

**From:** Hommel, Scott  
**To:** [Douglas Domenech](#); [Cason James](#); [Devito, Vincent](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Virginia Johnson](#); [Cameron, Scott](#); [David Mihalic](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Williams, Timothy](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Heather Swift](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Interior 30 Day Look Ahead  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 1:55:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 6-13-17.docx](#)

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Today's report

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
June 13, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of June 12, 2017

**DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead**

**Presidential Initiatives and Awareness**

1. **SAGE GROUSE:** Last week, the Secretary announced via Secretarial Order a multi-faceted strategy on sage grouse that includes partnership with the eleven affected western states, a review of 2015 land use plans to identify provisions that require modification or recession, and an analysis of the efficacy of target populations on a state-by-state basis. An interagency review team was established by the review, which is required to report back within 60 days of the signing of the order on a path forward.  
**Timing:** August 2017  
**Contact:** Kathy Benedetto, Bureau of Land Management
2. **MONUMENT REVIEW:** The Secretary submitted the interim report to the President required by Executive Order 13792 entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act” containing recommendations on the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) due on June 10. The Secretary is traveling to the Katahdin Woods National Monument in Maine this week as well as Boston to visit with Fisherman on the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument on Friday.  
**Timing:** June 10-August 24 (conclusion of review).  
**Contact:** Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
3. **WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION:** This event would be a great opportunity to showcase the President’s America-First Energy Policy and the impact it will have on western states and rural communities. If the President cannot attend, we are requesting that the Secretary attend as his representative. Western Governors have approx. 90% of public lands that would be part of future energy opportunities. Energy Week is the last week of June. We submitted a proposal for the President’s participation in an event in Whitefish, MT during the Western Governors’ Association annual meeting to highlight onshore energy production, which plays an integral role in domestic energy production and is a major economic driver for rural communities throughout the West. **Timing:** June 27  
**Contact:** Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff
4. **NEW FIVE-YEAR OFFSHORE ENERGY PROGRAM.** In response to President Trump’s Executive Order on Offshore Energy, Secretary Zinke will announce a request for information for a new five-year offshore program that considers opening new areas of the Outer Continental Shelf for offshore exploration. Since the Administration took office, Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting shows that the number of workers in oil and gas extraction has steadily risen as Administration policies and rebounding of energy prices has driven employment higher. This is

potentially a significant announcement that could highlight the President's vision for American Energy production.

**Timing:** Target Last Week of June 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

5. **USGS CRITICAL MINERALS:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and status of production, resources, and reserves. The Department will be developing a rollout event likely in July that will potentially be pitched for White House participation.

**Timing:** July 2017

**Contact:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

6. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION.** The Department is working to facilitate a path forward to maintain operation of the Navajo Generating Station, which provides baseload electricity for much of the Southwest and directly supports more than 800 local jobs. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation is a part owner of the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration have a role in the ultimate decision associated with the plant. Interior has hosted a series of public listening sessions and meetings on this issue. The current focus is extending the expiring lease between the main operator, Salt River Project, and the Navajo Nation which owns the land. After facilitation by Interior, an agreement in principle was reached on a two-year extension of the lease for the operating life of the power plant through 2019. It should be signed in July. Interior is helping to identify a possible future owner to keep the plant generating power indefinitely.

**Timing:** July 2017


**Contact:** Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

7. **CALIFORNIA WATER FIX RECORD OF DECISION.** The Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service are working with the State of California to achieve federal and state environmental compliance on the \$15 billion California Water Fix water infrastructure project. The project would construct tunnels to divert water from the Sacramento River to provide water supplies to California residents, businesses and farmers. The federal and state environmental reviews are expected to be completed about June 9, and Interior will be asked to sign off on the associated federal Record of Decision about June 23.

