

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Scott Hommel](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [James Cason](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Bauserman, Christine](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [David Bernhardt](#)  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/24/17  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 1:55:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 08-24-17.docx](#)

---

Attached and copied below.

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/24/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor  
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Today the Secretary will complete his review of National Monuments and submit a report to the President per the Executive Order. Press Release going out at 1 pm. The AP has already reported that Zinke will not recommend eliminating any of the 27 monuments that were reviewed.

NOTE: Today, at the request of the White House, the Secretary is traveling to Montana to view the Lolo Peak fire.

NOTE: On Friday, the National Park Service will celebrate its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is traveling to Montana and then Tennessee.

Secretary Zinke will join Secretary Purdue in traveling to view the wildfire in the Lolo Peak National Forest in Montana. He will then fly to TN. Dinner with Sen. Alexander and Stakeholders;

### **THIS WEEK:**

Fri. 8/25: National Park Service Founders Day events in TN and NC. Breakfast with Sen. Alexander and Stakeholders; Smokey Mountains National Park Tour and Staff; Remarks and Cake Cutting; Volunteers and Youth Corps on Rainbow Falls Trail Help Build Trail; Visit Memorial Trees at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School; Waterrock Knob Visitors Center; Greet Staff and Sen. Tillis; Mt. Pisgah; Remarks and Cut Cake; Hiking Trailhead Newfound Gap, Bryson City, NC Newfound Gap to Clingman's Dome. 9.1 miles.

Sat. 8/26: With Senator Alexander.

### **Status of the Deputy Secretary**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Bernhardt will host a meeting of CEOs on the subject of critical minerals.

### **Media TODAY**

## **Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House**

(WASHINGTON) Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a

result of the April 26, 2017 executive order. The report summary can be read [here](#). The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](#). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was implemented by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary announced on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](#) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

### **White House Report** (Sent Wednesday)

#### **Press Inquiries:**

- Many inquiries regarding the National Monument review.
- E&E News: REQUEST--Any reaction to Rep. Grijalva's report yesterday calling the national monuments review an "obvious sham" and asserting Sec. Zinke is not meeting/listening to the public? He said: "Secretary Zinke has toured various sites under review and has claimed to be meeting with all relevant stakeholders and listening to local input. However, media and other reports from the Secretary's trips have been critical of the selective meetings he has chosen to take and the brevity of those meetings."--RESPONSE-- The Congressman's assessment is a wild departure from reality and shouldn't be considered anything more than campaign literature paid for by extreme environmentalists whose real goal is to lock up public lands so people can't use and enjoy them. In addition to missing the mark on the point of the monument review - to give local communities a say - the Congressman's report also fails to take into account the more than 60 meetings the Secretary conducted on the ground with hundreds of local, state, Tribal, and nongovernmental stakeholders including environmental groups and Democratic members of Congress and State officials. (see a partial list for your background below). Additionally, the Congressman's claim that the review is driven by oil and gas exploration is laughable at best. The review, as was outlined in the Executive Order and the Secretary's repeated statements and interviews on the subject, is about restoring trust and giving rural communities a voice in land management decisions. Locals are concerned about losses in revenue, agriculture, hunting and fishing, private property rights, public access to land, traditional Tribal uses of the land, and timber harvesting.
- Fox News: REQUEST--Lillian LeCroy with Fox News Channel. Can you please tell me if Sec. Zinke has any public events today? Also, the Department of Interior's IG released a letter indicating they have opened up an investigation into Sec. Zinke and reports that he threatened the two Alaskan senators over their healthcare votes. Does Sec. Zinke have any response to this?—RESPONSE—Lillian, that's

an old letter that NYT just recently stumbled upon. Regarding the call, the Secretary and Senator Murkowski have a great relationship and friendship and the conversation they had was professional. Senator Murkowski has knocked down the characterization of the call, including to Fox News. I'd recommend contacting her office for her statement.

## **Top Stories**

- E&E News: Grijalva bashes review as Zinke neighbors post signs
- Salt Lake City Fox 13: Interior Secretary Zinke to make Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante recommendation Thursday
- Washington Post: The Energy 202: Here's how Trump is changing pipeline politics

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will make his recommendation on the status of the 27 National Monuments under review. The rollout plan is still being finalized.
- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will be in Montana with Secretary Perdue for an on-site briefing on wildfires in the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Rockies.
- August 25, the NPS turns 101 years old. Secretary Zinke will be at the Great Smokey Mountains National Park for a speech on the historic anniversary, and will also visit the Blue Ridge Parkway.

