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From: Mashburn, Lori

Sent: 2017-11-02T13:26:18-04:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/2

Received: 2017-11-02T13:27:07-04:00

[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-02-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/02/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: Secretary is on Personal leave

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Attend Groundbreaking Ceremony for Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
Meet with Jim Herz, OMB

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Wednesday, 11/1)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **Reuters:** (Andrew Cullen)—**REQUEST**— I am seeking information regarding the upcoming changes to Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as announced by President Trump last Friday. Specifically I am seeking information about the new boundaries of those monuments, how much their respective sizes will be decreased, and what will remain within the monuments after Presidential action is taken. Also; what will Tribal involvement be in the management of Bears Ears NM after the president's action? Finally, where in Utah, and when, will the President be when he takes action on this matter? Our deadline is tomorrow morning at 10 am EST.—**RESPONSE**—The Department has no new announcements on the monument review at this time. Please contact the White House concerning the President's schedule.
- **Morning Consult:** (Iulia Gheorghiu)—**REQUEST**-- A Morning Consult poll shows that 52% of voters oppose the increases - 36% support them and 11% do not have an opinion. (I'd be happy to share more details and the crosstabs for the poll if you're interested. The question we posed was: As you may know, it

currently costs between \$25 to \$30 for a private vehicle to enter a U.S. national park during peak season. Would you support or oppose increasing this fee to \$70, in order to pay for improvements to national parks such as roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, and bathrooms?) What is the Interior's response to a majority of Americans opposing the increase to the U.S. national park fee to \$70 (from the current \$25-\$30)? Have any members of Congress issued their support for this proposal? Will the Interior Department respond to the letter that [Senators sent last week](#) regarding their opposition to the fee increase? This is for a forthcoming story with a deadline of 10 a.m. on Thursday.—**RESPONSE--**
TBD

Top Stories

- **Salt Lake Tribune:** [Championing 'American energy dominance,' feds to scrap master plans for leasing public lands](#)
- **Colorado Public Radio:** [Hickenlooper, Wyoming's Mead, Warn Against Big Changes To Sage Grouse Plan](#)
- **Alaska Journal:** [Renewed optimism under Zinke's Interior Department for King Cove](#)
- **Denver Post (Letter to the editor):** [Should the U.S. raise entrance fees for national parks?](#)

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.
- Tomorrow, Principal Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Greg Sheehan has a Senate Hearing regarding the Alaska 10-02.
- This week, DOI will announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is out on personal leave at his home in Montana.
- FYI- Secretary Zinke's birthday is today.

AGENCY MEDIA (UPDATED)

WEEK AHEAD November 1 thru November 9, 2017 (submitted 11/2)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is on personal leave. He will return to Washington on Monday. He will be visiting Glacier National Park this Saturday as part of his vacation.
- Soon we plan to announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- **November 6:** the “Stream Protection Rule” (related to OSMRE) will hit the Federal Register. Comms materials are forthcoming.
- **November 2:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about the Alaskan 1002 Area. WH will have talking points shortly to use if asked. *Wall Street Journal* is working on a preview story which we expect will be balanced.
- **November 2:** DOI/ONRR will send a letter to the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) to officially withdraw from the Initiative. WH has the letter and talking points.
- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November/December TBD:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act. Pending WH review.

Interior Social Media Updates

- **November 1: Department-level blog post:** DOI published a blog post for Native American Heritage Month and highlighting the Department's work.
- **November 2 (tent.): Department-level release:** DOI and BLM will issue a release announcing that Sabinoso Wilderness is now open to the public.

National Park Service

- **November 1: Local NPS Release:** Arches National Park to announce the public comment period on a plan to help alleviate traffic and parking congestion. The park has developed a Traffic Congestion Management Plan (TCMP) to address vehicle traffic and parking congestion problems that affect visitor access, visitor enjoyment, and resource conditions. The TCMP proposes a reservation system for entrance during peak visitation season and peak visitation hours. To be released on November 1.
- **November 1:** El Malpais National Monument plans to reduce the days and hours of operation at the El Malpais Visitor Center from seven to five days per week, and from eight hours per day to seven. Since 1999, the NPS managed the center with help from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management through a multi-agency agreement to share operational expenses. Both agencies recently terminated the agreement due to budget constraints. As a result, NPS modified its schedule at the visitor center to cover funding shortages for personnel and operations. In July, the monument previously closed its Information Center for the remainder of the calendar year due to available staffing.