**Timing:** June 23 2017

**Contact:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

## **Reports to Congress and Congressional Testimony**

1. **SECRETARY ZINKE TO TESTIFY ON THE HILL FOR BUDGET HEARINGS.** The Secretary testified before the House Interior Appropriations subcommittee on the FY18 Budget on Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to appear before the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees (6/21), Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (6/20) and the House Natural Resources Committee (6/22).  
**Timing:** June 2017  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs
2. **SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE WATER & POWER SUBCOMMITTEE:** Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, will likely testify before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Water and Power Subcommittee on a number of legislative proposals, such as S. 440, to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota; S. 677, the Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act; S. 685, the Clean Water for Rural Communities; and S. 1012, the New Mexico Drought Preparedness Act. This hearing is rescheduled from its originally cancelled date on May 10, 2017.  
**Timing:** 2:30 pm, June 14, 2017  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs
3. **DEPUTY SECRETARY NOMINEE BERNHARDT IN PROGRESS TOWARD NOMINATION:** Mr. Bernhardt was reported out of committee June 6<sup>th</sup> and is awaiting a final floor vote. Outreach has occurred to Senate Majority Leader's office. Majority is expected to hotline his nomination, which will undoubtedly be opposed by minority.
4. **DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE:** BLM is tentatively scheduled to testify before the HNR Committee on a Helium discussion draft bill.  
**Timing:** June 21, 2017  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs
5. **DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO BRIEF CALIFORNIA GOP MEMBERS AND CA SENATE LEADERSHIP ON THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA WATER FIX:** Acting Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron and Amanda Kaster-Averill will brief Congressional staff on the proposed California water fix.  
**Timing:** June 13, 2017  
**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Advisor, Congressional Affairs
6. b) (5) DPP  
  
**Timing:** TBD  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

7. **DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO BRIEF CALIFORNIA GOP MEMBERS AND CA SENATE LEADERSHIP ON THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA WATER FIX:** Acting Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron and Amanda Kaster-Averill will brief Congressional staff on the proposed California water fix.  
**Timing:** June 13, 2017  
**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Policy Advisor
8. **DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE:** BLM is tentatively scheduled to testify before the HNR Committee on a Helium discussion draft bill.  
**Timing:** June 21, 2017  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

### **Reports to Congress**

1. **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO RELEASE REPORT TO CONGRESS:** under the recently-enacted WIIN act (pl 114-322) BOR is required to submit to Congress a list of water recycling and reuse projects that the bureaus deems feasible and eligible for funding under the Act. The list is compiled and is in final stages of approval.

### **Other/Awareness Only**

1. **SECRETARY ZINKE INVITED TO THE EVERGLADES BY BIPARTISAN FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:** Sen. Rubio led a letter to Sec. Zinke inviting him to tour the Everglades as soon as possible. No policy position touted within the letter, other than the importance of the Everglades to Florida. No date has been confirmed, but the Secretary has made it a priority. He would like to discuss the issue with Sen. Rubio over the phone in the immediate future before any trip is scheduled.  
**Timing:** Early Fall, Sen. Rubio has proposed August 24  
**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

### **Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions**

1. **FWS REFUGE-SPECIFIC HUNTING AND SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS.** Fish and Wildlife Service will publish a proposed rule and open a 30-day comment period on the 2017-2018 Refuge Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. The proposal also includes modifications to existing hunting and fishing regulations for refuges and wetland management districts.  
**Timing:** June 2017  
**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LAND.** Throughout June, the Bureau of Land Management will hold online oil and gas lease sales.
- **Nevada.** On June 12, BLM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 106 parcels totaling 195,732 acres in Nye, Eureka, and Lander Counties.
  - **Montana.** On June 13, BLM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 156 parcels totaling 69,056 acres in Custer, Garfield, Fallon, Carter, Rosebud, Big Horn, and Powder River Counties
  - **Utah.** On June 13, BLM will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 20 parcels covering 23,733 acres in Sevier, Piute, Garfield, and Sanpete Counties.
  - **Arkansas.** On June 22, BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 2 parcels totaling 160 acres in AR.

**Timing:** June 12-22

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

3. **SECTION 368 ENERGY CORRIDORS:** Section 368 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) required DOI, among other agencies, to identify and determine federal rights of way for interagency streamlined permitting procedures for energy projects. In mid-June, BLM will publish the final Section 368 Energy Corridor Region 1 (CA, NV, AZ) recommendations, initiating a 30-day public comment period. This is one of six regional reviews occurring under Section 368. Final approval by the Section 368 Executive Team is anticipated in early September 2017.

**Timing:** Mid-June

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

4. **MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE:** BLM is a cooperating agency with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which is expected to release the Final EIS for the Proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline Right of Way on June 23. The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a natural gas pipeline system that spans approximately 303 miles from northwestern West Virginia to southern Virginia, and would cross 3.4 miles of the Jefferson National Forest in Monroe County, WV and Giles and Montgomery Counties, VA. The Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and BLM are cooperating agencies. FERC is the lead agency in preparing the Final EIS. The BLM is the Federal agency responsible for issuing right-of-way (ROW) grants, with concurrence from the USFS and the COE,

**Timing:** June 23

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

4. **IDAHO POWER LINE RECORD OF DECISION.** The Boardman to Hemingway power line project is a 500 KV electric transmission line, which will run from Oregon to Idaho to provide capacity for exchanging energy between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West. The ROD granting the right of way is expected to be finalized this month.

