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**To:** [Amy Holley](#); [Caminiti, Mariagrazia](#); [Christine Bauserman](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Douglas Domenech](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Edward Keable](#); [Heather Swift](#); [James Cason](#); [Juliette Lillie](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Kerry Rae](#); [Kevin Haugrud](#); [Maureen Foster](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Michael Black](#); [Nikolao Pula](#); [Richard Cardinale](#); [Scott Cameron](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Timothy Williams](#); [Vincent Devito](#); [Virginia Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Report to the Secretary - June 15, 2017  
**Date:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 2:57:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [WeeklyReporttotheSecretary06-15-17.docx](#)

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Good Afternoon All,

Please find attached the weekly report to the Secretary. I have attached both the word and Google Doc versions of the reports. If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks

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[Weekly Report to the Secretary 06-15-17](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**June 15, 2017**

**Office of the Solicitor**

**Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

**SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION DEADLINES FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS SEPARATELY  
REPORTED**

**NEW CASES:**

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (6) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:**

Nothing to report.

**OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:**

(b) (6) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

**NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:**

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks**

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

On June 19, Acting Assistant Secretary Virginia Johnson will be at Fort Monroe National Monument and Fort Wool in Hampton, Virginia. On June 21, Acting Assistant Secretary Virginia Johnson, Acting NPS Director Michael Reynolds, and Acting FWS Director Greg Sheehan will participate in the Eagle Horizon exercise.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

Nothing additional to report.

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

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Nothing additional to report.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

On June 15 on its website, the OIG will release its report, Substantial and Specific Danger to Public Health at Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery. In response to a confidential whistleblower disclosure, the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) requested an investigation into several safety issues at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery (Inks Dam), in Burnet, Texas. The OIG investigation found that project leaders did not follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the use of disinfectant violated FWS' asbestos management policy, and directed the unauthorized use of an herbicide on two occasions. In the interest of health, safety, and environmental stewardship, the Acting Director has directed the Regional Director, Region 2 to complete a full investigation to include identifying practices, policies, certifications, approvals, manufacturer instructions, and safeguards that were not observed. Additionally, the Division of Safety and Health has issued a reminder memo to all field stations on Service policies on hazardous materials and chemicals.

On June 23, FWS will hold the First Day of Sale ceremony for the 2017-2018 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Little Rock, Arkansas. The event begins at 11:00 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Both the Federal and Junior Duck Stamp artists will be available to sign stamps, and the U.S. Postal Service will have a special cancellation for collectors.

On June 24, the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, will have an open house in conjunction with a community festival, to showcase progress in restoring operations one year after the devastating flooding that severely damaged the hatchery and community. The facility, which includes a hatchery and aquatic research center, are almost fully operational and nearly \$750,000 in critical flood repair is on track for completion by the end of the fiscal year. Longer-term hatchery repair and recovery projects are also underway

funded by an additional \$500,000. The West Virginia congressional delegation and other local elected officials have been invited to participate

Tentatively scheduled for week of June 19, FWS and USGS will jointly release a published paper titled *Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in the Midwestern U.S.: All Hands on Deck*. One of the key conclusions of the paper is that the agricultural, public, rights of way, and urban sectors in the U.S. are needed in order to reverse the decline of monarch butterflies. The paper developed 218 scenarios for amending the Midwestern U.S. landscape with milkweed. Scenarios for milkweed restoration were developed for protected area grasslands, Conservation Reserve Program land, powerline, rail and roadside rights of way, urban/suburban lands, and land in agricultural production. The USGS is handling the communications with DOI; it is not expected to be controversial.

On or around June 27, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the bureau's March 11, 2016, proposal to identify the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming as a distinct population segment (DPS) and revise the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife by removing grizzly bears within the GYE DPS due to recovery. This action is controversial. Interested stakeholder groups include the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (including federal, tribal, state, and local government entities), agricultural producers, hunting groups, and environmental groups.

In late June, FWS plans a final rule to remove the Hualapai Mexican vole, located in Arizona, from the list of endangered and threatened species due to the fact that the original taxonomic classification is no longer appropriate. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholder groups are Arizona Game and Fish Department and Mohave County Board of Supervisors.

## **National Park Service**

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Nothing to report.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

Nothing additional to report.

## **Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education**

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Indian Affairs leadership and staff continue to lead Tribal listening sessions on E.O. 13871, Reorganization of the Executive Branch; the remaining sessions are:

#### ***Listening Sessions on E.O. 13871: Reorganization of the Executive Branch***

- June 22, 8:30 am – 12 pm, Bering Sea Conference Room, Frontier Building, 3601 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99503
- June 27, 8:30 am – 12 pm, Tulsa Convention Center  
100 Civic Center Tulsa, OK 74103

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

Nothing to report.

## **Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Nothing to report.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

On June 19, BLM-WY State Director Mary Jo Rugwell will present at the National Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment hosted by The Conservation Fund in Washington, DC. The presentation will include recent infrastructure success stories in WY, particularly transmission infrastructure projects, such as Transwest and Gateway South.

On June 19, BLM plans to publish a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS for the Mount Hope Project, a new molybdenum mine, in Eureka County, NV. The project encompasses approximately 8,355 acres of new surface disturbance, 8,092 of which are on public lands administered by the BLM. The Supplemental EIS is being prepared following a decision by the Ninth Circuit that found the justification for the air quality analysis insufficient. The SEIS will also supplement the analysis of public water reserves.

