

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 6/14/17

Attachments:

/33. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 6/14/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 6-14-17.docx

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

From: "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Jun 14 2017 10:40:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Bauserman, Christine" <christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>, "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 6/14/17
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 6-14-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 6/14/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

-

-

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary is on travel in Maine.

TODAY WEDNESDAY: The Secretary will:

Driving Tour of Katahdin National Monument.

Canoe Trip. East Branch of Penobscot River.

Overnight in Monument.

TOMORROW THURSDAY:

June 15: More on Katahdin Monument review. Meet with the Penobscot Indian Tribe.

Breakfast Meeting with Katahdin Chamber of Commerce & Local Councilmen.

Roundtable with Maine Woods Coalition.

Meeting with L.L. Bean. (Tentative.)

FRIDAY:

June 16: Boston, MA discussions reviewing the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. Fishermen Roundtable.

CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS

-

APPROPRIATIONS HEARINGS:

June 20: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing

June 21: Senate Interior Appropriations Hearing

June 22: House Natural Resources Committee Hearing

-

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

This week:

6/14/17: SENR Rescheduled Water and Power Subcommittee Legislative Hearing on S.440, S.677, S.685, S.930, S.1012, S.1029, S.1030 in 366 Dirksen at 2:30 PM; Witness: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary, Water and Science.

Interior Media Today

None anticipated.

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

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

-

Regretted

6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)
6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)
6/16 Corps Day of Service (DC)
6/20 Conservation Fund's National Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment (DC)
6/21 Independent Petroleum Association of America (Laguna Niguel, CA)
6/21 Energy Exposition (Loveland, CO)
6/21 Congressional Travel & Tourism Summit (DC)
6/23 US Conference of Mayors (Miami, FL)
6/24 Outdoor Writers Association of America Annual Conference (Duluth, MN)
6/24 Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture Anniversary (Huntley, MT)
6/26 Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Conference and Annual Meeting (Colorado Springs, CO)
6/28 Aspen Ideas Festival for Climate (Aspen, CO)
6/28 Intertribal Timber Council's 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium (Yakima, WA)

-

Outstanding Invitations in Process

6/26 American Indian Higher Education Coalition Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
6/27 6th Annual Bipartisan Tribute to Veterans and Veterans in Congress (DC)
6/27 National American Housing Council (Nashville, TN)
7/5 Crans Montana Forum Annual Session (Barcelona, Spain)
7/11 Blue Dog Coalition Dinner (DC)

-

Emergency Management

In Arizona, the Freeze 2 Fire on the San Carlos Reservation (BIA) has burned 2,832 (+3) acres and is 55 (+20) percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team with 330 (-14) personnel assigned, including 129 (+6) DOI personnel. One responder injury has been reported. The containment date is June 19.

Also in Arizona, the Lizard Fire has burned 15,142 (+11) acres and is 64 (+24) percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 638 (+37) personnel assigned, 144 (+1) of which are DOI personnel. There are 18 (-37) structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuations as of this reporting period. The containment date has been set for July 7. The Lizard Fire is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fire burning mostly on USFS lands, but the

perimeter also includes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcel in the northern portion of the fire.

Interior Media Plan Week Ahead

WEEK AHEAD June 14 thru June 22, 2017

Announcements/Releases/Events

This week the Secretary is on travel to four New England states.

June 13: Department Level Press Release: Secretary Zinke Announces \$1.1 billion in Pittman-Robertson Dingell-Johnson Funds to all 50 states.

June 13-16: Department Level Press Release: Daily read-outs of Secretary Zinke New England trip.

National Park Service

TBD: NPS National Release: NPS to announce publication of first comprehensive theme study of nationally significant historic properties of the Reconstruction Era. The National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, "The Era of Reconstruction, 1861-1900," identifies nationally noteworthy resources related to the Era of Reconstruction that help tell the American story.

June 16: NPS Local Release: Two senior managers named to positions in the Alaska Region of the National Park Service.

June 16: NPS Local Release: NPS announces that Bill Nye will join park rangers and celebrated science educators as part of a three-day festival focused on the Total Eclipse of the Sun at Homestead National Monument of America on August 21.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

June 16: Local FWS Release: FWS will announce the availability of the Mexican Wolf Draft Recovery Plan, First Revision (draft recovery plan). The Mexican wolf is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The draft recovery plan includes specific recovery criteria to be met to enable FWS to remove this species from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. FWS will seek review and comment on the revised plan from local, state and federal agencies; tribes; and the public, in both the United States and Mexico. Of significant Congressional interest.