**Timing:** Late June- Early July 2017

**Contact:** Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

5. **BORDER WALL ACTIVITIES:** DOI will facilitate a series of meetings for interagency communication and coordination between the DOI land managers and Customs and Border

Protection (CBP). In Texas on June 28-June 29, there will be a planning to discuss proposed geotechnical surveys and possible visits to construction sites with National Wildlife Refuge staff and CBP. In June 29 in Tucson Arizona, a mini-Border Forum will be convened with DOI land managers, USDA Forest Service personnel, and U.S. Border Patrol from the Yuma and Tucson sectors in attendance.

**Timing:** June 28- 29

**Contact:** Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

### **Legal Decisions**

1. **EVERGLADES WATER QUALITY CONSENT DECREE:** (b) (5) DPP

[REDACTED]

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Dan Jorjani, Acting Solicitor

### **Release of High-Profile Grants**

1. **\$15 MILLION TO SUPPORT RECREATIONAL BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE IN 40 STATES:** DOI plans to announce nearly \$15 million in grants to 40 states for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. More than \$9 million of this will go to six states (California, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas and Washington) for competitive grants, and the remaining \$5 million will go to 39 states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia for a smaller, non-competitive grant program. Funding is generated through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund by excise taxes on sport fishing and boating equipment and tackle, motorboat fuels and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. Grants, which are matched by funding from project partners, support construction or renovation of tie-ups, utilities, fuel stations, pump-out and dump stations, restrooms and additional sanitary amenities such as laundry and showers for recreational boaters.

**Timing:** June-July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

2. **\$1.75 MILLION FOR MARITIME HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$1.75 million in grants to be used for maritime heritage education and preservation projects related to the maritime heritage of the United States. The National Maritime Heritage Act established the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program

within the Department of the Interior and provides funding for education and preservation projects designed to preserve historic maritime resources and is funded through a percentage of the proceeds from the sale or scrapping of obsolete vessels of the National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF). All grants awarded are matched on a 1-to-1 basis with non-Federal assets.

**Timing:** June –July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

3. **\$3.6 MILLION FOR BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$3,623,162 in available grant funding to acquire land to protect nearly 1,000 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland.

**Timing:** June-July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

4. **\$15 MILLION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$15 million in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant funding for approximately 25 projects. This competitive program supplements the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment to states by supporting projects for disadvantaged populations in urban areas.

**Timing:** June-July 2017

**Contact:** Virginia Johnson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, and Wildlife and Parks

5. **DOI TO MAKE \$464 MILLION IN PILT PAYMENTS TO 49 STATES.** In June, the Department will make \$464 million to over 1,900 local counties and units of government. Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes are used to help offset lost property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their jurisdiction (all 50 states except Rhode Island receive payments). PILT payments may be used for any government purposes, such as firefighting and police protection, public schools and roads and search and rescue operations.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

### **Other/Awareness**

1. **DOI POSTPONES ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS.** The Department is continuing to review the charter and charge of the more than 200 boards, committees, and advisory panels ensure they are structured to receive maximum public input and comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Department spends more than \$10 million to facilitate these boards and many are not meeting their charter obligations, are not meeting regularly, and have little turnover or numerous unfilled positions. Meetings have been postponed until September 2017 following the Department's review unless justified on a case-by-case basis.

**Timing:** May-September 2017

**Contact:** Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison



## **Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days**

### **Major Policy Speeches**

- June 13      **Secretary Zinke to Deliver Remarks before the National Conference of American Indians** (Connecticut)
- June 20      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before the Senate Natural Resources Committee:** On President's FY2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- June 21      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before Senate Appropriations Committee:** On President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- June 22      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before the House Natural Resources Committee:** On President's FY2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- June 27      **Secretary Zinke to Deliver Remarks at Western Governors Association,** in White Fish, Montana

### **Events**

- June 13      **Sportsmen's Event to Announce Grants:** Secretary Zinke will participate in an event at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, New Hampshire with Sportsmen to announce \$1.1 billion in Pittman-Robertson grants to support wildlife conservation across the country.

### **Travel by Secretary**

- June 13      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Connecticut for National Conference on American Indians Conference.**
- June 13      **Secretary Zinke Travel to New Hampshire for Sportsmen Event at Bass Pro Shops**
- June 14-  
June 15      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Maine to visit Katahdin Woods National Monument**
- June 15      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Boston to visit stakeholders regarding Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument**