

To: Domenech, Douglas[douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov]
From: Cason, James
Sent: 2017-05-21T09:41:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/19/17
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Thanks. Need to amend "regrets" on NCAI meeting.

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 1:46 PM, Domenech, Douglas <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Attached and copied below.

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/19/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will:

5/19: Calls scheduled with Rep. Greg Walden, Rep. Culberson, Rep. Tom Cole.

5/19: Interview: Michael Carpel | Fox News

NEXT WEEK

5/22-5/24 The Secretary will be in Washington.

5/25 PM Departs to participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski and the Arctic Council.

5/26 CODEL: Norway

5/27 CODEL: Greenland, Alaska (National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska), Fairbanks

FURTHER OUT:

5/28 Denali National Park, Alaska

5/29 Denali, Anchorage

5/30 Anchorage (Internal meetings)

5/31 Anchorage (Alaska Oil & Gas Association Remarks)

6/1 Depart for Boise, ID

6/2 Boise, ID (NIFC with Sec. Perdue)

6/3 Depart for DC

Upcoming Media

WEEK AHEAD May 17 thru May 25, 2017 (submitted to WH Comms)

May 19: Zinke will be interviewed by Fox News for national and affiliate Memorial Day special.

May 23: DOI and Bureaus issue News Releases on President's FY18 Budget

May 23: Acting Deputy Secretary Jim Cason to Testify: House Natural Resources Oversight Hearing on the Status and Future of the Cobell Land Consolidation

May 24: Cameron and Mikkelsen to Testify on Reclamation Budget: Special Assistant to the Secretary Scott Cameron and Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen will testify before the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Committee, in a joint hearing with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on the Bureau of Reclamation's fiscal year 2018 budget

proposal.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

May 23: Bloomberg Government Event: Jim Bennett to speak during Bloomberg government event, "Invest in Innovation: Building the Economy of the Future." Event is from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Bloomberg global headquarters in New York. The program will be staged before a live audience of 100 senior investors, including asset managers, institutional investors and private equity investors, executives from energy companies, and top government officials focused on clean energy and sustainable investing. It will be open to the media and will be on the record.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

May 22: News Release announcing new BSEE Director

Bureau of Indian Affairs

May 22: The Land Buy Back Program would like to issue its next release, announcing that \$\$ millions in buyback offers have been mailed to enrolled members of the Winnebago (Wisconsin) and Omaha (Nebraska) Tribes. (This is the latest in a series of releases when buy-back offers are made to tribal members) Note May 23: House Oversight Hearing on LBBP.

U.S. Geological Survey

May 23: USGS National News Release: *draft* New Iguana Species Discovered

May 23: Joint National News Release: Searching to Study the Remaining Few - USGS Science on World Turtle Day

TBD: Strategic Minerals Release

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

5/25 US Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

5/31 Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference remarks in Anchorage

6/6 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association Joint Committee Lunch (DC)

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Regretted

5/19 Montana Logging Association Annual Meeting (Bozeman, MT)

5/19 Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement (Lawrence, KS)

5/19 Montana Marine Corps League Convention (Anaconda, MT)

5/19 Laffer Associates Conference (DC)

5/20 Zoar Maifest National Historic Landmark Designation (Zoar, OH)

5/20 Mineral County Community Support Group's Annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day (Superior, MT)

5/23 7th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Dinner (Boston, MA)

5/23 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Convention (Portland, OR)

5/24 Virginia Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference (Surrogate is V Devito)

5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)

5/28 Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run (DC)

5/29 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Memorial Day Event (DC)

6/3 Ducks Unlimited National Convention (San Antonio, TX)

- 6/4 Annual Native American Economic Development Conference (Las Vegas, NV)
- 6/4 Montana American Legion Boys State Session (Helena, MT)
- 6/5 Society of American Indian Government Employees Annual Training Program (Scottsdale, AZ)
- 6/12 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting (Branson, MO)
- 6/13 National Conference of American Indians (Mohegan Sun, CT)
- 6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)
- 6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

- 5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)

Emergency Management

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 152,231 (no change) acres. The fire is 40-percent (+9) contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 1064 (+14) personnel, including 181 (+2) DOI personnel. There are 320 (no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Fuels that are conducive to fast moving fire activity are exacerbating the threat to private residences, nearby communities, and high value commercial timberlands. Shifting winds, very low fuel moistures, and a high probability of ignition have caused resistance to control. The containment date remains November 1.

On May 18, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Declaration 4308-DR-CA was amended to include Mono County and the Tule River Tribe for Public Assistance. The original declaration, on April 1, was issued for severe winter storms, flooding, and mudslides in California during the period of February 1-23, 2017.