June 19: National FWS Release: FWS will make a final determination on their March 11, 2016, proposal to designate the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming as a distinct population segment (DPS) and remove this DPS from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery. This action is

controversial.

Week of June 19: FWS Local Release: FWS plans a final rule to remove the Hualapai Mexican vole, located in Arizona, from the list of endangered and threatened species due to the fact that the original taxonomic classification is no longer appropriate. This action is not controversial.

Week of June 19: FWS Local Release: FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. There may be some controversy with cost estimates associated with this plan. FWS notes the cost of certain actions pertaining to habitat acquisition, restoration, and management as “To be decided” which reflects the considerable uncertainty around what the actual cost of those actions will be once completed.

Bureau of Land Management

June 12 – 16: Acting BLM-MT State Director Jon Raby plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the MT, ND and SD delegations in Washington, DC to discuss public land issues, including energy development, pipelines, grazing and rangeland, mining, and fire management.

June 14: BLM-CA Bakersfield Field Manager Gabe Garcia will meet with CA's Division of Oil and Gas to discuss the State's new permitting process for BLM wells. The Division is asking for a state permit from BLM operators.

June 14: BLM-WY State Director Mary Jo Rugwell will speak at the Wyoming Mining Association Annual Convention in Sheridan, WY. Her remarks will include coal leasing and permitting on BLM-administered lands, addressing coal and oil and gas conflicts, and locatable minerals.

June 15: BLM Local Release: BLM-NV will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 106 parcels totaling 195,732 acres in Nye, Eureka, and Lander Counties. The sale is expected to be controversial based on public reaction to the EA prepared in connection with the lease sale, which included concerns regarding the proximity of the parcels to wetland areas and cultural sites. Bidding has the potential to be robust.

June 15: BLM Local Release: BLM plans to publish in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the West Antelope 3 Lease-by-Application for approximately 3,508.31 acres (containing approximately 441 million tons of in-place coal). The acreage is a tract of Federal coal adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY, and is necessary to maintain production at the existing mine. The notice will also announce the date of a public scoping meeting to be held in Wright, WY.

June 19: BLM Local Release: BLM plans to publish a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS for the Mount Hope Project, a new molybdenum mine, in Eureka County, NV.

The project encompasses approximately 8,355 acres of new surface disturbance, 8,092 of which are on public lands administered by the BLM. The Supplemental EIS is being prepared following a decision by the Ninth Circuit that found the justification for the air quality analysis insufficient. The SEIS will also supplement the analysis of public water reserves.

U.S. Geological Survey

Week of June 12: NOAA National Release: NOAA, USGS and partners will announce the expected Chesapeake Bay hypoxic zone or “dead zone” this summer. A dead zone is an area of low to no oxygen that can kill fish and aquatic life. The area is expected to be larger than average, approximately 1.89 cubic miles, or nearly the volume of 3.2 million Olympic-size swimming pools. Measurements for the Bay’s dead zone go back to 1950.

June 20: NOAA National Release: NOAA will release prediction of hypoxic zone in Gulf of Mexico using USGS data and modeling.

Bureau of Reclamation

June 16: Reclamation National Release: FWS and NOAA release Biological Opinions for the California WaterFix Project. Both biological opinions found the construction and operations of CWF as proposed would not jeopardize the future existence of ESA-listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for those species.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

June 20: BOEM Local Media Advisory: BOEM announces Alaska Cook Inlet Lease Sale.

June 21: BOEM Local Release: BOEM announces results of Alaska Cook Inlet Lease Sale.

June 21: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM announces Royalty Rate Change from 18.75% to 12.5% for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Region-wide Lease Sale 249 (scheduled for August 16, 2017).

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

June 14: BSEE National Release: BSEE hosts exhibit booth (June 14-15) at Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

Office of Insular Affairs

Week of June 12: OIA National Release: Grant Announcement for \$64.4 Million in Compact Grants for the Federated States of Micronesia for First Half of Fiscal Year 2017

Outside Media of Interest

Zinke Says Government Is Failing Tribes, Deflects Budget Concerns.

Law360 (6/13, Westney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “told a National Congress of American Indians conference Tuesday that federal programs serving tribes aren’t working, as NCAI officials and tribal leaders raised concerns about funding cuts to such programs in the Trump administration’s proposed budget.”

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Makes Stop In Hooksett.

New Hampshire Public Radio (6/13, Greene) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “stopped at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett Tuesday afternoon, appearing with Governor Chris Sununu and State Fish and Game Executive Director Glenn Normandeau.” At the store, Zinke “signed a ceremonial \$1.1 billion check for fish and wildlife conservation programs.”

