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Cc: Peter Mali[p mali@blm.gov]
From: Brune, Jeff
Sent: 2017-12-04T20:10:31-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: FOR REVIEW: BLM's Secretarial Priorities
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[Secretarial Priorities - Bureau of Land Management 12.1.17.xlsx](#)

Brian, Attached for your review is BLM's response to the Secretarial Priorities. The document incorporates Mike and Peter's comments.

Per your request, I also added few lines in the National Monuments section about starting the process to draft the management plans in the new Monuments announced by the President today.

With your thumbs up, we can forward to Jill Moran at ASLM. Jeff

--

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Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial Priorities - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)		
Goal		
7. Striking a regulatory balance		
Objective		
A. Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public		
Task		
Ensure the Bureau of Land Management Waste Prevention Rule is consistent with Executive Order 13783 and Secretarial Order 3349. Identify new policy options and issue a new rule that will alleviate impediments to the development of domestically produced energy resources.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Publish a proposed rule.	January 2018	The BLM has drafted policy options for revising the rule and is awaiting guidance on which options to pursue. The proposed rule is with OMB/OIRA for review prior to publication in the Federal Register.
Publish a final rule.	July 2018	Not yet started. Work on the final rule will begin once the proposed rule is published and the public comment period has ended.
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Goal		
7. Striking a regulatory balance.		
Objective		
A. Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.		
Task		
Rescind the Bureau of Land Management's 2015 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule in order to alleviate unjustified regulatory burdens imposed upon the development of domestically produced energy resources.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Publish a proposed rule.	July 25, 2017	60 day public comment period ends 9/25/2017.
Publish a final rule.	January 2018	Preparation of the final rule will start after public comment period ends. The final rule text is with OMB/OIRA for comment.
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Secretarial Priorities - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)		
Goal		
2. Utilizing our natural resources.		
Objective		
A. Ensure American Energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.		
Task		
Examine the Federal coal program and implement recommendations to streamline the leasing and permitting process. Change policy, promulgate new regulations, and pursue legislative changes to decrease processing times for leasing and permitting Federal coal while removing some of the administrative burdens to industry.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Submit coal recommendations report.	November 2017	The BLM's final report was submitted by the ASLM on November 17, 2017 to the Associate Deputy Secretary.
Implement streamlining recommendations.	January 2018 September 2020	Awaiting Secretarial guidance on which recommendations to implement.
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Secretarial Priorities - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)		
Goal		
1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.		
Objective		
C. Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.		
Task		
Identify and implement actionable solutions to streamline the Bureau of Land Management's planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. Emphasize solutions that: 1) increase efficiency, 2) reduce costs, and 3) focus on engaging state, local, and tribal government partners, as well as members of the public and other key stakeholders.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Solicit public input.	July 24, 2017	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) met with state and local governments in June and July 2017 and initiated a 21 day public input period that closed 7/24/2017.
Submit report on improving planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes.	September 2017	Report submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) on 9/14/2017, with plans to submit it to the Deputy Secretary by 9/21/2017. Completed.
Implement streamlining recommendations.	January 2018	Awaiting Secretarial guidance on which recommendations to implement.
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Goal		
9. Reorganizing for the next 100 years.		
Objective		
B. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.		
Task		
Implement the Secretary's reform initiative by restructuring the Bureau of Land Management Organization. Emphasize a capable workforce at the field level. Develop workforce plans and Tables of Organization in line with future budgets.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Identify resources to move from Headquarters and State Offices to field offices.	December 2017	BLM Reform Team established in May 2017 and is currently evaluating feedback from the BLM Executive Leadership team about which functions could be moved.
Move resources from Headquarters and State Offices to field offices.	March 2019	Implementation will be guided by recommendations from the BLM Reform Team and subsequent leadership decisions.
Move Headquarters Office to a western location in concert with forthcoming DOI guidance.	October 2019	Awaiting Departmental guidance on location and overall strategy.
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7. Striking a regulatory balance.		
Objective		
A. Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.		
Task		
Issue new policy on mitigation, including compensatory mitigation, to support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) multiple use and sustained yield mandate.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Rescind existing policy and issue interim guidance.	December 2017	BLM has briefed the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) and the Deputy Secretary on mitigation. BLM has compiled a list of all existing mitigation policies and is gathering other data and information related to mitigation. BLM is awaiting feedback from ASLM/Dep Secretary on policy direction.
