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[ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary 7.05.17 Final.docx](#)

Gareth,

Attached please find the ASLM Weekly Report to the Secretary.

Thank you,  
Jill

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**Jill Moran**

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT  
July 10-16**

**Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Acting ASLM Kate MacGregor will be in Washington, DC, attending regularly scheduled meetings.

**Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

During the week of July 10, OSMRE anticipates publishing a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the Bridger Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day comment period. The Bridger Coal Company's Bridger Mine is an underground mine located in Sweetwater County, WY that employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.

During the week of July 10, OSMRE plans to publish a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the Cordero Rojo Mine Mining Plan Modification Draft EA, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On July 10, the BLM's public comment period for the National Monument review closes. The BLM-WO is reviewing public comments and, in coordination with State Offices, Monument Managers, and the DOI Office of Policy Analysis, will prepare the final report on the 18 National Monuments managed by the BLM. This will be ongoing through July and early August.

On July 10, the BLM-CO White River Field Office will initiate a 30-day public scoping period for a proposal to develop a 384-mile off-highway vehicle (OHV) route system incorporating mostly existing BLM and county roads. Rio Blanco County submitted the Wagon Wheel West OHV Trail proposal to the BLM to increase trail system-based recreation throughout the county and northwestern Colorado. Recreation on BLM-CO-managed lands generated \$543 million and supported 4,625 jobs in FY 2015.

On July 10, BOEM plans to publish the Record of Decision for a project to rehabilitate 4 miles of shoreline damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Martin County, FL. The Bureau will enter into a 3-party agreement with Martin County and the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of OCS sand.

On July 10, four individuals charged with various crimes during the 2014 Gold Butte cattle impoundment are scheduled to be re-tried in U.S. District Court, Las Vegas, following the declaration of a mistrial on April 24, 2017. The BLM communications team has and will continue to coordinate with DOI communications on public statements or related materials.

On July 10, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will meet with the Gulf Restoration Network in New Orleans, LA.

On July 10, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will meet with the representatives of PHI Helicopters in Houston, TX to discuss issues related to the Bureau's use of offshore helicopter refueling facilities.

On July 11, BSEE Director Scott Angelle is scheduled to speak at the American Petroleum Institute's Safe Lifting Conference in Houston, TX. The conference will cover lifting operations and standards for platform-based cranes.

On July 11-12, BOEM will participate in a panel discussion on marine acoustics and other topics with ocean science leaders hosted by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Bill Brown, Chief of the Office of Environmental Programs, Jill Lewandowski, Chief of the Division of Environmental Assessment, and Erica Staaterman, a Bioacoustician from BOEM, will represent the Bureau in the panel discussion.

On July 12, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources plans to hold a hearing on the offshore oil and gas programs. Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Kate MacGregor will be the Department's witness.

On July 12, BSEE Director Scott Angelle is scheduled to meet with offshore industry representatives in Morgan City, LA. Director Angelle will also meet with BSEE Houma District personnel.

On July 13, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining tentatively plans to hold a hearing on 12 public land bills of interest to the BLM. The BLM witness has yet to be determined.

On July 13, BLM-WY High Plains District, Buffalo Field Office, and Casper Field Office staff will meet with Converse and Campbell County commissioners to discuss coal and oil and gas conflicts, which occur when both industries compete for mineral rights in the same location, within their respective counties. The meeting will initiate dialogue on how the BLM and county commissioners can help the industries carry out their work in accordance with the BLM's relevant land use plan.

On July 14, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands tentatively plans to hold a hearing on various public land bills, including the following two of interest to BLM; H.R. 2582, Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act (Rep. Love, R-4-UT); and H.R. 1547, Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act (Rep. McSally, R-2-AZ). The BLM's witness is yet to be determined.

On July 14, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at a meeting of the National Ocean Industries Association's Legislative Strategy Group in Washington, DC.

From July 14 to August 25, BLM-AK plans a temporary shutdown of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Alyeska Pipeline Services Company plans safety and integrity protection system

downloads requiring short-term shutdowns for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System this summer. The BLM Alaska Branch of Pipeline Monitoring will observe the shutdowns.

In mid-July, BOEM plans to release a Note to Stakeholders regarding its proposal to implement a 12.5% royalty rate for oil and gas production in shallow water depths. The reduction would be only for leases offered in Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 249, which is scheduled to take place on August 16, 2017. Bids for leasing in shallow waters have been in steady decline, primarily due to the high incidents of natural gas in shallow water depths, which compete unfavorably with more onshore gas resource plays. If ASLM approves the proposal, the BOEM will make the announcement using a Note to Stakeholders. Affected governors will be notified via correspondence.