On June 20, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining plans to hold a hearing on “Restoring Watersheds and Large Landscapes Across Boundaries Through State and Federal Partnerships.” Kristen Bail, BLM Assistant Director for Resources & Planning, will be the witness.

On June 20, BSEE Director Angelle will meet with Hilcorp at the company’s request, to discuss offshore operations in general.

On June 21, BOEM plans to hold Lease Sale 244 in Cook Inlet, AK. The lease sale will offer 224 blocks, consisting of approximately 1.09 million acres. Though interest in lease sales in the Cook Inlet have been lower historically than in other areas of the OCS, the Bureau believes bids may be received for this sale. The Bureau will know the number of bids received by 10:00 AM on June 20 (the bid submission deadline).

On June 21, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources plans to hold a legislative hearing on draft helium legislation. Tim Spisak, BLM Acting Assistant Director for Energy & Minerals, will be the witness.

On June 21, BOEM plans to announce the implementation of a 12.5% royalty rate for oil and gas production in water depths of less than 200 meters for leases offered in GOM Lease Sale 249. The Bureau will make the announcement using a Note to Stakeholders; affected governors will be notified via correspondence.

On June 22, BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 2 parcels totaling 160 acres in AR. Bidding is not expected to be robust, and the sale is not expected to be controversial.

On June 22, BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 26 parcels totaling 31,975



acres in Laramie, Carbon, Sweetwater, Sublette, and Uinta Counties. Bidding is not expected to be robust, and the sale is not expected to be controversial.

On June 22 - 25, BLM-AK will partner with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to host an annual fly-fishing event for wounded veterans in the Delta Wild and Scenic River corridor.

On June 23, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) expects to release the Final EIS for the Proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline Right of Way. The pipeline would cross 3.4 miles of the Jefferson National Forest in Monroe County, WV and Giles and Montgomery Counties, VA. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and BLM are cooperating agencies. FERC is the lead agency in preparing the Final EIS. The BLM is the Federal agency responsible for issuing right-of-way (ROW) grants, with concurrence in this instance from the USFS and the COE.

On June 23, BLM-OR's Myrtlewood Field Office will hold the Crystal Clear Timber Sale (116 acres; 5,605 mbf) and First Floras Timber Sale (25 acres; 1,295 mbf). These sales may be controversial due to ongoing conflicts between conservation interests and the logging/timber industry.

## **Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget**

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

- Who: DOI and bureau staff
- What: Columbia River Treaty Collaborative Modeling Workgroup Meeting
- When: June 21, 2017
- Where: Washington, DC/Webinar
- Press: Closed
- Topic: Discuss infrastructure environmental and permitting review provisions to improve review times, including on energy production, electricity transmission, and pipeline projects, as well as recent implementation and potential changes.
  
- Who: Secretary Zinke, DAS-PRE Harry Humbert, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director Lisa Branum, with Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Representation
- What: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Exercise Eagle Horizon 17
- When: June 21, 2017
- Where: Site Charlie
- Press: Closed
- Topic: Training will include discussion and activities for the entire COOP team at Site Charlie to provide incoming senior leadership on the operational aspects of the Department's COOP and Devolution plans, to include the functionality of the Department's alternate sites, and a review of the Primary Mission Essential Functions, Mission Essential Functions and Essential Supporting Activities which are the primary focus during catastrophic emergencies.
  
- Who: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) Portland, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Park Service (NPS), Office of the Regional Solicitor, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- What: Columbia River Treaty Regional Federal Resource Agency Partners Meeting
- When: June 22, 2017
- Where: Portland, OR
- Press: Closed
- Topic: Updates on recent meetings and work related to the review of the CRT.
  
- Who: Secretary Zinke and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director Lisa Branum
- What: Senior Officials Exercise
- When: June 23, 2017
- Where: FEMA National Response Coordination Center
- Press: Closed
- Topic: Secretary Zinke will be invited to participate with other Cabinet officials in this Administration's first Senior Officials Exercise (SOE) at FEMA HQ. The SOE will focus on policy issues surrounding a response to a simulated hurricane. Secretary Kelly will

lead the exercise with the White House National Security Council.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

**FY 2018 Budget:** The Secretary is scheduled to testify in support of the President's FY 2018 Budget on the following dates: June 20, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; June 21, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee; June 22, House Natural Resources Committee. Olivia B. Ferriter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition, and Denise Flanagan, Director, Office of Budget will be supporting witnesses.

**Border Security Infrastructure Coordination with U.S Customs and Border Protection.** Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew is working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to coordinate proposed additional security infrastructure on the U.S. Mexico border. Coordination efforts include a review of the need for tribal consultation and possible permitting for preconstruction planning work on DOI lands. A synopsis of border security actions anticipated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection is being prepared and will be shared with DOI when completed.

**Suspension and Debarment Actions.** On June 6, 2017, DOI proposed to debar Kevin David McGovern, following an initial suspension, based upon his guilty plea to defrauding the Chippewa Cree Tribe (CCT) through wire fraud and theft from an Indian tribal organization; and entrance of a jury verdict in a separate proceeding on charges of conspiracy to defraud, wire fraud, and bribery of an Indian tribal official. This is one of a series of actions resulting from the criminal investigation and prosecutions of individuals and entities at the CCT Rocky Boy's Reservation in Montana.

