

**From:** Renner, Elinor  
**To:** [Elinor Renner](#)  
**Bcc:** [downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: 30-Day Look Ahead  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 9:28:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 11-14-17.docx](#)

---

Sharing with the team.

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

**From:** **Magallanes, Downey** <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 7:14 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: 30-Day Look Ahead  
**To:** "Renner, Elinor" <[elinor\\_renner@ios.doi.gov](mailto:elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov)>

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

**From:** **Magallanes, Downey** <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 7:14 PM  
**Subject:** 30-Day Look Ahead  
**To:** [CabinetAffairs@who.eop.gov](mailto:CabinetAffairs@who.eop.gov), [William.J.McGinley@who.eop.gov](mailto:William.J.McGinley@who.eop.gov), Staff Secretary  
<[staffsecretary@who.eop.gov](mailto:staffsecretary@who.eop.gov)>  
**Cc:** Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>

Attached.

--

Downey Magallanes  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)  
202-706-9199

--

Downey Magallanes  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)  
202-706-9199

--

Elinor Renner  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Immediate Office of the Secretary  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20240

202-208-6087

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
November 14, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of November 13, 2017

**DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead**

**Presidential Initiatives and Awareness**

1. **CRITICAL MINERALS REPORT:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. An Executive Order (EO) directing Interior to help coordinate the appropriate agencies to undertake a government-wide approach to facilitate the domestic mining and processing of critical minerals is currently under review with the Office of Legal Counsel. The Department is continuing to hold the release of the study to be issued in conjunction with the EO. DOI is awaiting the scheduling of the EO issuance and is preparing communications materials, and we have been informed the signing is tentatively scheduled for November 30.  
**Timing:** November 30, 2017  
**Contact:** Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary
2. **MEMORIAL BRIDGE PROJECT AND REBUILD THE PARKS INITIATIVE:** The Secretary has worked with NEC and OMB on legislative language to create an account funded by energy revenues that would address the \$11.5 billion in backlog in the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge maintenance. NEC has agreed to include this language in the infrastructure bill. The Secretary believes POTUS or VPOTUS should call on Congress separately to address the backlog. Senator Alexander has tentatively agreed to introduce legislation after this occurs. We will submit a request that POTUS or VPOTUS announce this initiative with the Arlington Memorial Bridge as the backdrop. The National Park Service (NPS) is ready to award the contract for the bridge by November 30. NPS has secured all funding (\$227 million) for a complete rehabilitation under budget and in a single phase rather than multi-phase. This would be an ideal backdrop to show the Trump Administration is doing all it can to fix America's infrastructure, but that Congress needs to do its part to restore and rebuild the parks. We will submit a scheduling request to Cabinet Affairs offering the week of November 30.  
**Timing:** November 27-30, 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3. **INTERIOR DISASTER RELIEF PROPOSAL:** Interior has submitted a proposal for the President's consideration to call on Congress to give him the authority to lift environmental restrictions on resource-abundant lands to help develop construction materials to rebuild after a Presidentially-declared disaster. This proposal was submitted as a part of the National Security Council request for proposals. Interior also submitted the legislative language to OMB for consideration in the next supplemental appropriations bill.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff

4. **MONUMENTS REQUEST:** Interior has submitted the final draft monuments report to Staff Secretary. Interior will send the final report when WH Communications gives feedback on timing the report might be made public by the WH. Interior has also submitted specific monument recommendations for Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) to OLC for the form and legality review. Finally, Interior has submitted a scheduling request that POTUS travel to Utah to sign the proclamations for the BENM and GSENM. The Secretary has discussed this with the President.  
**Timing:** Early December 2017  
**Contact:** Downey Magallanes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
5. **BOEM DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN:** BOEM aims to publish the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Program. Publication of the DPP is the first opportunity for the Administration to share proposed leasing areas with the public. Publication of the DPP follows the Request for Information that was published on July 3, in response to which BOEM received over 815,000 comments.  
**Timing:** Mid December, 2017  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
6. **ACTION ON ENERGY BURDENS:** In late December, Interior plans to publish a final rule rescinding the hydraulic fracturing rule, a final rule delaying the compliance dates for the venting and flaring rule, and a draft rule revising the well control rule. Each of these rules were identified in Interior's energy burdens report, pursuant to Executive Order 13783.  
**Timing:** Late December 2017  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.
7. **ALASKA 1002 AREA GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL (G&G) STUDIES:** Interior is drafting a proposed rule and associated environmental assessment to allow for advanced G&G studies on the oil and gas potential of the 1002 area in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Existing scientific data is decades old, and new data collection will be useful to better characterize the nature of any oil and gas deposits in the region. Once the rule goes into effect, additional environmental compliance is expected with respect to particular research proposals, which should be minimally disruptive of surface features in the 1002 area.  
**Timing:** Late December 2017.  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

### **Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony**

1. **UPCOMING SENR MARKUP:** The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee will hold a legislative markup of Chairman Murkowski's budget reconciliation language to open Alaska's 1002 area for natural resource development. This is a follow up to an oversight hearing that occurred on November 2, 2017, where DOI testified in support of Congressional authorization for development. This is consistent with the Department's FY18 budget request. In addition, the

Department will be delivering Questions of the Record and a response to Sen. Cantwell prior to the markup.

