

From: SIO, Scheduling
To: randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: June-July 2017 -- Invitation to Visit Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
Date: Saturday, July 08, 2017 4:52:32 PM
Attachments: [June-July 2017 -- Invitation to Visit Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.pdf](#)

Hello sir. This item was routed to our office because it contains an invitation for the Secretary. When you have a chance, can you please confirm that a response has been sent, and no further action is required on our part? We're trying to clean up some outstanding items, and we want to be sure to reply to any open requests and invitations, if necessary. Thank you.

Tim Nigborowicz
Office of Scheduling and Advance
202-208-7551

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20240

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2017 MAY -8 PM 6:01
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

May 4th, 2017

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing you today because I understand in the coming months you will review and develop recommendations for all national monuments designated in the last 21 years that are larger than 100,000 acres in size. In Montana, this review will include where I make my living, the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. I own an outfitting business that guides people through this monument.

Before you share your recommendations from this review of the Missouri Breaks with the President, my friend Dayton Duncan and I would like to invite you to spend a few days floating with us down the Missouri River through the monument. Dayton has written books and documentary films about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and knows the special place this stretch of the river has in the story of America's westward movement.

I grew up in Billings, Montana. The first time I floated through the Breaks, the majesty of the White Cliffs and the solitude of the slow-moving river left a lasting impression. In 2009, I began working as a river guide taking clients down the river every summer, camping in the shade of towering cottonwoods, and climbing the coulees to gain the views from the canyon rim. Just this spring, I became a business owner in Fort Benton, where I purchased the outfitting business I once guided for. The Missouri River Outfitters is the longest-running river outfitter in the Breaks, and I'm proud to continue its tradition-steeped guiding services through one of Montana's last best places. Even though I'm not yet 30, my roots have grown deep here.

Prior to signing the Executive Order formalizing the review, the President made some comments that troubled me, comments condemning national monuments and the legislation used to create them, the Antiquities Act. Changes to the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument could have a drastic impact on my business and others in Fort Benton and other small communities that surround the Breaks.

Dayton and I propose spending as many days in the Breaks as your schedule will allow. My business can provide all the necessary equipment, transportation, and food, allowing you time to truly relax and reflect on what Meriwether Lewis described as "scenes of visionary enchantment" when the Corps of Discovery passed through this area over 200 years ago. Dayton can explain why this landscape plays a

pivotal role in our nation's history and why it's so important to keep it protected as a monument.

Within the Upper Missouri River Breaks, there are tipi rings, rock art, and ancient artifacts that go back thousands of years. It is a place where you can camp and hike in the same riverside spots that Lewis and Clark did in 1805. Like other monuments across the country, the Missouri Breaks allow us to physically connect with our history and participate in our outdoor heritage in perpetuity.

Monument designations not only ensure that future generations will enjoy the same opportunity we enjoy now, but also that businesses in communities such as mine have the security to invest and thrive knowing that some places will simply remain as they are.

The Missouri Breaks is my home. I urge you to consider not only its natural beauty, but also the cultural and outdoor heritage embedded in this landscape, a heritage that monuments designation protects. I also ask that you consider the businesses, such as mine, that operate in the monument's gateway communities and depend on its protected heritage and on the beauty that brings people here.

I hope you will visit. I believe you will see the majesty that I see when we watch mule deer graze along the river bottom, when we walk among the tipi rings, and when we share stories about this land that so many before us have traveled, and treasured. Regardless of your response, my offer will always stand, and my canoes are never too far from the river.

Sincerely,

Nicolle Fugere, owner of Missouri River Outfitters
Dayton Duncan, writer and documentary filmmaker



Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Open invitation

1 message

Williams, Timothy <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>
 To: "Howarth, Robert" <Robert_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, May 8, 2017 at 8:32 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Missouri River Outfitters** <mro@mroutfitters.com>
 Date: Sat, May 6, 2017 at 1:49 PM
 Subject: Open invitation
 To: micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov
 Cc: duncandr@sover.net, timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov

Dear Micah,

I'm writing today, along with my friend Dayton Duncan, to invite Secretary Zinke to come and experience the Upper Missouri River Breaks before submitting his review of designations made under the Antiquities Act as required by the President's April 26th Executive Order. Our letter to the Secretary is attached.

Dayton is a writer and historian, willing to provide his interpretation of how the Missouri Breaks has played a pivotal role in our nation's history. I am the owner of Missouri River Outfitters, the longest-running river outfitter in the Breaks, based in Fort Benton.

Together, we ask that the Secretary consider our offer to guide him on a trip through the monument before the 120 day review period, mandated by the recent Executive Order, ends.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Nicolle Fugere

Department Of The Interior

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Timothy Williams

timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov

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**Letter to Sec Zinke.pdf**

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