On June 6, 2017, DOI proposed debarment of Quad Trade, Inc., TCI Technologies, Inc., and KLA International, Inc., as affiliates of Keith Brian Fisher, Sr. DOI proposed Fisher's debarment on May 16th, following initial suspension, based on his guilty plea to the charge of conspiracy. Fisher conspired to contract with various Federal agencies, including U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), then subcontract out all performance, and after receiving full payment from the Government, not pay his subcontractors.

**Royalty Policy Committee.** Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) issued a Federal Register Notice to extend the nomination period for the Royalty Policy Committee (Committee) by an additional 30 days. On April 3, 2017, the Department of the Interior published a notice establishing the Committee and requesting nominations. The last submission date for Committee nominations is now July 3, 2017.

**ONRR Civil Penalties.** The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$56,472 to BW Oil, LLC (BW). ONRR investigated BW's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 78 violations on multiple Federal leases for production months of July, 2015 through July, 2016. ONRR issued a Notice of Noncompliance (NONC) to BW detailing the outstanding reports and provided a 30-day cure period to correct the violations. BW failed to comply during the cure period. Since BW is a small company with no prior violations, ONRR computed the civil penalty assessment using the

standard rates of \$2 per day, per violation for the first 40 days and \$4 per day, per violation thereafter.

**Interior Museum Reopens.** On June 12, 2017, the Interior Museum reopened with the permanent exhibit, *People, Land & Water*. The exhibition provides a high level exploration of the history and breadth of the Department of the Interior and features a short film about the Department.

**Internal Control and Audit Follow-up.** The Department has an annual goal of closing 85% of corrective actions scheduled for closure in the current FY to address issues raised in Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) engagements. As of June 9, 2017, the Department has closed 34% of open audit recommendations scheduled for closure in FY 2017.

**Year 2017 Small Business Accomplishments to Date:** As of June 7, 2017, the Department has awarded 54.26% of its contract award dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal, which was negotiated with the Small Business Administration (SBA), is 53.5%. The Department awarded 21.88% of its contract award dollars to small disadvantaged businesses and 14.28% of its contract award dollars to women-owned small businesses, exceeding the statutory goal of 5% for each. The Department awarded 3.37% of its contract award dollars to historically underutilized business zone small businesses and 3.51% of its contract award dollars to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The statutory goal is 3% for each of these categories.

## **Assistant Secretary for Water and Science**

### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Nothing to report.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

In the coming weeks, the Department will release a new USGS report on critical minerals for the United States. This publication presents resource and geologic information for 23 mineral commodities currently viewed as important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and current status of production, resources, and reserves. The individual commodity chapters serve as an update to the 1973 commodity chapters of USGS Professional Paper 820, United States Mineral Resources. A DOI news release is planned.

## **30-60 DAY LOOK-AHEAD**

### **Office of the Solicitor**

#### **SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION DEADLINES FOR NEXT THREE WEEKS SEPARATELY REPORTED**

### **Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks**

Nothing additional to report.

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

#### **Grants**

In coming weeks, through the Secretary, FWS plans to announce nearly \$15 million in grants to 40 states for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. More than \$9 million of this will go to six states (California, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas and Washington) for competitive grants, and the remaining \$5 million will go to 39 states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia for a smaller, non-competitive grant program. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. Grants, which are matched by funding from project partners, support construction or renovation of tie-ups, utilities, fuel stations, pump-out and dump stations, restrooms and additional sanitary amenities such as laundry and showers for recreational boaters.

In coming weeks, through the Secretary, FWS plans to announce nearly \$15.4 million in grants to 20 states for projects to support clean water and recreational boating through the Service's Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA) program. The CVA program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft.

At the end of June, FWS plans to announce about \$1 million in white-nose syndrome grants to states. The grants will help states respond to the deadly white-nose syndrome disease of bats through actions such as looking for the fungus that causes the disease, carrying out decontamination procedures at state caves and mines, and monitoring bat populations. White-nose syndrome is a disease caused by a fungus that has killed millions of valuable insect-eating bats and has been found in 31 states. Recent studies have shown that the agricultural value of insect control by bats is \$1.4 billion annually in Texas alone. The FWS leads the national response to the disease. This action is not controversial. Pending Departmental clearance, FWS will announce the approval of around \$4 million in grants

for 31 projects throughout the Americas as part of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant program. Exact date and award amount are not yet determined.

Pending Departmental advisement, FWS will approve a slate of projects for funding under the Competitive State Wildlife Grants program. The projects focus on “species of greatest conservation need” identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. Funds for this program are appropriated annually by Congress. FWS Regional Offices will submit individual grants for DOI approval prior to award.

### **Hot Topics**

In late June, FWS plans to issue the Final Biological Opinion for the first phase of California WaterFix to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and the California Department of Water Resources. The consultation covers 16 species. On the same day, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is expected to issue its Final Biological Opinion for California WaterFix. Interagency coordinated outreach with NMFS, Reclamation, FWS, and the California Natural Resources Agency (includes the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife). Outreach will include: Congressional telephone briefing, media telephone briefing, possible stakeholder (water users) and NGO/tribes telephone briefing, all briefings would be interagency. A joint press release from all the involved agencies is planned.

