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## INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

### NEWS TO SHARE:

#### Alaska Dispatch News: Alaska Native corporate leader tapped by Trump for top Indian Affairs job

*"A longtime Alaska Native corporate leader is being nominated by President Trump to oversee Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of Interior. Tara Sweeney is executive vice president of external affairs for Arctic Slope Regional Corp. — the largest Alaska-owned business — and is a previous co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives, which is holding its annual convention in Anchorage this week. She's from Utqiagvik, previously known as Barrow, and is Inupiaq. The Trump administration announced Sweeney's nomination as assistant Interior secretary for Indian Affairs around 6:30 p.m. Alaska time, way after hours on the East Coast. Within minutes, the Alaska congressional delegation responded with strong praise. AFN leaders and Gov. Bill Walker soon did the same."*

#### CBS-4 Denver: NW Colorado Official Hopeful Changes On Grouse Will Help Oil & Gas Industry

*"Officials in northwest Colorado say they hope changes to federal plans for dealing with an imperiled bird species will allow more energy development in their part of the state. The U.S. Interior Department is reconsidering restrictions on mining, oil and gas drilling, grazing and other activities imposed by the Obama administration to protect greater sage grouse."*

### Correcting the Record:

#### Bangor Daily News: Zinke's silence on the monument creates uncertainty for northern Maine

*"That promising start is jeopardized by a needless uncertainty that has hung over the monument since President Donald Trump was elected. One of his first acts in office was to order a review of 27 monuments, including Katahdin Woods and Waters, to determine whether they'd stay open at all. I'm certain that until that uncertainty is lifted, our region will see further economic opportunity postponed. Supporters of the monument breathed a sigh of relief in August when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made clear that Trump wouldn't close the monument. But there are still huge questions left unanswered, thanks to a suggestion by Zinke that "active timber management" may be in store for the monument in the future."*

- **Secretary Zinke's statement:**

- "No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object. The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much-needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation."

- **DOI statement:**
  - “The Secretary's draft report has been sent to the White House. The Secretary's summary has been released to the press. Please contact the White House with any questions about any action on the report.”
- **White House statement:**
  - "President Trump has received Secretary Zinke's draft report for the Antiquities Act, and is currently reviewing his recommendations to determine the best path forward for the American people."

## OTHER TOP STORIES:

### Desert Sun: Trump administration green-lights company's plan to pipe water from Mojave Desert to cities

*“President Donald Trump’s administration has approved a company’s plan to build a water pipeline to carry billions of gallons from the Mojave Desert to California cities. The federal Bureau of Land Management told Cadiz Inc. in a letter released Monday that the company won’t need a permit to build the pipeline alongside a railroad. The agency rescinded a 2015 decision by President Barack Obama’s administration that had blocked the project.”*

### THE HILL: Fight over national monuments intensifies

*“One hundred and eleven years ago, Congress passed the Antiquities Act, empowering presidents to designate national monuments protecting federal lands that contain objects of interest. Congress believed swift presidential action is sometimes needed to protect threatened landscapes from private exploitation. Since then, 16 presidents, Republicans and Democrats alike, have created 157 national monuments on existing federal lands.”*

### Elko Daily Free Press: BLM to offer 208 parcels in oil and gas lease sale

*“The Bureau of Land Management will offer 208 parcels in Nye County totaling approximately 388,959.402 acres in the Ely District at its December quarterly oil and gas lease sale.... The state of Nevada receives 49 percent of the proceeds of each lease sale. In Fiscal Year 2016, Nevada received approximately \$1.4 million from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for oil and gas. Statewide, more than 26,000 jobs are tied to mineral and energy development on BLM-managed public lands. The previous Ely District sale was held on Dec. 8, 2015. That sale generated \$6,676, selling three parcels covering approximately 3,640 acres through presale offers.*

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Alex Hinson

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