

# Conversation Contents

## Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/3/17

### Attachments:

/289. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/3/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-3-17.docx

**"Domenech, Douglas" <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed May 03 2017 12:16:13 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>  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/3/17  
**Attachments:** DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-3-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

## DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/3/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will address the Land Trust Alliance meeting in Washington.

TODAY: The Secretary will attend the "Meet the Cabinet" GOP Conference Event.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with the White House Office of American Innovation.

TH 5/4: Secretary will meet with Meeting with Secretary Perdue. Attend an Informal House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Roundtable.

F 5/5: DOGGY DAY at DOI. Travel to Montana.

S 5/6: Secretary will address Montana State University Commencement Address in Montana.

S 5/7: Secretary will travel to Utah. Attend meetings on Utah Monuments with Utah leaders.

M 5/8: Secretary will travel with the Utah delegation to Bears Ears.

T/W 5/9-10: Secretary will continue travel to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante.

TH 5/11: Secretary will surrogate for the President at an RNC event.

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. Various AK events 5/29-5/31.

## **Upcoming Media**

**Outdoor Recreation Industry Salutes the Administration:** In today's Wall Street Journal, on page A6B, you will see a full page placed op ed sparked by discussions Secretary Zinke had with the industry. You can click to it here: <http://www.rvia.org/UniPop.cfm?v=2&OID=9391&CC=41888>

**"Interior Announces "Share the Experience" 2016 Photo Contest Winners"** - Citizen Photographers Compete for Photo Placement on National Public Lands and Waters Pass. WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior today, along with the National Park Foundation and other participating federal recreation land agencies, announced the winners of the 2016 "Share the Experience" photography contest on CBS This Morning and Interior's popular Instagram account and launched the 2017 contest.

## **Speaking Invitations**

### **Accepted**

5/3 Public Lands Trust, Washington, DC

5/6 Montana State University-Northern Commencement Address (Havre, MT)

5/16 DOI Annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony (DC)

-

### **Regretted**

5/3 Tribal Leaders Economic Growth and Fair Taxation Summit (DC)

5/10 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Spring Conference (Monterey, CA)

5/12 Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies' 2017 Spring Legal Strategy Forum (Colorado Springs, CO)

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

## Outstanding Invitations in Process

5/11 Safari Club International Lobby Day (Crystal City, VA)

## Emergency Management

The National Weather Service (NWS) reports significant river flooding to continue in eastern Missouri, southern Illinois, and northeastern Arkansas. Another system of moderate to heavy rainfall will traverse the affected region through May 4.

USGS deployed 5 crews in central and eastern Missouri. Large drainage basin flooding continues to rise and set record (or near record) crests in the Gasconade, Bourbeuse, Meramec, and lower Mississippi basins. Ten crews are conducting High Water Mark and flow measurements. In Illinois, USGS crews have been deployed to make discharge measurements and ensure proper streamgauge operation in southern Illinois, where 44 streamgages are above flood stage.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 100,517 (+351) acres. The fire is 8 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 466 (-2) personnel, including 72 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 87 (no change) residences and 17 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date is November 1. A Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) will assume command today.

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available for the Resighini Rancheria to supplement the tribe's recovery efforts in areas affected by flooding from February 8 to February 11, 2017. Federal funding is available to Resighini Rancheria on a cost-sharing basis for the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by flooding on the Resighini Rancheria. Federal funding is also available to the tribe on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures.

-

## Media of Interest

### **Secretary Zinke To Visit National Monuments In Utah.**

The New York Post (5/2, Morrongiello) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "travel to Utah's San Juan County next week to visit the Bears Ears monument, which is currently under review by the Trump administration." The Deseret (UT) News (5/2, O'Donoghue) reports that Zinke will "fly into Salt Lake City on Sunday and is set to tour spots in the controversial Bears Ears National Monument Monday — on horseback, San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams said Tuesday." On Tuesday, Zinke will also visit the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

### **Secretary Zinke Says Economic Considerations Will Play Into Offshore Lease Review.**

Bloomberg BNA (5/2, Huq) reports that when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said that all options

are on the table when it comes to opening new offshore leases, he hedged by saying that the two-year review would include market driven considerations. He said that in some areas the economics of a drilling campaign are not there. Zinke said, "We have to base it on science, you have to base it on seismic and look at where the market is in five years. There are some places where it is not going to be appropriate to drill. The margins are very thin at \$50 per barrel. We are going to look at the economic data we have on our holdings."

