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Cc: [Foster, Maureen](#); [Caminiti, Mariagrazia](#); [Bryan Rice](#)
Subject: Bi-Weekly Meeting
Date: Monday, December 04, 2017 11:38:44 AM
Attachments: [Bi-Weekly Briefing 11-8-17.pptx](#)

All,

We are scheduled to have our next bi-weekly meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Directors this Wednesday at 9:30. I will need everyone's completed slides to me by tomorrow at 3:00pm. If you are out of town or for some reason will not be attending, you are still responsible to ensure that your slides are completed, and someone from your hallway is able to present them.

Let me know if you have any questions, and attached are the slides from the previous briefing.

Best,
Aaron



Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

November 8, 2017



Agenda

1. Insular Areas
2. Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3. Water and Science
4. Policy, Management, and Budget
5. Land and Minerals Management
6. Indian Affairs
7. Solicitor
8. Congressional and Legislative Affairs
9. External Affairs/
Intergovernmental
10. Communications
11. White House Liaison
12. Scheduling and Advance



Insular Areas



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Hurricane Recovery

- OIA continues to track hurricane recovery efforts in the USVI and Puerto Rico including DOI assets (NPS, FWS, and USGS).
- AS-IN Doug Domenech has been appointed to the FEMA Hurricane Recovery Support Function Leadership Group. DOI's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance leads the recovery effort.
- November 7, 2017 Virgin Islands Hurricane and Resiliency Advisory Group kick-off meeting. Governor Mapp created the group to help guide reconstruction and resiliency efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Office of Insular Affairs was invited to participate and is represented.
- U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp and Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello are scheduled to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources 11/14 regarding the recent Caribbean hurricanes Irma and Maria. They are to be the only witnesses.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Hurricane Recovery

- The National Park Service manages six parks in the Caribbean. One park in Puerto Rico and five the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages nine units in the Caribbean. Five refuges in Puerto Rico and three the U.S. Virgin Islands. (And one additional island.)
- Focus is on opening Parks and Refuges that serve as tourist attractions.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Issues

- GUAM and CNMI WORKER VISAS - President Trump reportedly told Guam Governor Eddie Calvo and CNMI Governor Ralph Torres in Hawaii that he would aid them on addressing their labor needs – i.e., the H2-B visa availability for Guam and CW visa availability for the CNMI. Participated in a DPC call on the issue.
- OIA will chair the U.S.- Marshall Islands Trust Fund Committee on November 15 at the MIB. The Fund as of this past June is \$341, 576,000. In addition to the U.S. Government and Marshall Islands voting members, a representative of the Taiwan Government serves as well. Taiwan is a vital contributor to the Fund providing \$2.4 million annually.
- DHS has agreed to open a Regional Immigration Center in American Samoa.
- This week the Brown Tree Snake Coordinating Committee will hold its meeting in Guam. OIA provides grant funding to prevent the spread of the invasive snake.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- **November 20-22** – Domenech on personal leave.
- **December 3 – 8, 2017** – AS-IN Domenech and OIA Director Nikolao Pula will travel to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for discussions with RMI President Hilda Heine, U.S. Ambassador to the RMI Karen Stewart and visits to Majuro, and Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll.
- **December 9, 2017** – AS-IN Domenech and Director Pula will meet with OIA Honolulu staff who aid in the administration of Compact grants to the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.
- **December 11, 2017** – AS-IN Domenech and Director Pula will meet (tentatively) with Hawaii Governor David Ige and will separately be briefed on the United States' Pacific defense posture by the U.S. Pacific Command.
- **December 12 - 13, 2017** – AS-IN Domenech will address the Island Government Finance Officers Association meeting in Maui.



