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[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 09-19-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/19/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Meeting with Carl Higbie, CNCS and Gina Cross, Acting Director of CNCS/AmeriCorps

Meeting with National Parks of New York Conservancy

This Week:

9/20: Travel to Missouri. Remarks at Gala Dinner Event - Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

9/21: Confirmed Ribbon Cutting Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

Travel to Dallas, TX.

9/22: Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).

9/23: Washington. Wolf Trap Annual Gala.

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

MEDIA TODAY

MEDIA ON NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW

Trump May Strip Protections From 10 National Monuments.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper) reports that the Trump Administration's plan to reduce "protections at America's national monuments appears far more expansive than previously reported, targeting 10 of the nation's most ecologically sensitive landscapes and marine preserves for diminished protection." The plan submitted last month by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "would shrink the borders at half a dozen monuments and ocean preserves and open four others up for uses such as commercial fishing, logging and coal mining, according to a copy of the blueprint obtained by the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post." The Times says the plan, if enacted, would have a "dramatic" impact on the West.

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Turkewitz, Popovich, McCann) lists the 10 monuments "designated for changes under Mr. Zinke's proposal." They are: Bears Ears, Utah; Gold Butte, Nevada; Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah; Cascade-Siskiyou, Oregon and California; Pacific Remote Islands, Pacific

Ocean; Rose Atoll, Pacific Ocean; Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, New Mexico; Rio Grande del Norte, New Mexico; and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Atlantic Ocean.

David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 11, 0:20) that President Trump has suggested “that former presidents wrongly seized the property.” [USA Today](#) (9/18, Sullivan) writes that the draft report quotes Zinke saying adherence to the 1906 Antiquities Act definitions “were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management.”

[Reuters](#) (9/18, Harvey, Volcovici, Gardner) reports that “Zinke also called for relaxing current restrictions within some of the monuments’ boundaries for activities such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing.” The [AP](#) (9/18, Daly) says that the draft report recommendations “cap an unprecedented four-month review based on Trump’s claim that 1906 Antiquities Act has been misused by recent presidents to create oversized monuments that hinder energy development, grazing and other uses.”

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18) reports that Zinke also “suggests exploring the possibility of recognising three new national monuments: Kentucky’s Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army outpost where African American regiments trained; the Mississippi home of murdered civil rights leader Medgar Evers; and the Badger-Two Medicine area in Montana, which is sacred ground for the Blackfeet Nation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Eilperin) reports that “environmental and outdoor recreation groups threatened Monday to sue if President Trump adopts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s leaked proposal to alter nearly a dozen national monuments, while grazing, fishing and other groups welcomed the recommendations.” Meanwhile, “former Interior secretary Sally Jewell, who oversaw several of the monument designations Zinke is proposing to alter, said in an interview Monday that ‘the protections that are written into the proclamations are in many cases what he’s trying to undo, in his recommendations to President Trump.’” She added, “It’s a monument in name only if all the activities that are identified by Secretary Zinke are allowed to occur.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/18, O’Donoghue) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, “criticized the monument leak.” Bishop said in a statement, “The fact this was leaked is troubling and merits an immediate and thorough investigation. The president should have the time to evaluate the secretary’s review and develop actions without the encumbrance of incomplete information being leaked to the press.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper), the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (9/18, Rogers), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/18), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/18, Roth), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, DeMille), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/18), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, Coleman), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (9/18, Hart), [Newsweek](#) (9/18, Paton), [TIME](#) (9/18), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18), [The Week](#) (9/18, Weber), [The Verge](#) (9/18, Becker), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/18), [KFVE-TV Honolulu](#) Honolulu (9/18), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (9/18).

4 US Monuments To Be Scaled Back Hold Artifacts, Key Habitat. The [AP](#) (9/18, McCOMBS) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “recommendation to shrink four sprawling national monuments in the U.S. West jeopardizes protections for ancient cliff dwellings, scenic canyons and habitat for endangered fish and threatened Mojave desert tortoises.” The affected monuments include Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, along with Nevada’s Gold Butte and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou.

Leaked Memo: Zinke Wants Smaller Monuments, But How Small? The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19, Maffly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “clearly has his sights on trimming national monuments in southern Utah, but his official report to President Donald Trump is so short on specifics it remains unclear where any ‘revised’ boundaries to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante would fall.” Zinke’s “call for a smaller Bears Ears is not sitting well with the Navajo Nation, one of five tribes that proposed the monument.” According to Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, “that recommendation – along with Zinke’s request that Congress make other conservation designations – contradict all the input provided by the tribe.”

Also reporting are [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, O'Donoghue), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, Edwards), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18).

Applause, Criticism Greet Leak Of Zinke’s Monument Recommendations. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/18, Martin, Brean) reports that the Gold Butte recommendation was “applauded by Republicans and denounced by Democrats.” Sen. Dean Heller, said the designation is “an example of extreme overreach and the failed Washington-knows-best mentality.” Rep. Dina Titus said: “Secretary Zinke leaked a memo in the middle of the night because he knows his plan to hack away at monuments like Gold Butte is an overreach opposed by the majority of Americans.”

The [AP](#) (9/18, Ritter) reports that the leaked memo brought “a measured cheer from the head of a southern Nevada water district with springs in the area.” Kevin Brown, general manager of the Virgin Valley Water District, “said Monday that the boundary change his agency sought from Zinke covers about 25 square miles (65 square kilometers) in the Virgin Mountains.”

Also reporting are the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, Thomas), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18, Rosch), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18).

Zinke Recommendation To Cut Cascade-Siskiyou Questioned. The [AP](#) (9/18, Selsky) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal “recommending downsizing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has several errors, one of the people who was behind the creation of the monument said Monday.” A memo “justifying his recommendation that the boundaries of the monument, which lies mostly in Oregon and crosses over into California, be ‘revised’ says motor vehicles aren’t allowed in it.” Dave Willis, the chairman of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, asked, “There are hundreds of roads inside this monument. I live on private land inside the monument. Do we walk or ride horses?”

Also reporting are the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/18, Theen), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (9/18, Daly), and [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (9/18, Roth).

No Boundary Changes For New Mexico’s 2 National Monuments. The [AP](#) (9/18, Bryan) reports that the recommendations for the Rio Grande del Norte monument and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monument “would remain unchanged under recommendations made by U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, providing some relief to the groups that had come out in support of the designations.” The recommendations “do call for making public access a priority as well as the pursuit of congressional authority to enable Native American tribes to help manage cultural areas within the boundaries.”

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular) reports that the memo was “met Monday with wide-ranging reactions from Doña Ana County residents and New Mexico’s federal lawmakers.”

Also reporting are [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/18, Oxford), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Peerman), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/18, Grubs), and [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (9/18, Ortiz).