US Interior Chief To Visit Maine Monument Under Review.

The AP (6/14, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “heading to Maine on Wednesday to see Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as part of a tour of national monuments that are under review.” Zinke is “scheduled to spend the day driving, hiking and canoeing through the monument grounds and waters.”

Deciphering Protections Inside Bears Ears Monument Designation.

The Deseret (UT) News (6/13, O'Donoghue) reports that “when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced a preliminary recommendation that contemplates shrinking the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, one of the key points he emphasized is that some of the land is already subject to special management restrictions.” Zinke’s interim report “notes there are 11 wilderness study areas inside the monument that comprise 381,000 acres and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.” According to the article, “the lands have to be in the same or better condition than they were 41 years ago to ensure Congress has the ability to invoke permanent wilderness protection.” The article notes “that year is significant, 1976, when Congress passed the Federal Lands Policy Management Act that set up the majority of Utah’s wilderness study areas — vast amounts of land that have remained in limbo since then.”

California’s Senators Ask Residents To Tell The Federal Government To Stay Away From

The State's National Monuments.

The Los Angeles Times (6/13, Wire) reports that "California's senators are trying to prevent changes to six national monuments in the Golden State, and they're asking Californians to help by sending comments to the Interior Department." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris wrote, "On behalf of all Californians, we urge that these national monument designations are preserved with their present boundaries, to ensure these special places remain for generations to come."

BLM Oil And Gas Lease Auction Brings In Over \$720,000.

The Fairfield (MT) Sun Times (6/13) reports that "bids on oil and gas leases in northern and southeastern Montana brought in \$720,843 in an online auction held June 13, by the Bureau of Land Management." The auction "included 156 parcels encompassing approximately 69,000 acres of federal minerals in Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River and Rosebud Counties were offered at auction."

Interior Releases \$7.8M For American Samoa.

Marianas Variety (6/14) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has "released \$7.8 million remaining in grant assistance for fiscal year 2017 to the American Samoa Government through the Office of Insular Affairs' Operations Grant Program." Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, "These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration."

Federal Register Listings

One item was cleared for the FR on Tuesday.

-

REG0007088 ONRR Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1012-0006; Suspension Pending Appeal and Bonding. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew an existing information collection pertaining to the paperwork requirements under 30 CFR part 1243. ONRR is requesting public comments on the proposed renewal for 60 days. Notice 06/13/2017.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 6/14/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary is on travel in Maine.

TODAY WEDNESDAY: The Secretary will:
Driving Tour of Katahdin National Monument.
Canoe Trip. East Branch of Penobscot River.
Overnight in Monument.

TOMORROW THURSDAY:

June 15: More on Katahdin Monument review. Meet with the Penobscot Indian Tribe.
Breakfast Meeting with Katahdin Chamber of Commerce & Local Councilmen.
Roundtable with Maine Woods Coalition.
Meeting with L.L. Bean. (Tentative.)

FRIDAY:

June 16: Boston, MA discussions reviewing the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. Fishermen Roundtable.

CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATIONS HEARINGS:

June 20: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
June 21: Senate Interior Appropriations Hearing
June 22: House Natural Resources Committee Hearing

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

This week:

6/14/17: SENR Rescheduled Water and Power Subcommittee Legislative Hearing on S.440, S.677, S.685, S.930, S.1012, S.1029, S.1030 in 366 Dirksen at 2:30 PM; Witness: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary, Water and Science.

Interior Media Today

None anticipated.

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

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

Regretted

6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)
6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)
6/16 Corps Day of Service (DC)
6/20 Conservation Fund's National Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment (DC)

6/21 Independent Petroleum Association of America (Laguna Niguel, CA)
6/21 Energy Exposition (Loveland, CO)
6/21 Congressional Travel & Tourism Summit (DC)
6/23 US Conference of Mayors (Miami, FL)
6/24 Outdoor Writers Association of America Annual Conference (Duluth, MN)
6/24 Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture Anniversary (Huntley, MT)
6/26 Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Conference and Annual Meeting (Colorado Springs, CO)
6/28 Aspen Ideas Festival for Climate (Aspen, CO)
6/28 Intertribal Timber Council's 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium (Yakima, WA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

6/26 American Indian Higher Education Coalition Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
6/27 6th Annual Bipartisan Tribute to Veterans and Veterans in Congress (DC)
6/27 National American Housing Council (Nashville, TN)
7/5 Crans Montana Forum Annual Session (Barcelona, Spain)
7/11 Blue Dog Coalition Dinner (DC)

Emergency Management

In Arizona, the Freeze 2 Fire on the San Carlos Reservation (BIA) has burned 2,832 (+3) acres and is 55 (+20) percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team with 330 (-14) personnel assigned, including 129 (+6) DOI personnel. One responder injury has been reported. The containment date is June 19.

