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From: Mashburn, Lori

Sent: 2017-11-15T13:22:52-05:00

Importance: Normal

Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/15

Received: 2017-11-15T13:23:39-05:00

[DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-15-17.docx](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/15/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

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- 11/15 Meeting with The Nature Conservancy
 - o Meeting with National Park Service Regional Directors Meeting
- 11/16 OTR Breakfast Roundtable with Senators
 - o **MN – Meeting with the Mille Kacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation in Onamia, MN for Native American History Month**
- 11/17 Bible Museum Dedication Ceremony

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: Meeting with House Natural Resources Committee Chair Rob Bishop.

- Meeting with Leadership of Intermountain West Joint Venture and Partners for Conservation.

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Tuesday, 11/14)

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- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- ***Multiple Inquiries*:** (Indianz- Acee Agoya, ProPublica-Isaac Arnsdorf) **REQUEST--** Is it true Gavin Clarkson submitted his resignation letter? Did the Secretary ask for his resignation? --**RESPONSE—** The Department cannot comment on personnel matters.

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- **Los Alamos Daily Post:** Secretary Zinke And BLM Invite Sportsmen To Enjoy Upcoming Deer Season At Sabinoso Wilderness
- **Salt Lake Tribune:** After Trump shrinks Bears Ears, it will still be larger than Zion and Bryce combined, says interior secretary
- **Washington Post:** Trump appointee to Bureau of Indian Affairs resigns after Interior's IG slams the loan program he oversaw

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD:** BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (including Bureau of Indian Affairs)

- **November 15:** “Rock Your Mocs (Moccasins) Day!” Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda will participate in the annual Native Youth inspired day by gathering with employee to “Rock Your Mocs!” This will be social media driven with our leadership, staff, and BIE Schools.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING SENR MARKUP: The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee will hold a legislative markup of Chairman Murkowski’s budget reconciliation language to open Alaska’s 1002 area for natural resource development. This is follow up to an oversight hearing that occurred on November 2, 2017, where DOI testified in support of Congressional authorization for development. This is consistent with the Department’s FY18 budget request. In addition, the Department will be delivering Questions of the Record and a response to Sen. Cantwell prior to the markup.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 801 (LaHood), Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2888 (Smith), Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act; H.R. 3979 (Jeffries), Keep America’s Refuges Operational Act; H.R. 4266 (Poliquin), To clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park. Sue Masica (Acting Dep. Director, NPS) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

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UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. John Tahsuda (Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT: Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

Timing: TBD

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- **TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY:** Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/21 US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

USBR is preparing to deploy personnel to northern California to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wildfire debris removal efforts. Starting December 1, USBR will deploy the first of six groups of quality assurance inspectors to northern California. Each group will deploy for 30 days and be comprised of 15 inspectors. Deployments will continue through December and the final group is tentatively scheduled to deploy in mid-January.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Idaho Sen. Risch Aide Named To Interior Water, Science Job.

The Idaho Statesman (11/14, Barker) "Letters from the West" blog reports Timothy R. Petty, an aide to Idaho Republican Sen. Jim Risch, was appointed Monday as the Interior assistant secretary overseeing the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Geological Survey. Petty, a hydrologist, "has a doctorate from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks" and "served Risch as deputy legislative director and legislative assistant

on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space.” Petty previously served as acting assistant Interior secretary and deputy assistant secretary for water and science under President George W. Bush.

Senate Minority Whip To Meet With Zinke After Hold On Interior Nominees.

Morning Consult (11/14, Gheorghiu) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will meet with a group of Democratic senators led by Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin Tuesday “about his recommendations to President Trump to reduce the size of certain national monuments, according to a Senate aide.” Zinke agreed to Durbin’s request for a meeting in response to a public letter last week “announcing a hold on four Interior Department nominees.”

Secretary Ryan Zinke Among Those Excited To Take Part In #RockYourMocs This Year.