Zinke Would Allow Trees To Be Cut At Katahdin Woods & Waters. The [AP](#) (9/18, Sharp) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow trees to be cut on parts of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and to ensure that ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting are taken into account in a management plan that’s being drawn up.” According to the article, “it was unclear what Zinke meant when he recommended ‘active timber management’ to promote a healthy forest on the 87,500-acre (35,410-hectare) property.” However, “an environmental group said commercial logging would ‘almost certainly’ trigger a lawsuit.” Lisa Pohlmann of the Natural Resources Council of Maine said, “Commercial logging could cause substantial harm to the natural resources protected by the monument and to the economic and recreation benefits already emerging at Katahdin Woods and Waters.”

In an editorial, the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/19) says “that uncertainty is the biggest danger of the destructive and unnecessary process that has been unleashed on the region by the Trump administration and its allies here in Maine.” According to the paper, “even people who initially opposed the idea of a federally managed park in the Maine woods were ready to give it a try.” However, “with constant political interference, it won’t have much of a chance.”

Also reporting are the [Boston Globe](#) (9/19, Abel), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/18, Miller), and the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Sambides).

Zinke: Open Up First Atlantic Monument To Commercial Fishing. The [AP](#) (9/18, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended opening up the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. Zinke’s memo “states that instead of prohibiting commercial fishing, the government should allow it in the area under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which is the primary law governing the U.S.’s marine fisheries and meant to prevent overfishing and guarantee a safe source of seafood.” His memo says “that the monument was established ‘to protect geologic features, natural resources, and species,’ but regulators have charged that it disrupts their ability ‘to manage species to balance protection with commercial fishing.’”

Tribune Editorial: Zinke’s Report Leaves A Monumental Mess. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19) criticizes the draft report for making the “future of those monuments, especially Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante...even more muddled than it was before.” According to the paper, “Zinke’s report is so maddeningly vague that it provides the White House with little guidance on just what it should do, and what legal rationale it should offer for doing it.” The paper expects that “the path forward now is more confusion, more litigation, more bad blood among neighbors, between Native American Nations and county governments, less time devoted to working up a specific management plan for Bears Ears that might, if everyone approached it in good faith, work out a lot better for everyone than some of us think.”

Mormons Are Among The Few Who Want Less Federally Protected Land. Their History Explains Why. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Colbert), Christine Colbert examines why Mormons are some of the those who are most “opposed to government control of Western lands.” According to Colbert, it boils down to “distrust of the federal government” and “distrust of the outside world.” She concludes that “until Mormon leaders declare their support for such stewardship and call for the preservation of our nation’s greatest treasures, Utah politicians will continue to bend Trump’s ear toward privatization and resource development, reflecting their culture’s historical distrust and proprietary notions regarding the very lands that really belong to all of us, not just a few.”

WH COMMS REPORT (new report filed Monday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries.
- ****Many inquiries regarding monument review and the leaked memo** All inquiries are being directed to the White House.**
- The Times Independent: (Molly Marcello) –**REQUEST**-- I'm contacting you again with a question, this time related to Bears Ears National Monument. We just got word that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed suit against San Juan County's Commissioners regarding meetings they held with Secretary Zinke and DOI staff in May and June. Because these meetings were not publicly posted and the subjects for discussion included issues over which the commissioners have jurisdiction, the lawsuit argues that these meetings violated Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act. I've attached the complaint for reference. Here's what I'm wondering: How did these meetings between DOI staff and San Juan County's elected officials come to be? Were the commissioners invited to speak with Secretary Zinke and staff? Or did the commissioners ask for meetings? What was discussed during these meetings? And, would DOI have any comment on the lawsuit itself?—**RESPONSE**— The Department does not have a comment on the lawsuit concerning outside parties.

Top Stories

- **Associated Press:** [Interior chief urges shrinking 4 national monuments in West](#)
- **Washington Times:** [Ryan Zinke recommends that Trump scale back 10 national monuments](#)
- **Wall Street Journal:** [Interior Report Recommends Cuts or Changes to Seven National Land Monuments](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Interior's Zinke: Trump has 'a lot of Roosevelt in him'](#)
- **THE HILL:** [Interior Dept recommends reducing Bears Ears, other protected land: report](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Shrink at least 4 national monuments and modify a half-dozen others, Zinke tells Trump](#)
- **E&E News:** [Zinke recommends shrinking as many as 6 sites](#)
- **Albuquerque Journal:** [Feds suggest no boundary change at NM monuments](#)
- **San Francisco Chronicle:** [Interior Secretary vows to increase fishing, hunting on federal lands](#)
- **Las Vegas Review Journal:** [Zinke wants to trim Gold Butte, other national monuments](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- **This past weekend, Interior announced the winner of the Federal Duck Stamp art awards. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).**
- This week, DOI will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories.
- Wednesday, Secretary Zinke will travel to Springfield, Missouri, to participate in the

opening of a new wildlife museum with Bass Pro Shops.

- On Friday, Secretary Zinke will be in Dallas to speak at an NRA Convention for women members.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD thru September 21, 2017 (Report from Thursday 9/14)

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 20, where he will travel to Springfield, MO, to participate in the ribbon cutting and the opening of the “Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.”
- This week we are working with our federal, state, and Tribal partners to support the WH and FEMA with the Hurricane recovery and wildfire response. The NPS Director is in the USVI to oversee response efforts.
- September 18 [POSTPONED TO END OF WEEK]: Department-level Release: DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. (Delayed)
- TBD: Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech was confirmed by the Senate the evening of September 13. We will issue a statement and photo of his swearing-in asap.

National Park Service

- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS Pacific West Region will announce the new superintendent of Redwood National and State Parks.
- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- September 19: Local FWS Release: FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the endangered finding for the i'iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media. [Sent to Federal Register on Friday]
- September TBD: Public comment period opening for voluntary wildlife conservation opportunity designed with Montana ranchers, regulatory certainty for the next 20 years through a Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Participants can voluntarily take steps to conserve the Sprague's pipit, McCown's longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird's sparrow, and greater sage-grouse on their property while conducting their general business operations.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of September 18: Local BLM Release: BLM-AZ will announce the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is

supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.

- September 19: BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will meet with landowners from around the Pumpkin Buttes Traditional Cultural Property to discuss concerns with a proposed Programmatic Agreement that would streamline and define that tribal consultation about federal projects within three miles of the area would take place. The meeting will be staffed by local BLM management and subject matter experts on oil and gas development and cultural resources from the Buffalo Field Office. The public and media will be invited.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

U.S. Geological Survey

- September 21: National USGS Release: USGS will put out a release regarding a nature article on the potential release of mercury currently stored in permafrost.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- September 15-19 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is due to be completed on Sep 15.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: Gulf G&G PEIS Record of Decision.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce Marine Minerals
- Rule.

