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From: Mashburn, Lori

Sent: 2017-11-17T13:23:11-05:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/17

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[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-17-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/17/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC and Minnesota.

- 11/17 MN Meet and greet with Tribal Law Enforcement
 - o Tour with Tribal Law Enforcement
 - o Meeting with County Law Enforcement

NEXT WEEK: DC and personal leave

- 11/20 Cabinet Meeting at White House
- 11/21 U.S Marine Corps War Memorial Event
 - o Meeting with OMB Director Mulvaney
- 11/22-24 Personal Leave

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

OF NOTE:

"Finally!" Secretary Zinke welcomes confirmation of Reclamation Nominee

WASHINGTON Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed Brenda Burman as the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner.

"Finally! After more than 142 days, I'm excited to welcome Brenda Burman to lead the

Bureau of Reclamation," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "After senseless and unprecedented hold-ups in the Senate, we can finally move forward with key water projects across the country."

"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead this organization," **said Brenda Burman**. "The employees of Reclamation are dedicated to working through the most difficult water issues and managing water in the West. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and the Administration to solve our most pressing water issues."

The Bureau of Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency and the largest wholesale provider of water in the country. It delivers water to more than 31 million people and provides one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for farmland that produces much of the nation's produce. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States.

Brenda Burman is the first-ever female to lead the Bureau. From 2006 to 2008, she served as Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary. Burman comes to Interior after working as the Director of Water Policy for Arizona's Salt River Project. Prior to that, she worked for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyon College.

Six nominees still await confirmation, including Joe Balash for Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Susan Combs for Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management, & Budget, Ryan Nelson for Solicitor, newly nominated Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Steven Gardner for Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Many Trump Administration nominations are awaiting Senate confirmation, and these nominees have been forced to wait significantly longer than either the Obama or Bush Administration's first-term nominees. Secretary Zinke recently wrote a letter to both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urging them to expedite the confirmations of DOI nominees.

· **Arizonan Confirmed As First Woman To Lead U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.**

The [Arizona Republic](#) (11/16, Baietto) reports that Brenda Burman has been confirmed as the new commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. She is the first female to lead the agency. Burman, "who was nominated for the post in June by President Donald Trump, was confirmed on a unanimous voice vote by the U.S. Senate on Thursday, according to the Senate record."

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Thursday, 11/16)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.

- **Multiple Inquiries:** (The Hill, Politico, WaPo, E&E, ABC)—**REQUEST--** I'm seeking comment on the memo from the Inspector General about travel receipts from the secretary's office.--**RESPONSE**—Reporters are being sent a letter from Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt. **The letter is attached in this email.**

- **Newsweek:** (Sydney Pereira)—**REQUEST--** I'm a reporter for Newsweek and I'm writing a story this morning about the recent confirmation that the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments will be greatly reduced. I have a few questions and my deadline is 10:30 am. Thank you for understanding the quick turnaround! -When will President Donald Trump make these distinctions official? -What does Secretary Zinke expect to do with the lands once they are no longer national monuments? -What natural resources are at these two specific Utah monuments that the federal government is considering using to increase energy independence? (As President Trump described in the executive order from April, national monument boundaries often hinder energy independence)--**RESPONSE**—At this time, the Department has nothing new to announce on the monument review. I refer you to the more than a dozen press releases that have been issued in the past seven months on the subject. All of them can be found at doi.gov.

- **Politico:** (Esther Whieldon)—**REQUEST--** Can you please confirm the contents of this email - that Zinke has appointed Steed as acting BLM director? What day did Zinke make the appointment and why did he decided to do this? Also, please address how the agency is dealing with the limitations of any BLM acting director's authority now that the vacancies act has kicked in and Trump has not nominated anyone for BLM director yet.—**RESPONSE--** Brian has been an incredible asset to the Bureau since his first day. We are excited to have him temporarily step into this leadership role. We couldn't be more thankful to Mike Nedd for leading the Bureau during the initial transition. Nedd helped execute big wins for sportsmen's access, multiple-use, and energy development on BLM lands over the past few months.

- **Washington Post:** (Juliet Eilperin)—**REQUEST--** Darryl and I are still working on our hunting trophy piece, and we just want to confirm a couple of things. Is it accurate to say that the U.S. wildlife trafficking task force, which is led by DOI along with DOJ and State, has not met since inauguration, and that Interior's Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking and the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council remain suspended?—**RESPONSE**—TBD.

Top Stories

- **Washington Post:** Watchdog says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document travel

- **THE HILL:** Interior watchdog says Zinke did not properly document his travel

- **Washington Examiner:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke gave incomplete travel documentation, inspector general says
- **E&E News:** Zinke picks former Hill aide as acting BLM director
- **CNN:** US to allow imports of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe, Zambia

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Secretary Zinke is traveling to Minnesota to visit the Mille Kacs Indian Reservation. The Secretary will meet with tribal leaders and observe issues facing the tribe, including opioid addiction and meth addiction.
- Today, Secretary Zinke met with Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands. A readout of the meeting will be available shortly on doi.gov.
- November 17-19, the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some Parks will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground during the trip but expect to issue a release early next week on the progress. We have coordinated the trip with FEMA.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD November 15 thru November 23, 2017 (submitted 11/16)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- **November 17:** The Secretary will attend the Bible Museum Dedication Ceremony. No pro-active press planned.
- **November 17-19:** the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground.
- **November 17 (tent.): Department-level Release:** DOI and BLM will announce the signing of a Record of Decision for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. The project will provide additional electrical capacity between the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain West regions.

