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From: Mashburn, Lori

Sent: 2017-11-14T16:48:25-05:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report for 11/14

Received: 2017-11-14T16:49:14-05:00

DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-14-17.docx

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/14/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

THIS WEEK: The Secretary is in DC.

- 11/14 Meeting with Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Sen. Barrasso, Rep. Cheney, and Rep. Cook
 - o Meeting with Senators Durbin, Heinrich, Merkley, and Udall
- 11/15 Meeting with The Nature Conservancy
 - o Meeting with National Park Service Regional Directors Meeting
- 11/16 OTR Breakfast Roundtable with Senators
- 11/17 Bible Museum Dedication Ceremony

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Internal Meeting in DC.

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Monday, 11/13)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **Politico:** (Esther Whieldon)—**REQUEST--** We have learned that Interior plans to shut down the USGS Eastern Geographic Science Center this fiscal year. Has the Interior given notice to shut down any other USGS centers? And do you have any comment on why this one in particular was targeted for closure? --

RESPONSE— TBD.

Top Stories

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- **Salt Lake Tribune:** Ryan Zinke, first Interior secretary in nearly 50 years with military background, spends Veterans Day cleaning the Vietnam Wall, praising vets

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

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2017 for any Class Member or the heir of a Class Member to provide documentation so that payment can be made.

· **November 15:** “Rock Your Mocs (Moccasins) Day!” Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda will participate in the annual Native Youth inspired day by gathering with employee to “Rock Your Mocs!” This will be social media driven with our leadership, staff, and BIE Schools.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING SENR MARKUP: The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee will hold a legislative markup of Chairman Murkowski’s budget reconciliation language to open Alaska’s 1002 area for natural resource development. This is follow up to an oversight hearing that occurred on November 2, 2017, where DOI testified in support of Congressional authorization for development. This is consistent with the Department’s FY18 budget request. In addition, the Department will be delivering Questions of the Record and a response to Sen. Cantwell prior to the markup.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 801 (LaHood), Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2888 (Smith), Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act; H.R. 3979 (Jeffries), Keep America’s Refuges Operational Act; H.R. 4266 (Poliquin), To clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park. Sue Masica (Acting Dep. Director, NPS) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

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UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. John Tahsuda (Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT: Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

Timing: TBD

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- **TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY:** Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/21 US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

11/14 George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In Washington, a search and rescue operation occurred over the weekend near Mount Storm King in Olympic National Park. Two hikers were descending a slope with rocky terrain when one slipped. The 21-year old male resident of Oregon fell approximately 20 to 30 feet and tumbled an additional 100 feet before landing. Search and rescue efforts began Friday, and the individual's remains were located Saturday morning. This incident has received local media attention.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

After Trump Shrinks Bears Ears, It Will Still Be Larger Than Zion And Bryce Combined, Says Interior Secretary.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/13, Burr) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke

“says he believes President Donald Trump will trim Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument as he recommended but it will still be larger than Zion and Bryce national parks combined.” Doing so “could mean a dramatic reduction from the current 1.35 million acres to somewhere north of 180,000 acres,” since “Zion covers 147,000 acres and Bryce nearly 36,000 acres.” State officials “had asked Trump to cut Bears Ears down to 120,000 acres.” Zinke “noted that he believes Trump will follow his recommendations, which in the case of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase, would return hundreds of thousands of acres back to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service and open access for oil and gas exploration and other uses that are blocked by the monument status.”

Tribal Loan Program Needs More Oversight, Watchdog Says.

Law360 (11/13, Crosby) reports that “a federal program meant to help tribes and individual Native Americans secure otherwise impossible-to-get financing has approved risky, oversize loans without first requiring proof that the money would benefit Native American communities, actions that unnecessarily put taxpayers on the hook, a federal watchdog said in a scathing report released Monday.” The report by the Interior Department’s Office for Inspector General “said that federal authorities inconsistently applied federal law governing the loan program.”

Senate Panel To Mark Up ANWR Proposal This Week.

Natural Gas Intelligence (11/13, Passut) reports that “a Senate panel plans to meet this week to mark up a proposal to open a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas development, which may require the Department of Interior (DOI) to hold at least two lease sales for the region over the next decade.” The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has “scheduled a meeting Wednesday to consider reconciliation legislation attached to a \$4 trillion federal budget bill for fiscal year 2018, which the Senate passed along mostly partisan lines on Oct. 19.” The measure “includes language to open 2,000 acres of the 1.5-million acre coastal plain portion of ANWR, a region also known as the 1002 Area, to energy development. ANWR covers 19 million acres in total.”

Federal Court Rules In Favor Of National Park Service.

