Public Lands Trust, Washington, DC

Regretted

4/24 Annual Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference (Spokane, WA)

4/25 Northwest Public Power Association Legislative Dinner (DC)

4/26 Ex-SOBs (Former Senate Aides Association) Luncheon remarks regretted

4/27 Blueprint 2025 Infrastructure Leadership Forum (DC)

4/28 Woodlawn Cemetery Arbor Day Celebration (NYC)

5/1 Ducks Unlimited at the Canadian Embassy regretted

Outstanding Invitations in Process

None

NEED CABINET AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE ON THESE ITEMS:

Sportsmen's Event with POTUS/VP: Formal request submitted to Cabinet Affairs outlining a proposed "Sportsmen's" announcement of \$1.1 billion in funding for hunting and fishing activities. NOTE: the Department will need to announce this soon. Details also sent to WH IGA.

Possible event at the Lincoln Memorial: June 10. IS THIS EVENT HAPPENING?

Emergency Management

In Florida, the Cowbell Fire on Big Cypress National Preserve has burned 21,815 (+649) acres. The fire is 55 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 238 (-19) personnel, including 88 (-2) DOI personnel. There are 25 (no change) residences threatened, and the containment date remains April 30.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire has burned 22,610 (+820) acres. The fire is 3 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team with 356 (+26) personnel, including 76 (+6) DOI personnel. There are 100 (+66) residences and 3 (no change) commercial structures threatened, and the containment date is November 1. Active fire behavior was observed during this reporting period, and additional perimeter growth is likely over the next 72 hours.

Media of Interest

Secretary Zinke: National Parks Added \$34.9 Billion To Economy.

The Washington Examiner (4/19, Siciliano) reports that national parks raised \$34.9 billion in 2016 for the nation's economy, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Wednesday "while pitching the need for much-needed upgrades to support the parks' success." The figure "marked a \$2.9 billion increase from the previous year, Zinke said in issuing a new economic report to mark National Parks Week." The report also "showed that spending supported 318,000 jobs in 2016, created \$12 billion in labor income, \$19.9 billion in value-added revenues, and \$34.9 billion in economic output to the U.S. economy."

CEI Report Claims Up To 700 Federal Workers Use "Official Time."

The Washington Examiner (4/19, Higgins) reports on a study from the Competitive Enterprise Institute estimates that up to 700 federal workers "are paid not to do any work for the government and instead use all of their time doing activities on behalf of their union, allowed through a long-standing civil service practice called 'official time.'" However, a report from the Government Accountability Office released in January found far fewer instances of "official time" time use, including two at the Energy Department.

BMW To Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations At National Parks.

CleanTechnica (4/19, Ayre) reports that "up to 100 electric vehicle charging stations will be installed at national parks throughout the US thanks to a newly announced partnership between BMW of North America and the National Park Foundation (NPF), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Department of Energy (DOE)." The announcement was made as the first of the new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations was brought online at a press conference at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation, said, "Thanks to BMW's support, sustainable travel will expand

across the National Park System. These charging stations will also increase visitation to the parks and serve as a great asset for surrounding gateway communities.”

Merrell Offers To Assist Grand Canyon Search For Missing Hikers.

The AP (4/19, Galvan) reports that the National Park Service says the search for two missing hikers related to the co-founder of the Merrell Boot Co. is difficult and complex and that it is not requesting any additional resources despite an announcement from the family that it planned on sending its own support. A spokeswoman said Wednesday that the NPS is “working closely with the family of 62-year-old LouAnn Merrell and 14-year-old Jackson Standefer and is considering the resources their family has suggested donating.” According to the article, “the family announced late Tuesday night that the Merrell company would be providing climbers and rescuers and that the family of the missing boy was offering a military-grade drone to assist in the search.”

Marines Airlifting 1,100 Desert Tortoises.

