

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Alex Hinson](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Douglas Domenech](#); [Eli Nachmany](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [James Cason](#); [John Tanner](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Natalie Davis](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#)
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 12/6
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 5:02:27 PM
Attachments: [DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 12-06-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/06/17

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

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK:

- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - o Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - o Call with Senator King
 - o Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - o Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7 – Internal meetings
- 12/8 – Meeting with Governor Martinez

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Meeting with Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/1)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **December 6:** Secretary Zinke is attending the Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Speaker Paul Ryan's Holiday Reception

Interior Social Media Updates

- **December 5: Department-level Blog Post:** DOI will publish a blog post celebrating the 70th birthday of Everglades National Park.

National Park Service

- **December 3 to 9:** WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Pacific Historic Parks, and other close park partners, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Oahu by the Empire of Japan. In addition to the main ceremony on the morning of December 7, other highlights of the week include ceremonies at the USS Oklahoma and USS Utah memorials, as well as the interment of MM1c Estelle Birdsell, who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona and who will now join his brother, Rayon Birdsell, who died in the attack 76 years ago, within the USS Arizona. Complete details are available at <http://pearlharborevents.com>.
- **December 6:** DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron, members of the Western Governors' Association and the states of Idaho and Nevada will visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss the parks aquatic invasive species program.
- **December TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **December 7: Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

Bureau of Land Management

- **December 6: National BLM Release:** BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts totaling 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. There have been 12 previous NPR-A lease sales since 1999, but this one will be the first NPR-A lease to take place using livestream video. In addition, this is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Bidding is expected to be moderate.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 28 parcels totaling 27,284 acres in Garfield and Mesa counties. The sale is not expected to be controversial due to the lack of a significant number of protests received and lack of media coverage.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties. The sale is

expected to be controversial and is likely to be protested by environmental groups concerned with the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality. The bidding is expected to be robust.

- **December 7:** BLM-CO Colorado River Valley Field Office will provide an update on its inspection and enforcement program at the quarterly Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum in Rifle, CO. The BLM will then provide the update at the monthly Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, also in Rifle. Updates will focus on the status of current projects, permitting and leasing.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **December 5 and 7:** Rescheduled Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR for Sites Reservoir Project (CA): The Sites Project Authority and Reclamation cancelled the September 26 and September 28 public meetings and rescheduled them for December 5 (in Sacramento) and December 7 (in Maxwell). The comment period is also extended to January 15, 2018.
- **December 7:** On December 7 in Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration will hold a public meeting on the Columbia River System Operations EIS to discuss the results of public scoping and provide a status update on progress made on the EIS and to further educate attendees on the NEPA process. A draft biological opinion is due in 2020, final environmental impact statement/record of decision in 2021. The two Reclamation facilities included in this process are Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam (both include hydropower facilities).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **December TBD:** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **December TBD:** ONRR issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$19,736 to Mid-Con Energy Operating, LLC, (Mid-Con) (formerly RDT Properties, Inc) on November 17, 2017. ONRR investigated Mid-Con's failure to submit production reports (form ONRR-4054) and found 68 violations on multiple Indian leases for the production months of September 2011 through January 2013.
- **December TBD:** ONRR anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$840 to Eight Round Inc., (Eight Round) the week of November 5, 2017. ONRR investigated Eight Round's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 12 violations on one Indian agreement for production months of April, 2012 through September, 2013.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/4)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a

legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING FISH RECOVERY

PROGRAMS: The House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water Power and Oceans will hold a legislative hearing on HR.4465 which has impacts on Bureau of Reclamation and Fish Wildlife Service. DOI will not be testifying but will provide a statement for the record.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

EXPECTED HEARING: The Senate Energy Committee is expected to hold a hearing on December 12 regarding permitting reform. Details regarding the specifics the committee plans to emphasize are still being put together; however, James Cason (Associate Dep. Sec.) is tentatively scheduled to testify.

Timing: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS: Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing will be held on 12/5/17.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

4 PAS confirmed as of 11/16

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

Overall:

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

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)

3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

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

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)

2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

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

12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

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

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

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

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

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Thomas Fire in southern California continues to burn out of control due to strong and erratic winds. The fire has burned approximately 55,000 (+24,000) acres and is zero-percent (no change) contained. Due to the complexity and scope of this incident, accurate reporting is a challenge for responders. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 1,776 (+1,276) personnel assigned. Evacuations have been ordered for 28,000 residents. There are 12,000 structures threatened by this fire and 150 (no change) structures have been destroyed. There are a few small parcels of BLM lands within the updated fire perimeter; however, the impact to these lands is unknown at this time. The Governor of California has declared a State of Emergency for Ventura County due to the Thomas Fire. While winds remain an issue today, forecasts indicate that Thursday will be an extremely dangerous day for fire activity in the area, as winds will reach 20 to 40 miles per hour, with gusts exceeding 65 miles per hour over higher terrain and in wind prone areas. Fuels in the area are very dry and will continue to support significant fire activity, with high rates of spread. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch through Friday.