November 20 (tent.): Local NPS Release: After the Deputy Secretary's trip, NPS will

announce plans to re-establish operations at Virgin Islands National Park.

November TBD: Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.

- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **November/December TBD:** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.

Interior Social Media Updates

- **November TBD: Department-level blog post:** USA Today photo gallery: Interior digital is working with USA Today on a photo gallery of public lands near urban areas that are perfect to explore over the holidays.

National Park Service

- **November 17: Local NPS Release:** Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument will begin soliciting public comments related to a proposed amendment to the park's general management plan. The park proposes to enhance visitor access, visitor services, and resource protection by replacing the existing visitor center with a new visitor center and by returning at minimum priority museum objects, if not all museum collections, to the park through the provision of an appropriate curatorial space.
- **November 21: National NPS Release:** NPS will unveil the Iraq and Afghanistan engravings on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima).
- **November TBD:** Blue Ridge Parkway anticipates completing environmental compliance and signing required right-of-way and construction permits for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The NPS is working closely with the applicant, Dominion, to finalizing the permits. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward. This pipeline would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated later in 2017.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** NPS NCR will issue news release on upcoming deer management and reduction at three western Maryland parks. All three parks did the same last year with minimal controversy.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to begin flood mitigation measures following the Sprague Fire.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November 17 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set

for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.

- **November 17 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 20 - December 12:** BLM-AK will host public scoping meetings for the Ambler Road Environmental Impact Statement in Anchorage (Nov. 20); Kobuk (Dec. 4); Ambler (Dec. 5); Kotzebue (Dec. 6); Shungnak (Dec. 7); and Evansville/Bettles (Dec. 12). The proposed road, which would be available for industrial use only, would further mineral exploration in the area and facilitate the development of hardrock mines. The public scoping period will end on Jan. 31, 2018.

- **November 20:** BLM-NM Taos Field Manager Sarah Schlanger will attend the New Mexico State Legislature's Interim Land Grant Committee meeting to answer questions regarding a land grant's possible Recreation and Public Purposes Act application for an historic cemetery.

- **November 21:** BLM-NM Acting Associate State Director Lance Porter will participate in a meeting to discuss the 2018 Mexican Wolf Release and Translocation Plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about 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.

- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **November TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **November TBD: National Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will release two funding opportunity announcements under the Drought Response Program for drought resiliency projects and drought contingency planning. The Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It will provide assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs

- **November 21:** BIE Director, Tony Dearman speaker at the University of Central Oklahoma's Native American Heritage Month celebration will address "Lessons in Leadership" to the Native American Faculty and Staff Association.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

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 nothing on this issue for the last eight years. 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

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (updated)

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/21 US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima
12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)
2/9 Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
3/6-7 CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21—DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)
1/4 Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
1/26-28 Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)
1/29 Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)
2/12 The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, [CA](#))
12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)
12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)
12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)
12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:

In support of FEMA interagency response and recovery efforts, OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) pertaining to the removal of ships on DOI lands in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

An interagency team of personnel from NPS, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Smithsonian are assisting the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the General Archives with damage assessments of archival collections, providing technical expertise on salvaging damaged items, and assisting efforts to mitigate additional damage. OEPC is set to deploy a team later this month to assist the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Puerto Rico with damage assessments of National Register Properties and those also available for the Register.

In Texas and Florida, OEPC remains activated under the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF) and have completed draft Mission Scope Assessments for both states. Additionally, NPS and FWS personnel are currently supporting the NCR RSF for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Internal bureau and office-specific Hurricane response and recovery activities:

NPS announced on Monday, November 13, that two beaches within the Virgin Islands National Park were reopened after suffering significant impacts from recent hurricane activity. NPS personnel removed nearly 400 cubic yards of debris from the beaches in order to ensure safe visitor access.

DOI Emergency Management Daily Feedback Request:

The Office of Emergency Management is currently performing a short survey to identify areas to improve the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report to meet customer requirements. The goal is to enhance the product to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in facilitating information sharing and collaboration throughout the Department, as well as with federal partners. Today is the final day the survey will be open. The survey can be found at the following link: [CLICK HERE](#).

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**Keystone pipeline spills 210,000 gallons of oil in South Dakota**

The Keystone pipeline spilled 210,000 gallons of heavy Canadian oil in South Dakota, pipeline operator TransCanada said in a [statement](#) today. TransCanada shut down the pipeline around 7 a.m. ET after discovering the leak in Marshall County, the company said. Crews isolated the spill and called in emergency responders, the company said. TransCanada also alerted the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration of the spill. The spill comes less than a week before a local regulatory commission in Nebraska is scheduled to rule whether to approve the route through the state where TransCanada wants to build Keystone XL, an expansion of the original Keystone line. TransCanada said it has received enough interest from shippers to green-light Keystone XL project if it gets the go-ahead from the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

· **Environmentalists seized on the incident:** "These pipelines are bound to spill, and they put communities, precious drinking water, and our climate at risk," Greenpeace's Rachel Rye Butler said in a statement. "The Nebraska Public Service Commission needs to take a close look at this spill." And [350.org](#) Executive Director May Boeve said: "This is exactly the kind of disaster we can expect more of if Keystone XL is approved."