The Los Angeles Times (4/19, Steele) reports that the Marine Corps this month is using helicopters to relocate more than 1,000 desert tortoises “to another part of the Mojave to make way for an expansion of its desert training grounds.” According to the article, “during the two-week-long process, the hubcap-sized tortoises are being loaded into plastic containers, which are then stacked and strapped to a helicopter.” The article notes that “the cost of the whole effort, including a 30-year monitoring program to ensure the health of the federally protected species, is \$50 million.”

Nevada Wins Battle In Challenging Sage Grouse Rules.

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/19, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell writes that “Nevada won a temporary reprieve from the Interior Department’s plans to enforce sweeping restrictions on land use as a means of protecting greater sage grouse habitat, but failed to convince a federal judge to put those plans on hold entirely.” In a recent opinion, federal Judge Miranda Du held “Interior agencies erred in preparing environmental impact statements for 2.8 million acres of land primarily in Eureka and Humboldt counties and must prepare a supplemental statement, but she denied a request to issue an injunction that would have blocked the federal land agencies from implementing burdensome resource management plans.”

White House Communications Report (sent to WH Comms, Wednesday.)

Inquiries

· AP (Michael Biesecker) REQUEST – AP is reporting on lobbying efforts by Dow Chemical and two other companies asking Secretary Zinke to void the findings of a four year review by federal scientists at EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service that found three pesticides --

chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion – are potentially harmful to more than 1,800 endangered and threatened species. This comes after EPA Administrator Pruitt denied a petition last month to ban chlorpyrifos after EPA scientists determined it could harm children's brains. Can you provide comment on whether the EPA is considering the industry request? Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveris is a close adviser to President Donald Trump, serving as head of the White House's manufacturing working group. Dow also wrote a \$1 million check to help underwrite Trump's inaugural festivities.

Has Secretary Zinke discussed the regulation of chlorpyrifos with Liveris or other Dow executives, their lawyers or their lobbyists? If the request is approved, any concern about the appearance that a politically connected donor is receiving preferential treatment? RESPONSE – "The Secretary has had no meetings on the subject with any of the parties you mentioned. I'd refer you to EPA for questions about their policies."

· High Country News (Elizabeth Shogren) REQUEST – Hi Heather and Megan, Did Sec. Zinke or any political appointees play a role in the BLM decision this week not to offer oil and gas leases for auction in Grand County, CO? I'm wondering how this might or might not reflect the priority to open more lands for "all of the above energy development." Is there a principle/precedent here that reflects Sec. Zinke's philosophy? – RESPONSE – Bureau of Land Management is fielding the response and will redirect to the press release where it explains, "The BLM removed these 20 parcels due to low energy potential and reduced industry interest in the geographic area, as well as concern from local government and the public. The parcels were nominated before the latest revision to the land use plan for the area was completed."

· Bloomberg Magazine (Esme E. Deprez) – REQUEST - 1. There's been differing legal interpretations around the question of whether the Antiquities Act empowers the executive branch to rescind national monuments in addition to declaring them. Does DOI/Zinke have a position on this? 2. There seems to be a lot of confusion, among Bears Ears advocates and opponents alike, about where Zinke stands on the BE monument declaration and whether he believes it should be rescinded/shrunk. Can you provide any clarity as to where he stands? 3. Re: No. 2, I understand Zinke pledged during his confirmation hearing to go to Utah to visit the site and meet with local stakeholders. Do you have a possible time frame for that? Who specifically would he be sure to meet with while there? 4. A couple years ago, Headwaters Economics released a digest on permitted uses in natl monuments. I've been told that such an analysis isn't yet possible for Bears Ears, given the lack of a management plan, which could take years. Is that correct? Is there anything I could say about what is/not allowed in Bears Ears now vs. prior to Obama's declaration? I would like to be able to tell readers as much as I can. –

RESPONSE - Secretary Zinke is committed to responsible management of federal lands for multiple uses like recreation, energy development, and conservation, and he is opposed to selling federal lands. He has signaled his support for the creation of monuments when there is consent and input from local elected officials, the local community, and tribes prior to monument designations. While monuments often provide valuable local benefits, careful

consideration is required before designating significant acreage out of reach of valuable tax revenue to fund community facilities and improvements. The Secretary remains committed to traveling to Utah and other states as he referenced in his confirmation hearing and making recommendations to the President.