The Nation Sun News (11/14) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is participating in “#RockYourMocs week.” Zinke and “thousands across the nation are expressing Native pride by wearing moccasins to work, to school and just about everywhere.” Zinke said he “plans to sport a pair of Crow moccasins.”

Trump Appointee To Bureau Of Indian Affairs Resigns After Interior’s IG Slams The Loan Program He Oversaw.

The Washington Post (11/14, Eilperin) reports Gavin Clarkson, a senior Bureau of Indian Affairs official appointed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in June, “resigned Monday after the department’s inspector general issued a scathing report on the loan program he oversaw.” The IG report found the BIA’s division of capital investment (DCI), which falls under its Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), “did not have adequate controls in place and managed the [loan program] with limited oversight from IEED, creating unnecessary risk for an already risky program.” Prior to serving in the Trump Administration, “Clarkson served as a consultant for tribes that received loans under the program, including a controversial \$22.5 million loan for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe that helped finance the purchase of a brokerage firm that eventually went under.”

Trump’s Team May Move The Bureau Of Land Management Headquarters To Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/14, Burr) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told The Salt Lake Tribune that he is considering moving Bureau of Land Management headquarters out West, perhaps Salt Lake City or Denver. Zinke told the newspaper, “We’re certainly looking at where would be the right place,” noting that the “preponderance of activity is in the West” for BLM’s activities. Colorado Republicans Sen. Cory Gardner and Rep. Scott Tipton “legislation in May that would authorize moving the BLM’s headquarters to a Western state.”

Environmental Groups Push Back On Cheney Amendment Allowing Birds To Be Killed; Industry Supportive.

The Gillette (WY) News Record (11/14, Richards) reports conservationists are fighting back against an amendment proposed by US Rep. Liz Cheney's (R-WY) to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that limits liability for energy companies that accidentally kill "migrating birds, whether by an oil field disposal pit or a solar farm." In a statement Wednesday, the Audubon Society "pointed to the number of ways industry contributes to bird deaths, including 500,000 to 1 million birds a year killed in oil waste pits and some 175 million birds annually killed by power lines, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates."

Culpeper Town Council Opposes Shenandoah Rate Increase.

The Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star (11/14, Johnston) reports the Culpeper Town Council unanimously agreed Tuesday evening that increasing the entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park from \$25 to \$70 for a four-day pass will hurt tourism, but Councilman Jon Russell said the increase might be necessary. Russell "said he had talked to officials at the Department of Interior and learned that Shenandoah National Park has an \$11 million maintenance backlog and needs the fee increase to upgrade its almost-90-year-old facilities." However, Councilman Pranas Rimeikis argued, "I am appalled at the idea that the Interior Department is putting [this increase] on the backs of the localities."

Here's What It Costs To Maintain An Empty RFK Stadium.

The Washington Business Journal (11/14, Cooper) reports the District of Columbia paid over \$2 million for security and maintenance at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium last fiscal year, "a dollar amount that will likely be taken into account as the city and Events D.C. decide what's next for the aging edifice." The Department of General Services' maintains RFK, but "Events D.C., the District's sports and conventions authority, manages the facility and books events there." It is "leading an effort to redevelop the RFK campus, but exactly when the main part of the project, the replacement of the stadium itself, would move forward is unclear."

Virgin Islands GOP Begs Congress Not To Give Them 'Blank Checks' For Hurricane Repairs.

The Daily Caller (11/14, Phippen) reports Republican representatives from the Virgin Islands were in Washington, DC, this week "to push legislators to avoid spending unchecked millions on disaster aid that could lead to waste and corruption." Jevon Williams, a committeeman representing the Virgin Islands in the Republican National Committee, said in a statement, "We are here telling our fellow Republicans in the administration and Congress that strict scrutiny is needed to recover and rebuild our island communities."

USGS Science Center In Va. Set To Close.

Greenwire (11/14, Streater, Hotakainen) reports a US Geological Survey science center in Reston, Virginia, is closing down. The facility “receives a major sum of its annual funding from the agency’s climate program,” which is being cut by the Trump Administration.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 14th.