Due to the close proximity to the office and employee homes in the area of the Thomas Fire, BOEM and BSEE initiated and completed employee accountability for the Pacific Regional Office located in Camarillo, CA (approximately 14 miles away). All DOI personnel are accounted and BOEM has identified six employees that evacuated the area, but do not require assistance at this time. Although the office remains open, unscheduled leave and telework has been afforded to personnel and administrative leave has been granted to employees in the evacuation zones or zones adjacent that could be impacted.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

After Bears Ears, Trump Administration Ponders More Changes To National Monuments.

In the wake of President Trump's proclamations reducing the size of the Bears Ears and GrandStaircase-Escalante national monuments, [USA Today](#) (12/5, Korte) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending he "scale back four more national monuments...and make modifications to at least four more, continuing an unprecedented blitz of presidential action to ease restriction on public lands." Zinke "is recommending that Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Gold Butte in Nevada," and "boundary changes to two marine national monuments: the Pacific Remote Islands and the Rose Atoll." Zinke also recommended modifications to Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, Northeast

Canyons and Seamounts in Massachusetts, and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Eilperin) reports that Zinke “said he was ‘fairly confident’ Trump would accept all of his recommendations, and he intends to brief him ‘multiple times’ in coming weeks to get his sign-off.”

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (12/6, Nash), [Reuters](#) (12/5, Volcovici), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Schneider), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Staff, Agencies), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, D'Angelo), [BuzzFeed](#) (12/5, Dalrymple), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (12/5, Gardner).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/5, Roth), [KPVI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5).

Zinke Defends Monument Reductions, Supports Badger-Two Medicine. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/5, Chaney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a call with reporters on Tuesday “repeated an earlier proposal to create a new, 130,000-acre monument in Montana protecting the Badger-Two Medicine region surrounded by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.” Zinke said, “I think there’s a really great opportunity for the Badger-Two Medicine as the number of crowds and visitors continue to break records in Glacier (National Park). Here’s a virtually untapped area and a chance to do it right. There’s the possibility of revenue from tourism and an untapped culture. I think it’s deserving of monument status.”

Also reporting are [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (12/5) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (12/5, Jochim).

Jessamine County Site At Camp Nelson Could Be Kentucky’s First National Monument. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (12/5, Kocher) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “formally recommended Tuesday that Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park should be one of three new national monuments in the country.” Zinke said in a statement, “Camp Nelson is one of the places where our nation was made stronger and history was made. As a key depot, training center and hospital, Camp Nelson recruited and trained thousands of African-American war heroes who helped restore the Union.” Rep. Andy Barr said in a statement that he “can think of no site more deserving of the distinction than the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park where thousands of African American slaves found freedom. ...I strongly encourage President Trump to follow through” on Zinke’s recommendation.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lane Report](#) (12/5).

Zinke Questions Legality, Offers Few Specifics About Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument’s Fate. The [Oregonian](#) (12/5, Theen) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “offered few additional details Tuesday about the administration’s plans for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon.”

Zinke said, “We have not set down in specifics on what an adjusted boundary would look like.” The article notes that “Zinke’s final recommendations included some of the same language from the September draft plan, saying the Oregon boundary should be revised to ‘address impacts on private lands’ and commercial timber harvest.”

Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/5), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, Perkowski), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (12/5, Arthur), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/5, Urness), [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (12/5, Burns), and [KOBI-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (12/5).

Zinke Recommends Shrinking Nevada Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending reducing the size of the Gold Butte National Monument. Zinke “said Tuesday he would focus changes on the site’s water districts.” He “declined to specify how much land he wants to remove from monument status in Nevada.”

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/5, Saunders, Brean) and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (12/5, O’Neal).

New Mexico National Monuments To Remain Intact. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that “the boundaries of New Mexico’s two national monuments that were under review will remain intact, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says modifications will be made to protect the long-standing culture of grazing and to ensure hunters and anglers don’t lose access.” Zinke on Tuesday said “his decision to keep Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and the Rio Grande Del Norte national monuments the same size followed discussions with the governor, the state’s congressional delegation, ranchers and conservationists.” He “said the administration was comfortable with the New Mexico monuments and wanted to ensure they could be actively managed in perpetuity.”

