

From: Domenech, Douglas
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [James Cason](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Bauserman, Christine](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [David Bernhardt](#)
Cc: [Natalie Davis](#)
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 2:19:03 PM
Attachments: [DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-10-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS –
8/10/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: The National Wildfire Multi-Agency Coordinating Group will increase the National Preparedness Level (PL) to its highest level, PL 5 at 4:00 pm MST. At this time, nearly all available firefighting suppression assets and people are committed.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn will be on leave August 14-18. Natalie Davis will prepare the report and participate in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

White House Report (Yesterday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries, and many requests for interviews with Secretary Zinke.
- S&P Global - REQUEST-- I'm working on a story about BP's recent discovery of new gas reserves in the Mancos Shale, located in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. The well is on federal land, like much of the Mancos is. My question is this: since the inauguration of President Trump, have there been any efforts made by BLM/DOI to increase potential access to the San Juan and Piceance Basins for oil and gas producers? –RESPONSE-- here is a secretarial order Secretary Zinke signed to increase access and streamline permitting of energy projects on federal lands <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/zinke-signs-secretarial-order-streamline-process-federal-onshore-oil-and-gas-leasing>
- San Francisco Chronicle – REQUEST - Would love to talk to anyone there about the status of the monument review, what's going into the process, how determinations are being made, what's up for California. – RESPONSE – Nothing to announce at this time on California monuments. Of the hundreds of national monuments across the country, 27 were put under review. So far, five monuments have been removed from the review process and the Secretary recommended that no size modifications be made to them (Craters of the Moon, Hanford Reach, Canyons of the Ancients, Grand Canyon Parashant, and Upper Missouri Breaks). The secretary also submitted an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument on June 10th. Since May, Secretary Zinke has personally visited eight national monument sites in six states. He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary meets with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue. In an effort to make the process transparent and give people a voice in the process, the secretary opened up a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

Top Stories

- Las Vegas Review Journal: EDITORIAL: Protecting the rural West from the environmental-judicial complex
- Williamson Daily News: Officials applaud mine proposal to create jobs in WV
- San Gabriel Valley Tribune: San Bernardino rep asks Trump to shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, citing ski resort and mining
- High Country News: Interior's new sage grouse recommendations at a glance

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Secretary is on personal leave. No public appearances scheduled.

This week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and

gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI will announced FWS proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August 10: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the unveiling of Unveil Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer Program for the 2017 North American Total Solar Eclipse.
- August 11: Rep. Tom McClintock will be visiting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The purpose of the visit is to meet with the superintendent and receive a tour of the parks. Among topics likely to be discussed are annual visitation, tree mortality from drought, wildland fire, and maintenance backlog progress.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down (not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS plans to announce \$4,254,638 in Tribal Wildlife Grant awards to federally recognized tribes for 25 projects in 14 states to fund a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait- and water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed above-ground water storage facility off-stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a comment period and two public meetings are

tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.

- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.
- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 10: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders regarding the draft EIS for G&G Activities in GOM.
- August 11: National BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 51

5 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: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)
9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)
9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)
9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)
9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)
9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)
9/28-30 - Council for National Policy
Open - Jeffersons Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)
open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)
Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)
8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)
8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)
8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)
8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)
8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)
9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)
9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)
9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)
9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)
9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)
9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 57,151 (+4,075) acres and is 85 (+38)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 464 (-4) personnel, which includes 127 (+4) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Significant resource demobilization is projected to begin today, and full containment is expected on August 12.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 31 (+8)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384 (no change) personnel assigned, including 15 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Although some additional perimeter growth is expected, fire behavior has been moderated by a wetting rain that fell over the entire fire area. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Examiner (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking "to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife." The change would "bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted," according to the department.

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The AP (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico.” According to the article, “if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow” for the Sabinoso Wilderness “to be accessed without trespassing.” Zinke “said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority.” He said in a statement, “I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways.”

Enviros Sue Over ‘Sham’ Monument Review.

The Daily Caller (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity “filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump’s administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.” The Interior Department “has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that “a recap of the secretary’s schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded.”

Climate Reports May Slow Trump’s Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

Bloomberg News (8/9, Sullivan) reports that “a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump’s effort to roll back federal climate regulations.” Bloomberg says “a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday” and “its conclusion will be similar to previous years’ versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it’s man-made and it’s dangerous.” Meanwhile, “that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe.” Analysts say “both reports are at odds with Trump’s contention that climate change is a ‘hoax’ and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama’s efforts to address the issue.”

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

The Guardian (UK) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam’s location, “within range of North Korean medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang.” The US has “a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was used during the Vietnam war.” According to the article, “though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US

military's presence, it is also essential to the island's economy, second only to tourism.”

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the Detroit News (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that “North Korea’s threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically.” To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump “to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories.” Lennox argues that “it’s time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/10/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: The National Wildfire Multi-Agency Coordinating Group will increase the National Preparedness Level (PL) to its highest level, PL 5 at 4:00 pm MST. At this time, nearly all available firefighting suppression assets and people are committed.

NOTE: Both Domenech and Mashburn will be on leave August 14-18. Natalie Davis will prepare the report and participate in the call.