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Current Operations

- ASFWP
 - Everglades Restoration brief (Congressional)
 - RESTORE Council decision memo
- FWS
 - Alaska 1002 Area update
 - Utah prairie dog rule
 - Fever ticks in Texas
 - Comorants EA and rule
- NPS
 - Hurricane recovery in Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico
 - National Mall and Memorial Park permits, November 10-12
 - NPS leadership meeting, week of November 13
 - Upcoming events: Manassas National Battlefield, November 10; Memorial Bridge event, November 14-17; Iwo Jima/Marine Corps War Memorial, November 21



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- ASFWP
 - Everglades National Park land exchange with Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- FWS
 - Priority Endangered Species items
 - Monito gecko proposed delisting due to recovery, on or around November 15
 - Panama City crayfish to publish by December 29
 - Black warrior waterdog to publish by January 4, 2018
 - Mexican Wolf recovery plan, November
 - Low Effect HCP process
- NPS
 - Anti-harassment work
 - Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipeline update
 - National Christmas Tree lighting, President's Park, November 30
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog plan termination notice
 - Herd culling at national parks



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Major Events and Travel

- Acting Assistant Secretary Jason Larrabee
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, November 9
 - National Parks Hospitality Association fall meeting, Denver, November 13-14
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
 - Visits to Texas national wildlife refuges impacted by Hurricane Harvey, November 9
 - Travel to Tanzania to discuss lion and elephant management strategies, November 12-16
- Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds
 - NPS leadership meetings, Washington, DC, November 14-16



Water and Science



Water and Science

Current Operations

Bureau of Reclamation

- Department Review: Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the CVP & SWP and Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA)
- WIIN Operational Briefing-request of Majority Leader McCarthy 11/9
 - Re-consultation of Bio-Ops
 - Sections 4001, 4002, and 4003 of WIIN

U.S. Geological Survey

- Pre-assessment presentations being conducted: Resource Assessment of National Petroleum Reserve and Adjacent Areas-Alaska
 - Nanushuk and Torok Formations
- USGS Estimates Pounds of Potential Uranium Resources in Parts of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma-Press release 11/13



Water and Science

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Bureau of Reclamation

- H.R. 875: Bill to facilitate and streamline Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs processes for creating or expanding water projects-November 30
- Klamath Basin: Potential Letter

U.S. Geological Survey

- Critical minerals
- Sage Grouse
- Continue to review projects and publications
- Coordination with DOI bureaus



Water and Science

Major Events and Travel

Bureau of Reclamation

- Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, Sacramento, CA 11/13
- National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Annual Conference, Tucson, AZ 11/15-17
- Salton Sea Site Visits and Meetings with Water Districts, CA 11/15-17
- Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference, Anaheim, CA 11/30
- Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Conference, Las Vegas, NV 12/13-15

U.S. Geological Survey

- 20th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium, Sioux Falls, SD 11/14
- NASA-DOI Sustainable Land Imaging Joint Steering Group Meeting, DC 11/22
 - First meeting on Landsat 10



Policy, Management and Budget



Policy, Management and Budget

Current Operations

- FY 2017 Financial Audit
 - DOI has had clean and on-time audit for 20 years
 - Next step: Bureau Directors need to sign Management Representation Letters to be dated 11/14 but signature/delivery to PMB by today
 - Due date for KPMG auditors and DOI IG to release FY17 audit is 11/15/17
- FY 2018 Budget
 - Continuing Resolution into December; hopefully an omnibus after that
- FY 2019 President's Budget
 - OMB Passback expected late November; probably 4 day turnaround on any appeals
- Disasters
 - Awaiting decisions from OMB on our request for emergency supplemental appropriations; both funding and legislative initiatives are on the table



Policy, Management and Budget

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
 - Steve Howke has joined PMB as Senior Advisor
 - Memo in process to explain grant approval process for balance of FY 18 and beyond
 - Asst. Secy's and bureau directors being asked to focus grant eligibility criteria up front on Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
 - Departmental manual updates on grantmaking likely December 2017/January 2018
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
 - Low-cost reprogrammings in FY 18
 - Decision made on the standard regions, map being finalized, next do related reprogramming
 - Awaiting OMB feedback on broader proposal with Passback in late November/early December
- Government Performance and Results Act revised strategic plan for DOI
 - Expecting OMB feedback in early December; second opportunity for us to revise the plan
 - Final plan due for public release on 1/20/18
 - Plan's metrics need to be tied to SES performance standards