- **November 1:** Death Valley National Park anticipates the release of two Environmental Assessments for a 30-day public review. Both projects address damage that resulted from a major rainstorm and extensive flash flood in 2015 at Scotty's Castle and for Bonnie Clare Road and utilities.
- **November 2: Local NPS Release:** A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for the Eisenhower Memorial, which will be administered by National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA). Final approvals have been granted by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. NAMA anticipates issuing a construction permit in late October, with completion tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
- **November 2:** The Capitol Reef National Park superintendent will meet with the offices of Sen. Lee (R-UT), Sen. Hatch (R-UT), and Rep. Stewart (R-UT) to provide an overview of the Capitol Reef National Park's Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- **November 3:** George Washington Memorial Parkway will host a ribbon cutting at Jones Point Park to celebrate the completion of a volunteer construction project. The park worked with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) to rehabilitate a 60-year-old fishing pier. This project is the 100th completed by USA in parks across the country and was supported by volunteer labor and donated materials. USA will host a youth conservation and fishing event before the ceremony.
- **November 4:** NASA astronaut Jack Fischer will visit Rock Creek Park and present a public program at 4 p.m.
- **November 6 (tent.):** (EMBARGOED UNTIL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place open to the public.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November 3 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a news release regarding the opening of the public comment period for the Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions FWS will request comment on include the policies' reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies' references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives.
- **November 3 (tent.): 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.
- **November 3 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

will announce the final administrative step in the process to repeal regulations that were published in 2016 regarding the non-subsistence take of wildlife, public participation, and closure procedures for national wildlife refuges in Alaska. This administrative step has been taken in response to a congressional resolution to nullify them under the Congressional Review Act, which was signed by the President in April 2017.

- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.
- **November TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 1–2:** BLM-MT will host a tribal consultation meeting at the Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings to discuss tribal issues and matters of interest related to the Denbury Resources, Inc. CO2 Pipeline and Enhanced Recovery Project (in southeast Montana); the BNI Coal Ltd. expansion proposal, "BNI-2" (in western North Dakota); and various fire fuels reduction projects in eastern Montana. Tribal Council Presidents/Chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from 17 tribes have been invited to the meeting.
- **November 2:** Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval will dedicate a section of Highway 140 in memory of BLM firefighters Will Hawkins and Jacob O'Malley, who were killed in a vehicle accident.
- **November 2 – 16:** Scoping meetings for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans will be held in the following Western cities and towns:
 - o Nov. 2: Twin Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 6: Cheyenne, WY; Idaho Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR
 - o Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT
 - o Nov. 9: Ely, NV, Craig, CO
 - o Nov. 14: Vernal, UT
 - o Nov. 15: Cedar City, UT
 - o Nov. 16: Salt Lake City, UT
- **November 6:** BLM Acting Director Michael D. Nedd will attend the National Mining Association/BLM Sustainable Development Awards in Washington, D.C. The awards are presented by the BLM to hardrock mining companies that demonstrate high quality examples of responsible mineral resource development. The awards recognize work in the areas of sustainable development,

environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security

- **November 7:** BLM will participate in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting provides an opportunity for the BLM to interact with NFWF's Board and staff and to learn more about the conservation programs supported with the annual \$3 million appropriation.
- **November 8:** The Department of Justice will host an evidence review of the Erskine Fire at the BLM-CA Bakersfield Office. Attorneys from DOJ, DOI, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and private parties will attend.
- **November 9:** BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will hold an annual public meeting to discuss development and monitoring of performance standards in regard to its Fortification Creek management.
- **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 8: USGS Media Advisory:** USGS will issue a media advisory announcing that groundwater and geology will be surveyed using low-flying helicopter in Southern California to collect and record geophysical measurements for scientific research purposes as part of the California Oil, Gas, & Groundwater Program.
- **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

- **October 26 - November 1:** A six-member team from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.
- **November 2:** Deputy Commissioner of Operations David Palumbo will be the keynote speaker at Columbia Basin Development League conference in Moses Lake, Washington.
- **November 2:** At a Newton Town Council meeting, Reclamation will discuss

the public safety risk and proposed closure of unauthorized target shooting around Newton Dam in Utah. This is part of a preliminary process to consult with local stakeholders and to encourage development of a safe alternative site away from the Reclamation dam and reservoir.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **November 8 (tent.): National NSEE Release:** BSEE will issue a press release regarding an update on Gulf of Mexico Region well permits being approved.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (Updated)

