

**Questions for the Record  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Hearing on the FY 2018 Budget Request  
June 22, 2017**

**Questions from Rep. McClintock**

**Question 1.** There are some 150 conservation corps across the nation. These corps have a long tradition of stewardship of our public lands and waters. By partnering with corps, land managers leverage their budgets with cost-effective projects that reduce the multi-billion-dollar maintenance backlog, remediate wildfires, curb the spread of invasive species, improve access to public lands, build and maintain trails, and ensure good fish and wildlife habitat for enthusiasts, hunters, and anglers.

**Q: Are you aware of any impediments that have limited growth of this program?**

**Response:** Interior bureaus have a long history of collaborating with a wide variety of volunteer groups, education partners and youth organizations including conservation corps. These partnerships assist land managers in maintaining resources in a cost effective manner while providing participants with developmental jobs skills training and education.

**Questions from Rep. LaMalfa**

**Question 1.** As we all know, the Endangered Species Act is in need of significant reforms, with the success rate of species' moving from endangered to fully recovered around 1-3%. In my district, the Service's own scientists recommended delisting the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, yet it remains listed today and imposes major costs to flood protection and other projects.

Listing of other species, like the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog, has resulted in such low-impact events as a trail run being canceled. Federal agencies actually believed humans running on existing trails could negatively impact listed frogs. What is the Fish and Wildlife Service doing to review the listing status for threatened or endangered species which have been recommended for delisting, like the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle?

**Response:** I agree that ESA is in need of reforms and modernization so it can operate in a more effective manner, which is why the Department has testified before this committee in support of certain bills proposed by your colleagues. The FWS delists and down-lists species when their status changes and resources are available. Getting species off the list due to recovery is a priority, and allows us to focus our attention and resources on species that need attention. The pace at which delistings and downlistings occur is dependent on resources devoted to on-the-ground recovery implementation and the progress toward recovery of individual species, as well as on the complexity of status reviews and rulemakings. A total of \$225.2 million is proposed in the President's FY 2018 budget request to implement the ESA and related programs under FWS's Ecological Services program, of which \$79.6 million is for recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. At these funding levels, the FWS will continue to address approximately 50 species that have been identified for potential delisting or downlisting

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under the ESA based upon recent 5-year status reviews. FWS plans on making final determinations for six species currently proposed for delisting in FY 2018.

**Question 2.** Last year, we saw the Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service issue conflicting requirements for the operation of Shasta Dam, one demanding higher water releases, the other demanding lower releases. These proposals would have dramatically reduced water supplies for homes and farms.

Could centralizing responsibility for ESA-listed species with the Fish & Wildlife Service prevent conflicting directives like these? For example, having the Fish & Wildlife Service subsume the responsibilities of the National Marine Fisheries Service?

**Response:** This Administration is examining all options to better align agency resources in the field both within Interior and across the Federal government in order to reduce administrative duplication and better leverage taxpayer dollars. This review includes consolidating Interior bureaus with other Federal agencies. The Administration is pursuing near and long-term strategies to achieve a leaner, and more accountable and efficient government.

**Questions from Rep. Jody Hice**

**Question 1.** As you are aware, President Trump has asked for an all-hands-on-deck approach to offshore research and development, and you yourself signed an order on May 1, 2017 directing Interior to look at the entire Gulf of Mexico region for potential drilling sites. However, A.M. Kurta, acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, sent a letter to Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), on April 26, 2017, stating his belief that military training and related exercises in the eastern Gulf necessitate a continuation of Congress's ban on drilling in the area.

- **Eastern Gulf Of Mexico – Shared Use with DOD**

- As a Navy SEAL Commander, you have a strong understanding of the need for military preparedness. How do you reconcile the mission of your Department to promote responsible federal offshore development with the DOD's mission of military preparedness? Can the two coexist if the moratorium is lifted?

**Response:** Yes, oil and natural gas exploration and development can coexist safely on the OCS, including in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. This is made evident by the fact that in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area (CPA) there are 822 active leases, 36% of all leases in the CPA reside within DoD operations or warning areas. The CPA contains the highest amount of oil and gas production on the OCS. Another example is that out of the 23 total platforms on the Pacific OCS, 11 reside within a DoD equity area. I am not aware of the DoD working directly with industry to provide access, but the Department and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management work closely with the DoD to identify those areas that industry may gain access to via the

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offshore oil and gas leasing process and to develop lease terms and conditions that protect DoD interests.

➤ In the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, military preparedness operations coincide with potential oil and gas development. This requires constant, open communication and an understanding and respect for the mission of both Departments occupying the land. How will you coordinate with the DOD to ensure mutual, responsible management of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico?

**Response:** As with all offshore leasing programs and initiatives, BOEM works closely with DoD under a Memorandum of Agreement that facilitates the coordination of mutual concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf. DoD is consulted early in the leasing program development process and collaboration is maintained all the way through the individual lease sale execution.

- **The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) "National Oil and Gas Leasing Program" (previously known as the 5-Year Plan)**

➤ You've called a new five year plan, now known as a "National Oil and Gas Leasing Program." How will the new plan differ from the previously approved plan?

**Response:** The new plan is being developed under the same process prescribed by OCS Lands Act as all other recent five year programs. As we are very early in the new program development it is not possible to say if, or how, the new program may differ from the current approved program.

- **Atlantic**

➤ In order to responsibly manage our nation's natural resources, we must first account for what we have. Please explain the importance of conducting geological and geophysical research in our offshore areas, and how we can use this information to make informed decisions regarding resource management.

**Response:** The main objective of the acquisition and analysis of geological and geophysical data is the development of maps that can guide and inform our work on the OCS. This is done by incorporating the data acquired through G&G surveys and analyzing technical information, which develops a basic knowledge of the geologic history of an area and its effects on hydrocarbon or strategic/critical minerals generation, distribution, and accumulation within the planning area. G&G surveys are not used exclusively for oil and gas exploration. Seismic surveys, which include geologic coring, are also helpful in identifying sand used for restoration of our Nation's beaches and barrier islands following severe weather events and for protecting coasts and wetlands from erosion. Recent examples of BOEM's sand restoration projects include New Jersey, where Long Beach Island has been restored in response to erosion caused by

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Hurricane Sandy and Louisiana, where 1,100 acres of marsh, dune, and beach habitat at Whiskey Island have been reconstructed. Seismic and geologic coring surveys also provide information that is vital to the siting and development of offshore renewable energy facilities. G&G surveys also help to advance fundamental scientific knowledge and are currently conducted in the Gulf of Mexico and in countries around the world.

**Questions from Rep. Thompson**

**Question 1.** Last year, EPA finalized a rule on Privately-Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). Since then, I've weighed in with the agency to express great concern over its impact on treatment facilities in Pennsylvania that appear to be inadvertently caught up in the regulation. Although the rule was intended for unconventional production, I've heard a lot of concern that water derived from conventional production will also be subject to the regulation due to a lack of definitions and the individual basins cited in the rule.

What is EPA doing to correct this problem and ensure that conventionally-derived wastewater is not subject to the POTW rule?

**Response:** Because this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency and not the Department of the Interior, we defer to the EPA for a response to this question.

**Question 2.** I would like to request an update on the status of the remedial action at the Folcroft Landfill, a property which was purchased by the US Department of Interior in 1980 and incorporated into the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge under legislative authority provided by Congress. In 2001, the property was added to the National Priorities List (NPL). Congress initially appropriated \$11 million for the development of the Refuge, and then increased funding to \$19.5 million for expansion, including acquisition of the Folcroft Landfill (PL 96-315). The legislative history of the Refuge indicates that Congress intended a portion of the funds to be directed toward investigation and on-going maintenance of the Folcroft Landfill (PL 99-191). Guidance from the EPA requires the Agency to consider future land use in the selection of a remedy. What communication has the Department of Interior had with the EPA regarding the selection of a remedy for the Folcroft Landfill? What remedies are under consideration? Are the remedies under consideration by EPA consistent with the future use of the property outlined in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge's 2012 Comprehensive Conservation Plan?

**Question 3.** What is the timeline for implementation of a remedy? What role will the Department of Interior play in the remediation effort? Can you provide an estimate of the cost of the remediation? What will be the contribution from the Department of Interior and other federal agencies that have been identified as potentially responsible parties? Are any of the \$19.5 million appropriated by Congress still available to fund this effort, or will additional appropriations be necessary?

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**Question 4.** What measures must be put in place by the Department of Interior to maintain the property once remediation efforts have been completed?

**Response to Qs 2-4:** During the 1980s and 1990s, the EPA and FWS undertook several investigations of contamination within the Folcroft Landfill and issued several reports of their findings.

EPA entered into an Administrative Settlement with a subset of private potentially responsible parties, known as the Folcroft Landfill Steering Committee (PRP Group), to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The RI/FS work is being conducted by the PRP Group with EPA oversight and in coordination with the FWS. The Draft RI report, dated May 2017, was submitted to EPA and FWS for review. Comments are currently being compiled and will be forwarded to the PRP Group for inclusion in the final document. Once the RI is completed, the FS, which discusses and evaluates potential remedies for the Folcroft Landfill, will be performed and a FS Report will be produced for the agencies' review and comment. It is anticipated the draft FS Report will be submitted for review in 2019 or 2020. Once alternatives have been evaluated, EPA will select a preferred remedy for the site in a Proposed Plan, which will be made available for public review and comment. Upon receipt of public input, EPA will publish a selected remedy in a Record of Decision. The FS Report and Proposed Plan should have information regarding estimated costs for the various remedy alternatives.

An integral part of the CERCLA process is the identification of "legally applicable or relevant and appropriate standard(s), requirement(s), criteria, or limitation(s)" (ARARs) pursuant to the Section 121(d). In May 2016, FWS provided EPA and the PRP Group with ARARs for the Folcroft Landfill that include the Refuge's 2012 Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and other relevant documents to be considered with respect to future use of the Refuge. FWS has emphasized that any response action selected for the site must comply with these requirements in order to be compatible with the intended purpose and future use of the Refuge. In addition, the Department issued an Environmental Compliance Memorandum applicable to CERCLA response actions on Department-managed lands; it states that the Department must concur with a remedy that another agency selects for Department-managed land, in order to grant access for implementation of that remedy. This should ensure that FWS and the Refuge have an adequate voice in determining the remedy for the Folcroft Landfill, including ensuring that future land uses are appropriately considered.

Once a remedy has been selected for the Folcroft Landfill, EPA, FWS, the PRP Group, and any other appropriate parties, will negotiate the terms of funding and implementing the remedy. FWS does not immediately have a response for the inquiry regarding the funds appropriated from Congress in 1972 (P.L. 92-327), 1976 (P.L. 94-548), and 1980 (P.L. 96-315), "for acquisition of the Tinicum National Environmental Center, for construction of environmental

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educational center facilities, and for other development projects on the Center,” (P.L. 96-315 July 25, 1980) but a search has commenced for records from that time period to confirm the expenditures for these expressed purposes.

Once a remedy has been implemented, FWS will amend its CCP to include any necessary restrictions on activities (such as actions that could disturb the integrity of the remedy), so that the proper institutional or engineering controls are memorialized.

