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**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
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**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 7/7/17  
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[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 7-7-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

**DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 7/7/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

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NOTE: the Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country.

**Media TODAY**

**SECRETARY ZINKE ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$32 MILLION IN BOATING RECREATION AND TOURISM GRANTS**

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## **DOI Comms Report**

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### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

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June 23-July 24: NPS Local release: The NPS is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA)

and is seeking public comments regarding the site of the proposed National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. Two sites are under consideration: the area near Memorial Circle at George Washington Memorial Parkway on Columbia Island, and the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area near 23rd Street NW. The EAp public scoping period is June 23-July 24, 2017, with an initial scoping meeting on July 12.

#### **Fish and Wildlife Services**

July 14: FWS Local release: 6-month extension to the final determination on listing the Sand Fernando Valley Spineflower and reopening of the comment period.

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

July 10: Four individuals charged with various crimes during the 2014 Gold Butte cattle impoundment are scheduled to be re-tried in U.S. District Court, Las Vegas, following the declaration of a mistrial on April 24, 2017. The BLM communications team has and will continue to coordinate with DOI communications on public statements or related materials.

July 10: BLM Natural Resource Specialist Bob Wick will participate on an interagency panel to discuss wildlife management in wilderness at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) annual conference in Vail, CO.

July 10: BLM Local release: the BLM-CO White River Field Office will initiate a 30-day public scoping period for a proposal to develop a 384-mile off-highway vehicle (OHV) route system incorporating mostly existing BLM and county roads. Rio Blanco County submitted the Wagon Wheel West OHV Trail proposal to the BLM to increase trail system-based recreation throughout the county and northwestern Colorado. Recreation on BLM-CO-managed lands generated \$543 million and supported 4,625 jobs in FY 2015.

July 10: BLM-NV will welcome Story House Productions GmbH from Germany, who is filming a mini documentary for German TV at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center on the Wild Horse Inmate Training Program. The film's focus will be how this benefits inmates and prepares them for society.

July 10: The public comment period on the National Monument review will end. BLM-WO staff members are reviewing public comments. In addition, Timothy Fisher, National Lead for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas continues to coordinate with BLM-WO leadership, State Offices, Monument Managers, and the DOI Office of Policy Analysis in preparing the final report on the 18 National Monuments managed by the BLM. This will be ongoing through July and early August.

July 11: BLM Cultural Resources and Law Enforcement program staff will meet with the GAO to discuss looting and trafficking of Native American artifacts. GAO requested the meeting as part of its current focus on looting and trafficking and to follow-up on its prior review of Federal agency compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

July 12: BLM-WY Field Manager Mike Phillips will attend a planning and preparation meeting in Thermopolis, WY, for the Aug. 21, 2017 solar eclipse.

July 13: BLM-WY High Plains District, Buffalo Field Office, and Casper Field Office staff will meet with Converse and Campbell County commissioners to discuss coal and oil and gas conflicts in their respective counties.

July 13: BLM Local Release: BLM-AK Glennallen Field Office will begin issuing Federal subsistence harvest permits for the 2017-2018 moose and caribou hunting seasons. The BLM issues nearly 3,500 Federal subsistence permits annually and provides permitting opportunities to rural residents in Delta Junction, Cantwell, Slana, and Glennallen.

### **INDIAN AFFAIRS**

TBD: Secretary Zinke Announces Dr. Gavin Clarkson as New DAS-PED for Indian Affairs.

### **BOEM**

Week of Jul 3: Note to Stakeholders announcing GoM Workshop to be held on July 18.

Jul 12: Press release announcing approval of Eni's Alaska Exploration Plan (assuming the EP is approved).

Jul 13: Press Release on GoM Sale 249 FNOS -- the first Gulf-wide sale and first sale in 2017-2022

July 13/14 (Tent): Press Release announcing 3-party agreement between BOEM, USACE Jacksonville District and Martin County authorizing use of OCS sand resources to rehabilitate the Martin County shoreline damaged by Hurricane Matthew last fall. Note: The USACE needs to have their signed ROD about a week before July 14, so that they can issue the contract for the project.