Media of Interest

Senators Question Interior Nominee On Conflicts Of Interest, Science.

The Hill (5/18, Henry) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee “dug into the background of” Interior Department Deputy Secretary nominee David Bernhardt, “raising concerns about conflicts of interest and his time in the George W. Bush administration.” Democrats probed “his work as a lobbyist and the possible influence he could have over government decisions involving his former clients.” Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) called for him to “recuse himself from any decisions involving former clients for his entire tenure, not just the one-year period established by administration ethics rules.” Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) “asked about his approach to science, noting reports that Interior changed scientific research related to oil drilling during his tenure” in the Bush Administration. However, “the hearing was less contentious than was expected, given the intense opposition Bernhardt’s nomination has garnered.”

Conservation Group Takes Out Full Page National Ads Supporting Monuments.

The Deseret (UT) News (5/18, O'Donoghue) reports the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance purchased full page ads in the Thursday national editions of The Washington Post and The New York Times in support of saving the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments. The ads “question if Trump’s legacy will measure up to that of another New

York Republican, Teddy Roosevelt, and the first U.S. president to declare a national monument under the Antiquities Act.” The ads’ placement come “the heels of a four-day visit to Utah by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who is conducting a review of 27 national monuments as the result of an executive order signed by Trump in April.” The Trump Administration’s order “asks for a probe to determine if the designations comply with the provisions of the Antiquities Act, which was passed by Congress in 1906 out a desire to protect antiquities – or cultural artifacts – from looting and vandalism.”

Zinke Dances With Second Lady In Montana.

The Independent Journal Review (5/18, Johnson) reports Vice President Mike Pence visited Montana to support the Republican candidate a special election last weekend, and after the headliner campaign rally in Billings, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tapped Karen Pence on the shoulder, who commence to lift “the Second Lady off the ground and went side-to-side.”

American Petroleum Institute Sues Interior Department.

Legal Newslines (5/18, Torres) reports the American Petroleum Institute is suing the Interior Department, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue and director Gregory Gould, “alleging they eviscerated the hierarchy of the civil penalty provisions of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act.” API says in the complaint it was “damaged due to the final rule’s net effect. The plaintiff alleges the defendants replaced the provision of the Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act, which could risk federal and Native American oil and gas lessees for enforcement actions.”

Washington Monument Accepts Plaque From Ireland.

In continuing coverage, the Washington (DC) Times (5/18) carries an AP article about the National Park Service accepting a plaque on Thursday from the people of Ireland that will be hung in the staircase of the Washington Monument. The park service says new donations to the monument are accepted “only in very rare circumstances.” Other sites that carried the AP article include the Owosso (MI) Argus-Press (5/18), Bristol (VA) Herald Courier (5/18), and WUSA-TV Washington (DC) Washington (5/18).

USGS Estimates Spraberry Formation Contains 4.2 Billion Barrels.

The Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram (5/18, McEwen) reports the completed assessment of the Spraberry formation by the US Geological Survey estimates it “holds an estimated 4.2 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil and 3.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.” The new reading is significantly higher than the 2007 assessment of 500 million barrels.

White House Communications Report

No WH Comms on was submitted on 05/18/2017

Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Thursday.

REG0007006 BOE Cook Inlet Planning Area Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244 - Final Notice of Sale. This must publish no later than Monday, May 22, 2017. If this date is missed, there will be insufficient time to publish at least 30 days before the sale date.

This could result in cancelling the lease. This Final Notice of Sale (NOS) announces the time, size, and location of BOEM's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244 for the Cook Inlet Planning Area in Alaska, which is scheduled for June 21, 2017. This Notice also provides instructions to industry for submitting bids and announces the availability of the Final NOS package which contains additional information for prospective bidders. Notice 05/18/2017.

REG0007007 BOE Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision for the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf, Cook Inlet Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244. BOEM announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Cook Inlet Planning Area, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 244, scheduled for June 21, 2017. BOEM seeks to publish this Notice with the Final Notice of Sale (NOS) for Lease Sale 244 on May 22, 2017 (i.e., 30 days before the sale). If this date is missed, the lease sale likely will not occur. It is the last scheduled sale in BOEM's 2012-2017 Five Year Program, which ends on June 30, 2017. Notice 05/18/2017.

REG0006992 OS Tribal Listening Session; Oklahoma City Probate Hearings Division Field Office. The Office of Hearings and Appeals, Probate Hearings Division, identified the closure of our Oklahoma City Field Office as a necessary action in response to budget-tightening directives. Notice 05/17/2017.

Doug Domenech
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US Department of the Interior