Also reporting are [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (12/5, Ortiz), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5).

Interior Secretary Wants To Maintain Katahdin Woods Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “reiterated his support for a ‘made in Maine’ solution that keeps intact the boundaries of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.” Zinke “recommended that timbering should be permitted on the property and that infrastructure upgrades and public access for ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting should be prioritized in a management plan.” Rep. Bruce Poliquin said Zinke’s recommendation “strikes the right balance.” He called Zinke’s recommendation “a smart compromise that will help ensure traditional uses of the land and sustainable forest management are safeguarded, along with the jobs they support in the area.”

Also reporting are the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (12/5, Miller), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/5, Sambides), the [Boston Globe](#) (12/5), and [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (12/5).

Newhouse Praises Interior Decision To Maintain Hanford Reach National Monument. [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (12/5) reports that Rep. Dan Newhouse in a statement praised the decision to not change the Hanford Reach National Monument. Newhouse said, “In June, I shared my concerns with Secretary Zinke and the administration that no modifications should be made to the Hanford Reach National Monument. I am pleased that after today’s report by the Interior Department, this national treasure will continue to be open to public access for future generations to enjoy.”

Fortune: Ryan Zinke Fires Back After Patagonia Says 'the President Stole Your Land'

**Alana Abramson
December 5, 2017**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fired back at Patagonia on Tuesday after the outdoor apparel company made a high-profile protest to President Donald Trump’s decision to shrink two national monuments.

Patagonia posted a message on its website Monday night under a blaring headline, “The President Stole Your Land.” The message was in a response to Trump drastically reducing the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah hours earlier. “This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history,” the company said.

Zinke said on Fox and Friends Tuesday, “It’s interesting you know, these companies that make their products other places, on foreign shores.”

“There is not one square inch that leaves the federal estate but we do restore national forest to a National Forest, restore wilderness, and we open up our public land to the public, greater access, making sure hunting and fishing rights, grazing,” he added. “There are multigenerational ranching families that found their livelihood being threatened.”

“We need to make sure we’re actively managing our lands,” he said. “Public use is important, and our land is for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and not special interest groups.”

In a 2012 blog post, Patagonia explained that the company had 16 factories worldwide, including in the United States. The company said it manufactured some of its clothing overseas partially because of trade agreements like NAFTA, which Trump frequently railed against in the 2016 campaign for eliminating American jobs.

“We cannot make a claim to be a ‘Made in America’ company; we have always sourced at least half our products outside the U.S.,” the company wrote at the time. “It

is very difficult for clothing companies to find factories in the U.S. that meet our standards; the textile industry is much smaller; the work has shifted overseas.”

Some of members of the Trump Administration are associated with companies that produced work overseas, as well. A Washington Post report published in July found that First Daughter Ivanka Trump’s company exclusively manufactures products overseas. Trump, a senior White House advisor, stepped down from her company after her father became president, although the New York Times reported she transferred her assets to a trust and still has veto power over potential deals.

Navajo Nation Sues Trump Over Utah Monument Reduction.

[The Hill](#) (12/5, Cama) reports that “the Navajo Nation and four other American Indian tribes said Tuesday they had sued President Trump to undo his action reducing the Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah.” The lawsuit, “which the tribes had long promised, argues that Trump did not have the legal authority to remove more than 80 percent of the land protections that former President Barack Obama had established in 2016.” The tribes wrote in a statement, “Through the Antiquities Act, Congress delegated to the president the limited authority to designate national monuments and retained to itself the power to revoke or modify national monuments.” They continued, “The proclamation signed by President Trump today is so extreme that it revokes and replaces Bears Ears and thereby violates the Antiquities Act and seizes authority that the Constitution vests solely in Congress.”

Omaha Tribe Mismanaged \$13.9 Million In Federal Flood-assistance Grants, Audit Finds.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (12/5, Hammel) reports that “a recent audit slammed the Omaha Tribe for mismanaging \$13.9 million in federal flood-assistance grants, and for ‘contracting with itself’ to generate ‘artificial profits’ that covered its required matching funds.” The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General “said that the tribe’s accounting and record-keeping were so ‘unreliable and in such disarray’ that it should receive no further funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency until it can show that repair work was done, and done at a reasonable price.” The inspector general’s report added that “the tribe’s poor record-keeping has been a long-running problem that resulted in sanctions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 2011 to 2013.”

9th Circ. Gives Navajo Partial Win In Waters Rights Suit.

