

# Conversation Contents

## Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/2/17

### Attachments:

/294. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/2/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-2-17.docx

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

---

**From:** "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue May 02 2017 11:52:24 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 5/2/17  
**Attachments:** DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-2-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

## DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/2/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will meet speak at the National Tribal Energy Summit (DC)

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with San Juan County Commissioners.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with California Assembly Members.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with The Partnership of Rangeland Trust Meeting.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with a group of Arizona Stakeholders.

W 5/3: Address the Land Trust Alliance meeting in Washington. Attend the "Meet the Cabinet"

GOP Conference Event. Meeting with the 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 MSU-Northern Commencement Address in Montana.

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

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**

The Secretary's OPED on energy is published here:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/may/1/an-america-first-energy-policy-holds-3-powerful-be/>

### **Speaking Invitations**

#### **Accepted**

5/2 National Tribal Energy Summit (DC)

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 reports a very active weather pattern to persist over the Midwest throughout the week, exacerbating existing flood conditions in Missouri and Illinois.

USGS deployed 5 crews in Missouri within the Gasconade, Meramec, Current, St. Francis, and Big River basins. Over 30 stream gages experienced record peaks within the White, Arkansas, and lower Mississippi basins. Additional high water mark crews are being deployed for peak verification to support anticipated Annual Exceedance Probability computations. The Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center also deployed 5 crews to determine discharge measurements in Indiana and Kentucky, where the lower Patoka basin is expected to experience major category flooding later this week.

The National Park Service deployed a Type-2 All-Hazards Incident Management Team to Ozark National Scenic River ways, closed due to flooding, in order to assist with flood response. Rangers have been assisting local resources with 30 water rescues over the last 36 hours. The park has offered heavy equipment, saw crews, and other park staff and assets to support local emergency response efforts. The NPS has deployed additional law enforcement support to the park. Missouri Governor Eric Greitens visited the park on May 1 for the afternoon Incident Briefing. Several locations within the park have been damaged or destroyed.

In Arizona, the Sawmill Fire has burned 46,991 (no change) acres and is 96 (+2)-percent contained. The fire is being transitioned to a Type-4 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 242 (-64) personnel assigned, which includes 57 (-4) DOI personnel. There are 0 (no change) residential structures threatened. The containment date remains May 3.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 100,166 (+3,918) acres. The fire is 8 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 468 (-12) personnel, including 72 (-1) DOI personnel. There are 87 (no change) residences and 17 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date is November 1.

-

## **Media of Interest**

### **Secretary Zinke Touts “America First” Energy Policy.**

In an op-ed for the Washington Times (5/1, Zinke), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke writes that like “America’s conservationist” president Theodore Roosevelt, President Trump “believes that responsible development of natural resources, conservation stewardship, and outdoor recreation on public lands benefit all Americans.” According to Zinke, “developing American energy and achieving American energy independence have three major benefits to the environment, economy and national security.” He recognizes that “while not all public lands are appropriate for energy development, many provide the perfect opportunity to balance energy, conservation and outdoor recreation priorities.” Zinke asserts that the Interior Department “leads the way in showing that responsible energy development and conservation stewardship are possible.”

## **Interior Budget Would Get \$12.3B Under Omnibus Deal.**

E&E Publishing (5/1) reports that “Congressional leaders reached a bipartisan deal” Sunday night “to fund the government through the rest of the year that avoids steep cuts for U.S. EPA and renewable energy programs sought by the Trump administration.” For the Interior Department, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service “would see slight funding increases.” Overall, the Interior Department “would get \$12.3 billion, \$42 million more than enacted levels.”

## **High Court Declines To Hear Polar Bear Habitat Challenge.**

The Hill (5/1, Wheeler) reports that the Supreme Court on Monday declined “to hear a challenge to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to designate 187,000 square miles of Alaska’s coast and waters a critical habitat for the threatened polar bear.” The high court’s “refusal to hear the case leaves in place a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling upholding the designation.” It “gave no explanation for its decision not to hear the cases.”

