

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Nancy Guiden](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [James Cason](#)  
**Subject:** Cabinet Affairs Report for 3/6/17  
**Date:** Monday, March 06, 2017 2:17:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI Daily Report to the Secretary 3-6-17.docx](#)

---

Attached and copied below.

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/6/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Nominee**

Secretary Ryan Zinke will be attending briefings at Interior. He will travel to EEOB to have meetings with PPO and Cabinet Affairs.

### **Energy/Interior Related Executive Orders/Announcements**

**Today Secretary Zinke Announces Proposed 73-Million Acre Oil and Natural Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico:** All available areas in federal waters will be offered in first region-wide sale under new Five Year (Obama) aProgram.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department will offer 73 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The proposed region-wide lease sale scheduled for August 16, 2017 would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

“Opening more federal lands and waters to oil and gas drilling is a pillar of President Trump’s plan to make the United States energy independent,” Secretary Zinke said. “The Gulf is a vital part of that strategy to spur economic opportunities for industry, states and local communities, to create jobs and home-grown energy and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”

Proposed Lease Sale 249, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the first offshore sale under the new Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 (Five Year Program). Under this new program, ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where the resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

**White House Energy Executive Orders** – We received the proposed EO and are suggesting a few tweaks.

**CRA's : Passed the House**

- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule

OPED API: Senate Must Move To Repeal BLM Methane Rule.

Erik Milito at the American Petroleum Institute writes for The Hill (2/28) in its “Congress Blog” that methane emissions associated with natural gas development have declined 18.6 percent since 1990 while natural gas production increased by over 45 percent. Industry and “effective state and federal regulations” make BLM’s new Methane and Waste Prevention rule “redundant” and “counterproductive.” BLM “lacks the statutory authority and expertise to regulate air quality,” and the rule’s compliance costs “could make as many as 40 percent of federal wells that flare uneconomical to produce.” Milito urges the Senate to follow the House and repeal the rule under the Congressional Review Act.

- BLM Planning 2.0 Rule (b)(5) DPP

- FWS H.J.Res.69 - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska".

**MEDIA**

**Secretary Zinke Proposes “Bold” Plan To Reorganize Interior.**

Politico Morning Energy (3/3) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke planned to deliver his “first remarks to agency personnel” on Friday.

Reuters (3/3, Volcovici) reports that Zinke announced plans to “undertake a ‘bold’ reorganization of his 70,000-employee agency,” but assured employees that the department “will not sell or transfer public lands.” Natural Gas Intelligence (3/3, Passut) reports that Zinke “said he wants DOI to be the most trusted department in government ‘because we hold our national treasures. We are the stewards of the future, and as stewards we have to make sure we’re trusted. We need to be the advocate rather than the adversary.’” The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/5) reports that Zinke said, “Going forward, again, my biggest task is to restore trust at the local level, and that’s being an advocate and making sure people believe they have a voice.” Medium (3/2) published a letter penned by Zinke. He outlined “three main priorities,” which included tackling the maintenance backlog at national parks, increasing employee morale, and working to “ensure respect to the sovereign Indian Nations and territories.”

On Fox News (3/3), Zinke discussed his new role and his vision that is inspired by Teddy Roosevelt.

**Secretary Zinke Promises Review Of Coal Leasing Program.** The AP (3/3, Daly) reports

that Zinke also “promised a comprehensive review of the federal coal leasing program” on Friday. Zinke added “that the department is likely to revamp the leasing program to ensure maximum value for coal companies and taxpayers alike.”

### **Maine, Utah Republican Leaders Want Trump To Rescind Obama-era National Monument Designations.**

The AP (3/5, Sharp) reports that “Republican leaders in Maine and Utah are asking President Trump to step into uncharted territory and rescind national monument designations made by” President Obama. Gov. Paul LePage is opposed to the designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, while the Utah Legislature has approved a resolution asking Trump to rescind the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The AP writes that while “the Antiquities Act of 1906 doesn’t give the president power to undo a designation, and no president has ever taken such a step,” Trump “isn’t like other presidents.”

### **Meetings and Schedule**

3/6: Secretary Meeting with PPO and Cabinet Affairs at EEOB.

3/8: The Secretary will testify before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

3/13-16: Potential travel to Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park

3/31: Participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. The Danish Prime Minister will participate.

(b)(5) DPP



### **Inspector General Report**

Interior’s IG released four reports over the weekend. None significant.

1. OIG and the Bureau of Land Management – Special Investigations Group investigated allegations that an oil and gas company falsely reported production on a well that was incapable of producing to avoid plugging and abandonment costs and prevent expiration of the Federal mineral lease. They found that no reporting violation occurred.

