

**From:** Hommel, Scott  
**To:** [Douglas Domenech](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Williams, Timothy](#); [Cameron, Scott](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Devito, Vincent](#); [Cason James](#); [David Mihalic](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Virginia Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI 30 Day Look Ahead  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 3:55:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 5-29-17.docx](#)

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Hi - Attached is report sent today. Lets discuss this report tomorrow with a focus on grants and any other potential announcements (USGS Mineral Report etc..)

Scott

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Hommel, Scott** <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>

**Date:** Tue, May 30, 2017 at 4:45 PM

**Subject:** DOI 30 Day Look Ahead 

**To:** [staffsecretary@who.eop.gov](mailto:staffsecretary@who.eop.gov), "McGinley, William J. EOP/WHO"  
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**Cc:** Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>

Gentlemen,

FYI

V/R

Scott Hommel

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY  
May 29, 2017



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

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of May 29, 2017

**DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead**

**Presidential Initiatives and Awareness**

*Antiquities Act*

1. **BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT:** Executive Order 13792 entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act” requires an interim report to the President on the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) within 45 days, which we estimate to be June 10. The report may include recommendations for Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions related to the monument. Note this is only a report, and there will be a separate Presidential action.

**Timing:** June 10

**Contact:** Downey Magallanes, Senior Advisor and Counselor

*Energy*

1. **NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA (NPR-A):** In response to President Trump’s Energy Executive Order. The NPR-A is the largest block of federally managed land in the US, and contains approximately 895 million barrels of oil and 52.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The 2013 BLM management plan for the NPR-A made approximately 11 million of the NPRA’s 22.8 million acres unavailable for leasing, potentially precluding development of up to 350 million barrels of oil and 45 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. While in Alaska, the Secretary will sign a Secretarial Order requesting the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals to submit a plan to reconsider the 2013 management plan.

**Timing:** May 31, 2017

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

2. **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 Mineral

3. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION.** The Department met in Phoenix, AZ with tribal nations, owners and stakeholders of the Navajo Generating Station on May 16 to discuss a path forward to maintain operations of the large coal power plant and associated mine, which directly support more than 800 local jobs. Interior also hosted a series of public listening sessions in Arizona that week to allow citizens to express their views on the future of the plant. The May 16 meeting focused on progress to-date on the action items identified at the March 1, 2017, and April 12, 2017. An agreement in principle was reached on a two year extension for the operating life of the power plant through 2019, which will allow time to identify a possible future owner to keep the plant generating power indefinitely.

**Timing:** June 2017

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

#### *Infrastructure*

1. **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 successfully completed about June 9, and the Secretary of the Interior will be asked to sign off on the associated federal Record of Decision about June 23. There is no direct federal cost-share necessary for the project to proceed.

**Timing:** June 23 2017

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

#### *Other Significant Items of Interest*

1. **\$1.1 BILLION IN PITTMAN-ROBERTSON SPORTSMAN GRANTS TO STATES FROM HUNTING AND FISHING FEES.** The Department will announce \$1.1 billion in funding derived from fees paid for hunting and fishing licenses and firearms, bows and ammunition, tackle et al and distributed to states for state conservation and outdoor recreation projects. **The grants will be announced during an event on June 13 at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, New Hampshire.**

**Timing:** June 13 2017

**Contact:** Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

2. **HALLMARK CHANNEL FOURTH OF JULY SPECIAL.** The Hallmark Channel in conjunction with the National Park Foundation would like to produce a one-hour TV program that will air in primetime on July 4<sup>th</sup> to showcase federal lands across the nation - including parks that have an independence and freedom theme. Through the National Park Foundation, the Hallmark Channel is hoping that the President and/or Vice President would consider a pre-taped interview for the show – their participation would ensure the Hallmark Channel proceeds with the program. Timing is sensitive given logistics and Cabinet Communications has been alerted of this request.

**Timing:** ASAP

**Contact:** Laura Rigas, Communications Director

3. **GQ Magazine Profile on Secretary Zinke.** GQ Magazine (reporter Elaina Plott) will profile Secretary Zinke in an upcoming issue. The profile will highlight Zinke's military experience, leadership style, strong relationship with the White House, and his bold and decisive action at the Interior Department. It will also highlight his western roots and tendency to be a hands on leader for the Department. Other cabinet, WH and DOI officials have been contacted to speak about the Secretary on and off the record.