Jul 19-20 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Jul 26 (TBD): Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.

July TBD: Science Note on several of BOEM's international studies in the Gulf of Mexico, following the March international conference. OPA Sterling coordinated with Gulf Studies Office & Public Affairs, the Office of International Affairs, and partners at NOAA, NSF and Texas A&M. Publication of proceedings expected winter 2017/2018. A follow-on international workshop takes place from July 7 to 15 in Cuba, although BOEM representatives are not attending.

### **BSEE**

July 14 --News Brief. Readout of BSEE Director Angelle's visit to the Gulf coast including remarks at API Safe Lifting Conference, Houston, TX and Director's accompanying BSEE' inspectors on a well operations inspection offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Social media platforms will be used to amplify News Brief.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

July 10-12: Congressional Briefing on Federal Columbia River Power System (DC): July 10-12, executive leadership from the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) agencies will brief the Congressional Northwest Delegation on Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Bonneville Power Administration financials, and FCRPS litigation issues. Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Lorri Gray; MG Scott Spellmon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Elliot Mainzer, BPA; and Barry Thom, NOAA Fisheries will conduct the briefings. Closed press but high profile issues.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

#### **CONGRESSIONAL**

Wednesday, July 12

10:00am: House Natural Resources Committee, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee  
Oversight Hearing: Examining Offshore Oil and Gas Development

Witness: Katharine MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Legislative Hearing: S.943, Johnson-O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act; S.1223, Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act; S.1285, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act

Witness: Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

Thursday, July 13

10:00am: House Natural Resources Committee, Indian Affairs Subcommittee  
Oversight Hearing: Comparing 21st Century Trust Land Acquisition with the Intent of the 73rd Congress in Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act

Witness: Jim Cason, Acting Deputy Secretary

Friday, July 14

9:00am: House Natural Resources Committee, Federal Lands Subcommittee  
Legislative Hearing: H.R. 873, Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act; H.R. 2582, Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act; H.R. 1547, Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act.

Witness: TBD

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#### **Political Appointee Update**

DOI's politicals on board = 44

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#### **Speaking Invitations**

##### **Accepted**

7/11-12 Annual Farm Bureau Council (State Presidents) (Washington, DC)

7/12 Cully Stimson Confirmation Hearing Remarks (DC)

7/13 OMB Reporter Breakfast Briefing (DC)

7/15-16 Travel to Oregon for Monument Tour - joined by Rep. Walden

7/19 Western Caucus Foundation's Native American Western Policy Discussion and Reception (DC)

7/20 Tour with Secretary Perry

7/22-29 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico

8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

7/17 - Blue Dog Coalition (Washington, DC)  
 7/20 Roanoke Cement Company Energy Staff Industrial Showcase (Troutville, VA)  
 7/21 American Legislative Exchange Council's Annual Meeting (Denver, CO)  
 7/22 National Association of Counties Annual Conference (Columbus, OH) (NOTE: declining for S-1 but offering a surrogate)  
 7/23 National Boy Scout Jamboree (Glen Jean, WV)  
 8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)  
 8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)  
 8/22 - 2017 Lake Tahoe Summit invited by Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Heller (Lake Tahoe, CA)  
 8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)  
 8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

Declining

7/9 National Park Travelers Club (Glacier National Park)  
 7/12 American Sportfishing Association's International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades (Orlando, FL)  
 7/21-23 - Western Conservative Summit (Denver)  
 7/23-26 - Aspen Institute Forum on Global Energy, Economy, and Security (Aspen, CO)  
 7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)  
 8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)  
 8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)  
 8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)  
 8/22-23 - National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit (Salt Lake City, UT)  
 8/24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

Emergency Management

The Hilltop Fire in Arizona (BIA) has burned 23,519 (+3,873) acres and is 5 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 816 (+54) personnel assigned, 321 (+21) of which are DOI personnel. The fire has the potential to cross the Black River/Salt River, which would result in a pre-evacuation notice being issued. Full containment of this fire is expected on July 25.