**Questions from Ranking Member Grijalva**

Tribal Climate Resilience:

**Question 2.** Are American Indian and Native Alaskan communities facing profound challenges to their culture, economies, and livelihoods because of climate change?

**Response:** The Department is working to support tribal governments and trust land managers through the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Tribal Resilience Program (TRP) with training, data, tools and access to technical experts in order to understand the vulnerabilities of these communities and identify risk management strategies. Coastal tribes in particular face risk management challenges ranging from harmful algal blooms, to ocean acidification, degrading ecosystems, changes in food availability, and storm surge and disaster recovery.

**Question 3.** Would you agree that the federal government has an essential and unique role in helping tribal nations prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change on their land and natural resources?

**Response:** As indicated in the response to the previous question, the Department fills an important role through the TRP, which coordinates with other federal, tribal, and state partners to invest in information and tools needed to support managers, thus enabling tribal and trust managers to implement strategies for resilient communities and to encourage cooperative solutions.

**Question 4.** Why does this budget eliminate the Tribal Climate Resilience program?

**Response:** Support for ocean and coastal management for tribes through the TRP is similar to the climate resilience focused efforts including tribal participation in ocean and coastal planning, vulnerability assessments, monitoring, and training.

**Question 5.** The Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Tribal Climate Resilience Program was one of the few programs at BIA with the word ‘climate’ in its name. As of last week, the word ‘climate’ has

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been removed from the title of the BIA program. Did you direct your staff to not use "climate change," in written memos, briefings or other written communication?

**Response:** No, Department staff have not been directed in this manner. As an example, climate change continues to be listed as a priority on the Department's official website.

**Question 6. Did the President direct your staff to not use "climate change," in written memos, briefings or other written communication?**

**Response:** No.

Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii:

Question 7. The National Invasive Species Council is located within the Department of the Interior and is responsible for coordinating the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii. Will you commit the Department of Interior to full participation in implementing the Regional Biosecurity Plan?

**Response:** The Department understands the importance of biosecurity in the Pacific region, and we continue to support the intent and scope of the Regional Biosecurity Plan, which supplements ongoing activities at the Department to deal with invasive species. The Department is coordinating with NISC and other relevant federal agencies to update to the Regional Biosecurity Plan.

Poaching and Trafficking:

**Question 14.** As a Member of the House of Representatives and now as the Secretary you have said that the Interior Department needs more scientists in the field and fewer lawyers. However your Fiscal Year 2018 budget request decreases full-time staff for the Bureau of Land Management by 11.3%, the National Park Service by 6.4%, and the U.S. Geological Survey by 13.7%. Employees of these bureaus include biologists, geologists, chemists, forestry technicians, and other scientists. Conversely, the Office of the Solicitor – an office comprised almost entirely of lawyers – would add three full-time positions under your proposed budget. How does your budget proposal comport with your statements that the Department needs more scientists and fewer lawyers?

**Response:** The goal is to create a more efficient government that effectively delivers programs of the highest importance to the public. I have tasked my team to review all programs across the Department to determine if there is duplication, and if so, how best to consolidate. This review process remains ongoing.

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Science-based Decision-making:

**Question 15.** Mr. Secretary, when you were still on this Committee, you stated in a 2015 hearing that with respect to the Interior Department's decision-making process, "I think we need to be more science-based and less politics, and that would be helpful." However your budget includes significant cuts to numerous scientific programs that conduct vital scientific work. Do you have any science-based evidence that the threats facing our nation's land, water, and wildlife from climate change have decreased to the point that these cuts are appropriate?

a. Do you believe that the cuts within your budget will allow decisions made by the Department of the Interior to be more science-based?

**Response:** As I said at the hearing, in order to reach a balanced budget the Department had to make difficult decisions. I believe it will encourage the Department and its bureaus to be innovative when identifying ways to better manage programs and increase revenues. It is also a focused budget that will allow the Department to maintain its assets, offer a world-class experience on public lands, promote economic growth, and continue to provide unbiased, multi-discipline science for use in understanding, mapping, and managing natural resources.

**Question 16.** Your proposed budget includes significant funding cuts for programs that fight poaching and trafficking. It reduces the Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement and international affairs accounts, and slashes the Multinational Species Conservation Funds by nearly 20 percent. Do you have a plan for how to continue making progress in the fight against wildlife crime under these circumstances?

**Response:** The budget proposal maintains sufficient capacity to enforce wildlife laws; halt the poaching of some of the world's most iconic species, such as elephants and rhinos, by stopping illicit trade; ensure sustainable legal trade; and reduce demand for illegal products.

**Damage to National Wildlife Refuge Property:**

**Question 17.** Your budget includes a request for authority for the Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation from people who damage National Wildlife Refuge property. Both the Park Service and NOAA have similar authority. Why is it important for the Fish & Wildlife Service to have this authority?

**Response:** This authority is important because when Refuge System resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected refuge, often at the expense of other refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave the Service's work undone until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This delay may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation



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of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that refuge resources, and the broad range of activities they support, will be available for future generations.

**National Wildlife Refuge System:**

**Question 18.** Do you believe the proposed funding levels for Refuges are consistent with your vision of increasing access to America's public lands, while also managing and expanding the Refuge System to protect and enhance America's wildlife resources?

**Response:** Yes. Through the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Service continues the American tradition, started by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats and to provide recreation opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. The proposed budget maintains a commitment to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in both rural and urban or suburban settings, as well as to support the vital role of volunteers on our Refuges.

**Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs:**

**Question 19.** When do you anticipate we will see the nomination of an Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs? This is a priority for the people of the territories because it represents the equal treatment of their concerns with the Department's other programs and priorities.

**Response:** The President nominated Doug Domenech to be Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas on June 29, 2017. His nomination is currently awaiting a confirmation vote by the full Senate.

**Question 20.** According to news reports, around three dozen Senior Executive Service (SES) staff within the Interior Department have received notices that they have been reassigned and transferred into new positions within the Agency. At the earliest possible time that you can disclose information while respecting privacy concerns, please provide answers to the following questions:

- a. How many SES employees have been sent letters informing them that they were being transferred into new positions?
- b. How many of these employees requested those transfers, and with how many employees were the transfers discussed, before the letters were sent?
- c. What are the names and current positions of the employees who have received these letters? What positions are they being transferred into?
- d. Please provide copies of these letters.

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- e. Of the individuals who have already received letters, identify those that work in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and are being moved to positions outside the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.
- f. Of the individuals who have already received letters, identify those that work outside the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and are being moved to positions inside the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.
- g. Of the individuals who have already received letters, identify those that work in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and are being reassigned to positions within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.
- h. Once the complete relocation costs for each employee being relocated is known, including any assistance for selling an employee's home, please provide the complete permanent change of station (PSC) move figures for each employee, their spouse, and dependents to the Committee.
- i. Will you be sending similar letters to more SES employees in the coming months?
- j. In total, how many SES employees do you expect to reassign and transfer?
- k. As is recommended by the Office of Personnel Management, are these reassignments linked to individual Executive Development Plans for each employee? For any employee where the transfer is consistent with information contained in their Executive Development Plan, please provide information on how the transfer is consistent with the Plan to the Committee.
- l. For any employee where the transfer is not consistent with information contained in their Executive Development Plan, please provide the analysis that was conducted or information that was reviewed in order to make the determination to transfer that employee.
- m. Do you subscribe to the belief that there is a "deep state" operating within the Federal Government?
- n. Are Interior Department SES employees a part of the "deep state"?

**Response:** The Senior Executive Service is intended to be a corps of versatile, senior Departmental staff. When Congress created the SES corps, the intent was to construct a mobile cadre of Executives. Rotation of SES staff provides an opportunity to improve talent development, mission delivery, and collaboration, and facilitates problem-solving and effective decision making. The purpose of these moves was to shift staff to areas where their skill set was better suited or to get staff out of Washington and into the field where they are needed most, which is a priority.

Department Staffing:

**Question 28.** I'm concerned about the March Executive Order to reorganize the Executive branch and subsequent Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memo on reducing the federal

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workforce (M-17-22) and what that could mean for Interior Department agencies. In the case of the National Park Service, I understand that staff levels have been in decline, there are now more than 1,500 vacant positions, and that Interior has frozen hiring for certain positions as a result of this effort. Secretary Zinke, for your confirmation hearing both your verbal and written testimony indicated one of your priorities is to ensure that park rangers have the resources they need, but this exercise threatens that priority.

- a. What has the Department's position been on this government reform effort in conversations with OMB?
- b. Can you commit to following through on your commitment to support staff by ensuring that the Park Service and other Interior agencies aren't further understaffed as a result of this exercise?

**Response:** This review process remains ongoing within the Department. I have tasked my team to review all programs to determine if there is duplication, and if so, how best to consolidate. The goal is to create a more efficient government that effectively delivers programs of the highest importance to the public. We anticipate a larger effort may be folded into the FY 2019 budget process.

**Question 29.** The March Executive Order on reorganizing the Executive branch and subsequent OMB and DOI guidance concern me a great deal. It appears the exercise could be used as an excuse to further understaff the park service and other land agencies and cut funding for certain programs the administration may not find to be critical. The OMB guidance on reducing the federal workforce (M-17-22) directs agencies to use the FY18 and FY19 budget processes to drive workforce reductions. However while there may well be carefully considered opportunities for reform within Interior agencies, I'd like to remind you that funding levels for staff and specific agency programs are ultimately up to the appropriations committees. To prematurely attempt some of these reorganization efforts that would be subject to the decision of appropriators without our consultation and consent would be a poor use of agency resources. Can you commit to soon updating us in writing on the status of this exercise and commit to be in regular contact with us in regard to it?

**Response:** As I indicated in response to the previous question, this review process remains ongoing within the Department, and we anticipate the larger effort may be folded into the FY 2019 budget.

**Question 30.** What is the current status of the workforce reduction exercise subsequent to the March executive order to reorganize the Executive branch and subsequent OMB memo on reducing the federal workforce (M-17-22)?

- a. Please list by agency the programs you will seek to eliminate or merge for each Interior agency.

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b. Please list the staff positions you intend to eliminate for each Interior agency.

**Response:** This review process remains ongoing within the Department, and we hope to have outcomes to the larger effort folded into the FY 2019 budget.

Interior Department Hiring Strategy:

**Question 32.** Mr. Secretary, you've ordered a hiring freeze for any position in Washington DC and Denver. Interior agencies are also subject to a freeze for any GS-12 and higher position, no matter the location. Your office must approve waivers to fill these positions and has placed a priority on positions involved in oil and gas development. You have repeatedly said that Interior's energy strategy will be "all of the above," yet you have singled out positions focused on oil and gas development for priority hiring. While some agencies within Interior are centered on energy development, the NPS and FWS are not, and it goes against their mission. It is concerning that you are putting a priority on oil and gas development to fill jobs within these agencies. Are you trying to change the mission of these two agencies with this new hiring strategy?

**Response:** No. With regard to the waiver process, it has been structured so that it should not significantly impact the Department's ability to address necessary staffing requirements.

