

# Conversation Contents

**Fwd: Weekly Update**

**Attachments:**

/183. Fwd: Weekly Update/1.1 WEEK AHEAD HEADS UP May 16 fq revised.docx

**"Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 23 2017 08:43:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Weekly Update  
**Attachments:** WEEK AHEAD HEADS UP May 16 fq revised.docx

Hey! It will take me a week or so to change our process to accommodate a Tuesday deadline rather than Wed, but here's the "week ahead" for the following Bureaus: BOEM, BSEE, AS-IA, OSM, ONRR, OST, OIA.

More asap.

Thanks and sorry for the delay!

L

**"Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 23 2017 09:14:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Weekly Update

And here's USGS. Note Montana:

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

- **Thursday, May 25:** Local News Release/Public Announcement: **Scientific Surveys Conducted on Leased Lands in Montana** by USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center scientists. Near roadsides and on public lands in Phillips and Valley counties
- **Tuesday, May 30:** Technical Announcement: **Groundwater Ages Indicate Decades May be Required to Fully Assess Effects of Unconventional Oil and Gas Production on 116 Drinking-Water Wells** in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas

- **Wednesday, May 31:** National News Release: **USGS Study determines there were 28 species of cyanobacterium present during 2016 Lake Okeechobee Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) event in Florida**
- **Thursday, June 1:** Technical Release: **New USGS Integrated Drought Science Plan Paves Path Forward for Drought Resilience**—a coordinated, multi-discipline science approach that brings the full USGS capacity to bear on this national crisis.

*Laura Keehner Rigas*  
*Communications Director*  
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**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue May 23 2017 09:30:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**CC:** Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
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3 more:

**National Park Service**

- **May 24 (Pending A/S Approval): NPS Local News Release: Nathan Souder Selected as New Superintendent of De Soto National Memorial**
- **TBD:** NPS through the Department, anticipates the announcement of the \$3,623,162 in available Battlefield Land Acquisition grant funding. Grants will be used to protect 999 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland. The NPS works with private landowners, battlefield friends groups, interested community groups, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, local, state, and tribal governments and Federal agencies for preservation projects and local acquisition of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield land.
- **TBD:** NPS plans to initiate public scoping to replace Grand Canyon National Park's trans-canyon pipeline. The trans-canyon pipeline serves the park's south rim supplying all water to facilities serving more than 5 million visitors and 2,500 residents annually. The cost to replace the pipeline is estimated at \$131.8 million dollars and construction is expected to begin in 2019. During the 30-day initial public scoping, the NPS will hold public meetings at the park's south rim and in

Flagstaff, Arizona, and will consult with the park's 11 associated tribes.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **May 23: FWS Local News Release:** FWS initiating a NEPA evaluation of potential revisions to the existing nonessential experimental population designation of red wolves in North Carolina. The notice announces FWS' intention to revise the experimental population rule and the initiation of a public scoping process to identify issues and concerns, potential impacts, and possible alternatives to the proposed action.
- **May 31 & June 1:** FWS and partners will participate in the first South-Central Monarch Symposium at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Hosted by Texan By Nature, a nonprofit organization founded by former First Lady Laura Bush, the symposium will highlight research and monitoring, land management practices, and private landowner initiatives that benefit the monarch butterfly.
- **May 26:** FWS expects to publish a notice announcing consideration of a draft Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA), draft Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), and draft environmental assessment for the Texas hornshell (proposed for listing) and other covered species (Rio Grande River cooter, gray redhorse, blue sucker and Pecos springsnail), and an enhancement of survival permit application under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) submitted by the Center of Excellence. The covered area would include portions of Eddy County, New Mexico, and Culberson County, Texas.
- **TBD:** In May, FWS along with southern Arizona's Pima and Pinal counties, and Arizona Game and Fish Department will begin to use federally endangered Gila topminnows to target mosquito larvae and reduce the threat of mosquito-borne diseases, such as the West Nile and Zika viruses. The counties will establish holding facilities from where Gila topminnows can be stocked. Joint outreach planned.
- **TBD:** In May, FWS plans to send to the FR a notice to reopen the comment period on proposed rules to list and designate critical habitat for the Guadalupe fescue, downlist the Tobusch fishhook cactus from endangered to threatened, downlist the Kuenzler hedgehog cactus from endangered to threatened, and delist gypsum wild-buckwheat. The statutory deadline for the Guadalupe fescue rules (April 21) has now passed. The package is with the Department for clearance. Stakeholder outreach is planned.
- **TBD:** FWS plans to send to the FR a final determination on the bureau's March 11, 2016, proposal to identify the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming as a distinct population segment (DPS) and revise the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife by removing grizzly bears within the GYE DPS due to recovery.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **Week of May 22:** BLM-UT Monticello Field Office intends to open a 30-day public comment period to review and provide comment on an EA analyzing commercial climbing opportunities in the Indian Creek Area, which lies within Bears Ears National Monument.
- **Week of May 22:** BLM-UT Price Field Office intends to issue a final decision on proposed construction of a water pipeline for the Deer Creek Mine in Emery County to convey mine drainage. Total disturbance is estimated to be fewer than seven acres on U.S. Forest Service lands and five acres on BLM-managed public lands.
- **TBD:** BLM plans to issue the Boardman to Hemingway Record of Decision. On February 28, BLM received the Biological Opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service. BLM-OR land use plan amendments are being handled concurrently and the decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and approval to issue a right-of-way grant. The ROD will be set up for ASLM approval and will be submitted in advance for review.

