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**From:** Renner, Elinor  
**Sent:** 2017-08-14T16:18:19-04:00  
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**Subject:** Fwd: ACTION NEEDED: WH Weekly Report  
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[attachedFile.html](#)  
[DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 8-7-17.docx](#)

Good Afternoon,  
If you have not already, please send Downey your suggested updates of changes by BO today.

Thank you,  
Elinor

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** August 14, 2017 at 8:49:53 AM EDT  
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**Cc:** David Bernhardt <(b) (6) @ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** ACTION NEEDED: WH Weekly Report

Good Morning-

It is my fault for following out the habit of sending reminders on this. Kudos to Micah and Andrea for continually sending updates.

We are still not capturing enough in this report and we very much need A/S input to make this report sufficient. Please err on the side of over inclusion so we can cull as necessary. Besides your ongoing work, please check in with your bureaus.

As this report is due Tuesday, please have any suggested updates or changes to me by COB today.

As a reminder- the purpose of this report is to capture anything major rules, reports, or announcements taking place in the next 30 days.

Thanks, Downey

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Downey Magallanes  
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff

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Elinor Renner  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
August 8, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of August 7, 2017

**DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead**

**Presidential Initiatives and Awareness**

1. **SABINOSA WILDERNESS:** The Department will announce with Senators Heinrich and Udall that BLM will move forward in accepting 3,595 acres of privately owned land adjacent to the Sabinosa Wilderness in New Mexico. The donated land would become part of the wilderness area, and acquisition of the property would enable the public to access the area for the first time. A joint announcement is planned with the Senators.  
**Timing:** August 9, 2017  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
2. **USGS LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN (LEPC) REPORT:** After receiving a petition to list the LEPC as endangered in September 2016, the FWS is currently evaluating the species to make another determination on whether listing is warranted. A USGS report was done at the request of FWS to provide information for their Species Status Assessment, and will be made public August 9. While the report does project declining populations, uncertainty exists in the model about the rate of decline and limitations exist on available sources of information. The SSA will be published at a later date once FWS has gathered all information.  
**Timing:** August 9, 2017  
**Contact:** Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
3. **MONUMENT REVIEW:** We are preparing the report to comply with Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017 calling for a review of National Monuments. The Secretary has visited 5 states and met with countless stakeholders to conduct the review. The report will give general recommendations. Specific recommendations will be submitted separately for the President's consideration. The Secretary has briefed White House staff on preliminary recommendations.  
**Timing:** August 24 2017  
**Contact:** Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
4. **CRITICAL MINERALS REPORT:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. The Department has proposed to the White House consideration of a draft Executive Order directing Interior to help coordinate the appropriate agencies to undertake a government-wide approach to facilitate the domestic mining and processing of critical minerals. Discussion on the contents of the E.O. is continuing.  
**Timing:** August 2017  
**Contact:** Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

5. **NPS FUNDING INITIATIVE FOR POTUS INVOLVEMENT:** On the 101st anniversary of the National Park System (August 25), the Secretary plans to announce an initiative to tackle the infrastructure maintenance backlog of \$12 billion at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. Interior has proposed legislative language to OMB that would use revenue generated to fund the park and refuge billion maintenance backlog. The Secretary has conferred with White House personnel and has proposed Presidential participation.

**Timing:** August 25 2017

**Contact:** Todd Willens, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

6. **NPS SENIOR PASS INCREASE:** The Department announced in July that beginning August 28, federal agencies would begin selling the new America the Beautiful Senior Pass, which allows lifetime access to certain federal lands. The new price for the Lifetime Senior Pass will be \$80, which is an increase from \$10. The annual senior pass will be \$20. This increase is mandated by the National Park Service Centennial Act, passed in December of 2016. Existing passes will be grandfathered.

**Timing:** August 28 2017

**Contact:** Todd Willens, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

### **Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony**

1. **HILL NOTIFICATIONS FOR UPCOMING REPROGRAMMING REQUEST:** Pending OMB approval, the Department intends to notify the relevant authorizing and appropriating Committees (Senate Energy and Natural Resources, House Natural Resources, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee) about the reorganization and realignment of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST). DOI's Program Management and Budget office and OMB are currently coordinating to secure approval. Notification to the Hill will entail formal letters and briefings for Committee staff, which OCL will coordinate.

**Timing:** September 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

2. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Mr. Bernhardt was confirmed by the Senate on July 24, 2017 with a bipartisan vote of 53-43. Five Democrats voted in favor along with all Republicans. Four Republicans missed the vote. Brenda Burman (BOR), Susan Combs (A/S PMB) and Doug Domenech (A/S Insular Areas) had their confirmation on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee and they were passed out of committee August 3, 2017. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) was officially nominated and is set to appear before the Committee for his nomination hearing on September 7, 2017. Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) was officially nominated Wednesday August, 2nd. His committee paperwork has been submitted and we are working with Committee to have him included in the hearing on the 7<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Balash.