Endangered Species Act:

**Question 39.** Mr. Secretary, you have said recently that you think the states should play a larger role in species conservation but this budget proposal absolutely savages the funding streams that make this cooperative work possible, including cutting Cooperative Endangered Species Fund grants by \$34 million to one-third of the current level. You can prevent listing species by doing proactive conservation work or you can recover species once they require listing; however, this budget cuts funding for both. Do you believe that these funding levels are adequate to help states be full partners in conserving fish and wildlife?

**Response:** The budget requests \$19.3 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The budget requests \$10.5 million for conservation grants to States, \$6.5 million for Habitat Conservation Planning assistance grants, and \$2.3 million for administrative costs. The budget does not provide funding for land acquisition grants in order to focus resources on our current land management priorities. The Department encourages States' participation in developing recovery plans. For example, when the yellowcheek darter, a small fish native to forks of the Little Red River in Arkansas, was listed as endangered, the Service formed a recovery team comprised of yellowcheek darter experts from organizations including the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and others. These members are integral to development of the recovery plan and increasing participation in

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recovery efforts among private landowners. Yet the duty to develop recovery plans ultimately falls to the Fish and Wildlife Service and there is no established policy or practice to assign development of recovery plans to the States. The Department is willing to work with Congress to explore ways to enhance collaboration with States when developing recovery plans.

**Question 40.** Along these same lines, you have long opposed the historic conservation agreement reached between states and the Obama Administration to protect the greater sage-grouse and avoid an ESA listing. Your recent Secretarial Order requiring a review of the plans threatens to turn this conservation success story into a failure, and this budget is not helping. The budget cuts \$11.5m – 22 percent – from BLM’s sage-grouse conservation efforts.

- a. Do you think these cuts will have a negative impact on greater sage-grouse populations and sagebrush habitat?
- b. Do you think these cuts make it more likely that the bird will require the protections of the ESA?
- c. Do you oppose the inclusion of a rider on your Department’s appropriations bill that would prevent you from listing the species even if it is shown that such an action is necessary to prevent extinction?
- d. FY 17 funding for sage-grouse conservation efforts is already out the door but your recent order has created uncertainty about if and how it will be used. Are BLM field offices authorized to use that funding for sage-grouse conservation efforts under the current conservation plan, or has your office ordered them to stop?

**Response:** The Department’s 2018 Budget reflects the President’s commitment to fiscal responsibility – proposing sensible and rational reductions and making hard choices to reach a balanced budget by 2027. This required the Department to take a thorough look at all of our mission areas to determine where we could potentially increase efficiencies yet continue the implementation of our multiple-use mission. The budget includes \$57 million to continue work on the sage landscape and maintains our commitment to sage habitat. BLM will continue restoration in highest priority areas - between 150,000 and 300,000 acres of sagebrush habitat - benefitting more than 350 species. This budget continues conservation work with partners and supports science at FY17 levels. Legislative prohibition on listing the greater sage grouse would provide time to implement plans and work more closely with states to craft solutions.

**Question 41.** As a Member of Congress, you voted against the protection of threatened and endangered species 100 percent of the time. You are now in charge of implementing the Endangered Species Act, not undermining it, but this budget shows that you may not have fully made that transition yet.

Even though it is widely known that current funding levels are insufficient to make significant progress toward protecting and restoring imperiled fish and wildlife populations, this proposal

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slashes funding for species listing, recovery, habitat protection, consultation, and work with states and tribes to prevent listings.

Given that we are in the middle of a global extinction crisis driven by irresponsible land use and climate change do you believe that this budget will allow you to meet your statutory obligations under the ESA to prevent extinction and recover threatened and endangered species?

**Response:** Yes, a total of \$225.2 million is proposed to implement the Endangered Species Act and related programs under the Service's Ecological Services Program, of which \$79.6 million is for recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A focus on recovery has recently resulted in the delisting and downlisting of several high-profile species, including the West Indian manatee. Included in the Ecological Services request is \$98.8 million to facilitate planning and consultation that will support economic recovery and job creation in the United States. Timely evaluations of proposed infrastructure, energy, and other development projects contribute to job creation and economic growth, while ensuring that impacts to native wildlife and habitat are avoided and minimized to the greatest degree possible. Funding will allow the Service to expedite project reviews and work with project proponents on appropriate mitigation and avoidance measures.

**Question 42.** Republican Members of this Committee, including you in the past, have argued that the ESA is a failure because more species are not being delisted. This is in spite of the fact that the ESA has been 99 percent effective in preventing species from going extinct.

In order to be delisted, though, species must be shown by the best available science to have recovered. Before the process of recovery can even begin, species must first be listed so that they can receive the protections of the Act just to "stop the bleeding." This is the simple, stepwise fashion in which the ESA works.

Unfortunately, this budget proposes to cut the listing program by more than 17 percent. It also proposes to cut the recovery program by more than \$3.5 million.

- a. Do you believe these cuts will allow you to meet your obligations to give species ESA protections when it is shown that it is scientifically necessary?
- b. Do you believe this budget will achieve your goal of delisting more species without running afoul of the requirement to base decisions on the best available science?
- c. Do you believe that at these funding levels FWS will be able to avoid losing lawsuits over failing to take required actions to protect species in a timely manner?

**Response:** I still believe that ESA is in need of reforms and modernization so it can operate in a more effective manner. The FWS delists and down-lists species when their status changes and resources are available. Getting species off the list due to recovery is a priority, and allows us to focus our attention and resources on species that need attention. The pace at which delistings and downlistings occur is dependent on resources devoted to on-the-ground recovery implementation and the progress toward recovery of individual species, as well as on the

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complexity of status reviews and rulemakings. A total of \$225.2 million is proposed in the President's FY 2018 budget request to implement the ESA and related programs under FWS's Ecological Services program, of which \$79.6 million is for recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. At these funding levels, the FWS will continue to address approximately 50 species that have been identified for potential delisting or downlisting under the ESA based upon recent 5-year status reviews. FWS plans on making final determinations for six species currently proposed for delisting in FY 2018.

**Review of 5-Year Offshore Leasing Program, as Instructed by April 28th Executive Order:**

The Department of the Interior has begun a review of the 5-year offshore leasing program, as instructed by President Trump's April 28, 2017, offshore energy executive order. Given the likely adverse impacts of this action on the environment, fishing, and tourism industries, I am deeply concerned with President Trump's decision to lift the leasing ban in regions currently closed to development. Secretary Zine, please address the following:

**Question 58.** The executive order directs a review of areas currently closed off from drilling, including the Mid- and South Atlantic, the Chukchi Sea, and the Beaufort Sea. Please provide all risk assessments and analysis undertaken to determine how lifting the ban on drilling in these areas would not adversely affect fragile ecosystems or damage fishing, restaurant, or tourism interests.

**Response:** On May 1, 2017, I issued Secretarial Order 3350 to further implement the President's Executive Order entitled: "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" (April 28, 2017), in which I directed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to initiate development of a new five year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act prescribes the major steps involved in developing a five year program, including the ability of the Secretary to review and approve the leasing program. During the initial stage of program development, the Secretary examines all 26 OCS planning areas to consider and balance the potentials for environmental damage, discovery of oil and gas, and adverse impact on the coastal zone in making a decision on the Draft Proposed Program – the first of three proposals required in the Program development process. This process includes conducting risk assessment and analysis on the impacts of oil and gas development and production. Recently, BOEM began seeking a wide array of input during development of this new OCS leasing program, including information on the economic, social, and environmental values of all OCS resources. BOEM will also seek input on the potential impact of oil and gas exploration and development on other resource values of the OCS and the marine, coastal, and human environments. All of these analyses will be made public as they are completed. At this stage of development of a leasing program, no decisions have been made regarding what planning areas may be included in the new leasing program.

**Question 59.** What additional actions or plans does the Department intend to take to protect coastal communities from the possibility of another catastrophic oil spill, particularly in light of the unique challenges of responding to an oil spill in these environments?

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a. For example, has the Department conducted any analysis with or otherwise coordinated with the Coast Guard to ensure that Area Contingency plans are sufficiently robust to address an oil spill the magnitude of the Deepwater Horizon?

**Response:** The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement oversees oil spill planning and preparedness activities for offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities in both Federal and State waters. BSEE reviews industry Oil Spill Response Plans to verify that owners and operators of offshore facilities are prepared to respond to a worst case discharge of oil; the U.S. Coast Guard participates in these reviews in certain situations. The Bureau, in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, validates the soundness of these plans by conducting exercises with operators.

BSEE's oil spill preparedness program is a keystone component of the National Response System. As such, BSEE regularly participates in meetings and supports activities by Regional Response Teams and Area Committees where offshore oil and gas operations are conducted. These groups are focal points for contingency planning with local, State and Federal partners including the Coast Guard. In addition, BSEE formally engages the U.S. Coast Guard on a quarterly basis at both the regional and headquarters levels to support joint planning initiatives and information sharing.

**Question 60.** The March 16, 2017 budget blueprint calls for a \$1.5 billion, or 12 percent, reduction to the Department's fiscal year 2018 budget. How would these proposed cuts affect the ability of the Department to draft a new 5-year plan, which presumably would also include oil spill response and mitigation plans, while administering an even greater number of oil and gas leases?

**Response:** The Administration's budget makes difficult choices in focusing on and funding our top priorities and sets the course to a balanced budget by 2027, saving taxpayers \$1.6 billion. Among the Department's top priorities is to boost domestic energy production to stimulate the Nation's economy and ensure our security while providing for responsible stewardship of the environment, which includes the development of a new 5-year plan. The budget reflects a careful analysis of the resources needed to advance this priority and to development our bureaus' capacity to carry out its functions carefully, responsibly and efficiently.

**Question 61.** American fishing, tourism, and recreation industries rely on a healthy ocean ecosystem to generate billions of dollars each year in economic activity. If this review goes forward, please indicate what additional analysis the Department intends to conduct to determine what safeguards will be required to protect these industries.

**Response:** At this point, the Department is only establishing a schedule of potential lease sales and framing the geographic scope for which OCS development can occur. The process is guided



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by the OCS Lands Act which specifies eight factors that are considered in determining the timing and location of leasing, including location with respect to other uses and environmental sensitivity and marine productivity. As required by the law, I will consider each of these factors in deciding which areas will be contained in the next National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Public input is critical to this process. There are at least three points during the program preparation process when comments are solicited, analyzed summarized and used to develop the final program.

**Question 62.** Given the significant growth of U.S. oil production on both private and public lands over the past seven years, the U.S. is now one of the largest producers of crude oil in the world, and the world leader in total liquid hydrocarbon production. In fact, oversupply in oil production has led the U.S. to begin exporting crude oil for the first time in generations. Further, gas prices in 2016 were the lowest they have been in more than a decade. Given these market conditions, why is a new planning process required now, as opposed to waiting only three years to continue on the normal planning schedule?

