

**From:** Rigas, Laura  
**To:** [Heather Swift](#); [Newell, Russell](#); [Alex Hinson](#); [Nachmany, Eli](#)  
**Cc:** [John Bockmier](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#)  
**Subject:** DRAFT complete list of accomplishments and calendar  
**Date:** Friday, December 15, 2017 5:40:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [2017 DOI Accomplishments.docx](#)  
[DRAFT DOI accomplishments calendar.docx](#)

---

Hi all --

Attached please find the comprehensive list of accomplishments and strategic calendar that John has pulled together (thank you!). Please review this and let's be ready to discuss it on Monday.

Also, I understand that we have an early draft of the press release circulating. Can I see it by Tuesday?

Thanks, all!

My best,

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas*  
*Communications Director*  
*U.S. Department of the Interior*  
*(202) 897-7022 cell*  
*@Interior*

## **2017 DOI Accomplishments**

### **1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt**

- Signed a Secretarial Order 3353 on sage-grouse conservation, strengthening collaboration between the federal government and the states. Also published a Notice of Intent to Amend the Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plans to address state-specific issues and restore trust with state and local partners. (BLM)
- Continued to strongly advocate against the sale or transfer of any public lands. (DOI)
- Issued guidance on wildland fire management, pivoting sharply from the previous administration's reactive approach to an aggressive and proactive strategy focused on clearing the dead and dying timber from forests, so they do not accumulate and fuel catastrophic fires. (BLM & OWF)
- Signed Secretarial Order 3356 to expand public access to public land, promote hunting and fishing, and improve wildlife management. (BLM, NPS & USFW)
- Instilled a renewed focus on recovery of threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. To date under the Trump Administration, five species have been delisted and twelve delisting proposals are outstanding or are expected to be published before the end of the calendar year. (USFW)
- Held a Sportsmen Access Summit with over 60 conservation and industry organizations to kick-start broad efforts for enhancing hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Action items/announcements are forthcoming. (USFW, BLM & NPS)
- Implemented Secretarial Order 3346 which ended the ban on ammunition and fishing tackle, making hunting and fishing affordable again for everyday American families. (USFW)
- Created the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways. (NPS, USFW & BLM)
- Opened or expanded access for hunting and fishing across 132,000 acres on 10 national wildlife refuges. (USFW)
- Declared October as National Hunting and Fishing Month. (USFW)

- Conducted a hunting and fishing access for a Veteran's Roundtable. Over thirty individuals representing a wide range of veterans groups and non-profits convened at the DOI to provide individual views on how the Department could support and advance access to public land for hunting, angling and shooting sports for Veterans. (BLM, NPS & USFW)
- Opened up the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine habitat in the country for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife – making it available for the first time ever for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The 16,000-acre Sabinoso was previously wholly surrounded by non-federal land, making it inaccessible to the general public. However, a donation of 3,595 acres (formerly known as the Rimrock Rose Ranch) that are adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness was accepted by the Secretary and is now public. (BLM)
- Directed Interior bureaus to produce plans on expanding access for hunting and fishing. (BLM, USFW & NPS)
- Directed the expansion of educational outreach programs for underrepresented communities such as veterans, minorities, and youth. (BLM, NPS & USFW)

## **2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**

- Initiated a new Five-Year Program for oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), after the previous administration put 94% of the OCS off-limits from leasing. (BSEE & BOEM)
- Announced the completion of the nation's seventh competitive lease sale for renewable wind energy in federal waters. A Wind Energy Area of 122,405 acres offshore Kitty Hawk, North Carolina received the high bid of over \$9 million. The project will continue Interior's commitment to sustainable energy and strengthen our energy independence. (BOEM)
- Successfully concluded a new Colorado River Agreement between the United States and Mexico, Minute 323, for the Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin. (BLM)
- Prioritized Alaskan energy development by signing Secretarial Order 3352 to jump-start Alaskan energy production in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A); noticed lease sale for December making all open acreage available for leasing in NPR-A. (BLM)
- Proposed the largest oil and gas lease sale ever held in the United States --76,967,935 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. (BOEM & BSEE)

- Partnered with state and local government to ensure the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia. The new project expects to create 50 good-paying jobs and employ roughly 200 coal miners when the mine reaches its projected production level. Another excellent example of how Interior can be a partner with local communities to facilitate coal mining development while still fulfilling its responsibilities to protect the environment. (USFW)
- During the first and second quarter of 2017, we oversaw American crude oil exports and production hitting an all-time high. (BLM, BOEM & BSEE)
- Established, through Secretarial Order 3358, an Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting to focus on procedural and policy protocols to enhance the responsible development of energy resources and to identify energy infrastructure corridors. (BLM, BOEM, BESSE & NPS)

### **3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor**

- Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest. (BLM)

### **4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something**

- Supported President Trump's nomination of Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs – Sweeney is the first-ever female Alaska Native nominated for any Senate confirmed position. (BIA)
- Executed Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians, formally executing a Congressionally authorized pact that protects the Pechanga Band's access to groundwater in the region and provides the tribe with more than \$30 million in federal funding to pay for water storage projects. (BIA)
- Reached agreements in principle between the federal government, Santa Fe County, and the pueblos of Nambé, Pojoaque, Tesuque and San Ildefonso over rights of way for roads near the pueblos, which would not only resolve access issues for non-tribal people living within the "exterior boundaries" of the pueblos, but also help close the book on the long-running Aamodt water rights case. (BIA)

- Supported the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe, when President Trump authorized sending Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officers to the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the wake of Hurricane Irma. (BIA)
- Restored the right of Alaska Natives to sell handicrafts that incorporate migratory bird parts. (BIA)

## **5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**

- During the first and second quarter of 2017, we oversaw American crude oil exports and production hitting an all-time high. (BLM, BOEM & BSEE)
- Office of Natural Resources Revenue released disbursements from energy and minerals production on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled \$7.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2017, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over the previous year. (ONRR)
- BLM issued payments of nearly \$20 million in timber payments to 18 counties in western Oregon, which included \$1.4 million previously sequestered funds. The funds are critical to providing critical services to rural areas that include law enforcement, schools, infrastructure projects and emergency operations. (BLM)
- Advanced plans for at least four mines and got processing underway for environmental reviews of others. Processed 2 coal lease sales worth \$22.8 million in bonus bids and improved access for energy and other resources in land use plans. (BLM)
- Leased 913,542 offshore acres in the Central Gulf oil and gas generating \$275 million on March 22, 2017. (BSEE)
- In the second quarter of 2017, mining increased 28.6-percent (on top of a 21.6-percent first quarter increase) and was the leading contributor to national economic growth. It was also the leading contributor to growth in the three-fastest growing states for Q2: North Dakota (8.3-percent Q2 GDP growth), Wyoming (7.3-percent), and Texas (6.2-percent) Also notable, the state of West Virginia was second-in-the-nation in GDP growth for Q1. (OSMRE & BLM)
- Conducted 20 onshore oil and gas lease sales with 8 more planned for December, netting over \$317 million in revenue, including a \$130 million lease sale in the State of New Mexico – BLM’s second highest lease sale on record.

## **6. Protect our people and the border**

- Supported President Trump and commended the U.S. Congress for including authorization for the Palau Compact Review Agreement in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Signed into law yesterday by the President, the enactment officially authorizes the strategic agreement signed between the United States and Palau governments in 2010. (OIA)
- Operation Crash, a nationwide investigation into the trafficking in the rhino horn, has now led to over 50 arrests, 36 convictions, and 34 sentencings and over \$7.87 million in fines, forfeitures, and restitution. (USFW)