In mid-July, OSMRE's Western Region plans to publish a Notice of Availability in a local newspaper for the John Henry Mine Mining Plan Modification draft EA and unsigned FONSI, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Pacific Coast Coal Company's John Henry Mine is a surface mine located in King County, WA which has been inactive since 1999.

In mid to late July, BLM-CA anticipates the completion of the proposed Hester land exchange. The exchange will result in the BLM's acquisition of approximately 550 acres of non-Federal lands within the new Sand to Snow National Monument in Riverside County, in exchange for 40 acres of Federal mineral interests located on private property in San Diego County. The exchange finalizes restitution of a trespass settlement that began in 2013. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA-5) has been a strong advocate for the exchange and the BLM is keeping him informed of its progress.

### **30 - 60 Day Look-Ahead**

On July 17, BOEM plans to publish the Final Notice of Sale and Record of Decision for the Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 249. The sale is scheduled for August 16 and will be the first lease sale under the 2017-2022 OCS Oil & Gas Program as well as the first region-wide sale.

During the week of July 17, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will attend individual meetings with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan, and Rep. Don Young of the Alaska Congressional delegation to discuss offshore developing in the Arctic OCS region.

On July 18 – 20, Acting ASLM Kate MacGregor will participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Trail Ride hosted by the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Governor Butch Otter. The event, which will take place on historic ranchland in the Upper Snake River Valley, is designed to provide an opportunity to explore natural resource issues and will include discussions about improvements to the Federal grazing permit process and sustainable land use.

On July 18 and 25, BLM-Eastern States, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, will hold public meetings in St. Paul, MN, and Virginia, MN, to solicit comments regarding the proposed 20-year withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Federal minerals from national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River Watershed. Public comments received during project scoping will inform development of an EIS to study the proposed mineral

withdrawal. The USFS is the lead agency for developing the EIS, and the BLM is a cooperating agency. BLM Northeastern States District Manager Dean Gettinger will attend.

On July 19, BLM plans to hold an auction of Federally-owned crude helium. Under the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the BLM must offer for auction and sale annually a portion of the helium reserves stored underground at the Cliffside Gas Field, near Amarillo, TX. The BLM anticipates auctioning 500 MMcf in a total of 30 lots for delivery in FY 2018. Following the auction, the BLM will offer an allocated sale in which helium is offered to refiners, and a non-allocated sale in which the helium is offered to non-refiners.

On July 19, OSMRE, USFWS, and State regulatory authorities will meet in St. Louis to re-initiate Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, as a result of the nullification of the Stream Protection Rule and the 2016 Biological Opinion. An internal draft of the Biological Assessment (BA) is under review by an interdisciplinary team and is expected to be completed, including all OSMRE and Solicitor reviews, by July 14, to allow the BA to be submitted to USFWS by the first week of August.

On July 21, BOEM will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Project. The EIS will supplement the 2009 Final EIS and is being prepared pursuant to a remand order from the D.C. Circuit Court. The NOA of the Record of Decision must publish prior to the court hearing scheduled on August 25.

On July 22, the BLM-OR/WA Lakeview Resource Area plans to hold an open house to discuss ongoing work with a private, non-profit partner to develop a multi-prong approach to managing the Beatty Butte Herd Management Area. For the first time, an external partner will work with BLM staff to bait trap horses, administer PZP to mares, and gentle horses considered good candidates for adoption.

On July 26, BOEM plans to hold a meeting with New Jersey fishing groups, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the USACE Philadelphia and New York District Offices in Tom's River, NJ. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss how BOEM identifies and leases OCS sand resources and its efforts to study potential dredging impacts on fish habitats and fisheries. This is a follow up to a January 2017 meeting hosted by NJDEP with eight fisheries groups.

On July 28, BOEM plans to publish the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the Development and Production Plan for the Hilcorp Liberty Project. The Liberty Project is a 9-acre man-made gravel island proposed to be constructed approximately 5.6 miles offshore in the Beaufort Sea that would be capable of facilitating both drilling and processing operations.