REG0007556 BLM Proposed Supplementary Rules for Public Lands Managed by the Eastern Interior Field Office at the Fairbanks District Office Administrative Site, Fairbanks, Alaska -- These proposed supplementary rules would apply to approximately 11.41 acres of public lands within the BLM Fairbanks District Office (DO) administrative site. The DO is in an urban setting, and the proposed rules would prohibit acts that compromise public health and safety, such as open fires in proximity to office buildings, overnight/long-term occupancy, unattended domestic animals, unattended vehicles, skateboarding, hunting and trapping. Drones would also be prohibited because of the DO’s proximity to an airport. Proposed Rule 11/14/2017

REG0007564 BLM Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments, Oregon -- The BLM announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project) and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments of the BLM Baker and Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The decision is effective immediately. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007513 BOR Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Pure Water San Diego Program, North City Project -- Reclamation and the City of San Diego have completed a joint draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the North City Project in San Diego, California, the first phase of the Pure Water San Diego Program. Reclamation announces a 45-day public comment period. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007631 FWS Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habit Conservation Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Volusia, County, FL -- Orange Dale Venture, LLC has requested a permit for "take" of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay associated with the planned construction of residential and commercial development in Volusia County, Florida Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007417 NPS Notice of Availability of the Final Fire Island Wilderness Breach Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement, Fire Island National Seashore, NY -- The National Park Service (NPS) is announcing the availability of the Final Fire Island Wilderness Breach Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fire Island National Seashore in New York. The NPS will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after EPA publishes a Notice of Availability of the Final Breach Plan/EIS in the Federal Register. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007617 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Requirements for Permits for Special Categories of Mining -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Requirements for Permits for Special Categories of Mining (30 CFR part 785). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007618 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Requirements for Coal Exploration -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Requirements for Coal Exploration (30 CFR part 772). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007619 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Surface Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Surface Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans (30 CFR part 780). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007628 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the ISO Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007629 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities: The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) - Volunteered Geographic Information Project -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding The National Map Corps (TNMCorps). The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007630 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities: The William T. Pecora Award; Application and Nomination Process -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding the application and nomination process for the William T. Pecora Award. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

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White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

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- **November TBD:** National Reclamation Release: Reclamation will release two funding opportunity announcements under the Drought Response Program for drought resiliency projects and drought contingency planning. The Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought. It will provide assistance to water users for drought contingency planning and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **November TBD:** BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (including Bureau of Indian Affairs)

- **November 15:** "Rock Your Mocs (Moccasins) Day!" Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Tahsuda will participate in the annual Native Youth inspired day by gathering with employee to "Rock Your Mocs!" This will be social media driven with our leadership, staff, and BIE Schools.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING SENR MARKUP: The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee will hold a legislative markup of Chairman Murkowski's budget reconciliation language to open Alaska's 1002 area for natural resource development. This is follow up to an oversight hearing that occurred on November 2, 2017, where DOI testified in support of Congressional authorization for development. This is consistent with the Department's FY18 budget request. In addition, the Department will be delivering Questions of the Record and a response to Sen. Cantwell prior to the markup.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 801 (LaHood), Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2888 (Smith), Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act; H.R. 3979 (Jeffries), Keep America's Refuges Operational Act; H.R. 4266 (Poliquin), To clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park. Sue Masica (Acting Dep. Director, NPS) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

UPCOMING HNRC HEARING: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands is holding a legislating hearing on the following bills: H.R. 212 (Young of AK), expediting Congressional review of tribal funding agreement under ISDEAA; H.R. 2320 (Larsen), land into trust for Samish Indian Nation; and H.R. 3225 (DeFazio), allow certain OR tribes to lease or transfer land. John Tahsuda (Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs) will be the witness.