Office of Insular Affairs

- September TBD: OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools.
- September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387.
- September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- September TBD: National ONRR Release: ONRR will announce Secretary's appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct. 4.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- Week of September 18: Director Angelle is concluding his visits to the top 20 lessees in the Gulf

CONGRESSIONAL (updated)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

9:30am: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business Meeting to consider the nominations of Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Interior, Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, and Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. (ALL PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE)

10 AM: BLM official to testify before SENR committee: John Ruhs (Acting Deputy Director for Operation, BLM) will testify before the SENR Committee regarding "Vegetation Management Requirements for Electricity Assets on Federal Lands" and on Section 2310 of S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act, and H.R. 1873, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. This hearing is of particular interest as the Administration is seeking solutions to mitigate wildfires by active management solutions. Sec. Zinke was the author of this legislation when he was in Congress.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (update)

DOI politicals on board = 56

3 confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 3 starting; 6 in process

NC-SES: 22 of 44 onboard; 2 starting; 4 in process

PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (Updates are Bold)

Accepted

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/25 - Remarks at National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum (DC)

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

9/26 – National Clean Energy Week Symposium (DC)

9/26 - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)

Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

10/11 - Remarks at 2nd National Wildlife Refuge System Expo co-hosted by the

Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) (DC)

10/15 - National Congress of American Indians 74 Annual Convention (Milwaukee, WI)

10/15-17 – Heritage Annual President’s Club Meeting (DC)

10/16 - Carlsbad Mayor's Energy Summit (Carlsbad, NM)

10/20 - TXOGA Lone Star Energy Forum (Woodlands, TX)

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

Declining

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/18 – Concordia Annual Summit (NYC)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/20 – Remarks to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (DC)

9/21 - Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) (DC)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)

10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)

10/4 - NOIA Fall Meeting (Cody, WY)

10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)

10/17 - National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (San Antonio, TX)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

UPDATE: Senior Advisor David Mihalic has been made coordinator of DOI interactions with FEMA. 467 DOI employees have volunteered to assist, 24 are now set to deploy under wave 9 (depart date Sept 21). Another 26 are set to deploy on Wave 10 (Sept. 25). This will bring the total to 50. They will receive training from FEMA in Anniston, AL.

Hurricane Maria:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Maria was located approximately 205 miles to the southeast of St. Croix and moving west-northwest at 9 miles per hour (mph). This general motion is expected to continue through Wednesday. On this track, the eye of Maria will move over the northeastern Caribbean Sea today and approach the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico tonight into Wednesday. Maximum sustained winds are near 155 miles per hour mph, with higher gusts. Maria is a Category 4 hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next day or two, but Maria is forecast to remain an extremely dangerous Category 4 or 5 hurricane as it approaches the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 30 miles from the storm's center, and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 125 miles.

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, the British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat. A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Anguilla, and from Isla Saona to Puerto Plata. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Antigua, Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Lucia, and Martinique. Hurricane conditions should spread throughout portions of the Hurricane Warning area in the Leeward Islands this morning, and hurricane conditions should spread through the remainder of the Hurricane Warning area later today and Wednesday. A dangerous storm surge accompanied by large and destructive waves will raise water levels by as much as 7 to 11 feet above normal tide levels in the Hurricane Warning area near where the center of Maria moves across the Leeward Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands could see a storm surge of 6 to 9 feet.

Maria is expected to produce 10 to 15 inches of rainfall in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and the central and southern Leeward Islands, with isolated amounts of 20 inches. Puerto Rico is forecast to receive 12 to 18 inches, with isolated amounts of 25 inches possible. The northern Leeward Islands could receive 4 to 8 inches of rainfall, with isolated amounts of 10 inches possible. This rainfall could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

On September 18, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands. This declaration provides Public Assistance for all islands in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands and includes debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance.

On September 18, the President also approved an Emergency Declaration for Puerto Rico. This declaration provides for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance for all 78 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Maria Response:

DOI currently has 49 personnel supporting 1 FEMA Mission Assignment (MA) in response to impending landfall of Hurricane Maria.

DOI Maria Quick Response Teams (QRT) 1 and 2 received U.S. Marshals Service special deputations on September 18, while staged in Orlando, Florida. The teams are scheduled to travel to Puerto Rico today for public safety and security missions.

Internal Maria response activities:

The NPS Caribbean Parks have evacuated non-essential staff from St. John and relocated most staff and family to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Three Eastern Incident Management Teams (EIMT) resources have been dispatched to Puerto Rico. All personnel arrived at the San Juan National Historic Site on September 18, and a Type-3 IMT will manage the relocation of Virgin Islands National Park and Christiansted National Historic Site personnel. The IMT will also manage re-entry to both locations following the storm, as well as support post re-entry operations. Twenty-five NPS maintenance employees and 6 Special Event Team (SET) members remain on St. John. Fourteen NPS employees and one USGS employee remain on St. Croix. Shelter locations have been identified for all personnel remaining on St. John and St. Croix.

USGS reports that the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center (CFWSC) office in Puerto Rico is closed and will remain closed until further notice. Twelve personnel deployed 14 temporary sensors on the southern and eastern coasts of Puerto Rico from Fajardo to Ponce as part of a training exercise in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma Response:

DOI currently has 202 personnel supporting 10 FEMA MAs in response to Hurricane Irma.

In Florida, 27 USGS personnel retrieved storm surge sensors and began analyzing data. To date, 121 surge sensors have been retrieved, 5 sensors were lost, and 32 sensors have been processed. Forty high water marks (HWMs) have been flagged, and 33 HWMs were surveyed. The USGS is coordinating with FEMA Region 4 to amend this MA to perform additional HWMs in the Florida Keys. In Georgia, 3 USGS personnel were in the field retrieving storm surge sensors and analyzing data. All (58) surge sensors have been retrieved, and 42 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed. In South Carolina, 3 personnel processed surge sensor data from 66 (all previously deployed) surge sensors. Ten rapid deployment gages (RDGs) deployed for Irma remain in the field, and 32 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed.

DOI assets associated with public safety and security, have begun demobilization, though some teams may be retained for Hurricane Maria response.

Internal Irma response activities:

NPS reports that the Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) continues to operate its Incident Command Post (ICP) from the Krome Center in Homestead, Florida. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, evacuations of non-essential personnel have been conducted. Parks have implemented severe weather plans. In Florida, Big Cypress, Biscayne, Everglades, Dry Tortugas, De Soto, Fort Matanzas, Timucuan, Fort Pulaski, and Cumberland Island remain closed. (Complete park details are available in the Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reports that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has 2 (1) shelters open, with a total population estimated at 20 (-4). Restoration of power remains a limiting factor to recovery for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

USGS reports that 36 gages in Florida are down, and 50 gages have been repaired to date. Eighteen personnel were in the field yesterday repairing gages and making discharge measurements under USGS inherent authority. There have been 157 discharge measurements in Florida in response to Irma.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Harvey Response:

There are 60 DOI personnel currently supporting 4 FEMA Mission Assignments for Harvey response and recovery.

Twenty-two USGS personnel were in the field yesterday flagging and surveying HWMs in Texas. A total of 1,200 locations have had HWMs flagged, with 464 locations surveyed to date.