**Response:** Developing a new National Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program that respects environmental and economic sensitivities but still allows us to responsibly develop our resources is critical to reaching President Trump's goal of American energy dominance. Offering more areas for energy exploration and responsible development was a cornerstone of the President's campaign and this action is the first step in making good on that promise for offshore oil and gas. Under the last administration, 94% of the OCS was off-limits to responsible development, despite interest from state and local governments and industry leaders. This Administration is dedicated to energy dominance, growing the economy and giving the public a say in how our natural resources are used, and that is exactly what we are doing by opening up the Request For Information and a new OCS leasing program.

**Question 63.** Under the current leasing program, approximately 70 percent of the economically recoverable offshore resources in the OCS are available to the oil and gas industry for leasing. In the Gulf of Mexico, companies hold leases on approximately 16 million acres, but have developed only approximately 26 percent of that acreage. Please provide all the assessments and analysis the Department has undertaken to determine the need for additional leasing acreage at this time.

**Response:** As described in the previous response BOEM has initiated development of a new five year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program in which all 26 planning areas are considered. At this stage of development of a leasing program, no decisions have been made regarding the need to make available additional acreage for leasing.

Regarding the statement that industry has only developed 26 percent of the acreage leased in the Gulf of Mexico, this percentage applies only to the number of leases currently producing, substantially understating the percentage of leases on which there is exploration or development

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activity. As of August 1, 2017, there are 2,912 active leases in the GOM of which 1318 (45%) have had wells drilled or plans approved. Since oil and gas is not uniformly distributed across the OCS, there is always a risk of not finding oil and gas on leased acreage. New leasing in the Gulf of Mexico allows industry to better manage their prospect portfolios and mitigate these risks through access to additional acreage where there is potential for discovering new oil and gas fields on the OCS. It is important to note that prior to acquiring a lease through a BOEM lease sale, the oil and gas industry uses geophysical and other types of data extensively in order to identify promising prospects and bid on the acreage considered to have the best potential. During lease primary terms, operators have time to gather, process, and interpret additional data. Of course, not all leases contain drillable oil and gas resources and wells can be extremely risky and expensive to drill. Further, the finite number of drilling rigs available for contract limits the number of leases that can be drilled. Therefore, lessees are constantly evaluating and prioritizing the acreage in their lease inventory in order to drill the most promising leases first. This prioritization changes as the exploration process plays out (e.g., geological data comes in from new wells and/or new or reprocessed geophysical data is acquired, etc.). During the period after the lease is acquired, OCS projects compete for the operator's available capital with other prospects held by the operator in onshore and offshore oil and gas basins worldwide. This dynamic process of evaluating, ranking, and funding all worldwide projects of interest to a lessee is an important reason why lessees desire to maintain an inventory of leases so they can allocate and re-allocate capital expenditures as new information becomes available.

Secretarial Order 3349 and Executive Order 13783:

On March 29, 2017, you signed Secretarial Order Number 3349, which was designed to implement the directive in the Executive Order of March 28, 2017 (Executive Order 13783), to "review all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and any other similar agency actions...that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources." The Executive Order and Secretarial Order also rescinded or ordered the rescission of a number of important Obama Administration climate and mitigation policies, lifted the moratorium on new coal leases, and ordered the review of four commonsense regulations affecting oil and gas operations on National Park Service lands, fish and wildlife refuges, and other public lands. In order to understand the potentially massive changes in public lands policy and management that will arise from the Executive Order and Secretarial Order, please provide the following documents described in Secretarial Order 3349:

**Question 64.** The list of all Department Actions related to mitigation policies provided to the Deputy Secretary by each bureau and office, as required to be completed by April 12, 2017, as per Section 5(a)(i) of Secretarial Order 3349;

**Question 65.** The list of all Department Actions related to climate change policies provided to the Deputy Secretary by each bureau and office, as required to be completed by April 12, 2017, as per Section 5(b)(i) of Secretarial Order 3349;

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**Question 66.** The report from the Director, Bureau of Land Management, on the rule entitled, "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation," as required to be provided to the Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management by April 19, 2017, per Section 5(c)(ii) of Secretarial Order 3349;

**Question 67.** The report from the Director, National Park Service, on the rule entitled, "General Provisions and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights," as required to be provided to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks by April 19, 2017, per Section 5(c)(iii) of Secretarial Order 3349;

**Question 68.** The report from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, on the rule entitled, "Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights," as required to be provided to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks by April 19, 2017, per Section 5(c)(iv) of Secretarial Order 3349; and

**Question 69.** The reports from each bureau and office head provided to the Deputy Secretary that identify all existing Department Actions that "potentially burden...the development or utilization of domestically produced energy resources," as required by April 19, 2017, per Section 5(c)(v) of Secretarial Order 3349.

**Response Qs 64-69:** As Associate Secretary James Cason stated in his response to your April 2017 letter, the review required under the order is currently ongoing and the Department is still in the deliberative stages of this matter. As a result, no final decisions or documents are available for public review. We look forward to working with Congress throughout the implementation process.

**DOI Memo Directing Bureau and Acting Directors to Report to the Acting Deputy Secretary:**

On April 12, 2017, you sent a memo to the Assistant Secretaries of the Department of the Interior directing them to ensure that all bureau heads and office directors report to the Acting Deputy Secretary on all "proposed decisions" that have "nationwide, regional, or statewide impacts," and that decisions may not be made until the Acting Deputy Secretary has "reviewed the report and provided clearance." The memo also directs bureau heads and office directors to report to the Acting Deputy Secretary all Fiscal Year 2017 grants and cooperative agreements of \$100,000 or greater before the final award is issued, in order to "assess how we are aligning our grants and cooperative agreements to Department priorities."

In order for us to better understand how this memo will affect Departmental policy and operations, please provide answers to the following questions:

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**Question 70.** Has any guidance been provided to bureau heads or office directors regarding what constitutes a decision with "nationwide, regional, or statewide impacts"? If so, please provide that guidance.

**Question 71.** Is the Acting Deputy Secretary maintaining approval or modification authority over the grants, cooperative agreements, and decisions that are provided to him as a result of the April 12 memo?

**Question 72.** Has the Acting Deputy Secretary denied any grants or cooperative agreements, or required or requested changes to the terms of those grants or cooperative agreements, as a result of information provided to him as a result of the April 12 memo? If so, please identify those grants or cooperative agreements, and information regarding why the Acting Deputy Secretary denied or required or requested changes to those, as appropriate.

**Question 73.** Who in the Secretary's office or Deputy Secretary's office, other than the Acting Deputy Secretary, is also reviewing the information provided to the Acting Deputy Secretary as a result of the April 12 memo?

**Question 75.** For all grants and cooperative agreements awarded between April 12 and the date of this letter, please provide the information under items #1 through #11 as provided to the Acting Deputy Secretary under the "Template for Data Call on Fiscal Year 2017 Grants and Cooperative Agreement Awards."

**Question 76.** For all records of decision issued after review by the Acting Deputy Secretary between April 12 and the date of this letter, please provide all information provided to the Acting Deputy Secretary under the "Template for Data Call on Proposed Records of Decision and Other Significant Decision Documents."

**Response Qs 70-76:** The process was put in place to help me better understand where the approximately \$5.5 billion in grant and cooperative agreement funding is going and how that benefits the Department's mission. I believe we must have a thorough accounting of how the Department distributes the taxpayer's dollar. The process has moved along quickly and once the review has been completed it will be suspended.

**DOI Regulations Task Force:**

On April 24, 2017, an article in E&E News reported that you had appointed a task force for abolishing regulations, consisting of five political "beachhead" employees and one career staffer, but no Senate-confirmed personnel and no one with clear technical expertise in land management, wildlife management, environmental protection, or safety regulation. While the task force is required under Executive Order 13777, there is no reference to this task force in your Secretarial Order implementing Executive Order 13783 (SO 3349), and no information provided about how this task force will operate, where it fits in the regulatory review process created by SO 3349, whether any of its activities or decisions will be transparent and be made

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known to the public, whether it will accept public comments, or any other logistical detail. In order to better understand this task force and how it will operate, please provide the following information:

**Question 77.** The names of each member of the task force and their qualifications for analyzing regulations related to land management, wildlife management, environmental protection, and safety;

**Question 78.** How career staff with technical expertise in land management, wildlife management, environmental protection, and safety will be involved in the operations of the task force;

**Question 79.** How the task force fits into the process laid out in Secretarial Order 3349;

**Question 80.** The timeline for the regulatory task force to make decisions;

**Question 81.** The criteria to be used by the task force to make decisions related to whether or not to modify or rescind existing regulations;

**Question 82.** Whether there will be any public meetings of the task force and whether or not the task force will accept comments from the public; and

**Question 83.** Whether any documents created by the task force are intended to be made public once the task force has completed its work.

**Response Qs 77-83:** As Associate Secretary James Cason stated in his response to your May 2017 letter, the review is ongoing and the Task Force is in the deliberative stages of this matter. The Department will be publishing a Federal Register notice announcing the opportunity for the public to provide input on regulatory reform, and the Task Force is establishing a website dedicated to providing information on its regulatory reform efforts. The public also has the opportunity to comment on the inclusion or exclusion of any individual regulatory action from the unified regulatory agenda, which is issued on a semiannual basis in accordance with E.O. 12866. Regulation development will continue to be informed by public input and by Agency expertise in the relevant subject matter, whether it be related to land management, wildlife management, environmental protection, or safety.

U.S.G.S. Climate Change Report:

In May of this year, the Washington Post reported that officials within the Interior Department ordered employees at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to remove a reference to climate change from a press release announcing the publication of a new study on sea level rise and coastal flooding. Scrubbing this press release over the objections of some of the scientists involved in the study deprived media outlets and the general public of the context of the study. In order to prevent future abuses of this kind, I request responses to the following questions:

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**Question 84.** Did Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior James Cason, or anyone in his office, or at the Office of Management and Budget, review the USGS press release before it was issued?

**Question 85.** If so, who made the decision to remove the line reported by the authors of the study to read: “Global climate change drives sea-level rise, increasing the frequency of coastal flooding.”?

**Question 86.** If not, what was the highest level Departmental office that reviewed and edited the press release?

**Response to Qs 84-86:** The U.S. Geological Survey announced the findings of the study entitled, *Doubling of Coastal Flooding Frequency Within Decades Due to Sea-Level Rise* in a May 18, 2017, press release consistent with existing practices for all Departmental press releases. The press release aimed to summarize the overall findings of the report, and did not undermine the study findings, as evidenced by the opening line of the study’s abstract, which stated, “[g]lobal climate change drives sea-level rise, increasing the frequency of coastal flooding.”

**Questions from Rep. Brown**

Environmental Justice:

**Question 1.** Mr. Secretary, decades of studies have proved that minority, low-income, rural, tribal and indigenous populations face tremendous environmental and health disparities. Do you agree?

**Response:** While I am not familiar with the studies you mention, our programs at the Department of the Interior address issues in Indian country that range from remediation of legacy wells in Alaska, in some cases to protect the health and safety of Alaska Native communities, to assisting tribes in addressing important Human Services matters, like child welfare, health, and other social services issues.

**Question 2.** In 1994 President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898 requiring that the U.S. EPA and other federal agencies implement environmental justice policies. That order required all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations in their missions, develop strategies to address disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income people from their activities, and coordinate the development of data and research on these topics. Do you support the goals of this order?