Also in Arizona, the Lizard Fire has burned 15,142 (+11) acres and is 64 (+24) percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 638 (+37) personnel assigned, 144 (+1) of which are DOI personnel. There are 18 (-37) structures threatened and 50 (no change) evacuations as of this reporting period. The containment date has been set for July 7. The Lizard Fire is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fire burning mostly on USFS lands, but the perimeter also includes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcel in the northern portion of the fire.

Interior Media Plan Week Ahead

WEEK AHEAD June 14 thru June 22, 2017
Announcements/Releases/Events

This week the Secretary is on travel to four New England states.

June 13: Department Level Press Release: Secretary Zinke Announces \$1.1 billion in Pittman-Robertson Dingell-Johnson Funds to all 50 states.

June 13-16: Department Level Press Release: Daily read-outs of Secretary Zinke New England trip.

National Park Service

TBD: NPS National Release: NPS to announce publication of first comprehensive theme study of nationally significant historic properties of the Reconstruction Era. The National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, "The Era of Reconstruction, 1861-1900," identifies nationally noteworthy resources related to the Era of Reconstruction that help tell the American story.

June 16: NPS Local Release: Two senior managers named to positions in the Alaska Region of the National Park Service.

June 16: NPS Local Release: NPS announces that Bill Nye will join park rangers and celebrated science educators as part of a three-day festival focused on the Total Eclipse of the Sun at Homestead National Monument of America on August 21.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

June 16: Local FWS Release: FWS will announce the availability of the Mexican Wolf Draft Recovery Plan, First Revision (draft recovery plan). The Mexican wolf is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The draft recovery plan includes specific recovery criteria to be met to enable FWS to remove this species from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. FWS will seek review and comment on the revised plan from local, state and federal agencies; tribes; and the public, in both the United States and Mexico. Of significant Congressional interest.

June 19: National FWS Release: FWS will make a final determination on their March 11, 2016, proposal to designate the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear population of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming as a distinct population segment (DPS) and remove this DPS from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery. This action is controversial.

Week of June 19: FWS Local Release: FWS plans a final rule to remove the Hualapai Mexican vole, located in Arizona, from the list of endangered and threatened species due to the fact that the original taxonomic classification is no longer appropriate. This action is not controversial.

Week of June 19: FWS Local Release: FWS plans to announce the notice of availability of the revised draft recovery plan for the giant garter snake in California. There may be some controversy with cost estimates associated with this plan. FWS notes the cost of certain actions pertaining to habitat acquisition, restoration, and management as “To be decided” which reflects the considerable uncertainty around what the actual cost of those actions will be once completed.

Bureau of Land Management

June 12 – 16: Acting BLM-MT State Director Jon Raby plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the MT, ND and SD delegations in Washington, DC to discuss public land issues, including energy development, pipelines, grazing and rangeland, mining, and fire management.

June 14: BLM-CA Bakersfield Field Manager Gabe Garcia will meet with CA’s Division of Oil and Gas to discuss the State’s new permitting process for BLM wells. The Division is asking for a state permit from BLM operators.

June 14: BLM-WY State Director Mary Jo Rugwell will speak at the Wyoming Mining Association Annual Convention in Sheridan, WY. Her remarks will include coal leasing and permitting on BLM-administered lands, addressing coal and oil and gas conflicts, and locatable minerals.

June 15: BLM Local Release: BLM-NV will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 106 parcels totaling 195,732 acres in Nye, Eureka, and Lander Counties. The sale is expected to be controversial based on public reaction to the EA prepared in connection with the lease sale, which included concerns regarding the proximity of the parcels to wetland areas and cultural sites. Bidding has the potential to be robust.

June 15: BLM Local Release: BLM plans to publish in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the West Antelope 3 Lease-by-Application for approximately 3,508.31 acres (containing approximately 441 million tons of in-place coal). The acreage is a tract of Federal coal adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY, and is necessary to maintain production at the

existing mine. The notice will also announce the date of a public scoping meeting to be held in Wright, WY.

June 19: BLM Local Release: BLM plans to publish a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS for the Mount Hope Project, a new molybdenum mine, in Eureka County, NV. The project encompasses approximately 8,355 acres of new surface disturbance, 8,092 of which are on public lands administered by the BLM. The Supplemental EIS is being prepared following a decision by the Ninth Circuit that found the justification for the air quality analysis insufficient. The SEIS will also supplement the analysis of public water reserves.