**Timing:** Final interview with Secretary will be on horseback in early June. Article publishing mid-Summer.

**Contact:** Heather Swift, Press Secretary

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

1. **DEPUTY SECRETARY NOMINEE DAVID BERNHARDT TESTIFIED BEFORE SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE (SENR) MAY 18, 2017.** SENR held the confirmation hearing to hear the testimony of Dep. Sec. Nominee David Bernhardt. Meetings with SENR members have been happening for the past week and efforts have been coordinated with the WH OCL and SENR staff and more meeting requests are possible. Questions for the Record were delivered to committee Monday (5/22) to give them time for a potential markup hearing. Markup is expected to occur the week of June 5.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy and Acting Director, Congressional Affairs

2. **SECRETARY ZINKE TO TESTIFY ON THE HILL FOR BUDGET HEARINGS.** The Secretary is tentatively scheduled to testify on the FY18 Budget before the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees on June 8 and 21 respectively. He is scheduled to testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 20 and the House Natural Resources Committee on June 22.

**Timing:** June 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy and Acting Director, Congressional Affairs

### **Departmental Reports**

1. **USGS TO RELEASE REPORT ON CRITICAL MINERALS:** USGS will release a new report on critical minerals for the United States that presents resource and geologic information for 23 mineral commodities currently viewed as important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and current status of production, resources, and reserves. The individual commodity chapters serve as an update to the 1973 commodity chapters of USGS Professional Paper 820, United States Mineral Resources. The Acting Deputy Secretary Jim Cason has reached out to the Department of Commerce the Department of Defense, and the National Security Council to brief individuals on the report.

**Timing:** June 2017

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

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

1. **NEBRASKA POWER LINE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.** The R-Project is a 225 mile proposed transmission line that runs through the Nebraska footfills. It will be constructed and operated by the Nebraska Public Power District. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project. NPPD is applying for an incidental take permit for the American burying beetle and developing the associated habitat conservation plan.

**Timing:** May-June 2017

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

1. **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:** June- July 2017

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

2. **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

3. **ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LAND.** Throughout June, the Bureau of Land Management will hold online oil and gas lease sales.

- **Colorado.** On June 8, BLM will hold a sale of 86 parcels totaling 73,288 acres in Jackson, Routt, Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties.
- **Oklahoma and Texas.** On June 8, BLM will hold a sale for 18 parcels totaling 4,376 acres in Roger Mills, Ellis, Canadian, and Major Counties, OK; and Live Oak, McMullen, Washington, Burleson, and Jackson Counties, TX.
- **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 8 -22

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

## **Legal Decisions**

1. **EVERGLADES WATER QUALITY CONSENT DECREE:** The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has informed the Department of Justice (DOJ) that it wishes to vacate the 25 year-old consent decree in this case, which governs water quality/pollution control efforts that affect Everglades National Park and A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. SFWMD has shared a draft motion to vacate, and DOJ is reviewing. DOI's technical experts, working with EPA and the Corps, have prepared an analysis of facts relevant to SFWMD's arguments, and we are currently reviewing a draft. DOJ will need to decide the USG position on the case: U.S. v. South Florida Water Management District (S.D. Fla.) - Everglades Water Quality Consent Decree. The federal agencies expect to brief decision-makers in the upcoming weeks. Note that Senators Rubio and Nelson sent a letter to Sec. Zinke inviting him to tour the Everglades. He will likely travel in the Fall.

**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.
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, Acting 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, Acting 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

- May 31      **Secretary Zinke to Deliver Keynote Remarks at Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference.** (Anchorage, AK)
- June 8      **Secretary Zinke Testifies before House Appropriations Committee:** On President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Interior Department (tentative)
- 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)

### 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

- May 27-  
June 1      **Secretary & Mrs. Zinke Travel to Norway, Greenland and Alaska** on Arctic Congressional Delegation with Senators Murkowski, Barrasso, Daines, Strange, Cornyn, and Heitkamp. The Secretary will continue after the co-del portion to speak at the Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference.
- June 2-3      **Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue Visit National Interagency Fire Center (Boise, Idaho)** to brief media on joint preparedness for fire season and meet with key staff.
- June 13      **Secretary Zinke Travel to Connecticut for National Conference on American Indians Conference.**

June 13	<b>Secretary Zinke Travel to New Hampshire for Sportsmen Event at Bass Pro Shops</b>
June 14- June 15	<b>Secretary Zinke Travel to Maine to visit Katahdin Woods National Monument</b>
June 15	<b>Secretary Zinke Travel to Boston to visit stakeholders regarding Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument</b>