### **House Republicans Begin Probe Of Antiquities Act.**

The Hill (5/2, Henry) reports that "top Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday outlined potential reforms for the Antiquities Act as the Interior Department kicks off its review of the law." However, "Democrats have broadly supported maintaining the Antiquities Act."

### **NPS Could Spend Trump's First Salary Donation On Civil War Or Revolutionary War Battlefields.**

USA Today (5/2, Korte) reports projects in three national parks that are Civil War or Revolutionary War battlefields "could receive money donated back to the government from President Trump's presidential salary." The "donation appeared to catch the Park Service off guard," but Secretary of the Interior Zinke "quickly settled on a battlefield." Records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act "show how the agency scrambled to quickly find suitable projects" following the donation, and also suggest that the President will deduct the donation from his federal income taxes.

### **Trump Was "Directly Involved" in Hunt For Tweeter Of Inauguration Crowd Photo.**

CBS News (5/2, Kates) reports that "newly inaugurated President Donald Trump was 'directly involved' in the search for the person who, using the official National Park Service account, retweeted side-by-side comparisons of the crowds at Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration ceremony and former President Barack Obama's 2009 ceremony, CBS News has confirmed." Emails released by the National Park Service in response to a Freedom of Information Act request "reveal that the new president was 'concerned' about the retweet." In a Jan. 21 email to Shaun Cavanaugh, the agency's Chief Information Security Officer, Tim Cash, Chief of Digital Strategy at the National Park Service, wrote, "Obviously, this has become a very sensitive issue, especially since the President has gotten directly involved and contacted Acting Director Mike Reynolds concerned about one of the images that was retweeted."

### **BLM Headquarters Would Move West Under Colorado Republicans Proposal.**

The Denver Post (5/2, Matthews) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "would be allowed to relocate its headquarters from the nation's capital to a western state under legislation introduced Tuesday by two Colorado Republicans: U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton." Both legislators "said they were motivated to propose the legislation because of the nature of the agency's work, as well as where it has the most authority." Gardner in a statement, "Moving BLM's headquarters west is a commonsense solution that Coloradans from across the political spectrum support. Ninety-nine percent of the nearly 250 million acres of land managed by BLM is west of the Mississippi River, and having the decision-makers present in the communities they impact will lead to better policy." The legislation "offered 12 states as a possible new home: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New

Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming.”

### **NOIA President: Restore Access To Offshore Energy Resources.**

National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi argues for the Washington Examiner (5/3, Luthi) that the US needs “more than just onshore shale oil and natural gas to meet our energy needs.” Luthi praises “President Trump’s recent executive order designed to open more offshore areas to oil and natural gas exploration and production” as “a great first step,” but warns environmental activists are threatening “once again to curtail arbitrarily America’s production of oil and gas by misinterpreting the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.” Luthi argues President Obama’s “ban on offshore leasing in the Arctic and Atlantic poses an energy security risk to the nation and to the world” and says that “failing to make available oil and gas resources for development is detrimental not only to energy production but also for” American jobs.

### **Progress Made In Negotiations On Navajo Generating Station.**

The AP (5/2, Davenport) reports that “Navajo Nation officials and a power utility that is the Navajo Generating Station’s managing owner are expressing optimism about reaching an agreement soon to keep the coal-fired plant operating through 2019.” The Salt River Project and the tribe “said in a joint statement released late Monday they have made ‘considerable progress’ in negotiations toward agreement on a replacement lease, which would preserve jobs and revenue for the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe for at least two more years.”

### **White House Communications Report** (sent to WH Comms, Tuesday.)

No report was sent to the White House on Tuesday.

-

### **Federal Register Listings.**

Sent to the FR on Tuesday.

REG0006982 BIA Notice of Service Area Designation. This Notice announces the BIA’s approval of the designation of Kern County, California, as a service area for the Tejon Indian Tribe for purposes of operating the BIA financial assistance and/or social services programs as authorized under 25 CFR part 20, Financial Assistance and Social Services Programs. Notice 05/02/2017.

REG0006980 FWS Incidental Take Permit Application; Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the R-Project Transmission Line, and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has applied for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the R-Project transmission line in north-central Nebraska. The permit would authorize the take of the federally endangered American burying beetle incidental to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. Notice 05/02/2017.

REG0006977 ONRR Major Portion Prices and Due Date for Additional Royalty Payments on Indian Gas Production in Designated Areas Not Associated with an Index Zone. To value gas produced from Indian leases, ONRR is required to determine major portion prices and to notify industry by publishing the prices in the Federal Register. ONRR also must publish a due date for industry to pay additional royalties based on the major portion prices. Consistent with these requirements, this Notice provides major portion prices for the 12 months of calendar year 2015. Notice 05/02/2017.