On July 10, Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) is hosting a public event in suburban Cleveland to discuss Great Lakes issues. Rep. Kaptur is inviting several experts to sit on the panel and answer audience questions about the Great Lakes ecological issues. FWS Midwest Deputy Regional Director Charlie Wooley will attend and answer questions about Asian carp. Other groups represented will include NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and two or three NGOs.

### **Asian Carp**

The 2016 Water Resources Reform and Development Act Report to Congress on Asian carp is currently being finalized for delivery to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for review by June 30. Notable changes from the 2015 report include the slight range expansion of silver carp, the movement of juvenile Asian carps in the sub-basins, and additional information on the status of black carp. As in previous years, the 2016 report will be made available to the public on AsianCarp.us. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, includes direction from Congress to FWS to lead a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Specifically, WRRDA calls for the FWS to develop and deliver a report to Congress summarizing all activities and expenditures (both federal and non-federal) related to Asian carp prevention efforts in the two watersheds, as well as describing any observed changes in the range of Asian carp in Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins. The report also outlines research that could improve the ability to control the spread of Asian carp, and quantitative measures proposed for use in documenting progress in controlling the spread of

Asian carp. Potentially controversial due to the slight range expansion of silver carp. No public outreach is planned. FWS will conduct outreach to Congress.

### **Endangered Species Act Recovery Actions**

In coming weeks, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice designating two areas in northwest Oregon as non-essential experimental population areas for the reintroduction of Oregon silverspot butterfly. The butterfly is listed as threatened under the ESA. This action is not controversial. Stakeholders include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Oregon Zoo, and The Nature Conservancy.

In coming weeks, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* draft population assessment reports for the Southern Beaufort Sea and Chukchi-Bering seas populations of polar bear in Alaska and open a 90-day public comment period. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholder groups are the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the North Slope Borough.

In coming weeks, FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. We note the cost of certain actions pertaining to habitat acquisition, restoration, and management as “To be decided” which reflects the considerable uncertainty around what the actual cost of those actions will be once completed. Stakeholders include federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, local agricultural communities, and local municipalities as it concerns water usage.

On June 26, FWS expects to publish a notice announcing consideration of a draft Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA), draft Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), and draft environmental assessment for the Texas hornshell (proposed for listing) and other covered species (Rio Grande River cooter, gray redbreast, blue sucker and Pecos springsnail), and an enhancement of survival permit application under the Endangered Species Act submitted by the Center of Excellence. The covered area would include portions of Eddy County, New Mexico, and Culberson County, Texas.

On July 19-20, FWS will host public scoping meetings in Central Oregon to gather information to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement related to the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan. The Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the City of Prineville are the permit applicants for the incidental take of three listed species: Oregon spotted frog, bull trout, and steelhead. Media expected. Stakeholders include local farmers, irrigators, and recreationists. WaterWatch of Oregon, Center for Biological Diversity, Coalition for the Deschutes, Trout Unlimited, and the Deschutes River Conservancy will likely get involved in the NEPA process. This will be controversial.

After the upcoming release of the Mexican Wolf draft recovery plan, FWS will seek review and comment on the plan at public meetings. The meetings will be held in Arizona and New Mexico between July 18 and July 22.

### **Endangered Species Act Listing/Delisting Actions**

Pending clearance, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for



the i'iwi, a Hawaiian bird. This action is not controversial. The only interested stakeholder groups are the petitioners, Center for Biological Diversity and Life Net. FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the finding for the i'iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. In late June, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* 12-month findings on petitions to list Kirtland's snake, found in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee; the Mohave shoulderband snail found in southern Kern County, California; and the San Felipe gambusia, a Texas fish. These actions are not expected to be controversial. Stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians, the Center for Biological Diversity and Gold Queen Mine for the Mohave shoulderband snail. The primary stakeholder is WildEarth Guardians for the San Felipe gambusia. FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the finding for the Mohave shoulderband snail to the *Federal Register* by June 30 and the finding for Kirtland's snake to the *Federal Register* by September 30.

In mid-July, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a 12-month finding and proposed delisting determination on the Deseret milkvetch, found in Utah, due to recovery. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the petitioner, Western Area Power Administration, entities that own lands occupied by the species, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Division of Transportation.

In mid-July, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final rule to remove the eastern cougar (historically known to exist in southeastern Ontario, southern Quebec, and New Brunswick in Canada, and a region bounded from Maine to Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and South Carolina in the eastern United States) from the list of endangered and threatened species due to extinction. This will be controversial as there have been many cougar sightings reported by the public. However, these are cases of mistaken identity and escaped captive animals, and rarely dispersers from western puma populations. Interested parties include numerous eastern states, the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and the Cougar Network.

In mid-July, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice reopening for public comment the proposed listing of western glacier stonefly and meltwater lednian stonefly, located in Montana and Wyoming, as threatened species. The reopening will allow the public to comment on new range information regarding western glacier stonefly. This action is not expected to be controversial. Interested stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians and the States of Montana and Wyoming.

In late July, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice announcing a six-month extension of the final determination of whether to list the San Fernando Valley spineflower, a plant species from southern California, as a result of substantial scientific disagreement concerning the species. This notice will also reopen the comment period on the proposed rule to list the species for an additional 30 days. The spineflower listing is locally controversial, but filing a six-month extension is not expected to be controversial. Interested stakeholder is Newhall Ranch.

In early August, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* 90-day petition findings for five species: the oblong rocksnail, sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, tricolored bat and Venus flytrap. As part of this batched finding we are publishing a correction to the 90-day finding for leopards which clarifies the range and the entity we are evaluating in our status review.

## **National Wildlife Refuge Actions**

In July, FWS will publish a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.

## **Migratory Bird Management Actions**

FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* its annual proposal for administering tribal hunting, fishing, and gathering rights under multiple treaties for several federally recognized tribes in the Great Lakes region. The proposal has been compiled in consultation with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, which represents 11 tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. FWS has informed the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan DNRs of the agency's support for these proposed regulations. A final decision will not be made until after public comments are reviewed and would not take effect until the fall 2017 hunting season. The proposal is expected to be controversial due to the inclusion of several new techniques for tribal members to take waterfowl.

## **Hurricane Sandy Recovery**

On or about July 5, FWS and partners will begin removal of Hunters Pond Dam in Scituate, Massachusetts. The project, partially funded by DOI's Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is a high priority for the restoration of river herring and will open up five miles of riverine channel and 200 acres of alewife pond spawning habitat. Partners include Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, North and South Rivers Watershed Association, Town of Scituate and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management.

On or about July 7, FWS, state and local officials will celebrate the reopening of the White River National Fish Hatchery. The hatchery was severely damaged after Hurricane Irene in 2010 and it took congressional appropriations to repair the damage and reopen the facility. The facility will focus efforts on restoring land-locked Atlantic salmon and lake trout to Lake Champlain and its tributaries in Vermont, New York and Quebec as well as lake trout in Lakes Erie and Ontario. The Vermont congressional delegation has been invited.

## **National Park Service**

On June 25, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Crow Agency, Montana, will host an annual anniversary event honoring all who fought in the Battle of Little Bighorn. The Acting NPS Director has been invited to speak along with Tribal leaders from 17 associated nations. The Montana Congressional delegation will be invited to attend. Local media will be present.

On June 26, the NPS plans to initiate a 30-day public scoping on a plan to replace Grand Canyon

National Park's trans-canyon pipeline. The trans-canyon pipeline serves the park's South Rim, which supplies water to facilities serving more than 5 million visitors and 2,500 residents annually. The pipeline reached the end of its serviceable life and experiences frequent breaks. The cost to replace the pipeline is estimated at \$131.8 million and construction is expected to begin in 2019. The NPS plans to hold public meetings at the park's South Rim and in Flagstaff, Arizona, and will consult with the park's 11 associated tribes.

On June 28, at their 126th Continental Congress in Washington DC, the Daughters of the American Revolution will announce that they are planning to raise funds to donate trees to the NPS. The project includes planting and caring for 76 trees within Independence National Historical Park and 250 trees between and in Valley Forge National Historical Park and Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia. This project is in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the USA, in cooperation with members of the congressionally chartered Semiquincentennial Commission.

On June 30, Golden Gate National Recreation Area will host 14 international emerging leaders selected to participate in a U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program about cultural heritage preservation. Countries represented include: Belarus, Cambodia, Egypt, Estonia, Federated States of Micronesia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Panama, People's Republic of China, Russia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Turkey

In late June, the NPS anticipates the announcement of the \$1.75 million in available Maritime Heritage project grant funding. These grants will be used for maritime heritage education and preservation projects related to the maritime heritage of the United States. The National Maritime Heritage Act established the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program within the Department of the Interior. The grants program is administered in partnership with the Maritime Administration (MarAd). It provides funding for education and preservation projects designed to preserve historic maritime resources and is funded through a percentage of the proceeds from the sale or scrapping of obsolete vessels of the National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF). All grants awarded must be matched on a 1-to-1 basis with non-Federal assets.

In late June, the NPS anticipates the announcement of the \$3,623,162 in available Battlefield Land Acquisition grant funding. Grants will be used to protect 999 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland. The NPS works with private landowners, battlefield friends groups, interested community groups, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, local, state, and tribal governments and Federal agencies for preservation projects and local acquisition of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield land. The NPS is working with the Secretary's office on an event and the communications plan.

In late June, the NPS anticipates the announcement of \$15 million in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant funding for approximately 25 projects. A total of 51 projects were submitted by states to acquire and develop outdoor recreation spaces. This competitive program supplements the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment to states by supporting projects for disadvantaged populations in urban areas.

In mid-July, Mojave National Preserve will begin a 60-day public comment period on the Water

Resources Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (WRP/DEIS). The plan will manage both developed (diverted springs and wildlife guzzlers) and undeveloped water resources in the park. The process is being closely watched by local hunting groups interested in the management of wildlife guzzlers (large basins which catch rainwater and provide a watering source for wildlife and cattle), which are viewed as necessary to maintaining a healthy bighorn sheep population for hunting.

In July, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park fire assessment review will be released. In February, a team of fire experts (federal and state) convened at Great Smoky Mountains National Park to conduct an independent review of the 2016 Chimney Tops 2 fire that started in the park on November 23. The purpose of the review is to assess the facts leading up to and during the Chimney Tops 2 fire within the boundaries of the park, as well as make recommendations on any planning, operational, or managerial issues which can be addressed locally, regionally, and/or nationally to reduce the chances of a similar incident in the future. The NPS has received tort claims related to this incident and expects additional lawsuits soon.

In July, the NPS anticipates publishing the Federal Register notice for the NPS Archaeological Resources Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement for Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. The plan addresses management and protection of the archaeological resources at the park while preserving natural resources and enhancing visitor experience. There has been no controversy about this plan to date.

### **Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education**

On July 19 and July 20, the Self-Governance Advisory Committee quarterly meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites DC Convention Center, 900 10th St NW, Washington, DC 20001. The Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is invited to attend on Thursday, July 20, 2017.

On July 24, the Department's Office of Policy Analysis will hold an Indian Economic Development Data Workshop, preceding the Tribal/Interior Budget Council meeting.

On July 25 through July 27, the Tribal/Interior Budget Council meeting will take place at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, located at 22181 Resort Boulevard, Flagstaff, AZ 86004.

On June 27-28, the Indian Energy Service Center will host a Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) training on the Onshore Federal and Indian Energy and Mineral Lease Management manual in Oklahoma City, OK. The SOP training is open to all Department of the Interior staff.

### **Items of Note/Expected Legislative, Legal, Policy Issues**

No report.

### ***Regulations Ready for OS Review***

- None at this time.

### ***Regulations Pending Departmental Review, Then Ready for AS-IA Signature***

- **Proposed rules pending publication:**
  - **Indian Electric Power Utilities (25 CFR 175):** This proposed rule would not make any substantive changes to the regulations, but would revise the regulations to be in plain language. The regulations affect only a limited number of Tribes because there are only three BIA electric power utilities: Colorado River (serving the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation), Mission Valley Power (serving the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Indian Reservation), and San Carlos Irrigation Project (serving Gila River Indian Community).
    - *Status:* The proposed rule will be presented to the AS-IA transition contact in preparation for AS-IA signature.
- **Final rules pending publication:**
  - **Appraisals and Valuations of Indian Property (43 CFR 100):** This final rule would meet the requirement in the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA) to establish minimum qualifications for third-party appraisers and valuations of Indian property by June 22, 2017.
    - *Status:* The final rule will be presented to the AS-IA transition contact in preparation for AS-IA signature.

### ***Federal Register Notices Ready for OS Review***

- **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Amendment to Liquor Ordinance:** This notice announces that BIA certifies that the Tribe has amended its liquor control ordinance.
- **Trust Acquisitions for Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, and Wilton Rancheria:** Five Federal Register notices announcing trust acquisitions that were finalized in the last Administration are pending approval for publication. The Department's regulations require publication of notice of the acquisitions in the Federal Register.

### ***Federal Register Notices Ready for AS-IA Signature***

- **Liquor Control Ordinances: Pueblo of Santa Clara:** This notice announces that BIA certifies that the Tribe has amended its liquor control ordinance.
- **Advisory Board for Exceptional Children:** The request for nominations of individuals to serve on the Advisory Board is ready for OS review. As of September 2017, there will be eight slots available; members serve staggered two-year terms. The notice of an upcoming meeting of the Advisory Board has been withdrawn in accordance with the May 5, 2017, memorandum directing postponement of meetings until September 2017.

### ***Upcoming FACA Committee Notices***

- **BIE Negotiated Rulemaking on Accountability (25 CFR 30):** The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires BIE to use a negotiated rulemaking process to develop regulations for implementation no later than the 2017-2018 academic year and to define the standards, assessments, and accountability system consistent with Section 1111 of the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the schools funded by BIE on a national, regional, or tribal basis.

- *Status:* [No Change] BIE is preparing a new notice of intent to establish the committee and solicitation for membership.

## **Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**

On June 26 - 28, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) will hold its annual meeting in Whitefish, MT, during which Secretary Zinke and BLM Acting Director Mike Nedd are scheduled to speak. During the WGA meeting, the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) will present a strategic plan that has been integrated with Federal, State and Tribal commitments. The NISC membership consists of senior leadership from the Departments of State, Treasury, Agriculture and the Interior, OMB, and EPA, among others. The purpose of the Council is to provide high-level vision and leadership to sustain and expand Federal efforts to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species.

On June 26 - 30, BLM-CA State Director Jerry Perez plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the CA Congressional delegation in Washington, DC to discuss public land management issues, including oil and gas development, planning efforts, wildfire, renewable energy, and recreation.

On June 27, BLM-AZ State Director Raymond Suazo and staff will host a group of 24 Mandela Washington Fellows at the Arizona State Office in Phoenix. The Fellows, who are from 19 African nations, are sponsored by the U.S. State Department and hosted by universities across the USA, including Arizona State University. Topics of discussion will include the BLM's work to support local economies through mining, grazing, and recreation; efforts to advance the "all of the above" energy portfolio; BLM's work to keep the visiting public safe; public lands in the borderlands region; and partnership and community engagement related to shared conservation stewardship.

On June 28, BSEE will hold a workshop with NASA on Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA). NASA will introduce its guide to PRA to industry stakeholders and solicit input on its potential application to offshore oil and gas projects.

On June 29, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources tentatively plans to hold a hearing on oil and gas development on public lands. Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Kate MacGregor will be the Department's witness.

On June 29, pending approval, BOEM plans to initiate the process of developing a new Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Program with publication of a Request for Information and Comments. As required by section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, notification letters will be sent to all 50 Governors and several Federal agencies. This action will be taken pursuant the April 28, 2017, Executive Order entitled, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" and Secretary's Order 3350, issued on May 1, 2017.

On June 30, BOEM plans to publish a final rule to address the use of OCS sand, gravel, and shell

resources for shore protection, beach restoration, and coastal wetlands restoration projects by Federal, state, and local government agencies for construction projects authorized by or funded in whole or part by the Federal Government. The rule will describe the negotiated noncompetitive agreement process and codify new and existing procedures.

On June 30, BLM-UT is scheduled to begin a second 15-day public comment period for the Gunnison Valley Seismic Project Environmental Assessment, analyzing Dawson Geophysical's three-dimensional geophysical seismic survey proposal. The proposed project is located 26 miles northwest of Moab, UT and encompasses approximately 38,700 acres.

On June 30, BOEM plans to publish the Record of Decision for a project to rehabilitate 4 miles of shoreline damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Martin County, FL. The Bureau will enter into a 3-party agreement with Martin County and USACE to dredge up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of OCS sand.

In late June, the BLM-UT Vernal Field Office will initiate a 30-day public comment period for an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing impacts of Newfield Production Company's proposal to develop 13 new oil wells in the east and northeast areas of the Greater Monument Butte Unit in Duchesne County, UT. The proposed project is within the Pariette Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which includes habitat for two Federally-listed plant species. The proposal includes developing four wells on existing pads; nine wells on new pads; 11 miles of pipeline; and 1.5 miles of new road. It also includes measures to reduce impacts to wildlife, water quality and to facilitate reclamation and weed control.

In late June/early July, BLM plans to issue the Boardman to Hemingway Record of Decision. On February 28, BLM received the Biological Opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service. BLM-OR land use plan amendments are being handled concurrently and the decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and approval to issue a right-of-way grant. The ROD will be set up for ASLM approval and will be submitted in advance for review.

On July 3, BLM-AK will review and provide comments on the Donlin Gold preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency for the project. Donlin Gold LLC applied for permits for an open pit, hard rock gold mine located approximately 277 miles west of Anchorage, in southwest AK. The project also involves transportation infrastructure and a pipeline.

On July 7, BOEM will publish a Notice of Availability of the Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Project. The EIS will supplement the 2009 Final EIS and is being prepared pursuant to a remand order from the D.C. Circuit Court. The ROD will publish on August 11.

On July 10, four individuals charged with various crimes during the 2014 Gold Butte cattle impoundment are scheduled to be re-tried following the declaration of a mistrial on April 24, 2017. BLM-NV's Communications Office is coordinating with BLM-WO and the Department of Justice.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE anticipates publishing a Notice of Availability for the

Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day comment period. The Bridger Mine is an underground mine located in Sweetwater County, WY that employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE plans to publish a Notice of Availability for the Cordero Rojo Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On July 11, BSEE Director Angelle is scheduled to speak at the American Petroleum Institute's (API's) Safe Lifting Conference in Houston, TX. The conference will cover lifting operations and standards for platform-based cranes.

In mid-July, OSMRE's Western Region plans to publish a Notice of Availability for the John Henry Mine Mining Plan Modification draft EA and unsigned FONSI, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Pacific Coast Coal Company's John Henry Mine is a surface mine located in King County, WA. However, the mine has been inactive for many years.

On July 13, the BLM-AK's Glennallen Field Office will begin issuing permits for the 2017 - 2018 Unit 13 Federal subsistence 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.

On July 13, BOEM plans to hold an Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting in San Luis Obispo, CA to discuss the results of the collaborative data and information collection efforts and the potential areas identified for the Call for Information and Nominations (Call). Development of the Call was necessitated by an application for a commercial lease submitted by Trident Wind offshore Morrow Bay, CA in January 2016 and competitive interest indicated by Statoil in its response to the subsequent Request for Information in August 2016.

On July 17, BOEM plans to publish the Final Notice of Sale and Record of Decision for GOM Lease Sale 249. The sale is scheduled for August 16 and will be the first lease sale under the 2017-2022 OCS Oil & Gas Program as well as the first region-wide sale.

On July 17, BOEM plans to publish the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the Development and Production Plan for the Hilcorp Liberty Project. The Liberty Project is a 9-acre man-made gravel island proposed to be constructed approximately 5.6 miles offshore in the Beaufort Sea that would be capable of facilitating both drilling and processing operations.

On July 18 – 20, Acting ASLM Kate MacGregor and Acting BLM Director Mike Nedd will participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Trail Ride hosted by the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Governor Butch Otter. The event, which will take place on historic ranchland in the Upper Snake River Valley, is designed to provide an opportunity to explore natural resource issues and will include discussions about improvements to the Federal grazing permit process and sustainable land use.

On July 19, BLM plans to hold an auction of Federally-owned crude helium. Under the Helium



Stewardship Act of 2013, the BLM must offer for auction and sale annually a portion of the helium reserves stored underground at the Cliffside Gas Field, near Amarillo, TX. The BLM anticipates auctioning 500 MMcf in a total of 30 lots for delivery in FY 2018. Following the auction, the BLM will offer an allocated sale in which helium is offered to refiners, and a non-allocated sale in which the helium is offered to non-refiners.

On July 22, the BLM-OR/WA Lakeview Resource Area plans to hold an open house to discuss ongoing work with a private, non-profit partner to develop a multi-prong approach to managing the Beatty Butte Herd Management Area. For the first time, an external partner will work with BLM staff to bait trap horses, administer PZP to mares, and gentle horses considered good candidates for adoption.

On July 28, the BLM anticipates publishing proposed revisions to the Waste Prevention Rule in the Federal Register.

On or before July 31, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the BLM-ID Craters of the Moon Proposed Monument Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement must be signed.