US Reverses Ban On Elephant Trophies From Zimbabwe, Zambia.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:20, Mason) reported the Fish and Wildlife Service is reversing an "Obama-era ban on elephant trophies" that will allow hunters to bring "elephant remains" into the US from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Animal protection groups argue that killing elephants for sport "could threaten an already endangered species," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:25, Holt) said the move "has left many animal lovers and animal rights groups outraged," although a Fish and Wildlife spokesman "says that legal hunting in and management programs actually help species survive by putting much needed revenue back into conservation." [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/16) reported on the ban reversal while noting that Donald Trump Jr. has gone to Africa "many times to hunt" elephants and "defends it."

· ***White House Says Elephant Trophy Decision Not Yet Finalized.*** [Reuters](#) (11/16, Malone) reports that the White House on Thursday "said it

had not yet finalized a decision to allow trophy hunters who kill elephants in two African countries to bring the endangered animals home as trophies, a move that had outraged U.S. conservation groups." The proposal, "disclosed this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had triggered protests from conservation groups and a frenzy on social media." White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "There hasn't been an announcement that's been finalized on this front. Until that's done I wouldn't consider anything final."

Watchdog slams Zinke for failing to document travel

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document his travel, the agency's watchdog said Thursday, preventing it from determining whether he had violated government rules. Zinke has come under scrutiny for mixing taxpayer-funded travel with political activities, as well as taking military or private planes rather than flying commercial, and the investigation by Interior's Office of Inspector General seeks to clarify whether all procedures were correctly followed. "Our investigation is delayed by absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability," Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said in a letter obtained by POLITICO and first reported by The Washington Post. Zinke's travels have drawn scrutiny after Interior revealed he had taken non-commercial flights at taxpayer expense, POLITICO and other news outlets have reported. POLITICO has also reported that the former congressman from Montana has mixed taxpayer-paid trips with political work, such as when he participated in a fundraiser on behalf of the Virgin Islands GOP. The IG criticized Zinke for failing to complete documentation for his travel in the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, and said that the process established by Interior's Ethics Office and Office of the Solicitor "does not include sufficient documentation of the legal and ethical analysis conducted to distinguish between personal, political, and official travel, or consistent cost analysis to justify use of non-commercial travel." The IG asked for documentation of all of Zinke's travel, as well as for the documentation of travel by his wife, Lola Zinke, with documentation for how and when the travel was paid. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, the agency's second-ranking official, blamed the lack on documentation on the Obama administration for leaving behind "an organizational and operational mess." In his response letter, Bernhardt emphasized that Interior employees would continue to cooperate with the IG, and said he would provide documentation as requested. But he also went on to note that former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell hadn't completed her documentation for 12 trips taken last year and in January of this year, and he said some trips may have never been entered in the system. "When I arrived at the Department in August 2017 it was clear to me that the Secretary and I had inherited an organizational and operational mess," he wrote. "From my perspective, regarding IOS travel procedures, it appears that the exact same procedures and processes utilized by the previous Administration remain in place and continue to be dysfunctional." Zinke joins a cast of Trump administration officials, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and now-departed Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, who are accused of misuse of taxpayer funds

for travel.

· Watchdog Says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Failed To Properly Document Travel.

Interior Department Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall told department officials this week that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has failed to keep complete records and in some cases kept none at all of his travel since taking office,” the Washington Post (11/16, Rein, Harwell) reports. In “a rare alert” to Zinke’s office, Kendall “said her investigation into allegations of improper travel practices by Zinke has been stymied by ‘absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips.’” In addition, Kendall wrote that lawyers and ethics officials have not shown investigators that they can “distinguish between personal, political and official travel” or cost-analyses to justify Zinke’s use of military or charter flights. The alert also says the IG is looking into “the travel of Zinke’s wife, Lola, who often accompanied him on official trips.” According to Kendall, the department’s documentation was so deficient that investigators were unable to determine “the full extent” of her travel and how it was paid for.

The AP (11/16, Daly) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt “said in a memo Thursday that travel procedures followed by previous Interior secretaries were “dysfunctional,” adding that most of those policies and procedures remain in effect, 10 months into the Trump administration.” Bernhardt “promised to turn over documents for all travel by the secretary in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, including at least 10 travel vouchers related to trips taken by former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.” He added that “the department also will provide information related to trips where Zinke’s wife or Jewell’s husband traveled in government-owned vehicles, watercraft or aircraft, and document whether payments were made or if reimbursements were required.”

Also reporting are The Hill (11/16, Henry), Bloomberg News (11/16, Natter), Reuters (11/16, Gardner), Politico (11/16, Wolff), the New York Daily News (11/16, Sommerfeldt), My Central Oregon (11/16), ABC News (11/16, Ebbs), the Huffington Post (11/16, D'Angelo), and The Week(11/16, Lange).

US Lands Open For Biz.

The Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel (11/16, Hamilton) reports that “more than 250 people applauded” Kate MacGregor, acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management, “who came to Grand Junction on Thursday night with news that the federal government is dedicated to making federal lands welcome to energy development.” MacGregor “outlined President Donald Trump’s and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s plans to remove roadblocks to mining and drilling.” MacGregor said, “This Department of the Interior supports energy and mineral production in all of its many forms but recognizes where those raw materials come from. that’s because one barrel of oil, one mcf of gas or one ton of coal produced here in this nation is better than one that we have to import. Under Secretary (Ryan) Zinke’s leadership we are committed to serving as agents of

change. We have been charged by this president to identify and eliminate the obstacles to development of these important resources.” Additional coverage was provided by KKCO-TV Grand Junction, CO (11/16, Prechtl).

Justice Department Won't Release National Monument Documents.

The AP (11/16, Ridler) reports that “documents possibly outlining legal justifications for President Donald Trump to shrink national monuments don't have to be provided to an Idaho environmental law firm because they're protected communications, federal officials say.” The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday “asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit from Advocates for the West seeking the information.” The Justice Department “released more than 60 pages in May,” but the agency “withheld 12 pages...contending they are protected by attorney-client privilege and intra-agency communication rules, making them exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests.”

Tribes Hoping Overhaul Of BIA Regs Will Catalyze Deals.

Law360 (11/16, Westney) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs' invitation for tribes to comment on the potential impact of updating the federal government's regulations for doing business on Native American lands elicited stories of economic development deals hampered by red tape and calls to stop state governments from imposing taxes in Indian Country.” The article “looks at why and how tribes and tribal organizations say the so-called Indian Trader regulations need to be changed.”

BLM Plans To Reseed Wildfire Affected Areas.

The Nevada Appeal (11/16, Ranson) reports that the Bureau of Land Management gave “an overview to Churchill County Commissioners on Wednesday to reseed areas burned by several big fires in Churchill County during the summer.” Ken Collum, field manager for the Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District, “said the agency will rehabilitate the land through both drill and aerial seeding.” According to Collum, “drill seeding will occur on about 8,088 acres, and the aerial seeding over another 6,364 acres.”

In A U.S. First, Muir Woods To Require Reservations For All Cars.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/16, Rogers) reports that in an effort “to reduce traffic jams and overcrowding, Muir Woods National Monument will become the first national park unit in the United States to require reservations for all vehicles to enter the park year-round.” Park managers of “announced Thursday that starting Jan. 16 everybody who plans to bring a car to Muir Woods will need to book a reservation online or by phone.” Darren Brown, a transportation planner with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which manages Muir Woods, said, “Visitation has continued to increase. The problem is too many cars. It's extremely crowded and we can't handle as many cars that end up going there.”

MAIL CALL! ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO YOU: House Natural Resources

Chairman Rob Bishop, as well as the committee's subcommittee chiefs, sent a letter to Trump voicing support for reorganizing Interior. "Any thoughtful DOI reorganization should give serious consideration to relocating select agencies away from Washington," they wrote. "Simply put, federal employees should know and live around the people, lands, and economies they regulate."

DOI PRESS RELEASES

Readout of Meeting between U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke met with Governor Kenneth Mapp of the United States Virgin Islands to discuss hurricane response and recovery.

"Recovering from natural disasters requires a team effort, and the Department of the Interior is absolutely committed to helping the Virgin Islands return to normal," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Our Insular Affairs team has been working around the clock to provide relief to those ravaged by hurricane, and we will continue these efforts in the weeks and months to come. It was great to meet with Governor Mapp today about the work we've done to date, as well as what is left to be done. The Trump Administration and the government of the Virgin Islands are in close collaboration with one another to coordinate recovery efforts."

The Secretary and Governor Mapp discussed many topics and concerns regarding Hurricane relief, such as the re-opening of Virgin Islands National Park on the Island of St. John. Governor Mapp outlined the robust recovery effort taking place, and gave first-hand accounts of how the Islands are clearing debris, restoring power, and opening schools.

"Our recovery efforts with our federal partners has truly been productive. We have made great strides since being hit by two category five hurricanes, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands are benefiting from our partnership," **said Governor Mapp**. "We look forward to our continued working relationship with the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies as we we build a better, stronger, and more resilient United States Virgin Islands."

Secretary Zinke stressed the importance of a continued working relationship with the Governor of the Virgin Islands to bring the Islands back to full strength.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 16th.

REG0007609 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Competitive Sale of 40 Parcels of Public Land in Clark County, NV -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to offer 40 parcels of public land totaling 754.78 acres in the Las Vegas Valley by competitive sale at not less than the appraised fair market values (FMV) pursuant to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA). The BLM

invites public comments on the proposed sale, which is scheduled to be held by sealed bid and oral public auction on January 24, 2018, over 45 days. Notice 11/16/2017

REG0007615 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities; National Heritage Areas Program -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the National Park Service (NPS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection for the National Heritage Areas Program. The NPS is requesting public comments on the proposed information collection for 60 days. Notice 11/16/2017

REG0007626 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Did You Feel It? Earthquake Questionnaire -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information through the Did You Feel It? Earthquake Questionnaire. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/16/2017

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/17/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC and Minnesota.

- 11/17 MN – Meet and greet with Tribal Law Enforcement
 - Tour with Tribal Law Enforcement
 - Meeting with County Law Enforcement

NEXT WEEK: DC and personal leave

- 11/20 – Cabinet Meeting at White House
- 11/21 – U.S Marine Corps War Memorial Event
 - Meeting with OMB Director Mulvaney
- 11/22-24 – Personal Leave

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

OF NOTE:

"Finally!" Secretary Zinke welcomes confirmation of Reclamation Nominee

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed Brenda Burman as the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner.

"Finally! After more than 142 days, I'm excited to welcome Brenda Burman to lead the Bureau of Reclamation," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "After senseless and unprecedented hold-ups in the Senate, we can finally move forward with key water projects across the country."

"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead this organization," **said Brenda Burman**. "The employees of Reclamation are dedicated to working through the most difficult water issues and managing water in the West. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and the Administration to solve our most pressing water issues."

The Bureau of Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency and the largest wholesale provider of water in the country. It delivers water to more than 31 million people and provides one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for farmland that produces much of the nation's produce. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States.

Brenda Burman is the first-ever female to lead the Bureau. From 2006 to 2008, she served as Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary. Burman comes to Interior after working as the Director of Water Policy for Arizona's Salt River Project. Prior to that, she worked for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyon College.

Six nominees still await confirmation, including Joe Balash for Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Susan Combs for Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management, & Budget, Ryan Nelson for Solicitor, newly nominated Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Steven Gardner for Director of the Office of Surface Mining

Reclamation and Enforcement. Many Trump Administration nominations are awaiting Senate confirmation, and these nominees have been forced to wait significantly longer than either the Obama or Bush Administration's first-term nominees. Secretary Zinke recently wrote a letter to both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urging them to expedite the confirmations of DOI nominees.

- **Arizonan Confirmed As First Woman To Lead U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.**

The Arizona Republic (11/16, Baietto) reports that Brenda Burman has been confirmed as the new commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. She is the first female to lead the agency. Burman, "who was nominated for the post in June by President Donald Trump, was confirmed on a unanimous voice vote by the U.S. Senate on Thursday, according to the Senate record."

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Thursday, 11/16)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **Multiple Inquiries:** (The Hill, Politico, WaPo, E&E, ABC)—**REQUEST--** I'm seeking comment on the memo from the Inspector General about travel receipts from the secretary's office.--**RESPONSE—** Reporters are being sent a letter from Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt. **The letter is attached in this email.**
- **Newsweek:** (Sydney Pereira)—**REQUEST--** I'm a reporter for Newsweek and I'm writing a story this morning about the recent confirmation that the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments will be greatly reduced. I have a few questions and my deadline is 10:30 am. Thank you for understanding the quick turnaround! -When will President Donald Trump make these distinctions official? -What does Secretary Zinke expect to do with the lands once they are no longer national monuments? -What natural resources are at these two specific Utah monuments that the federal government is considering using to increase energy independence? (As President Trump described in the executive order from April, national monument boundaries often hinder energy independence)--**RESPONSE—**At this time, the Department has nothing new to announce on the monument review. I refer you to the more than a dozen press releases that have been issued in the past seven months on the subject. All of them can be found at doi.gov.
- **Politico:** (Esther Whieldon)—**REQUEST--** Can you please confirm the contents of this email - that Zinke has appointed Steed as acting BLM director? What day did Zinke make the appointment and why did he decided to do this? Also, please address how the agency is dealing with the limitations of any BLM acting director's authority now that the vacancies act has kicked in and Trump has not nominated anyone for BLM director yet.—**RESPONSE--** Brian has been an incredible asset to the Bureau since his first day. We are excited to have him temporarily step into this leadership role. We couldn't be more thankful to Mike Nedd for leading the Bureau during the initial transition. Nedd helped execute big wins for sportsmen's access, multiple-use, and energy development on BLM lands over the past few months.
- **Washington Post:** (Juliet Eilperin)—**REQUEST--** Darryl and I are still working on our hunting trophy piece, and we just want to confirm a couple of things. Is it accurate to say that the U.S. wildlife trafficking task force, which is led by DOI along with DOJ and State, has not met since inauguration, and that Interior's Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking and the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council remain suspended?—**RESPONSE—**TBD.

Top Stories

- **Washington Post:** Watchdog says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document travel
- **THE HILL:** Interior watchdog says Zinke did not properly document his travel

- **Washington Examiner:** [Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke gave incomplete travel documentation, inspector general says](#)
- **E&E News:** [Zinke picks former Hill aide as acting BLM director](#)
- **CNN:** [US to allow imports of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe, Zambia](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Secretary Zinke is traveling to Minnesota to visit the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. The Secretary will meet with tribal leaders and observe issues facing the tribe, including opioid addiction and meth addiction.
- Today, Secretary Zinke met with Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands. A readout of the meeting will be available shortly on doi.gov.
- November 17-19, the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some Parks will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground during the trip but expect to issue a release early next week on the progress. We have coordinated the trip with FEMA.

