

**From:** James Cason  
**To:** [Laura Rigas](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: 2017 Accomplishments  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 2:59:15 PM

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I'll be curious to see them. I'll be back in tomorrow morning.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 19, 2017, at 1:01 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Have major edits. Can we discuss? Thx.

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
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On Dec 19, 2017, at 1:43 PM, James Cason <[james\\_cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_cason@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Different subject....any overall comments on the "reorganization" memo I sent to you yesterday. If It's largely OK, then I can share more broadly for surnaming review.

Thanks for looking at it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 19, 2017, at 9:27 AM, Laura Rigas  
<[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi all —

To mirror the Secretary's priorities, below are the "top 10" accomplishments we are planning to release on Thursday along with our extensive list of accomplishments, which are attached.

Please review carefully and provide any edits to John Bockmier (CC'd) **by tomorrow (Wednesday) at 12n.** Please review for accuracy and also to ensure we have not left out any major items.

Many thanks,  
Laura

### **2017 DOI Accomplishments**

1. **Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy**

## **Roosevelt**

*Opened up the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine habitat in the country for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife – making it available for the first time ever for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The 16,000-acre Sabinoso was previously wholly surrounded by non-federal land, making it inaccessible to the general public. However, a donation of 3,595 acres (formerly known as the Rimrock Rose Ranch) that are adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness was accepted by the Secretary and is now public.*

### **2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**

*Announced the completion of the nation's seventh competitive lease sale for renewable wind energy in federal waters. A Wind Energy Area of 122,405 acres offshore Kitty Hawk, North Carolina received the high bid of over \$9 million. The project will continue Interior's commitment to sustainable energy and strengthen our energy independence.*

### **3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor**

*Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.*

### **4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something**

*Supported the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe, when President Trump authorized sending Bureau*

*of Indian Affairs law enforcement officers to the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The declaration came with a surge of 75 volunteer officers from the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, various other Interior bureaus, and other Tribal Nations. Two dozen BIA and tribal officers were also used to provide law enforcement and emergency services.*

**5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue released disbursements from energy and minerals production on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled \$7.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2017, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over the previous year. States received \$1.44 billion, Tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners received nearly \$676 million, and \$950 million went toward the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which invests in outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation in America's state and local parks.*

**6. Protect our people and the border**

*Worked round the clock to resume normal operations and public tours at the visitor center and Castillo San Cristóbal area of San Juan National Historic Site. The National Park Service is an important tourism factor in Puerto Rico, generating more than \$100 million in economic activity every year for the island.*

**7. Strike a regulatory balance**

*Reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda more than 50-percent. Initiated 21 deregulatory actions, with 11 of them complete. These efforts will save \$3.8 billion over time, based on a \$261 million annual number.*

**8. Modernize our infrastructure**

*Working with other federal partners, ensured the Arlington Memorial Bridge*

*Rehabilitation project will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule: the project will be completed 1.5 years sooner due to design build procedures and will come under budget by \$35 million.*

**9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years**

*The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors.*

**10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward**

*Partnership for Public Service announced its yearly report titled "The Best Places to Work." In the first year under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump toward reaching that goal.*

Laura Keehner Rigas  
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