In late July, BOEM plans to hold a New York Offshore Renewable Energy Intergovernmental Task Force meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the status of current offshore renewable energy leases, receive lessee updates on future activities, and discuss the new unsolicited lease requests offshore Massachusetts and New York.

On August 3, BLM-NV Las Vegas Field Office will hold the spring land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with SNPLMA, funds generated by the sale will be used for projects such as the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

## **Assistant Secretary Policy, Management and Budget**

**41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium in Yakima, Washington, June 25-29, 2017.** DAS-PRE Humbert and Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Rice will be attending this conference. Director Rice will speak on two panels on June 26 and 27 and DAS-PRE Humbert will provide the DOI Wildland Fire Update on June 29.

**Border Security Meetings, Santa Ana, TX, June 2017.** Interagency Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew and new Coordinator Brent Range will attend a planning meeting with National Wildlife Refuge staff and U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities personnel at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Pre-planning activities, including proposed geotechnical surveys, will be reviewed. Visits to possible construction sites may also be conducted. An orientation tour for Range will take place in late June.

**Border Security Forum, Tucson, AZ, June 29, 2017.** A mini-Border Forum will be convened

in Tucson, Arizona with DOI land managers, USDA Forest Service personnel, and U.S. Border Patrol from the Yuma and Tucson sectors. A border wide leadership meeting on southwest border security and environmental protection is still expected to take place in September 2017 (date TBD) in Tucson, AZ. Planning for possible new border security infrastructure is expected to be the main focus of the meeting. Senior officials at DOI, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Border Patrol and USDA Forest Service are expected to attend.

### **New Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audits**

**Application of the Overtime Rule in Puerto Rico (Job Code 101122).** Per response to a congressional mandate from the Senate Committee on Energy and National Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources, GAO will examine the economic conditions in Puerto Rico and assess the impact of applying the Overtime Regulations to Puerto Rico, taking into consideration regional, metropolitan, and non-metropolitan salary and cost-of-living differences. The entrance with the Office of Insular Affairs staff is not scheduled.

### **New Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audits**

**Restoration Programs Implemented to Improve Water Quality in the Columbia River Basin (Questionnaire).** Per response to a bi-partisan request to review restoration efforts to improve water quality in the Columbia River Basin, GAO will conduct a survey with Federal, state, tribal, and regional entities to identify their restoration efforts and programs implemented in the basin during Fiscal Years 2010-2016. GAO issued the questionnaire on May 31 to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a response due date of June 14.

### **GAO Entrance Conferences**

**Factors Affecting Oil and Gas Bonus Bids (Job Code 102073) – June 13, 2017, with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, BLM, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue staff.** Per request from Ranking Members Raul M. Grijalva of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Alan S. Lowenthal of the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, GAO will review the impact of various factors, such as oil prices and changes in royalty rates, that have affected oil and gas bonus bids over time.

### **Recent Final OIG Reports**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Maine, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, From July 1, 2013, Through June 30, 2015 (2016-EXT-045).** The OIG audited costs claimed by the State of Maine (State), Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, under grants awarded by the FWS. FWS provided the grants to the State under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (Program). The audit included claims totaling \$38.7 million on 23 grants that were open during the State FYs ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015. The audit also covered the Department's compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and FWS' guidelines, including those related to the collection and use of hunting and fishing license revenue and the reporting of program

income. The OIG found that the State complied, in general, with applicable grant accounting and regulatory requirements. The State, however, had an open audit recommendation to inventory equipment adequately, in compliance with State laws. The OIG previously reported this issue in their 2011 audit and did not identify any other reportable conditions in this audit. The OIG issued the final report on June 6. No response is required.

## **Assistant Secretary for Water and Science**

**June 26-28: Multi-Agency National Invasive Species Council Meeting (MT):** From June 26-28, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Scott Cameron and Reclamation will participate in a meeting sponsored by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). The meeting will be held concurrent with the June 26-28 Western Governors' Association Meeting in Whitefish, MT. Several DOI agencies and the DOI Office of Policy Analysis will also participate. The meeting aims to integrate policy among federal and state (and possibly tribal) partners that will improve the prevention, eradication, and containment of aquatic invasive species in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, the group will study ways to reduce the risk of zebra/quagga mussel introduction into the Columbia River Basin.

By the end of June: **Reclamation Announces Winners for Stage I of the Arsenic Sensor Challenge:** Reclamation will announce the selected ideas for the Arsenic Sensor Challenge that sought ideas for a rapid, low-cost monitoring of arsenic that would benefit water treatment plant operations, wastewater monitoring, contaminated site remediation, private well owners, scientific research and other interested parties.

By the end of June: USGS and W&S will select projects for four Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations. In the 2017 budget omnibus, Congress dedicated \$717K of USGS funds for Urban Waters-focused projects. USGS has been working with local city partners to identify high priority, water quality/quantity-related projects to implement.

**June: Funding Opportunity Posted for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Section 4009:** In June, Reclamation will post a funding opportunity seeking proposals for projects under WIIN Section 4009. The Act provides a path for new desalination and water recycling projects to become eligible to compete for federal funding under a competitive process. Projects are eligible if the project sponsor has a Reclamation-reviewed desalination or water recycling feasibility study and Reclamation has notified Congress stating the feasibility study meets Reclamation's requirements. Reclamation is planning on notifying Congress in June.