*Laura Keehner Rigas*  
*Communications Director*  
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**From:** "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue May 23 2017 10:17:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Rigas, Laura" <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**CC:** Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
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This stuff is gold. This will help me immensely.

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Downey Magallanes

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**WEEK AHEAD May 22 thru May 31 2017**  
Announcements/Releases/events for  
BOEM, BSEE, AS-IA, OSM, ONRR, OST, OIA

**BSEE-May 22 (Monday):** DOI News Release Secretary announcing new BSEE Director (his first day in office is May 23. BSEE planning round of media interviews on 24 and 25 with state and local GOM media. (If we wait until May 23 to announce, gets lost in Budget rollouts) BSEE's Eileen Angelico sending a comms plan with Talking Points for May 24 and May 25 media interviews for new BSEE secretary.

**LBBP-May 22 (Monday):** The Land Buy Back Program would like to issue its next release, announcing that \$\$ millions in buyback offers have been mailed to enrolled members of the Winnebago (Wisconsin) and Omaha (Nebraska) Tribes. (This is the latest in a series of releases when buy-back offers are made to tribal members) Note below May 23: House Oversight Hearing on LBBP.

**BOEM/BSEE/OSM/Indian Affairs-May 23 (Tuesday):** DOI and Bureaus issue News Releases on President's FY18 Budget

**BOEM-May 23-24: (Tuesday or Wednesday)** Note to Stakeholders on start of construction for four Dare County, NC, Marine Mineral Program projects -- Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills. (sand from OCS for coastal replenishment)

**LBBP: May 23: (Tuesday)** Oversight Hearing on the Status and Future of the Cobell Land Consolidation Program (Testimony by Act Dep Sec Jim Cason) <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401950>

**BOEM-May 25 or 26: (Thursday or Friday)** Press Release on GoMMAPPS, a partnership program to improve protected species assessments in the Gulf of Mexico.

**ONRR-May 25(Thursday):** Federal Register Notice to postpone EITI meetings for the rest of the year. (no news release; just FR filing)

**BOEM-May (31-June 1 during Secretary's Visit to Alaska):** Press Release on Eni US Exploration Plan for Beaufort Sea being deemed submitted. BOEM has received final info from ENI and is evaluating. Could be ready to announce during Secretary's visit to Alaska.

**BOEM- May 31-June 1 during Secretary's visit to Alaska)** Release announcing a Request for Information (RFI) on the new National OCS Oil and Gas Program. This is first step in developing a new plan to replace the 2017-2022 OCS Oil and gas Program developed by previous administration. RFI seeks public comment and information on what the new plan should consider, or change existing program, issues to consider, etc.

## **BSEE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

**May 23 (Tuesday)** *New BSEE Director interviewed by The Record newspaper in New Orleans*

**May 24 (Wednesday)** New BSEE Director media telephone interviews

## **BOEM SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

**May 22-25: AWEA WINDPOWER 2017** Conference & Exhibition: Anaheim, CA. The Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) will be exhibiting at the conference.

**May 23:** Bloomberg Government Event: Jim Bennett to speak during Bloomberg government event, “Invest in Innovation: Building the Economy of the Future.” Event is from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Bloomberg global headquarters in New York. The program will be staged before a live audience of 100 senior investors, including asset managers, institutional investors and private equity investors, executives from energy companies, and top government officials focused on clean energy and sustainable investing. It will be open to the media and will be on the record.

**June 2:** Office of Wildland Fire (OWF)—DOI and USDA at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise: 2017 Direction to Wildland Fire Leadership - Interior and Agriculture will improve the way that both agencies manage wildfires by ensuring that all of our firefighting assets are utilized in the most efficient way possible. Other options include the West Mims Fire as requested by FWS or here in DC. Other opportunities will be offered as they come up. The letter is currently in ExecSec in the last stage of the surnaming process before it goes up for initial review to the front office.

**June 2:** Wildfire suppression costs Forecast Report May 2017 - The Federal Land Assistance Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of P.L. 111-88) requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit an estimate of anticipated wildfire suppression costs for each fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July.

**June 27: (PILT)** Payments in Lieu of Taxes: Release of electronic payments to counties will be on June 27 to coincide with Secretary’s announcement at Western Governors’ Conference, where he will sign a PILT Notification Letter, as part of the event. Release goes out from DC at same time and is posted along with attachment that lists payments by state. Budget Shop handles media inquiries. Total varies between \$300 and \$400 million distributed to 1900 county and local governments to compensate them for loss of taxation and other revenues from federal lands in their jurisdictions.

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