SENR HEARING RE: ALASKA 1002 AREA EXPLORATION: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski) will hold a full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Non-Wilderness Portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Section 1002). This will be a contentious hearing. Greg Sheehan (Principal Deputy Director, FWS) will be testifying on behalf of the Department. **Timing:** Thursday, November 2, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee is holding a legislative hearing on H.R. 221 (Rep. Don Young of AK), To reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes. "Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act"; H.R. 1176 (Rep. Chellie Pingree), To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a Working Waterfront Task Force and a working waterfronts grant program, and for other purposes. "Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act"; and S. 140 (Sen. Jeff Flake), To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund. The Department will be providing a statement for the record on S. 140, per the Committee's request.

Timing: Thursday, November 2, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400. Witness is pending.

Timing: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.

Timing: Thursday, November 9, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 62

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 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: 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

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 25 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/6 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Reception (DC)

11/7 - DOI Veterans Day Ceremony (DC)

11/8 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

11/9 National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)

11/10 Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park

11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)

11/11 - 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony (DC)

11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)

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:

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

Declining

10/30-11/3 International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)

11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)

11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

11/8 WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)

11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)

11/14 George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

On October 31, the Wildland Fire National Preparedness Level (PL) was lowered to PL 1, the lowest level possible. Large wildland fire and initial attack activity has decreased significantly nationally, and there is very little mobilization of resources from the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). The change to PL 1 also signifies that the likelihood of significant wildland fires is expected to remain minimal. As of this morning, there are still over 1,300 personnel fighting fires in the U.S., including 197 DOI personnel.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative

The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction. In a [letter](#) today, Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, told the EITI board chair in Norway that "U.S. laws prevent us from meeting specific provisions of the EITI standard." "While the U.S. government remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector... it is clear that domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the U.S. legal framework," Gould wrote in the letter, released by the advocacy group Publish What You Pay. Jana Morgan, director of PWYP's U.S. chapter, said in a statement that the U.S.' participation in the EITI was "stymied" because most companies declined to disclose their tax payments. "To be clear, U.S. law does not prevent oil, gas or mining companies from voluntarily disclosing their taxes — common practice in the dozens of EITI implementing countries," Morgan said in a statement. The move comes on top of Republicans' use of the Congressional Review Act earlier this year to [nullify](#) a Securities and Exchange Commission regulation

developed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that would have required public disclosure of payments made by fossil fuel extractors to foreign governments.

WHAT'S NEXT: The U.S. will remain a "supporting country" to the initiative, Gould said. *To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/trump-administration-pulls-out-of-resource-transparency-initiative-095114>

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Politico (11/1, Lippman) interviewed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for a piece on his birthday. When asked about President Trump, Zinke responded, "The President is delivering on his campaign promises and is draining the swamp every day.

Unemployment is down; the stock market is up. It's not easy or even popular, at times, draining the swamp, but the work needs to be done to make America great again. I have never worked for someone with so much energy and instincts than President Trump, and I am honored to be part of his team." Zinke also highlighted "a return to multiple use of our public lands." He said, "At Interior we are working to better manage our land at the ecosystem level to ensure the long-term health of the land. We are also expanding Americans' access to public lands. It's a mission worth fighting for."

Championing 'American Energy Dominance,' Feds To Scrap Master Plans For Leasing Public Lands.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/1, Maffly) reports that Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke has released a new 44-page report, which is "aimed at lifting barriers to development on public lands." Commenting on President Trump's leadership, Zinke said that the "Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations" while being environmentally responsible. The programs that may be removed or altered include "the Bureau of Land Management's master leasing process; its methane flaring and venting rule; hydraulic fracturing regulations; and its coal leasing program."

As Wyoming Prepares Change To Coal Bonding Rules, Feds Announce Walk Back.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (11/1, Richards) reports that "proposed Wyoming rules for coal mining may fill a void in the Cowboy State created by the Trump administration's push for deregulation within the industry." The Trump Administration is "considering whether to halt proposed Obama-era rules that discourage self-bonding." Meanwhile, the state's Department of Environmental Quality is "nearly finished with a preliminary update to state regulations, including self-bonding, said Keith Guille, spokesman for the department."

Awaiting Trump's Coal Comeback, Miners Reject Retraining.