Status of the Secretary

TODAY: The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country. (Greece and Turkey)

Status of the Deputy Secretary

In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

Media TODAY

Nothing planned.

White House Report (Yesterday)

Press Inquiries:

- Many small inquiries, and many requests for interviews with Secretary Zinke.
- S&P Global - REQUEST-- I'm working on a story about BP's recent discovery of new gas reserves in the Mancos Shale, located in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. The well is on federal land, like much of the Mancos is. My question is this: since the inauguration of President Trump, have there been any efforts made by BLM/DOI to increase potential access to the San Juan and Piceance Basins for oil and gas producers? –RESPONSE-- here is a secretarial order Secretary Zinke signed to increase access and streamline permitting of energy projects on federal lands <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/zinke-signs-secretarial-order-streamline-process-federal-onshore-oil-and-gas-leasing>
- San Francisco Chronicle – REQUEST - Would love to talk to anyone there about the status of the monument review, what's going into the process, how determinations are being made, what's up for California. – RESPONSE – Nothing to announce at this time on California monuments. Of the hundreds of national monuments across the country, 27 were put under review. So far, five monuments have been removed from the review process and the Secretary recommended that no size modifications be made to them (Craters of the Moon, Hanford Reach, Canyons of the Ancients, Grand Canyon Parashant, and Upper Missouri Breaks). The secretary also submitted an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument on June 10th. Since May, Secretary Zinke has personally visited eight national monument sites in six states. He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary meets with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue. In an effort to make the process transparent and give people a voice in the process, the secretary opened up a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

Top Stories

- Las Vegas Review Journal: EDITORIAL: Protecting the rural West from the environmental-judicial complex
- Williamson Daily News: Officials applaud mine proposal to create jobs in WV
- San Gabriel Valley Tribune: San Bernardino rep asks Trump to shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, citing ski resort and mining
- High Country News: Interior's new sage grouse recommendations at a glance

Top Issues and Accomplishments

Secretary is on personal leave. No public appearances scheduled.

This week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.

WEEK AHEAD August 9 thru August 17, 2017

Status of the Secretary: The Secretary will be on personal leave August 5-19 out of the country (Greece and Turkey).

- Later this week, DOI and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an offshore oil and gas sale titled Gulf Lease Sale #249 in the Gulf of Mexico.
- TBD Releases on Monument Review (announce ones not under review anymore).
- TBD: Department-Level Release: DOI will announced FWS proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on 10 National Wildlife Refuges.
- August 15 (Tent.): Department-Level Release: DOI and FWS will announce \$48 million in funding to state wildlife agencies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants program.

National Park Service

- August 10: National NPS Release: NPS will announce the unveiling of Unveil Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer Program for the 2017 North American Total Solar Eclipse.
- August 11: Rep. Tom McClintock will be visiting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The purpose of the visit is to meet with the superintendent and receive a tour of the parks. Among topics likely to be discussed are annual visitation, tree mortality from drought, wildland fire, and maintenance backlog progress.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS announcement of annual Rutgers report on NPS Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program economic impact. Tax credits 2016 contributed \$12.3 billion in output to the U.S. economy, added \$6.2 billion in GDP. Historic preservation tax incentives encourage investments in historic preservation and revitalization of communities small and large across the country.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: The National Park Service will announce \$1.657 million in grants to Indian tribes and museums to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestors and cultural items back to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
- August TBD: National NPS Release: NPS will announce \$1.2 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration, and education projects at several Japanese American confinement sites.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- TBD: FWS/USGS If-Asked Only: USGS to release a report on the Species Status Assessment for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The study was commissioned by FWS.
- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS to release results of 2016 Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Survey Preliminary Report. A snapshot of the results show that Hunter numbers are down

(not statistically significant), angler numbers are up (not statistically significant), and wildlife watching numbers have increased greatly especially for people watching wildlife in their own backyards.

- August TBD: National FWS Release: FWS plans to announce \$4,254,638 in Tribal Wildlife Grant awards to federally recognized tribes for 25 projects in 14 states to fund a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Bureau of Land Management

- Week of August 14: Majority staff of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources have requested a NEPA overview briefing. Date and participants TBD.
- August 14: Local BLM Release: BLM-CO White River Field Office will announce its decision approving the removal of wild horses that have moved outside the boundaries of the 190,000-acre Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA). The Environmental Assessment (EA) is a baseline document for potential future wild horse removals outside the HMA that could include using helicopters and/or bait-and-water-trapping. It specifically includes a proposed helicopter gather of up to 100 wild horses outside the HMA this fall. The Field Office estimates there are 217 wild horses outside the HMA within the analysis area.
- August 15-19: The Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program will host a wild horse and burro showcase and adoption at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. The showcase will include competitions among wild horse owners. Local media is likely to attend.