**Timing:** November 15, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

2. **UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 801 (LaHood), Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2888 (Smith), Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act; H.R. 3979 (Jefferies), Keep America's Refuges Operational Act; H.R. 4266 (Poliquin), To clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park. Sue Masica (Acting Dep. Director, NPS) will be the witness.

**Timing:** November 15, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

3. **UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. John Tahsuda (Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs) will be the witness.

**Timing:** November 15, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

4. **PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT:** Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did not act on this issue. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

**Timing:** TBD

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

5. **DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS:** Brenda Burman (BOR) and Susan Combs (A/S PMB) were passed out of committee August 3, 2017. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) intent to nominate is expected to be announced November 13, 2017.

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

### **Other/Awareness Only**

1. **HURRICANE IRMA AND MARIA RESPONSE/RECOVERY OPERATIONS:** DOI's Deputy Secretary has been participating in the White House Principals Committee meetings on the hurricane recovery framework. Pursuant to a request by the Committee, the Deputy Secretary has assigned Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, to participate in the FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands and to lead the Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery mission. As part of this assignment, the Department has identified DOI employees ready to deploy and lead the recovery efforts in PR and the VI. Ten employees from DOI bureaus and offices are already currently deployed supporting the FEMA Surge Capacity Force. FEMA has determined that no additional DOI employees will be deployed as part of the Surge Capacity Force. In total, DOI successfully deployed 35 employees to support this effort. In addition, DOI has 34 employees supporting Small Business Administration (SBA) activities. DOI personnel are assisting FEMA and SBA in Puerto Rico, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nevada, Florida, New York, California, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. DOI also continues to transition to long-term response and recovery operations on Puerto Rico (including Vieques and Culebra) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John). DOI personnel are providing technical expertise to interagency partners at the FEMA Puerto Rico Initial Operating Facility pertaining to natural and cultural resource protection, the safe removal of stranded vessels in the Caribbean, protection of critical habitats during response and recovery efforts, and analysis of landslide occurrences and threats in Puerto Rico. While recovery functions remain largely in the planning stages due to ongoing response efforts, DOI remains engaged with the lead agencies for the Recovery Support Functions including the Department of Commerce, Health and Human Services, and FEMA.  
**Timing:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs
2. **COAL MINING ACTIONS:** Throughout October, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will submit mining decisions and a notice of availability.
  - **Belle Ayr Mine Plan Decision:** OSMRE anticipates forwarding a mining plan decision document with a recommendation for the Belle Ayr Mine Mining plan modification in November 2017. The mine employs 259 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.
  - **Cordero Rojo Mine.** The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for Cordero Mine mining plan modification was published on July 6, 2017, and comments were accepted for 30 days. The bureau will forward a mining plan decision document with a recommendation in late November 2017. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 20 million tons of coal per year.**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
3. **NON-SUBSISTENCE TAKE RULE TO BE NULLIFIED:** Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed, and the President signed, a resolution of disapproval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule titled "Non-subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska" (non-subsistence take of wildlife rule). By operation of the CRA, the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule shall be treated as if it had never taken effect. However, because the CRA does not direct the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and reissue the pre-existing regulatory text, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is issuing a notice to effect the removal of any amendments,

deletions, or other modifications made by the nullified rule and the reversion to the text of the regulations in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule.

**Timing:** November 8, 2017

**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

4. **STREAM PROTECTION RULE TO BE NULLIFIED:** Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed, and the President signed, a resolution of disapproval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule titled “Non-subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska” (non-subsistence take of wildlife rule). By operation of the CRA, the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule shall be treated as if it had never taken effect. However, because the CRA does not direct the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and reissue the pre-existing regulatory text, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is issuing a notice to effect the removal of any amendments, deletions, or other modifications made by the nullified rule and the reversion to the text of the regulations in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the non-subsistence take of wildlife rule.

**Timing:** November 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

5. **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE INCREASING ACCESS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS:** FWS will publish a final rule on the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the Federal Register notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach.

**Timing:** November 2017

**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

6. **ATLANTIC COAST AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINES:** Environmental compliance and signing required right-of-way and construction permits anticipated. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward. Both pipelines would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and are currently under environmental review and consideration by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by FERC, and a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated later in 2017.