**Response:** As I have said before, I recognize that the Department has not always stood shoulder to shoulder with tribal communities. I also recognize that all tribes are sovereign and we must

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respect their right to self-determination and the decisions that they make. I believe we can work together to foster stronger and more resilient Native communities.

**Question 3.** Under your budget, this order faces its gravest assault. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), part of the Office of the Secretary, is the focal point for implementing the Department's environmental justice policy, including the environmental justice executive order, and ensuring compliance. The proposed budget would cut the Office of the Secretary – your office – by over 80%. How can a cut this large not undermine the environment and health of minority, low-income, rural Americans, tribal and indigenous communities?

**Response:** The request for the Office of the Secretary appears to reflect a large reduction because the FY 2018 budget request would transfer funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program from the Departmental Operations account, from which both FY 2016 and 2017 funding for PILT was appropriated, to a separate PILT appropriation. With regard to Indian Affairs programs specifically, while this budget makes tough choices, it prioritizes self-governance and self-determination for Indian country, fully funding the costs for tribes to administer programs for themselves, and maintains essential management functions for tribal resources, among other things.

**Questions from Rep. Torres**

Tribal Concerns:

**Question 1.** Mr. Secretary, there has been some disturbing rhetoric coming from some members of this committee, as well as some in the Administration, attacking the sovereignty of tribes and questioning the recognition process and the land into trust process. Will you reaffirm your and the Department's commitment to its trust responsibility to all tribes that are currently federally recognized, including the ability to take land into trust?

**Response:** I have said before that the importance of my mission as Secretary to partner with American Indians and Alaska Natives is one that I do not take lightly. Our duty as Americans is to uphold our trust responsibilities and consult and collaborate with tribes on a government-to-government basis.

**Question 2.** To follow up on that, I would like you to address the ongoing issue that is the Carcieri decision. That decision has troubled Indian Country since it came down 2009, and has left many land decisions in limbo. It's been almost 10 years now – do you agree that Congress needs to resolve the Carcieri issue once and for all?

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**Response:** Congress, as the trust settlor for all Indian Affairs matters, has the sole authority to amend existing statutes, such as the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Congress alone will determine if land into trust statutes should be constrained or expanded. The Department welcomes the opportunity to work with Congress on any recommendations to modernize the land into trust process.

3. The Tiwahe Initiative has proven to be exceptionally successful at assisting tribes in addressing the inter-related problems of poverty, violence, substance, abuse and their associated outcomes like youth suicide. Tiwahe is currently in its pilot phase and impacting 61 tribes directly, with an additional \$24 million in Tiwahe Social Services and ICWA funds distributed to tribes across the country. In spite of this success, Tiwahe is being targeted for elimination. Can you tell us if the Department will be able to support the Tiwahe Initiative's success through its continued funding?

**Response:** The budget request made difficult choices this year. The Department's budget prioritizes self-governance and self-determination, and focuses funding in Indian country on core service activities, fully funding the costs for tribes to administer programs for themselves, and maintains essential management functions for tribal resources, among other things.

**Questions from Rep. Hanabusa**

Hazards Programs:

**Question 1.** The U.S. Geological Survey's natural hazards programs are critical for communities across our nation to understand the science behind natural disasters and how we can best prepare for them. The Earthquake Hazards Program and the Volcano Hazards Program as examples today, since they are of particular importance to Hawaii. These programs use science and technology to monitor signs of activity to help ensure the public is given ample warning of an earthquake, tsunami, or volcanic activity, so that proper precautions can be taken to reduce the amount of damage and loss of lives.

Your budget seems to reflect the opposite. On cuts to the Earthquake Hazards Program, it says "This reduction would diminish the EHP's ability to execute its core activities..." On cuts in the Volcano Hazards Programs, it says "This reduction would diminish the VHP's ability to execute its core activities to provide forecasts and warnings of hazardous volcanic activity at volcanoes in the United States with the current monitoring networks," among other things.

These proposed cuts are deeply concerning. Although they are not large, they could have serious consequences, especially if these cuts hinder these programs' abilities to "execute its core activities".

a. Please explain the rationale behind these proposed cuts.



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**Response:** For 2018, the Administration identified areas where the federal government could reduce spending and also areas for investment, such as addressing the maintenance backlog across the national park system and increasing domestic energy production on federal lands. The 2018 budget requires restrained spending in order to meet the goal of balancing the budget within 10 years. The 2018 budget request focuses on core capabilities to provide forecasts and warnings of hazardous volcanic activity with current monitoring networks; produce updated hazard assessments for high-threat volcanoes; and to revise the national volcano threat level assessment. The budget maintains support for robust national earthquake monitoring and reporting.

Invasive Species:

**Question 2.** Invasive species is a global problem that will continue to invade our lands and waters with devastating economic and ecological impacts unless we actively protect our resources. It has been shown time and again that prevention of invasive species saves far more money than trying to eradicate the pest after it has been introduced. It is problematic to cut invasive species funding, seeing as invasive species continue to cost the United States more than \$120 billion in damages annually. (Pimental et al. 2005).

Invasive species management requires a holistic effort due to the impacts to both aquatic and terrestrial resources. Especially troubling in the budget are reductions for the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Insular Affairs, and National Parks Service for invasive species management, while funding is increased by more than \$4.5 million for the Bureau of Reclamation, which focuses on dams. While there are invasive species in dams, the issues plague areas on both land and in the sea. The funding shift away from offices within the Department of Interior that have jurisdiction over areas with invasive species and to an agency with little expertise in this area would be an inefficient waste of taxpayer money.

My home state of Hawaii, for example, has very unique ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable to invasive species. We require robust invasive species funding to prevent further damage from such species as the Brown Tree Snake, Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and the Coqui frog, much of which is best managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

- a. Given that the threat from invasive species is not diminished and reducing prevention will cost us much more in eradication, can you explain the rationale behind cuts to invasive species management?
- b. How is the Bureau of Reclamation going to effectively manage invasive species in places like Hawaii where the Bureau has no presence?

**Response:** Invasive species are a significant threat to the Nation's economy, food and water security, public health and environment. The Department leads extensive work to prevent, eradicate and control invasive species, including efforts to strengthen early detection and rapid response capabilities, enhance biosecurity measures, and address high impact invasive species, such as the brown treesnake. The Department is committed to working with the State of Hawaii

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and all of our partners on these important issues. The budget includes \$101 million for invasive species work across the Department, nearly level with 2017.

The Department recently announced approximately \$3.5 million through the Office of Insular Affairs to continue supporting efforts to control the brown treesnake on Guam and prevent its spread to Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the larger Micronesian region. This supplements more than \$250,000 in brown treesnake investments made by the U.S. Geological Survey and the FWS in Fiscal Year 2017. Furthermore, the State of Hawaii's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan, which could include efforts to prevent brown treesnake, will continue to be eligible for funding under the Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan grant program administered by the FWS.

The budget requests an increase for the Bureau of Reclamation to help get ahead of the threat posed by zebra mussels, which is a serious concern in the West due to the experience seen in the Great Lakes region.

**Questions from Rep. Sablan**

**Question 1.** In 2005, Interior's Office of Insular Affairs started a competitive system for allocating among the U.S. territories \$27.72 million in Covenant Funds that originally all went to the Northern Marianas to help build our public infrastructure. The Northern Marianas currently receives only about a third of the money. The competition is largely based on financial management criteria. Financial management is important but so is infrastructure. According to the EPA, Saipan, the main island in the Northern Marianas, is the only U.S. municipality without 24-hour potable water. That is a serious health concern. Isn't it time to look at new criteria for the \$27.72 million in Marianas Covenant Funds, so that public health and safety needs are prioritized?

**Response:** The capital infrastructure project (CIP) program funds a variety of critical infrastructure needs in the U.S. territories, such as ports, hospitals, schools, water, public buildings, solid waste, energy and public safety. As you noted, the annual allocation of CIP funds is made on the basis of competitive criteria that measure the demonstrated ability of the governments to exercise prudent financial management practices and to meet federal grant requirements. These criteria are evaluated and revised as necessary every five years.

**Question 2.** OIA budget justifications for FY 2018 tout the importance of various programs including the Technical and Maintenance Assistance Programs, the Brown Tree Snake Control and Coral Reef Initiatives, and the Empowering Insular Communities program. Yet the request includes steep funding cuts to each of these programs. I appreciate the need to control spending, but these across-the-board cuts would likely end up costing much more, both at the federal and local levels, if programs are not properly implemented. The Brown Tree Snake Control Program costs a few million, but if these snakes spread, as they have on Guam, the cost in damage to electrical systems and the extermination of native endangered birds would cost tens of millions

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or more. Isn't it a wiser use of taxpayers' money to prevent problems than to try to fix them after the damage is done?

**Response:** For 2018, the Administration identified areas where the federal government could reduce spending and also areas for investment, such as addressing the maintenance backlog across the national park system and increasing domestic energy production on federal lands. The 2018 budget requires restrained spending in order to meet the goal of balancing the budget within 10 years.

**Question 3:** Territorial Representatives Bordallo, Radewagen, Plaskett, and I sent you a letter dated March 9, 2017, asking that you retain the position of Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. We have not received a response to date. The Office of Insular Affairs has administrative responsibility for coordinating federal policy in the U.S. territories of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Keeping the position of Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, equal to other Assistant Secretaries in the Department, is an important symbol of respect for our constituents as it shows their concerns are taken as seriously as citizens residing in the states, and insular area issues are viewed equally significant as other issues under the Department's jurisdiction. In your reorganization of the Interior Department, will you retain the position of Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas?

**Response:** On June 29, 2017, President Trump nominated Doug Domenech to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. Mr. Domenech is awaiting confirmation in the U.S. Senate and we hope that Mr. Domenech is confirmed to serve in this position in the very near future.

**Question 4.** In my reply to your letter soliciting comments to assist your review of the Marianas Trench National Monument under Executive Order 13792, I wrote about the promises made to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands that remain unfulfilled. For years, we have been urging Interior to produce the management plan, required when President Bush created the Monument. The plan is key to fishing and other resource use in the Monument, public education and outreach, and the development of a Monument visitors center. Please provide an update on any progress and a specific date for issuance of the Monument Management Plan the Fish and Wildlife Service has been working on for eight years now.

**Response:** FWS continues to work with its partners, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and Department of Defense toward completion of a management plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

A number of steps have been taken to address or resolve important issues. FWS issued a patent under the Territorial Submerged Lands Act for the CNMI's territorial waters in December 2016. This was an important step in ensuring that the final monument management plan included all applicable jurisdictions and authorities, including that of the CNMI. NOAA

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**Hearing on the FY 2018 Budget Request**  
**June 22, 2017**

Fisheries has developed and published fishing regulations for the Islands Unit of the Monument. Management regulations for the Trench and Volcanic Units were implemented under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, through Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3284.

A draft Monument Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment are awaiting completion of the Administration's national monuments review. Once that review is completed, the drafts will be revised as appropriate to comport with the findings of the review and public meetings will be scheduled. The drafts will be revised as appropriate based upon public comment and released in final a few months after.