2. OIG investigated allegations that a BIA superintendent might be receiving money or favors

in exchange for his work with a tribe. According to the report the IG found no evidence that the superintendent received anything of value in exchange for helping the tribe after he changed jobs.

3. OIG investigated allegations that a former employee of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) stole grant funds awarded by the BIE for a maintenance project. We found no evidence to corroborate the allegation.

4. OIG investigated allegations that a USGS Research Ecologist, violated ethics and employment rules by working in paid positions at two universities located in China without USGS's permission. The complainant alleged the positions in China required the research ecologist to use USGS developed research technology and that the research ecologist's work was completed as part of China's Thousand Talents Plan. We could not substantiate the allegation that the research ecologist used USGS developed technology in China.

## **Emergency Management**

In North Dakota, the BIA reports that cleanup operations at the Sacred Stone Camp continue. BIA has provided 7 portable light towers to assist with checkpoints, while the State of North Dakota provided concrete barriers to assist with traffic control. USPP personnel responded to a wildfire that was threatening structures, containing the fire to a 10 acre area with the assistance of local fire department personnel. BIA, NPS, USPP, and Department of the Interior Office of Law Enforcement and Security officers participated in a community walk, empowering youth to Rise Above Alcohol and Drugs (RAAD) in the Cannonball Community. BIA, NPS and USPP personnel responded to multiple calls for service, including domestic disturbances, two medical assists, and a missing child. There have been 74 arrests since February 24.

In Oklahoma, the Milsap Fire began on March 2 on the Osage Reservation. The fire has burned 9,636 acres and is being managed by a Type-3 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 59 personnel, including 18 DOI personnel. There are 5 residential structures threatened, and the fire is 20-percent contained. The containment date for this fire has been set as March 25. High winds are a factor.

Also in Oklahoma, the Lost Creek Fire began on March 2 in Okfuskee County on BIA lands. The fire has burned 2,000 acres and is being managed by a Type-4 IMT with 26 personnel, including 22 DOI personnel. There are 10 residential structures threatened, and the fire is 65-percent contained. The containment date for this fire has been set as March 10. No additional perimeter growth is expected.

## **White House Communications Report**

### DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (From Friday)

#### **Inquiries**

Multiple outlets continued to follow up on the Secretary's remarks to all employees

NYT Requesting info on Zinke's schedule the past year. – Response: DOI, Campaign and Congressional currently doing a deep dive.

## **Top Stories**

VIDEO: Fox News: Secretary Zinke talks reversing regulations on public lands

The Hill: New Interior secretary 'not happy' about budget proposal

Reuters: New Interior Chief Zinke to Review Obama-Era Rules, Vows 'Bold ...

Washington Post: Teddy Roosevelt, Ryan Zinke and the horses they rode in on

POLITICO: Must follows: @SecretaryPerry and @SecretaryZinke. ME is impressed with Zinke's early social media game and cautiously optimistic he'll bring a less stuffy online persona than previous agency heads. His first official day included tweets congratulating Perry on his confirmation, touting a "top notch " rodeo in Montana and offering behind-the-scenes pictures of his memorable entrance.

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

Conducted interview with Dana Perino on Fox News and Tom Lutey of the Billings Gazette and Lee Enterprise Newspapers.

Held livestreamed remarks to DOI employees in the cafeteria. Hundreds of local employees attended in the standing room only crowd. Livestream broke records for most-watched address in DOI history.

Gained 6,000 Twitter followers @SecretaryZinke in 48 hours

FYI – DC Circuit court ruled in favor of DOI to delist the gray wolf in Wyoming.

### **Federal Register Notices Cleared for Publishing (None Significant)**

Items cleared for the Federal Register on Friday.

REG0006788BLMNotice of Public Meeting for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the BLM announces a meeting of the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) on Mar. 16 and 17, 2017. The SMAC will meet at the BLM's Burns District Office in Hines, Oregon.Notice03/03/2017

REG0006793BLMNotice of Public Meeting; Western Montana Resource Advisory Council

Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the BLM announces a Mar. 16, 2017, meeting of the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) in Butte, Montana. The meeting will be open to the public and will include time for public comments.Notice03/03/2017

REG0006794NPSNational Register of Historic Places; February 11, 2017

NPS requests comments on the significance of properties nominated before Feb. 11, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.Notice03/03/2017

REG0006796NPSNational Register of Historic Places, February 18, 2017

NPS requests comments on the significance of properties nominated before Feb. 18, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.Notice03/03/2017

REG0006799BLMNotice of Public Meeting for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council

Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the BLM announces a March 15, 2017, public meeting of the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) Subcommittee that will be held by teleconference. Members of the public also may listen in at the BLM's Lakeview District Office in Lakeview, Oregon.Notice03/03/2017

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/6/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Nominee**

Secretary Ryan Zinke will be attending briefings at Interior. He will travel to EEOB to have meetings with PPO and Cabinet Affairs.