Issue new policy.	June 2018	Issue new policy based on options being discussed with the Department. If the Department decides to issue a new Departmental manual/handbook, then any new BLM policy would follow their schedule.
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Secretarial Priorities Bureau of Land Management (BLM)		
Goal		
3. Restoring trust with local communities.		
Objective		
A. Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.		
Task		
Update the sage grouse resource management plans. Increase flexibility in plans to address local concerns and issues. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will engage with State, tribal, and local governments to allow for meaningful public and stakeholder contributions.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Publish Notice of Intent.	October 2017	Preliminary draft in BLM review. Discussing content and timing with the Department. Will have a minimum 30-day comment period. Apply for waiver in accordance with SO 3355. Comment period closed December 1. Completed.
Issue Scoping Report.	December 29, 2017	In progress.
Publish draft Environmental Impact Statement for public comment.	June 2018	90-day comment period. Up to 7-10 separate amendments possible.
Publish final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments.	December 2018	60-day governor's consistency review; 30 day governor's consistency appeal period.
Sign the Record of Decision.	March 2019	
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Goal		
2. Utilizing our natural resources.		
Objective		
A. Ensure American Energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.		
Task		
Complete the Resource Management Plan for the Carlsbad Field Office in New Mexico. (b) (5) DPP		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Publish Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).	(b)(5)	(b)(5) DPP
Publish Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).	(b)(5)	(b)(5) DPP
Sign the Record of Decision	(b)(5) DPP	
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2. Utilizing our natural resources.			
Objective			
A. Ensure American Energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.			
Task			
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to maximize the tracts available for lease sale in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR A) under the existing Integrated Activity Plan. BLM will review and revise the Integrated Activity Plan to promote further oil and gas development while protecting surface resources. BLM also plans to update current assessments of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and natural gas resources in Alaska's North Slope, focusing on Federal lands in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR A) and the Section 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).			
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status	
Review and determine how best to revise the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR A) Integrated Activity Plan by either 1) Developing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or 2) Choosing a new alternative from those already analyzed in the existing plan.	December 2017	BLM and the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) are reviewing options for a "lawful review and development of a revised Integrated Activity Plan that strikes an appropriate statutory balance of promoting development while protecting surface resources [S.O. No. 3352]."	
Conduct National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR A) oil and gas lease sale.	December 2017	BLM published a Call for Nominations in August and posted the Determination of NEPA adequacy (DNA) and maps to be offered on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) register in September. The Notice of Sale is scheduled to be published October 15 with the actual sale scheduled for December 6.	
Update oil and gas assessments in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR A) and the 1002 Area of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).	(b) (5) DPP		
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Goal		
2. Utilizing our natural resources.		
Objective		
B. Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals needed for scientific, technological, or military applications.		
Task		
Review and revise the Resource Management Plan for Eastern Interior in Alaska. The 6.5 million acres of BLM-managed public lands in Eastern Interior have four planning subunits—the Fortymile area (1.8 million acres), White Mountains National Recreation Area (1 million acres), the Steese National Conservation Area (1.3 million acres), and the Draanjik River area (2.4 million acres).		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Review and determine how best to revise the Fortymile Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision either through 1) an Environmental Assessment-level Plan Amendment that selects a new alternative already analyzed in the approved Resource Management Plan or 2) an Environmental Impact Statement-level Plan Amendment that develops and analyzes new alternatives.	December 2017	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Assistant Secretary of Land Management (ASLM) are reviewing options to determine the best path forward for a revision of the Fortymile Resource Management Plan. The recent Secretarial Order 3355 requires that an Executive Impact Statement be completed within one year from the issuance of a Notice of Intent. If the Executive Impact Statement route is taken, BLM-Alaska will determine how best to meet the Secretarial Order, and determine whether a waiver is needed.
Revoke D-1 withdrawals under the approved Fortymile Resource Management Plan to open 1.1 million acres to the staking of mining claims and mineral leasing.	January 2018	The approved Fortymile Resource Management Plan recommends that the Secretary of the Interior partially revoke certain withdrawals provided for under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. BLM-Alaska is taking steps to begin this revocation process, estimated to take 6 months, for consideration by the Secretary.
Review the three other planning subunits and consider revisions, as appropriate.	November 2018	The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has determined Leasable Mineral Occurrence Potential in the other planning areas.