Hurricane Jose:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Jose was located approximately 240 miles east-northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and moving toward the north at near 9 mph. This general motion is expected to continue through today, with a turn to the northeast anticipated tonight. Maximum sustained winds are near 75 mph, with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected today, but Jose should begin to gradually weaken on Wednesday. Dangerous surf and rip currents are expected along the eastern coast of the U.S.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect from Watch Hill, Rhode Island to Hull, Massachusetts, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect along portions of Long Island, New York and from New Haven, Connecticut to Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin in the warning area early Wednesday, and tropical storm conditions are possible in the watch area beginning tonight. Jose is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 1 to 3 inches over eastern Long Island, southeastern Connecticut, southern Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts. Rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches are expected for Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod through Wednesday. This rainfall could cause isolated flooding. Jose is also expected to produce total rain accumulations of less than inch along the northern mid-Atlantic coast and from southeastern New York to coastal Maine through Wednesday.

Wildland Fire Updates:

No update was provided for the Sprague Fire for the most recent operational period. Reporting will resume as incident status summaries are published.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park has burned 15,826 (no change) acres and is 22 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 2 (-39) personnel assigned, including 1 (+1) DOI employee. There are 0 (-39) residential structures threatened. Crater Lake National Park reports that the North Entrance is closed until further notice due to fire activity. Several trails within Crater Lake National Park are closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. Northern Spotted Owl habitat, sensitive aquatic species, Forest Service timber sale groves, and other sensitive plant and animal species are threatened by the fire. Full containment is expected on October 15.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump’s Western Firefighters.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) applauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for issuing a memorandum last week instructing land managers and park superintendents to exercise the “full authority” of their bureaus to clear dying trees and brush in federal lands in order to “proactively work to prevent forest fires.” The Journal adds that Congress can help the Administration’s efforts to promote better forest management with legislation that reduces litigation against such efforts against fire damage.

MGM Pitches Bridgeport Casino As Feds Delay Tribes’ Expansion.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (9/18, Pazniokas) reports that MGM Resorts International “launched a glitzy new campaign Monday to expand into Connecticut, an effort that curiously coincides with the Trump administration, at least temporarily, halting the state’s two federally recognized tribes’ from building a casino in East Windsor to compete with a new MGM resort in Springfield, Mass.” MGM, “after telling legislators for two years they would be foolish to approve the tribes’ plan without an open competition, now is seeking legislation in special session granting it exclusive rights to build a waterfront casino resort in Bridgeport, a gateway to the lucrative New York City gambling market.”

Lawsuit Aims To Block Oil Drilling On US Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Sonner) reports environmentalists have sued the BLM “to try to stop it from allowing oil and gas drilling on a vast stretch of federal land in Nevada, where the government is reversing protections put in place nine months ago under the Obama administration.” The Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity say the BLM “illegally failed to consider potential consequences of hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, ranging from harm to the greater sage grouse to contamination of fragile desert water sources and emission of climate-altering greenhouse gases.”

Stop Seismic Testing Off NC Coast.

In an editorial, the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/18) opposes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. It raises concerns that “the testing, and the drilling should exploration proceed, could put coastal marine life in danger.” It also points out that “the truly ludicrous thing about the argument for exploration” is that “oil prices are depressed (excluding the post-hurricane situation) and there are plenty of reserves.”

Will The Southland Wind Up Holding Much Of The \$17-billion Bill For The Delta

Water Tunnels?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Boxall) reports that some of California's "biggest water districts" are "expected to decide if they want to sign on to California WaterFix — a long-planned proposal to construct two massive tunnels that would change the way water supplies move through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Supporters have "long have operated under the assumption that the cost, now estimated at nearly \$17 billion, would be split among customers of the big government water projects according to the size of their contracts for delta supplies." According to the article, "under that scenario, the largely urban agencies supplied by the State Water Project would pick up 55% of the tunnel tab, and the largely agricultural districts supplied by the federal Central Valley Project would pay for 45%." However, "as the votes approach, there are growing doubts that agriculture will agree to pay that much."

Additional Coverage: Legislation Introduced To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam National Battlefield.

Additional coverage that legislation has been introduced "to have a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee removed from Antietam National Battlefield" was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (9/18, Dearth) and [Stars And Stripes](#) (9/17, REID).

Hurricane Maria Forecast To Strike Puerto Rico Wednesday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, lead story, 2:15, Muir) reported Hurricane Maria strengthened to a Category 4 on Monday as it "bear[s] down on some of the [Caribbean] islands, just now recovering from Irma." In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) reported Maria is "making a beeline towards some of the same Caribbean islands decimated less than two weeks ago by Irma, lashing the Caribbean island of Martinique, [and] barreling towards Puerto Rico."

USGS May Look At The Entire Williston Basin For A New Oil Estimate.

The [Prairie Public News \(ND\)](#) (9/18, Thompson) reports that Sen. John Hoeven and others recently asked US Geological Survey for an updated assessment of the oil in the Bakken and Three Forks formations. State mineral resources director Lynn Helms "said USGS is now talking about a full Williston Basin-wide assessment in a few years." But "there's been no official word from USGS."

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS: (new)

Items were cleared for the FR on Monday.

REG0007361 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Non-Competitive Lease of Public Land in Johnson County, WY -- The BLM proposes to lease a 0.87-acre parcel of land in Johnson County, Wyoming, for residential purposes to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized trespass. The BLM seeks public comments for 45 days. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007436 BOR Charter Renewal: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group -- Notice of Charter renewal for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group in advance of the scheduled Sept. 20, 2017 meeting. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007403 FWS Foreign Endangered Species and Marine Mammals Issuance of Permits Issuance (First applicant Feld) -- This notice informs the public that the Service has issued 4 Endangered Species Act permits and 1 Marine Mammal Protection Act permit from August 3 through August 14, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007406 FWS Foreign Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit (First applicant Philly Zoo) -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits.
Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007407 FWS Agency Information Collection Activities; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations (1018-0095) -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection necessary to monitor the success of experimental population reintroduction and recovery efforts. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.
Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007304 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY N2838 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky. The remains were removed from Fox Field in Mason County, Kentucky, and from Steubenville in Jefferson County, Ohio. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007320 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI N2842 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The remains and objects were removed from Saginaw County, Michigan, in 1970. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007337 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. DOI, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA N2789 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office, in Sacramento, California. The remains and objects were removed from Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties in California in the 1970's. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007342 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robbins Museum of Archaeology, Middleborough, MA N2776 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robbins Museum of Archaeology in Middleborough, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007343 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA N2777 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959.
Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007384 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2737 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Hughes and Buffalo Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007385 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2813 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were collected from Buffalo County, South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007386 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE, and State Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, SD N2812 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. The remains and objects were removed from Buffalo County, South Dakota, in 1961. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007387 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2738 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Brule, Corson, and Lyman Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007412 OSM Grant Notification for Fiscal Year 2018 -- The OSMRE is notifying the public that it intends to award grants during fiscal year 2018 to eligible applicants: (1) for purposes authorized under the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program; and (2) for regulating coal mining within their jurisdictional borders under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The OSMRE invites written comments until December 15, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/19/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Meeting with Carl Higbie, CNCS and Gina Cross, Acting Director of CNCS/AmeriCorps

Meeting with National Parks of New York Conservancy

This Week:

9/20: Travel to Missouri. Remarks at Gala Dinner Event - Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

9/21: Confirmed Ribbon Cutting Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ. Travel to Dallas, TX.

9/22: Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).