U.S. Geological Survey

Week of June 12: NOAA National Release: NOAA, USGS and partners will announce the expected Chesapeake Bay hypoxic zone or “dead zone” this summer. A dead zone is an area of low to no oxygen that can kill fish and aquatic life. The area is expected to be larger than average, approximately 1.89 cubic miles, or nearly the volume of 3.2 million Olympic-size swimming pools. Measurements for the Bay’s dead zone go back to 1950.

June 20: NOAA National Release: NOAA will release prediction of hypoxic zone in Gulf of Mexico using USGS data and modeling.

Bureau of Reclamation

June 16: Reclamation National Release: FWS and NOAA release Biological Opinions for the California WaterFix Project. Both biological opinions found the construction and operations of CWF as proposed would not jeopardize the future existence of ESA-listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for those species.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

June 20: BOEM Local Media Advisory: BOEM announces Alaska Cook Inlet Lease Sale.

June 21: BOEM Local Release: BOEM announces results of Alaska Cook Inlet Lease Sale.

June 21: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM announces Royalty Rate Change from 18.75% to 12.5% for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Region-wide Lease Sale 249 (scheduled for August 16, 2017).

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

June 14: BSEE National Release: BSEE hosts exhibit booth (June 14-15) at Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

Office of Insular Affairs

Week of June 12: OIA National Release: Grant Announcement for \$64.4 Million in Compact Grants for the Federated States of Micronesia for First Half of Fiscal Year 2017

June 16: OIA National Release: Grant Announcement for Freely Associated States

Outside Media of Interest

Zinke Says Government Is Failing Tribes, Deflects Budget Concerns.

Law360 (6/13, Westney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “told a National Congress of American Indians conference Tuesday that federal programs serving tribes aren’t working, as NCAI officials and tribal leaders raised concerns about funding cuts to such programs in the Trump administration’s proposed budget.”

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Makes Stop In Hooksett.

New Hampshire Public Radio (6/13, Greene) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “stopped at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett Tuesday afternoon, appearing with Governor Chris Sununu and State Fish and Game Executive Director Glenn Normandeau.” At the store, Zinke “signed a ceremonial \$1.1 billion check for fish and wildlife conservation programs.”

US Interior Chief To Visit Maine Monument Under Review.

The AP (6/14, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “heading to Maine on Wednesday to see Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as part of a tour of national monuments that are under review.” Zinke is “scheduled to spend the day driving, hiking and canoeing through the monument grounds and waters.”

Deciphering Protections Inside Bears Ears Monument Designation.

The Deseret (UT) News (6/13, O'Donoghue) reports that “when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced a preliminary recommendation that contemplates shrinking the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, one of the key points he emphasized is that some of the land is already subject to special management restrictions.” Zinke’s interim report “notes there are 11 wilderness study areas inside the monument that comprise 381,000 acres and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.” According to the article, “the lands have to be in the same or better condition than they were 41 years ago to ensure Congress has the ability to invoke permanent wilderness protection.” The article notes “that year is significant, 1976, when Congress passed the Federal Lands Policy Management Act that set up the majority of Utah’s wilderness study areas — vast amounts of land that have remained in limbo since then.”

California’s Senators Ask Residents To Tell The Federal Government To Stay Away From The State’s National Monuments.

The Los Angeles Times (6/13, Wire) reports that “California’s senators are trying to prevent changes to six national monuments in the Golden State, and they’re asking Californians to help by sending comments to the Interior Department.” In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris wrote, “On behalf of all Californians, we urge that these national monument designations are preserved with their present boundaries, to ensure these special places remain for generations to come.”

BLM Oil And Gas Lease Auction Brings In Over \$720,000.

The Fairfield (MT) Sun Times (6/13) reports that “bids on oil and gas leases in northern and southeastern Montana brought in \$720,843 in an online auction held June 13, by the Bureau of Land Management.” The auction “included 156 parcels encompassing approximately 69,000 acres of federal minerals in Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River and Rosebud Counties were offered at auction.”

Interior Releases \$7.8M For American Samoa.

Marianas Variety (6/14) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has “released \$7.8 million remaining in grant assistance for fiscal year 2017 to the American Samoa Government through the Office of Insular Affairs’ Operations Grant Program.” Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, “These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration.”

Federal Register Listings

One item was cleared for the FR on Tuesday.

REG0007088 ONRR Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1012-0006; Suspension Pending Appeal and Bonding. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew an existing information collection pertaining to the paperwork requirements under 30 CFR part 1243. ONRR is requesting public comments on the proposed renewal for 60 days. Notice 06/13/2017.