In Montana, the July Fire (BLM) has burned 9,000 (+6,900) acres and is 25 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 IMT with 189 (+55) personnel, including 51 (+7) DOI personnel. There are 101 (+71) homes threatened, and the fire is expected to be fully contained on July 14. The fire threatens the communities of Zortman and Landusky, as well as the Fort Belknap Reservation.

In Nevada, the Earthstone Fire in Washoe County (BLM) has burned 33,700 (+6,915) acres and

is 30 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 IMT with 280 (-13) personnel, including 38 (-2) DOI personnel. Portions of Interstate-80, historic buildings, the Paiute Gas Line, and radio and communication sites are threatened. Full containment is expected on July 10.

The Truckee Fire in Washoe County, NV, has burned 83,400 (+12,854) acres and is 35 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 IMT with 158 (-14) personnel, including 48 (+21) DOI personnel. Full containment is expected on July 9.

The Dry Gulch Fire in Elko County, NV, (BLM) has burned 28,000 (+26,000) acres and is 0 (-60)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-3 IMT with 231 (+167) personnel, including 60 (+26) DOI personnel. One responder injury was reported during this operational period, and managers are requesting additional resources, including heavy air tankers. The fire is expected to be contained on July 13.

The Brianhead Fire in Utah has burned 69,568 (+1,161) acres and is 75 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 1,073 (-259) personnel assigned, 285 (-8) of which are DOI personnel. There are currently 1,562 (no change) evacuees and 100 (no change) residential structures threatened. There have been 28 (+1) responder injuries reported to date. Great Basin Team 7 will take command on July 9, and full containment is expected on July 15.

### **Outside Media of Interest**

#### **Interior Aims To Speed Oil And Gas Permitting On Public Lands With 30-Day Reviews.**

The Washington Post (7/6, Grandoni, Eilperin) reports that as part of the Administration efforts “to loosen restrictions on the fossil fuel industry,” Interior Secretary Zinke “issued an order on Thursday designed to speed up the permitting process for drilling.” The goal is for the Bureau of Land Management to process applications within 30 days. Zinke said in a statement, “As is outlined in this order, we will look at ways to improve the process and make sure regulations serve their intended purpose rather than create a mountain of useless paperwork.” However, it isn’t clear that the move will increase domestic energy production. Not only does “the vast majority of onshore oil and gas production” occur on private and state land, but companies aren’t producing on leases they already hold. According to the Wilderness Society, only “12.7 million acres of public land of the 27 million acres currently under lease were in production during fiscal 2016.” The AP (7/6, Gruver) reports the Interior Department found that the average wait for oil and gas companies is 257 days, while backlogs in Wyoming and Utah have topped 500. Zinke promised that the National Environmental Policy Act would still be upheld, but that some regulations restrict energy development that could be made more environmentally friendly. Zinke said, “We’re going to be a fair and prudent partner, but we’re not going to be an adversary to creating wealth and opportunity on some of our public lands.” The Washington Examiner (7/6, Siciliano) reports the Interior Department recorded a total of 2,802 applications for drilling permits that still await action.

#### **Interior’s Inbox Fills With Comments On National Monuments Review.**

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/6, Brean) reports that “more than 1.1 million public comments have poured in so far on the Trump administration’s review and possible rollback of national



monuments in Nevada and elsewhere.” The Interior Department will” accept public input through Monday as part of its review of 22 national monuments created or expanded by presidential decree since Jan. 1, 1996.” President Trump has given Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “until Aug. 24 to recommend possible action to scale back or eliminate any monuments deemed too large or too restrictive to public access or economic development.” The article adds that “five marine national monuments in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are also under review in a separate but related process for which public comment deadline is July 26.”