### **Energy/Interior Related Executive Orders/Announcements**

**Today Secretary Zinke Announces Proposed 73-Million Acre Oil and Natural Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico:** All available areas in federal waters will be offered in first region-wide sale under new Five Year (Obama) aProgram.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department will offer 73 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The proposed region-wide lease sale scheduled for August 16, 2017 would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

“Opening more federal lands and waters to oil and gas drilling is a pillar of President Trump’s plan to make the United States energy independent,” Secretary Zinke said. “The Gulf is a vital part of that strategy to spur economic opportunities for industry, states and local communities, to create jobs and home-grown energy and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”

Proposed Lease Sale 249, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the first offshore sale under the new Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 (Five Year Program). Under this new program, ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where the resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

**White House Energy Executive Orders** – We received the proposed EO and are suggesting a few tweaks.  
**CRAs** : Passed the House

- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule  
OPED API: Senate Must Move To Repeal BLM Methane Rule.  
Erik Milito at the American Petroleum Institute writes for The Hill (2/28) in its “Congress Blog” that methane emissions associated with natural gas development have declined 18.6 percent since 1990 while natural gas production increased by over 45 percent. Industry and “effective state and federal regulations” make BLM’s new Methane and Waste Prevention rule “redundant” and “counterproductive.” BLM “lacks the statutory authority and expertise to regulate air quality,” and the rule’s compliance costs “could make as many as 40 percent of federal wells that flare uneconomical to produce.” Milito urges the Senate to follow the House and repeal the rule under the Congressional Review Act.
- BLM Planning 2.0 Rule (b)(5) DPP
- FWS H.J.Res.69 - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska".

### **MEDIA**

**Secretary Zinke Proposes “Bold” Plan To Reorganize Interior.**



Politico Morning Energy (3/3) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke planned to deliver his “first remarks to agency personnel” on Friday.

Reuters (3/3, Volcovici) reports that Zinke announced plans to “undertake a ‘bold’ reorganization of his 70,000-employee agency,” but assured employees that the department “will not sell or transfer public lands.” Natural Gas Intelligence (3/3, Passut) reports that Zinke “said he wants DOI to be the most trusted department in government ‘because we hold our national treasures. We are the stewards of the future, and as stewards we have to make sure we’re trusted. We need to be the advocate rather than the adversary.’” The Billings (MT) Gazette (3/5) reports that Zinke said, “Going forward, again, my biggest task is to restore trust at the local level, and that’s being an advocate and making sure people believe they have a voice.” Medium (3/2) published a letter penned by Zinke. He outlined “three main priorities,” which included tackling the maintenance backlog at national parks, increasing employee morale, and working to “ensure respect to the sovereign Indian Nations and territories.”

On Fox News (3/3), Zinke discussed his new role and his vision that is inspired by Teddy Roosevelt.

**Secretary Zinke Promises Review Of Coal Leasing Program.** The AP (3/3, Daly) reports that Zinke also “promised a comprehensive review of the federal coal leasing program” on Friday. Zinke added “that the department is likely to revamp the leasing program to ensure maximum value for coal companies and taxpayers alike.”

#### **Maine, Utah Republican Leaders Want Trump To Rescind Obama-era National Monument Designations.**

The AP (3/5, Sharp) reports that “Republican leaders in Maine and Utah are asking President Trump to step into uncharted territory and rescind national monument designations made by” President Obama. Gov. Paul LePage is opposed to the designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, while the Utah Legislature has approved a resolution asking Trump to rescind the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The AP writes that while “the Antiquities Act of 1906 doesn’t give the president power to undo a designation, and no president has ever taken such a step,” Trump “isn’t like other presidents.”

#### **Meetings and Schedule**

3/6: Secretary Meeting with PPO and Cabinet Affairs at EEOB.

3/8: The Secretary will testify before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

3/13-16: Potential travel to Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park

3/31: Participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. The Danish Prime Minister will participate.

[REDACTED] (b) (5) DPP

#### **Inspector General Report**

Interior’s IG released four reports over the weekend. None significant.

1. OIG and the Bureau of Land Management – Special Investigations Group investigated allegations that an oil and gas company falsely reported production on a well that was incapable of producing to avoid plugging and abandonment costs and prevent expiration of the Federal mineral lease. They found that no reporting violation occurred.

