

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/17/17

Attachments:

/203. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/17/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-17-17.docx

"Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 17 2017 12:50:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Nancy Guiden <nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Megan Bloomgren <megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/17/17
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-17-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/17/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

NOTE: David Bernhardt, the President's nominee for Deputy Secretary will have his confirmation hearing on Thursday.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will:

5/17: Meet with the Alaska Federation of Natives

5/17: Meet with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

5/17: Meet with Rep. Collins

THIS WEEK

5/18: Interview with GQ.

5/18: Call with Senator King

5/19: Call scheduled with Rep. Greg Walden, Rep. Culberson, Rep. Tom Cole.

5/22-5/24 DC

5/25 PM The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski and the Arctic Council.

5/26 CODEL: Norway

5/27 CODEL: Greenland, Alaska (National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska), Fairbanks

5/28 Denali

5/29 Denali, Anchorage

5/30 Anchorage (Internal meetings)

5/31 Anchorage (Alaska Oil & Gas Association Remarks)

6/1 Depart for Boise, ID

6/2 Boise, ID (NIFC with Sec. Perdue)

6/3 Depart for DC

Upcoming Media

No media planned today.

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

5/25 US Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

5/31 Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference remarks in Anchorage

6/6 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association Joint Committee Lunch (DC)

-

Regretted

5/19 Montana Logging Association Annual Meeting (Bozeman, MT)

5/19 Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement (Lawrence, KS)

5/19 Montana Marine Corps League Convention (Anaconda, MT)

5/19 Laffer Associates Conference (DC)

5/20 Zoar Maifest National Historic Landmark Designation (Zoar, OH)

5/20 Mineral County Community Support Group's Annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day (Superior, MT)

5/23 7th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Dinner (Boston, MA)

5/23 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Convention (Portland, OR)

5/24 Virginia Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference (Surrogate is V Devito)

5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)

5/28 Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run (DC)

5/29 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Memorial Day Event (DC)

6/3 Ducks Unlimited National Convention (San Antonio, TX)

6/4 Annual Native American Economic Development Conference (Las Vegas, NV)

6/4 Montana American Legion Boys State Session (Helena, MT)

6/5 Society of American Indian Government Employees Annual Training Program (Scottsdale, AZ)

6/12 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting (Branson, MO)

6/13 National Conference of American Indians (Mohegan Sun, CT)

6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)

6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)

Emergency Management

The National Interagency Fire Center has raised the Wildland Fire National Preparedness Level (PL) from PL1 to PL2. At PL2, significant wildland fire activity is increasing in a few geographic areas. Resources within most areas are adequate to manage the current situation, with light to moderate mobilization of resources occurring through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 152,231 (+84) acres. The fire is 23-percent (+5) contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 971 (+27) personnel, including 154 (+2) DOI personnel. There are 800

(no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date is November 1.

The Crown Mountain Fire, which began on May 14 within the Big Bend National Park in Texas, has burned 1,041 (no change) acres. The fire is 80-percent (+20) contained and managed by a Type-3 Incident Management Team with 162 (+6) personnel, including 36 (no change) DOI personnel. Juniper Canyon trail as well as the Juniper Canyon and Pine Canyon roads and associated primitive campsites remain closed. The Chisos Basin Campground will remain closed until Thursday. The containment date is May 22.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory has raised the Aviation Color Code and Volcano Alert Level of Bogoslof Volcano to Red and Warning, respectively, due to an explosive eruption that occurred at 2:32 a.m. EDT this morning. The eruption lasted approximately 73 minutes.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a National Terrorism Advisory Bulletin on Tuesday which will remain in effect until November 15, 2017. The Bulletin describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism, and is the lowest of the three types of Advisories below Elevated Alert and Imminent Alert.

-

Media of Interest

House Members Urge Secretary Zinke Not To Reopen Oceans To New Drilling.

The “Morning Energy” blog of Politico (5/16, Adragna) reported over “100 House members, led by Don Beyer, sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Monday urging him not to reopen the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to new oil and gas drilling leases.” The letter, which was also signed by three Republicans, said, “We do not believe that new oil and gas exploration or production activity in the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelf is compatible with the sustainable coastal economies on which so many of our constituents and communities depend.”

Secretary Zinke Asked To Respect Local Sage Grouse Input.

KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (5/16) reports that Sens. Ron Wyden and Michael F. Bennet “pressed” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Tuesday “to respect local input and years-long collaborative efforts on land management plans to prevent an Endangered Species Act listing for the greater sage grouse.” The senators “said such a listing would harm land users by creating unpredictability for ranchers, conservationists, sportsmen and industry.” In their letter to Zinke, they wrote, “Over the last decade, federal agencies, states, and a broad coalition of groups came together to establish science-based conservation plans that protect sage grouse and their habitat. These historic collaborative efforts – never before seen in the West – helped the sage grouse avoid a listing under the ESA and serve as a model for future successful collaborative conservation.” They also “asked Zinke to outline actions the Interior Department will take to ensure the federal sage grouse plans are implemented effectively and in a way that protects the sage grouse habitat.”

Reduction Of Grand Canyon Buffalo Population Supported.

In an editorial, the Arizona Republic (5/16) supports culling the buffalo herd at Grand Canyon National Park. The National Park Service has released "an environmental assessment with a preferred alternative that would maintain a herd at the North Rim, but reduce its size through hunting and relocation." The paper says "it would be a shame if the Park Service's preferred alternative for reducing bison overpopulation at North Rim of the Grand Canyon was stymied by sentiment instead of being informed by science."

USGS Finds More Untapped Oil In Spraberry Formation.

Houston Public Media (5/16, Bubenik) reports that a new report from the U.S. Geological Survey identifies 4.2 billion barrels of recoverable oil in the Spraberry Formation. The article notes that 10 years ago, the USGS "identified 530 million barrels of oil that drillers could get their hands on, if they wanted." Dr. Stephanie Gaswirth, the survey's task chief for the Permian Basin, said, "With horizontal drilling and fracking of these wells, industry can successfully extract more of the resource."

White House Communications Report

Inquiries

- A number of local outlets (REQUEST) Looking for the Department's statement regarding the temporary pause in FACA committees. (RESPONSE) – "The Secretary is committed to restoring trust in the Department's decision-making and that begins with institutionalizing state and local input and ongoing collaboration, particularly in communities surrounding public lands. The Department currently has more than 200 boards, committees, and other internal and external advisory functions that are authorized to solicit input and meet periodically. To maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the President's recent executive orders, the Department is currently reviewing the charter and charge of each Board/Advisory Committee. This review process necessitates the temporary postponement of advisory committee meetings. As the Department concludes its review in the weeks ahead, agencies will notice future meetings to ensure that the Department continues to get the benefit of the views of local communities in all decision-making on public land management."
- Washington Post & NY Times (REQUEST) – Information on the Department's rationale for and plan to replace the Methane flaring rule after the Senate failed to pass a CRA on it. Both are writing editorials. (RESPONSE) -- The rule was considered "significant" by OMB standards. While there are a number of qualifiers to deem a rule "significant", the price tag alone would make this rule a significant regulatory action - as it is required for any regulation costing more than \$100 million. Page 105 of BLM's Regulatory Impact Analysis on this rule estimates \$1.5 billion in total compliance costs over 10 years. (Cite: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=BLM-2016-0001-9127>) In addition, the Department received public comment from many States, localities, tribal interests, as well as major and independent companies and affiliated associations, citing that this regulation would have a detrimental impact on American energy development and energy-related jobs throughout our nation. You can access the 9,000+ public comment docket on the rule here: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=BLM-2016-0001>.
- EE News: (REQUEST) - The transition briefing book we received via FOIA notes on page 594 that the Division of General Law "requested client funding to hire six new experienced employment and labor law attorneys to fill two-year term GS-905 positions and client funding to hire one additional attorney with experience with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act and general information law." Did the division receive that funding? How if at all was the division impacted by the Trump administration's hiring freeze? (RESPONSE) unable to get to them before deadline (which was an hour) but let him know I'd keep looking and circle back.

Top Stories

- E&E Daily: Senators press Zinke for details on implementation plans
- EE News: Obama team divulged harassment cases, policy prospects
- Navajo-Hopi Observer: Nez joins Bears Ears inter-tribal coalition meeting with Secretary Zinke
- Las Vegas Sun: Battle over Bears Ears heats up as Trump rethinks its monument status
- The Hill: Zinke is promoting true conservation at Department of Interior

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Last week Secretary Zinke toured the Grand Staircase Escalante and the Bears Ears national monuments as part of President Trump's EO reviewing a number of large and controversial monuments. Dozens of media followed the trip. Very positive local coverage. A physical package of local clips will be sent.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is in D.C.
- Today – DOI sent the Police Week video (featuring VP Pence) to newsletter subscribers
- FRIDAY – The National Park Service will announce the price of the Senior Pass will increase to \$80. This is a Congressionally-mandated increase.
- NEXT WEEK – The NPS will announce the cost of the deferred maintenance backlog
-

Federal Register Listings

No items were cleared for the FR on Tuesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/17/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

NOTE: David Bernhardt, the President's nominee for Deputy Secretary will have his confirmation hearing on Thursday.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will:

5/17: Meet with the Alaska Federation of Natives

5/17: Meet with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

5/17: Meet with Rep. Collins

THIS WEEK

5/18: Interview with GQ.