Timing: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Contact: Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

PENDING COLORADO ANNOUNCEMENT: Sec. Zinke and Dep. Sec. Bernhardt have been working with Sen. Gardner and Rep. Tipton on a resolution to a long-standing issue in Western Colorado regarding the release of funds related to an old mine. This money would go to the state and counties. The previous administration did nothing on this issue for the last eight years. DOI is working with the delegation on releasing these funds. It will be big news for the Senator, Congressman and rural Colorado.

Timing: TBD

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE

DOI politicals on board 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- **TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY:** Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Declining

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

USBR is preparing to deploy personnel to northern California to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wildfire debris removal efforts. Starting December 1, USBR will deploy the first of six groups of quality assurance inspectors to northern California. Each group will deploy for 30 days and be comprised of 15 inspectors. Deployments will continue through December and the final group is tentatively scheduled to deploy in mid-January.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Idaho Sen. Risch Aide Named To Interior Water, Science Job.

The Idaho Statesman (11/14, Barker) "Letters from the West" blog reports Timothy R. Petty, an aide to Idaho Republican Sen. Jim Risch, was appointed Monday as the Interior assistant secretary overseeing the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Geological Survey. Petty, a hydrologist, "has a doctorate from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks" and "served Risch as deputy legislative director and legislative assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space." Petty previously served as acting assistant Interior secretary and deputy assistant secretary for water and science under President George W. Bush.

Senate Minority Whip To Meet With Zinke After Hold On Interior Nominees.

Morning Consult (11/14, Gheorghiu) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will meet with a group of Democratic senators led by Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin Tuesday "about his recommendations to President Trump to reduce the size of certain national monuments, according to a Senate aide." Zinke agreed to Durbin's request for a meeting in response to a public letter last week "announcing a hold on four Interior Department nominees."

Secretary Ryan Zinke Among Those Excited To Take Part In #RockYourMocs This Year.

The Nation Sun News (11/14) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is participating in "#RockYourMocs week." Zinke and "thousands across the nation are expressing Native pride by wearing moccasins to work, to school and just about everywhere." Zinke said he "plans to sport a pair of Crow moccasins."

Trump Appointee To Bureau Of Indian Affairs Resigns After Interior's IG Slams The Loan Program He Oversaw.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Eilperin) reports Gavin Clarkson, a senior Bureau of Indian Affairs official appointed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in June, "resigned Monday after the department's inspector general issued a scathing report on the loan program he oversaw." The IG report found the BIA's division of capital investment (DCI), which falls under its Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), "did not have adequate controls in place and managed the [loan program] with limited oversight from IEED, creating unnecessary risk for an already risky program." Prior to serving in the Trump Administration, "Clarkson served as a consultant for tribes that received loans under the program, including a controversial \$22.5 million loan for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe that helped finance the purchase of a brokerage firm that eventually went under."

Trump's Team May Move The Bureau Of Land Management Headquarters To Salt Lake City.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/14, Burr) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told The Salt Lake Tribune that he is considering moving Bureau of Land Management headquarters out West, perhaps Salt Lake City or Denver. Zinke told the newspaper, "We're certainly looking at where would be the right place," noting that the "preponderance of activity is in the West" for BLM's activities. Colorado Republicans Sen. Cory Gardner and Rep. Scott Tipton "legislation in May that would authorize moving the BLM's headquarters to a Western state."

Environmental Groups Push Back On Cheney Amendment Allowing Birds To Be Killed; Industry Supportive.

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (11/14, Richards) reports conservationists are fighting back against an amendment proposed by US Rep. Liz Cheney's (R-WY) to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that limits liability for energy companies that accidentally kill "migrating birds, whether by an oil field disposal pit or a solar farm." In a statement Wednesday, the Audubon Society "pointed to the number of ways industry contributes to bird deaths, including 500,000 to 1 million birds a year killed in oil waste pits and some 175 million birds annually killed by power lines, according to according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates."

Culpeper Town Council Opposes Shenandoah Rate Increase.

