

**To:** Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov  
**Sent:** 2017-12-29T15:11:06-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Daily Briefing Book 12.18.17  
**Received:** 2017-12-29T15:11:14-05:00  
[Daily Schedule 12.18.17.docx](#)  
[12-18-17 Meeting with Secretary Zinke and NCAI \(1\).pdf](#)  
[December 2017.docx](#)  
[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 12-15-17.docx](#)

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

From: **Bullock, Wesley** <wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov>  
Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2017 at 6:54 PM  
Subject: Daily Briefing Book 12.18.17  
To: David Bernhardt (b)(6) [REDACTED]@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel  
<scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Argo <michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Cason <james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <Laura\_Rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov>, cdr06@ios.doi.gov, Todd Willens <todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Renner, Elinor" <elinor\_renner@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Wynn <todd\_wynn@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Thiele <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Getto, Leila" <leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Roddy <russell\_rodny@ios.doi.gov>

All,

Attached below is the Secretary's daily schedule and briefing book for Monday, December 18, 2017.

**Monday, December 18, 2017**

9:00 AM - Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting  
Staff: Rigas, Argo

9:45 AM - Meeting with Secretary Mnuchin  
Staff: Hommel

10:00 AM - Meeting with USGS  
Staff: Deputy Secretary, Willens, Magallanes, Travnicsek, Werkheiser, Applegate

10:30 AM - Meeting with IG Office  
Staff: Not Staffed

12:30 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff  
Staff: Hommel

2:00 PM - National Security Strategy Event  
Staff: Roddy

2:30 PM - Interview with Albuquerque Journal  
Staff: Swift

4:00 PM - Meeting with National Congress American Indians

Staff: Tahsuda, Cason, Magallanes

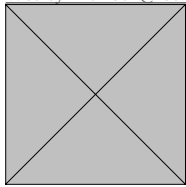
Any updated scheduling changes and briefing documents will be provided first thing Monday morning.  
Tomorrow's attire is Business.

Thanks you,

Luke

--

**Wesley Luke Bullock**  
U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
(202) 208 4894 Office  
(202) 897 7225 Cell  
[Wesley\\_Bullock@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Wesley_Bullock@ios.doi.gov)



This electronic message contains information generated by the US Department of the Interior solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/15/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

**THIS WEEK:**

- 12/15 DC – Internal Meetings
- 12/16 DC – Participate in National Wreaths Across America Day at Arlington Memorial Cemetery

**NEXT WEEK:**

- 12/18 DC – Meeting with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin
  - National Security Strategy Event at Reagan Building
  - Interview with Mike Coleman, Albuquerque Journal
  - Meeting with National Congress of American Indians
- 12/19 DC – Meeting with Senator Ted Cruz
  - TENT. Meeting with Education Secretary DeVos
- 12/20 DC – Cabinet Meeting
- 12/21 DC – Internal Meetings
- 12/22 CA – Personal Day

NOTE: The Secretary will be away on personal travel 12/22-1/5.

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Regulatory Reform Task Force Meeting at EEOB
- Meeting with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

**WH COMMS REPORT**

N/A

**AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/14)**

**WEEK AHEAD December 13 thru December 21, 2017**

Announcements/Releases/Events

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews*

- **December 18-22:** Rollout of our 2017 DOI accomplishments.
- **December 20:** release Secretary's Holiday/Christmas video to employees.
- **December 19:** TBD POTUS signing an EO on Critical Minerals. If that happens, we propose releasing the USGS study on Dec. 18 and having the SO signed by the Secretary on Dec. 20. Updated Comms materials are forthcoming.
- **December 21:** Secretary Zinke would like to sign the King Cove agreement (AK). POTUS request in process. Materials are forthcoming.

**National Park Service**

- **December 15: Local NPS Release:** California Department of General Services will release a state Environmental Impact Report for the relocation of a communication site; which includes as one of several alternatives placement on Rodgers Peak in Redwood National Park. This would require NPS issuance of a right-of-way permit to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Cal OES

will hold public meetings in Arcata on January 10 and in Klamath on January 11. The 45-day public comment period ends January 29, 2018.