Also, see below, Sec. Zinke was asked in the White House Press Briefing on April 3 what his plans were for Gold Butte and other monuments designated under President Obama.

His answer below. SECRETARY ZINKE: We are looking at everything across the board. When I came in, there was a lot of talk about different monuments in different places, and I talked to the senators. And so everything is on the board, looking at it. No monument in specific, but looking at the process, looking at the law, making sure that the monuments follow the law. And at the end of the day, it's important that we operate collaboratively. If you're outside of Washington, D.C., there's a lot of anger out there. And I want the Department of Interior, our rangers and land managers, to be first viewed as rangers and land managers, not law enforcement. I don't want us to be heavy-handed. And I want us to work with local communities, because that's where we're embedded. Our rangers, they have children, they play soccer, they coach, they do all those things -- I want to make sure the Department of Interior is the department that works with local communities, works with the states, and we want to be the "yep" team; that means be an advocate rather than an adversary.

Top Stories

- EENews: NATIONAL MONUMENTS Jewish leaders urge Trump to preserve ...
- Press Herald (OR): U.S. wind industry now employs more than 100000 people
- Morning Consult: Chevron Not Interested in Access to Arctic Drilling
- Washington Examiner: Ryan Zinke: National parks added \$34.9 billion to economy
- o Flathead Beacon (MT): Zinke: National Park Visitation Generated \$34.9 Billion in 2016

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- PRESS RELEASE: Secretary Zinke Announces \$34.9 Billion Added to U.S. Economy in 2016 due to National Park Visitation
- FYI: The U.S. Geological Survey will release a new report on "critical minerals" noting that the U.S. is 100% reliant on China for about half of all "critical minerals" and is reliant on Russia and Canada for many others. This could be a strong America First opportunity. We are working to ID messaging opportunities with upcoming rollout.
- TRAVEL Zinke is in California meeting with U.S. Park Police and staff at Golden Gate

National Recreation Area.

· NEXT WEEK: On Monday, Zinke will participate in a business roundtable with outdoor recreation industry leaders about private investments into our national parks and public lands. Event will be held at Shenandoah NP. On Tuesday morning, Zinke will give a speech announcing the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the economy. Event will be at the Press Club in DC. Tuesday afternoon he will film a one-on-one with Brian Kilmeade of Fox and Friends on the National Mall. Focus is profile and on vision for Department. On Friday, Zinke will travel to Atlanta to speak at the NRA annual meeting.

· STILL AROUND: Secretaries Zinke, Carson, Chao, and DeVos will be profiled in Washington Post for the transition of power. Currently working with Juliet Elperin to shape the story. She is taking a lot of what we have to offer. Publishing next week.

· FYI: Wife and grandson of the founder of Merrell Boot Co went missing in the Grand Canyon over the weekend. Search teams are working. Lots of media attention.

Federal Register Notices Cleared for Publishing

Items cleared for the Federal Register on Wednesday.

REG0006947 BLM Notice of Mailing/Street Address Change for the BLM Challis Field Office. The BLM is providing official notice of the new temporary physical location and mailing address of the BLM Challis Field Office in Challis, Idaho. Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006929 BOE Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales - List of Restricted Joint Bidders. BOEM is publishing its semi-annual List of Restricted Joint Bidders for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sales. Each entity within one of eight listed groups is restricted from bidding with any entity in any of the other groups at such lease sales during the bidding period from May 1, 2017, through October 31, 2017. Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006911 FWS Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications. This batched notice informs the public of the receipt of 13 applications for Endangered Species Act recovery permits in Region 3 (Midwest Region). Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006912 FWS Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications. This batched notice informs the public of the receipt of 5 applications for Endangered Species Act recovery permits in Region 1 (Pacific Region). Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006950 FWS Endangered Species; Issuance of Recovery Permits. This notice informs

the public of the Endangered Species Act recovery permits issued for the second half of calendar year 2016. Notice 04/19/2017.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 4/20/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary is traveling in California until today, then traveling to Montana for personal time.

