

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Scott Hommel](#); [Nancy Guiden](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [James Cason](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#)  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 3/14/17  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:16:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 3-14-17.docx](#)

---

Attached and copied below. (Nancy please use the attached version for the briefing book.)

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/14/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Nominee**

The Secretary will be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Secretary will resume his travel in Montana and Wyoming Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

### **Executive Orders**

The Department is awaiting:

EO on Energy (several): Understand looking like next week.

EO on National Monuments

**Potential Announcement:** “Secretary Zinke Reverses Decision that Denied Atlantic Seismic G&G Permits -- New Directive Allows Consideration of Permit Applications to Continue.”

Will this conflict with any upcoming EO?

### **Congressional Action Under the CRA** (No change)

**CRA:** Pending WH Action.

- BLM Planning 2.0 Rule. **When will the President sign?**

**CRA:** Passed the House, Pending in the Senate.

- BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule
- FWS H.J.Res.69 - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to "Non-

Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska".

### **Secretary Meetings and Schedule**

Tuesday March 14: DC

Wednesday 15: DC.

Thursday March 16: Travel to Bozeman, MT. Potential BUDGET media.

Friday: Bozeman/Yellowstone. Press conference in front of arch announcing historic park visitation. Meeting with Yellowstone National Park about maintenance backlog and bison management issues.

Saturday March 18: Meeting with Sen. Murkowski in Bozeman area.

Sunday: Fly to DC

Further out.

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

### **ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM CABINET AFFAIRS:**

#### **Status?**

The Secretary is requesting that he attend this important event at the request of the President.

The Secretary is requesting military aircraft assistance with this trip.

The Secretary is requesting the White House provide a Proclamation and/or letter he can read from the President acknowledging the commemoration. The agency is drafting this.

### **Speaking Invitations**

Regretted.

3/14 National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (DC, Liaison Hotel)  
3/15 Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna (DC)  
3/16 National Park Foundation Board Meeting (DC, Hay-Adams Hotel).

#### Outstanding in Process

3/20 Address to the National Water Resources Association's Federal Water Issues Conference  
3/23 Address to the American Petroleum Institute's Board of Directors Meeting (DC, Trump Hotel)  
3/23 Address the Student Conservation Association's 60th Anniversary Commemoration (DC)  
4/3 North America's Building Trades Unions National Legislative Conference (DC, Washington Hilton)  
4/5 Association of Equipment Distributors & Equipment Dealers Association (DC, Liaison Hotel)  
4/5-7 National Ocean Industries Assoc (NOIA) 2017 Annual Meeting (DC, Ritz Carlton)  
4/13 Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy's Global Energy Summit (NYC)

#### Accepted

3/30-31 U.S. Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission (St. Croix, St. Thomas)

#### Emergency Management

Nothing significant to report.

#### Media of Interest

#### **Army Corps Completes \$1.1 Million Dakota Access Protest Camp Cleanup.**

According to the Washington Times (3/13, Richardson), the US Army Corps of Engineers declared its \$1.1 million cleanup of the Dakota Access pipeline protest camps finished Thursday. Corps Capt. Ryan Hightnight said in an email that the Florida sanitation company which cleaned the area removed 835 dumpsters of trash, a total of 8,170 cubic yards of debris, from the three camps. Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue of Bismarck-Mandan said in an online

post that it has rescued 12 dogs since the protesters evacuated.

### **Senate Urged To Repeal BLM Methane Rule.**

Javier Palomarez, president and CEO of the United State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, writes in the Pundits Blog for The Hill (3/13, Palomarez) that the energy sector, which helps small businesses expand and hire more workers through cheaper gasoline and utility prices, is threatened by the BLM methane rule. Palomarez says the rule “is unnecessary and adds yet another layer of bureaucratic scrutiny.” He argues that the rule will “stifle growth” and jeopardize the 9.8 million jobs supported by the oil and gas industry. The rule is a reach of BLM’s jurisdiction because the Clean Air Act gives the authority to regulate clean air to the EPA and individual states. Palomarez ends the piece by urging the Senate to repeal the regulation.