Reuters (11/1, Volcovici) reports "despite broad consensus" about the "bleak future" of coal, "a years-long effort to diversify the economy of this hard-hit region away from

mining is stumbling, with Obama-era jobs retraining classes undersubscribed and future programs at risk under President Donald Trump's proposed 2018 budget." The current president "has promised to revive coal by rolling back environmental regulations and moved to repeal Obama-era curbs on carbon emissions from power plants." Reuters adds "what many experts call false hopes for a coal resurgence have mired economic development efforts here in a catch-22: Coal miners are resisting retraining without ready jobs from new industries, but new companies are unlikely to move here without a trained workforce. The stalled diversification push leaves some of the nation's poorest areas with no clear path to prosperity."

Senate Energy Gears Up For Alaska Drilling Fight.

Roll Call (11/1, Dillon) reports that at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, Republicans in favor of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration are expected to argue "improvements in drilling technology over the past decade will minimize potential damage to the environment." The assertion may "rile committee Democrats" who plan to raise the specter of oil spills as a reason not to allow drilling in the reserve. Erik Milito, director with the American Petroleum Institute, said that "the natural gas and oil industry's long record of production on the Alaska North Slope demonstrates that resources at ANWR could be developed in an environmentally responsible way," concluding, "opening it would be an important step toward increasing American competitiveness and securing our nation's energy future."

Group Cries Foul Over Cell Service Expansion In National Parks.

Courthouse News (11/1, Reese) reports that cellphone towers are propagating "around the country in the last frontier of cell coverage: national parks and national forests." A recently filed complaint filed with the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General "claims national parks across the United States are allowing cell coverage to spread into wild backcountry areas without public involvement, without getting paid and sometimes without knowing who owns the towers." Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility "said in its Oct. 30 letter to Mary Kendall, deputy inspector general for the U.S. Department of Interior, that Yosemite National Park is the latest national park in America to allow cellphone towers to be built without adequate government or public oversight."

Want To Go To Arches? You May Soon Need A Reservation, Under A New Park Service Plan.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/1, Maffly) reports that Arches National Park on Wednesday "unveiled a proposal for a reservation system that it hopes will reduce the crush of visitors, but may irritate some who are unable to plan ahead." The plan would "limit park entries during certain three-hour windows between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. over the March-through-October high season." According to the article, "park officials emphasized the point of the plan is not to limit the number of visitors, but to spread visitation out during the course of the day and throughout the year."

How To Help National Parks Without Soaking American Families.

In an op-ed for the Washington Examiner (11/2, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, director of the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, writes that “if the National Park Service moves ahead with its latest proposal to drastically increase entrance fees, countless American families will be locked out of the natural beauty and grandeur of our national parks.” Anderson argues that “our national parks should be within reach of every citizen.” He asserts that “we cannot allow these natural wonders to become another economic divide, where hardworking Americans are once again left on the outside looking in while only the wealthy get to experience our national treasures.”

When Horses Go Wild.

In an op-ed for the Washington Times (11/1, O'Toole), Sharon O'Toole, a rancher near Savery, Wyoming, writes that the wild horse issue, “which dominates the Western United States as more than 70,000 excess horses damage the landscape, will be front and center in Washington when the Senate Appropriations Committee debates the Interior appropriations bill.” O'Toole urges Congress to “support the sale of wild horses without restriction.” She argues that “the current situation, in which taxpayers support at least 70,000 excess horses, leaves us with no end in sight — not in numbers, not in funding, not in ecological damage.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Wednesday, November 01:

REG0007567 FWS 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations -- This final rule on 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing regulations will allow the Service to increase access in response to Secretary's Orders 3347 and 3356. This rulemaking will provide the annual update to the existing regulations in 50 CFR Part 32. Final Rule 11/01/2017

REG0007447 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2232 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007448 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2235 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007449 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State

Museum, Albany, NY N2233 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007450 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2234 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007451 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX N2858 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007573 OSM Effectuating Congressional Nullification of the Stream Protection Rule under the Congressional Review Act -- Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed and the President signed a resolution of disapproval of the OSMRE's Stream Protection Rule (SPR), which took effect on January 19, 2017. By operation of the CRA, the SPR must be treated as if it had never taken effect. This document instructs the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and to reinstate the regulatory text that was in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the SPR. Final Rule 11/01/2017

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/02/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: Secretary is on Personal leave