TODAY: Personal Day. Fly to Montana.

Fri. 4/21: Personal Day.

Sat. 4/22: Off

Sun. 4/23: Fly to Washington, DC.

Mon. 4/24: All day meeting with Outdoor Recreation Industry at Shenandoah National Park.

Tue. 4/25: Outdoor Industry press conference at Press Club

Wed. 4/26: Meetings. Australia Minister for Energy and the Environment. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership dinner.

Thu. 4/27: Meeting with Utah Governor and delegation.

Fri. 4/28: Speak at NRA meeting in Atlanta.

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. Various AK events 5/29-5/31.

Media Announcements Today

Interior Announcements Planned for April 20.

NPS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Thursday, April 20, 2017 - Statement from the Merrell and Standefer Families

This morning the Merrell and Standefer families are still praying for a miracle in Grand Canyon National Park. Today, April 20, the search for Lou Ann Merrell and Jackson Standefer will continue on a limited basis. After carefully considering all the information available to us, and based on our personal knowledge of the search area, we support Grand Canyon National Park's (GCNP) decision to scale back the search.

We thank the GCNP staff for their exemplary service. We know they have done everything possible since Saturday, April 15, to find Lou Ann and Jackson. We also know countless people were praying for a much different outcome than this one. We felt your prayers and were sustained by them in ways we cannot begin to describe. We are profoundly grateful for the support that continues to pour in from across the country.

We thank GCNP, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Uintah County (Utah) search and rescue, Merrell Boot Co., SKYTEC of Chattanooga, TN, Xanterra Hospitality, and all others who volunteered their time, talents and equipment in the effort to find Lou Ann and Jackson.

GCNP is expected to release information about the search effort. Please direct all search related questions to GCNP. We ask that you please continue to pray for our families, as our loved ones are still missing, and please respect our privacy at this time.

Thank you - The Merrell and Standefer families

The US Geological Survey: USGS will announce its First Ecosystem-wide Study of Changing Sea Depths at Five Large Florida Coral Reefs - The study compared sea floor measurements from the 1930s-1980s to the 1990s-2000s and found the combined effect of rising seas from climate change and sea floor erosion

has already increased water depths more than what most scientists expected to occur by 2100, and reefs are not keeping up.

Executive Orders

Awaiting next EO on offshore energy. (Early May?) Requesting NOT May 1.

Awaiting EO on National Monuments. (Early May?)

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

4/24 Outdoor Recreation Industry Council at Shenandoah National Park

4/25 Outdoor Industries Association press event at the National Press Club accepted

4/26 Migratory Bird Conservation Commission accepted

4/26 TRCP Dinner (DC) accepted

4/27 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership BBQ (DC, REI)

4/27 Western Caucus Members Only Luncheon (DC, Capitol)

4/28 NRA Leadership Forum, George World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

5/1 Offshore Technology Conference (Houston, TX)

5/3 Public Lands Trust, Washington, DC

Regretted

4/24 Annual Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference (Spokane, WA)

4/25 Northwest Public Power Association Legislative Dinner (DC)

4/26 Ex-SOBs (Former Senate Aides Association) Luncheon remarks regretted

4/27 Blueprint 2025 Infrastructure Leadership Forum (DC)

4/28 Woodlawn Cemetery Arbor Day Celebration (NYC)

5/1 Ducks Unlimited at the Canadian Embassy regretted

Outstanding Invitations in Process

None

NEED CABINET AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE ON THESE ITEMS:

Sportsmen's Event with POTUS/VP: Formal request submitted to Cabinet Affairs outlining a proposed "Sportsmen's" announcement of \$1.1 billion in funding for hunting and fishing activities. NOTE: the Department will need to announce this soon. Details also sent to WH IGA.

Possible event at the Lincoln Memorial: June 10. IS THIS EVENT HAPPENING?

Emergency Management

In Florida, the Cowbell Fire on Big Cypress National Preserve has burned 21,815 (+649) acres. The fire is 55 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 238 (-19) personnel, including 88 (-2) DOI personnel. There are 25 (no change) residences threatened, and the containment date remains April 30.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire has burned 22,610 (+820) acres. The fire is 3 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team with 356 (+26) personnel, including 76 (+6) DOI personnel. There are 100 (+66) residences and 3 (no change) commercial structures

threatened, and the containment date is November 1. Active fire behavior was observed during this reporting period, and additional perimeter growth is likely over the next 72 hours.

Media of Interest

Secretary Zinke: National Parks Added \$34.9 Billion To Economy.

The Washington Examiner (4/19, Siciliano) reports that national parks raised \$34.9 billion in 2016 for the nation's economy, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Wednesday "while pitching the need for much-needed upgrades to support the parks' success." The figure "marked a \$2.9 billion increase from the previous year, Zinke said in issuing a new economic report to mark National Parks Week." The report also "showed that spending supported 318,000 jobs in 2016, created \$12 billion in labor income, \$19.9 billion in value-added revenues, and \$34.9 billion in economic output to the U.S. economy."

CEI Report Claims Up To 700 Federal Workers Use "Official Time."

The Washington Examiner (4/19, Higgins) reports on a study from the Competitive Enterprise Institute estimates that up to 700 federal workers "are paid not to do any work for the government and instead use all of their time doing activities on behalf of their union, allowed through a long-standing civil service practice called 'official time.'" However, a report from the Government Accountability Office released in January found far fewer instances of "official time" time use, including two at the Energy Department.

BMW To Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations At National Parks.

CleanTechnica (4/19, Ayre) reports that "up to 100 electric vehicle charging stations will be installed at national parks throughout the US thanks to a newly announced partnership between BMW of North America and the National Park Foundation (NPF), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Department of Energy (DOE)." The announcement was made as the first of the new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations was brought online at a press conference at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation, said, "Thanks to BMW's support, sustainable travel will expand across the National Park System. These charging stations will also increase visitation to the parks and serve as a great asset for surrounding gateway communities."

Merrell Offers To Assist Grand Canyon Search For Missing Hikers.

The AP (4/19, Galvan) reports that the National Park Service says the search for two missing hikers related to the co-founder of the Merrell Boot Co. is difficult and complex and that it is not requesting any additional resources despite an announcement from the family that it planned on sending its own support. A spokeswoman said Wednesday that the NPS is "working closely with the family of 62-year-old LouAnn Merrell and 14-year-old Jackson Standefer and is considering the resources their family has suggested donating." According to the article, "the family announced late Tuesday night that the Merrell company would be providing climbers and rescuers and that the family of the missing boy was offering a military-grade drone to assist in the search."

Marines Airlifting 1,100 Desert Tortoises.

The Los Angeles Times (4/19, Steele) reports that the Marine Corps this month is using helicopters to relocate more than 1,000 desert tortoises "to another part of the Mojave to make way for an expansion of its desert training grounds." According to the article, "during the two-week-long process, the hubcap-sized tortoises are being loaded into plastic containers, which are then stacked and strapped to a helicopter." The article notes that "the cost of the whole effort, including a 30-year monitoring program to ensure the health of the federally protected species, is \$50 million."

Nevada Wins Battle In Challenging Sage Grouse Rules.