AGENCY MEDIA

WEEK AHEAD November 15 thru November 23, 2017 (submitted 11/16)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- **November 17:** The Secretary will attend the Bible Museum Dedication Ceremony. No pro-active press planned.
- **November 17-19:** the Deputy Secretary is expected to travel to FL, Puerto Rico, and the USVI to review hurricane recovery efforts at DOI lands, including National Parks. We expect some will be partially open on Monday. We don't have pro-active press planned on the ground.
- **November 17 (tent.): Department-level Release:** DOI and BLM will announce the signing of a Record of Decision for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. The project will provide additional electrical capacity between the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain West regions.
November 20 (tent.): Local NPS Release: After the Deputy Secretary's trip, NPS will announce plans to re-establish operations at Virgin Islands National Park.
November TBD: Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **November/December TBD:** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.

Interior Social Media Updates

- **November TBD: Department-level blog post:** USA Today photo gallery: Interior digital is working with USA Today on a photo gallery of public lands near urban areas that are perfect to explore over the holidays.

National Park Service

- **November 17: Local NPS Release:** Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument will begin soliciting public comments related to a proposed amendment to the park's general

management plan. The park proposes to enhance visitor access, visitor services, and resource protection by replacing the existing visitor center with a new visitor center and by returning at minimum priority museum objects, if not all museum collections, to the park through the provision of an appropriate curatorial space.

- **November 21: National NPS Release:** NPS will unveil the Iraq and Afghanistan engravings on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima).
- **November TBD: Blue Ridge Parkway** anticipates completing environmental compliance and signing required right-of-way and construction permits for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The NPS is working closely with the applicant, Dominion, to finalizing the permits. Approval by the NPS is one of several steps necessary for the larger projects to move forward. This pipeline would traverse the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with final decisions by a number of other state and federal agencies, anticipated later in 2017.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** NPS NCR will issue news release on upcoming deer management and reduction at three western Maryland parks. All three parks did the same last year with minimal controversy.
- **November TBD: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to begin flood mitigation measures following the Sprague Fire.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November 17 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.
- **November 17 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.
- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 20 - December 12:** BLM-AK will host public scoping meetings for the Ambler Road Environmental Impact Statement in Anchorage (Nov. 20); Kobuk (Dec. 4); Ambler (Dec. 5); Kotzebue (Dec. 6); Shungnak (Dec. 7); and Evansville/Bettles (Dec. 12). The proposed road, which would be available for industrial use only, would further mineral exploration in the area and facilitate the development of hardrock mines. The public scoping period will end on Jan. 31, 2018.
- **November 20:** BLM-NM Taos Field Manager Sarah Schlanger will attend the New Mexico State Legislature's Interim Land Grant Committee meeting to answer questions regarding a land grant's possible Recreation and Public Purposes Act application for an historic cemetery.
- **November 21:** BLM-NM Acting Associate State Director Lance Porter will participate in a meeting to discuss the 2018 Mexican Wolf Release and Translocation Plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about 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.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **November TBD: Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **November TBD: National Reclamation Release:** Reclamation will release two funding opportunity announcements under the Drought Response Program for drought resiliency projects and drought contingency planning. The Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It will provide assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs

- **November 21:** BIE Director, Tony Dearman speaker at the University of Central Oklahoma's Native American Heritage Month celebration will address "Lessons in Leadership" to the Native American Faculty and Staff Association.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

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 nothing on this issue for the last eight years. 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

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (updated)

DOI politicals on board 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals

- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima |
12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)
2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)
Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club
~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)
1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)
1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)
1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)
2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)
12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)
12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)
12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)
12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Interagency Hurricane response and recovery efforts:

In support of FEMA interagency response and recovery efforts, OEPC, USFWS, and NPS continue to coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) pertaining to the removal of ships on DOI lands in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

An interagency team of personnel from NPS, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Smithsonian are assisting the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the General Archives with damage assessments of archival collections, providing technical expertise on salvaging damaged items, and assisting efforts to mitigate additional damage. OEPC is set to deploy a team later this month to assist the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Puerto Rico with damage assessments of National Register Properties and those also available for the Register.

In Texas and Florida, OEPC remains activated under the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (NCR RSF) and have completed draft Mission Scope Assessments for both states. Additionally, NPS and FWS personnel are currently supporting the NCR RSF for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Internal bureau and office-specific Hurricane response and recovery activities:

NPS announced on Monday, November 13, that two beaches within the Virgin Islands National Park were reopened after suffering significant impacts from recent hurricane activity. NPS personnel removed nearly 400 cubic yards of debris from the beaches in order to ensure safe visitor access.

DOI Emergency Management Daily Feedback Request:

The Office of Emergency Management is currently performing a short survey to identify areas to improve the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report to meet customer requirements. The goal is to enhance the product to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in facilitating information sharing and collaboration throughout the Department, as well as with federal partners. Today is the final day the survey will be open. The survey can be found at the following link: [CLICK HERE](#).

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Keystone pipeline spills 210,000 gallons of oil in South Dakota

The Keystone pipeline spilled 210,000 gallons of heavy Canadian oil in South Dakota, pipeline operator TransCanada said in a [statement](#) today. TransCanada shut down the pipeline around 7 a.m. ET after discovering the leak in Marshall County, the company said. Crews isolated the spill and called in emergency responders, the company said. TransCanada also alerted the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration of the spill. The spill comes less than a week before a local regulatory commission in Nebraska is scheduled to rule whether to approve the route through the state where TransCanada wants to build Keystone XL, an expansion of the original Keystone line. TransCanada said it has received enough interest from shippers to green-light Keystone XL project if it gets the go-ahead from the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

- **Environmentalists seized on the incident:** "These pipelines are bound to spill, and they put communities, precious drinking water, and our climate at risk," Greenpeace's Rachel Rye Butler said in a statement. "The Nebraska Public Service Commission needs to take a close look at this spill." And [350.org](#) Executive Director May Boeve said: "This is exactly the kind of disaster we can expect more of if Keystone XL is approved."