The AP (11/13) reports that “the U.S. Court of Appeals decided that the National Park Service does not need to substantively assess the elk hunt every year to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.” The court held “last week that a decade-old plan, a 2007 environmental impact statement, was adequate.” The Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (11/13, Koshmrl) reports that appeals court concluded: “An agency is not required to make a new assessment under NEPA every time it takes a step that implements a previously studied action. The 2007 EIS was clearly sufficient to cover elk hunting during the ensuing fifteen years under the 2007 plan, absent a material change causing unforeseen environmental consequences.”

Complicated U.S. Relations Leave Veterans Without Full Health Benefits.

In a story on Hawaii Public Radio (11/9, Hiraishi) reporter Ku'uwehi Hiraishi "shares the story" of veterans from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The article notes that "serving in the U.S. military does not automatically qualify veterans for full health benefits." Emi Chutaro, Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association or PIHOA, explained, "The three U.S. territories Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because they're U.S. territories, they are fully eligible for VA services cause they are U.S. citizens. It's a different situation to the veterans that are coming from the freely associated states because they aren't U.S. citizens."

FEMA Approves VI Government's Application For Community Disaster Loan; DSNAP Sees 7,400 Applicants In Three Days.

The Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (11/9, Gilbert) reports that "the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the territory's request for a community disaster loan, which makes available \$500 million to the government over the course three fiscal years." The money is "part of a \$36.5 billion disaster relief measure Congress approved last month."

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DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department

Petty brings decades of scientific work, and diverse Alaska, California, and Idaho experience to Interior

WASHINGTON Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke cheered the nomination. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Dr. Petty currently serves as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 13th.

REG0007507 NPS NIC - Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA N2863 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an Inventory of

human remains under the control of the Office of the State Archaeologist Bioarchaeology Program, Iowa City, IA. The human remains were removed from Grant and Richland Counties, WI. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007508 NPS NIC - Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR; Correction N2877 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the correction of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from multiple counties in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007525 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA N2862 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of Andover Newton Theological School that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007527 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT N2859 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT. The human remains were removed from a mound near Fort Totten, Benson County, ND. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007549 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2873 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains were removed from multiple locations in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007550 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2874 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains were removed from multiple locations in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007551 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2875 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from multiple locations in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007552 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2876 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains were removed from Drew County, AR. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007592 NPS NIC - Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA N2878 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA. The human remains and associated funerary objects are removed from the Swanton site (VT-FR-1) in Franklin County, VT. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007593 NPS NIC - Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA N2879 -- This Notice is pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003 of completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from the Hornblower II and Abel's Hill sites in Dukes County, MA. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007595 NPS NIC - Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA N2880 -- This Notice is pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of completion of an inventory of human remains and an associated funerary object under the control of the Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA. The human remains and associated funerary object were removed from Birch Bay, Whatcom County, WA. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007598 NPS NIR - Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, OK N2866 -- This Notice is pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate a cultural item under the control of the Gilcrease Museum that meets the definition of a sacred object and object of cultural patrimony under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/13/2017

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

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Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (including Bureau of Indian Affairs)

- **November 14:** Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda and Acting Special Trustee Gidner will appear on the Native America Calling radio show to talk about the final deadline the US District Court set for November 27, 2017 for any Class Member or the heir of a Class Member to provide documentation so that payment can be made.
- **November 15:** "Rock Your Mocs (Moccasins) Day!" Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda will participate in the annual Native Youth inspired day by gathering with employee to "Rock Your Mocs!" This will be social media driven with our leadership, staff, and BIE Schools.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING SENR MARKUP: The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee will hold a legislative markup of Chairman Murkowski's budget reconciliation language to open Alaska's 1002 area for natural resource development. This is follow up to an oversight hearing that occurred on November 2, 2017, where DOI testified in support of Congressional authorization for development. This is consistent with the Department's FY18 budget request. In addition, the Department will be delivering Questions of the Record and a response to Sen. Cantwell prior to the markup.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 801 (LaHood), Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2888 (Smith), Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act; H.R. 3979 (Jeffries), Keep America's Refuges Operational Act; H.R. 4266 (Poliquin), To clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park. Sue Masica (Acting Dep. Director, NPS) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. John Tahsuda (Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT: Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

Timing: TBD

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- **TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY:** Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)
 11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)
 11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)
 12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
 12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)
 12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)
 12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)
 12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)
 12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)
 12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)
 12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
 2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
 2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In Washington, a search and rescue operation occurred over the weekend near Mount Storm King in Olympic National Park. Two hikers were descending a slope with rocky terrain when one slipped. The 21-year old male resident of Oregon fell approximately 20 to 30 feet and tumbled an additional 100 feet before landing. Search and rescue efforts began Friday, and the individual's remains were located Saturday morning. This incident has received local media attention.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**After Trump Shrinks Bears Ears, It Will Still Be Larger Than Zion And Bryce Combined, Says Interior Secretary.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/13, Burr) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "says he believes President Donald Trump will trim Utah's Bears Ears National Monument as he recommended but it will still be larger than Zion and Bryce national parks combined." Doing so "could mean a dramatic reduction from the current 1.35 million acres to somewhere north of 180,000 acres," since "Zion covers 147,000 acres and Bryce nearly 36,000 acres." State officials "had asked Trump to cut Bears Ears down to 120,000 acres." Zinke "noted that he believes Trump will follow his recommendations, which in the case of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase, would return hundreds of thousands of acres back to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service and open access for oil and gas exploration and other uses that are blocked by the monument status."