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (4/19, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell writes that "Nevada won a temporary reprieve from the Interior Department's plans to enforce sweeping restrictions on land use as a means of protecting greater sage grouse habitat, but failed to convince a federal judge to put those plans on hold entirely." In a recent opinion, federal Judge Miranda Du held "Interior agencies erred in preparing environmental impact statements for 2.8 million acres of land primarily in Eureka and Humboldt counties and must prepare a supplemental statement, but she denied a request to issue an injunction that would have blocked the federal land agencies from implementing burdensome resource management plans."

White House Communications Report (sent to WH Comms, Wednesday.)

Inquiries

· AP (Michael Biesecker) REQUEST – AP is reporting on lobbying efforts by Dow Chemical and two other companies asking Secretary Zinke to void the findings of a four year review by federal scientists at EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service that found three pesticides -- chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion – are potentially harmful to more than 1,800 endangered and threatened species. This comes after EPA Administrator Pruitt denied a petition last month to ban chlorpyrifos after EPA scientists determined it could harm children's brains. Can you provide comment on whether the EPA is considering the industry request? Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveris is a close adviser to President Donald Trump, serving as head of the White House's manufacturing working group. Dow also wrote a \$1 million check to help underwrite Trump's inaugural festivities.

Has Secretary Zinke discussed the regulation of chlorpyrifos with Liveris or other Dow executives, their lawyers or their lobbyists? If the request is approved, any concern about the appearance that a politically connected donor is receiving preferential treatment? RESPONSE – "The Secretary has had no meetings on the subject with any of the parties you mentioned. I'd refer you to EPA for questions about their policies."

· High Country News (Elizabeth Shogren) REQUEST – Hi Heather and Megan, Did Sec. Zinke or any political appointees play a role in the BLM decision this week not to offer oil and gas leases for auction in Grand County, CO? I'm wondering how this might or might not reflect the priority to open more lands for "all of the above energy development." Is there a principle/precedent here that reflects Sec. Zinke's philosophy? – RESPONSE – Bureau of Land Management is fielding the response and will redirect to the press release where it explains, "The BLM removed these 20 parcels due to low energy potential and reduced industry interest in the geographic area, as well as concern from local government and the public. The parcels were nominated before the latest revision to the land use plan for the area was completed."

· Bloomberg Magazine (Esme E. Deprez) – REQUEST - 1. There's been differing legal interpretations around the question of whether the Antiquities Act empowers the executive branch to rescind national monuments in addition to declaring them. Does DOI/Zinke have a position on this? 2. There seems to be a lot of confusion, among Bears Ears advocates and opponents alike, about where Zinke stands on the BE monument declaration and whether he believes it should be rescinded/shrunk. Can you provide any clarity as to where he stands? 3. Re: No. 2, I understand Zinke pledged during his confirmation hearing to go to Utah to visit the site and meet with local stakeholders. Do you have a possible time frame for that? Who specifically would he be sure to meet with while there? 4. A couple years ago, Headwaters Economics released a digest on permitted uses in natl monuments. I've been told that such an analysis isn't yet possible for Bears Ears, given the lack of a management plan, which could take years. Is that

correct? Is there anything I could say about what is/not allowed in Bears Ears now vs. prior to Obama's declaration? I would like to be able to tell readers as much as I can. –

RESPONSE - Secretary Zinke is committed to responsible management of federal lands for multiple uses like recreation, energy development, and conservation, and he is opposed to selling federal lands. He has signaled his support for the creation of monuments when there is consent and input from local elected officials, the local community, and tribes prior to monument designations. While monuments often provide valuable local benefits, careful consideration is required before designating significant acreage out of reach of valuable tax revenue to fund community facilities and improvements. The Secretary remains committed to traveling to Utah and other states as he referenced in his confirmation hearing and making recommendations to the President.

Also, see below, Sec. Zinke was asked in the White House Press Briefing on April 3 what his plans were for Gold Butte and other monuments designated under President Obama.

His answer below. SECRETARY ZINKE: We are looking at everything across the board. When I came in, there was a lot of talk about different monuments in different places, and I talked to the senators. And so everything is on the board, looking at it. No monument in specific, but looking at the process, looking at the law, making sure that the monuments follow the law. And at the end of the day, it's important that we operate collaboratively. If you're outside of Washington, D.C., there's a lot of anger out there. And I want the Department of Interior, our rangers and land managers, to be first viewed as rangers and land managers, not law enforcement. I don't want us to be heavy-handed. And I want us to work with local communities, because that's where we're embedded. Our rangers, they have children, they play soccer, they coach, they do all those things -- I want to make sure the Department of Interior is the department that works with local communities, works with the states, and we want to be the "yep" team; that means be an advocate rather than an adversary.

Top Stories

- EENews: NATIONAL MONUMENTS Jewish leaders urge Trump to preserve ...
- Press Herald (OR): U.S. wind industry now employs more than 100000 people
- Morning Consult: Chevron Not Interested in Access to Arctic Drilling
- Washington Examiner: Ryan Zinke: National parks added \$34.9 billion to economy
- o Flathead Beacon (MT): Zinke: National Park Visitation Generated \$34.9 Billion in 2016

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- PRESS RELEASE: Secretary Zinke Announces \$34.9 Billion Added to U.S. Economy in 2016 due to National Park Visitation
- FYI: The U.S. Geological Survey will release a new report on "critical minerals" noting that the U.S. is 100% reliant on China for about half of all "critical minerals" and is reliant on Russia and Canada for many others. This could be a strong America First opportunity. We are working to ID messaging opportunities with upcoming rollout.
- TRAVEL Zinke is in California meeting with U.S. Park Police and staff at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- NEXT WEEK: On Monday, Zinke will participate in a business roundtable with outdoor recreation industry leaders about private investments into our national parks and public lands. Event will be held at Shenandoah NP. On Tuesday morning, Zinke will give a speech announcing the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the economy. Event will be at the Press Club in DC. Tuesday afternoon he will film

a one-on-one with Brian Kilmeade of Fox and Friends on the National Mall. Focus is profile and on vision for Department. On Friday, Zinke will travel to Atlanta to speak at the NRA annual meeting.

- STILL AROUND: Secretaries Zinke, Carson, Chao, and DeVos will be profiled in Washington Post for the transition of power. Currently working with Juliet Elperin to shape the story. She is taking a lot of what we have to offer. Publishing next week.

- FYI: Wife and grandson of the founder of Merrell Boot Co went missing in the Grand Canyon over the weekend. Search teams are working. Lots of media attention.

Federal Register Notices Cleared for Publishing

Items cleared for the Federal Register on Wednesday.

REG0006947 BLM Notice of Mailing/Street Address Change for the BLM Challis Field Office. The BLM is providing official notice of the new temporary physical location and mailing address of the BLM Challis Field Office in Challis, Idaho. Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006929 BOE Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales - List of Restricted Joint Bidders. BOEM is publishing its semi-annual List of Restricted Joint Bidders for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sales. Each entity within one of eight listed groups is restricted from bidding with any entity in any of the other groups at such lease sales during the bidding period from May 1, 2017, through October 31, 2017. Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006911 FWS Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications. This batched notice informs the public of the receipt of 13 applications for Endangered Species Act recovery permits in Region 3 (Midwest Region). Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006912 FWS Endangered Species; Recovery Permit Applications. This batched notice informs the public of the receipt of 5 applications for Endangered Species Act recovery permits in Region 1 (Pacific Region). Notice 04/19/2017.

REG0006950 FWS Endangered Species; Issuance of Recovery Permits. This notice informs the public of the Endangered Species Act recovery permits issued for the second half of calendar year 2016. Notice 04/19/2017.