*REI Asks Customers To Challenge Zinke Over Public Lands Review...*

*It's Magical Legal Thinking To Say Trump Can't Reverse Obama's National Monuments...*

*Connelly: Senators Tell Trump – Hands Off Our Monuments....*

*Op-ed: Creation Of Bears Ears National Monument Was A Response To Years Of Grave-Robbing....*

*Op-ed: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Has Been Good For The Community Of Kanab....*

### **The Energy 202: The One Issue Where Trump Is Standing Up To Russia.**

The Washington Post (7/6) reports that “on Wednesday the Interior Department posted the schedule of its secretary, Ryan Zinke, for May online.” The article says that “continuing a pattern that defined his first two months in office, Zinke held several more meetings with oil and gas representatives than with conservation groups, while increasing his overall number of tribal consultations.” Zinke also “video-conferenced with representatives from two longtime GOP allies, the National Rifle Association and the National Association of Home Builders.” Two conservation groups Zinke “met with in May were the Land Trust Alliance and the Partnership of Rangeland Trust.”

### **15 AGs Urge Court To Uphold Congressional Review Act.**

Law360 (7/6, Boysen) reports that “the Republican attorneys general of 15 states piled onto a suit that challenges the constitutionality of a regulation rollback law, the Congressional Review Act, on Wednesday, telling an Alaskan federal court the law is perfectly constitutional and urging it to toss the suit and ‘preserve this important procedural tool.’” The suit was brought in April by the environmental nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity against Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “after Congress used the CRA to repeal rules.”

### **Tribes Close In On Federal Recognition.**

The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (7/6, Williams) reports that “six Virginia Indian tribes that have petitioned for federal recognition are a few congressional votes away from their goal.” The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, “the bill that would grant these tribes federal recognition, passed in the House of Representatives on May 17.” The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs “must consider the legislation before the full upper house can vote on it.”

### **Feds Approve Transmission Line Across The River Near Historic Jamestown.**

The Washington Post (7/6, Schneider) reports the US Army Corps of Engineers has granted its final approval for Dominion Energy’s proposed Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line, which has faced opposition from environmentalists and historians that fear the project will mar the view from historic Jamestown. For its part, Dominion Energy says the transmission line is needed to ensure reliability for the Peninsula after environmental regulations force the

shutdown of the utility's two coal-burning units in Yorktown. Dominion Energy spokeswoman Bonita Billingsley Harris said of the approval, "We believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has done a diligent and thorough review." The article mentions that Dominion Energy has "agreed to take steps to limit the environmental impact" and to use "a design that uses the fewest towers possible and to paint them in a way that minimizes their appearance."

**Amelia Earhart Mystery: Newly Found Photo Could Prove The Pilot Lived—and Was Captured By The Japanese.**

Newsweek (7/5, Glum) reports that flight pioneer Amelia Earhart "vanished in 1937 while trying to fly around the world." Now, "almost exactly 80 years later, there may be a new development in her disappearance." Experts said "they believe a recently uncovered photo from the National Archives shows Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan the same year the aviators went missing, the Today Show reported exclusively on Wednesday." The photo is "labeled 'Jaluit Atoll,' which is the name of an area in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, and displays the Japanese ship Koshu as it moves a 38-foot-long item."

Additional coverage was provided by the History Channel (7/5, Pruitt).

**Federal Register Listings**

No items were cleared for the FR on Thursday.

**WOLF TRAP**

Tickets in the Secretary's box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-9-17	Neil Gaiman	8:00 PM
7-14-17	Puccini's Tosca	8:30 PM
7-15-17	The Tenors	8:15 PM
7-18-17	Mamma Mia	8:00 PM

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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July 12: Public scoping meeting for the site of the proposed National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. Two sites are under consideration: the area near Memorial Circle at George Washington Memorial Parkway on Columbia Island, and the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area near 23rd Street NW. The public comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) is open through July 24.