[Law360](#) (12/5, Lidgett) reports that “a Ninth Circuit panel on Monday gave the Navajo Nation a partial win in its water rights suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, ruling that a district court’s dismissal of its breach of trust claim was not warranted, and sent the claim back to the lower court to consider it on its merits.”

Oil Companies Clamping Down On Methane Leaks.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/5, Osborne) reports the American Petroleum Institute announced a voluntary program to reduce methane emissions “even as the Trump

administration takes steps to roll back existing environmental regulations targeting those emissions.” Starting next year 26 companies will implement standards that include “employing advanced leak detection technology and replacing older equipment prone to leaks across their U.S. operations.” However, “the announcement did little to assuage criticism of the oil and gas industry for its longstanding fights against climate change regulation, which included fighting the Obama administration’s methane efforts.”

House Moderates Opposes Allowing Arctic Oil Drilling In Tax Bill.

[McClatchy](#) (12/5, Daugherty) reports that some moderate House of Representative Republicans sent “a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging the upper chamber to pass a tax bill without oil-drilling concessions in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.” The letter stated that “for decades, Congress has voted to prohibit oil and gas development in the Refuge, with the overwhelming support of the American public.” The letter added, “support for this protection remains strong today. After years of debate, the Arctic Refuge stands as a symbol of our nation’s strong and enduring natural legacy.” The letter was not successful as the plan was passed by the Senate.

DOI PRESS RELEASE:

Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released [the final report](#) outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

- **Keep federal lands federal** - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by whichever agency managed the land before designation
- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we

agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the

Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

Interior Jumps into the Top Ten Best Places to Work

WASHINGTON – Last night, the 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.

"Interior should be hands-down the best place to work in the federal government, and we're going to get there," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "What kid growing up doesn't look at a Park Ranger, a law enforcement officer, or a paleontologist and say, 'I want to do that when I grow up!'" During my confirmation hearing I pledged to make Interior the best place to work, and I'm happy to see we are already making progress. In the years to come we will reorganize the force to push more resources to the front lines and clean up the culture of harassment and discrimination. Moving from 11th to 9th is a nice step, but I won't be satisfied until we're No. 1."

Federal employee engagement government-wide rose 2.1 points from 2016 for an overall score of 61.5 out of 100—the largest increase in the history of the rankings. These results build on a 2.5-point improvement the previous two years, demonstrating a concerted effort by agencies across government to improve how employees view their leaders and their jobs.

According to bestplacestowork.org, here are a few data points about the Department of the Interior this year:

- The Department of the Interior's 2017 employee engagement score is 63.9 out of 100, placing DOI at 9 out of 18 large agencies.
- The Department of the Interior's employee engagement score improved by 2.9 points since last year. The government-wide engagement score is 61.5, up 2.1 points from last year. DOI's 2017 score is 2.4 points higher than the government-wide score.
- Many issues – from pay to teamwork to strategic management – influence how employees view their workplaces and rate their engagement. Effective leadership was once again the key driver of employee engagement across government in 2017. Employees gave leadership at your agency a score of 55.1 out of 100.
- One important question to pay attention to as you review your data is whether your employees think the survey results will be used to make the organization better. At DOI, 34.4 percent of employees believe the results will be used to make improvements.

The website bestplacestowork.org is a subsidiary of the Partnership for Public Service. The group website states that, "The annual Best Places to Work in the

Federal Government rankings are produced by the nonprofit, nonpartisan [Partnership for Public Service](#). The 2016 rankings include the views of more than 421,000 civil servants from 379 federal organizations on a wide range of workplace topics. Since the first rankings were released in 2003, they have provided a mechanism to hold agency leaders accountable for the health of their organizations; serve as an early warning sign for agencies in trouble; and offer a road-map for improvement."

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007616 BIA Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Oregon -- This Notice announces approval of an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Tribal-State Compact for Regulation of Class III Gaming between the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the State of Oregon governing Class III gaming. The amended compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice in the Federal Register. Notice 12/05/2017

REG0007597 ONRR Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information under the Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding regulations. The ONRR is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 12/05/2017

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 12/06/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK:

- 12/6 – DC – Participate in Cabinet Meeting
 - Tele Town Hall with SES employees
 - Call with Senator King
 - Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
 - Speaker Paul Ryan Holiday Reception
- 12/7 – Internal meetings
- 12/8 – Meeting with Governor Martinez

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Meeting with Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

WH COMMS REPORT

N/A

AGENCY MEDIA (submitted 12/1)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews:

- **December 6:** Secretary Zinke is attending the Congressional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Speaker Paul Ryan's Holiday Reception

Interior Social Media Updates

- **December 5: Department-level Blog Post:** DOI will publish a blog post celebrating the 70th birthday of Everglades National Park.