Bureau of Reclamation

- August 11 and 18 to 20: Media invited: Two-part full-scale security exercise at Flaming Gorge Dam in Wyoming. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate physical and electronic security systems, gauge the effectiveness of the Emergency Action Plan, provide an opportunity for Reclamation staff to participate in Unified Command in a controlled environment with Law Enforcement agencies and identify areas for improvement in security and emergency management. This exercise also enables local emergency responders to practice and assess their own response capabilities while assisting Reclamation in management a simulated emergency.
- August 14: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is a proposed above-ground water storage facility off-stream of the Sacramento River near the town of Maxwell. There will be a comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—September 26 in Maxwell and September 28 in Sacramento.
- August 15: Local Reclamation Release: Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project. The project would address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir and help maintain a high-quality, reliable, and cost-effective water supply for Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ensure the district receives their annual Central Valley Project contract allocations at the time and at the level of quality needed to meet their existing water supply commitments. A comment period and two public meetings are tentatively scheduled—August 30 in San Jose and August 31 in Sacramento.
- August 17: National Reclamation Release: August 17, the FAA will release new restrictions for unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones) with regard to five national critical infrastructure-designated dams; Grand Coulee in Washington, Shasta and Folsom in California, Glen Canyon in Arizona, and Hoover in Nevada/Arizona. Reclamation will send a news release on August 17. The FAA will begin advance notifications on their website and social media beginning August 9.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- August 10: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders regarding the draft EIS for G&G Activities in GOM.
- August 11: National BOEM Release: Alaska Press Release on Draft EIS for Liberty DPP.
- August 16: National BOEM Release: BOEM will issue release on Gulf Sale 249.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send a note to stakeholders announcing environmental study reports posted to ESPIS from April-June.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: Note to Stakeholders on Information Transfer Meeting to be held in New Orleans August 22-24.
- TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will issue Note to Stakeholders on Draft Guidelines for the Use of Design Envelopes for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities.
- TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM release on Marine Minerals Rule. The rule is finalized and in surnaming.

Office of Wildland Fire

- August TBD: OWF anticipates releasing the Preparedness Level 5 "Moses" Letter from the Secretary, with NIFC releasing the Press Release if and when we go to PL 5. We are still holding at PL 4.

CONGRESSIONAL

Nothing Scheduled.

Political Appointee Update

DOI politicals on board = 51

5 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: Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular Areas.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Pending Senate Committee Hearing 9/7: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Secretary Speaking Invitations

Accepted

8/5-20 - Personal

9/13 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation reception (DC)

9/20-21 - Gala and Ribbon Cutting for the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

8/25-26 - Steamboat Institute's 9th Annual Freedom Conference & Festival (Steamboat Springs, CO)

9/8 - San Antonio Missions 2017 World Heritage Festival Luncheon

9/6/17 - Edison Electric Institute Board of Directors Conference (Colorado Springs, CO)

9/10-13 - Annual Mtg of the Assoc of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Snowbird, UT)

9/12 - Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting (St. Louis, MO)

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)
9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)
9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)
9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)
9/28-30 - Council for National Policy
Open - Jeffersons Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)
open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)
Open - Detroit Economic Club

Declining

8/14-17 - Enercom Conference (Denver, CO)
8/17 - Mineral Hill Conservation Project (Gardiner, MT)
8/18 - Council of State Governments-West State and Federal Relations Committee (Tacoma, WA)
8/21 - Gage County Tourism and Beatrice Chamber of Commerce (Beatrice, NE)
8/22 - Lake Tahoe Summit (Lake Tahoe, CA)
8/22-24 - National Native American Law Enforcement Association (Las Vegas, NV)
8/30 - West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting (White Sulphur Springs, WV)
9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)
9/6 - Montana Range Tour (Lewistown, MT)
9/12 - Conference on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (DC)
9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Association - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)
9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)
9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)
10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)
10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)
10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)
10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 57,151 (+4,075) acres and is 85 (+38)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 464 (-4) personnel, which includes 127 (+4) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Significant resource demobilization is projected to begin today, and full containment is expected on August 12.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 31 (+8)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384 (no change) personnel assigned, including 15 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Although some additional perimeter growth is expected, fire behavior has been moderated by a wetting rain that fell over the entire fire area. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Examiner (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking “to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges.” In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.” The change would “bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted,” according to the department.

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The AP (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico.” According to the article, “if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow” for the Sabinoso Wilderness “to be accessed without trespassing.” Zinke “said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority.” He said in a statement, “I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways.”

Enviros Sue Over ‘Sham’ Monument Review.

The Daily Caller (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity “filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump’s administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.” The Interior Department “has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that “a recap of the secretary’s schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded.”

Climate Reports May Slow Trump’s Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

Bloomberg News (8/9, Sullivan) reports that “a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump’s effort to roll back federal climate regulations.” Bloomberg says “a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday” and “its conclusion will be similar to previous years’ versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it’s man-made and it’s dangerous.” Meanwhile, “that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe.” Analysts say “both reports are at odds with Trump’s contention that climate change is a ‘hoax’ and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama’s efforts to address the issue.”

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

The Guardian (UK) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam’s location, “within range of North Korean medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang.” The US has “a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was

used during the Vietnam war.” According to the article, “though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US military’s presence, it is also essential to the island’s economy, second only to tourism.”

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the Detroit News (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that “North Korea’s threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically.” To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump “to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories.” Lennox argues that “it’s time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.