In late July or early August, BOEM plans to publish a final rule to address the use of OCS sand, gravel, and shell resources for shore protection, beach restoration, and coastal wetlands restoration projects by Federal, state, and local government agencies for construction projects authorized by or funded in whole or part by the Federal Government. The rule will describe the negotiated noncompetitive agreement process and codify new and existing procedures.

On July 28, the BLM anticipates publishing proposed revisions to the Waste Prevention Rule in the Federal Register.

On July 30 – August 4, BLM-AK and BOEM will host acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Kate MacGregor. The tentative itinerary involves tours on Alaska's North Slope, including the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Pump Station 1, ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. Alpine processing facility, Northstar Island offshore oil production facility, and overflight of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as well as tours and briefings on the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, the legacy well program, and the BLM Alaska Fire Service.

In early August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Dry Fork Mine (WY) Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Western Fuels' Dry Fork mine is a surface mining complex located in Campbell County, WY that employs 82 people. Estimated production per year is 6 million tons.

On August 1, BOEM is tentatively scheduled to participate in a panel discussion at the "New York Clean Energy Standard—Opportunities and Challenges" in New York, NY. Darryl Francois, Engineering and Technical Review Branch will represent BOEM on the panel discussing opportunities and challenges for clean energy in New York.

On August 2, BLM-WO staff will meet with an International Visitor Leadership Program group hosted by the University of Montana at Main Interior. The University has requested that Secretary Zinke greet the group. Timothy Fisher, BLM program management analyst from the National Conservation Landscape Program, will meet with the group to discuss the BLM's multiple use mission and priority programs.

On August 3, BLM-NV's Las Vegas Field Office will hold a land sale under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) in Las Vegas. The BLM proposes to offer for competitive sale 81.25 acres of public land in 17 parcels. In accordance with SNPLMA, funds generated by the sale will be used for projects such as the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, and Lake Tahoe restoration projects.

On August 4, BOEM plans to publish the NOA for the Gulf of Mexico Geological and Geophysical Final EIS and MMPA Petition. BOEM must file the Final EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency by July 28. The Record of Decision and associated NOA must publish in the *Federal Register* no later than September 22, in order to meet the court ordered schedule designated in the settlement agreement.

On August 10, OSMRE's Western Region anticipates releasing for public comment a draft EIS for Western Energy Company's Rosebud Coal Mine Area F, located near Colstrip, MT. The proposed permit area for Area F would add 6,746 acres to the 25,576-acre surface coal mine. The mine currently employs 400 people, and produces 12.3 million tons per year.

In mid to late August, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Belle Ayr Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to OSMRE headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM.

Contura Coal West, LLC's Belle Ayr Coal Mine is a surface coal mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 259 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

On August 18, the Vegas to Reno off-road race will take place in NV. The race is the longest off road event in the U.S. and the course runs 550 miles, including sections on BLM-NV managed public lands.

During the week of August 21, OMB examiners are tentatively planning to visit field locations in North Dakota and Wyoming to observe BLM oil, coal, and wind energy activities; with special interest in the Bakken, Powder River Basin, and wind energy efforts in Wyoming. Participants will likely include Mike Hagan and Ben Burnett (OMB), Bill Gordon (POB), and Linda Smith (BLM-WO Budget Officer).

On August 22 – 24, BLM wild horse and burro program staff will participate in the National Wild Horse and Burro Summit in Salt Lake City, UT. Participants will discuss science, policy, resource impacts, and management options for on- and off-the-range populations. Secretary Zinke has been invited to speak. Other participants may include state partners and special interest groups.

On August 23 - 24, 2017, OSMRE's Mid-Continent Region (MCR) will hold an All-States Meeting, in Kansas City, MO. The meeting allows the MCR and its 11 states to exchange information on updates to regulations, policies, trends, technology, grants, personnel and budget issues.

On August 22, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Deepwater Technology Symposium in New Orleans, and then hold various stakeholder meetings in the Gulf region.

In early September, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Cordero Rojo Mine's Mining Plan decision documents to Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo Mine is a surface mine located in Campbell County, WY. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.

In early September, OSMRE's Western Region plans to submit the Bridger Mine Mining Plan decision documents to Headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. The Bridger Coal Company's Bridger Mine is an underground mine located in Sweetwater County, WY that employs 540 people. If the modification is approved, production is estimated to be 2.24 million tons per year.

On September 19, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association's annual meeting in Lafayette, LA.

On September 20, BSEE Director Scott Angelle will speak at the Center for Offshore Safety's Annual Forum in Houston, TX.