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Subject: Bi-Weekly 10/25/17 Reminder
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Hey Everyone,

This is just a reminder that we have a bi-weekly briefing next Wednesday. Slides are due to my on Tuesday at Noon. As always, if you are going to be unable to make the meeting, you are still responsible for the slides and coordinating arranging for someone to cover your portion during the meeting.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Aaron



Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

September 27, 2017



Agenda

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



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Current Operations

- FWS
 - National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 8-14
 - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Update
 - 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Fishing Regulations, October
- NPS
 - Harassment survey rollout, October 13
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog management plan



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- FWS
 - Priority Endangered Species items
 - Eastern puma final delisting due to extinction, on or around November 9
 - Foscett speckled dace proposed delisting due to recovery, on or around November 10
 - 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
 - Bat Week, October 24 - 31
- NPS
 - NPS seasonal fee structure at top parks
 - National Mall and Memorial Parks permits
 - U.S. Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary Commission establishment



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Major Events and Travel

- Acting Assistant Secretary Todd Willens
 - Annual leave, October 17-20
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jason Larrabee
 - Annual leave, October 13
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
 - Speech at the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, Washington, DC, October 11
 - Speech at the 20th Anniversary of the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, October 19

Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds

- Grand Canyon National Park for National Park Foundation board meeting and sexual harassment survey rollout, October 12 -15



Water and Science



Water and Science

Current Operations

Bureau of Reclamation

- Drainage –
 - Draft EA: proposed title transfer – drains in Pioneer Irrigation District, City of Caldwell (ID)
 - San Luis Unit letter
- Alan testifying on H. R. 3144 related to Federal Columbia River Power System, October 12
- Alan working on Klamath and Aamodt this week and next

U.S. Geological Survey

- Hurricane Responses-real time field measurements, reporting of water heights, storm sensors
- USGS will brief Todd and Andrea next week on:
 - Model that predicts the population of domestic well users exposed to high levels of arsenic in drinking water
 - Paper that examines projected future temperature and soil moisture conditions and soil characteristics to predict regions of dryland, non-irrigated agriculture



Water and Science

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Bureau of Reclamation

- Navajo Generating Station EA went out for comment last week, 30 day comment period
- NOA Draft EIS Pure Water San Diego Program, North City Project, California
- NOI North Bay Water Recycling Program Phase 2, California

U.S. Geological Survey

- Critical Minerals Report release, still pending



Water and Science

Major Events and Travel

Bureau of Reclamation

- Central Valley Project Meetings October 10-13, Sacramento, California
- Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project Completion Ceremony, October 17, Folsom Dam, California

U.S. Geological Survey

- Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Executive Committee Meeting, October 18, Andrea will chair
- International Group of Earth Observations-Geo Week, Oct. 23, D.C.
- Alaska Mapping Executive Committee Meeting, Oct. 26, Anchorage, Andrea will co-chair
- Pecora 20 Symposium-partnership with NASA Nov. 14 Sioux Falls, SD, Andrea will attend



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
 - Due date for KPMG auditors and DOI IG to release FY17 audit is 11/15/17
 - Bureau Directors/Assistant Secretaries need to review materials and sign respective Management Representation letters promptly; ask Finance staffs for help interpreting
- FY 2019 President's Budget
 - (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]
- Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria
 - DOI responding to FEMA direction
 - OMB datacall for FY17 emergency supplemental appropriations bill due to OMB 10-25; both funding and legislative initiatives are on the table



Policy, Management and Budget

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
 - Shaping grant eligibility criteria upfront is easier and more effective than dealing with problem individual grants after the fact
 - Asst. Secy's and bureau directors being asked to focus grants on Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
 - Departmental manual updates on grantmaking on the horizon
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
 - Low-cost reprogrammings in FY 17/18
 - Settling on the standard regions
 - Awaiting OMB feedback in 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

Major Events and Travel

- Western Weed Coordinating Committee, Las Vegas NV, November 29



Land and Minerals Management



Land and Minerals Management

BLM

Current Operations

- Waste Prevention Rule
 - Delay Published 10/5
 - Rule change in progress
- Currently drafting final Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- October 23-24 Sage Grouse Task Force meeting (discuss any remaining issues which may require plan amendments)
- Planning/ NEPA Streamlining Report

30-60 Day Outlook

- December 6 BLM-AK will hold a lease sale for 900 tracts in the NPR-A. (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]
- Energy Related RMPs
 - Eastern Interior
 - Carlsbad
 - NPR-A
 - IAP



Land and Minerals Management

OSMRE

Current Operations

- Received approval to distribute \$105 million to six Appalachian states under the FY 2017 AML Pilot Program
- Conducting final review of Stream Protection Rule nullification
- Working on memos for rescission of certain policies from the previous administration