**Timing:** November 2017

**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Parks

7. **ATLANTIC OFFSHORE RENEWABLE RFF:** In late November, BOEM plans to publish a Request for Feedback (RFF) in the Federal Register seeking input on a proposed path forward for renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast. The RFF describes the process and factors used by BOEM to identify and forecast areas along the Atlantic Coast where future development is most likely and leasing should be focused.

**Timing:** Late November 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

8. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION:** On July 2nd, the Navajo government approved a two-year lease extension for continuing operation of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) through 2019. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation has a participation interest in the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration has a role in decisions associated with the plant. Interior is facilitating a process being led by Peabody Energy and Lazard (investment banking) to identify a possible future owner(s) to keep the plant generating power post-2019, since the current utility owners will exit the plant at the end of 2019. The comment period for the NGS Extension Lease Environmental Assessment ended on Friday, November 3. Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are currently considering any relevant comments received during the comment period and anticipate issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by December 1.

**Timing:** December 2017

**Contact:** Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

9. **RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS IN THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA:** The USGS currently is making pre-assessment public presentations in preparation for conducting resource assessments in response to Secretarial Order 3352, which directs the USGS to update assessments of the Alaska North Slope with emphasis on National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPRA), the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and State lands and waters. The content of the presentations will include descriptions of why the assessment is being done, what methods are being used, and specific documentation of the geological interpretations that form the foundation of the assessment. Meetings currently in progress focus on two geological formations in which significant oil discoveries have been announced in the past two years: the Nanushuk and Torok Formations. The Nanushuk Formation hosts two new discoveries, Pikka-Horseshoe and Willow.

**Timing:** December 2017

**Contact:** Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

10. **WEST ELK MINE ROYALTY RATE REDUCTION:** In early December, BLM-CO expects to issue a decision on whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper expressed support for the royalty rate reduction, contingent on Mountain Coal Company exploring methane capture at the mine.

**Timing:** December 1-2, 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

11. **NPR-A LEASE SALE:** On December 6, BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts covering 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. This lease sale, the 13th since 1999, will be the first NPR-A oil and gas lease sale to occur via livestream video. This is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Further controversy is expected if BLM-AK modifies the Integrated Activity Plan prior to the sale. Bidding is expected to be moderate.



**Timing:** December 6, 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

13. **OIL & GAS LEASE SALES:** Throughout December, the Bureau of Land Management will hold oil and gas lease sales on a total of 659,207 acres throughout eight states.
- **NEW MEXICO:** On December 7, BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties.
  - **COLORADO:** On December 7, BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 10 parcels totaling 1,227 acres in Garfield and Mesa Counties.
  - **NEVADA:** On December 12, BLM-NV will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 208 parcels, totaling 388,959.402 acres in White Pine, Lincoln and Nye Counties.
  - **MONTANA:** On December 12, BLM-MT will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 204 parcels totaling 98,889 acres in Big Horn, Custer, Carter, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River, Richland, and Rosebud Counties.
  - **UTAH:** On December 14, BLM-UT will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 75 parcels totaling 94,000 acres in Duchesne, Uintah and Emery Counties.
  - **WYOMING:** On December 14, BLM-WY will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 45 parcels totaling 72,843 acres in Laramie, Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties.
  - **EASTERN STATES:** On December 14, BLM-Eastern States will hold an oil and gas lease sale for seven parcels totaling 1,185 acres in OH and LA. The sale will include five parcels totaling 350.06 acres in the Wayne National Forest, Monroe County, OH; and two parcels totaling 834.70 acres in the Kisatchie National Forest, Natchitoches and Winn Parishes, LA.

**Timing:** December 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

14. **DOI ENERGY SUMMIT:** In support of the President's energy dominance agenda, Secretary Zinke will be hosting an all-day energy summit at DOI HQ. The summit will broadcast all aspects of the DOI's energy portfolio, including the economic benefits for the American taxpayer. The summit will definitively set forth the Administration's energy priorities. Participants will also include cabinet principles, members of congress, industry and NGO representatives.

**Timing:** January 2017

**Contact:** Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy

15. **KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE:** Interior plans to exchange a 500-acre corridor through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with the King Cove Corporation, an Alaska Native corporation. Through a separate agreement with the state, this will result in a road connecting the fishing community of King Cove with an airport capable of handling jet aircraft used for medical evacuations, which will improve the health, safety, and quality of life for residents. This is a critical issue to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young. DOI is awaiting White House guidance on when to execute the exchange.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Todd Willens, Assistant Deputy Secretary

16. **ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SCHEDULED:** The National Park Service and National Park Foundation will host the 95th Annual National Christmas Tree

lighting ceremony in President's Park. The President, First Lady, Secretary of the Interior, and NPS Director have historically participated in the event. The event will air exclusively on the Hallmark Channel on December 4.