Policy, Management and Budget

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Human Resource management
 - SES performance evaluations in November/December
 - Challenge: (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]
 - Need to settle on FY 18 SES performance standards reflecting Secretarial priorities
 - Best Places to Work in Government report comes out early December; DOI was in eleventh place among large agencies in 2016
- January SES meeting
 - Honing in on January 10, 11 for 1½ day meeting
 - Agenda under refinement
 - JMA concept a focus
 - Invitees to include bureau regional directors



Policy, Management and Budget

Major Events and Travel

- **Western Weed Coordinating Committee** presentation; coupled with visit to Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss state concerns with invasive mussels with NPS, WGA staff, State of Nevada, State of Idaho, in Las Vegas NV, November 29



Land and Minerals Management



Land and Minerals Management

BLM

Current Operations

- Surnaming-Nov 17
 - Venting and Flaring Delay
 - Hydraulic Fracturing Final
- Sage Grouse Scoping Meetings Nov 3-16
- Planning 2.0 Nullification
 - Currently in surnaming process (Exec Sec)

30-60 Day Outlook

- BLM will hold 8 Lease Sales throughout Dec
- December 6 BLM-AK will hold a lease sale for 900 tracts in the NPR-A. (b) (5)
[Redacted text block]
- Sage Grouse
 - Dec 1 End of Scoping Period



Land and Minerals Management

OSMRE

Current Operations

- Stream Protection Rule Rescission
 - Expected publication Nov 16
- Signal Peak Litigation
 - Oct 31 District Court modified injunction to allow underground mine development work limited to 170k tons of coal

30-60 Day Outlook

- State program amendments for approval (PA, WY, KY) remaining from past 8 years
- Upcoming Mine Plan Decisions
 - Dry Fork Mine - To ASLM Dec 6
 - Belle Ayr Mine - To ASLM Dec 27
 - Cordero Rojo Mine - To ASLM Jan 10
 - Bridger Mine - To ASLM Jan 24



Land and Minerals Management

BOEM

Current Operations

- NAS Workshop Nov 8 & 9th
 - Atlantic Offshore Renewable energy
 - Fisheries
- 5-Year DPP
 - Proposed publication of DPP Nov 17th
- Liberty Island DPP
 - Public comment period ends Nov 17
 - North Slope Borough Mayor and Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission requesting 30 day extension