### **Garfield County Votes In Favor Of Downsizing Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/13, Maffly) reports that advocates and opponents of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument “faced off Monday inside and outside the Garfield County Courthouse, where county commissioners fielded public comments then passed a controversial resolution calling for downsizing the 1.9 million-acre monument.” The commission received “comments of up to two minutes from 12 speakers on each side before unanimously voting to approve the resolution, based nearly verbatim on a successful resolution before the Utah Legislature, sponsored by Rep. Mike Noel.” The proceedings “highlighted a growing disconnect between entrepreneurs who have moved to Garfield County and elected leaders who claim the monument has undermined the county’s customs and heritage, based largely on ranching and natural resource extraction.”

### **Interior Director Displayed A “Pattern Of Unprofessional Behavior”.**

Additional coverage of the Interior Department inspector general’s report that found that “a director at the Department of Interior is alleged to have ‘behaved inappropriately’ toward six of his female employees” was provided by the Federal Soup (3/13) and Federal News Radio (DC) (3/13, Thornton).

### **White House Communications Report** (sent to WH Comms yesterday)

#### **Inquiries**

· WSJ (Jim Carlton) – REQUEST – writing on efforts by Utah politicians to get President Trump to rescind or greatly reduce the new Bears Ears National Monument. I just spoke with Congressman Chaffetz and he said he has put that request in to the president personally, and has invited Secretary Zinke out to Utah to tour the land and meet. Can I get a comment on what Mr. Zinke thinks of this issue? Does he plan to visit Bears Ears and, if so, when?

Response: will draft statement and circulate. RESPONSE – TBD

- Washington Times (Ben Wolfgang) REQUEST - Are there any plans at Interior to revisit the King Cove road issue? As far as I know, this whole thing has been dormant since former Secretary Jewell decided against the road in December 2013. Is the Secretary open to re-examining it? Why or why not? RESPONSE – TBD

- Reuters (Dena Aubin) REQUEST – I am writing a story for Westlaw today about a lawsuit filed Friday against the Interior Department seeking to block designation of the Rogue River as a wild and scenic river. Do you have a comment on the lawsuit? RESPONSE – Still coordinating to get an answer.

- EE News (Daniel Cusick) REQUEST – working on a story about this week’s scheduled offshore lease sale in North Carolina (March 16). I have communicated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and know that the sale is proceeding as scheduled. I am reaching out to see if I can get comment from Interior HQ about the role that offshore wind power is expected to have in the department’s energy leasing program under the Trump administration. RESPONSE – Crafted w/ Kelly Love: "Secretary Zinke and President Trump are committed to creating public lands jobs that provide affordable and reliable energy for America. The administration supports a comprehensive energy solution and renewable energy will play a role so long as that energy is affordable and reliable."

- POLITICO (Darren Samuelson) to National Parks Service REQUEST – asking if NPS will use salt to treat the streets we are responsible for managing. An article in the Boston Globe indicated that President Trump does not like the use of salt to treat roads because it is corrosive. RESPONSE – NPS Public affairs specialist, “The parks in the region have pre-treated all of our managed roadways in anticipation of the storm. Salt is one of several types of materials we use to treat the roads, but that depends on the condition of each road.”

## **Top Stories**

- Seattle Times (Editorial) Give Interior secretary with a Western perspective a chance
- Flathead Beacon (MT) On First Trip as Interior Secretary, Zinke Vows to Reorganize ...
- Ravalli Republic (MT) Zinke pledges big changes at Department of the Interior
- EE News Zinke hails 3rd straight year of record-breaking visits
- EE News Zinke cancels Mont. visits for Cabinet meeting (Discusses reorganization)

- National Review: Trump's Skeletal Crew

### **Top Issus and Accomplishments**

- Tomorrow Secretary Zinke will do a ride along with U.S. Park Police as they respond to winter weather emergencies. The USPP patrol much of Washington, D.C., including the GW Parkway, Memorial Bridge, Roosevelt Bridge and I-395. They also have jurisdiction over much of D.C. because of proximity to various National Parks sites. Benny Johnson at IJR is covering. Zinke is focused on the front lines and empowering the law enforcement officers on the ground.
- On Friday, Zinke and the National Park Service announced record visitation at National Parks Service locations in 2016. In an interview at Glacier National Park, Zinke touted the numbers, their economic impact, and the future of the NPS.
- Later this week, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will recommend approval of permits to conduct seismic studies on the potential of Atlantic Ocean energy resources.
- Launching a "Travels with Z" blog on our website that is Secretary Zinke's travel blog going to America's public lands and his work on the front lines improving land management for multiple use (energy, recreation, conservation, economy)

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

Items cleared for the Federal Register on Monday.