## **WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016**

### **National Park Service:**

- August 24: CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.

- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to wider audiences.

**Bureau of Land Management:**

- August 24: BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for Permit to Drill streamlining.

**U.S. Geological Survey:**

- TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:**

- August TBD: Local BOEM Release: BOEM Alaska releases Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

**CONGRESSIONAL** (no change)

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor and Joe Balash, ASLM.

**Political Appointee Update** (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 54

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

**Secretary Speaking Invitations** (new info)

Accepted

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ

(Springfield, MO)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

#### Declining

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/6 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

### **Emergency Management** (new)

The Interior Operations Center (IOC) continues to monitor Tropical Storm Harvey, located approximately 425 miles south-southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas. The storm, as of 5:00 a.m., EDT, carries maximum sustained winds near 45 miles per hour, with potential to reach hurricane status by Friday. Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, and other associated watches and warnings have been issued along the entirety of the Texas coastline.

In advance of landfall, the IOC is continuing coordination with potentially affected DOI bureaus and offices regarding preparatory actions, emergency action plans, and anticipated impacts to DOI personnel, lands, and facilities. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Management is coordinating with FEMA regarding potential DOI support to the federal response effort.

In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 2,640 (+200) acres and is 33 (+4)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 515 (+37) personnel assigned, including 61 (no change) DOI personnel. Full containment is expected on September 20.

### **Outside Media of Interest** (new)

#### **Trump To Hear Recommendations For National Monuments.**

The Hill (8/23, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces a Thursday deadline "to issue recommendations to the White House for any changes he thinks President Trump should make" to 21 national monument designations. The announcement will "close a chapter on the administration's highly contentious review that has fueled significant opposition among conservationists and support by Republicans and industries like oil and agriculture that use federal land." The article notes that "Zinke invited comments from the public on the review, the first time such a formal process has been taken for national monuments," and "he also traveled to many of the monuments and met with opponents and supporters."

#### **Interior, Agriculture Secretaries To Visit Montana Wildfire.**

The AP (8/23) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue "plan to visit a Montana wildfire command post Thursday as dozens of blazes rage across the western U.S." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said Wednesday that the two members of President Donald Trump's cabinet will receive a briefing from firefighters battling a 50-square-mile blaze burning northwest of Missoula." According to Swift, "the visit was requested by the two Republicans on Montana's congressional delegation, Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte."

### **Interior Dept. Agencies Could Move West, High-Level Official Says In Denver.**

The Denver Business Journal (8/23, Proctor) reports that senior officials at the Interior Department “are ‘actively looking’ at moving ‘some’ of its agencies out of Washington, D.C., to the western states, a senior Interior official said at a Denver oil and gas forum.”

### **Commentary: Interior’s New Sage Grouse Protection Efforts Welcomed.**

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/23, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order to implement “recommendations from a team that reviewed the previous administration’s draconian land use restrictions under the guise of protecting greater sage grouse.” According to Mitchell, the move by the Interior Department “should have a salutary impact on Nevada’s economy.”

### **Critics: Utah Horse Meeting Is Secretive ‘Slaughter Summit’.**

The AP (8/23, Price, Sonner) reports that “swollen populations of federally-protected wild horses roaming 10 Western states are starved and damaging rangelands, Utah and U.S. government officials said at a conference Wednesday, an invitation-only meeting that mustang-protection advocates say is promoting the slaughter of an icon of the American West.” According to the article, “members of Utah’s congressional delegation and a U.S. Interior Department official speaking at the National Horse and Burro Summit in Salt Lake City all described an unsustainable population of wild horses that’s nearly three times the size that federal officials think the rangeland can support.” Meanwhile, “horse-protection groups who weren’t allowed into the Utah State University-hosted event protested outside the downtown hotel where it was held, calling it a ‘slaughter summit’ that’s kowtowing to livestock interests, promoting increased roundups and slaughter of wild horses from California to Colorado without public input.”

### **Parks Service Issues Permit For San Francisco Rally.**

The AP (8/23, Elias) reports that “federal authorities on Wednesday issued a permit to a politically conservative group for a Saturday afternoon rally in San Francisco that local officials fear could turn violent.” The National Park Service “had earlier told Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson that he had permission for the event, but withheld issuing the permit until the group agreed to several conditions, which include banning guns, tiki torches and other items that can be turned into weapons.” The NPS “said denying Patriot Prayer a permit would violate the organization’s free speech rights.”