## **Senators Call On Trump Administration To Protect Coastlines From Offshore Drilling.**

The Dover (DE) Post (5/1) reports that 27 Democratic senators called on the Trump Administration “to protect the coastlines of the U.S. from offshore oil drilling.” Led by Sens. Edward J. and Robert Menendez, “the group of lawmakers sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke urging him not to revise the 2017-22 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program — Five-Year Plan — to eliminate protections for the east and west coasts, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and for the sensitive marine ecosystems in the Arctic Ocean.” In the letter, the senators say “that oil companies are currently holding and warehousing leases in the Gulf of Mexico that comprise an area nearly the size of Kentucky, so there is no need to open up any new areas to oil drilling and the threat of a spill.”

## **Trump Orders Benefit Coal Country.**

In a piece for TIME (5/1, Phillips), Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, writes that President Trump’s “team has delivered on a key campaign promise that will help people to improve their lives: removing regulatory barriers that are denying opportunities to working families.” Phillips points to the executive order “halting the implementation of all pending regulations” and an order “requiring that for every new federal regulation, at least two others be repealed.” In addition, the Trump Administration has “enlisted the help of Congress to repeal regulations through the Congressional Review Act,” including eliminating the “stream protection rule.”

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

### **Inquiries**

· EE News - REQUEST – The Omnibus bill includes language barring cabinet secretaries from using taxpayer dollars to commission painted portraits. Does Secretary Zinke agree or does he have plans for his portrait to be photographed? – RESPONSE – “Secretary Zinke is only 61 days into his tenure and is focusing his attention on delivering real results to the

American people.”

- Morning Consult – REQUEST – Asked for the “hard and fast final list” of what the department has decided to review. Asked for confirmation that Katahdin Woods would not be reviewed. Asked to confirm statements made by the Secretary to a Maine resident who helped establish the monument. – RESPONSE – Stated we don’t have a “hard and fast final list” and referenced the previous list circulated as a list of DOI-managed monuments that were designated with the Antiquities Act as of 1/1/1996 that are 100,000 acres or more. Reiterated no decisions have been made about any monument, it’s a thoughtful and deliberative process, and we will have more to announce in the coming weeks.
- A number of inquiries asking for the two press releases we issued (see below)

## **Top Stories**

- Washington Times: Zinke OpEd: An ‘America First’ energy policy holds 3 powerful benefits
- Houston Chronicle: Interior secretary calls for U.S. to dominate global energy
- Morning Consult: No One’s Saying Which National Monuments Interior Is Reviewing
- Washington Examiner: Interior Department appoints top energy adviser

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- TODAY: Secretary Zinke traveled to Houston to speak at the Offshore Technology Conference where he signed two secretarial orders following POTUS EO on offshore. The Orders 1. Direct a new 5-year plan for offshore energy and 2. Establishes a new position at Interior to oversee energy portfolio (Vincent DeVito)
- TOMORROW: Secretary Zinke will speak at the Tribal Energy Summit hosted by DOE at the JW Marriott in DC
- FYI: The U.S. Geological Survey will release a new report on “critical minerals” noting that the U.S. is 100% reliant on China for about half of all “critical minerals” and is reliant on Russia and Canada for many others. This could be a strong America First opportunity. We are working to ID messaging opportunities with upcoming rollout.
- STILL AROUND: Secretaries Zinke, Carson, Chao, and DeVos will be profiled in Washington Post for the transition of power. Currently working with Juliet Elperin to shape the story. She is taking a lot of what we have to offer. Publishing next week.

-

## **Federal Register Listings.**

Sent to the FR on Monday.

REG0006962 BLM Notice of Individual Special Recreation Permit Requirement and Cave Closures on Public Lands in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties, Nevada. The BLM provides notice of a new Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) requirement for recreational use in three caves within the Ely District in east-central Nevada. The BLM also provides notice of

seasonal or temporary cave closures. Notice 05/01/2017.

REG0006978 FWS Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Mount Hermon June Beetle at the Scotts Valley Middle School, Santa Cruz County, California. The Scotts Valley Middle School has applied for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The application addresses the potential for take of the endangered Mount Hermon June beetle, incidental to the renovation of the middle school campus. This is a high-profile school renovation project that was funded through a local bond measure. Notice 05/01/2017.