**Timing:** November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

### **Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions**

1. **BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE:** The BLM will announce the Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision approving the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. This is a 294-mile high voltage transmission line that will run from northeastern Oregon to southwestern Idaho, which will be operated by Idaho Power Company. Approval of the line will create 494 jobs during the 3-year construction period.  
**Timing:** Week of November 13  
**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
2. **US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE CORMORANT ISSUE:** USFWS is planning to release a draft environmental assessment that could give some authority for local residents to kill cormorants in select circumstances. The birds, currently protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, are being blamed for waning fish populations in the Finger Lakes region of New York and significant depredation throughout the eastern United States.  
**Timing:** November 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3. **IMPORTS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT TROPHIES FROM ZIMBABWE:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) plans to publish in the Federal Register a change to the permitting status for imports of African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe. After receiving information from Zimbabwe on a number of substantial improvements to their management program and elephant conservation efforts, FWS has determined that taking of African elephant trophy animals in Zimbabwe on or after January 21, 2016 (the date that Zimbabwe's new management plan was officially adopted) through 2017 would enhance the survival of African elephants, and import permits can be issued for these trophies.  
**Timing:** November 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks
4. **GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING PUBLIC COMMENT:** In January, the Department announced a final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYW) grizzly bear Distinct Populations Segment (DPS). An August 2017 the D.C. Circuit overturned the Western Great Lakes wolf Distinct Population Segment (DPS) delisting. The FWS will put out a notice announcing a 30-day public comment period seeking input on whether the ruling affects the June 30 delisting. FWS will also describe the strategy to recover grizzly bears in the lower 48 states of the United States and provide a brief recovery update for each ecosystem.  
**Timing:** November 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

5. **FINAL MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PLAN:** The Arizona Game and Fish Department and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish are gaining clarification on the role the states will play in recovery and release of wolves. FWS met with stakeholders on September 7 to discuss moving forward with Mexican wolf recovery, including releases of Mexican wolves in New Mexico. Due to the high level of visibility and controversy on Mexican wolf recovery in general, extensive outreach is on-going. FWS Southwest Regional Director had government-government consultation with the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona and the Regional Director discussed the plan with chairmen and governors of Tribes and Pueblos most affected by Mexican Wolf Recovery. Additional follow-up briefings are being planned.  
**Timing:** Late-November 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
6. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSIDERING HUNTING AND FISHING CHANGES IN ALASKA:** The NPS intends to initiate a rulemaking process that will consider changes to regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska (80 FR 65325) (promulgated in October 2015 and effective on November 23, 2015). Throughout this process, the NPS will consider the purpose of Secretarial Order 3347 (“Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation”) to advance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for all Americans. The NPS will also identify ways to improve recreational hunting and fishing cooperation, consultation, and communication with State of Alaska wildlife managers. The NPS will comply with all applicable laws governing the rulemaking process, including the requirement to provide an opportunity for public comment on any proposed regulatory changes under 5 U.S.C. 553. The NPS is not accepting comments on this announcement. The public will have an opportunity to comment when a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.  
**Timing:** November 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
7. **US FISH & WILDLIFE MITIGATION POLICIES SCHEDULED FOR REVISION:** FWS is issuing a notice requesting public comment on portions of its Agency-Wide Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions on which FWS will request comment include the policies’ reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies references to the previous Administration’s mitigation directives. Based on comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the policies. Outreach will include a news release and notifications to targeted stakeholders. There is a high level of interest from states, stakeholders, NGOs and the public.  
**Timing:** Ongoing/November 2017  
**Contact:** Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

### **Release of High-Profile Grants**

1. **URBAN PARTNERSHIP GRANTS:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in cooperation with US Fish & Wildlife, will award over \$2 million in grants under their Five Star

and Urban Waters Restoration Program. The grants fund multiple federal initiatives, including new and existing Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships and Urban Bird Treaty cities. NFWF will make its initial announcement and FWS will follow the next day.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE PROJECTS:** The NPS will announce the award of \$18 million in Centennial Challenge projects. Many of the projects accomplish deferred maintenance projects, and all represent public-private partnerships, since each project requires a minimum 50/50 match with non-Federal funds.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Contact:** Jason Larabee, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

### Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

#### Travel by Secretary

November 10	<b>Secretary Zinke</b> traveling to Virginia to tour Manassas National Battlefield Park in advance of Veterans Day to interact with Boy Scouts and veteran volunteers.
November 16-17	<b>Secretary Zinke</b> traveling to Minnesota to visit the Mille Lacs Band Ojibwe tribe
November 17-19	<b>Deputy Secretary</b> Bernhardt is traveling to St. Johns, VI; San Juan, PR; and possibly Everglades National Park in Florida
November 21-28	<b>Secretary Zinke</b> will be on personal leave for the Thanksgiving holiday.
December 1-3	<b>Secretary Zinke</b> is visiting Louisiana to do a coastal tour with Senator Bill Cassidy (LA)