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WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Wednesday, 11/1)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **Reuters: (Andrew Cullen)—REQUEST—** I am seeking information regarding the upcoming changes to Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as announced by President Trump last Friday. Specifically I am seeking information about the new boundaries of those monuments, how much their respective sizes will be decreased, and what will remain within the monuments after Presidential action is taken. Also; what will Tribal involvement be in the management of Bears Ears NM after the president's action? Finally, where in Utah, and when, will the President be when he takes action on this matter? Our deadline is tomorrow morning at 10 am EST.—**RESPONSE—**The Department has no new announcements on the monument review at this time. Please contact the White House concerning the President's schedule.
- **Morning Consult: (Iulia Gheorghiu)—REQUEST--** A Morning Consult poll shows that 52% of voters oppose the increases - 36% support them and 11% do not have an opinion. (I'd be happy to share more details and the crosstabs for the poll if you're interested. The question we posed was: As you may know, it currently costs between \$25 to \$30 for a private vehicle to enter a U.S. national park during peak season. Would you support or oppose increasing this fee to \$70, in order to pay for improvements to national parks such as roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, and bathrooms?) What is the Interior's response to a majority of Americans opposing the increase to the U.S. national park fee to \$70 (from the current \$25-\$30)? Have any members of Congress issued their support for this proposal? Will the Interior Department respond to the letter that [Senators sent last week](#) regarding their opposition to the fee increase? This is for a forthcoming story with a deadline of 10 a.m. on Thursday.—**RESPONSE--**
TBD

Top Stories

- **Salt Lake Tribune:** [Championing 'American energy dominance,' feds to scrap master plans for leasing public lands](#)
- **Colorado Public Radio:** [Hickenlooper, Wyoming's Mead, Warn Against Big Changes To Sage Grouse Plan](#)
- **Alaska Journal:** [Renewed optimism under Zinke's Interior Department for King Cove](#)
- **Denver Post (Letter to the editor):** [Should the U.S. raise entrance fees for national parks?](#)

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.
- Tomorrow, Principal Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Greg Sheehan has a Senate Hearing regarding the Alaska 10-02.
- This week, DOI will announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is out on personal leave at his home in Montana.
- FYI- Secretary Zinke's birthday is today.

AGENCY MEDIA (UPDATED)

WEEK AHEAD November 1 thru November 9, 2017 (submitted 11/2)

Announcements/Releases/Events

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is on personal leave. He will return to Washington on Monday. He will be visiting Glacier National Park this Saturday as part of his vacation.
- Soon we plan to announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.
- **November 6:** the "Stream Protection Rule" (related to OSMRE) will hit the Federal Register. Comms materials are forthcoming.
- **November 2:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about the Alaskan 1002 Area. WH will have talking points shortly to use if asked. *Wall Street Journal* is working on a preview story which we expect will be balanced.
- **November 2:** DOI/ONRR will send a letter to the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) to officially withdraw from the Initiative. WH has the letter and talking points.
- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November/December TBD:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act. Pending WH review.

Interior Social Media Updates

- **November 1: Department-level blog post:** DOI published a blog post for Native American Heritage Month and highlighting the Department's work.
- **November 2 (tent.): Department-level release:** DOI and BLM will issue a release announcing that Sabinoso Wilderness is now open to the public.

National Park Service

- **November 1: Local NPS Release:** Arches National Park to announce the public comment period on a plan to help alleviate traffic and parking congestion. The park has developed a Traffic Congestion Management Plan (TCMP) to address vehicle traffic and parking congestion problems that affect

visitor access, visitor enjoyment, and resource conditions. The TCMP proposes a reservation system for entrance during peak visitation season and peak visitation hours. To be released on November 1.