National Park Service

- **December 3 to 9:** WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, Pacific Historic Parks, and other close park partners, will commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Oahu by the Empire of Japan. In addition to the main ceremony on the morning of December 7, other highlights of the week include ceremonies at the USS Oklahoma and USS Utah memorials, as well as the interment of MM1c Estelle Birdsell, who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona and who will now join his brother, Rayon Birdsell, who died in the attack 76 years ago, within the USS Arizona. Complete details are available at <http://pearlharborevents.com>.
- **December 6:** DOI Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron, members of the Western Governors' Association and the states of Idaho and Nevada will visit Lake Mead National Recreation Area to discuss the parks aquatic invasive species program.
- **December TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison

National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **December 7: Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

Bureau of Land Management

- **December 6: National BLM Release:** BLM-AK will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 900 tracts totaling 10.3 million acres in the NPR-A. There have been 12 previous NPR-A lease sales since 1999, but this one will be the first NPR-A lease to take place using livestream video. In addition, this is the first time that all available tracts will be offered for lease, which is a potential source of controversy. Bidding is expected to be moderate.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 28 parcels totaling 27,284 acres in Garfield and Mesa counties. The sale is not expected to be controversial due to the lack of a significant number of protests received and lack of media coverage.
- **December 7: Local BLM Release:** BLM-NM will hold an oil and gas lease sale for 7 parcels totaling 2,104 acres in Eddy and Lea Counties. The sale is expected to be controversial and is likely to be protested by environmental groups concerned with the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air and water quality. The bidding is expected to be robust.
- **December 7:** BLM-CO Colorado River Valley Field Office will provide an update on its inspection and enforcement program at the quarterly Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum in Rifle, CO. The BLM will then provide the update at the monthly Garfield County Energy Advisory Board, also in Rifle. Updates will focus on the status of current projects, permitting and leasing.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **December 5 and 7:** Rescheduled Public Meetings on Draft EIS/EIR for Sites Reservoir Project (CA): The Sites Project Authority and Reclamation cancelled the September 26 and September 28 public meetings and rescheduled them for December 5 (in Sacramento) and December 7 (in Maxwell). The comment period is also extended to January 15, 2018.
- **December 7:** On December 7 in Portland, Oregon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration will hold a public meeting on the Columbia River System Operations EIS to discuss the results of public scoping and provide a status update on progress made on the EIS and to further educate attendees on the NEPA process. A draft biological opinion is due in 2020, final environmental impact statement/record of decision in 2021. The two Reclamation facilities included in this process are Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam (both include hydropower facilities).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **December TBD:** NOA FSEIS for 2018 Gulf Region-wide Sales 250 and 251 NTS

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

- **December TBD:** ONRR issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$19,736 to Mid-Con Energy Operating, LLC, (Mid-Con) (formerly RDT Properties, Inc) on November 17, 2017. ONRR investigated Mid-Con's failure to submit production reports (form ONRR-4054) and found 68 violations on multiple Indian leases for the production months of September 2011 through January 2013.

- **December TBD:** ONRR anticipates issuing a civil penalty of about \$840 to Eight Round Inc., (Eight Round) the week of November 5, 2017. ONRR investigated Eight Round's failure to submit production reports (Forms ONRR-4054) and found 12 violations on one Indian agreement for production months of April, 2012 through September, 2013.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (updated 12/4)

UPCOMING SCIA HEARING: The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING REGARDING FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS: The House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water Power and Oceans will hold a legislative hearing on HR.4465 which has impacts on Bureau of Reclamation and Fish Wildlife Service. DOI will not be testifying but will provide a statement for the record.

Timing: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

EXPECTED HEARING: The Senate Energy Committee is expected to hold a hearing on December 12 regarding permitting reform. Details regarding the specifics the committee plans to emphasize are still being put together; however, James Cason (Associate Dep. Sec.) is tentatively scheduled to testify.

Timing: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

DOI NOMINEES IN PROGRESS: Susan Combs (A/S PMB) passed out of committee August 3, 2017 and still awaits a vote. Joe Balash (Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals) and Ryan Nelson (Solicitor) appeared before the SENR committee on September 7, 2017. Both passed and now await full Senate approval. DOI OCL is working with OGE and the White House to get final approval for Asst. Sec. Indian Affairs nominee, Tara Sweeney before submitting her paperwork to the Senate. The White House nominated Steve Gardner for OSM. His Senate questionnaire is currently under review. Tim Petty's (Asst. Secretary, Water & Science Nominee) was nominated November 14, 2017 and his nomination hearing will be held on 12/5/17.