2. OIG investigated allegations that a BIA superintendent might be receiving money or favors in exchange for his work with a tribe. According to the report the IG found no evidence that the superintendent received anything of value in exchange for helping the tribe after he changed jobs.
3. OIG investigated allegations that a former employee of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) stole grant funds awarded by the BIE for a maintenance project. We found no evidence to corroborate the allegation.
4. OIG investigated allegations that a USGS Research Ecologist, violated ethics and employment rules by working in paid positions at two universities located in China without USGS's permission. The complainant alleged the positions in China required the research ecologist to use USGS developed research technology and that the research ecologist's work was completed as part of China's Thousand Talents Plan. We could not substantiate the allegation that the research ecologist used USGS developed technology in China.

### **Emergency Management**

In North Dakota, the BIA reports that cleanup operations at the Sacred Stone Camp continue. BIA has provided 7 portable light towers to assist with checkpoints, while the State of North Dakota provided concrete barriers to assist with traffic control. USPP personnel responded to a wildfire that was threatening structures, containing the fire to a 10 acre area with the assistance of local fire department personnel. BIA, NPS, USPP, and Department of the Interior Office of Law Enforcement and Security officers participated in a community walk, empowering youth to Rise Above Alcohol and Drugs (RAAD) in the Cannonball Community. BIA, NPS and USPP personnel responded to multiple calls for service, including domestic disturbances, two medical assists, and a missing child. There have been 74 arrests since February 24.

In Oklahoma, the Milsap Fire began on March 2 on the Osage Reservation. The fire has burned 9,636 acres and is being managed by a Type-3 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 59 personnel, including 18 DOI personnel. There are 5 residential structures threatened, and the fire is 20-percent contained. The containment date for this fire has been set as March 25. High winds are a factor.

Also in Oklahoma, the Lost Creek Fire began on March 2 in Okfuskee County on BIA lands. The fire has burned 2,000 acres and is being managed by a Type-4 IMT with 26 personnel, including 22 DOI personnel. There are 10 residential structures threatened, and the fire is 65-percent contained. The containment date for this fire has been set as March 10. No additional perimeter growth is expected.

### **White House Communications Report**

DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (From Friday)

#### **Inquiries**

Multiple outlets continued to follow up on the Secretary's remarks to all employees

NYT Requesting info on Zinke's schedule the past year. – Response: DOI, Campaign and Congressional currently doing a deep dive.

#### **Top Stories**

VIDEO: Fox News: Secretary Zinke talks reversing regulations on public lands

The Hill: New Interior secretary 'not happy' about budget proposal

Reuters: New Interior Chief Zinke to Review Obama-Era Rules, Vows 'Bold ...

Washington Post: Teddy Roosevelt, Ryan Zinke and the horses they rode in on

POLITICO: Must follows: @SecretaryPerry and @SecretaryZinke. ME is impressed with Zinke's early social media game and cautiously optimistic he'll bring a less stuffy online persona than previous agency heads. His first official day included tweets congratulating Perry on his confirmation, touting a "top notch " rodeo in Montana and offering behind-the-scenes pictures of his memorable entrance.

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

Conducted interview with Dana Perino on Fox News and Tom Lutey of the Billings Gazette and Lee Enterprise Newspapers.

Held livestreamed remarks to DOI employees in the cafeteria. Hundreds of local employees attended in the standing room only crowd. Livestream broke records for most-watched address in DOI history.

Gained 6,000 Twitter followers @SecretaryZinke in 48 hours

FYI – DC Circuit court ruled in favor of DOI to delist the gray wolf in Wyoming.

### **Federal Register Notices Cleared for Publishing (None Significant)**

Items cleared for the Federal Register on Friday.

REG0006788BLMNotice of Public Meeting for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the BLM announces a meeting of the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) on Mar. 16 and 17, 2017. The SMAC will meet at the BLM's Burns District Office in Hines, Oregon. Notice 03/03/2017

REG0006793BLMNotice of Public Meeting; Western Montana Resource Advisory Council

Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the BLM announces a Mar. 16, 2017, meeting of the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) in Butte, Montana. The meeting will be open to the public and will include time for public comments. Notice 03/03/2017

REG0006794NPSNational Register of Historic Places; February 11, 2017

NPS requests comments on the significance of properties nominated before Feb. 11, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 03/03/2017

REG0006796NPSNational Register of Historic Places, February 18, 2017

NPS requests comments on the significance of properties nominated before Feb. 18, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions. Notice 03/03/2017

REG0006799BLMNotice of Public Meeting for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council

Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the BLM announces a March 15, 2017, public meeting of the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) Subcommittee that will be held by

teleconference. Members of the public also may listen in at the BLM's Lakeview District Office in Lakeview, Oregon. Notice 03/03/2017