**Other/Awareness Only**

1. **SECRETARY ZINKE INVITED TO THE EVERGLADES BY BIPARTISAN FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:** Sen. Rubio led a letter to Sec. Zinke inviting him to tour the Everglades as soon as possible. No policy position touted within the letter, other than the importance of the Everglades to Florida. No date has been confirmed, but the Secretary has made it a priority. He would like to discuss the issue with Sen. Rubio over the phone in the immediate future before any trip is scheduled.  
**Timing:** Early Fall, Sen. Rubio has proposed August 24  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs
2. **SECRETARY ZINKE HAS BEEN INVITED BY SENATOR CASSIDY TO VISIT LOUISIANA AND THE GULF STATES:** Official invite was received July 28, 2017 from Senator Cassidy's staff for the Secretary to tour the Gulf States and personally see the offshore oil industry, restoring the coast and the benefits of GOMESA. This is in reaction to the FY18 Budget proposal to eliminate state revenue sharing for the Gulf States. Secretary Zinke had two exchanges on this topic during his House and Senate budget hearings with Sen. Cassidy and Rep. Graves. In addition, he hosted members of the Louisiana and Texas delegations to discuss GOMESA and they reiterated the issue and reaffirmed their invite to the Secretary.  
**Timing:** TBD  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions**

1. **GULF OF MEXICO OCS G&G:** This week, BOEM has released the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), as directed by a 2013 court settlement agreement. The analysis contained in the Final PEIS shows that, subject to adequate mitigation measures, a decision from BOEM to continue authorizing G&G activities in the GOM would not result in major impacts to the environment.
2. **GATEWAY WEST TRANSMISSION LINE:** BLM plans to issue a Notice of Intent for an Environmental Assessment to propose an alternate route for the Gateway West Transmission Line in Idaho. The line's current route cuts through neighborhoods and populated areas in order to avoid a National Conservation Area. The FY2017 funding bill included legislation rerouting the line away from the current controversial route.  
**Timing:** August 2017  
**Contact:** Kathy Benedetto, BLM
3. **OFFSHORE OIL LEASE SALE:** On August 16, BOEM will hold Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 249, the first scheduled lease sale under the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil & Gas Program and the first region-wide sale held on the OCS. Juan Carlos Zepeda Molina, the

President Commissioner of Mexico's National Hydrocarbons Commission, will attend the lease sale with a delegation of Mexican government leadership and staff that work on offshore energy issues.

**Timing:** August 16, 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

4. **CAPE WIND.** In early September, BOEM plans to publish the Record of Decision for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Cape Wind Project. The Final SEIS will supplement the 2009 Final EIS and is being prepared pursuant to a remand order from the D.C. Circuit Court.

**Timing:** Early September

**Contact:** James Schindler, Special Assistant Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

5. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION.** On July 2, the Navajo government approved a two-year lease extension for continuing operation of the Navajo Generating Station through 2019. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation is a part owner of the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in the ultimate decision associated with the plant. Interior is helping to identify a possible future owner to keep the plant generating power indefinitely, since the current owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019. On July 19, Navajo representatives met with the Bureau of Reclamation and requested another stakeholder meeting. A multiple stakeholder meeting is being discussed for August. On July 28, Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) met with representatives from DOI to discuss potential of investors. Initial discussions sound positive and Lazard hopes to have initial bid proposals by mid-September.

**Timing:** August/September 2017

**Contact:** Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

### **Release of High-Profile Grants**

1. **STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM:** In late July, FWS will announce it has apportioned \$50 million to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats. The funding is provided through the FWS's State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program and is distributed through an apportionment formula in accordance with appropriations.

**Timing:** August 2017

**Contact:** Todd Willens, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

2. **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS:** In August, the NPS will announce \$21 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to States and Territories. Grants will be awarded to 59 State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act 115-31. NPS will also announce \$4.5 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Indian Tribes. Grants will be awarded to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), based on the amounts available under Consolidated Appropriations Act PL115-31.

**Timing:** August 2017

**Contact:** Todd Willens, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

**Other/Awareness**

1. **DOI POSTPONES ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS.** The Department is continuing to review the charter and charge of the more than 200 boards, committees, and advisory panels ensure they are structured to receive maximum public input and comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Department spends more than \$10 million to facilitate these boards and many are not meeting their charter obligations, are not meeting regularly, and have little turnover or numerous unfilled positions. Meetings have been postponed until September 2017 following the Department's review unless justified on a case-by-case basis.

**Timing:** May-September 2017

**Contact:** Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

**Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days**

**Travel by Secretary**

August 5      **Secretary Zinke** on personal leave  
August 19