30-60 Day Outlook

- State program amendments for approval (PA, WY, KY) remaining from past 8 years
- 6 Mine Plans for approval through Oct-Nov
- Tennessee Primacy
 - Awaiting appropriation of startup funds



Land and Minerals Management

BOEM

Current Operations

- 5 Year Plan draft proposed program decision expected this week
- Proposed notice of sale package for Lease Sale 250 in surnaming process
- DoD/ DOI working group in the process of being created

30-60 Day Outlook

- Next milestone in 5-year plan- Publishing draft proposed program (DPP)
 - Proposed publication of DPP in mid-November



Land and Minerals Management

BSEE

Current Operations

- Hurricane Nate Shut-ins (as of 10/10)
 - 90% of Oil
 - 71% of Gas
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation request for suspension of operations (decision pending)

30-60 Day Outlook

- Regulatory reform updates
- Reorganization



Land and Minerals Management

Major Events and Travel

On October 23-24 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Casey Hammond will attend the Sage Grouse Task Force Meeting in Denver



Insular Areas



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Hurricane Response & Recovery – U.S. Virgin Islands

- Doug Domenech and a small team are in USVI this week assessing recovery needs.
- POTUS Revised Disaster Declaration for USVI - Federal cost share now 100%. The Administration has submitted an initial supplemental for the storms. A second supplemental is coming in a few weeks.
- House Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Ken Calvert was briefed on Impacts of hurricanes
 - Interior Unique Role to Assist USVI – financial assistance programs.
 - The Governor is requesting at least \$750 million in recovery funds.
- OIA Staff now on location in the USVI, Reports:
 - Governor unsure of meeting payroll.
 - Utilities received \$35 million in federal dollars to begin clean up and power restoration.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations – OIA Funding Under Continuing Resolution

OIA OPERATING UNDER CR BUT WILL RELEASE PERMANENT FUNDING

Government of Guam Section 30	\$ 77,795,541
American Samoa Operations	\$ 4,000,000
Kwajalein Lease Payment	\$ 9,070,200
Compact Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia	\$ 30,819,840
Compact Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands	\$ 16,854,600



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations – Territories

AMERICAN SAMOA - OIA Director Nik Pula was in American Samoa last week. Discussions with Governor

- 1) Possible amendments to the American Samoa Constitution
- 2) OIA's program for school infrastructure

GUAM - Governor Calvo spoke at the UN Committee on Decolonization: "When will we be held as equals and given the same rights as other Americans?"



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations – Freely Associated States (FAS)

- 2018 Compact Enumeration launched in Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Counts the FAS population in each area.
 - Determines distribution of \$30 million annual Compact Impact funding
 - Interior / Census collaboration
- OIA staff meet with Hawaii officials on Compact Impact
 - Hawaii receives approximately \$13 million in Compact Impact funding annually; claims over \$100 million costs borne annually.
- Interior and State will Host a Briefing on Economic Policies, Performance, and Possibilities in the Freely Associated States of Micronesia, Marshalls and Palau.
 - Wednesday, October 18
 - Interior / State Department collaboration with World Bank



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Anticipating

(b) (5) DPP

Two discretionary grant programs open for applications from U.S. Insular Areas. Will encourage requests for USVI rebuilding post hurricanes.

Travel to the USVI and Puerto Rico.

Meet with Leadership in Pacific Insular Areas – Their Priorities



Indian Affairs



Indian Affairs

Current Operations

- Sen. McCaskill (D-MO) introduced S. 1948 to abrogate the sovereign immunity of Indian tribes as a defense in *inter partes* review of patents
 - Her alma mater (Mizzou) as well as state universities of the other 4 Democrat Senators (Blumenthal – CT, Hassan – NH, Brown – OH, and Casey – PA) all do the exact same thing
 - Response to St. Regis Mohawk Tribe licensing deal with Allergan for the Restasis drug patents
- Tribal Housing – BIA slowing down Section 184 mortgage process
- BIA refusing to record short form leases for tribes doing commercial real estate
- White House Tribal Finance Roundtable follow-up
- White House Energy Roundtable follow-up
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
- Ratification of Indian Loan Guarantees issued during prior 24 months



Indian Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Develop discussion draft of Land-into-trust regulations for NCAI (Oct 16)
- Get charter school policy proposals from National Indian Education Association (expected this week)
- Work with Treasury on New Market Tax Credit study
- Work with HUD on streamlining Section 184 Mortgage process
- Develop policy brief on tribes as IP holding companies
- Trade and Commerce consultation and data collection until October 30
 - Policy Brief submitted for review
 - Economic Analysis underway
- Prepare for TIBC