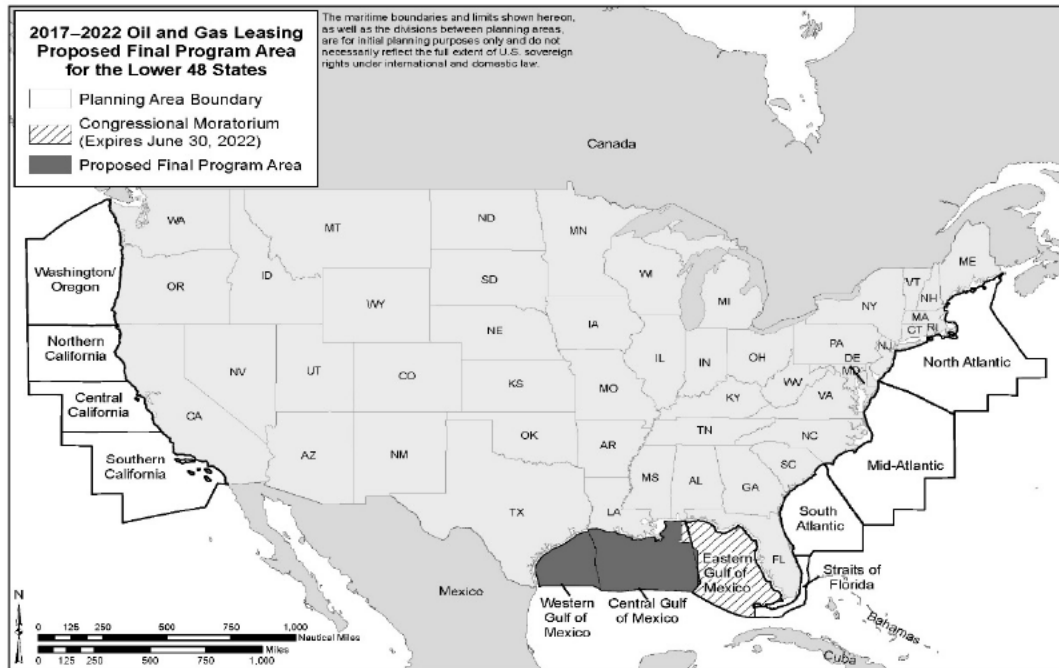
30-60 Day Outlook

- Next milestone in 5-year plan- Publishing draft proposed program (DPP)
 - Publication starts 60 day public comment period
 - Preparing letters for all 50 governors
 - Jan 17 (tentatively) begin the Proposed Program