July 15: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg will visit Glacier National Park. He will tour the park in a historic red bus with Superintendent Mow and USGS scientist Dan Fagre (Director of the Climate Change in Mountain Ecosystems Project). He will also visit with Gracie the Bark Ranger and official park partners. Zuckerberg will do a Facebook post immediately following his visit to his 92 million followers.

June 23-July 24: NPS Local release: The NPS is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) and is seeking public comments regarding the site of the proposed National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. Two sites are under consideration: the area near Memorial Circle at George Washington Memorial Parkway on Columbia Island, and the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area near 23rd Street NW. The EA public scoping period is June 23-July 24, 2017, with an initial scoping meeting on July 12.

#### **Fish and Wildlife Services**

July 14: FWS Local release: 6-month extension to the final determination on listing the Sand Fernando Valley Spineflower and reopening of the comment period.

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

July 10: Four individuals charged with various crimes during the 2014 Gold Butte cattle impoundment are scheduled to be re-tried in U.S. District Court, Las Vegas, following the declaration of a mistrial on April 24, 2017. The BLM communications team has and will continue to coordinate with DOI communications on public statements or related materials.

July 10: BLM Natural Resource Specialist Bob Wick will participate on an interagency panel to discuss wildlife management in wilderness at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) annual conference in Vail, CO.

July 10: BLM Local release: the BLM-CO White River Field Office will initiate a 30-day public scoping period for a proposal to develop a 384-mile off-highway vehicle (OHV) route system incorporating mostly existing BLM and county roads. Rio Blanco County submitted the Wagon Wheel West OHV Trail proposal to the BLM to increase trail system-based recreation throughout the county and northwestern Colorado. Recreation on BLM-CO-managed lands generated \$543 million and supported 4,625 jobs in FY 2015.

July 10: BLM-NV will welcome Story House Productions GmbH from Germany, who is filming a mini documentary for German TV at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center on the Wild Horse Inmate Training Program. The film's focus will be how this benefits inmates and prepares them for society.

July 10: The public comment period on the National Monument review will end. BLM-WO staff members are reviewing public comments. In addition, Timothy Fisher, National Lead for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas continues to coordinate with BLM-WO leadership, State Offices, Monument Managers, and the DOI Office of Policy Analysis in preparing the final report on the 18 National Monuments managed by the BLM. This will be ongoing through July and early August.

July 11: BLM Cultural Resources and Law Enforcement program staff will meet with the GAO to discuss looting and trafficking of Native American artifacts. GAO requested the meeting as part of its current focus on looting and trafficking and to follow-up on its prior review of Federal agency compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

July 12: BLM-WY Field Manager Mike Phillips will attend a planning and preparation meeting in Thermopolis, WY, for the Aug. 21, 2017 solar eclipse.

July 13: BLM-WY High Plains District, Buffalo Field Office, and Casper Field Office staff will meet with Converse and Campbell County commissioners to discuss coal and oil and gas conflicts in their respective counties.

July 13: BLM Local Release: BLM-AK Glennallen Field Office will begin issuing Federal subsistence harvest permits for the 2017-2018 moose and caribou hunting seasons. The BLM issues nearly 3,500 Federal subsistence permits annually and provides permitting opportunities to rural residents in Delta Junction, Cantwell, Slana, and Glennallen.

#### **INDIAN AFFAIRS**

TBD: Secretary Zinke Announces Dr. Gavin Clarkson as New DAS-PED for Indian Affairs.

#### **BOEM**

Week of Jul 3: Note to Stakeholders announcing GoM Workshop to be held on July 18.

Jul 12: Press release announcing approval of Eni's Alaska Exploration Plan (assuming the EP is approved).

Jul 13: Press Release on GoM Sale 249 FNOS -- the first Gulf-wide sale and first sale in 2017-2022

July 13/14 (Tent): Press Release announcing 3-party agreement between BOEM, USACE Jacksonville District and Martin County authorizing use of OCS sand resources to rehabilitate the Martin County shoreline damaged by Hurricane Matthew last fall. Note: The USACE needs to have their signed ROD about a week before July 14, so that they can issue the contract for the project.