Contact: John Tanner, Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

4 PAS confirmed as of 11/16

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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

Overall:

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

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)
2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)
Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

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

Declining

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Thomas Fire in southern California continues to burn out of control due to strong and erratic winds. The fire has burned approximately 55,000 (+24,000) acres and is zero-percent (no change) contained. Due to the complexity and scope of this incident, accurate reporting is a challenge for responders. The fire is being managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 1,776 (+1,276) personnel assigned. Evacuations have been ordered for 28,000 residents. There are 12,000 structures threatened by this fire and 150 (no change) structures have been destroyed. There are a few small parcels of BLM lands within the updated fire perimeter; however, the impact to these lands is unknown at this time. The Governor of California has declared a State of Emergency for Ventura County due to the Thomas Fire. While winds remain an issue today, forecasts indicate that Thursday will be an extremely dangerous day for fire activity in the area, as winds will reach 20 to 40 miles per hour, with gusts exceeding 65 miles per hour over higher terrain and in wind prone areas. Fuels in the area are very dry and will continue to support significant fire activity, with high rates of spread. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag

Warning and High Wind Watch through Friday.

Due to the close proximity to the office and employee homes in the area of the Thomas Fire, BOEM and BSEE initiated and completed employee accountability for the Pacific Regional Office located in Camarillo, CA (approximately 14 miles away). All DOI personnel are accounted and BOEM has identified six employees that evacuated the area, but do not require assistance at this time. Although the office remains open, unscheduled leave and telework has been afforded to personnel and administrative leave has been granted to employees in the evacuation zones or zones adjacent that could be impacted.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

After Bears Ears, Trump Administration Ponders More Changes To National Monuments.

In the wake of President Trump's proclamations reducing the size of the Bears Ears and GrandStaircase-Escalante national monuments, [USA Today](#) (12/5, Korte) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending he "scale back four more national monuments...and make modifications to at least four more, continuing an unprecedented blitz of presidential action to ease restriction on public lands." Zinke "is recommending that Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Gold Butte in Nevada," and "boundary changes to two marine national monuments: the Pacific Remote Islands and the Rose Atoll." Zinke also recommended modifications to Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts in Massachusetts, and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Eilperin) reports that Zinke "said he was 'fairly confident' Trump would accept all of his recommendations, and he intends to brief him 'multiple times' in coming weeks to get his sign-off."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (12/6, Nash), [Reuters](#) (12/5, Volcovici), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Schneider), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Staff, Agencies), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, D'Angelo), [BuzzFeed](#) (12/5, Dalrymple), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (12/5, Gardner).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/5, Roth), [KPVI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5).

Zinke Defends Monument Reductions, Supports Badger-Two Medicine. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/5, Chaney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a call with reporters on Tuesday "repeated an earlier proposal to create a new, 130,000-acre monument in Montana protecting the Badger-Two Medicine region surrounded by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex." Zinke said, "I think there's a really great opportunity for the Badger-Two Medicine as the number of crowds and visitors continue to break records in Glacier (National Park). Here's a virtually untapped area and a chance to do it right. There's the possibility of revenue from tourism and an untapped culture. I think it's deserving of monument status."

Also reporting are [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (12/5) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (12/5, Jochim).

Jessamine County Site At Camp Nelson Could Be Kentucky's First National Monument. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (12/5, Kocher) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "formally recommended Tuesday that Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park should be one of three new national monuments in the country." Zinke said in a statement, "Camp Nelson is one of the places where our nation was made stronger and history was made. As a key depot, training center and hospital, Camp Nelson recruited and trained thousands of African-American war heroes who helped restore the Union." Rep. Andy Barr said in a statement that he "can think of no site more deserving of the distinction than the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park where thousands of African American

slaves found freedom. ...I strongly encourage President Trump to follow through” on Zinke’s recommendation.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lane Report](#) (12/5).

Zinke Questions Legality, Offers Few Specifics About Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument’s Fate. The [Oregonian](#) (12/5, Theen) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “offered few additional details Tuesday about the administration’s plans for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon.” Zinke said, “We have not set down in specifics on what an adjusted boundary would look like.” The article notes that “Zinke’s final recommendations included some of the same language from the September draft plan, saying the Oregon boundary should be revised to ‘address impacts on private lands’ and commercial timber harvest.”

Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/5), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, Perkowski), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (12/5, Arthur), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/5, Urness), [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (12/5, Burns), and [KOBI-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (12/5).

