

To: Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Lori Mashburn[lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Bauserman, Christine[christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Aaron Thiele[aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd_willens@ios.doi.gov]; Leila Getto[leila_getto@ios.doi.gov];
 David Bernardt-[b](6)@ios.doi.gov; David Bernardt-[b](6)@ios.doi.gov]

From: Davis, Natalie

Sent: 2017-08-14T14:00:25-04:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/14/17

Received: 2017-08-14T14:00:35-04:00

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-14-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8/14/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary/WHL

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CONGRESSIONAL

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Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 53

New political started today: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM

5 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: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5 20 Personal

9/13 Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20 21 Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ

(Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25 26 Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)
 9/10 13 Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)
 9/12 Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)
 9/17 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)
 9/22 24 NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)
 9/23 National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)
 9/23 Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)
 9/26 GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)
 9/26 S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)
 9/27 28 Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)
 9/28 30 Council for National Policy
 Open Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)
 open Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
 Open Weyrich Lunch (DC)
 Open Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14 17 Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)
 8/17 Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)
 8/18 Council of State Governments West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)
 8/21 Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)
 8/22 Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)
 8/22 24 National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)
 8/30 West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)
 9/5 National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)
 9/6 Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)
 9/12 Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)
 9/19 21 Montana Wood Products Association Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)
 9/23 Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)
 9/26 Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)
 10/1 3 New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)
 10/1 Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)
 10/4 5 Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)
 10/12 Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Oregon, the **Nena Fire** located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 40,000 (+16,000) acres. The fire is 60 (+56) percent contained and managed by a Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 444 (+204) personnel assigned, including 92 (5) DOI personnel. There are 141 (no change) residential and 2 (no change) commercial structures threatened. There are 75 (no change) evacuees and 120 (no change) residents subject to shelter in place. There have been 3 (+2) responder injuries to date. Additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected on August 16.

Also in Oregon, the **Spruce Lake Fire** in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,885 (+151) acres. The fire is 45 (+14) percent contained and managed by a Type 1 IMT with 401 (+18) personnel assigned, including 37 (+20) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The West Rim Drive and Rim Trail from Rim Village to North Junction have reopened. The evacuation notice for Rim Village and park headquarters has been lifted. Full containment is expected on August 31.

In Washington, the **Bridge Creek Fire** began on August 9 on the Colville Reservation (BIA) and has burned 1,118 acres. The fire is 13 percent contained and managed by a Type 2 IMT with 313 personnel assigned, including 82 DOI personnel. The fire threatens cultural and natural resources, a critical transportation corridor, and recreation areas. The fire also has the potential to impact the Colville Tribe local government. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/11 8/14

Wall Street Journal: Washington's Wild Grouse Chase Interior moves to ease land use limits that are needlessly punitive.

(8/11, Opinion) The biggest economic policy achievement of the Trump Administration so far is regulatory relief, and the latest example concerns a flamboyant fowl known as the greater sage grouse.

The Interior Department this week announced it would consider changes to 15 federal land use plans across more than 60 million acres that are designed to protect the sage grouse, which roams some 180 million acres across 11 Western states. The sage grouse population ebbs and flows, usually with weather patterns, and a 2015 report from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies found that mating males had increased 63% in the preceding two years.

27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch.

The New York Times (8/11, Friedman, Popovich, McCann) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection.” However, “not all of the monuments are truly in the administration’s crosshairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes.” The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

Free Map Denotes Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

The AP (8/13) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage “isn’t allowing signs on highways to direct motorists to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument,” but now there’s a map. The Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument has “created a new topographical map that identifies key features, like the loop road.” The maps are “available for free at the monument visitor stations in Millinocket and Patten and at the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce.”

Whose National Monument Claims Are Disingenuous? Not Ours. In an op ed for the Arizona Republic (8/11, Gosar), Rep. Paul A. Gosar attacks Rep. Raúl Grijalva for penning an op ed criticizing a letter signed by 17 members of Congress providing comments on the review of national monuments. Gosar takes issue with Grijalva’s “eccentric far left environmentalism” and his apparent conflicts of interest. Gosar urges Grijalva “to drop the partisan nonsense, debate these issues’ merits and let’s work together to solve problems facing hard working Arizonans.”

Scientists Urge No Changes To Cascade Siskiyou Monument (Guest Opinion). In an op ed for the Oregonian (8/13, Parker, Trail, Williams), Michael Parker, Ph.D., professor and chair of the biology program at Southern Oregon University; Pepper Trail, Ph.D., a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and conservation co chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society; and Jack Williams, Ph.D., the senior scientist for Trout Unlimited and a former Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to propose no changes to the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. They urge Zinke “to respect the science, the grassroots collaboration and the sustained support of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Gov. Kate Brown.”