Jul 19-20 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Jul 26 (TBD): Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.

July TBD: Science Note on several of BOEM's international studies in the Gulf of Mexico, following the March international conference. OPA Sterling coordinated with Gulf Studies Office & Public Affairs, the Office of International Affairs, and partners at NOAA, NSF and Texas A&M. Publication of proceedings expected winter 2017/2018. A follow-on international workshop takes place from July 7 to 15 in Cuba, although BOEM representatives are not attending.

#### **BSEE**

July 14 --News Brief. Readout of BSEE Director Angelle's visit to the Gulf coast including remarks at API Safe Lifting Conference, Houston, TX and Director's accompanying BSEE' inspectors on a well operations inspection offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Social media platforms will be used to amplify News Brief.

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

July 10-12: Congressional Briefing on Federal Columbia River Power System (DC): July 10-12, executive leadership from the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) agencies will brief the Congressional Northwest Delegation on Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Bonneville Power Administration financials, and FCRPS litigation issues. Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Lorri Gray; MG Scott Spellmon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Elliot Mainzer, BPA; and Barry Thom, NOAA Fisheries will conduct the briefings. Closed press but high profile issues.

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

##### **CONGRESSIONAL**

Wednesday, July 12

10:00am: House Natural Resources Committee, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

Oversight Hearing: Examining Offshore Oil and Gas Development

Witness: Katharine MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals

2:30pm: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Legislative Hearing: S.943, Johnson-O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization

Act; S.1223, Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act; S.1285, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act

Witness: Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

Thursday, July 13

10:00am: House Natural Resources Committee, Indian Affairs Subcommittee

Oversight Hearing: Comparing 21st Century Trust Land Acquisition with the Intent of the 73rd Congress in Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act

Witness: Jim Cason, Acting Deputy Secretary

Friday, July 14

9:00am: House Natural Resources Committee, Federal Lands Subcommittee

Legislative Hearing: H.R. 873, Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act; H.R. 2582, Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act; H.R. 1547, Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act.

Witness: TBD

#### **Political Appointee Update**

DOI's politicals on board 44

#### **Speaking Invitations**

Accepted

7/11-12 Annual Farm Bureau Council (State Presidents) (Washington, DC)  
7/12 Cully Stimson Confirmation Hearing Remarks (DC)  
7/13 OMB Reporter Breakfast Briefing (DC)  
7/15-16 Travel to Oregon for Monument Tour - joined by Rep. Walden  
7/19 Western Caucus Foundation's Native American Western Policy Discussion and Reception (DC)  
7/20 Tour with Secretary Perry  
7/22-29 National Monument Review Tour Nevada and New Mexico  
8/5-20 Personal

Outstanding Invitations in Process

7/17 - Blue Dog Coalition (Washington, DC)  
7/20 Roanoke Cement Company Energy Staff Industrial Showcase (Troutville, VA)  
7/21 American Legislative Exchange Council's Annual Meeting (Denver, CO)  
7/22 National Association of Counties Annual Conference (Columbus, OH) (NOTE: declining for S-1 but offering a surrogate)  
7/23 National Boy Scout Jamboree (Glen Jean, WV)  
8/5 - Glacier National Park Conservancy remarks at Annual Backpacker's Ball (Whitefish/Kalispell)  
8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)  
8/22 - 2017 Lake Tahoe Summit invited by Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Heller (Lake Tahoe, CA)  
8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)  
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

Declining

7/9 National Park Travelers Club (Glacier National Park)  
7/12 American Sportfishing Association's International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades (Orlando, FL)  
7/21-23 - Western Conservative Summit (Denver)  
7/23-26 - Aspen Institute Forum on Global Energy, Economy, and Security (Aspen, CO)  
7/31-8/2 - FBI National Academy Associates Annual Training Conference (DC)  
8/2 - American Legion Northwest Regional Baseball Tournament's Opening Ceremony General Welcome (Missoula, MT)  
8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)  
8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)  
8/22-23 - National Wild Horse and Burro Management Summit (Salt Lake City, UT)  
8/24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)

**Emergency Management**

The Hilltop Fire in Arizona (BIA) has burned 23,519 (+3,873) acres and is 5 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 816 (+54) personnel assigned, 321 (+21) of which are DOI personnel. The fire has the potential to cross the Black River/Salt River, which would result in a pre-evacuation notice being issued. Full containment of this fire is expected on July 25.