US Reverses Ban On Elephant Trophies From Zimbabwe, Zambia.

The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (11/16, story 9, 0:20, Mason) reported the Fish and Wildlife Service is reversing an "Obama-era ban on elephant trophies" that will allow hunters to bring "elephant remains"

into the US from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Animal protection groups argue that killing elephants for sport "could threaten an already endangered species," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:25, Holt) said the move "has left many animal lovers and animal rights groups outraged," although a Fish and Wildlife spokesman "says that legal hunting in and management programs actually help species survive by putting much needed revenue back into conservation." [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/16) reported on the ban reversal while noting that Donald Trump Jr. has gone to Africa "many times to hunt" elephants and "defends it."

- ***White House Says Elephant Trophy Decision Not Yet Finalized.*** [Reuters](#) (11/16, Malone) reports that the White House on Thursday "said it had not yet finalized a decision to allow trophy hunters who kill elephants in two African countries to bring the endangered animals home as trophies, a move that had outraged U.S. conservation groups." The proposal, "disclosed this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had triggered protests from conservation groups and a frenzy on social media." White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "There hasn't been an announcement that's been finalized on this front. Until that's done I wouldn't consider anything final."

Watchdog slams Zinke for failing to document travel

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to properly document his travel, the agency's watchdog said Thursday, preventing it from determining whether he had violated government rules. Zinke has come under scrutiny for mixing taxpayer-funded travel with political activities, as well as taking [military or private planes](#) rather than flying commercial, and the investigation by Interior's Office of Inspector General seeks to clarify whether all procedures were correctly followed. "Our investigation is delayed by absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips and a review process that failed to include proper documentation and accountability," Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said in [a letter](#) obtained by POLITICO and first reported by The Washington Post. Zinke's travels have drawn scrutiny after Interior revealed he had taken non-commercial flights at taxpayer expense, POLITICO and other news outlets have reported. POLITICO has also reported that the former congressman from Montana [has mixed](#) taxpayer-paid trips with political work, such as when he participated in a fundraiser on behalf of the Virgin Islands GOP. The IG criticized Zinke for failing to complete documentation for his travel in the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, and said that the process established by Interior's Ethics Office and Office of the Solicitor "does not include sufficient documentation of the legal and ethical analysis conducted to distinguish between personal, political, and official travel, or consistent cost analysis to justify use of non-commercial travel." The IG asked for documentation of all of Zinke's travel, as well as for the documentation of travel by his wife, Lola Zinke, with documentation for how and when the travel was paid. Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, the agency's second-ranking official, blamed the lack on documentation on the Obama administration for leaving behind "an organizational and operational mess." In his [response letter](#), Bernhardt emphasized that Interior employees would continue to cooperate with the IG, and said he would provide documentation as requested. But he also went on to note that former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell hadn't completed her documentation for 12 trips taken last year and in January of this year, and he said some trips may have never been entered in the system. "When I arrived at the Department in August 2017 it was clear to me that the Secretary and I had inherited an organizational and operational mess," he wrote. "From my perspective, regarding IOS travel procedures, it appears that the exact same procedures and processes utilized by the previous Administration remain in place and continue to be dysfunctional." Zinke joins a cast of Trump administration officials, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and now-departed Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, who are accused of misuse of taxpayer funds for travel.

- **Watchdog Says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Failed To Properly Document Travel.**

Interior Department Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall told department officials this week that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has failed to keep complete records – and in some cases kept none at all – of his travel since taking office,” the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Rein, Harwell) reports. In “a rare alert” to Zinke’s office, Kendall “said her investigation into allegations of improper travel practices by Zinke has been stymied by ‘absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips.’” In addition, Kendall wrote that lawyers and ethics officials have not shown investigators that they can “distinguish between personal, political and official travel” or cost-analyses to justify Zinke’s use of military or charter flights. The alert also says the IG is looking into “the travel of Zinke’s wife, Lola, who often accompanied him on official trips.” According to Kendall, the department’s documentation was so deficient that investigators were unable to determine “the full extent” of her travel and how it was paid for.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Daly) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt “said in a memo Thursday that travel procedures followed by previous Interior secretaries were ‘dysfunctional,’ adding that most of those policies and procedures remain in effect, 10 months into the Trump administration.” Bernhardt “promised to turn over documents for all travel by the secretary in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, including at least 10 travel vouchers related to trips taken by former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.” He added that “the department also will provide information related to trips where Zinke’s wife or Jewell’s husband traveled in government-owned vehicles, watercraft or aircraft, and document whether payments were made or if reimbursements were required.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (11/16, Henry), [Bloomberg News](#) (11/16, Natter), [Reuters](#) (11/16, Gardner), [Politico](#) (11/16, Wolff), the [New York Daily News](#) (11/16, Sommerfeldt), [My Central Oregon](#) (11/16), [ABC News](#) (11/16, Ebbs), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/16, D'Angelo), and [The Week](#) (11/16, Lange).