National Monuments Support Jobs, Innovation. In an op ed for the Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (8/12, Hayes), Marne Hayes, the executive director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors, writes that “Montana may have dodged a bullet” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared the Missouri River Breaks safe from changes, but our western neighbors are still experiencing the fear and uncertainty of the ongoing review process.” According to Hayes, “that’s why business leaders from across the West converged in Montana last week to protest changes to western national monuments still in the crosshairs of Sec. Zinke’s review.” Hayes argues that “rolling back existing protections in any of these states is just not good for business. It also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines every other existing monument, including the Upper Missouri River Breaks.”

Fleeing To The Mountains. In his column for the New York Times (8/12, Kristof), Nicholas Kristof writes that “public lands are at risk today.” According to Kristof, “more aggressively than past administrations,” the Trump Administration is “systematically handing over America’s public lands for private exploitation in ways that will scar the land forever.” Kristof encourages readers to visit public lands to get a sense of “what is being lost.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Appointee Wants More Hunting And Fishing On Federal Lands.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow more hunting and fishing on federal wildlife refuges, relaxing regulations in some places, opening up moose and turkey hunting in other places,” was provided by the Atlanta Journal Constitution (8/11), U.S. News & World Report (8/11), and the Roseburg (OR) News Review (8/11, Urness).

US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.

The U.S. News & World Report (8/11, Ridler) reports that “cattle grazing will continue” at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve “following a challenge by an environmental group, federal officials announced this week.”

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said in a statement Wednesday said grazing on BLM administered portions of the monument “not covered by lava flows will stay at about 99 percent of current levels.” The bureau said in a written statement, “The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration’s effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation.”

BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (8/12, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “approved a plan to remove up to 100 wild horses from private and other land southeast of Rangely this fall, a decision made more controversial due to activists’ concerns that animals could end up being euthanized.” The bureau “said Friday it plans to use a helicopter operation to round up horses that have strayed outside the designated Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area.” The decision, “which is subject to a 30 day appeal period, also will allow future gathers to remove other horses outside the management area.”

U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water sharing Deal.

USA Today (8/12, James) reports that U.S. and Mexican officials are “finalizing a water sharing deal for the Colorado River, and a newly released summary of the accord’s key points shows negotiators have agreed on a cooperative approach geared toward boosting reservoir levels and trying to stave off a severe shortage.” The document, “which federal officials have circulated among water agencies, outlines a series of joint measures that build on the current 5 year agreement, which expires at the end of this year.” The article says that “the new accord titled Minute No. 323 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty is expected to be signed sometime this fall, perhaps as early as September, and would remain in effect through 2026.”

Forbes: Survey Says...Offshore Seismic is Safe

(8/11, Bradley, Jr.) Late last month, Delaware Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons released a joint statement opposing seismic surveying in the Atlantic Ocean. Their worry is that such preparatory drilling work for oil and natural gas below the ocean floor would negatively impact marine life along the Atlantic coast. Their fears are unfounded. Atlantic drilling would create economic benefits at virtually no environmental cost. As environmental economists understand, wealth is health; that is, economic prosperity redounds to individuals and families in ways that result in longer and better living.

Federal Register Listings
Cleared for the FR on Friday, 8/11

REG0007245 BLM. Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for BNI Coal Ltd.'s Coal Lease by Application NDM 102083, Oliver County, ND. The BLM announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for BNI Coal, Ltd.'s Federal Coal Lease by Application (LBA) for public review and comment. The BLM will hold a public hearing on the EA, Fair Market Value, and Maximum Economic Recovery of the coal resources contained in the proposed lease tract near Center, North Dakota. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007197 BOE. Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP) in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. BOEM is announcing the availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Liberty DPP in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area in the Alaska Region. This Notice announces a 90 day public comment period and five public hearings on the Draft EIS scheduled in October 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007249 BOR. Notice of Availability for the Sites Reservoir Project Draft EIR/EIS and Feasibility Report. Reclamation, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Federal lead agency, and the Sites Project Authority, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency, announce that the Sites Reservoir Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and Draft Feasibility Report are available for public review and comment for 60 days. Public meetings on the Project are scheduled for September 26 and 28, 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0006832 FWS. Amenity Fees at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY. Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement annual hunting and fishing fees and special permit fees for commercial recreational activities. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007232 FWS. Incidental Take Permit Applications Received to Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma. This notice provides public review for incidental take permit applications under the American Burying Beetle amended Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) from NGPL PipeCo, LLC and Subsidiaries; Wildhorse Terminal, LLC; and Antioch Operating, LLC. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007236 FWS. Proposed HCP for Sierra Pacific Industries Forest Practices in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA: Environmental Impact Statement. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is proposing to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern spotted owl and the California spotted owl. The Service intends to

prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed HCP that would cover activities including timber harvest and forest management activities on SPI's 1.6 million acres of private forest lands in California. Notice
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- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board 53