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Goal		
2. Utilizing our natural resources		
Objective		
C. Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle		
Task		
Increase availability of timber in the Oregon and California Railroad Revested (O&C) lands and public domain so that local communities benefit from additional economic activity. Treatments will also improve forest health.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Identified options for increasing future sale volume.	June 2017	Pursued flexibility in Western Oregon Resource Management Plans to harvest up to 360 million board feet (mmbf)/year. Oregon provided briefing papers on options and BLM has had several briefings with the Department. Completed.
Develop and implement revised strategy to maximize allowable sale quantity (ASQ) and reserve volume as outlined in existing plans for Oregon and California Railroad Revested (O&C) lands.	March 2018	10-year harvest average is 215 million board feet (mmbf) on Oregon and California Railroad Revested (O&C) lands, while an annual average of 25-35 million board feet (mmbf) is offered on public domain lands. An over target request for FY 2019 has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to assist in increasing volume produced.
Develop and implement strategy to increase the scale and pace of treatments in the public domain.	March 2018	An over target request for FY 2019 has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to assist in increasing volume produced.
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1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.		
Objective		
A. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.		
Task		
Achieve appropriate management levels in 87 priority herd management areas by 2021. This goal will require working with Congress to restore legislative flexibility that allows the Bureau of Land Management to use all management tools that Congress provided for in the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Develop a report with options for Congress to achieve appropriate management level on priority herd management areas.	December 2017	Report is in development and is due to Congress as soon as possible. A Secretarial briefing will be forthcoming as soon as a draft of the options is completed.
Remove excess animals from the range in accordance with report on an annual basis.	TBD	Once the report is finalized, the planned due date will be updated. This workload will change once appropriate management level is achieved.
Adopt or sell gathered horses and burros in accordance with the report on an annual basis.	TBD	Once the report is finalized, the planned due date will be updated. Approach will vary based on legislative authority.
Enhance existing public/private partnerships and explore new opportunities in accordance with the report.	TBD	Opportunities are identified in the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) report that will be submitted to Congress in December 2017. The BLM Foundation will assist in this effort.
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Objective		
A. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.		
Task		
Improve rangeland health by focusing on appropriate restoration and fire management strategies. The Bureau of Land Management will promote fire-resilient landscapes and fire adapted communities. Integrating resource and fire funding and staff and maintaining and establishing strong partnerships with Federal, state, and local governments that leverage and match funds will be a critical component for success.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Reduce cover of encroaching conifers and invasive species.	October 1, 2018	Planned for FY2018: 118,000 acres conifer removal; 65,000 acres invasive species. Acreage could decrease depending on funding. Planned accomplishments are ~35% less than in FY2017 due to decreases in the FY2018 President's budget.
Develop fuel breaks to protect landscapes.	October 1, 2018	Planned for FY2018: 65,000 acres. Acreage could decrease depending on funding. Planned accomplishments are ~35% less than in FY2017 due to decreases in the FY2018 President's budget.
Restore native plant communities in riparian areas.	October 1, 2018	Planned for FY2018: 10,000 acres. Acreage could decrease depending on funding. Planned accomplishments are ~35% less than in FY2017 due to decreases in the FY2018 President's budget.
Restore native plant communities in working landscapes.	October 1, 2018	Planned for FY2018: 63,000 acres of habitat restoration/protection. Acreage could decrease depending on funding. Planned accomplishments are ~35% less than in FY2017 due to decreases in the FY2018 President's budget.
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1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.		
Objective		
F. Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.		
Task		
Examine BLM National Conservation Lands to assess and expand opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities.		
Milestones	Planned Due Date	Status
Review BLM National Monuments to identify current conditions for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities on public lands.	January 2018.	Completed review of 27 National Monuments identifying ways to increase hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities on public lands. The review includes defined acreage, land use plans, a summary of restrictions or closures, and opportunities to expand access to these National Monuments.
When amending any Resource Management Plan, consider the requirements of S.O. 3356 to increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish.	Ongoing as the BLM identifies specific planning actions.	Currently, out of the BLM's 27 National Monuments: 12 have Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in Place, 4 have RMPs in development, 3 have no RMPs, 8 are in process of amending the RMP.
Develop new/revised Resource Management Plans for the new National Monuments resulting from the recent presidential proclamation for Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM).	TBD	With the recent presidential proclamation, BENM will now encompass two monument units, Shash Jaa (129,980 acres) and Indian Creek (71,896 acres), which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM.
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