Zinke Recommends Shrinking Nevada Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending reducing the size of the Gold Butte National Monument. Zinke “said Tuesday he would focus changes on the site’s water districts.” He “declined to specify how much land he wants to remove from monument status in Nevada.”

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/5, Saunders, Brean) and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (12/5, O’Neal).

New Mexico National Monuments To Remain Intact. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that “the boundaries of New Mexico’s two national monuments that were under review will remain intact, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says modifications will be made to protect the long-standing culture of grazing and to ensure hunters and anglers don’t lose access.” Zinke on Tuesday said “his decision to keep Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and the Rio Grande Del Norte national monuments the same size followed discussions with the governor, the state’s congressional delegation, ranchers and conservationists.” He “said the administration was comfortable with the New Mexico monuments and wanted to ensure they could be actively managed in perpetuity.”

Also reporting are [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (12/5, Ortiz), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5).

Interior Secretary Wants To Maintain Katahdin Woods Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “reiterated his support for a ‘made in Maine’ solution that keeps intact the boundaries of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.” Zinke “recommended that timbering should be permitted on the property and that infrastructure upgrades and public access for ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting should be prioritized in a management plan.” Rep. Bruce Poliquin said Zinke’s recommendation “strikes the right balance.” He called Zinke’s recommendation “a smart compromise that will help ensure traditional uses of the land and sustainable forest management are safeguarded, along with the jobs they support in the area.”

Also reporting are the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (12/5, Miller), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/5, Sambides), the [Boston Globe](#) (12/5), and [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (12/5).

Newhouse Praises Interior Decision To Maintain Hanford Reach National Monument. [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (12/5) reports that Rep. Dan Newhouse in a statement praised the decision to not change the Hanford Reach National Monument. Newhouse said, “In June, I shared my concerns with Secretary Zinke and the administration that no modifications should be made to the Hanford Reach National Monument. I am pleased that after today’s report by the Interior Department, this national treasure will continue to be open to public access for future generations to enjoy.”

[Fortune: Ryan Zinke Fires Back After Patagonia Says 'the President Stole Your Land'](#)

Alana Abramson
December 5, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke fired back at Patagonia on Tuesday after the outdoor apparel company made a high-profile protest to President Donald Trump's decision to shrink two national monuments.

Patagonia posted a message on its website Monday night under a blaring headline, "The President Stole Your Land." The message was in a response to Trump drastically reducing the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah hours earlier. "This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history," the company said.

Zinke said on Fox and Friends Tuesday, "It's interesting you know, these companies that make their products other places, on foreign shores."

"There is not one square inch that leaves the federal estate but we do restore national forest to a National Forest, restore wilderness, and we open up our public land to the public, greater access, making sure hunting and fishing rights, grazing," he added. "There are multigenerational ranching families that found their livelihood being threatened."

"We need to make sure we're actively managing our lands," he said. "Public use is important, and our land is for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and not special interest groups."

In a 2012 blog post, Patagonia explained that the company had 16 factories worldwide, including in the United States. The company said it manufactured some of its clothing overseas partially because of trade agreements like NAFTA, which Trump frequently railed against in the 2016 campaign for eliminating American jobs.

"We cannot make a claim to be a 'Made in America' company; we have always sourced at least half our products outside the U.S.," the company wrote at the time. "It is very difficult for clothing companies to find factories in the U.S. that meet our standards; the textile industry is much smaller; the work has shifted overseas."

Some of members of the Trump Administration are associated with companies that produced work overseas, as well. A Washington Post report published in July found that First Daughter Ivanka Trump's company exclusively manufactures products overseas. Trump, a senior White House advisor, stepped down from her company after her father became president, although the New York Times reported she transferred her assets to a trust and still has veto power over potential deals.

Navajo Nation Sues Trump Over Utah Monument Reduction.

[The Hill](#) (12/5, Cama) reports that "the Navajo Nation and four other American Indian tribes said Tuesday they had sued President Trump to undo his action reducing the Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah." The lawsuit, "which the tribes had long promised, argues that Trump did not have the legal authority to remove more than 80 percent of the land protections that former President Barack Obama had established in 2016." The tribes wrote in a statement, "Through the Antiquities Act, Congress delegated to the president the limited authority to designate national monuments and retained to itself the power to revoke or modify national monuments." They continued, "The proclamation signed by President Trump today is so extreme that it revokes and replaces Bears Ears and thereby violates the Antiquities Act and seizes authority that the Constitution vests solely in Congress."