9/23: Washington. Wolf Trap Annual Gala.

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

MEDIA TODAY

MEDIA ON NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW

Trump May Strip Protections From 10 National Monuments.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper) reports that the Trump Administration's plan to reduce "protections at America's national monuments appears far more expansive than previously reported, targeting 10 of the nation's most ecologically sensitive landscapes and marine preserves for diminished protection." The plan submitted last month by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "would shrink the borders at half a dozen monuments and ocean preserves and open four others up for uses such as commercial fishing, logging and coal mining, according to a copy of the blueprint obtained by the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post." The Times says the plan, if enacted, would have a "dramatic" impact on the West.

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Turkewitz, Popovich, McCann) lists the 10 monuments "designated for changes under Mr. Zinke's proposal." They are: Bears Ears, Utah; Gold Butte, Nevada; Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah; Cascade-Siskiyou, Oregon and California; Pacific Remote Islands, Pacific Ocean; Rose Atoll, Pacific Ocean; Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, New Mexico; Rio Grande del Norte, New Mexico; and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Atlantic Ocean.

David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 11, 0:20) that President Trump has suggested "that former presidents wrongly seized the property." [USA Today](#) (9/18, Sullivan) writes that the draft report quotes Zinke saying adherence to the 1906 Antiquities Act definitions "were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management."

[Reuters](#) (9/18, Harvey, Volcovici, Gardner) reports that "Zinke also called for relaxing current restrictions within some of the monuments' boundaries for activities such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing." The [AP](#) (9/18, Daly) says that the draft report recommendations "cap an unprecedented four-month review based on Trump's claim that 1906 Antiquities Act has been

misused by recent presidents to create oversized monuments that hinder energy development, grazing and other uses.”

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18) reports that Zinke also “suggests exploring the possibility of recognising three new national monuments: Kentucky’s Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army outpost where African American regiments trained; the Mississippi home of murdered civil rights leader Medgar Evers; and the Badger-Two Medicine area in Montana, which is sacred ground for the Blackfeet Nation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Eilperin) reports that “environmental and outdoor recreation groups threatened Monday to sue if President Trump adopts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s leaked proposal to alter nearly a dozen national monuments, while grazing, fishing and other groups welcomed the recommendations.” Meanwhile, “former Interior secretary Sally Jewell, who oversaw several of the monument designations Zinke is proposing to alter, said in an interview Monday that ‘the protections that are written into the proclamations are in many cases what he’s trying to undo, in his recommendations to President Trump.’” She added, “It’s a monument in name only if all the activities that are identified by Secretary Zinke are allowed to occur.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/18, O’Donoghue) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, “criticized the monument leak.” Bishop said in a statement, “The fact this was leaked is troubling and merits an immediate and thorough investigation. The president should have the time to evaluate the secretary’s review and develop actions without the encumbrance of incomplete information being leaked to the press.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper), the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#)(9/18, Rogers), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/18), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/18, Roth), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, DeMille), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/18), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, Coleman), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (9/18, Hart), [Newsweek](#)(9/18, Paton), [TIME](#) (9/18), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18), [The Week](#) (9/18, Weber), [The Verge](#) (9/18, Becker), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/18), [KFVE-TV Honolulu Honolulu](#) (9/18), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles Los Angeles](#) (9/18).

4 US Monuments To Be Scaled Back Hold Artifacts, Key Habitat. The [AP](#) (9/18, McCOMBS) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “recommendation to shrink four sprawling national monuments in the U.S. West jeopardizes protections for ancient cliff dwellings, scenic canyons and habitat for endangered fish and threatened Mojave desert tortoises.” The affected monuments include Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, along with Nevada’s Gold Butte and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou.

Leaked Memo: Zinke Wants Smaller Monuments, But How Small? The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#)(9/19, Maffly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “clearly has his sights on trimming national monuments in southern Utah, but his official report to President Donald Trump is so short on specifics it remains unclear where any ‘revised’ boundaries to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante would fall.” Zinke’s “call for a smaller Bears Ears is not sitting well with the Navajo Nation, one of five tribes that proposed the monument.” According to Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, “that recommendation – along with Zinke’s request that Congress make other conservation designations – contradict all the input provided by the tribe.”

Also reporting are [KSL-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City](#) (9/18, O’Donoghue), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City](#) (9/18, Edwards), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City](#) (9/18).

Applause, Criticism Greet Leak Of Zinke’s Monument Recommendations. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/18, Martin, Breaun) reports that the Gold Butte recommendation was “applauded by

Republicans and denounced by Democrats.” Sen. Dean Heller, said the designation is “an example of extreme overreach and the failed Washington-knows-best mentality.” Rep. Dina Titus said: “Secretary Zinke leaked a memo in the middle of the night because he knows his plan to hack away at monuments like Gold Butte is an overreach opposed by the majority of Americans.”

The [AP](#) (9/18, Ritter) reports that the leaked memo brought “a measured cheer from the head of a southern Nevada water district with springs in the area.” Kevin Brown, general manager of the Virgin Valley Water District, “said Monday that the boundary change his agency sought from Zinke covers about 25 square miles (65 square kilometers) in the Virgin Mountains.”

Also reporting are the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, Thomas), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas Las Vegas](#) (9/18, Rosch), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas Las Vegas](#) (9/18).

Zinke Recommendation To Cut Cascade-Siskiyou Questioned. The [AP](#) (9/18, Selsky) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal “recommending downsizing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has several errors, one of the people who was behind the creation of the monument said Monday.” A memo “justifying his recommendation that the boundaries of the monument, which lies mostly in Oregon and crosses over into California, be ‘revised’ says motor vehicles aren’t allowed in it.” Dave Willis, the chairman of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, asked, “There are hundreds of roads inside this monument. I live on private land inside the monument. Do we walk or ride horses?”

Also reporting are the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/18, Theen), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (9/18, Daly), and [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\) Portland, OR](#) (9/18, Roth).

No Boundary Changes For New Mexico’s 2 National Monuments. The [AP](#) (9/18, Bryan) reports that the recommendations for the Rio Grande del Norte monument and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monument “would remain unchanged under recommendations made by U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, providing some relief to the groups that had come out in support of the designations.” The recommendations “do call for making public access a priority as well as the pursuit of congressional authority to enable Native American tribes to help manage cultural areas within the boundaries.”

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular) reports that the memo was “met Monday with wide-ranging reactions from Doña Ana County residents and New Mexico’s federal lawmakers.”

Also reporting are [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/18, Oxford), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#)(9/17, Peerman), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#)(9/18), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/18, Grubs), and [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (9/18, Ortiz).

Zinke Would Allow Trees To Be Cut At Katahdin Woods & Waters. The [AP](#) (9/18, Sharp) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow trees to be cut on parts of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and to ensure that ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting are taken into account in a management plan that’s being drawn up.” According to the article, “it was unclear what Zinke meant when he recommended ‘active timber management’ to promote a healthy forest on the 87,500-acre (35,410-hectare) property.” However, “an environmental group said commercial logging would ‘almost certainly’ trigger a lawsuit.” Lisa Pohlmann of the Natural Resources Council of Maine said, “Commercial logging could cause substantial harm to the natural resources protected by the monument and to the economic and recreation benefits already emerging at Katahdin Woods and Waters.”

