

Conversation Contents

Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/23/17

Attachments:

/182. Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/23/17/1.1 DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-23-17.docx

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

From: "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 23 2017 12:20:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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To:
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/23/17
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Attached and copied below.

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Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

NOTE: Partners Outdoors is requesting a proclamation recognizing Great Outdoors Month. This has been done in the past.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will:

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5/23: Call with Senator Tillis.

5/23: Meeting with Scott Angelle

THIS WEEK

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President Proposes \$11.7 Billion Budget for Interior in FY2018

Budget saves taxpayers \$1.6B and increases funding for National Parks Infrastructure and Responsible Energy Development

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump today proposed an \$11.7 billion Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 2018) budget for the Department of the Interior. The President's budget allows Interior to carry out its core mission of responsible multiple-use of public lands in a way that both conserves America's iconic landscapes and supports responsible resource development. The President's budget prioritizes public lands infrastructure by increasing funding for National Parks to address their deferred maintenance backlog. The budget also prioritizes responsible American energy production on federal lands and national security. To download highlights of the DOI FY 2018 budget, click this link: <https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2018/highlights>

Acting Deputy Secretary Jim Cason to Testify: House Natural Resources Oversight Hearing on the Status and Future of the Cobell Land Consolidation

FURTHER OUT PLANS:

May 24: Cameron and Mikkelsen to Testify on Reclamation Budget: Special Assistant to the Secretary Scott Cameron and Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen will testify before the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Committee, in a joint hearing with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on the Bureau of Reclamation's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal.

U.S. Geological Survey

May 23: USGS National News Release: *draft* New Iguana Species Discovered

May 23: Joint National News Release: Searching to Study the Remaining Few - USGS Science on World Turtle Day

TBD: Strategic Minerals Release

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

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5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)

5/28 Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run (DC)

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

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

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5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)

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On May 22, at approximately 6:30 p.m. EDT, an explosion occurred at the Manchester Arena in Manchester, United Kingdom (UK). The incident occurred at the end of a performance as patrons were departing. Greater Manchester Police have confirmed at least 22 fatalities and 59 injured. There are no reports of U.S. victims. Local police confirmed the attacker detonated an Improvised Explosive Device. At this time, no responsibility has been claimed for the attack.

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 152,231 (+247) acres. The fire is 60 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 950 (-39) personnel, including 145 (-2) DOI personnel. There are 320 (no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. The containment date remains November 1.

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Former Louisiana Official Scott Angelle Tapped As BSEE Head.

The Hill (5/22, Cama) reports that the Trump Administration has “tapped a former Louisiana utility regulator to lead the agency responsible for offshore oil and natural gas drilling safety.” Scott Angelle, “most recently vice chairman of Louisiana’s Public Service Commission, is now the head of the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), the agency said Monday.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement, “Scott Angelle brings a wealth of experience to BSEE, having spent many years working for the safe and efficient energy production of both Louisiana’s and our country’s offshore resources.” He continued, “As we set our path towards energy dominance, I am confident that Scott has the expertise, vision, and the leadership necessary to effectively enhance our program, and to promote the safe and environmentally responsible exploration, development, and production of our country’s offshore oil and gas resources.”

Maine Gov. LePage Bans Signs To Katahdin Woods And Waters.

The AP (5/22, Sharp) reports that the Maine Department of Transportation is “delaying installation of signs alongside Interstate 95 for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument pending the outcome of a review ordered by President Donald Trump last month of the 27 monuments created by his predecessors.” A spokesman for Republican Gov. Paul LePage “said it would be premature to install signs before completion of the 120-day review.” However, “a leading proponent of the monument accused the governor of just being ‘spiteful.’”

FWS Considering Changes To Protections For North Carolina Red Wolves.

The Hill (5/22, Devaney) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service is “considering changes to the existing protections for North Carolina red wolves.” The FWS “issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on Monday as it prepares for potential changes to how it handles the ‘non-essential experimental population’ of these red wolves.”

White House Communications Report

WH Comms submitted on 05/22/2017

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Inquiries

· Washington Post (Dino Grandoni) – REQUEST - I understand from two of the non-USGS authors of the Nature Scientific Reports study that the press release was promoting that the Department of Interior asked for a line about climate change to be deleted from the press release. That line was: “Global climate change drives sea-level rise, increasing the frequency of coastal flooding.” Why was that line removed from the press release? Does it involve any broader communications change under the Trump administration? (RESPONSE) USGS Career public affairs team is reaching out to explain it’s business as usual, the sentence was redundant, and that the USGS has sent many press releases about climate change since 1/20/17.

· Law360 - REQUEST - Regarding a complaint filed Friday in Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation v. Zinke et al, case number 1:17-cv-00954, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. I wanted to reach out to see if the federal government would like to include a comment in the article. My deadline is in about two hours. (RESPONSE) Directed all

questions regarding litigation to DOJ.

- Gizmodo and Huffington Post – REQUEST - Why did Sec. Zinke meet with Palmer Luckey, founder of Oculus VR/ Oculus Rift and Charles Johnson, CEO of WeSearchr.com & Gotnews.com to discuss "Border Wall building plans." It appears the three had a video call at 12:30 p.m. April 12. – RESPONSE – TBD
- Bloomberg, Washington Post, The Hill, others – REQUEST – Wanting embargoed information about bureau and department budget –RESPONSE – Nothing to share. We will have a call tomorrow.

Top Stories

- Interior Denies Secretary Zinke Will Recommend Rescinding Bears Ears Designation
Huffington Post, Deseret (UT) News
- BOEM Schedules Cook Inlet Lease Sale For June coverage was provided by Natural Gas Intelligence (5/19), the Oil and Gas Investor (5/19), Splash 24/7 (SGP) (5/19, Scully), Offshore Magazine (5/19), Alaska Public Radio Network (5/19), and KTVA-TV Anchorage (AK) Anchorage, AK (5/19).

Top Issues and Accomplishments

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- TUESDAY – Secretary Zinke will do a noon budget briefing call with reporters then a local and state government call. Each bureau will also hold a call. /// Acting Dep. Sec Jim Cason will testify on the Hill about the Indian Land Buyback Program
- THURSDAY – Zinke will visit the U.S. Geological Survey HQ in Reston VA
- FRIDAY/SATURDAY – Secretary Zinke is in Greenland with Senator Murkowski
- MONDAY – Fox News will run a special interview with Sec. Zinke about his military service and how it impacts the way he leads DOI. It will be pushed to the local affiliates as well.
- NEXT WEEK – Secretary Zinke is in Alaska with Sen. Murkowski and Idaho with Sec. Purdue.

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Federal Register Listings

Items cleared for the FR on Monday.

REG0007030 BIA Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1076-0164; Home-Living Programs and School Closure and Consolidation. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection pertaining to the Home-Living Programs and School Closure and Consolidation. The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 05/22/2017.

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REG0006998 FWS Endangered Species; Marine Mammals: Receipt of Applications for Permit. This is a weekly batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 05/22/2017.

REG0007026 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1024-0021; National Capital Region Application for Public Gathering. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the NPS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection pertaining to the application form the public uses to request permission to hold public gatherings on the National Mall. The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 05/22/2017.

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REG0007029 NPS Agency Information Collection Activities: OMB Control Number 1024-0233; National Park Service Leasing Program. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the NPS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection pertaining to the NPS leasing program. The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 05/22/2017.

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Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

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