## **7. Strike a regulatory balance**

- Signed Secretarial Order 3349, putting the Department on the path to suspend, revise, or rescind dozens of regulatory and policy actions from the previous administration. (DOI)
- Signed Secretarial Order 3355 reducing the length of the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). (DOI)
- Issued a memo from the Deputy Secretary setting a permitting deadline of one year and limiting Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to 150 pages (or 300 pages for unusually complex projects). (DOI)
- Reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda more than 50-percent. Initiated 21 deregulatory actions, with 11 of them complete. These efforts will save \$3.8 billion over time, based on a \$261 million annual number. (DOI)
- The DOI reversed the ban on coal leasing on our public lands. Mining was up 20-percent nationally in the first quarter, and the GDP now stands at 3.1-percent in the second quarter. (DOI)
- At the project level, reduced the regulatory burden of environmental review processes for proposed infrastructure, energy, and development projects through standardizing consultation and coordination practices such as the FAST-41 permitting dashboard and programmatic consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Signed Secretarial Order 3355 reducing the length of the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act. (NEPA).
- Issued a memo from the Deputy Secretary setting a permitting deadline of one year and limiting Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to 150 pages (or 300 pages for unusually complex projects). (DOI)

- BSEE has pursued a course-correcting agenda that includes regulatory reform, integrating a risk-based protocol into the inspection program, and reviewing permit processes to increase efficiency. Reviews of the agency's Well Control Rule and Production Safety Systems Rule are also ongoing, as are efforts to devise and implement a truly risk-based inspection program.(BSEE)

## **8. Modernize our infrastructure**

- Improved the nation's energy infrastructure and created nearly 500 jobs to help boost local economies. The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project will provide additional electrical capacity between the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain West regions. (BLM)
- Worked with other federal partners, ensured the Arlington memorial Bridge Rehabilitation project will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule: the project will be completed 1.5 years sooner due to improved design build procedures and will come under budget by \$35 million. (NPS)
- The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and the United States Marine Corps dedicated new engravings on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to include the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns. Made possible by a \$5.37 million donation by businessman and philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, the rehabilitation project also included cleaning and waxing the memorial, brazing bronze seams and re-gilding letters and inscriptions on the sculpture base (NPS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff worked with other federal partners for the future repair of the historic "Swinging Bridge" that crosses the Green River on Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, restoring access for local citizens. (NPS)
- Secretary Zinke visited dozens of National Parks to prioritize infrastructure and address the backlog of deferred maintenance projects. (NPS)
- Resolved conflicts impeding the construction of a Virginia utility power line project (Surry-Skiffes Creek -Wheaton 500 kV utility line) comprising a \$200 million infrastructure investment. (BLM)

## **9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years**

- The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors. (DOI)

## **10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward**

- Secretary Zinke announced an immediate action plan to combat the widespread and pervasive culture of harassment and discrimination throughout the National Park Service (NPS). The action plan will ensure that employees, especially managers, are held accountable when harassment is found. The action plan included a workplace survey, which is the first of its scope done across the federal government, was designed to assess workplace conditions that Interior employees experience, including the prevalence and context of all forms of harassment. (NPS)
- On March 23, 2017, National Puppy Day, Secretary Zinke announced that the Main and South Department of the Interior Buildings will be dog friendly on Friday, May 5, Friday, September 1, 2017, and December 22, 2017. These three test days are part of a pilot program for Doggy Days at the Department of the Interior, intended to boost employee morale. (DOI)
- Secretary Zinke announced his latest initiative to reemphasize hunting and fishing at the Department with a new temporary addition to the employee cafeteria: the arcade game “Big Buck Hunter Pro.” The Secretary also announced the "Secretary's Shotgun Showdown," a fun employee competition on the game, with the winner earning bragging rights and a personal visit with the Secretary. (DOI)
- Partnership for Public Service announced its yearly report titled "The Best Places to Work." In the first year under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump towards reaching that goal. (DOI)



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
12/17	12/18  Interview with the Secretary – Albuquerque Journal	12/19  TBD regional interview with the Secretary	12/20  TBD regional interview with the Secretary	12/21  Issue Press Release  (include a background list of accomplishments)  Interview with the Secretary – Las Vegas Review Journal EDITORIAL Board	12/22	12/23
12/24	12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30
12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6
1/7	1/8  “Public Access Monday”	1/9  “Energy Dominance Tuesday”	1/10  “Restoring Trust Wednesday”	1/11  “Regulatory Relief Thursday”	1/12  “Promises Kept Friday”	1/13