**Questions from Rep. Huffman**

**Question 3.** California salmon runs have collapsed during the recent drought, in both the Klamath and Bay-Delta watersheds. This year marked the lowest they have been on record, prompting a complete fisheries closure on the Klamath.

- i. How will your agency prioritize salmon restoration in the coming fiscal year? How is this need reflected in the Department of the Interior's budget, as proposed in the President's Budget Request?
- ii. Does the Department of the Interior plan to participate in financing the proposed Delta tunnels (California WaterFix) that are currently under evaluation by federal regulators and the Bureau of Reclamation?
- iii. Is there a finance plan for those tunnels? If so, can you provide it to us?
- iv. Are any Bureau of Reclamation contractors ready to pay their proportional share of the cost of the tunnels?
- v. How confident are you that this project will not result in the large cost overruns that are commonly characterize large infrastructure projects?
- vi. Is the Bureau of Reclamation considering asking federal taxpayers to subsidize the construction of a Shasta Dam raise?

**Response to i:** While the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the primary agency charged with implementing salmon protections; Bureau of Reclamation project operations support many NMFS activities. In the Klamath River Basin, a record of decision was signed on April 20, 2017, which identified a preferred alternative to provide a long-term approach to avoiding fish die-off in the lower Klamath River. Reclamation is working with NMFS to review potential amendments to the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) regarding management of the Sacramento River.

**Response to ii-iv:** On June 26, 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS released biological opinions on the proposed construction and operation of California WaterFix. The

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Department has made no funding-related commitments and has not been engaged regarding the creation of a finance plan. No decisions been made on raising Shasta Dam, as alternative means of financing (primarily non-federal) for the construction costs would have to be identified and approved by Congress.

**Questions from Rep. Napolitano**

**Question 5.** Many water agencies in the arid west are looking towards recycled water projects as the most cost effective solution to drought management; do you believe we should start to refocus our investments towards recycled water?

- a. What does President Trump's budget do to support recycled water projects?
- b. How can an increase in funding impact the amount of water projects that can be introduced in the drought-stricken west?

**Response:** I believe it is important to look at a wide range of approaches when it comes to helping the west effectively manage drought. The Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program supports water supply sustainability by leveraging Federal and non-Federal funding to conserve tens of thousands of acre-feet of water each year. Since 1992, approximately \$672 million in federal funding has been leveraged with non-federal funding to implement more than \$3.3 billion in water reuse improvements. Reclamation announced in July 2017 a new funding opportunity for Title XVI projects pursuant to new authority under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322).

**To:** James, James[james.james@bia.gov]; Mary Pletcher[mary\_pletcher@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Weldon Loudermilk[weldon.loudermilk@bia.gov]  
**From:** McBride, Debrah  
**Sent:** 2017-08-16T08:31:16-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Hiring Control requests  
**Received:** 2017-08-16T08:31:27-04:00

Mary:

Jim is in travel status today and I hope to touch base with him sometimes today. I realized this morning that I emailed him the wrong spreadsheet. We reviewed the latest position request together and made some revisions to provide for stronger justification. As soon as I speak with him we will provide the latest update.

*Debbie McBride  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Office of the Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
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On Tue, Aug 15, 2017 at 4:40 PM, James, James <[james.james@bia.gov](mailto:james.james@bia.gov)> wrote:

Hi Mary - Attached please find the BIA's request for hires for this period. I have reviewed these and revised and removed a few of them. We will continue to determine what positions we can move to the Field as we go. However, with the upcoming changes in Trust Services leadership, we may have a better idea in the coming weeks about possible reassignments. Thanks.

**To:** scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Denise Sheehan  
**Sent:** 2017-08-07T12:48:25-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Human Capital Management System and Questions  
**Received:** 2017-08-07T12:48:33-04:00

Scott,

Hi! Last week, my staff and I briefed Aurelia Skipwith for over two hours on our Human Capital Management System, which is the 5-module automation system that my staff has been building since 2009. We are now piloting module 5, which we plan to deploy nationwide by January.

Aurelia was so blown away by our system that she wanted to see if it could be considered for the Secretary's Top 10. Module 5, ePerform, would be an accomplishment of this Administration. I believe that our system leads anything anywhere in the Department by a mile, and it is configurable, so we could share it with other bureaus with technical assistance. Our contractor, Acendre, for the fifth module, called us last week to tell us that the Admin Office of the EOP wants a demo soon, but we don't yet have a date. We are briefing Greg Sheehan on August 10.

Attached are two briefers for your information. We have been briefing and keeping Dept folks informed all along, and Acendre was originally referred to us by Ray Limon's predecessor. I think this system is exactly what Mick Mulvaney was soliciting in his recent efficiency memo. And our timing is perfect. Our system has been enthusiastically received by our managers Servicewide. You don't need to take any action on this, but I just wanted you to be aware of this activity. I think it is a big deal, and you might be hearing about it.

\*\*\*\*\*

On another note, FWS is having a Directorate meeting in town next week. Depending on what my future with you holds, I will be deciding on whether I will volunteer to lead some FWS initiatives. Have you decided to direct reassign me as we discussed? If so, do you have a date in mind? If the position you have in mind is being vacated in September, then if I started in early October, I could do the performance evaluations on my own staff (which I can't do until October 1), and FWS would have to pick up the cost of my bonus (not the Department). Just a thought. I am not being presumptuous, but I am just trying to get our ducks in a row.

Thanks in advance for any info you can provide. Of course, I will keep it confidential.

□□□□□□  
Denise

Sent from my iPad

**To:** tanya harris joshua[Tanya\_Joshua@ios.doi.gov]; Basil Ottley[basil\_ottley@ios.doi.gov]; Stephen Sander[Stephen\_Sander@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Pula, Nikolao  
**Sent:** 2017-08-07T11:57:40-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 7, 2017  
**Received:** 2017-08-07T11:58:37-04:00

I see that Plaskett used our Press Release to take credit of announcement - nothing wrong with that. So, I don't see the complaint about having them announce OIA grants in advance.  
Nik

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

**From:** **Bulletin Intelligence** <[Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 7, 2017 at 6:57 AM  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 7, 2017  
**To:** [Interior@bulletinintelligence.com](mailto:Interior@bulletinintelligence.com)

**Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.**

**DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 7:00 AM EDT**

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- Washington Post: D.C.'s Only Endangered Species Is Shy And Sightless, But It's Having A Moment.
- KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau (MO): Marion Refuge Open For Solar Eclipse Viewing.
- Associated Press: Congressmen Oppose Texas Wildlife Refuge As Border Wall Site.
- Dallas Morning News: Outdoors Notebook: Survey Shows Growth In Number Of Anglers.

- Washington Post: With 'Wind River,' Taylor Sheridan Continues To Smash Western Stereotypes.

#### **National Park Service**

- Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer: Deadline Nears For \$70 Increase In NPS Passes.
- BBC News (UK): "Wrong Turn" Kills Doctor In Grand Canyon Hike With Girls.
- Associated Press: One-Time Seasonal Worker Landed Dream Job At Yellowstone.
- Washington Post: After Zero-Tolerance Vow, A Park Chief Cited For Sexual Harassment Gets A Bonus And New Job.
- New York Times: At Statue Of Liberty, Words That Resonate Even If They're Unfamiliar.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone To Create Temporary Bison Quarantine Facility.
- Associated Press: Geese Rounded Up From DC Park Will Be Made Into Meals.
- Associated Press: Nation's Oldest Coal-fired Steamboat Returns To Mystic River.
- Jackson (WV) Herald: Park Service To Host Civil War Railroad Program.
- Denver Post: Outdoor Industry In Colorado Aims To Become Political, Economic Force.
- Denver Post: Historically Black Beach Enclaves Are Fighting To Save Their History And Identity.

- Chicago Tribune: Century Of Progress Homes Tour, Plus Lots To Discover In Columbus.
- Oregonian: Editorial: Zinke Should Leave Cascade-Siskiyou Protections In Place.

#### **Office Of Insular Affairs**

- The Hill: Senate Panel Approves Five Interior, Energy Nominees After Delayed Vote.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: NPS Awards \$27K Grant To Preserve WWII Sites On Saipan.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Dept. Of Interior Awards Territory \$2.4 Million Grant For Infrastructure Improvements On Schools.

#### **Office Of Surface Mining**

- Pruitt: Obama EPA "Failed" To Protect Environment After Gold King Mine Spill.

### **US Geological Survey**

- Popular Science: Growing Skin In A Lab Has Benefits For Humans And Turtles Alike.
- Newsweek: Yellowstone Supervolcano Earthquake Swarm Surpasses 1,500 Events.
- Reuters: Magnitude 6.0 Quake Hits Philippines -USGS.
- Los Angeles Times: How A 9.2 Earthquake In Alaska In 1964 Changed Our Understanding Is Explained In "The Great Quake."

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- Axios: Axios' Swan: Government May Shut Down Over Border Wall Funding Fight.
- Reuters: Infrastructure Borrowing Down As State, Local Governments Await Federal Plan.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal A1: Regulator Penalties On Wall Street Down In Trump's First Six Months.
- Bloomberg News: Cohn: US Must Cut Corporate Tax Rate To Below 23 Percent.
- Financial Times: US Formally Notifies UN Of Withdrawal From Paris Climate Deal.
- Breitbart: Obama Administration Spent Over \$300,000 On Climate Change Museum.

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### **DOI In The News**

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### **Interior Won't Change Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Designation.**

The [AP](#) (8/4, Daly) reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Friday he is not recommending changes to Arizona's Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, the fifth site Zinke has removed from an ongoing review of national monuments for possible elimination or reduction." The AP noted, "Zinke is reviewing 27 national monuments designated by previous presidents. The review was ordered by President Donald Trump, who says many monument designations are unwarranted land grabs by the federal government. Zinke has removed five sites from review ahead of a final report due later this month. Others removed from consideration are in Montana, Colorado, Idaho and Washington state."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Siciliano) quoted Zinke as saying Friday, "Today I'm announcing that Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument's review process has concluded and I am recommending no changes be made to the monument." Zinke added, "The land has some of the most pristine and undeformed geological formations in North America, which show the scientific history of our Earth while containing thousands of years of human relics and fossils."

In a rundown of upcoming Congressional deadlines, [E&E Publishing](#) (8/4, Cahlink, Lunney) mentioned that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's final recommendations on whether to alter 27 national monuments is due Aug. 24."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Wolfgang), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/5, Sullivan), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/4, Altavena, Devoid).

### **Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands.**

A 2,700-word, front-page [New York Times](#) (8/6, A1, Lipton, Meier) report says the Trump Administration is "encouraging more coal mining on lands owned by the federal government – part of an aggressive push to both invigorate the struggling American coal industry and more broadly exploit commercial opportunities on public lands." The Times comments, "companies and individuals with economic interests in the lands, mining companies among them," have not "held such a strong upper hand" since "the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion during the Reagan administration." In late June, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "visited Whitefish, Mont., to attend a meeting of Western governors, where he vowed to find a balance between extracting commodities from federal lands and protecting them." Zinke said in a speech, "Our greatest treasures are public lands. It is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue." Yet, according to the Times, "The alliance between Mr. Zinke and the coal industry is well documented in his campaign finance disclosures."