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/2/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary will meet speak at the National Tribal Energy Summit (DC)

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with San Juan County Commissioners.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with California Assembly Members.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with The Partnership of Rangeland Trust Meeting.

TODAY: The Secretary will meet with a group of Arizona Stakeholders.

W 5/3: Address the Land Trust Alliance meeting in Washington. Attend the “Meet the Cabinet” GOP Conference Event. Meeting with the 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 MSU-Northern Commencement Address in Montana.

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

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**

The Secretary’s OPED on energy is published

here: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/may/1/an-america-first-energy-policy-holds-3-powerful-be/>

### **Speaking Invitations**

#### **Accepted**

5/2 National Tribal Energy Summit (DC)

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 reports a very active weather pattern to persist over the Midwest throughout the week, exacerbating existing flood conditions in Missouri and Illinois.

USGS deployed 5 crews in Missouri within the Gasconade, Meramec, Current, St. Francis, and Big River basins. Over 30 stream gages experienced record peaks within the White, Arkansas, and lower Mississippi basins. Additional high water mark crews are being deployed for peak verification to support anticipated Annual Exceedance Probability computations. The Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center also deployed 5 crews to determine discharge measurements in Indiana and Kentucky, where the lower Patoka basin is expected to experience major category flooding later this week.

The National Park Service deployed a Type-2 All-Hazards Incident Management Team to Ozark National Scenic River ways, closed due to flooding, in order to assist with flood response. Rangers have been assisting local resources with 30 water rescues over the last 36 hours. The park has offered heavy equipment, saw crews, and other park staff and assets to support local emergency response efforts. The NPS has deployed additional law enforcement support to the park. Missouri Governor Eric Greitens visited the park on May 1 for the afternoon Incident Briefing. Several locations within the park have been damaged or destroyed.

In Arizona, the Sawmill Fire has burned 46,991 (no change) acres and is 96 (+2)-percent contained. The fire is being transitioned to a Type-4 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 242 (-64) personnel assigned, which includes 57 (-4) DOI personnel. There are 0 (no change) residential structures threatened. The containment date remains May 3.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 100,166 (+3,918) acres. The fire is 8 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 468 (-12) personnel, including 72 (-1) DOI personnel. There are 87 (no change) residences and 17 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date is November 1.

### **Media of Interest**

#### **Secretary Zinke Touts “America First” Energy Policy.**

In an op-ed for the Washington Times (5/1, Zinke), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke writes that like “America’s conservationist” president Theodore Roosevelt, President Trump “believes that responsible development of natural resources, conservation stewardship, and outdoor recreation on public lands benefit all Americans.” According to Zinke, “developing American energy and achieving American energy independence have three major benefits to the environment, economy and national security.” He recognizes that “while not all public lands are appropriate for energy development, many provide the perfect opportunity to balance energy, conservation and outdoor recreation priorities.” Zinke asserts that the Interior Department “leads the way in showing that responsible energy development and conservation stewardship are possible.”

#### **Interior Budget Would Get \$12.3B Under Omnibus Deal.**

E&E Publishing (5/1) reports that “Congressional leaders reached a bipartisan deal” Sunday night “to fund the government through the rest of the year that avoids steep cuts for U.S. EPA and renewable energy programs sought by the Trump administration.” For the Interior Department, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service “would see slight funding increases.” Overall, the Interior Department “would get \$12.3 billion, \$42 million more than enacted levels.”

#### **High Court Declines To Hear Polar Bear Habitat Challenge.**

The Hill (5/1, Wheeler) reports that the Supreme Court on Monday declined “to hear a challenge to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to designate 187,000 square miles of Alaska’s coast and waters a

critical habitat for the threatened polar bear.” The high court’s “refusal to hear the case leaves in place a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling upholding the designation.” It “gave no explanation for its decision not to hear the cases.”