- New political started today: William Dove, Special Assistant in ASLM

5 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: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)

8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)

8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)
 8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)
 8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)
 8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)
 8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)
 9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)
 9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)
 9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)
 9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)
 9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)
 9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)
 10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)
 10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)
 10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)
 10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Oregon, the **Nena Fire** located on the Warm Springs Reservation (BIA) has burned 40,000 (+16,000) acres. The fire is 60 (+56)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 444 (+204) personnel assigned, including 92 (-5) DOI personnel. There are 141 (no change) residential and 2 (no change) commercial structures threatened. There are 75 (no change) evacuees and 120 (no change) residents subject to shelter in place. There have been 3 (+2) responder injuries to date. Additional perimeter growth is not expected. Full containment is expected on August 16.

Also in Oregon, the **Spruce Lake Fire** in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,885 (+151) acres. The fire is 45 (+14)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 IMT with 401 (+18) personnel assigned, including 37 (+20) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The West Rim Drive and Rim Trail from Rim Village to North Junction have reopened. The evacuation notice for Rim Village and park headquarters has been lifted. Full containment is expected on August 31.

In Washington, the **Bridge Creek Fire** began on August 9 on the Colville Reservation (BIA) and has burned 1,118 acres. The fire is 13-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 313 personnel assigned, including 82 DOI personnel. The fire threatens cultural and natural resources, a critical transportation corridor, and recreation areas. The fire also has the potential to impact the Colville Tribe local government. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

8/11-8/14

Wall Street Journal: Washington's Wild Grouse Chase-Interior moves to ease land-use limits that are needlessly punitive.

(8/11, Opinion) The biggest economic-policy achievement of the Trump Administration so far is regulatory relief, and the latest example concerns a flamboyant fowl known as the greater sage grouse. The Interior Department this week announced it would consider changes to 15 federal land-use plans across more than 60 million acres that are designed to protect the sage grouse, which roams some 180 million acres across 11 Western states. The sage grouse population ebbs and flows, usually with weather

patterns, and a 2015 report from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies found that mating males had increased 63% in the preceding two years.

27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch.

The *New York Times* (8/11, Friedman, Popovich, McCann) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection.” However, “not all of the monuments are truly in the administration’s crosshairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes.” The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

Free Map Denotes Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

The AP (8/13) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage “isn’t allowing signs on highways to direct motorists to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument,” but now there’s a map. The Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument has “created a new topographical map that identifies key features, like the loop road.” The maps are “available for free at the monument visitor stations in Millinocket and Patten and at the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce.”

Whose National Monument Claims Are Disingenuous? Not Ours. In an op-ed for the *Arizona Republic* (8/11, Gosar), Rep. Paul A. Gosar attacks Rep. Raúl Grijalva for penning an op-ed criticizing a letter signed by 17 members of Congress providing comments on the review of national monuments. Gosar takes issue with Grijalva’s “eccentric far-left environmentalism” and his apparent conflicts of interest. Gosar urges Grijalva “to drop the partisan nonsense, debate these issues’ merits and let’s work together to solve problems facing hard-working Arizonans.”

Scientists Urge No Changes To Cascade-Siskiyou Monument (Guest Opinion). In an op-ed for the *Oregonian* (8/13, Parker, Trail, Williams), Michael Parker, Ph.D., professor and chair of the biology program at Southern Oregon University; Pepper Trail, Ph.D., a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and conservation co-chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society; and Jack Williams, Ph.D., the senior scientist for Trout Unlimited and a former Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to propose no changes to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. They urge Zinke “to respect the science, the grassroots collaboration and the sustained support of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Gov. Kate Brown.”

National Monuments Support Jobs, Innovation. In an op-ed for the *Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle* (8/12, Hayes), Marne Hayes, the executive director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors, writes that “Montana may have dodged a bullet” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared the Missouri River Breaks safe from changes, but our western neighbors are still experiencing the fear and uncertainty of the ongoing review process.” According to Hayes, “that’s why business leaders from across the West converged in Montana last week to protest changes to western national monuments still in the crosshairs of Sec. Zinke’s review.” Hayes argues that “rolling back existing protections in any of these states is just not good for business. It also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines every other existing monument, including the Upper Missouri River Breaks.”