REG0006837 BLM Notice of Public Meeting; Central Montana Resource Advisory Council.  
The meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017 in Glasgow, Montana. Notice  
03/13/2017

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

## **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 3/14/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

### **Status of the Nominee**

The Secretary will be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Secretary will resume his travel in Montana and Wyoming Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

### **Executive Orders**

The Department is awaiting:

EO on Energy (several): Understand looking like next week.

EO on National Monuments

**Potential Announcement:** “Secretary Zinke Reverses Decision that Denied Atlantic Seismic G&G Permits -- New Directive Allows Consideration of Permit Applications to Continue.”

Will this conflict with any upcoming EO?

### **Congressional Action Under the CRA** (No change)

**CRAs:** Pending WH Action.

- BLM Planning 2.0 Rule. **When will the President sign?**

**CRAs:** Passed the House, Pending in the Senate.

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

### **Secretary Meetings and Schedule**

Tuesday March 14: DC

Wednesday 15: DC.

Thursday March 16: Travel to Bozeman, MT. Potential BUDGET media.

Friday: Bozeman/Yellowstone. Press conference in front of arch announcing historic park visitation.

Meeting with Yellowstone National Park about maintenance backlog and bison management issues.

Saturday March 18: Meeting with Sen. Murkowski in Bozeman area.

Sunday: Fly to DC

Further out.

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

### **ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM CABINET AFFAIRS:**

#### **Status?**

The Secretary is requesting that he attend this important event at the request of the President.

The Secretary is requesting military aircraft assistance with this trip.

The Secretary is requesting the White House provide a Proclamation and/or letter he can read from the President acknowledging the commemoration. The agency is drafting this.

## Speaking Invitations

Regretted.

3/14 National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (DC, Liaison Hotel)  
3/15 Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna (DC)  
3/16 National Park Foundation Board Meeting (DC, Hay-Adams Hotel).

Outstanding in Process

3/20 Address to the National Water Resources Association's Federal Water Issues Conference  
3/23 Address to the American Petroleum Institute's Board of Directors Meeting (DC, Trump Hotel)  
3/23 Address the Student Conservation Association's 60th Anniversary Commemoration (DC)  
4/3 North America's Building Trades Unions National Legislative Conference (DC, Washington Hilton)  
4/5 Association of Equipment Distributors & Equipment Dealers Association (DC, Liaison Hotel)  
4/5-7 National Ocean Industries Assoc (NOIA) 2017 Annual Meeting (DC, Ritz Carlton)  
4/13 Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy's Global Energy Summit (NYC)

Accepted

3/30-31 U.S. Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission (St. Croix, St. Thomas)

## Emergency Management

Nothing significant to report.

## Media of Interest

### **Army Corps Completes \$1.1 Million Dakota Access Protest Camp Cleanup.**

According to the Washington Times (3/13, Richardson), the US Army Corps of Engineers declared its \$1.1 million cleanup of the Dakota Access pipeline protest camps finished Thursday. Corps Capt. Ryan Highnight said in an email that the Florida sanitation company which cleaned the area removed 835 dumpsters of trash, a total of 8,170 cubic yards of debris, from the three camps. Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue of Bismarck-Mandan said in an online post that it has rescued 12 dogs since the protesters evacuated.

### **Senate Urged To Repeal BLM Methane Rule.**

Javier Palomarez, president and CEO of the United State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, writes in the Pundits Blog for The Hill (3/13, Palomarez) that the energy sector, which helps small businesses expand and hire more workers through cheaper gasoline and utility prices, is threatened by the BLM methane rule. Palomarez says the rule "is unnecessary and adds yet another layer of bureaucratic scrutiny." He argues that the rule will "stifle growth" and jeopardize the 9.8 million jobs supported by the oil and gas industry. The rule is a reach of BLM's jurisdiction because the Clean Air Act gives the authority to regulate clean air to the EPA and individual states. Palomarez ends the piece by urging the Senate to repeal the regulation.

### **Garfield County Votes In Favor Of Downsizing Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (3/13, Maffly) reports that advocates and opponents of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument "faced off Monday inside and outside the Garfield County Courthouse, where county commissioners fielded public comments then passed a controversial resolution calling for downsizing the 1.9 million-acre monument." The commission received "comments of up to two minutes from 12 speakers on each side before unanimously voting to approve the resolution, based nearly

verbatim on a successful resolution before the Utah Legislature, sponsored by Rep. Mike Noel.” The proceedings “highlighted a growing disconnect between entrepreneurs who have moved to Garfield County and elected leaders who claim the monument has undermined the county’s customs and heritage, based largely on ranching and natural resource extraction.”