In Montana, the July Fire (BLM) has burned 9,000 (+6,900) acres and is 25 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 IMT with 189 (+55) personnel, including 51 (+7) DOI personnel. There are 101 (+71) homes threatened, and the fire is expected to be fully contained on July 14. The fire threatens the communities of Zortman and Landusky, as well as the Fort Belknap Reservation.



In Nevada, the Earthstone Fire in Washoe County (BLM) has burned 33,700 (+6,915) acres and is 30 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 IMT with 280 (-13) personnel, including 38 (-2) DOI personnel. Portions of Interstate-80, historic buildings, the Paiute Gas Line, and radio and communication sites are threatened. Full containment is expected on July 10.

The Truckee Fire in Washoe County, NV, has burned 83,400 (+12,854) acres and is 35 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-2 IMT with 158 (-14) personnel, including 48 (+21) DOI personnel. Full containment is expected on July 9.

The Dry Gulch Fire in Elko County, NV, (BLM) has burned 28,000 (+26,000) acres and is 0 (-60)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-3 IMT with 231 (+167) personnel, including 60 (+26) DOI personnel. One responder injury was reported during this operational period, and managers are requesting additional resources, including heavy air tankers. The fire is expected to be contained on July 13.

The Brianhead Fire in Utah has burned 69,568 (+1,161) acres and is 75 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 1,073 (-259) personnel assigned, 285 (-8) of which are DOI personnel. There are currently 1,562 (no change) evacuees and 100 (no change) residential structures threatened. There have been 28 (+1) responder injuries reported to date. Great Basin Team 7 will take command on July 9, and full containment is expected on July 15.

#### **Outside Media of Interest**

##### **Interior Aims To Speed Oil And Gas Permitting On Public Lands With 30-Day Reviews.**

The Washington Post (7/6, Grandoni, Eilperin) reports that as part of the Administration efforts “to loosen restrictions on the fossil fuel industry,” Interior Secretary Zinke “issued an order on Thursday designed to speed up the permitting process for drilling.” The goal is for the Bureau of Land Management to process applications within 30 days. Zinke said in a statement, “As is outlined in this order, we will look at ways to improve the process and make sure regulations serve their intended purpose rather than create a mountain of useless paperwork.” However, it isn’t clear that the move will increase domestic energy production. Not only does “the vast majority of onshore oil and gas production” occur on private and state land, but companies aren’t producing on leases they already hold. According to the Wilderness Society, only “12.7 million acres of public land of the 27 million acres currently under lease were in production during fiscal 2016.” The AP (7/6, Gruver) reports the Interior Department found that the average wait for oil and gas companies is 257 days, while backlogs in Wyoming and Utah have topped 500. Zinke promised that the National Environmental Policy Act would still be upheld, but that some regulations restrict energy development that could be made more environmentally friendly. Zinke said, “We’re going to be a fair and prudent partner, but we’re not going to be an adversary to creating wealth and opportunity on some of our public lands.” The Washington Examiner (7/6, Siciliano) reports the Interior Department recorded a total of 2,802 applications for drilling permits that still await action.

##### **Interior’s Inbox Fills With Comments On National Monuments Review.**

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (7/6, Brean) reports that “more than 1.1 million public comments have poured in so far on the Trump administration’s review and possible rollback of national monuments in Nevada and elsewhere.” The Interior Department will “accept public input through Monday as part of its review of 22 national monuments created or expanded by presidential decree since Jan. 1, 1996.” President Trump has given Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “until Aug. 24 to recommend possible action to

scale back or eliminate any monuments deemed too large or too restrictive to public access or economic development.” The article adds that “five marine national monuments in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are also under review in a separate but related process for which public comment deadline is July 26.”