- **December 15 (tent): Local NPS Release:** Golden Gate National Recreation Area will complete the Record of Decision for the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The selected alternative will rehabilitate historic structures for visitor use and ferry operations at Pier 31½ in San Francisco, supporting a commercial services concession that will begin in 2019.
- **December 18: National NPS Release:** NPS will announce of availability of \$5 million in grants to support the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections through the Save America's Treasures program. Program is funded through the Historic Preservation Fund.
- **December 18: Local NPS Release:** Arches National Park will announce a new extended deadline to submit comments on the park's Traffic Congestion Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The park released the EA for public comments on Nov. 1, and announced the extension on Nov. 30. The plan proposes a reservation system for entrance during peak visitation season and peak visitation hours, and would take effect spring 2019. This system would give visitors certainty of entry, reduce or eliminate long entrance lines, spread visitation more evenly across the day, and improve the visitor experience by ensuring available parking space.
- **December 19: Local NPS Release:** Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is slated to acquire approximately 2,494 acres within the boundary of the park. The tracks (01-147A, 01-148A and 01-151A) were acquired by The Conservation Fund in March 2016 on behalf of the NPS in anticipation of funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The tracks include a much-needed water source for the park along with other water rights and well permits.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **December 15 (tent): Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to publish in the Federal Register a draft 10-year General Conservation Plan (GCP) for Utah prairie dogs. Conservation plans such as the Utah prairie dog GCP are developed to allow for incidental take permit authorization for species listed under the ESA. The overall goal of the Utah prairie dog GCP is to reconcile prairie dog conservation with the development needs of local communities in southwest and southcentral Utah, and compensate for impacts to Utah prairie dogs.
- **December 15 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a proposed listing determination for the Yangtze sturgeon, located in China. While there is no expected opposition to this determination, aquacultural businesses and countries including China may be concerned that the potential listing of this species will have an impact on other species that are traded internationally, such as the Amur sturgeon.
- **December 19: National Joint Release:** FWS, NOAA and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (the Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees) will release an injury determination report that concludes PCBs released by General Electric have caused repeated and prolonged exceedances of state and federal water quality standards and contaminated surface water resources of the Hudson River for decades. The report is the latest demonstration of the Trustees' measurement of natural resource injuries from General Electric's release of PCBs to the Hudson River from its manufacturing facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, New York. The Trustees are planning coordinated outreach through a joint news release and Congressional notifications.

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

- **December 18: Local BLM Release:** The BLM-NV Ely District Caliente Field Office will offer to the public through a competitive sale three parcels of public land totaling 165.92 acres located adjacent to Hiko and Alamo, in Lincoln County, Nevada. Bidding on the sale parcels will begin at appraised fair market value.

- **December 18:** There will be a public open house to discuss BLM-CO's proposed expansion of the C&J Gravel pit near Durango, Colorado. C&J Gravel is one of the few pits in the region containing materials that meet standards for federal and state projects. If approved, the operation would expand by 46 acres and extend the life of the gravel pit up to 19 years.
- **December 19-20:** The BLM-WY High Plains District Office and its field managers will be traveling to Spearfish, South Dakota, to consult the Rosebud, Cheyenne River, Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, Crow, Oglala, Spirit Lake, Eastern Shoshone and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes. Steven Wright, BLM-WY assistant district manager for solid minerals, will discuss the West Antelope 3 Lease BY Application. Lonny Bagley, BLM-WY Buffalo field manager, will discuss the Crossbow Oil and Gas EIS with the tribe. Chris Durham, Acting BLM Casper field manager, will consult on the Converse County EIS. Rick Miller, BLM Field Manager in Newcastle, will discuss several smaller issues of interest to the tribes. The meeting is not controversial.
- **December 21: Local BLM Release:** BLM-UT will release the June 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Sale EA for a 30-day public comment period. A total of four parcels comprised of 3,788 acres were nominated for potential leasing on lands managed by the Color Country District. The comment period closes January 23, 2018.

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

- **December 20 (tent.): National USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release to provide an Updated Estimate of Conventional Oil and Gas Resources in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and adjacent lands and waters. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Land Management are partners.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **December 13 (tent.):** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS.