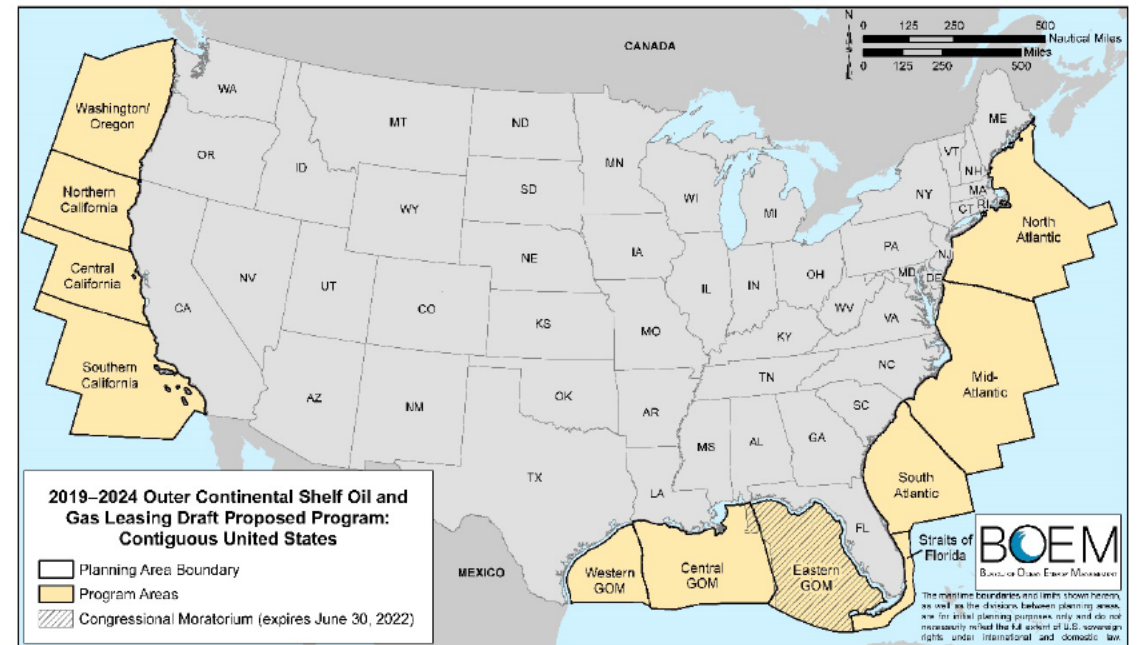


Land and Minerals Management

5 Year Plan Comparison



2017 Program Areas Highlighted in gray

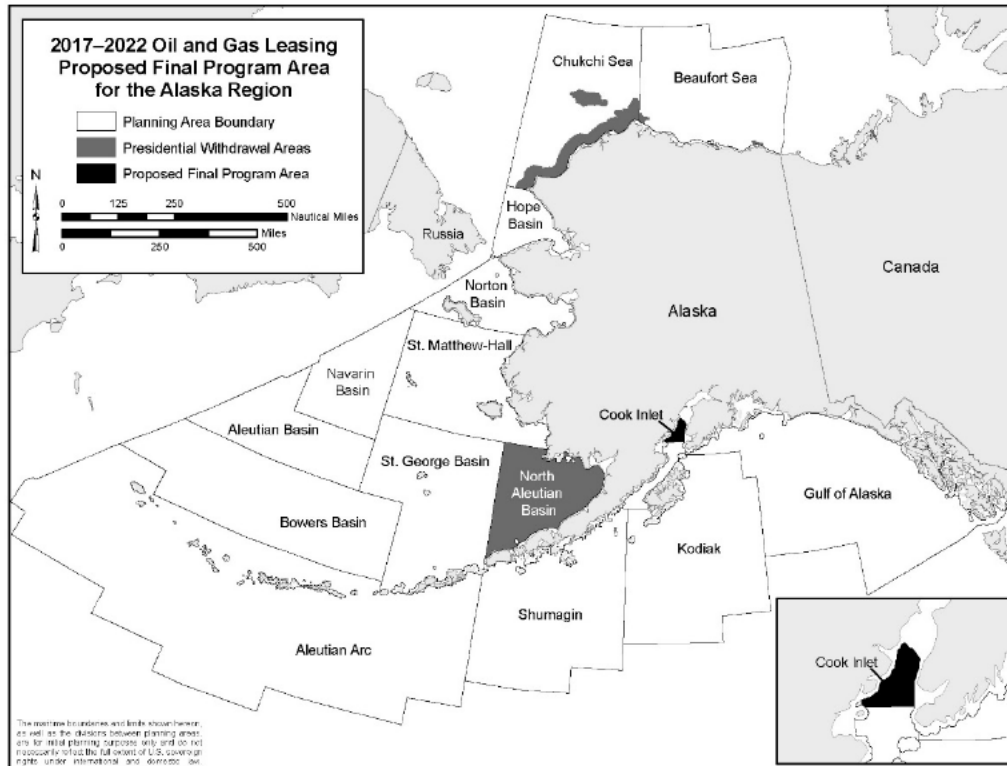


2019 Program Areas Highlighted in yellow

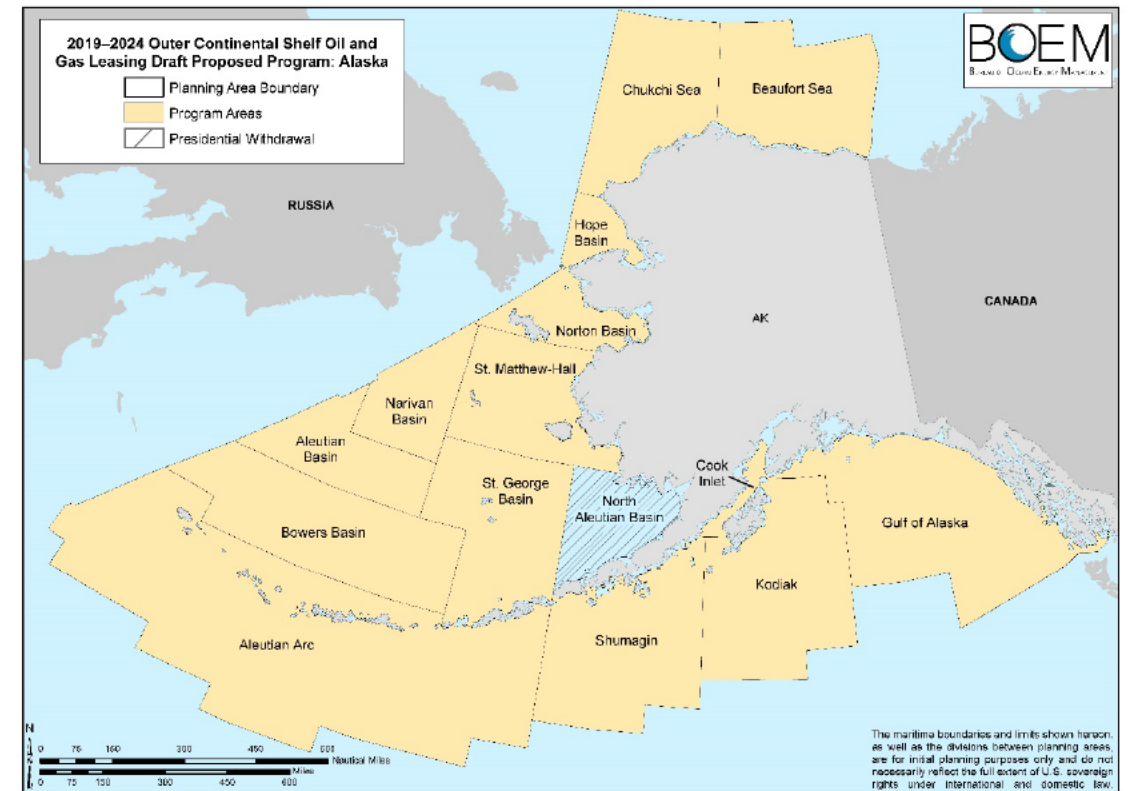


Land and Minerals Management

5 Year Plan Comparison



2017 Program Areas Highlighted in black



2019 Program Areas Highlighted in yellow



Land and Minerals Management

BSEE

Current Operations

- Surnaming Nov 17
 - Well Control
 - Sub Part H
- Arctic Slope Regional Corp.
 - Requested a suspension of operations (SOO) for 21 leases previously held by shell
 - Decision on SOO is pending

30-60 Day Outlook

- Regulatory reform updates
 - BSEE has established teams to prepare Well Control Rule and Production Safety Systems Rule



Land and Minerals Management

Major Events and Travel

From November 14-17 Acting Assistant Secretary, Kate MacGregor will be in Colorado for Petroleum and Mining presentations.

From November 14-17 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Casey Hammond will be in Utah for a series of Sage Grouse scoping meetings.

From November 6-9 BSEE Director Scott Angelle will be in Texas for meetings with industry groups.



Indian Affairs



Indian Affairs

Current Operations

- BIE negotiated rulemaking
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
 - Upcoming Consultations
- Reviewing regulations and processes on titles and leases
 - 184 Mortgage effort with HUD
 - Short form leases for tribes engaged in commercial real estate development
- Reviewing lease fee collections
- Meeting with Tribal/Interior Budget Committee
 - Hear tribal views and priorities
- Land Buy Back Program



Indian Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Work on charter school policy proposals from NIEA
