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INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

Springfield (MO) News-Leader: Interior Secretary swims with the sharks at WOW

"Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke went scuba diving with sharks Wednesday at Wonders of Wildlife. A group of fifth-grade students gasped when a curious Goliath grouper swam close to Zinke, before being shooed away by other divers. 'He's ticklish,' Zinke joked."

Deseret (UT) News: National parks to waive entrance fees Sept. 30 for National Public Lands Day

"The National Park Service will offer free admission to parks across the country Saturday, Sept. 30, as part of National Public Lands Day. The fee-free day offers a great opportunity to visit a new place or an old favorite, especially one of the national parks that normally charge an entrance fee. The fee waiver includes entrance fees, commercial tour fees and transportation entrance fees. Other fees — such as reservation, camping, tours, concessions and fees collected by third parties — are not included unless stated otherwise."

Alaska Public Radio: Interior official says Trump administration has the 'guts' to allow oil exploration in ANWR

"During a speech in Anchorage today, top Interior Department official Vincent DeVito said kick-starting oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR, is a priority for the Trump administration."

TOP LINES FROM VINCENT'S SPEECH

- "The untapped potential of ANWR is significant. But it is the Trump administration that had the guts to step up to the plate and facilitate production," Vincent DeVito, the Interior Department's Counselor for Energy Policy, told a conference for ocean researchers in Anchorage today.
- "It is time to use NPR-A how it was originally intended to be used," DeVito said. "This is land that is supposed to be used for oil production. But many politicians — not Secretary Zinke — and exuberant interest groups basically took it offline."

The Daily Advertiser (LA): Angelle: Scrap 'energy independent'; U.S. can dominate

"Scott Angelle says Americans have never seen such rapid shifts in the energy industry's winds. The country has seen energy scarcity and energy abundance, high and low commodity prices, rigid regulations and a bounty of opportunities. Accent those opportunities."

TOP LINES FROM SCOTT'S SPEECH

- "The country can find its energy vision by not settling for the 1980s goal of energy independence," said Angelle. "We're seeking energy dominance."
- "One-hundred percent of the people in this room enjoy the beach, clean air, a morning hunt or walking in the park," he said. "I refuse to believe this group cares less about the environment than others."

- "We can't afford to have capital decisions made because of slow action by the government," he said. "When all of us are standing in line too long, we give up."
- "We are competing with Mexico for capital dollars," he said. "Congratulations to them for competing. ... We did not have to compete with them five years ago."
- "BSEE is clearly moving from creating hardships to creating partnerships, from an era of isolation to an era of cooperation," he said.

CORRECTING THE RECORD:

Salt Lake Tribune: Frustrated tribal leaders wonder if Bears Ears is a national monument in name only

"Should the president contract the Bears Ears' boundaries, the fate of the monument would remain unresolved because the tribes and other groups vow to file lawsuits. They believe presidents may create monuments using the Antiquities Act, but they don't believe presidents can reduce the monuments created by their predecessors. The lawsuits could create years-long delays before the BLM begins treating Bears Ears as a full-fledged national monument."

- **DOI is not commenting on the document, referring press inquiries to the White House.**

- **Secretary Zinke's statement:**

- "No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object. The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much-needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation."

- **White House statement:**

- "The Trump Administration does not comment on leaked documents, especially internal drafts which are still under review by the President and relevant agencies."

Fact and Fiction of the Monument Review:

- Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.
- Fact: Monuments have been shrunk at least ten times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy removing 2,882 acres from Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument (President Wilson halved it), and President Eisenhower reducing Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.
- Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.
- Fact: This is not true. Under the Antiquities Act, the monuments are designated on already federal land. Therefore, if any monument is rescinded or shrunk, the

land would remain federally owned and be managed by one or more land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

- Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer National Parks.
- Fact: No National Parks are under review, and the Secretary has continually committed he is against the sale/transfer/privatization of public lands, especially National Parks. While some of the monuments are managed by the National Park Service - much like historic sites, national recreation areas, and national seashores are - none of them are National Parks.

OTHER TOP STORIES:

CNN: Hurricane Maria rips Caribbean, leaves Puerto Rico powerless for months

"Maria's wrath was far from ended in Puerto Rico. Dozens of families were rescued from flooding Thursday morning in Levittown, near the capital city of San Juan, a spokeswoman for the Puerto Rican governor tweeted. The Puerto Rican National Guard was still searching for others in need of rescue, she said. But the task was hampered by a power outage that covered the entire island nation of 3.4 million people -- with officials saying it may be several months before Puerto Ricans get electricity back."

TALKING POINTS

- As of 9/16, the **U.S. Department of the Interior** (DOI) currently has a total of 193 personnel supporting FEMA missions related to Hurricanes.
- There are currently over 3 million people without power in Puerto Rico.
- Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs has so far has deployed 75 of 125 approved personnel from BIA, Tribes and DOI bureaus to support the Seminole Tribe for Irma relief.
- For updates on Hurricane operations of other Interior bureaus, please go to their hurricane web sites (hyperlinked here): USGS, the National Park Service, the Office of Insular Affairs (re: USVI and Puerto Rico), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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