#### **Land Buy Back Program**

- **December 20 (tent.): National LBBP Release:** The LBBP will issue a release on the 2017 Status Report to Indian Country and General national audience.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/11)**

**DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Joe Balash (A/S Land & Minerals) was confirmed last week with bipartisan support. Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017 and is waiting for a vote. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing was held on 12/5/17. The business meeting to move him forward will be 12/12/17

**Contact:** John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

#### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board 65

5 PAS confirmed as of 12/7/17

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Senate floor vote: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 5 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

**SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)  
1/22 – Alaska Federation of Natives - Challenges at America’s Northernmost Border  
2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)  
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)  
Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)  
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/12-13 – Montana Outfitters and Guides Association Winter Convention (Helena, MT)  
1/13 – Battle of Cowpens 237<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event  
1/23-26 National Shooting and Sports Foundation Annual SHOT Show (Las Vegas, NV)  
1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)  
1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)  
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)  
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)  
2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)  
1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)  
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)  
2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:**

OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate efforts with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to assess the removal and salvage of displaced vessels throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Florida. USFWS personnel are providing best practices and technical assistance in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, while NPS is providing archaeological resource monitoring services for certain vessels in Florida.

An interagency team consisting of personnel from the NPS, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Smithsonian, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have deployed under a FEMA Mission Assignment to provide assistance to the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and General Archives. This mission is expected to be completed by December 16.

Under a FEMA Mission Assignment and through coordination with OEPC and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a six-person NPS team (comprised of archaeologists and historic structure specialists) continues to assist the State Historic Preservation Office of Puerto Rico with damage assessments and is providing technical assistance on National Register Properties eligible for the National Register. This mission is expected to continue until December 23.

Three OEPC Field Coordinators (1 in Texas, 2 in Florida) have completed Mission Scoping Assessments for both states and draft recovery strategies have been completed for Texas. NPS has provided two additional personnel to support OEPC efforts in Texas. Field Coordinators are also deployed to Puerto Rico (1 OEPC, 1 USFWS) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (1 OEPC, 1 NPS). Their efforts are currently focused on developing recovery strategies for both territories. OEPC Field Coordinators are also working with NPS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to investigate damage to coral reef sites.

DOI has 23 employees supporting the Small Business Administration (SBA). The group is comprised of volunteers from BIA, BLM, BOEM, BOR, USFWS, IBC, NPS, ONRR, and USGS. The Office of Emergency Management is working with the SBA to deploy additional personnel as needed.

**Internal bureau and office-specific Hurricane response and recovery activities:**

Effective December 12, commercial power was restored to the USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. This ended an almost 90-day stretch without commercial power that began with the landfall of Hurricane Maria on September 20. USGS continues to work with GSA to assess long-term impacts to the facility.

**Wildfire Activity – California:**

A CAL Fire Engineer from the San Diego Unit was fatally injured yesterday on the Thomas Fire. The details of the incident are still under review and additional information will be provided as they are verified. The Thomas Fire (being managed by CAL Fire) in southern California has burned approximately 249,500 (+11,000) acres and is 35-percent (+5) contained. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 8,316 (+233) personnel assigned, including 177 (+17) DOI personnel. The fire continues to threaten multiple critical habitats in the area and is burning on some BLM land parcels. USBR reports that fire activity has surrounded the Lake Casitas Dam and Reservoir, which is operated by a non-USBR entity. Red Flag Warnings for portions of Ventura and Los Angeles counties are set to expire this morning; however, Santa Ana winds are in the forecast over the weekend and the potential for extreme fire behavior will remain. Full containment of this fire has been pushed back from December 24 to January 7.

USGS is coordinating with FEMA, other federal partners, and state agencies on post-fire data collection and assessments. They do not have any impacts to their facilities, stream gages, or field instruments in the area to report at this time.

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**

**Thousands Of Interior Dept. Employees Report Harassment And Intimidation At Work.**

The New York Times (12/14, Cochrane) reports that around 35 percent of 30,000 Interior Department employees who responded to a recent department-wide survey “reported that they had experienced harassment or intimidation at work.” Over “85 percent of those employees said they had to continue to interact with the person responsible for the mistreatment.” Additionally, “8 percent of employees reported sexual harassment, 20 percent reported negative treatment based on their age and 16 percent based on their sex.”

The AP (12/14, DALY, BROWN) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Park Service reported the most incidents, with 40 percent of BIA workers and 39 percent of parks workers reporting some form of harassment.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement Thursday he has “zero tolerance for any type of workplace harassment,” adding that he has directed agency heads to move quickly “to improve accountability and transparency with regard to this absolutely intolerable behavior.”

CNN (12/14, Green) reports that “Zinke said that he has already fired ‘a number of predators,’ actions he said previous administrations were too scared to take.” He said, “From day one, I made it

clear that I have zero tolerance for any type of workplace harassment, and I have directed leadership across the entire Department to move rapidly to improve accountability and transparency with regard to this absolutely intolerable behavior. All employees have the right to work in a safe and harassment-free environment. I've already fired a number of predators who other administrations were too afraid to remove or just turned a blind eye to. Under my leadership we don't protect predators. When I say 'zero tolerance' I mean that these people will be held accountable for their abhorrent actions."

The Hill (12/14, Cama) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt "also blamed the Obama administration for not taking care of the problem." Bernhardt said in a statement, "The previous administration failed to aggressively address these problems and it shows. The culture across the department will change." Bernhardt "asked each bureau within the department to submit plans within 45 days to address the findings, Interior said."

#### **Conservation Group Launches \$1M Ad Campaign Hitting Trump Monument Decision.**

The Hill (12/14, Henry) reported that the "conservation group" Western Values Project "is launching a \$1 million television and radio advertisement campaign targeting three House Republicans over President Trump's decision to shrink monument protections in Utah." The spots target "Reps. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) and Martha McSally (R-Ariz.). The ads tell viewers about Trump's executive order shrinking the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, and highlights potential public land policy changes in the three states it is set to air in. The group calls on viewers to tell "the GOP lawmakers "to 'stop the attacks on public lands because your American birthright is not for sale.'"

#### **Bennet Backs BLM Move To Western State.**

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (12/14, Harmon) reports that "moving the Bureau of Land Management headquarters out of Washington, D.C., has the conditional support" of Sen. Michael Bennet. His office said in a statement that Bennet could support any move out of DC "as long as the move is more than symbolic and includes resources to better manage our public lands."

#### **Dam Construction Bill Puts Washington Senator In Tough Spot.**

Bloomberg BNA (12/14, Schultz) reports that House Republicans are pushing "a years-in-the-making bill that would speed up federal approvals of dam projects in the West," and, "in doing so, they could also force Pacific Northwest Democrats into a tough spot." According to the article, "for years, Republicans have been trying to pass legislation that would put a cap on the amount of money and time the Bureau of Reclamation can spend studying the environmental impact of proposed dam projects." However, "these bills have always been thwarted in the Senate by a united Democratic opposition, led primarily by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)." This time, however, the legislation's "backers have a trick up their sleeve: They've added a measure to the legislation that would give the green light to a \$737 million water resources project in Cantwell's home state, a project she's been championing for years." But "Cantwell said the Republicans' tactics won't work on her."

#### **Here's What Oil Drilling Looks Like In The Arctic Refuge, 30 Years Later.**

The New York Times (12/15, Fountain) reports that "satellite images of a small part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge show the site of what, so far, is the only oil well ever drilled in the refuge, an exploratory well known as KIC-1 that was completed in the mid-1980s." The well was "plugged and abandoned, and the drilling equipment and a special timber pad it sat on have long since been removed," but "even after three decades, the well's footprint — about 600 feet long on its longest side — is easily distinguishable from the undisturbed tundra around it." The drillers "took care to protect the



tundra,” but “KIC-1 shows how even when care is taken, the delicate landscape of northern Alaska can be damaged by drilling activities, and that the damage can persist.”

#### **US And Canada Struggle With Status Of Grizzly Bears.**

Courthouse News (12/14, Lundquist) reports that “at its year-end meeting this week, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee reviewed the status of six Northwestern grizzly bear populations and discussed what’s needed for the species to recover over the next five years.” The binational committee “recently oversaw the process of delisting the Yellowstone subpopulation of grizzly bears after the population had reached the goals of 500 bears total and 48 females with cubs.” Grizzly Bear Study Team ecologist Frank Van Manen was “fairly confident Wednesday that the Yellowstone population was doing fine, estimating that the population has grown to 718 grizzlies bears, including 57 females with cubs.”

