

**From:** Dove, William  
**To:** [Downey Magallanes](#)  
**Cc:** [Joseph Balash](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Casey Hammond](#)  
**Subject:** ASLM 30 Day Policy Outlook  
**Date:** Friday, January 12, 2018 5:38:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [ASLM 30 Day Report 1-16-18.docx](#)

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Downey,

Please find the ASLM report attached.

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**Billy Dove** | *Special Assistant*  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Land and Minerals Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior

1. **DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM:** The Draft Proposed Program was announced on Jan. 4, 2018, beginning a 60-day public comment period. Public meetings will be held in each state adjacent to an area included in the Draft Proposed Program. They are currently scheduled to start on Jan. 16 and finish on Feb. 28. The meetings for the week of January 16th include Annapolis, MD; Jackson, MS; Richmond, VA; and Dover, DE.  
**Timing:** January 2018-March 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
2. **GMT-2:** The Greater Mooses Tooth 2 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is currently under review by ASLM. The target release is late February. Once the Federal Register publishes the Notice of Availability, BLM-AK plans to hold public meetings and subsistence hearings during the comment period in the following communities: Utqiagvik, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.  
**Timing:** February-March 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
3. **ACTION ON ENERGY BURDENS:** Two rules identified in Interior's energy burdens report, pursuant to Executive Order 13783, are currently under review by OIRA. The first proposed rule would revise certain provisions of the 2016 rule entitled "Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control". Last week, Interior published a portion of the revision relating to the productions systems safety requirements of the 2016 rule. We hope to publish the proposed rule containing the larger revision by the end of January. The second final rule is the revision to the 2016 rule entitled, the "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation" (venting and flaring rule). This rule will not likely be finalized until March. On January 29, the official comment period for the BSEE proposed rule revising the Production Safety Systems rule (Subpart H) closes.  
**Timing:** January 2018-March 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
4. **WILD HORSES AND BURROS REPORT TO CONGRESS:** BLM is completing a report to Congress detailing legislative and administrative options, including partnerships, to bring Wild Horse and Burro populations to appropriate management levels. The current population and program are unsustainable resulting in vast resource impacts and unhealthy herds. In the past year, the Department has requested the restoration of statutory tools to manage herd levels, which includes humane destruction, and others to facilitate sales of excess animals.  
**Timing:** Mid-January 2018  
**Contact:** Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

5. **2017 COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF OCS OIL & GAS RESOURCES REPORT TO CONGRESS:** This report is required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a report to Congress within 6 months of the date of enactment (i.e., Aug. 8, 2005), with updates at least every 5 years. It is currently in surnaming with ASLM.  
**Timing:** Late January 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
6. **MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS:** On January 16 the Federal Register will publish Notices of Intent (NOI), seeking public comment, regarding management plans in Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. The NOIs are the first steps in initiating new management plans, consistent with the monument enhancements enacted by the President on December 4, 2017. Press releases were issued on January 12, calling for public input on the planning process for both areas.  
**Timing:** January 16, 2018  
**Contact:** Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
7. **SAGE GROUSE HABITAT MANAGEMENT:** A scoping report is set to be completed and released to the public in mid-January outlining responses from the states and the public regarding potential management plan changes. In the coming weeks, the Department will determine whether to proceed with plan amendments and initiate a public process on the 68 Sage Grouse Resources Management Plans.  
**Timing:** January 17, 2018  
**Contact:** Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
8. **MITIGATION IM REVISION:** BLM is drafting a revised Mitigation IM under the direction of SO 3360. The focus of this IM is to ensure that the practice of using compensatory mitigation is not abused and to set an appropriate mitigation standard. This will ensure that states are more involved in the process and that permittees have maximum flexibility in determining how to address the impacts of their project. It is currently under review by ASLM.  
**Timing:** Mid-January 2018  
**Contact:** Casey Hammond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
9. **ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION GRANTS:** On January 17, OSMRE plans to announce the award of \$300.7 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines. OSMRE provides AML grants to the 28 coal-producing states and tribes according to a congressionally mandated formula based on their past and current coal production.  
**Timing:** January 17, 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

- 10. DESIGN DECISION ENVELOPE DRAFT GUIDANCE:** On January 31, pending final approval, BOEM plans to host a webinar to solicit input from the public on draft guidance for the submission of Construction and Operations Plans that contain a design envelope, which would allow lessees the flexibility to defer final design decisions in order to take advantage of rapid technological advances. A press release was distributed on the Draft Guidelines on January 12.  
**Timing:** January 31, 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
- 11. ATLANTIC OFFSHORE RENEWABLE RFF:** BOEM plans to publish a Request for Feedback (RFF) in the Federal Register seeking input on a proposed path forward for renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast. The RFF describes the process and factors used by BOEM to identify and forecast areas along the Atlantic Coast where future development is most likely and leasing should be focused.  
**Timing:** January 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
- 12. ONSHORE QUARTERLY LEASE SALES IM:** By late January, the BLM anticipates issuing an Instruction Memorandum (IM) updating oil and gas leasing reform. The IM will simplify and streamline the leasing process in order to alleviate unnecessary impediments and burdens, to expedite the offering of lands for lease, and to ensure quarterly oil and gas lease sales are consistently held in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act, E.O. 13783, and S.O. 3354.  
**Timing:** Late January 2018  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
- 13. COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout January, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.
- **Cordero Rojo Mine (WY).** OSMRE anticipates forwarding to ASLM a mining plan decision document with a recommendation by January 22, 2018. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
  - **Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification (WY):** OSMRE anticipates forwarding to ASLM a mining plan decision document with a recommendation on or about January 24, 2018, for the Bridger Mine. The mine employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.
  - **King II Mine Plan Modification (CO):** In late January, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the King II Mine Mining Plan decision document to OSMRE Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. GCC Energy, LLC's King II Mine is an underground mine permitted under OSMRE's Federal Indian lands program in La Plata County, Colorado, that employs 88 people. Approval of the mine plan will authorize removal of 2.7 million tons of recoverable Federal coal.

- **Rosebud NOA (MT):** On February 20, the comment period for OSMRE's Western Energy Company Rosebud Coal Mine Area F Project Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will close.

**Timing:** January-February 2018

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management