Fleeing To The Mountains. In his column for the *New York Times* (8/12, Kristof), Nicholas Kristof writes that “public lands are at risk today.” According to Kristof, “more aggressively than past administrations,” the Trump Administration is “systematically handing over America’s public lands for private exploitation

in ways that will scar the land forever.” Kristof encourages readers to visit public lands to get a sense of “what is being lost.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Appointee Wants More Hunting And Fishing On Federal Lands.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow more hunting and fishing on federal wildlife refuges, relaxing regulations in some places, opening up moose and turkey hunting in other places,” was provided by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/11), U.S. News & World Report (8/11), and the Roseburg (OR) News-Review (8/11, Urness).

US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.

The U.S. News & World Report (8/11, Ridler) reports that “cattle grazing will continue” at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve “following a challenge by an environmental group, federal officials announced this week.” The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said in a statement Wednesday said grazing on BLM-administered portions of the monument “not covered by lava flows will stay at about 99 percent of current levels.” The bureau said in a written statement, “The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration’s effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation.”

BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (8/12, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “approved a plan to remove up to 100 wild horses from private and other land southeast of Rangely this fall, a decision made more controversial due to activists’ concerns that animals could end up being euthanized.” The bureau “said Friday it plans to use a helicopter operation to round up horses that have strayed outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area.” The decision, “which is subject to a 30-day appeal period, also will allow future gathers to remove other horses outside the management area.”

U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.

USA Today (8/12, James) reports that U.S. and Mexican officials are “finalizing a water-sharing deal for the Colorado River, and a newly released summary of the accord’s key points shows negotiators have agreed on a cooperative approach geared toward boosting reservoir levels and trying to stave off a severe shortage.” The document, “which federal officials have circulated among water agencies, outlines a series of joint measures that build on the current 5-year agreement, which expires at the end of this year.” The article says that “the new accord – titled Minute No. 323 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty – is expected to be signed sometime this fall, perhaps as early as September, and would remain in effect through 2026.”

Forbes: Survey Says...Offshore Seismic is Safe

(8/11, Bradley, Jr.) Late last month, Delaware Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons released a joint statement opposing seismic surveying in the Atlantic Ocean. Their worry is that such preparatory drilling work for oil and natural gas below the ocean floor would negatively impact marine life along the Atlantic coast.

Their fears are unfounded. Atlantic drilling would create economic benefits at virtually no environmental cost. As environmental economists understand, wealth is health; that is, economic prosperity redounds to individuals and families in ways that result in longer and better living.

Federal Register Listings**Cleared for the FR on Friday, 8/11**

REG0007245 BLM. Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for BNI Coal Ltd.'s Coal Lease-by-Application NDM-102083, Oliver County, ND. The BLM announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for BNI Coal, Ltd.'s Federal Coal Lease-by-Application (LBA) for public review and comment. The BLM will hold a public hearing on the EA, Fair Market Value, and Maximum Economic Recovery of the coal resources contained in the proposed lease tract near Center, North Dakota. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007197 BOE. Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP) in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. BOEM is announcing the availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Liberty DPP in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area in the Alaska Region. This Notice announces a 90-day public comment period and five public hearings on the Draft EIS scheduled in October 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007249 BOR. Notice of Availability for the Sites Reservoir Project Draft EIR/EIS and Feasibility Report. Reclamation, as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Federal lead agency, and the Sites Project Authority, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency, announce that the Sites Reservoir Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and Draft Feasibility Report are available for public review and comment for 60 days. Public meetings on the Project are scheduled for September 26 and 28, 2017. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0006832 FWS. Amenity Fees at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY. Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement annual hunting and fishing fees and special permit fees for commercial recreational activities. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007232 FWS Incidental Take Permit Applications Received to Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma. This notice provides public review for incidental take permit applications under the American Burying Beetle amended Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) from NGPL PipeCo, LLC and Subsidiaries; Wildhorse Terminal, LLC; and Antioch Operating, LLC. Notice 08/11/2017

REG0007236 FWS. Proposed HCP for Sierra Pacific Industries Forest Practices in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA: Environmental Impact Statement. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is proposing to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern spotted owl and the California spotted owl. The Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed HCP that would cover activities including timber harvest and forest management activities on SPI's 1.6 million acres of private forest lands in California. Notice 08/11/2017