 - Expansion of grades and facility sharing
 - Eliminate prohibitions on charter schools as school choice options for BIE schools
 - Allow BIE schools to contract with charter management organizations
- Work on TIBC recommendations
 - Identifying Departmental vs. tribal priorities
 - Prepare responses to tribal views and priorities



Indian Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Testimony
 - PDAS Tahsuda potentially testifying at SCIA (11/8) on STOP Act
- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
 - Native American Contractors (Tahsuda, 11/7)
 - Potential visit to Chemewa Boarding School/Radio interview (Tahsuda, 11/14)
- Tribal Consultations
 - Land into Trust (January dates being considered)
 - BIE Strategic Plan (11/15, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/14)



Solicitor



Office of the Solicitor

Current Operations

- General Update



Office of the Solicitor

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- General Update



Office of the Solicitor

Major Events and Travel

None



Congressional and Legislative Affairs



Congressional Affairs

Current Operations

- Nominees
 - Burman (BOR), Combs (ASPMB), Nelson (Solicitor) & Balash (ASLM) – Marked Up and awaiting floor vote
 - (b) (5)
 - Tara Sweeney – AS-IA Nominated, OGE legal review
 - Steve Gardner – OSM, OGE legal review
- Maintenance Fund Language – On the Hill, awaiting rollout event with WH
 - Alexander, Gardner, Daines
- Nominee Letter to McConnell / Schumer
- HR624 - Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017
- Pending Colorado Mineral Leasing Act Announcement – Gardner/Tipton
- Floor Schedule:
 - Senate – Nominees for DOT, EPA, NLRB, Asst. AG
 - House - H.R. 3043 - Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017 / Tax Reform W&M Markup