### **Coming Soon To The National Mall: A Pro-Trump Protest, Juggalo Rally, Liberal March And Weddings – On The Same Day.**

The Washington Post (8/23, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is “preparing for one of its

busiest days of the year in the nation's capital next month – a fall day when more than 30 events are expected to coincide, including a pro-Trump rally and a demonstration of Insane Clown Posse fans who have dubbed themselves Juggalos.” NPS spokesman Mike Litterst “said the agency is sifting through applications to determine where best to situate each group on Sept. 16.” The U.S. Park Police “wouldn’t discuss its security plan for the day, but said the agency is prepared to provide security while protecting First Amendment activities on federal property.”

**Federal Register Listings:** (new)

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007307 BLM Notice of Application for Extension of Public Land Order No. 7296 and Opportunity for Public Meeting, Sacramento Peak Observatory, New Mexico. The BLM provides notice of and requests comments on a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) application requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of the withdrawal created by Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7296 for an additional 20-year term subject to valid existing rights. PLO No. 7296 withdrew over 2,400 acres of National Forest System land from mining to protect the scientific values of the Sacramento Peak Observatory in the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. It will expire on November 28, 2017, if it is not extended. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007266 BOE Agency Information Collection Activities; Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BOEM will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under 30 CFR part 551. BOEM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007279 BSEE Agency Information Collection Activities; Unitization                      This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BSEE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the paperwork requirements in BSEE's unitization regulations. BSEE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007327 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications (first applicant: Gregory Gerke, Carmel, IN). This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007325 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee is scheduled to meet on September 13, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007326 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee. The Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on September 15, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007280 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Ferrous Metals Surveys. This Notice, under the



Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 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 pertaining to ferrous metals surveys. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 8/23/2017.

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

*NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/24/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Today the Secretary will complete his review of National Monuments and submit a report to the President per the Executive Order. Press Release going out at 1 pm. The AP has already reported that Zinke will not recommend eliminating any of the 27 monuments that were reviewed.

NOTE: Today, at the request of the White House, the Secretary is traveling to Montana to view the Lolo Peak fire.

NOTE: On Friday, the National Park Service will celebrate its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is traveling to Montana and then Tennessee.

Secretary Zinke will join Secretary Purdue in traveling to view the wildfire in the Lolo Peak National Forest in Montana. He will then fly to TN. Dinner with Sen. Alexander and Stakeholders;

### **THIS WEEK:**

Fri. 8/25: National Park Service Founders Day events in TN and NC. Breakfast with Sen. Alexander and Stakeholders; Smokey Mountains National Park Tour and Staff; Remarks and Cake Cutting; Volunteers and Youth Corps on Rainbow Falls Trail Help Build Trail; Visit Memorial Trees at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School; Waterrock Knob Visitors Center; Greet Staff and Sen. Tillis; Mt. Pisgah; Remarks and Cut Cake; Hiking Trailhead Newfound Gap, Bryson City, NC Newfound Gap to Clingman's Dome. 9.1 miles.  
Sat. 8/26: With Senator Alexander.

### **Status of the Deputy Secretary**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Bernhardt will host a meeting of CEOs on the subject of critical minerals.

### **Media TODAY**

#### **Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House**

(WASHINGTON) Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a result of the April 26, 2017 executive order. The report summary can be read [here](#). The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](#). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was implemented by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary announced on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President

directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

### **White House Report (Sent Wednesday)**

#### **Press Inquiries:**

- Many inquiries regarding the National Monument review.
- E&E News: REQUEST--Any reaction to Rep. Grijalva's report yesterday calling the national monuments review an "obvious sham" and asserting Sec. Zinke is not meeting/listening to the public? He said: "Secretary Zinke has toured various sites under review and has claimed to be meeting with all relevant stakeholders and listening to local input. However, media and other reports from the Secretary's trips have been critical of the selective meetings he has chosen to take and the brevity of those meetings."--RESPONSE-- The Congressman's assessment is a wild departure from reality and shouldn't be considered anything more than campaign literature paid for by extreme environmentalists whose real goal is to lock up public lands so people can't use and enjoy them. In addition to missing the mark on the point of the monument review - to give local communities a say - the Congressman's report also fails to take into account the more than 60 meetings the Secretary conducted on the ground with hundreds of local, state, Tribal, and nongovernmental stakeholders including environmental groups and Democratic members of Congress and State officials. (see a partial list for your background below). Additionally, the Congressman's claim that the review is driven by oil and gas exploration is laughable at best. The review, as was outlined in the Executive Order and the Secretary's repeated statements and interviews on the subject, is about restoring trust and giving rural communities a voice in land management decisions. Locals are concerned about losses in revenue, agriculture, hunting and fishing, private property rights, public access to land, traditional Tribal uses of the land, and timber harvesting.
- Fox News: REQUEST--Lillian LeCroy with Fox News Channel. Can you please tell me if Sec. Zinke has any public events today? Also, the Department of Interior's IG released a letter indicating they have opened up an investigation into Sec. Zinke and reports that he threatened the two Alaskan senators over their healthcare votes. Does Sec. Zinke have any response to this?—RESPONSE—Lillian, that's an old letter that NYT just recently stumbled upon. Regarding the call, the Secretary and Senator Murkowski have a great relationship and friendship and the conversation they had was professional. Senator Murkowski has knocked down the characterization of the call, including to Fox News. I'd recommend contacting her office for her statement.

#### **Top Stories**

- E&E News: Grijalva bashes review as Zinke neighbors post signs
- Salt Lake City Fox 13: Interior Secretary Zinke to make Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante recommendation Thursday
- Washington Post: The Energy 202: Here's how Trump is changing pipeline politics

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will make his recommendation on the status of the 27 National Monuments under review. The rollout plan is still being finalized.
- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will be in Montana with Secretary Perdue for an on-site briefing on wildfires in the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Rockies.
- August 25, the NPS turns 101 years old. Secretary Zinke will be at the Great Smokey Mountains National Park for a speech on the historic anniversary, and will also visit the Blue Ridge Parkway.

### **WEEK AHEAD August 16 thru August 24, 2016**

#### **National Park Service:**

- August 24: CNN will be at Antietam National Battlefield to film a feature story about the battle, the upcoming 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, and projects that will be completed using President Trump's first quarter salary with additional funds from the National Park Foundation, Civil War Trust, and Save Historic Antietam Foundation.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the award of \$517,471 in Tribal Heritage grants to 14 American Indian and Native Alaskan organizations to support the protection of America's native cultures.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce that NPS scientists will make audio recordings of the sounds of the solar eclipse in 17 parks spanning nearly 2,700 miles across the country. The project is part of Eclipse Soundscapes, a multi-institutional study from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and NASA's Heliophysics Education Consortium that introduces sound aspects of the eclipse to wider audiences.

#### **Bureau of Land Management:**

- August 24: BLM-MT staff will attend a meeting hosted by the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council in Miles City, MT, to discuss Federal ownership/leases on resurvey of the Missouri River, overlapping Communitization Agreements, and Application for Permit to Drill streamlining.

#### **U.S. Geological Survey:**

- TBD: Release the USGS Critical Minerals study. Have been coordinating with the WH about possible next steps and rollout plan.

#### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:**

- August TBD: Local BOEM Release: BOEM Alaska releases Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL** (no change)

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor and Joe Balash, ASLM.

#### **Political Appointee Update** (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 54

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate floor vote: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

### **Secretary Speaking Invitations** (new info)

#### **Accepted**

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

#### **Outstanding Invitations in Process**

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

#### **Declining**

8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)

9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)

9/6 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

### **Emergency Management** (new)

The Interior Operations Center (IOC) continues to monitor Tropical Storm Harvey, located approximately 425 miles south-southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas. The storm, as of 5:00 a.m., EDT, carries maximum sustained winds near 45 miles per hour, with potential to reach hurricane status by Friday. Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, and other associated watches and warnings have been issued along the entirety of the Texas coastline.

In advance of landfall, the IOC is continuing coordination with potentially affected DOI bureaus and offices regarding preparatory actions, emergency action plans, and anticipated impacts to DOI personnel, lands, and facilities. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Management is coordinating with FEMA regarding potential DOI support to the federal response effort.

In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 2,640 (+200) acres and is 33 (+4)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 515 (+37) personnel assigned, including 61 (no change) DOI personnel. Full containment is expected on September 20.

#### **Outside Media of Interest** (new)

##### **Trump To Hear Recommendations For National Monuments.**

The Hill (8/23, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces a Thursday deadline “to issue recommendations to the White House for any changes he thinks President Trump should make” to 21 national monument designations. The announcement will “close a chapter on the administration’s highly contentious review that has fueled significant opposition among conservationists and support by Republicans and industries like oil and agriculture that use federal land.” The article notes that “Zinke invited comments from the public on the review, the first time such a formal process has been taken for national monuments,” and “he also traveled to many of the monuments and met with opponents and supporters.”