5/18: Call with Senator King

5/19: Call scheduled with Rep. Greg Walden, Rep. Culberson, Rep. Tom Cole.

5/22-5/24 DC

5/25 PM The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski and the Arctic Council.

5/26 CODEL: Norway

5/27 CODEL: Greenland, Alaska (National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska), Fairbanks

5/28 Denali

5/29 Denali, Anchorage

5/30 Anchorage (Internal meetings)

5/31 Anchorage (Alaska Oil & Gas Association Remarks)

6/1 Depart for Boise, ID

6/2 Boise, ID (NIFC with Sec. Perdue)

6/3 Depart for DC

Upcoming Media

No media planned today.

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

5/25 US Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

5/31 Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference remarks in Anchorage

6/6 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association Joint Committee Lunch (DC)

Regretted

5/19 Montana Logging Association Annual Meeting (Bozeman, MT)

5/19 Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement (Lawrence, KS)

5/19 Montana Marine Corps League Convention (Anaconda, MT)

5/19 Laffer Associates Conference (DC)

5/20 Zoar Maifest National Historic Landmark Designation (Zoar, OH)

5/20 Mineral County Community Support Group's Annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day (Superior, MT)

5/23 7th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Dinner (Boston, MA)

5/23 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Convention (Portland, OR)

5/24 Virginia Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference (Surrogate is V Devito)
5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)
5/28 Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run (DC)
5/29 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Memorial Day Event (DC)
6/3 Ducks Unlimited National Convention (San Antonio, TX)
6/4 Annual Native American Economic Development Conference (Las Vegas, NV)
6/4 Montana American Legion Boys State Session (Helena, MT)
6/5 Society of American Indian Government Employees Annual Training Program (Scottsdale, AZ)
6/12 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting (Branson, MO)
6/13 National Conference of American Indians (Mohegan Sun, CT)
6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)
6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)

Emergency Management

The National Interagency Fire Center has raised the Wildland Fire National Preparedness Level (PL) from PL1 to PL2. At PL2, significant wildland fire activity is increasing in a few geographic areas. Resources within most areas are adequate to manage the current situation, with light to moderate mobilization of resources occurring through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC).

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 152,231 (+84) acres. The fire is 23-percent (+5) contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 971 (+27) personnel, including 154 (+2) DOI personnel. There are 800 (no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date is November 1.

The Crown Mountain Fire, which began on May 14 within the Big Bend National Park in Texas, has burned 1,041 (no change) acres. The fire is 80-percent (+20) contained and managed by a Type-3 Incident Management Team with 162 (+6) personnel, including 36 (no change) DOI personnel. Juniper Canyon trail as well as the Juniper Canyon and Pine Canyon roads and associated primitive campsites remain closed. The Chisos Basin Campground will remain closed until Thursday. The containment date is May 22.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory has raised the Aviation Color Code and Volcano Alert Level of Bogoslof Volcano to Red and Warning, respectively, due to an explosive eruption that occurred at 2:32 a.m. EDT this morning. The eruption lasted approximately 73 minutes.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a National Terrorism Advisory Bulletin on Tuesday which will remain in effect until November 15, 2017. The Bulletin describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism, and is the lowest of the three types of Advisories below Elevated Alert and Imminent Alert.

Media of Interest

House Members Urge Secretary Zinke Not To Reopen Oceans To New Drilling.

The "Morning Energy" blog of Politico (5/16, Adragna) reported over "100 House members, led by Don Beyer, sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Monday urging him not to reopen the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to new oil and gas drilling leases." The letter, which was also signed by three Republicans,

said, "We do not believe that new oil and gas exploration or production activity in the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelf is compatible with the sustainable coastal economies on which so many of our constituents and communities depend."

Secretary Zinke Asked To Respect Local Sage Grouse Input.