***Wolf Decision Could Undermine Plan To Remove Grizzly Bears From Endangered List.*** The Helena (MT) Independent Record (12/14, Chaney) reports that “an appeals court ruling in a federal lawsuit challenging how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed Great Lakes gray wolves from the Endangered Species Act list could unravel plans to delist grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.” FWS grizzly recovery coordinator Hillary Cooley said during a meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee in Missoula on Tuesday, “We had put our final delisting rule out in July and within a week we got the court opinion. The Great Lakes wolves were listed for the entire Lower 48 states, and then they carved out a DPS (Distinct Population Segment) and tried to delist them. That’s what we’ve done with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, as well, so we thought we should take a look.”

***U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Requests Public Comment On Yellowstone Grizzly Delisting.*** Wyoming Public Radio (12/14, Kudelska) reports that “federal officials are reviewing the June decision to take grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem off the endangered species list.” The FWS will “review how the delisting of grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem could affect the bear’s population in its historical range throughout the lower 48.”

#### **Palau Compact Renewed But Awaits Funding Approval.**

The Guam Daily Post (12/14) reports that “after years of delay, the Compact agreement between Palau and the United States has finally been renewed, but approval of the funds promised in the agreement is still pending.” The Palau Compact was included in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that President Trump signed into law Wednesday in Washington. Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech said, “Finalization of this agreement with Palau is long overdue. We look forward to final action from Congress to provide the appropriations necessary to finalize this important U.S. government commitment to Palau.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “underscored the need to approve the funding, saying, ‘it’s an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region.’”

#### **FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

REG0007268 BLM Final Supplementary Rules for Guffey Gorge in Park County, Colorado -- The BLM announces supplementary rules to regulate certain activities on public lands within Guffey Gorge in Park County, Colorado. The supplementary rules implement the Guffey Gorge Management Plan approved in June 2015 to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources within the 80-acre site. Final Rule 12/14/2017

REG0007641 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Non-Competitive (Direct) Sale of Public Land in Santa Barbara County, CA -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to sell 5.93 acres of

public land in Santa Barbara County, California, to Arc Vineyards, LLC, to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized use and occupancy. The BLM requests comments over 45 days. Notice 12/14/2017

REG0007656 FWS Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Sand Skink; Lennar Corporation, Orange County, FL -- Lennar Corporation has requested a permit for take of the federally threatened sand skink incidental to the planned construction of residential development in Orange County, Florida. Notice 12/14/2017



**United States Department of the Interior**  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**DATE:** December, 18, 2017                      **TIME:** 4:00-4:45  
**FROM:** John Tahsuda, Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting with President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)  
**DOI Staff Participating:** James Cason, John Tahsuda, and Downey Magallanes

---

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Jefferson Keel, the newly-elected President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), has requested an opportunity to introduce himself to the Secretary and raise a few issues that are priorities for him and the organization he represents.

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

- Jefferson Keel, President of NCAI and Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation
- Jacqueline Pata, Executive Director of NCAI
- Denise Desiderio, Policy Director, NCAI

**III. BACKGROUND**

NCAI is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization in the country. They are recipients of numerous federal grants, and are actively consulted on range of issues impacting Indian Country. We expect Lt. Gov. Keel to focus on three issues: Self-Governance, Land-to-Trust, and the streamlining of law enforcement funding.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

**A. Biography of Lt. Gov. Keel**

Jefferson Keel is serving his fifth term as Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was elected the 22nd President of NCAI in October 2017, a position he previously held from 2010-2013. Lt. Gov. Keel has served on a number of national boards and committees, including Congressionally-established Indian Law and Order Commission, the Department of the Interior's Tribal-Interior Budget Council, the Department of Health and Human Services' Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, and the Department of Justice's Tribal Justice Advisory Group.

Lt. Gov. Keel retired from the U.S. Army in 1989 as a Captain (prior enlisted) and is a combat veteran with service in Vietnam. Lt. Gov. Keel's awards include a Bronze Star with "V" device and a Purple Heart for wounds sustained during the Tet offensive. Lt. Gov. Keel's nephew, Benjamin Keel, was on the Trump Administration's landing team at the Department of the Interior and is currently serving as a political appointee in the Department of Agriculture.

## **B. Chickasaw Nation**

The Chickasaw Nation is located in southern Oklahoma, with homelands originally in western Tennessee and northern Mississippi. The Tribe currently has 50,000 enrolled members and operates a number of tribal enterprises, which include over 20 gaming facilities.

## **C. Self-Governance**

Self-Governance is a significant component of how the BIA now meets the needs of Indian Country. Essentially, the tribes provide services the BIA would otherwise provide, and utilize the BIA budget to accomplish a more efficient and effective operation of the programs at the local level. 2018 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Self Governance Act, and IA is planning to commemorate that occasion with an effort to re-invigorate the program, which was left moribund by the prior administration.

Of note, the Chickasaw Nation has almost completely taken over the BIA programs (and IHS programs) on their reservation through Self Governance. They are a notable success of the program.

## **D. Land-to-Trust**

Potential Off-Reservation Fee-to-Trust Regulation Revisions: Acting AS-AI Tahsuda recently issued a Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing a new schedule for consultations to discuss potential changes to the fee-to-trust regulations, to occur in January and February 2018. Indian Affairs (IA) had initially issued a letter and scheduled consultations on a "Consultation Draft" of revisions. Based on input received at the listening session we had at NCAI's conference in October, IA took a step back to reassess that Consultation Draft and instead focus on consulting on broader questions posed in the December Dear Tribal Leader Letter about what Tribes believe is the most appropriate criteria, process, and program goals for taking land into trust. Those consultations will take place over January and February of 2018. IA looks forward to input from NCAI and its member Tribes on those questions.

On-Reservation Fee-to-Trust Regulations: IA has not proposed any changes to the on-reservation Fee-to-Trust regulations. In fact, IA has taken steps to publicly discuss the Secretary's support for tribal land acquisitions within reservations as a critically important policy for economic development, new housing, and health care facilities.

New Ideas on Indian Lands: As an alternative to Land-in-Trust, Congressman Don Young has introduced an alternative of Indian "fee" lands to reduce federal regulatory burdens. IA has testified in support of this idea, as a voluntary alternative to Land-in-Trust.

## **E. Reorganization of the Department**

Reorganization of the Department of the Interior: IA held several listening sessions on behalf of the Department to obtain Tribes' input on President Trump's Executive Order 13871 on reorganizing the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. AS-IA invited Tribes to the

listening sessions by Dear Tribal Leader letter dated May 16, 2017. The sessions were identified as “listening sessions” rather than formal consultation sessions because of the short timeframe (less than 30 days) before several of the scheduled sessions and because Interior did not yet have a proposed reorganization plan on which to consult. A total of 265 Tribal representatives attended the seven listening sessions, and we received 28 written comment submissions addressing: the consultation process, the goals of reorganization, implementation of reorganization, funding, agency structure, BIA, OST, BIE, Regional/Agency offices, streamlining NEPA, and other miscellaneous topics. We are currently reviewing those comments and working with the Department to schedule a round of formal Tribal consultations once a draft proposal is prepared.

Status of the Office of the Special Trustee of American Indians (OST): The Department recently held two Tribal consultations by teleconference on the potential for moving OST's functions under the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (it is currently housed directly under the Secretary of the Interior). Additionally, the OST's appraisal function is being moved to the Office of Valuation Services (OVS) in the Department, in accordance with the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA). Because these activities fall under ITARA, they are currently being handled independently of the rest of the reorganization effort.

#### **F. Streamline Public Safety Funding Mechanisms**

Currently, base funding for tribal courts, law enforcement, and detention is provided through the BIA. Additional funding is provided through the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services under a series of competitive grants. Moreover funding for prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment programs are located at IHS, SAMHSA, and elsewhere within the Dept. of Health and Human Services. These ad hoc systems of year-to-year funding from BIA, but annual competitive grants from the other agencies significantly complicate tribes' efforts to establish comprehensive public safety agencies. The tribes would like the Administration to consult with tribes to develop a proposal what would streamline tribal public safety funding into a single funding vehicle that would be negotiated on an annual basis and made more flexible to meet local needs. They believe DOI should take the lead on this effort.

#### **V. TALKING POINTS/REMARK**

Sovereignty mean something!

SOI strongly supports the Self Governance policy and its program application, as local control and decision making leads to more efficient and effective service delivery.

SOI strongly supports tribal control of land use as the most effective way to improve reservation economics and healthy communities.

Effective tribal public safety is the best way to insure safe and healthy tribal communities.

DOI is committed to tribal consultation as one effective way to meet DOI's government to government responsibilities.

~ December 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 8:45a-11:45a Remarks and Participation at National Wreaths Across America Day
17	18 9a-9:30a Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting 9:45a-10a Courtesy Meeting with Sec. Mnuchin 10a-10:30a USGS Meeting 10:30a-12:30p IG Interview 12p-1p Lunch 1p-1:30p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff 1:30p-1:45p Depart DOI en route to Reagan Building 2p-3p National Security Strategy Event 3p-3:15p Depart Reagan Building en route to DOI 3:30p-4p Print Interview with Mike Coleman, Albuquerque Journal 4p-4:45p Meeting with National Congress of American Indians 5p-6:30p Hold for Lincoln Tour	19 9a-9:30a Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting 9:30a-10a Hold for possible media interview (by phone) 10a-11a Monthly Meeting with Doug Domenech AS, Insular Affairs 11a-12p Monthly Meeting with BIA/John Tahsuda 12p-1p Lunch 1p-2p Politicals Meeting 1:30p-2:30p Meeting with Senator Cruz 2:30p-3p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff 3p-4p Hold for possible Meeting with Sec. Devos 4:30p-6p Hold for Lincoln Tour	20 9a-9:30a Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting 9:30a-11a Bi-Weekly Meeting with Assistant Secretaries, Directors, & Advisors 10:30a-10:45a Depart DOI en route to the White House 11a-12p Cabinet Meeting 12p-12:15p Depart White House en route to DOI 12p-1p Lunch 1p-1:30p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff 1:30p-2p Weekly Meeting with Dan Jorjani/Solicitor's Office 2p-2:30p Meet and Greet with Christina Summers and Jonathan (8 year old nephew) 2:30p-3:30p Monthly meeting with ASFWP/Jason Larrabee 3:30p-4p Hold for possible media interviews 4:30p-6p Hold for Lincoln Tour (for WH Press Office)	21 9a-9:30a Daily Scheduling & Communications Meeting 9:30a-10a HOLD: Senior Staff Updates 10a-10:30a Weekly Meeting with Deputy Secretary 10:30a-11a Weekly Meeting with Lori 11a-12p Monthly Meeting with ASPMB/Scott Cameron 12p-1p Lunch 1p-1:30p Hold for possible media interviews 1:30p-2p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff 2p-4:30p Hold for Alaska 4:30p-6p Hold for Lincoln Tour	22 Doggy Day Personal Travel // Christmas 9:10a-3:16p Flight	23 Personal Travel // Christmas

~ December 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>24</b> Personal Travel // Christmas	<b>25</b> Personal Travel // Christmas 12p-1p Lunch 1:30p-2p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff	<b>26</b> Personal Travel // Christmas 12p-1p Lunch 1p-2p Politicals Meeting 2p-2:30p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff	<b>27</b> Personal Travel // Christmas 12p-1p Lunch 1:30p-2p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff	<b>28</b> Personal Travel // Christmas 10:30a-11a Weekly Meeting with Lori 12p-1p Lunch 1:30p-2p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff	<b>29</b> Personal Travel // Christmas 12p-1p Lunch 1:30p-2p Secretary's Daily Meeting with the Chief of Staff	<b>30</b> Personal Travel // Christmas
<b>31</b> Personal Travel // Christmas	<b>Notes:</b>					

## Monday, December 18, 2017

<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Secretary's Daily Scheduling and Communications Meeting</b> Location: Secretary's Office <i>Staff: Rigas, Argo</i>
<b>9:45am</b>	<b>Courtesy Meeting with Secretary Mnuchin</b> Location: Secretary's Office <i>Staff: Hommel</i>
<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Meeting with the U.S. Geological Survey</b> Location: Secretary's Conference Room <i>Staff: Deputy Secretary, Willens, Magallanes, Travnicek, Howke, Werkheiser, Applegate</i>
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Meeting with Office of the Inspector General</b> Location: Secretary's Office
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Secretary's Daily Meeting with Chief of Staff</b> Location: Secretary's Office <i>Staff: Hommel</i>
<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>National Security Strategy Event</b> Location: Reagan Building
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Interview with the Albuquerque Journal; Mike Coleman</b> Location: Secretary's Office <i>Staff: Swift</i>
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Meeting with National Congress of American Indians</b> Location: Secretary's Office <i>Staff: Tahsuda, Magallanes, Cason</i>
<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>HOLD for Staff Lincoln Memorial Tours</b> Location: Lincoln Memorial <i>Staff: Thiele, Bullock, Roddy</i>