Tribal Loan Program Needs More Oversight, Watchdog Says.

Law360 (11/13, Crosby) reports that "a federal program meant to help tribes and individual Native Americans secure otherwise impossible-to-get financing has approved risky, oversize loans without first requiring proof that the money would benefit Native American communities, actions that unnecessarily put taxpayers on the hook, a federal watchdog said in a scathing report released Monday." The report by the Interior Department's Office for Inspector General "said that federal authorities inconsistently applied federal law governing the loan program."

Senate Panel To Mark Up ANWR Proposal This Week.

Natural Gas Intelligence (11/13, Passut) reports that “a Senate panel plans to meet this week to mark up a proposal to open a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas development, which may require the Department of Interior (DOI) to hold at least two lease sales for the region over the next decade.” The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has “scheduled a meeting Wednesday to consider reconciliation legislation attached to a \$4 trillion federal budget bill for fiscal year 2018, which the Senate passed along mostly partisan lines on Oct. 19.” The measure “includes language to open 2,000 acres of the 1.5-million acre coastal plain portion of ANWR, a region also known as the 1002 Area, to energy development. ANWR covers 19 million acres in total.”

Federal Court Rules In Favor Of National Park Service.

The AP (11/13) reports that “the U.S. Court of Appeals decided that the National Park Service does not need to substantively assess the elk hunt every year to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.” The court held “last week that a decade-old plan, a 2007 environmental impact statement, was adequate.” The Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide (11/13, Koshmrl) reports that appeals court concluded: “An agency is not required to make a new assessment under NEPA every time it takes a step that implements a previously studied action. The 2007 EIS was clearly sufficient to cover elk hunting during the ensuing fifteen years under the 2007 plan, absent a material change causing unforeseen environmental consequences.”

Complicated U.S. Relations Leave Veterans Without Full Health Benefits.

In a story on Hawaii Public Radio (11/9, Hiraishi) reporter Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi “shares the story” of veterans from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The article notes that “serving in the U.S. military does not automatically qualify veterans for full health benefits.” Emi Chutaro, Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association or PIHOA, explained, “The three U.S. territories – Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands because they’re U.S. territories, they are fully eligible for VA services cause they are U.S. citizens. It’s a different situation to the veterans that are coming from the freely associated states because they aren’t U.S. citizens.”

FEMA Approves VI Government’s Application For Community Disaster Loan; DSNAP Sees 7,400 Applicants In Three Days.

The Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR) (11/9, Gilbert) reports that “the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the territory’s request for a community disaster loan, which makes available \$500 million to the government over the course three fiscal years.” The money is “part of a \$36.5 billion disaster relief measure Congress approved last month.”

DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump’s Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department

Petty brings decades of scientific work, and diverse Alaska, California, and Idaho experience to Interior

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke cheered the nomination. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Dr. Petty currently serves as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 13th.

REG0007507 NPS NIC - Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA N2863 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an Inventory of human remains under the control of the Office of the State Archaeologist Bioarchaeology Program, Iowa City, IA. The human remains were removed from Grant and Richland Counties, WI. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007508 NPS NIC - Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR; Correction N2877 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the correction of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from multiple counties in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007525 NPS Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA N2862 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of Andover Newton Theological School that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007527 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT N2859 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT. The human remains were removed from a mound near Fort Totten, Benson County, ND. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007549 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2873 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains were removed from multiple locations in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007550 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2874 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains were removed from multiple locations in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007551 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2875 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary

objects under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from multiple locations in the State of Arkansas. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007552 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR N2876 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville, AR. The human remains were removed from Drew County, AR. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007592 NPS NIC - Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA N2878 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Andover, MA. The human remains and associated funerary objects are removed from the Swanton site (VT-FR-1) in Franklin County, VT. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007593 NPS NIC - Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA N2879 -- This Notice is pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003 of completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from the Hornblower II and Abel's Hill sites in Dukes County, MA. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007595 NPS NIC - Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA N2880 -- This Notice is pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of completion of an inventory of human remains and an associated funerary object under the control of the Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA. The human remains and associated funerary object were removed from Birch Bay, Whatcom County, WA. Notice 11/13/2017

REG0007598 NPS NIR - Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, OK N2866 -- This Notice is pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate a cultural item under the control of the Gilcrease Museum that meets the definition of a sacred object and object of cultural patrimony under 25 U.S.C. 3001. Notice 11/13/2017