Congressional Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Hearings

- **(11/8)** SCIA legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400.
 - **Witness: John Tahsuda, Acting Asst. Secretary for Indian Affairs**
- **(11/9)** SCIA is holding a roundtable entitled “Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country.”
 - **Participant: Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services**
- **(11/15)** HNRC Hearings
 - **Indian Affairs Legislative Hearing**
 - **Federal Lands Legislative Hearing – Acadia**

Legislative Agenda

- Supplemental Disaster Relief bills - Delayed
- Senate Interior Appropriations – Delayed
- Senate Energy – 1002 Area – QFRs received, language to be introduced and marked up shortly by committee



Congressional Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
 - Chairman Bishop – 11/7/17
 - SAC-I Member Meeting hosted at DOI – 11/16
 - Louisiana Coastal Tour – Sen. Cassidy – TBD
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
 - Western Caucus – 11/14
 - Chairman Bishop – 11/15
 - Rep. Amodei Surname Tour – 11/15 or 16
- Western Caucus (12/8-12/9) – Working w/ External & Western Caucus to determine attendees



External and Intergovernmental Affairs



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Current Operations

- Timber Resources & Wildfire Roundtable
- FACA Board Outreach
- Monument Outreach



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- oiea@ios.doi.gov



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Major Events

- None

Travel

- Todd Wynn: Heartland Institute (Houston: 11/7 -- 11/10)
- Ben Cassidy: NPHA Fall Meeting (Denver: 11/13 -- 11/15)
- Tim Williams: Sage Grouse Scoping Meeting (Colorado: 11/8)



Communications



Office of Communications

Current Operations

- Nov. 7 - DOI Veterans Ceremony
- Nov. 7 - Made in America Recreation Committee release
- Nov. 8 - International Wildlife Conservation Council release
- Nov. 8 - *Philly Inquirer* Veterans Day op-ed
- Nov. 9 - Veterans Day Video + op-ed, sent to all employees
- Nov. 10/11 - Veterans Day Events
- Nov. 13 - Release on draft Environmental Assessment on Cormorants
- Dec. 4 - Event with POTUS in Utah on Monuments



Office of Communications

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- *Themes: Native American Heritage Month/Veterans, Infrastructure*

To do:

- Critical Minerals Report, EO Communications Rollout
- DOI-Wide Harassment Survey Results
- Memorial Bridge Project/Rebuild Our Parks Initiative
- Wildland Fire Roundtable
- Zimbabwe Trophy Elephant Import Ruling
- Comms Rollout for announcement of draft proposed 5 yr Program for OCS Oil & Gas development



White House Liaison



White House Liaison Office

Personnel:

- Schedule C
 - 35 of 70 onboard
 - 1 starting
 - 10 in process
 - SES
 - 26 of 44 onboard
 - 2 starting
 - 2 in process
 - PAS
 - 3 out of 17 onboard
 - 6 of 17 announced
 - 14 of 17 submitted
-
- John Bockmier – Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications – 11/13
 - John Tanner – Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs – 11/14
 - Brandon Middleton – Deputy Solicitor for Water Resources – 11/27



Scheduling and Advance



Scheduling and Advance

In Town Events:

- Cabinet Meetings (11/20)
- NFWF Board of Directors Meeting (11/8)
- Reading of Names at Vietnam Veterans Memorial (11/8)
- Washing of the Vietnam Memorial Walls w/ VPOTUS (11/11)
- World War II Memorial Veterans Day Celebration (11/11)
- Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)

- Korean War Veterans Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)
- U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial – Unveiling of engravings for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (11/21)

Upcoming Trips

- Manassas National Battlefield Park (11/10)