US Lands Open For Biz.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/16, Hamilton) reports that “more than 250 people applauded” Kate MacGregor, acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management, “who came to Grand Junction on Thursday night with news that the federal government is dedicated to making federal lands welcome to energy development.” MacGregor “outlined President Donald Trump’s and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s plans to remove roadblocks to mining and drilling.” MacGregor said, “This Department of the Interior supports energy and mineral production in all of its many forms but recognizes where those raw materials come from. that’s because one barrel of oil, one mcf of gas or one ton of coal produced here in this nation is better than one that we have to import. Under Secretary (Ryan) Zinke’s leadership we are committed to serving as agents of change. We have been charged by this president to identify and eliminate the obstacles to development of these important resources.” Additional coverage was provided by [KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (11/16, Prechtl).

Justice Department Won’t Release National Monument Documents.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Ridler) reports that “documents possibly outlining legal justifications for President Donald Trump to shrink national monuments don’t have to be provided to an Idaho environmental law firm because they’re protected communications, federal officials say.” The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday “asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit from Advocates for the West seeking the information.” The Justice Department “released more than 60 pages in May,” but the agency “withheld

12 pages...contending they are protected by attorney-client privilege and intra-agency communication rules, making them exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests."

Tribes Hoping Overhaul Of BIA Regs Will Catalyze Deals.

Law360 (11/16, Westney) reports that "the Bureau of Indian Affairs' invitation for tribes to comment on the potential impact of updating the federal government's regulations for doing business on Native American lands elicited stories of economic development deals hampered by red tape and calls to stop state governments from imposing taxes in Indian Country." The article "looks at why and how tribes and tribal organizations say the so-called Indian Trader regulations need to be changed."

BLM Plans To Reseed Wildfire Affected Areas.

The Nevada Appeal (11/16, Ranson) reports that the Bureau of Land Management gave "an overview to Churchill County Commissioners on Wednesday to reseed areas burned by several big fires in Churchill County during the summer." Ken Collum, field manager for the Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District, "said the agency will rehabilitate the land through both drill and aerial seeding." According to Collum, "drill seeding will occur on about 8,088 acres, and the aerial seeding over another 6,364 acres."

In A U.S. First, Muir Woods To Require Reservations For All Cars.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (11/16, Rogers) reports that in an effort "to reduce traffic jams and overcrowding, Muir Woods National Monument will become the first national park unit in the United States to require reservations for all vehicles to enter the park year-round." Park managers of "announced Thursday that starting Jan. 16 everybody who plans to bring a car to Muir Woods will need to book a reservation online or by phone." Darren Brown, a transportation planner with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which manages Muir Woods, said, "Visitation has continued to increase. The problem is too many cars. It's extremely crowded and we can't handle as many cars that end up going there."

MAIL CALL! ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO YOU: House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, as well as the committee's subcommittee chiefs, sent a letter to Trump voicing support for reorganizing Interior. "Any thoughtful DOI reorganization should give serious consideration to relocating select agencies away from Washington," they wrote. "Simply put, federal employees should know and live around the people, lands, and economies they regulate."

DOI PRESS RELEASES

Readout of Meeting between U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke met with Governor Kenneth Mapp of the United States Virgin Islands to discuss hurricane response and recovery.

"Recovering from natural disasters requires a team effort, and the Department of the Interior is absolutely committed to helping the Virgin Islands return to normal," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Our Insular Affairs team has been working around the clock to provide relief to those ravaged by hurricane, and we will continue these efforts in the weeks and months to come. It was great to meet with Governor Mapp today about the work we've done to date, as well as what is left to be done. The Trump Administration and the government of the Virgin Islands are in close collaboration with one another to coordinate recovery efforts."

The Secretary and Governor Mapp discussed many topics and concerns regarding Hurricane relief, such as the re-opening of Virgin Islands National Park on the Island of St. John. Governor Mapp outlined the

robust recovery effort taking place, and gave first-hand accounts of how the Islands are clearing debris, restoring power, and opening schools.

"Our recovery efforts with our federal partners has truly been productive. We have made great strides since being hit by two category five hurricanes, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands are benefiting from our partnership," **said Governor Mapp**. "We look forward to our continued working relationship with the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies as we we build a better, stronger, and more resilient United States Virgin Islands."

Secretary Zinke stressed the importance of a continued working relationship with the Governor of the Virgin Islands to bring the Islands back to full strength.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 16th.

REG0007609 BLM Notice of Realty Action: Competitive Sale of 40 Parcels of Public Land in Clark County, NV -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to offer 40 parcels of public land totaling 754.78 acres in the Las Vegas Valley by competitive sale at not less than the appraised fair market values (FMV) pursuant to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA). The BLM invites public comments on the proposed sale, which is scheduled to be held by sealed bid and oral public auction on January 24, 2018, over 45 days. Notice 11/16/2017

REG0007615 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities; National Heritage Areas Program -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the National Park Service (NPS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new information collection for the National Heritage Areas Program. The NPS is requesting public comments on the proposed information collection for 60 days. Notice 11/16/2017

REG0007626 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Did You Feel It? Earthquake Questionnaire - This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information through the Did You Feel It? Earthquake Questionnaire. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/16/2017