

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Scott Hommel](#); [Nancy Guiden](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [James Cason](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#)  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 3/22/17  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:26:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 3-22-17.docx](#)

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## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/22/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Secretary**

**The Secretary will be in Washington this week.**

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#### Outstanding Invitations in Process

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In Florida, the Parliament Fire, which began March 18 on Big Cypress National Preserve in

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budgets further reduced.

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McClatchy (3/21) reports that “powerful Republican congressmen and governors are pressing President Donald Trump to take an unprecedented step: Reverse his predecessor’s creation of several national monuments under” the Antiquities Act. According to the article, “White House officials are reviewing the requests and haven’t yet signaled whether Trump will challenge Obama’s use of the Antiquities Act.” The article notes that “no president has ever attempted such a reversal, and legal experts doubt it could succeed.”

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The Daily Caller (3/21, Bastasch) reports that “science centers that were supposed to be the ‘cornerstone’ of the Department of the Interior’s ‘climate change response strategy’ don’t have the proper controls in place to prevent wasteful spending, according to an internal audit.” The inspector general’s office “found Interior Department’s climate science centers (CSC) and landscape conservation cooperatives (LCC) could be wasting millions of taxpayer dollars on duplicative research grants.” Investigators said “that these science centers did not regularly coordinate research within the Interior Department and did not share their climate data with Climate. Data.Gov as required by federal law.”

### **Rusty Patched Bumblebee Listed As Endangered.**

The AP (3/21, Flesher) reports that the rusty patched bumblebee on Tuesday “became the first officially endangered bee species in the continental U.S., overcoming objections from some business interests and a last-minute delay ordered by the Trump administration.” Its listing means the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will formulate a recovery plan for returning the species to “a healthy and secure condition,” the U.S. Department of Interior said. It added, “We will work with stakeholders to ensure collaborative conservation among landowners, farmers, industry, and developers in the areas where the species is native.”

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CNBC, The New Yorker, POLITICO Europe, Argus – REQUEST – Comment on claims made by Senators Cardin and Luger that the U.S. is withdrawing from the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). – RESPONSE -;The Department remains committed to the principles and goals of EITI including transparency and good governance of the extractive sectors and are institutionalizing and mainstreaming EITI goals into how the Department manages its revenues. No decision has been made on applying for validation

under the EITI standard and the U.S. is not even scheduled to begin the validation process until April of 2018 (per the EITI International Board schedule published regularly). The United States has led the global initiative in providing revenue-related data and information from the extraction of oil, natural gas, coal and other minerals on federal land in an interactive, open-source data portal and regularly engaging with other implementing countries to share our best practices.

Associated Press, E&E News, Reuters, Bloomberg – REQUEST – Requesting comment on the Trump Administration “allowing” the rusty patched bumble bee to be listed on the endangered species list after the 60 day regulatory review. – RESPONSE – FWS previously delayed the effective date of the final listing determination for the rusty patched bumble bee under the Endangered Species Act from February 10, 2017 to today (March 21, 2017) to allow for standard review. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists have noted that the brief delay is not expected to have an impact on the conservation of the species since FWS is still developing a recovery plan to guide efforts to bring this species back to what they believe is a healthy and secure condition. We will work with stakeholders to ensure collaborative conservation among landowners, farmers, industry, and developers in the areas where the species is native.”

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Launching a “Travels with Z” blog on our website that is Secretary Zinke’s travel blog going to America’s public lands and his work on the front lines improving land management for multiple use (energy, recreation, conservation, economy)

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