### **Senators Call On Trump Administration To Protect Coastlines From Offshore Drilling.**

The Dover (DE) Post (5/1) reports that 27 Democratic senators called on the Trump Administration “to protect the coastlines of the U.S. from offshore oil drilling.” Led by Sens. Edward J. and Robert Menendez, “the group of lawmakers sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke urging him not to revise the 2017-22 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program — Five-Year Plan — to eliminate protections for the east and west coasts, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and for the sensitive marine ecosystems in the Arctic Ocean.” In the letter, the senators say “that oil companies are currently holding and warehousing leases in the Gulf of Mexico that comprise an area nearly the size of Kentucky, so there is no need to open up any new areas to oil drilling and the threat of a spill.”

### **Trump Orders Benefit Coal Country.**

In a piece for TIME (5/1, Phillips), Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, writes that President Trump’s “team has delivered on a key campaign promise that will help people to improve their lives: removing regulatory barriers that are denying opportunities to working families.” Phillips points to the executive order “halting the implementation of all pending regulations” and an order “requiring that for every new federal regulation, at least two others be repealed.” In addition, the Trump Administration has “enlisted the help of Congress to repeal regulations through the Congressional Review Act,” including eliminating the “stream protection rule.”

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

#### **Inquiries**

- EE News - REQUEST – The Omnibus bill includes language barring cabinet secretaries from using taxpayer dollars to commission painted portraits. Does Secretary Zinke agree or does he have plans for his portrait to be photographed? – RESPONSE – “Secretary Zinke is only 61 days into his tenure and is focusing his attention on delivering real results to the American people.”
- Morning Consult – REQUEST – Asked for the “hard and fast final list” of what the department has decided to review. Asked for confirmation that Katahdin Woods would not be reviewed. Asked to confirm statements made by the Secretary to a Maine resident who helped establish the monument. – RESPONSE – Stated we don’t have a “hard and fast final list” and referenced the previous list circulated as a list of DOI-managed monuments that were designated with the Antiquities Act as of 1/1/1996 that are 100,000 acres or more. Reiterated no decisions have been made about any monument, it’s a thoughtful and deliberative process, and we will have more to announce in the coming weeks.
- A number of inquiries asking for the two press releases we issued (see below)

#### **Top Stories**

- Washington Times: Zinke OpEd: An ‘America First’ energy policy holds 3 powerful benefits
- Houston Chronicle: Interior secretary calls for U.S. to dominate global energy
- Morning Consult: No One’s Saying Which National Monuments Interior Is Reviewing
- Washington Examiner: Interior Department appoints top energy adviser

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- TODAY: Secretary Zinke traveled to Houston to speak at the Offshore Technology Conference where he signed two secretarial orders following POTUS EO on offshore. The Orders 1. Direct a new 5-

year plan for offshore energy and 2. Establishes a new position at Interior to oversee energy portfolio (Vincent DeVito)

- TOMORROW: Secretary Zinke will speak at the Tribal Energy Summit hosted by DOE at the JW Marriott in DC

- FYI: The U.S. Geological Survey will release a new report on “critical minerals” noting that the U.S. is 100% reliant on China for about half of all “critical minerals” and is reliant on Russia and Canada for many others. This could be a strong America First opportunity. We are working to ID messaging opportunities with upcoming rollout.

- STILL AROUND: Secretaries Zinke, Carson, Chao, and DeVos will be profiled in Washington Post for the transition of power. Currently working with Juliet Elperin to shape the story. She is taking a lot of what we have to offer. Publishing next week.

#### **Federal Register Listings.**

Sent to the FR on Monday.

REG0006962 BLM Notice of Individual Special Recreation Permit Requirement and Cave Closures on Public Lands in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties, Nevada. The BLM provides notice of a new Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) requirement for recreational use in three caves within the Ely District in east-central Nevada. The BLM also provides notice of seasonal or temporary cave closures. Notice 05/01/2017.

REG0006978 FWS Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Mount Hermon June Beetle at the Scotts Valley Middle School, Santa Cruz County, California. The Scotts Valley Middle School has applied for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The application addresses the potential for take of the endangered Mount Hermon June beetle, incidental to the renovation of the middle school campus. This is a high-profile school renovation project that was funded through a local bond measure. Notice 05/01/2017.