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/3/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary will address the Land Trust Alliance meeting in Washington.

TODAY: The Secretary will attend the “Meet the Cabinet” GOP Conference Event.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with the White House Office of American Innovation.

TH 5/4: Secretary will meet with Meeting with Secretary Perdue. Attend an Informal House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Roundtable.

F 5/5: DOGGY DAY at DOI. Travel to Montana.

S 5/6: Secretary will address Montana State University Commencement Address in Montana.

S 5/7: Secretary will travel to Utah. Attend meetings on Utah Monuments with Utah leaders.

M 5/8: Secretary will travel with the Utah delegation to Bears Ears.

T/W 5/9-10: Secretary will continue travel to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante.

TH 5/11: Secretary will surrogate for the President at an RNC event.

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. Various AK events 5/29-5/31.

### **Upcoming Media**

**Outdoor Recreation Industry Salutes the Administration:** In today’s Wall Street Journal, on page A6B, you will see a full page placed op ed sparked by discussions Secretary Zinke had with the industry. You can click to it here: <http://www.rvia.org/UniPop.cfm?v=2&OID=9391&CC=41888>

**“Interior Announces “Share the Experience” 2016 Photo Contest Winners”** - Citizen Photographers Compete for Photo Placement on National Public Lands and Waters Pass. WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior today, along with the National Park Foundation and other participating federal recreation land agencies, announced the winners of the 2016 “Share the Experience” photography contest on CBS This Morning and Interior's popular Instagram account and launched the 2017 contest.

### **Speaking Invitations**

#### Accepted

5/3 Public Lands Trust, Washington, DC

5/6 Montana State University-Northern Commencement Address (Havre, MT)

5/16 DOI Annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony (DC)

#### Regretted

5/3 Tribal Leaders Economic Growth and Fair Taxation Summit (DC)

5/10 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Spring Conference (Monterey, CA)

5/12 Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies' 2017 Spring Legal Strategy Forum (Colorado Springs, CO)

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

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process

5/11 Safari Club International Lobby Day (Crystal City, VA)

## **Emergency Management**

The National Weather Service (NWS) reports significant river flooding to continue in eastern Missouri, southern Illinois, and northeastern Arkansas. Another system of moderate to heavy rainfall will traverse the affected region through May 4.

USGS deployed 5 crews in central and eastern Missouri. Large drainage basin flooding continues to rise and set record (or near record) crests in the Gasconade, Bourbeuse, Meramec, and lower Mississippi basins. Ten crews are conducting High Water Mark and flow measurements. In Illinois, USGS crews have been deployed to make discharge measurements and ensure proper streamgage operation in southern Illinois, where 44 streamgages are above flood stage.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 100,517 (+351) acres. The fire is 8 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 466 (-2) personnel, including 72 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 87 (no change) residences and 17 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date is November 1. A Type-1 Incident Management Team (IMT) will assume command today.

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available for the Resighini Rancheria to supplement the tribe's recovery efforts in areas affected by flooding from February 8 to February 11, 2017. Federal funding is available to Resighini Rancheria on a cost-sharing basis for the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by flooding on the Resighini Rancheria. Federal funding is also available to the tribe on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures.

## **Media of Interest**

### **Secretary Zinke To Visit National Monuments In Utah.**

The New York Post (5/2, Morrongiello) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "travel to Utah's San Juan County next week to visit the Bears Ears monument, which is currently under review by the Trump administration." The Deseret (UT) News (5/2, O'Donoghue) reports that Zinke will "fly into Salt Lake City on Sunday and is set to tour spots in the controversial Bears Ears National Monument Monday — on horseback, San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams said Tuesday." On Tuesday, Zinke will also visit the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

### **Secretary Zinke Says Economic Considerations Will Play Into Offshore Lease Review.**

Bloomberg BNA (5/2, Huq) reports that when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said that all options are on the table when it comes to opening new offshore leases, he hedged by saying that the two-year review would include market driven considerations. He said that in some areas the economics of a drilling campaign are not there. Zinke said, "We have to base it on science, you have to base it on seismic and look at where the market is in five years. There are some places where it is not going to be appropriate to drill. The margins are very thin at \$50 per barrel. We are going to look at the economic data we have on our holdings."

### **House Republicans Begin Probe Of Antiquities Act.**

The Hill (5/2, Henry) reports that "top Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday outlined potential reforms for the Antiquities Act as the Interior Department kicks off its review of the law." However, "Democrats have broadly supported maintaining the Antiquities Act."