[Newsweek](#) (8/6, Shaffer) covers the Times analysis, reporting that "Zinke has been in the state of Utah since Sunday talking with state and local officials and touring the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, to help determine their future status under the Trump Administration." Zinke said, "You know our nation can't run on pixie dust and

hope, and the last eight years showed that." A tribe member is quoted as saying, "We don't have money. But we have land, water and air. Snuff that out and we are gone."

### **Interior Watchdog Reviewing Zinke's Calls To Alaska Senators.**

The [AP](#) (8/4, Daly) reported Interior Department Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said "her office is launching a 'preliminary investigation' of" Interior Secretary Ryan "Zinke's July 26 calls to Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan" in which Zinke allegedly "warned the senators of repercussions for their state if Murkowski failed to support the" GOP healthcare bill. The AP added that "Zinke has called the notion that he threatened Murkowski 'laughable,' but he tweeted a photo Thursday of himself and Murkowski smiling over Alaskan beers at his Washington home. 'I say dinner, she says brews. My friends know me well,' Zinke wrote, adding a beer emoji and 'thanks' to Murkowski."

[CNN](#) (8/4, Green, Marsh, Wallace) reported online that the IG's preliminary investigation follows "a letter sent Thursday to Democratic Reps. Frank Pallone and Raul Grijalva, who initially requested the investigation on July 27." Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (8/4, Volcovici) and the [International Business Times](#) (8/4, Prasad).

### **3 Goals Zinke Has During Time At Interior.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/5) reported, "President Donald Trump's Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is frustrated with 'the resistance' to getting his senior leadership staff in place," and he "most of the blame on the Office of Government Ethics, which many quietly report to be overzealously abusing its position to review nominees." Zinke also told the Daily Caller News Foundation that he "has three goals for his time in the cabinet: He hopes to restore trust with all the partners of the Interior Department, improve the languishing infrastructure, and thin out the headquarters staff while bolstering the front line staff."

### **Trump Says States Can Count On Federal Cash In Emergencies.**

The [AP](#) (8/4, Thomas) reported, "President Donald Trump said Friday that states can count on his administration to dispense U.S. emergency funds efficiently." Touring FEMA's command center, Trump was "accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price."

### **The Battle Over Science In The Trump Administration.**

[CNN International](#) (8/5, Green) reported online, "President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to roll back environmental regulations and change the playing field for the fossil-fuel industry," and "his administration's actions over its first six months have followed that lead, including what many scientists say is a full-fledged battle against research and facts." CNN cited how "Joel Clement was director of the Office of Policy Analysis at the Interior Department,

until three weeks ago. Now he's a senior adviser at the department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue – a position he labels an accounting job." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Congress in June that reassignments will be part of the process meant to reduce the department's "physical footprint."

Meanwhile, The Hill (8/5, Henry) said that "government employees are growing increasingly willing to criticize or defy the White House and President Trump's top appointees," citing how "a handful of current and former career staffers in the Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have openly shredded their superiors within the last several weeks, continuing a trend that has developed throughout the government over the course of Trump's tenure in the Oval Office." The Hill specifically cited how "in the Interior Department...Clement, has filed a whistleblower complaint against Trump administration political appointees like Secretary Ryan Zinke, saying he was reassigned to the agency's revenue office because of his former research and advocacy over climate change." Yet, an "agency spokesman said last month that reassignments are 'conducted to better serve the taxpayer and the Department's operations.'"

### **Continuing Coverage: Interior Department Reaffirms Protection Of Upper Missouri River Breaks As National Monument.**

The Bend (OR) Bulletin (8/6, Lipton) reports, "The Interior Department announced Wednesday that the Upper Missouri River Breaks, a famous chunk of river in central Montana that holds a national monument designation, would remain fully protected by federal land-use restrictions." Zinke said, "The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago." Zinke said in June, "There is no doubt that" the Bears Ears National Monument "is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection," before he added "that the Bears Ears site seemed too large and that different kinds of uses of the land are too restricted, meaning it is 'not the best use of the land.'"

The Sidney (MT) Herald (8/5, Jean) reported similarly, and the Billings (MT) Gazette (8/6) provides coverage in a brief.

### **Why Our Large-Scale National Monuments Should Stay Intact.**

Pew Charitable Trusts VP Tom Wathen wrote in The Hill's (8/4, Wathen) "Pundits Blog" blog that as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke considers elimination or modification of national land monuments, he should "recommend that the monuments under review remain as they are now for future generations." Wathen argued, "Not only are large-scale monuments vital to protect important 'objects,' but they also provide open spaces to find recreation or seek solitude, serve as habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, and strengthen the economies of surrounding communities."

CEO of adventure travel company "Off the Beaten Path" Cory T. Lawrence similarly wrote in the Billings (MT) Gazette (8/4, LAWRENCE) urging the protection of national park lands, opining that President Trump's proposed budget cuts leave "an annual operations shortfall of about half a billion dollars"

for the Interior Department.

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **3 Killed, 2 Injured In Shootings On Montana Indian Reservation.**

CBS News (8/6) reports online that Crow Tribal Chairman Alvin Not Afraid Jr. said in a statement that Methamphetamine "and gang activity were factors in a residential shooting that killed three people and injured two others on Montana's Crow Indian Reservation" on Friday. Not Afraid said in his statement on Saturday, "Drugs have a devastating affect on our communities, and yesterday's incident is a reminder of that." The FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Montana Highway Patrol and the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office are investigating the shooting.

Additional coverage was provided by the AP (8/6) and the Billings (MT) Gazette (8/5, Kordenbrock).

### **A Hard-Fought Victory To Restore Tribal Land Faces New Threat In Trump Era.**

In a 2,000-word analysis, Huffington Post (8/4, D'angelo) contributor Chris D'angelo wrote that although "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke vowed to be an advocate for America's indigenous communities and their right to self-determination," "a major change to the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations...is the latest example of Zinke and the Trump administration not living up to their promises to native peoples, former Interior officials say." The Interior Department reportedly announced a "revised strategy" last week that it said "will more effectively allocate" the remaining \$540 million from the landmark settlement in Cobell v. Salazar. D'angelo highlighted opinion that this was "a move that will widely impact Indian communities without any formal government-to-government consultation."

### **Cherokee Nation, BIA Place Ochelata Health Center Land Into Trust.**

The Bartlesville (OK) Examiner-Enterprise (8/4, Day) reported, "The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office agreed to place 240 acres owned by the Cherokee Nation into federal trust." The deed was signed by Principal Chief Bill John Baker and BIA Deputy Regional Director Jessie Durham. The Examiner-Enterprise noted that "the \$10 million facility was part of the tribe's \$100 million health-care improvement program," and it "replaced a 5,000-square-foot health center in Bartlesville."

### **Cayuga Nation Leadership Battle Heads Back To Court.**

The Auburn (NY) Citizen (8/4) reported, "The ongoing battle for control of the Cayuga Nation in central New York is heading back to court," as the "Cayuga Nation Council on Friday said that the federal Interior Board of Indian Appeals had rejected a motion by the Unity Council seeking to overturn a federal decision recognizing Clint Halftown and his council as the official governing body of the Nation." In response, "Joseph Heath, the attorney for a Nation group formerly

known as the Unity Council, filed a motion questioning the validity of the decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals." In addition, Halftown's group "said that it filed a complaint Friday in New York State Supreme Court seeking the return of properties, inventory and other assets taken from its control in 2014."

### **Creek Indian Tribe Breaks Ground On Native American Cultural Center.**

The Northwest Florida Daily News (8/5, Adams) reported from Milton, Florida, "The Santa Rosa Creek Indian Tribe broke ground on their Native American Cultural Center Aug. 1 at their tribal grounds." The article described how "the cultural center will include an artifact museum with more than 3,000 Native American artifacts, including a peace pipe used in the signing of a treaty between the head of the Crow Nation and the head of U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and ashes and embers descended from a fire that burned in the Cherokee town of Tahlequah more than 1,000 years ago."

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **Trump Readies Repeal Of An Obama-Era Coal Rule Right After West Virginia Rally.**

The Daily Caller (8/4) reported that the "Interior Department has filed a repeal of an Obama-era rule to raise mineral royalties on federal lands." In a Friday regulatory filing, "officials noted the royalties rule had 'several significant defects in the rule that would have undermined its purpose and intent' and made it ripe for repeal." President Trump had said at a rally Thursday night, "We are putting our coal miners back to work. We have ended the war on beautiful, clean coal. We have stopped the EPA intrusion. American coal exports are already up."

Greenwire (8/4, Marshall) reported similarly.

### **As E-Bikes Gain Popularity, Land Managers Ponder Future.**

The AP (8/5, Condon) reported, "E-bike use has exploded over the past year," creating enforcement challenges in parks prohibiting motorized vehicles. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails director Gary Tennenbaum "said the program's rangers are receiving an increased number of reports of scofflaws on the trail." The AP added that the BLM "often accommodates mountain bikes and motorcycles on the same trails," and "many routes in the Crown, the popular mountain in the midvalley" in Colorado "are open to both uses." Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association Executive Director Mike Pritchard commented that "when cyclists are huffing and puffing their way up a climb, it strikes some of them as cheating when they encounter an e-biker covering the same ground quicker and easier."

### **In Gold Butte In Nevada, Ancient Rock Art And Rugged Beauty.**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/6, Caldwell) carries a 2,200-word analysis praising Gold Butte In Nevada, which "was deemed worthy of monument designation for historical and cultural assets but also for environmental and

conservation reasons." The piece mentions that the BLM "designated routes for off-road vehicles and a main road, Gold Butte Road, which is designated as a National Backcountry Byway."

### **Utah Commission: Keep "Negro Bill Canyon" The Same.**

The [AP](#) (8/6, McCombs) reported that the Utah Committee on Geographic Names said Friday that it "voted to recommend retaining the name of Utah's Negro Bill Canyon after receiving conflicting opinions about whether it is offensive." This "recommendation next goes to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which is expected to make a final decision on canyon's name later this year." The article noted, "Last September, the federal Bureau of Land Management administratively changed the signs at the 'Negro Bill' trailhead to read instead 'Grandstaff Trailhead.'"

### **Federal Court Orders Restoration Of 23,000 Acres For Wild Horses.**

The [Washington Times](#) (8/6, Dinan) reports that the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia "delivered a victory to wild horse enthusiasts, ordering the U.S. Forest Service to restore 23,000 acres of critical land as protected horse country in California – and showed judges taking an increasingly dim view of agencies' decision-making." The Times notes, "The horse campaigners won another legal battle last year when a federal appeals court out west ruled that the Bureau of Land Management...illegally removed wild horses from Wyoming territory."