#### **Interior Director Displayed A “Pattern Of Unprofessional Behavior”.**

Additional coverage of the Interior Department inspector general’s report that found that “a director at the Department of Interior is alleged to have ‘behaved inappropriately’ toward six of his female employees” was provided by the Federal Soup (3/13) and Federal News Radio (DC) (3/13, Thornton).

#### **White House Communications Report** (sent to WH Comms yesterday)

##### **Inquiries**

- WSJ (Jim Carlton) – REQUEST – writing on efforts by Utah politicians to get President Trump to rescind or greatly reduce the new Bears Ears National Monument. I just spoke with Congressman Chaffetz and he said he has put that request in to the president personally, and has invited Secretary Zinke out to Utah to tour the land and meet. Can I get a comment on what Mr. Zinke thinks of this issue? Does he plan to visit Bears Ears and, if so, when? Response: will draft statement and circulate.

RESPONSE – TBD

- Washington Times (Ben Wolfgang) REQUEST - Are there any plans at Interior to revisit the King Cove road issue? As far as I know, this whole thing has been dormant since former Secretary Jewell decided against the road in December 2013. Is the Secretary open to re-examining it? Why or why not?

RESPONSE – TBD

- Reuters (Dena Aubin) REQUEST – I am writing a story for Westlaw today about a lawsuit filed Friday against the Interior Department seeking to block designation of the Rogue River as a wild and scenic river. Do you have a comment on the lawsuit? RESPONSE – Still coordinating to get an answer.

- EE News (Daniel Cusick) REQUEST – working on a story about this week’s scheduled offshore lease sale in North Carolina (March 16). I have communicated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and know that the sale is proceeding as scheduled. I am reaching out to see if I can get comment from Interior HQ about the role that offshore wind power is expected to have in the department’s energy leasing program under the Trump administration. RESPONSE – Crafted w/ Kelly Love: "Secretary Zinke and President Trump are committed to creating public lands jobs that provide affordable and reliable energy for America. The administration supports a comprehensive energy solution and renewable energy will play a role so long as that energy is affordable and reliable."

- POLITICO (Darren Samuelson) to National Parks Service REQUEST – asking if NPS will use salt to treat the streets we are responsible for managing. An article in the Boston Globe indicated that President Trump does not like the use of salt to treat roads because it is corrosive. RESPONSE – NPS Public affairs specialist, “The parks in the region have pre-treated all of our managed roadways in anticipation of the storm. Salt is one of several types of materials we use to treat the roads, but that depends on the condition of each road.”

##### **Top Stories**

- Seattle Times (Editorial) Give Interior secretary with a Western perspective a chance
- Flathead Beacon (MT) On First Trip as Interior Secretary, Zinke Vows to Reorganize ...

- Ravalli Republic (MT) Zinke pledges big changes at Department of the Interior
- EE News Zinke hails 3rd straight year of record-breaking visits
- EE News Zinke cancels Mont. visits for Cabinet meeting (Discusses reorganization)
- National Review: Trump's Skeletal Crew

### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Tomorrow Secretary Zinke will do a ride along with U.S. Park Police as they respond to winter weather emergencies. The USPP patrol much of Washington, D.C., including the GW Parkway, Memorial Bridge, Roosevelt Bridge and I-395. They also have jurisdiction over much of D.C. because of proximity to various National Parks sites. Benny Johnson at IJR is covering. Zinke is focused on the front lines and empowering the law enforcement officers on the ground.
- On Friday, Zinke and the National Park Service announced record visitation at National Parks Service locations in 2016. In an interview at Glacier National Park, Zinke touted the numbers, their economic impact, and the future of the NPS.
- Later this week, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will recommend approval of permits to conduct seismic studies on the potential of Atlantic Ocean energy resources.
- Launching a "Travels with Z" blog on our website that is Secretary Zinke's travel blog going to America's public lands and his work on the front lines improving land management for multiple use (energy, recreation, conservation, economy)

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

Items cleared for the Federal Register on Monday.

REG0006837 BLM Notice of Public Meeting; Central Montana Resource Advisory Council. The meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017 in Glasgow, Montana. Notice 03/13/2017