- **November 1:** El Malpais National Monument plans to reduce the days and hours of operation at the El Malpais Visitor Center from seven to five days per week, and from eight hours per day to seven. Since 1999, the NPS managed the center with help from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management through a multi-agency agreement to share operational expenses. Both agencies recently terminated the agreement due to budget constraints. As a result, NPS modified its schedule at the visitor center to cover funding shortages for personnel and operations. In July, the monument previously closed its Information Center for the remainder of the calendar year due to available staffing.
- **November 1:** Death Valley National Park anticipates the release of two Environmental Assessments for a 30-day public review. Both projects address damage that resulted from a major rainstorm and extensive flash flood in 2015 at Scotty's Castle and for Bonnie Clare Road and utilities.
- **November 2: Local NPS Release:** A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for the Eisenhower Memorial, which will be administered by National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA). Final approvals have been granted by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. NAMA anticipates issuing a construction permit in late October, with completion tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
- **November 2:** The Capitol Reef National Park superintendent will meet with the offices of Sen. Lee (R-UT), Sen. Hatch (R-UT), and Rep. Stewart (R-UT) to provide an overview of the Capitol Reef National Park's Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- **November 3:** George Washington Memorial Parkway will host a ribbon cutting at Jones Point Park to celebrate the completion of a volunteer construction project. The park worked with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) to rehabilitate a 60-year-old fishing pier. This project is the 100th completed by USA in parks across the country and was supported by volunteer labor and donated materials. USA will host a youth conservation and fishing event before the ceremony.
- **November 4:** NASA astronaut Jack Fischer will visit Rock Creek Park and present a public program at 4 p.m.
- **November 6 (tent.):** (EMBARGOED UNTIL PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED) Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place open to the public.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **November 3 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a news release regarding the opening of the public comment period for the Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions FWS will request comment on include the policies' reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies' references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives.
- **November 3 (tent.): 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.

- **November 3 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will announce the final administrative step in the process to repeal regulations that were published in 2016 regarding the non-subsistence take of wildlife, public participation, and closure procedures for national wildlife refuges in Alaska. This administrative step has been taken in response to a congressional resolution to nullify them under the Congressional Review Act, which was signed by the President in April 2017.
- **November TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.
- **November TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

Bureau of Land Management

- **November 1–2:** BLM-MT will host a tribal consultation meeting at the Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings to discuss tribal issues and matters of interest related to the Denbury Resources, Inc. CO2 Pipeline and Enhanced Recovery Project (in southeast Montana); the BNI Coal Ltd. expansion proposal, "BNI-2" (in western North Dakota); and various fire fuels reduction projects in eastern Montana. Tribal Council Presidents/Chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from 17 tribes have been invited to the meeting.
- **November 2:** Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval will dedicate a section of Highway 140 in memory of BLM firefighters Will Hawkins and Jacob O'Malley, who were killed in a vehicle accident.
- **November 2 – 16:** Scoping meetings for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans will be held in the following Western cities and towns:
 - Nov. 2: Twin Falls, ID
 - Nov. 6: Cheyenne, WY; Idaho Falls, ID
 - Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR
 - Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT
 - Nov. 9: Ely, NV, Craig, CO
 - Nov. 14: Vernal, UT
 - Nov. 15: Cedar City, UT
 - Nov. 16: Salt Lake City, UT
- **November 6:** BLM Acting Director Michael D. Nedd will attend the National Mining Association/BLM Sustainable Development Awards in Washington, D.C. The awards are presented by the BLM to hardrock mining companies that demonstrate high quality examples of responsible mineral resource development. The awards recognize work in the areas of sustainable development, environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security
- **November 7:** BLM will participate in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting provides an opportunity for the BLM to interact with NFWF's Board and staff and to learn more about the conservation programs supported with the annual \$3 million appropriation.
- **November 8:** The Department of Justice will host an evidence review of the Erskine Fire at the BLM-CA Bakersfield Office. Attorneys from DOJ, DOI, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and private parties will attend.

- **November 9:** BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will hold an annual public meeting to discuss development and monitoring of performance standards in regard to its Fortification Creek management.
- **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 8: USGS Media Advisory:** USGS will issue a media advisory announcing that groundwater and geology will be surveyed using low-flying helicopter in Southern California to collect and record geophysical measurements for scientific research purposes as part of the California Oil, Gas, & Groundwater Program.
- **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

- **October 26 - November 1:** A six-member team from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.
- **November 2:** Deputy Commissioner of Operations David Palumbo will be the keynote speaker at Columbia Basin Development League conference in Moses Lake, Washington.
- **November 2:** At a Newton Town Council meeting, Reclamation will discuss the public safety risk and proposed closure of unauthorized target shooting around Newton Dam in Utah. This is part of a preliminary process to consult with local stakeholders and to encourage development of a safe alternative site away from the Reclamation dam and reservoir.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **November 8 (tent.): National NSEE Release:** BSEE will issue a press release regarding an update on Gulf of Mexico Region well permits being approved.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (Updated)