Omaha Tribe Mismanaged \$13.9 Million In Federal Flood-assistance Grants, Audit Finds.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (12/5, Hammel) reports that “a recent audit slammed the Omaha Tribe for mismanaging \$13.9 million in federal flood-assistance grants, and for ‘contracting with itself’ to generate ‘artificial profits’ that covered its required matching funds.” The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General “said that the tribe’s accounting and record-keeping were so ‘unreliable and in such disarray’ that it should receive no further funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency until it can show that repair work was done, and done at a reasonable price.” The inspector general’s report added that “the tribe’s poor record-keeping has been a long-running problem that resulted in sanctions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 2011 to 2013.”

9th Circ. Gives Navajo Partial Win In Waters Rights Suit.

[Law360](#) (12/5, Lidgett) reports that “a Ninth Circuit panel on Monday gave the Navajo Nation a partial win in its water rights suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, ruling that a district court’s dismissal of its breach of trust claim was not warranted, and sent the claim back to the lower court to consider it on its merits.”

Oil Companies Clamping Down On Methane Leaks.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/5, Osborne) reports the American Petroleum Institute announced a voluntary program to reduce methane emissions “even as the Trump administration takes steps to roll back existing environmental regulations targeting those emissions.” Starting next year 26 companies will implement standards that include “employing advanced leak detection technology and replacing older equipment prone to leaks across their U.S. operations.” However, “the announcement did little to assuage criticism of the oil and gas industry for its longstanding fights against climate change regulation, which included fighting the Obama administration’s methane efforts.”

House Moderates Opposes Allowing Arctic Oil Drilling In Tax Bill.

[McClatchy](#) (12/5, Daugherty) reports that some moderate House of Representative Republicans sent “a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging the upper chamber to pass a tax bill without oil-drilling concessions in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.” The letter stated that “for decades, Congress has voted to prohibit oil and gas development in the Refuge, with the overwhelming support of the American public.” The letter added, “support for this protection remains strong today. After years of debate, the Arctic Refuge stands as a symbol of our nation’s strong and enduring natural legacy.” The letter was not successful as the plan was passed by the Senate.

DOI PRESS RELEASE:

Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released [the final report](#) outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

- **Keep federal lands federal** - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by whichever agency managed the land before designation

- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The

Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

Interior Jumps into the Top Ten Best Places to Work

WASHINGTON – Last night, the 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.

"Interior should be hands-down the best place to work in the federal government, and we're going to get there," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "What kid growing up doesn't look at a Park Ranger, a law enforcement officer, or a paleontologist and say, 'I want to do that when I grow up!?' During my confirmation hearing I pledged to make Interior the best place to work, and I'm happy to see we are already making progress. In the years to come we will reorganize the force to push more resources to the front lines and clean up the culture of harassment and discrimination. Moving from 11th to 9th is a nice step, but I won't be satisfied until we're No. 1."

Federal employee engagement government-wide rose 2.1 points from 2016 for an overall score of 61.5 out of 100—the largest increase in the history of the rankings. These results build on a 2.5-point improvement the previous two years, demonstrating a concerted effort by agencies across government to improve how employees view their leaders and their jobs.

According to bestplacetowork.org, here are a few data points about the Department of the Interior this year:

- The Department of the Interior's 2017 employee engagement score is 63.9 out of 100, placing DOI at 9 out of 18 large agencies.
- The Department of the Interior's employee engagement score improved by 2.9 points since last year. The government-wide engagement score is 61.5, up 2.1 points from last year. DOI's 2017 score is 2.4 points higher than the government-wide score.
- Many issues – from pay to teamwork to strategic management – influence how employees view their workplaces and rate their engagement. Effective leadership was once again the key driver of employee engagement across government in 2017. Employees gave leadership at your agency a score of 55.1 out of 100.
- One important question to pay attention to as you review your data is whether your employees think the survey results will be used to make the organization better. At DOI, 34.4 percent of employees believe the results will be used to make improvements.

The website bestplacetowork.org is a subsidiary of the Partnership for Public Service. The group website states that, "The annual Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings are produced by the nonprofit, nonpartisan [Partnership for Public Service](https://partnershipforpublicservice.org). The 2016 rankings include the views of more than 421,000 civil servants from 379 federal organizations on a wide range of workplace topics. Since the first rankings were released in 2003, they have provided a mechanism to hold agency leaders accountable for the health of their organizations; serve as an early warning sign for agencies in trouble; and offer a road-map for improvement."

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

REG0007616 BIA Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Oregon -- This Notice announces approval of an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Tribal-State Compact for Regulation of Class III Gaming between the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the State of Oregon governing Class III gaming. The amended compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice in the Federal Register. Notice 12/05/2017

REG0007597 ONRR Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information under the Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding regulations. The ONRR is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 12/05/2017