*REI Asks Customers To Challenge Zinke Over Public Lands Review...*

*It's Magical Legal Thinking To Say Trump Can't Reverse Obama's National Monuments...*

*Connelly: Senators Tell Trump – Hands Off Our Monuments....*

*Op-ed: Creation Of Bears Ears National Monument Was A Response To Years Of Grave-Robbing....*

*Op-ed: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Has Been Good For The Community Of Kanab....*

### **The Energy 202: The One Issue Where Trump Is Standing Up To Russia.**

The Washington Post (7/6) reports that “on Wednesday the Interior Department posted the schedule of its secretary, Ryan Zinke, for May online.” The article says that “continuing a pattern that defined his first two months in office, Zinke held several more meetings with oil and gas representatives than with conservation groups, while increasing his overall number of tribal consultations.” Zinke also “video-conferenced with representatives from two longtime GOP allies, the National Rifle Association and the National Association of Home Builders.” Two conservation groups Zinke “met with in May were the Land Trust Alliance and the Partnership of Rangeland Trust.”

### **15 AGs Urge Court To Uphold Congressional Review Act.**

Law360 (7/6, Boysen) reports that “the Republican attorneys general of 15 states piled onto a suit that challenges the constitutionality of a regulation rollback law, the Congressional Review Act, on Wednesday, telling an Alaskan federal court the law is perfectly constitutional and urging it to toss the suit and ‘preserve this important procedural tool.’” The suit was brought in April by the environmental nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity against Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “after Congress used the CRA to repeal rules.”

### **Tribes Close In On Federal Recognition.**

The Newport News (VA) Daily Press (7/6, Williams) reports that “six Virginia Indian tribes that have petitioned for federal recognition are a few congressional votes away from their goal.” The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, “the bill that would grant these tribes federal recognition, passed in the House of Representatives on May 17.” The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs “must consider the legislation before the full upper house can vote on it.”

### **Feds Approve Transmission Line Across The River Near Historic Jamestown.**

The Washington Post (7/6, Schneider) reports the US Army Corps of Engineers has granted its final approval for Dominion Energy’s proposed Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line, which has faced opposition from environmentalists and historians that fear the project will mar the view from historic Jamestown. For its part, Dominion Energy says the transmission line is needed to ensure reliability for the Peninsula after environmental regulations force the shutdown of the utility’s two coal-burning units in Yorktown. Dominion Energy spokeswoman Bonita Billingsley Harris said of the approval, “We believe the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has done a diligent and thorough review.” The article mentions that Dominion Energy has “agreed to take steps to limit the environmental impact” and to use “a design that uses the fewest towers possible and to paint them in a way that minimizes their appearance.”

### **Amelia Earhart Mystery: Newly Found Photo Could Prove The Pilot Lived—and Was Captured By The Japanese.**

Newsweek (7/5, Glum) reports that flight pioneer Amelia Earhart “vanished in 1937 while trying to fly around the world.” Now, “almost exactly 80 years later, there may be a new development in her disappearance.” Experts said “they believe a recently uncovered photo from the National Archives shows Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan the same year the aviators went missing, the Today Show reported exclusively on Wednesday.” The photo is “labeled ‘Jaluit Atoll,’ which is the name of an area in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, and displays the Japanese ship Koshu as it moves a 38-foot-long item.”

Additional coverage was provided by the History Channel (7/5, Pruitt).

#### **Federal Register Listings**

No items were cleared for the FR on Thursday.

#### **WOLF TRAP**

Tickets in the Secretary’s box available. Please share with WH staff.

7-9-17	Neil Gaiman	8:00 PM
7-14-17	Puccini's Tosca	8:30 PM
7-15-17	The Tenors	8:15 PM
7-18-17	Mamma Mia	8:00 PM