KTVZ-TV Bend, OR (5/16) reports that Sens. Ron Wyden and Michael F. Bennet "pressed" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Tuesday "to respect local input and years-long collaborative efforts on land management plans to prevent an Endangered Species Act listing for the greater sage grouse." The senators "said such a listing would harm land users by creating unpredictability for ranchers, conservationists, sportsmen and industry." In their letter to Zinke, they wrote, "Over the last decade, federal agencies, states, and a broad coalition of groups came together to establish science-based conservation plans that protect sage grouse and their habitat. These historic collaborative efforts – never before seen in the West – helped the sage grouse avoid a listing under the ESA and serve as a model for future successful collaborative conservation." They also "asked Zinke to outline actions the Interior Department will take to ensure the federal sage grouse plans are implemented effectively and in a way that protects the sage grouse habitat."

Reduction Of Grand Canyon Buffalo Population Supported.

In an editorial, the Arizona Republic (5/16) supports culling the buffalo herd at Grand Canyon National Park. The National Park Service has released "an environmental assessment with a preferred alternative that would maintain a herd at the North Rim, but reduce its size through hunting and relocation." The paper says "it would be a shame if the Park Service's preferred alternative for reducing bison overpopulation at North Rim of the Grand Canyon was stymied by sentiment instead of being informed by science."

USGS Finds More Untapped Oil In Spraberry Formation.

Houston Public Media (5/16, Bubenik) reports that a new report from the U.S. Geological Survey identifies 4.2 billion barrels of recoverable oil in the Spraberry Formation. The article notes that 10 years ago, the USGS "identified 530 million barrels of oil that drillers could get their hands on, if they wanted." Dr. Stephanie Gaswirth, the survey's task chief for the Permian Basin, said, "With horizontal drilling and fracking of these wells, industry can successfully extract more of the resource."

White House Communications Report **Inquiries**

- A number of local outlets (REQUEST) Looking for the Department's statement regarding the temporary pause in FACA committees. (RESPONSE) – "The Secretary is committed to restoring trust in the Department's decision-making and that begins with institutionalizing state and local input and ongoing collaboration, particularly in communities surrounding public lands. The Department currently has more than 200 boards, committees, and other internal and external advisory functions that are authorized to solicit input and meet periodically. To maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the President's recent executive orders, the Department is currently reviewing the charter and charge of each Board/Advisory Committee. This review process necessitates the temporary postponement of advisory committee meetings. As the Department concludes its review in the weeks ahead, agencies will notice future meetings to ensure that the Department continues to get the benefit of the views of local communities in all decision-making on public land management."
- Washington Post & NY Times (REQUEST) – Information on the Department's rationale for and plan to replace the Methane flaring rule after the Senate failed to pass a CRA on it. Both are writing

editorials. (RESPONSE) -- The rule was considered "significant" by OMB standards. While there are a number of qualifiers to deem a rule "significant", the price tag alone would make this rule a significant regulatory action - as it is required for any regulation costing more than \$100 million. Page 105 of BLM's Regulatory Impact Analysis on this rule estimates \$1.5 billion in total compliance costs over 10 years. (Cite: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=BLM-2016-0001-9127>) In addition, the Department received public comment from many States, localities, tribal interests, as well as major and independent companies and affiliated associations, citing that this regulation would have a detrimental impact on American energy development and energy-related jobs throughout our nation. You can access the 9,000+ public comment docket on the rule here: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=BLM-2016-0001>.

- EE News: (REQUEST) - The transition briefing book we received via FOIA notes on page 594 that the Division of General Law "requested client funding to hire six new experienced employment and labor law attorneys to fill two-year term GS-905 positions and client funding to hire one additional attorney with experience with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act and general information law." Did the division receive that funding? How if at all was the division impacted by the Trump administration's hiring freeze? (RESPONSE) unable to get to them before deadline (which was an hour) but let him know I'd keep looking and circle back.

Top Stories

- E&E Daily: Senators press Zinke for details on implementation plans
- EE News: Obama team divulged harassment cases, policy prospects
- Navajo-Hopi Observer: Nez joins Bears Ears inter-tribal coalition meeting with Secretary Zinke
- Las Vegas Sun: Battle over Bears Ears heats up as Trump rethinks its monument status
- The Hill: Zinke is promoting true conservation at Department of Interior

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Last week Secretary Zinke toured the Grand Staircase Escalante and the Bears Ears national monuments as part of President Trump's EO reviewing a number of large and controversial monuments. Dozens of media followed the trip. Very positive local coverage. A physical package of local clips will be sent.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is in D.C.
- Today – DOI sent the Police Week video (featuring VP Pence) to newsletter subscribers
- FRIDAY – The National Park Service will announce the price of the Senior Pass will increase to \$80. This is a Congressionally-mandated increase.
- NEXT WEEK – The NPS will announce the cost of the deferred maintenance backlog

Federal Register Listings

No items were cleared for the FR on Tuesday.