### **NPS Could Spend Trump's First Salary Donation On Civil War Or Revolutionary War Battlefields.**

USA Today (5/2, Korte) reports projects in three national parks that are Civil War or Revolutionary War battlefields “could receive money donated back to the government from President Trump’s presidential salary.” The “donation appeared to catch the Park Service off guard,” but Secretary of the Interior Zinke “quickly settled on a battlefield.” Records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act “show how the agency scrambled to quickly find suitable projects” following the donation, and also suggest that the President will deduct the donation from his federal income taxes.

#### **Trump Was “Directly Involved” in Hunt For Tweeter Of Inauguration Crowd Photo.**

CBS News (5/2, Kates) reports that “newly inaugurated President Donald Trump was ‘directly involved’ in the search for the person who, using the official National Park Service account, retweeted side-by-side comparisons of the crowds at Trump’s Jan. 20 inauguration ceremony and former President Barack Obama’s 2009 ceremony, CBS News has confirmed.” Emails released by the National Park Service in response to a Freedom of Information Act request “reveal that the new president was ‘concerned’ about the retweet.” In a Jan. 21 email to Shaun Cavanaugh, the agency’s Chief Information Security Officer, Tim Cash, Chief of Digital Strategy at the National Park Service, wrote, “Obviously, this has become a very sensitive issue, especially since the President has gotten directly involved and contacted Acting Director Mike Reynolds concerned about one of the images that was retweeted.”

#### **BLM Headquarters Would Move West Under Colorado Republicans Proposal.**

The Denver Post (5/2, Matthews) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “would be allowed to relocate its headquarters from the nation’s capital to a western state under legislation introduced Tuesday by two Colorado Republicans: U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton.” Both legislators “said they were motivated to propose the legislation because of the nature of the agency’s work, as well as where it has the most authority.” Gardner in a statement, “Moving BLM’s headquarters west is a commonsense solution that Coloradans from across the political spectrum support. Ninety-nine percent of the nearly 250 million acres of land managed by BLM is west of the Mississippi River, and having the decision-makers present in the communities they impact will lead to better policy.” The legislation “offered 12 states as a possible new home: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming.”

#### **NOIA President: Restore Access To Offshore Energy Resources.**

National Ocean Industries Association President Randall Luthi argues for the Washington Examiner (5/3, Luthi) that the US needs “more than just onshore shale oil and natural gas to meet our energy needs.” Luthi praises “President Trump’s recent executive order designed to open more offshore areas to oil and natural gas exploration and production” as “a great first step,” but warns environmental activists are threatening “once again to curtail arbitrarily America’s production of oil and gas by misinterpreting the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.” Luthi argues President Obama’s “ban on offshore leasing in the Arctic and Atlantic poses an energy security risk to the nation and to the world” and says that “failing to make available oil and gas resources for development is detrimental not only to energy production but also for” American jobs.

#### **Progress Made In Negotiations On Navajo Generating Station.**

The AP (5/2, Davenport) reports that “Navajo Nation officials and a power utility that is the Navajo Generating Station’s managing owner are expressing optimism about reaching an agreement soon to keep the coal-fired plant operating through 2019.” The Salt River Project and the tribe “said in a joint statement released late Monday they have made ‘considerable progress’ in negotiations toward agreement on a replacement lease, which would preserve jobs and revenue for the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe for at least two more years.”

**White House Communications Report** (sent to WH Comms, Tuesday.)

No report was sent to the White House on Tuesday.

**Federal Register Listings.**

Sent to the FR on Tuesday.

REG0006982 BIA Notice of Service Area Designation. This Notice announces the BIA's approval of the designation of Kern County, California, as a service area for the Tejon Indian Tribe for purposes of operating the BIA financial assistance and/or social services programs as authorized under 25 CFR part 20, Financial Assistance and Social Services Programs. Notice 05/02/2017.

REG0006980 FWS Incidental Take Permit Application; Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the R-Project Transmission Line, and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has applied for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the R-Project transmission line in north-central Nebraska. The permit would authorize the take of the federally endangered American burying beetle incidental to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. Notice 05/02/2017.

REG0006977 ONRR Major Portion Prices and Due Date for Additional Royalty Payments on Indian Gas Production in Designated Areas Not Associated with an Index Zone. To value gas produced from Indian leases, ONRR is required to determine major portion prices and to notify industry by publishing the prices in the Federal Register. ONRR also must publish a due date for industry to pay additional royalties based on the major portion prices. Consistent with these requirements, this Notice provides major portion prices for the 12 months of calendar year 2015. Notice 05/02/2017.