In an editorial, the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/19) says “that uncertainty is the biggest danger of the destructive and unnecessary process that has been unleashed on the region by the Trump administration and its allies here in Maine.” According to the paper, “even people who initially opposed

the idea of a federally managed park in the Maine woods were ready to give it a try.” However, “with constant political interference, it won’t have much of a chance.”

Also reporting are the [Boston Globe](#) (9/19, Abel), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/18, Miller), and the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Sambides).

Zinke: Open Up First Atlantic Monument To Commercial Fishing. The [AP](#) (9/18, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended opening up the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. Zinke’s memo “states that instead of prohibiting commercial fishing, the government should allow it in the area under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which is the primary law governing the U.S.’s marine fisheries and meant to prevent overfishing and guarantee a safe source of seafood.” His memo says “that the monument was established ‘to protect geologic features, natural resources, and species,’ but regulators have charged that it disrupts their ability ‘to manage species to balance protection with commercial fishing.’”

Tribune Editorial: Zinke’s Report Leaves A Monumental Mess. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19) criticizes the draft report for making the “future of those monuments, especially Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante...even more muddled than it was before.” According to the paper, “Zinke’s report is so maddeningly vague that it provides the White House with little guidance on just what it should do, and what legal rationale it should offer for doing it.” The paper expects that “the path forward now is more confusion, more litigation, more bad blood among neighbors, between Native American Nations and county governments, less time devoted to working up a specific management plan for Bears Ears that might, if everyone approached it in good faith, work out a lot better for everyone than some of us think.”

Mormons Are Among The Few Who Want Less Federally Protected Land. Their History Explains Why. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Colbert), Christine Colbert examines why Mormons are some of the those who are most “opposed to government control of Western lands.” According to Colbert, it boils down to “distrust of the federal government” and “distrust of the outside world.” She concludes that “until Mormon leaders declare their support for such stewardship and call for the preservation of our nation’s greatest treasures, Utah politicians will continue to bend Trump’s ear toward privatization and resource development, reflecting their culture’s historical distrust and proprietary notions regarding the very lands that really belong to all of us, not just a few.”

WH COMMS REPORT (new report filed Monday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries.
- ****Many inquiries regarding monument review and the leaked memo** All inquiries are being directed to the White House.**
- The Times Independent: (Molly Marcello) **–REQUEST–** I’m contacting you again with a question, this time related to Bears Ears National Monument. We just got word that the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed suit against San Juan County’s Commissioners regarding meetings they held with Secretary Zinke and DOI staff in May and June. Because these meetings were not publicly posted and the subjects for discussion included issues over which the commissioners have jurisdiction, the lawsuit argues that these meetings violated Utah’s Open and Public Meetings Act. I’ve attached the complaint for reference. Here’s what I’m wondering: How did these meetings between DOI staff and San Juan County’s elected officials come to be? Were the commissioners invited to speak with Secretary Zinke and staff? Or did the commissioners ask for

meetings? What was discussed during these meetings? And, would DOI have any comment on the lawsuit itself?—**RESPONSE**— The Department does not have a comment on the lawsuit concerning outside parties.

Top Stories

- **Associated Press:** [Interior chief urges shrinking 4 national monuments in West](#)
- **Washington Times:** [Ryan Zinke recommends that Trump scale back 10 national monuments](#)
- **Wall Street Journal:** [Interior Report Recommends Cuts or Changes to Seven National Land Monuments](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [Interior's Zinke: Trump has 'a lot of Roosevelt in him'](#)
- **THE HILL:** [Interior Dept recommends reducing Bears Ears, other protected land: report](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Shrink at least 4 national monuments and modify a half-dozen others, Zinke tells Trump](#)
- **E&E News:** [Zinke recommends shrinking as many as 6 sites](#)
- **Albuquerque Journal:** [Feds suggest no boundary change at NM monuments](#)
- **San Francisco Chronicle:** [Interior Secretary vows to increase fishing, hunting on federal lands](#)
- **Las Vegas Review Journal:** [Zinke wants to trim Gold Butte, other national monuments](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- **This past weekend, Interior announced the winner of the Federal Duck Stamp art awards. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).**
- This week, DOI will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories.
- Wednesday, Secretary Zinke will travel to Springfield, Missouri, to participate in the opening of a new wildlife museum with Bass Pro Shops.
- On Friday, Secretary Zinke will be in Dallas to speak at an NRA Convention for women members.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD thru September 21, 2017 (Report from Thursday 9/14)

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 20, where he will travel to Springfield, MO, to participate in the ribbon cutting and the opening of the “Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.”
- This week we are working with our federal, state, and Tribal partners to support the WH and FEMA with the Hurricane recovery and wildfire response. The NPS Director is in the USVI to oversee response efforts.
- September 18 [POSTPONED TO END OF WEEK]: Department-level Release: DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. (Delayed)
- TBD: Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech was confirmed by the Senate the evening of September 13. We will issue a statement and photo of his swearing-in asap.

National Park Service

- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS Pacific West Region will announce the new superintendent of Redwood National and State Parks.
- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- September 19: Local FWS Release: FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the endangered finding for the i'iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media. [Sent to Federal Register on Friday]
- September TBD: Public comment period opening for voluntary wildlife conservation opportunity designed with Montana ranchers, regulatory certainty for the next 20 years through a Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Participants can voluntarily take steps to conserve the Sprague's pipit, McCown's longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird's sparrow, and greater sage-grouse on their property while conducting their general business operations.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of September 18: Local BLM Release: BLM-AZ will announce the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.
- September 19: BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will meet with landowners from around the Pumpkin Buttes Traditional Cultural Property to discuss concerns with a proposed Programmatic Agreement that would streamline and define that tribal consultation about federal projects within three miles of the area would take place. The meeting will be staffed by local BLM management and subject matter experts on oil and gas development and cultural resources from the Buffalo Field Office. The public and media will be invited.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

U.S. Geological Survey

- September 21: National USGS Release: USGS will put out a release regarding a nature article on the potential release of mercury currently stored in permafrost.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- September 15-19 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is due to be completed on Sep 15.

- September TBD: National BOEM Release: Gulf G&G PEIS Record of Decision.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce Marine Minerals
- Rule.

Office of Insular Affairs

- September TBD: OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools.
- September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387.
- September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- September TBD: National ONRR Release: ONRR will announce Secretary's appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct. 4.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- Week of September 18: Director Angelle is concluding his visits to the top 20 lessees in the Gulf

CONGRESSIONAL (updated)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

9:30am: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business Meeting to consider the nominations of Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Interior, Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, and Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. (ALL PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE)

10 AM: BLM official to testify before SENR committee: John Ruhs (Acting Deputy Director for Operation, BLM) will testify before the SENR Committee regarding "Vegetation Management Requirements for Electricity Assets on Federal Lands" and on Section 2310 of S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act, and H.R. 1873, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. This hearing is of particular interest as the Administration is seeking solutions to mitigate wildfires by active management solutions. Sec. Zinke was the author of this legislation when he was in Congress.