SENR HEARING RE: ALASKA 1002 AREA EXPLORATION: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski) will hold a full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Non-Wilderness Portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Section 1002). This will be a contentious hearing. Greg Sheehan (Principal Deputy Director, FWS) will be testifying on behalf of the Department. **Timing:** Thursday, November 2, 2017
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee is holding a legislative hearing on H.R. 221 (Rep. Don Young of AK), To reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes. "Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act"; H.R. 1176 (Rep. Chellie Pingree), To amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a Working Waterfront Task Force and a working waterfronts grant program, and for other purposes. "Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act"; and S. 140 (Sen. Jeff Flake), To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund. The Department will be providing a statement for the record on S. 140, per the Committee's request.
Timing: Thursday, November 2, 2017
Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is hosting a legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400. Witness is pending.
Timing: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING SCIA ROUNDTABLE: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country." DOI intends to send Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services to participate.
Timing: Thursday, November 9, 2017
Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Adviser, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board 62

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 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: 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

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 25 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/6 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Reception (DC)
11/7 - DOI Veterans Day Ceremony (DC)
11/8 – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)
11/10 – Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park
11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)
11/11 - 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony (DC)
11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)

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:

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)
12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

Declining

10/30-11/3 – International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)
11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)
11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt
11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)
11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)
11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)
11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)
11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)
11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)
11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)
12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

On October 31, the Wildland Fire National Preparedness Level (PL) was lowered to PL 1, the lowest level possible. Large wildland fire and initial attack activity has decreased significantly nationally, and there is very little mobilization of resources from the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). The change to PL 1 also signifies that the likelihood of significant wildland fires is expected to remain minimal. As of this morning, there are still over 1,300 personnel fighting fires in the U.S., including 197 DOI personnel.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative

The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction. In a [letter](#) today, Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, told the EITI board chair in Norway that "U.S. laws prevent us from meeting specific provisions of the EITI standard." "While the U.S. government remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector... it is clear that domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the U.S. legal framework," Gould wrote in the letter, released by the advocacy group Publish What You Pay. Jana Morgan, director of PWYP's U.S. chapter, said in a statement that the U.S.' participation in the EITI was "stymied" because most companies declined to disclose their tax payments. "To be clear, U.S. law does not prevent oil, gas or mining companies from voluntarily disclosing their taxes — common practice in the dozens of EITI implementing countries," Morgan said in a statement. The move comes on top of Republicans' use of the Congressional Review Act earlier this year to [nullify](#) a Securities and Exchange Commission regulation developed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that would have required public disclosure of payments made by fossil fuel extractors to foreign governments. **WHAT'S NEXT:** The U.S. will remain a "supporting country" to the initiative, Gould said. *To view online:* <https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/trump-administration-pulls-out-of-resource-transparency-initiative-095114>

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

[Politico](#) (11/1, Lippman) interviewed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for a piece on his birthday. When asked about President Trump, Zinke responded, "The President is delivering on his campaign promises and is draining the swamp every day. Unemployment is down; the stock market is up. It's not easy or even popular, at times, draining the swamp, but the work needs to be done to make America great again. I have never worked for someone with so much energy and instincts than President Trump, and I am honored to be part of his team." Zinke also highlighted "a return to multiple use of our public lands." He said, "At Interior we are working to better manage our land at the ecosystem level to ensure the long-term health of the land. We are also expanding Americans' access to public lands. It's a mission worth fighting for."

Championing 'American Energy Dominance,' Feds To Scrap Master Plans For Leasing Public Lands.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, Maffly) reports that Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke has released a new 44-page report, which is "aimed at lifting barriers to development on public lands." Commenting on President Trump's leadership, Zinke said that the "Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations" while being environmentally responsible. The programs that may be removed or altered include "the Bureau of Land Management's master leasing process; its methane flaring and venting rule; hydraulic fracturing regulations; and its coal leasing program."

As Wyoming Prepares Change To Coal Bonding Rules, Feds Announce Walk Back.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/1, Richards) reports that "proposed Wyoming rules for coal mining may fill a void in the Cowboy State created by the Trump administration's push for deregulation within the industry." The Trump Administration is "considering whether to halt proposed Obama-era rules that discourage self-bonding." Meanwhile, the state's Department of Environmental Quality is "nearly finished with a preliminary update to state regulations, including self-bonding, said Keith Guille, spokesman for the department."

Awaiting Trump's Coal Comeback, Miners Reject Retraining.