The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (11/14, Johnston) reports the Culpeper Town Council unanimously agreed Tuesday evening that increasing the entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park from \$25 to \$70 for a four-day pass will hurt tourism, but Councilman Jon Russell said the increase might be necessary. Russell "said he had talked to officials at the Department of Interior and learned that Shenandoah National Park has an \$11 million maintenance backlog and needs the fee increase to upgrade its almost-90-year-old facilities." However, Councilman Pranas Rimeikis argued, "I am appalled at the idea that the Interior Department is putting [this increase] on the backs of the localities."

Here's What It Costs To Maintain An Empty RFK Stadium.

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (11/14, Cooper) reports the District of Columbia paid over \$2 million for security and maintenance at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium last fiscal year, "a dollar amount that will likely be taken into account as the city and Events D.C. decide what's next for the aging edifice." The Department of General Services maintains RFK, but "Events D.C., the District's sports and conventions authority, manages the facility and books events there." It is "leading an effort to redevelop the RFK campus, but exactly when the main part of the project, the replacement of the stadium itself, would move forward is unclear."

Virgin Islands GOP Begs Congress Not To Give Them ‘Blank Checks’ For Hurricane Repairs.

The Daily Caller (11/14, Phippen) reports Republican representatives from the Virgin Islands were in Washington, DC, this week “to push legislators to avoid spending unchecked millions on disaster aid that could lead to waste and corruption.” Jevon Williams, a committeeman representing the Virgin Islands in the Republican National Committee, said in a statement, “We are here telling our fellow Republicans in the administration and Congress that strict scrutiny is needed to recover and rebuild our island communities.”

USGS Science Center In Va. Set To Close.

Greenwire (11/14, Streater, Hotakainen) reports a US Geological Survey science center in Reston, Virginia, is closing down. The facility “receives a major sum of its annual funding from the agency’s climate program,” which is being cut by the Trump Administration.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Sent to the Federal Register on November 14th.

REG0007556 BLM Proposed Supplementary Rules for Public Lands Managed by the Eastern Interior Field Office at the Fairbanks District Office Administrative Site, Fairbanks, Alaska -- These proposed supplementary rules would apply to approximately 11.41 acres of public lands within the BLM Fairbanks District Office (DO) administrative site. The DO is in an urban setting, and the proposed rules would prohibit acts that compromise public health and safety, such as open fires in proximity to office buildings, overnight/long-term occupancy, unattended domestic animals, unattended vehicles, skateboarding, hunting and trapping. Drones would also be prohibited because of the DO’s proximity to an airport. Proposed Rule 11/14/2017

REG0007564 BLM Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments, Oregon -- The BLM announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project) and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments of the BLM Baker and Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The decision is effective immediately. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007513 BOR Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Pure Water San Diego Program, North City Project -- Reclamation and the City of San Diego have completed a joint draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the North City Project in San Diego, California, the first phase of the Pure Water San Diego Program. Reclamation announces a 45-day public comment period. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007631 FWS Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habit Conservation Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Volusia, County, FL -- Orange Dale Venture, LLC has requested a permit for "take" of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay associated with the planned construction of residential and commercial development in Volusia County, Florida Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007417 NPS Notice of Availability of the Final Fire Island Wilderness Breach Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement, Fire Island National Seashore, NY -- The National Park Service (NPS) is announcing the availability of the Final Fire Island Wilderness Breach Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fire Island National Seashore in New York. The NPS will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after EPA publishes a Notice of Availability of the Final Breach Plan/EIS in the Federal Register. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007617 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Requirements for Permits for Special Categories of Mining -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that

OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Requirements for Permits for Special Categories of Mining (30 CFR part 785). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007618 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Requirements for Coal Exploration -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Requirements for Coal Exploration (30 CFR part 772). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007619 OSM Agency Information Collection Activities: Surface Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Surface Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans (30 CFR part 780). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007628 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the ISO Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007629 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities: The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) - Volunteered Geographic Information Project -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding The National Map Corps (TNMCorps). The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017

REG0007630 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities: The William T. Pecora Award; Application and Nomination Process -- This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding the application and nomination process for the William T. Pecora Award. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 11/14/2017