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (update)

DOI politicals on board = 56

3 confirmed as of 9/18.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor (Voted out of Committee 9/19)

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 3 starting; 6 in process

NC-SES: 22 of 44 onboard; 2 starting; 4 in process

PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS (Updates are Bold)

Accepted

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/25 - Remarks at National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum (DC)

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

9/26 – National Clean Energy Week Symposium (DC)

9/26 - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

9/29 – Heritage Public Event (DC)

Oct (TBC date) - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process

10/11 - Remarks at 2nd National Wildlife Refuge System Expo co-hosted by the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) (DC)

10/15 - National Congress of American Indians 74 Annual Convention (Milwaukee, WI)

10/15-17 – Heritage Annual President's Club Meeting (DC)

10/16 - Carlsbad Mayor's Energy Summit (Carlsbad, NM)

10/20 - TXOGA Lone Star Energy Forum (Woodlands, TX)

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

Declining

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/18 – Concordia Annual Summit (NYC)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/20 – Remarks to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (DC)

9/21 - Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) (DC)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)

10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)

10/4 - NOIA Fall Meeting (Cody, WY)

10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)

10/17 - National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (San Antonio, TX)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

UPDATE: Senior Advisor David Mihalic has been made coordinator of DOI interactions with FEMA. 467 DOI employees have volunteered to assist, 24 are now set to deploy under wave 9 (depart date Sept 21). Another 26 are set to deploy on Wave 10 (Sept. 25). This will bring the total to 50. They will receive training from FEMA in Anniston, AL.

Hurricane Maria:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Maria was located approximately 205 miles to the southeast of St. Croix and moving west-northwest at 9 miles per hour (mph). This general motion is expected to continue through Wednesday. On this track, the eye of Maria will move over the northeastern Caribbean Sea today and approach the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico tonight into Wednesday. Maximum sustained winds are near 155 miles per hour mph, with higher gusts. Maria is a Category 4 hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next day or two, but Maria is forecast to remain an extremely dangerous Category 4 or 5 hurricane as it approaches the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 30 miles from the storm's center, and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 125 miles.

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Culebra, Vieques, the British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat. A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Anguilla, and from Isla Saona to Puerto Plata. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Antigua, Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Lucia, and Martinique. Hurricane conditions should spread throughout portions of the Hurricane Warning area in the Leeward Islands this morning, and hurricane conditions should spread through the remainder of the Hurricane Warning area later today and Wednesday. A dangerous storm surge accompanied by large and destructive waves will raise water levels by as much as 7 to 11 feet above normal tide levels in the Hurricane Warning area near where the center of Maria moves across the Leeward Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands could see a storm surge of 6 to 9 feet.

Maria is expected to produce 10 to 15 inches of rainfall in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and the central and southern Leeward Islands, with isolated amounts of 20 inches. Puerto Rico is forecast to receive 12 to 18 inches, with isolated amounts of 25 inches possible. The northern Leeward Islands could receive 4 to 8 inches of rainfall, with isolated amounts of 10 inches possible. This rainfall could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

On September 18, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands. This declaration provides Public Assistance for all islands in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands and includes debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance.

On September 18, the President also approved an Emergency Declaration for Puerto Rico. This declaration provides for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and direct federal assistance for all 78 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Maria Response:

DOI currently has 49 personnel supporting 1 FEMA Mission Assignment (MA) in response to impending landfall of Hurricane Maria.

DOI Maria Quick Response Teams (QRT) 1 and 2 received U.S. Marshals Service special deputations on September 18, while staged in Orlando, Florida. The teams are scheduled to travel to Puerto Rico today for public safety and security missions.

Internal Maria response activities:

The NPS Caribbean Parks have evacuated non-essential staff from St. John and relocated most staff and family to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Three Eastern Incident Management Teams (EIMT) resources have been dispatched to Puerto Rico. All personnel arrived at the San Juan National Historic Site on September 18, and a Type-3 IMT will manage the relocation of Virgin Islands National Park and Christiansted National Historic Site personnel. The IMT will also manage re-entry to both locations following the storm, as well as support post re-entry operations. Twenty-five NPS maintenance employees and 6 Special Event Team (SET) members remain on St. John. Fourteen NPS employees and one USGS employee remain on St. Croix. Shelter locations have been identified for all personnel remaining on St. John and St. Croix.

USGS reports that the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center (CFWSC) office in Puerto Rico is closed and will remain closed until further notice. Twelve personnel deployed 14 temporary sensors on the southern and eastern coasts of Puerto Rico from Fajardo to Ponce as part of a training exercise in preparation for Hurricane Maria.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma Response:

DOI currently has 202 personnel supporting 10 FEMA MAs in response to Hurricane Irma.

In Florida, 27 USGS personnel retrieved storm surge sensors and began analyzing data. To date, 121 surge sensors have been retrieved, 5 sensors were lost, and 32 sensors have been processed. Forty high water marks (HWMs) have been flagged, and 33 HWMs were surveyed. The USGS is coordinating with FEMA Region 4 to amend this MA to perform additional HWMs in the Florida Keys. In Georgia, 3 USGS personnel were in the field retrieving storm surge sensors and analyzing data. All (58) surge sensors have been retrieved, and 42 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed. In South Carolina, 3 personnel processed surge sensor data from 66 (all previously deployed) surge sensors. Ten rapid deployment gages (RDGs) deployed for Irma remain in the field, and 32 HWMs have been flagged and surveyed.

DOI assets associated with public safety and security, have begun demobilization, though some teams may be retained for Hurricane Maria response.

Internal Irma response activities:

NPS reports that the Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) continues to operate its Incident Command Post (ICP) from the Krome Center in Homestead, Florida. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, evacuations of non-essential personnel have been conducted. Parks have implemented severe weather plans. In Florida, Big Cypress, Biscayne, Everglades, Dry Tortugas, De Soto, Fort Matanzas, Timucuan, Fort Pulaski, and Cumberland Island remain closed. (Complete park details are available in the Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reports that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has 2 (1) shelters open, with a total population estimated at 20 (-4). Restoration of power remains a limiting factor to recovery for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

USGS reports that 36 gages in Florida are down, and 50 gages have been repaired to date. Eighteen personnel were in the field yesterday repairing gages and making discharge measurements under USGS inherent authority. There have been 157 discharge measurements in Florida in response to Irma.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Harvey Response:

There are 60 DOI personnel currently supporting 4 FEMA Mission Assignments for Harvey response and recovery.

Twenty-two USGS personnel were in the field yesterday flagging and surveying HWMs in Texas. A total of 1,200 locations have had HWMs flagged, with 464 locations surveyed to date.