Indian Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Testimony
 - None anticipated in the next two weeks
- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
 - Native CDFI Network (10/12, DC)
 - NCAI (10/16-18, Milwaukee)
 - Conversation on Land into Trust discussion draft
 - Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders (10/19, MT)
 - Alaska Federation of Natives (10/20-21, Anchorage)
- Tribal Consultations
 - Land into Trust (11/14, 11/16, 11/29)
 - Trade and Commerce (10/16, 10/21)



Solicitor



Office of the Solicitor

Current Operations

- (b) (5) ACP [Redacted]



Office of the Solicitor

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- (b) (5) ACP [Redacted]



Office of the Solicitor

Grants

N/A



Office of the Solicitor

Major Events and Travel

(b) (5) ACP



Office of the Secretary



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)
 - Public Comment Language
- Maintenance Fund Language – On the Hill, awaiting rollout event with WH
- Issue Paper Reviews
- Floor Schedule:
 - Senate – Recess
 - House - S. 585 - Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (Sponsored by Sen. Ron Johnson / Oversight and Government Reform Committee / Veterans Affairs Committee) & potential Legislation Related to Disaster Supplemental Appropriations



Congressional Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Hearings

- (10/11) House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock) Subcommittee hearing on:
 - H.R. 219 (Young), Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project Boundary Correction Act
 - H.R. 2630 (Gosar), La Paz County Land Conveyance Act
 - H.R. 3373 (Holmes Norton), To amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to extend for an additional 50 years the lease under which the government of the District of Columbia uses the ground under and the parking facilities associated with Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium
 - H.R. 3607 (McClintock), To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System
 - Witness: Robert Vogel, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service
- (10/11) House Small Business Committee (Chabot) - Full Committee oversight hearing on Evaluating the Paperwork Reduction Act Part II: Are Burdens Being Reduced?
 - Witness: Steve Guertin, Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- House Natural Resources S/C on Water, Power and Oceans (Lamborn) Subcommittee hearing on
 - H.R. 3144 (McMorris Rodgers), To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time
 - H.R. 3916 (Calvert), Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act
 - Witness: Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation & Statement for the Record, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Legislative Agenda

- Supplemental Disaster Relief bills
- Senate Interior Appropriations



Congressional Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
 - Majority/Minority meetings with HNRC & HAC-I – 10/24
 - SAC-I Member Meeting hosted at DOI – TBD
 - Louisiana Coastal Tour – Sen. Cassidy – TBD
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
 - Western Caucus – 11/14
 - Rep. Amodei – 10/12



External and Intergovernmental Affairs



OEIA

Current Operations

- Access For American Heroes - RT
- Timber Resources & Wildfire - RT
- Meeting with Sage Grouse Governors



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs (OEIA)

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Continued outreach within the Sportsmen's community (*Utilizing our Natural Resources*)
- Strengthen Governor and Department cooperation (*Restoring trust within local communities*)
 - *Scheduling introductory meetings between Massachusetts Governors Secretary of Energy Advisor and FWS and BOEM*
 - *Sage Grouse rollout outreach*
- Outreach to local governments (*Restoring trust within local communities*)
 - *Scheduling introductory meeting between Oregon State Senator and Office of Wildland Fire*



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs (OEIA)

Major Events and Travel

- None

Travel

- None



Communications



Office of Communications

Current Operations

- Sept./Oct. – Hurricane and Wildfire Communications Coordination. Issued several internal messages, videos, as well as a press release on USVI and FL efforts (highlighted in the Secretary's travel).
- Oct. -- Hunting & Fishing Month
- Oct. 9-13 -- National Wildlife Refuge Week
- Oct. 11 -- Proposed Notice of Sale for Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 250
- Oct. 13 – NPS releases Work Environment Survey with Secretary in the Grand Canyon
- Oct. 18 -- Alaska Day Blog



Office of Communications

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- *Themes: hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation that drive home our Conservation Stewardship message*

To do:

- Refine strategic comms plan around the policy priorities, ensuring all are aligned with our Top 10 priorities
- Establish Communications rollout for Re-org.
- Working with WH on Critical Minerals report comms rollout.
- We stand ready to execute Monument Review outreach plan when WH is ready to release the report.



White House Liaison



White House Liaison Office

Personnel:

- Schedule C
 - 33 of 68 onboard
 - 3 starting
 - 7 in process
- SES
 - 23 of 44 onboard
 - 2 starting
 - 3 in process
- PAS
 - 2 out of 17 onboard
 - 4 of 17 announced
 - 15 of 17 submitted



Scheduling and Advance



Scheduling and Advance

In Town Events:

- Cabinet Meeting (10/16)

Upcoming Trips

- North Carolina / Arizona (10/11-10/15)
- California (10/21)