Reuters (11/1, Volcovici) reports “despite broad consensus” about the “bleak future” of coal, “a years-long effort to diversify the economy of this hard-hit region away from mining is stumbling, with Obama-era jobs retraining classes undersubscribed and future programs at risk under President Donald Trump’s proposed 2018 budget.” The current president “has promised to revive coal by rolling back environmental regulations and moved to repeal Obama-era curbs on carbon emissions from power plants.” Reuters adds “what many experts call false hopes for a coal resurgence have mired economic development efforts here in a catch-22: Coal miners are resisting retraining without ready jobs from new industries, but new companies are unlikely to move here without a trained workforce. The stalled diversification push leaves some of the nation’s poorest areas with no clear path to prosperity.”

Senate Energy Gears Up For Alaska Drilling Fight.

Roll Call (11/1, Dillon) reports that at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, Republicans in favor of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration are expected to argue “improvements in drilling technology over the past decade will minimize potential damage to the environment.” The assertion may “rile committee Democrats” who plan to raise the specter of oil spills as a reason not to allow drilling in the reserve. Erik Milito, director with the American Petroleum Institute, said that “the natural gas and oil industry’s long record of production on the Alaska North Slope demonstrates that resources at ANWR could be developed in an environmentally responsible way,” concluding, “opening it would be an important step toward increasing American competitiveness and securing our nation’s energy future.”

Group Cries Foul Over Cell Service Expansion In National Parks.

Courthouse News (11/1, Reese) reports that cellphone towers are propagating “around the country in the last frontier of cell coverage: national parks and national forests.” A recently filed complaint filed with the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General “claims national parks across the United States are allowing cell coverage to spread into wild backcountry areas without public involvement, without getting paid and sometimes without knowing who owns the towers.” Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility “said in its Oct. 30 letter to Mary Kendall, deputy inspector general for the U.S. Department of Interior, that Yosemite National Park is the latest national park in America to allow cellphone towers to be built without adequate government or public oversight.”

Want To Go To Arches? You May Soon Need A Reservation, Under A New Park Service Plan.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/1, Maffly) reports that Arches National Park on Wednesday “unveiled a proposal for a reservation system that it hopes will reduce the crush of visitors, but may irritate some who are unable to plan ahead.” The plan would “limit park entries during certain three-hour windows between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. over the March-through-October high season.” According to the article, “park officials emphasized the point of the plan is not to limit the number of visitors, but to spread visitation out during the course of the day and throughout the year.”

How To Help National Parks Without Soaking American Families.

In an op-ed for the Washington Examiner (11/2, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, director of the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, writes that “if the National Park Service moves ahead with its latest proposal to drastically increase entrance fees, countless American families will be locked out of the natural beauty and grandeur of our national parks.” Anderson argues that “our national parks should be within reach of every citizen.” He asserts that “we cannot allow these natural wonders to become

another economic divide, where hardworking Americans are once again left on the outside looking in while only the wealthy get to experience our national treasures.”

When Horses Go Wild.

In an op-ed for the Washington Times (11/1, O'Toole), Sharon O'Toole, a rancher near Savery, Wyoming, writes that the wild horse issue, “which dominates the Western United States as more than 70,000 excess horses damage the landscape, will be front and center in Washington when the Senate Appropriations Committee debates the Interior appropriations bill.” O'Toole urges Congress to “support the sale of wild horses without restriction.” She argues that “the current situation, in which taxpayers support at least 70,000 excess horses, leaves us with no end in sight — not in numbers, not in funding, not in ecological damage.”

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Wednesday, November 01:

REG0007567 FWS 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations -- This final rule on 2017-2018 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing regulations will allow the Service to increase access in response to Secretary's Orders 3347 and 3356. This rulemaking will provide the annual update to the existing regulations in 50 CFR Part 32. Final Rule 11/01/2017

REG0007447 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2232 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007448 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2235 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007449 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2233 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007450 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: New York State Museum, Albany, NY N2234 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the New York State Museum, Albany, NY, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007451 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX N2858 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, that meet the definition of sacred objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/01/2017

REG0007573 OSM Effectuating Congressional Nullification of the Stream Protection Rule under the Congressional Review Act -- Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress passed and the President signed a resolution of disapproval of the OSMRE's Stream Protection Rule (SPR), which took effect on January 19, 2017. By operation of the CRA, the SPR must be treated as if it had never taken effect. This document instructs the Office of the Federal Register to remove the voided regulatory text and to reinstate the regulatory text that was in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the SPR.
Final Rule 11/01/2017