Hurricane Jose:

As of 5:00 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Jose was located approximately 240 miles east-northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and moving toward the north at near 9 mph. This general motion is expected to continue through today, with a turn to the northeast anticipated tonight. Maximum sustained winds are near 75 mph, with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected today, but Jose should begin to gradually weaken on Wednesday. Dangerous surf and rip currents are expected along the eastern coast of the U.S.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect from Watch Hill, Rhode Island to Hull, Massachusetts, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect along portions of Long Island, New York and from New Haven, Connecticut to Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin in the warning area early Wednesday, and tropical storm conditions are possible in the watch area beginning tonight. Jose is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 1 to 3 inches over eastern Long Island, southeastern Connecticut, southern Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts. Rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches are expected for Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod through Wednesday. This rainfall could cause isolated flooding. Jose is also expected to produce total rain accumulations of less than inch along the northern mid-Atlantic coast and from southeastern New York to coastal Maine through Wednesday.

Wildland Fire Updates:

No update was provided for the Sprague Fire for the most recent operational period. Reporting will resume as incident status summaries are published.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park has burned 15,826 (no change) acres and is 22 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 2 (-39) personnel assigned, including 1 (+1) DOI employee. There are 0 (-39) residential structures threatened. Crater Lake National Park reports that the North Entrance is closed until further notice due to fire activity. Several trails within Crater Lake National Park are closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. Northern Spotted Owl habitat, sensitive aquatic species, Forest Service timber sale groves, and other sensitive plant and animal species are threatened by the fire. Full containment is expected on October 15.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**Trump's Western Firefighters.**

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) applauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for issuing a memorandum last week instructing land managers and park superintendents to exercise the "full authority" of their bureaus to clear dying trees and brush in federal lands in order to "proactively work to prevent forest fires." The Journal adds that Congress can help the Administration's efforts to promote better forest management with legislation that reduces litigation against such efforts against fire damage.

MGM Pitches Bridgeport Casino As Feds Delay Tribes' Expansion.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (9/18, Pazniokas) reports that MGM Resorts International "launched a glitzy new campaign Monday to expand into Connecticut, an effort that curiously coincides with the Trump administration, at least temporarily, halting the state's two federally recognized tribes' from building a casino in East Windsor to compete with a new MGM resort in Springfield, Mass." MGM, "after telling legislators for two years they would be foolish to approve the tribes' plan without an open competition, now is seeking legislation in special session granting it exclusive rights to build a waterfront casino resort in Bridgeport, a gateway to the lucrative New York City gambling market."

Lawsuit Aims To Block Oil Drilling On US Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Sonner) reports environmentalists have sued the BLM “to try to stop it from allowing oil and gas drilling on a vast stretch of federal land in Nevada, where the government is reversing protections put in place nine months ago under the Obama administration.” The Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity say the BLM “illegally failed to consider potential consequences of hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, ranging from harm to the greater sage grouse to contamination of fragile desert water sources and emission of climate-altering greenhouse gases.”

Stop Seismic Testing Off NC Coast.

In an editorial, the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/18) opposes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. It raises concerns that “the testing, and the drilling should exploration proceed, could put coastal marine life in danger.” It also points out that “the truly ludicrous thing about the argument for exploration” is that “oil prices are depressed (excluding the post-hurricane situation) and there are plenty of reserves.”

Will The Southland Wind Up Holding Much Of The \$17-billion Bill For The Delta Water Tunnels?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Boxall) reports that some of California’s “biggest water districts” are “expected to decide if they want to sign on to California WaterFix — a long-planned proposal to construct two massive tunnels that would change the way water supplies move through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” Supporters have “long have operated under the assumption that the cost, now estimated at nearly \$17 billion, would be split among customers of the big government water projects according to the size of their contracts for delta supplies.” According to the article, “under that scenario, the largely urban agencies supplied by the State Water Project would pick up 55% of the tunnel tab, and the largely agricultural districts supplied by the federal Central Valley Project would pay for 45%.” However, “as the votes approach, there are growing doubts that agriculture will agree to pay that much.”

Additional Coverage: Legislation Introduced To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam National Battlefield.

Additional coverage that legislation has been introduced “to have a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee removed from Antietam National Battlefield” was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (9/18, Dearth) and [Stars And Stripes](#) (9/17, REID).

Hurricane Maria Forecast To Strike Puerto Rico Wednesday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (9/18, lead story, 2:15, Muir) reported Hurricane Maria strengthened to a Category 4 on Monday as it “bear[s] down on some of the [Caribbean] islands, just now recovering from Irma.” In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (9/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) reported Maria is “making a beeline towards some of the same Caribbean islands decimated less than two weeks ago by Irma, lashing the Caribbean island of Martinique, [and] barreling towards Puerto Rico.”

USGS May Look At The Entire Williston Basin For A New Oil Estimate.

The [Prairie Public News \(ND\)](#) (9/18, Thompson) reports that Sen. John Hoeven and others recently asked US Geological Survey for an updated assessment of the oil in the Bakken and Three Forks formations. State mineral resources director Lynn Helms “said USGS is now talking about a full Williston Basin-wide assessment in a few years.” But “there’s been no official word from USGS.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS: (new)

Items were cleared for the FR on Monday.

REG0007361 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Non-Competitive Lease of Public Land in Johnson County, WY -- The BLM proposes to lease a 0.87-acre parcel of land in Johnson County, Wyoming, for residential purposes to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized trespass. The BLM seeks public comments for 45 days. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007436 BOR Charter Renewal: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group -- Notice of Charter renewal for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group in advance of the scheduled Sept. 20, 2017 meeting. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007403 FWS Foreign Endangered Species and Marine Mammals Issuance of Permits Issuance (First applicant Feld) -- This notice informs the public that the Service has issued 4 Endangered Species Act permits and 1 Marine Mammal Protection Act permit from August 3 through August 14, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007406 FWS Foreign Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit (First applicant Philly Zoo) -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007407 FWS Agency Information Collection Activities; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations (1018-0095) -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection necessary to monitor the success of experimental population reintroduction and recovery efforts. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007304 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY N2838 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky. The remains were removed from Fox Field in Mason County, Kentucky, and from Steubenville in Jefferson County, Ohio. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007320 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI N2842 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The remains and objects were removed from Saginaw County, Michigan, in 1970. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007337 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. DOI, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA N2789 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office, in Sacramento, California. The remains and objects were removed from Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties in California in the 1970's. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007342 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robbins Museum of Archaeology, Middleborough, MA N2776 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

(NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robbins Museum of Archaeology in Middleborough, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007343 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA N2777 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts. The remains and objects were removed from Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1959. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007384 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2737 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Hughes and Buffalo Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007385 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2813 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were collected from Buffalo County, South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007386 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE, and State Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, SD N2812 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. The remains and objects were removed from Buffalo County, South Dakota, in 1961. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007387 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE N2738 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, in Omaha, Nebraska. The cultural items, which were removed from sites in Brule, Corson, and Lyman Counties in South Dakota, meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 09/18/2017

REG0007412 OSM Grant Notification for Fiscal Year 2018 -- The OSMRE is notifying the public that it intends to award grants during fiscal year 2018 to eligible applicants: (1) for purposes authorized under the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program; and (2) for regulating coal mining within their jurisdictional borders under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The OSMRE invites written comments until December 15, 2017. Notice 09/18/2017