##### **Interior, Agriculture Secretaries To Visit Montana Wildfire.**

The AP (8/23) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue “plan to visit a Montana wildfire command post Thursday as dozens of blazes rage across the western U.S.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “said Wednesday that the two members of President Donald Trump’s cabinet will receive a briefing from firefighters battling a 50-square-mile blaze burning northwest of Missoula.” According to Swift, “the visit was requested by the two Republicans on Montana’s congressional delegation, Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte.”

##### **Interior Dept. Agencies Could Move West, High-Level Official Says In Denver.**

The Denver Business Journal (8/23, Proctor) reports that senior officials at the Interior Department “are ‘actively looking’ at moving ‘some’ of its agencies out of Washington, D.C., to the western states, a senior Interior official said at a Denver oil and gas forum.”

##### **Commentary: Interior’s New Sage Grouse Protection Efforts Welcomed.**

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/23, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order to implement “recommendations from a team that reviewed the previous administration’s draconian land use restrictions under the guise of protecting greater sage grouse.” According to Mitchell, the move by the Interior Department “should have a salutary impact on Nevada’s economy.”

##### **Critics: Utah Horse Meeting Is Secretive ‘Slaughter Summit’.**

The AP (8/23, Price, Sonner) reports that “swollen populations of federally-protected wild horses roaming 10 Western states are starved and damaging rangelands, Utah and U.S. government officials said at a conference Wednesday, an invitation-only meeting that mustang-protection advocates say is promoting the slaughter of an icon of the American West.” According to the article, “members of Utah’s congressional delegation and a U.S. Interior Department official speaking at the National Horse and Burro Summit in Salt Lake City all described an unsustainable population of wild horses that’s nearly three times the size that federal officials think the rangeland can support.” Meanwhile, “horse-

protection groups who weren't allowed into the Utah State University-hosted event protested outside the downtown hotel where it was held, calling it a 'slaughter summit' that's kowtowing to livestock interests, promoting increased roundups and slaughter of wild horses from California to Colorado without public input."

#### **Parks Service Issues Permit For San Francisco Rally.**

The AP (8/23, Elias) reports that "federal authorities on Wednesday issued a permit to a politically conservative group for a Saturday afternoon rally in San Francisco that local officials fear could turn violent." The National Park Service "had earlier told Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson that he had permission for the event, but withheld issuing the permit until the group agreed to several conditions, which include banning guns, tiki torches and other items that can be turned into weapons." The NPS "said denying Patriot Prayer a permit would violate the organization's free speech rights."

#### **Coming Soon To The National Mall: A Pro-Trump Protest, Juggalo Rally, Liberal March And Weddings – On The Same Day.**

The Washington Post (8/23, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is "preparing for one of its busiest days of the year in the nation's capital next month – a fall day when more than 30 events are expected to coincide, including a pro-Trump rally and a demonstration of Insane Clown Posse fans who have dubbed themselves Juggalos." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst "said the agency is sifting through applications to determine where best to situate each group on Sept. 16." The U.S. Park Police "wouldn't discuss its security plan for the day, but said the agency is prepared to provide security while protecting First Amendment activities on federal property."

#### **Federal Register Listings: (new)**

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007307 BLM Notice of Application for Extension of Public Land Order No. 7296 and Opportunity for Public Meeting, Sacramento Peak Observatory, New Mexico. The BLM provides notice of and requests comments on a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) application requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of the withdrawal created by Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7296 for an additional 20-year term subject to valid existing rights. PLO No. 7296 withdrew over 2,400 acres of National Forest System land from mining to protect the scientific values of the Sacramento Peak Observatory in the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. It will expire on November 28, 2017, if it is not extended. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007266 BOE Agency Information Collection Activities; Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BOEM will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under 30 CFR part 551. BOEM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007279 BSEE Agency Information Collection Activities; Unitization This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BSEE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the paperwork requirements in BSEE's unitization regulations. BSEE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007327 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications (first applicant: Gregory Gerke, Carmel, IN). This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007325 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee is scheduled to meet on September 13, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007326 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee. The Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on September 15, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007280 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Ferrous Metals Surveys. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 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 pertaining to ferrous metals surveys. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 8/23/2017.