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

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### **Interior's Rhetoric Ineffective Against Low Oil Prices.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/4, King) reported that the Interior Department's pro-energy policies will not be effective as crude prices remain depressed below \$50. Pavel Molchanov, SVP and equity research analyst at Raymond James, said, "If oil prices were as low as they were 18 months ago, the best rhetoric in the world could not change the fact that companies are suffering from low oil prices." The Interior is also restricted by the agency's scope, as the department controls drilling activity on federal land. However, the Permian and Bakken are primarily located on state and private land.

### **Denver Post Analysis: Permits Show Tensions Likely Between Communities, Producers.**

A [Denver Post](#) (8/6, Svaldi) analysis of Colorado's drilling permits suggests that the clash between growing communities and energy production in northeastern Colorado will intensify in the coming years. The analysis found that pending and approved drilling permits are being issued for locations in and near towns and other populated areas twice as often as in remote locations. Eight of the 10 fastest growing towns and cities in the state, along with the two fastest-growing counties, are directly in the path of drilling.

### **Murray Energy CEO: Trump Supporting American Coal Industry, More**



### **Changes Needed.**

Robert E. Murray, Chairman, President and CEO of Murray Energy Corp., writes at the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (8/6) that President Trump has followed through on his promises "to preserve coal jobs and low-cost, reliable electricity for all Americans." He discusses several of the actions Trump has taken, including the repeal of the Stream Protection Rule, an executive order directing agencies to repeal the Waters of the United States Rule, and the rescinding of the Clean Power Plan, among others. Moving forward, Murray says the Trump Administration should eliminate the Coal Combustion Residuals Rule, eliminate tax credits for windmills and solar panels, and end the electric utility Maximum Achievable Technology and Ozone regulations, among other actions. He concludes that "we must continue to fight for fair treatment of the coal industry by the United States government and a level, unsubsidized playing field for our coal in electric power generation."

### **Database Illustrates Safety Of US Drinking Water.**

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 9, 2:20, Quijano) reported that a new database managed by the Environmental Working Group "allows consumers to go online and see exactly what contaminants are in the water in their area" – a tool that so far has shown, among other things, that "almost 19,000 water systems in the US have levels of lead that could affect formula-fed babies, and 93 contaminants in the nation's water are linked to an increased risk of cancer." CBS adds that although the EPA says that more than 90 percent of the nation's water meets its safety standards, the EWG says these standards are not "purely" health standards. The EWG also "says water filters can reduce or even eliminate many of the contaminants, but depending on what is in the water coming too your home, the price of a filter could be anywhere from about \$20 to more than \$1,000."

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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#### **Let Forest Fires Burn? What the Black-Backed Woodpecker Knows.**

In a 1,700-word analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/6, Gillis) reports that many scientists are calling for a new approach to combating wildfires that "basically involves letting backcountry fires burn across millions of acres" – an approach based on the idea that suppressing wildfires has imperiled certain plants and animals that prefer burned forest habitats and has damaged long-term health of forests that need periodic thinning. The same scientists argue that communities should redirect fire safety funds to fireproof homes. The Times adds, however, that such an effort would face political opposition and that "considerable disagreement remains among scientists about exactly how forests should be managed."

#### **Blanding Turtle Finds Safe Haven In Nebraska.**

A 1,300-word [AP](#) (8/5, Ursch) report analyzed the classification of the Blanding's turtle, which "is considered endangered throughout much of its range east and

west of the Great Lakes and in Canada." Assessing threats to the animal, the AP noted that "in 2013, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials reported that trade of the turtle appeared to be on the rise."

### **D.C.'s Only Endangered Species Is Shy And Sightless, But It's Having A Moment.**

The Washington Post (8/4, Moyer) reported on the District of Columbia's "lone endangered species: the mysterious Hay's Spring amphipod." FWS spokeswoman Meagan Racey indicated "the Hay's Spring amphipod was discovered in 1938 on property belonging to the National Zoo. ... They were found at additional sites along Rock Creek in subsequent decades and act as metaphorical canaries in the coal mine." Racey said, "They're very sensitive to water quality. The fact that they exist here is good news." Yet, the Post highlighted that much remains unknown about the animal.

### **Marion Refuge Open For Solar Eclipse Viewing.**

KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau, MO (8/4, Ross) reported online, "The entirety of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge" in Montana "will fall under the path for the majority of the August 21st solar eclipse." KFVS added, "The refuge is not planning any organized public events, but viewers may view the eclipse on their own."

### **Congressmen Oppose Texas Wildlife Refuge As Border Wall Site.**

The AP (8/5) reported, "A group of Texas Democratic congressmen are questioning preliminary plans to build a section of President Donald Trump's proposed border wall through" the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. The congressmen say cutting through the refuge "could do serious environmental and economic damage," and are calling for transparency.

### **Outdoors Notebook: Survey Shows Growth In Number Of Anglers.**

The Dallas Morning News (8/5, Sasser) reported, "Americans took 855 million fishing trips last year, according to a report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Outdoor Foundation," which "showed fishing increased by 2.5 million anglers over the previous year." FWS survey data also showed "that the average mourning dove hunter brought home 22.2 birds during that season, and the average white-winged dove hunter bagged 14.7 birds."

### **With 'Wind River,' Taylor Sheridan Continues To Smash Western Stereotypes.**

The Washington Post (8/5, O'Sullivan) reviewed filmmaker Taylor Sheridan's latest film "Wind River," which is "a loosely fact-based thriller about the investigation of the murder of a Native American teenage girl on Wyoming's Wind River reservation," and in which actor Jeremy Renner plays FWS officer Cory Lambert.

### **National Park Service**

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### **Deadline Nears For \$70 Increase In NPS Passes.**

The Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer (8/4, Adams) continued coverage of the upcoming price hike for NPS lifetime senior park passes. The article explained, "U.S. citizens and permanent residents age 62 and older have until Aug. 27 to purchase a lifetime senior park pass for \$10, rather than the \$80 it will cost starting Aug. 28. The \$10 fee has been in effect since 1994, but federal legislation passed last year increased the fee." The Cape Cod (MA) Times (8/4, Bragg) reported similarly.

#### ***Mixed Reactions, NPS Pass Sales Boom Ahead Of Price Hike.*** WLBZ-TV

Bangor, ME (8/4) reported, "Acadia National Park is one of 59 parks across the country inundated with seniors trying to get their hands on lifetime passes. The demand for the passes, accepted at parks across the country, has overwhelmed National Park Service websites and info centers ahead of the anticipated price hike." NPS staffer "Dave Williams said he has been selling the passes nonstop at the Acadia Visitor Center." Acadia National Park spokesperson John Kelly said, "An increase from 10 to 80 dollars is a big leap. An increase in these fees is really part of the ability for the park service to raise funds to do good things for visitor services and other amenities in the park."

***Martelle: Make A Reservation To Visit Yosemite Or Zion? It Might Become Necessary.*** Los Angeles Times (8/4, Martelle) contributor Scott Martelle wrote that Zion National Park "administrators are considering a reservation system for park entry, or for specific park attractions," and "as unappealing as that might be, it could be the best solution to a vexing problem that has been building for years." Martelle added, "A reservation system makes sense, but it may need to be done by lottery to truly be fair"; however, "reducing the load on the most-used and most-overrun of the parks is necessary." Martelle commented, "The parks system has for years faced underfunding problems, with \$11.3 billion in deferred maintenance projects in a department with a \$3.4-billion annual budget – which president Trump wants to slash to \$2.6 billion."

### **"Wrong Turn" Kills Doctor In Grand Canyon Hike With Girls.**

BBC News (UK) (8/4) reported 38-year-old Sarah Beadle "died after a 'wrong turn' when she ran out of water while hiking with her daughter and niece in the Grand Canyon, her husband has said." The NPS "confirmed that a woman's body was found on Wednesday less than a mile from the Phantom Ranch along the South Kaibab Trail." NPS spokesman Kirby Shedlowski "told WFAA-TV that although the South Kaibab trail is shorter, 'that trail has limited shade and no water accessibility on it.'" Officials said "rescuers, who had been searching since 1 August, found her backpack near the junction of the South Kaibab Trail and River Trail."

Jeff Schwartz, a ranger who works in the inner canyon, told the AP (8/5, Snow, Davenport) that "hiking there can be dangerous, with high temperatures at the canyon bottom routinely topping 100 degrees during the summer," adding, "There is no potable water available along the South Kaibab Trail between the South Rim trailhead and Phantom Ranch or even creek water to use for cooling." The AP added, "Schwartz said rangers advise hikers to hike in the

morning or evening when temperatures are milder and there's more shade. Still, it's not uncommon to have one or two deaths a year primarily due to heat or dehydration." Schwartz said, "The environment down there is much less forgiving during the summertime."

USA Today (8/5, Mo) reported similarly.

### **One-Time Seasonal Worker Landed Dream Job At Yellowstone.**

The AP (8/5, French) profiled Yellowstone National Park photographer Jim Peaco, chronicling his rise from garbage truck driver to obtain his "dream job" with the NPS. The AP said that over the course of Peaco's "career he's photographed presidents, flown over the park during the height of the 1988 fires, boated onto the 160-degree waters of Grand Prismatic Spring and captured shots of grizzly bears and geysers that have circulated around the world – one of which appeared in a text book."

### **After Zero-Tolerance Vow, A Park Chief Cited For Sexual Harassment Gets A Bonus And New Job.**

The Washington Post (8/4, Rein) reported that although "in his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged 'zero tolerance' for sexual misconduct," the NPS gave former De Soto National Memorial Superintendent Jorge Acevedo "a new job and performance bonus" after investigators found he "made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised – with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or laying on her desk while she was trying to work." Acevedo "is no longer supervising employees but kept his \$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue." Acevedo has "denied the allegations and said his staff perceived his actions differently than he intended them."

### **At Statue Of Liberty, Words That Resonate Even If They're Unfamiliar.**

The New York Times (8/4, Tarbell) covered a Wednesday debate between "Stephen Miller, a senior adviser to President Trump, and Jim Acosta, a reporter for CNN," who "argued about the meaning of the Statue of Liberty and its connection to" Emma Lazarus's 1883 poem, "The New Colossus." The Times said, "Acosta had asked if the administration's immigration policy conflicted with the ethos of the statue. Mr. Miller countered by noting that the poem was not in place when the statue was dedicated in 1886. Instead, the plaque was added to the pedestal in 1903." The Times reported that "Dennis Mulligan, who has been a ranger for 20 years with the National Park Service, which operates the statue, said 'The New Colossus' plaque had been in several locations" and "there are no photographs of its original location as part of the statue's pedestal, but it is believed to have been in one of the balcony areas of the colonnade."

### **Yellowstone To Create Temporary Bison Quarantine Facility.**

The AP (8/4) reported, "Yellowstone National Park has decided to convert part of its bison capture facility into a temporary brucellosis quarantine facility after

livestock and animal health officials resisted efforts to ship potentially disease-carrying bison across Montana to be quarantined." Yellowstone "Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said Thursday the park would bring a portion of the space up to federal and state standards to open a facility where animals could be certified as free of brucellosis, a disease that causes animals to abort calves." Meanwhile, "Park biologist PJ White said the biggest change will be lining two pens with an extra layer of fencing to ensure quarantined bison do not come into contact with other bison or elk, which also carry the disease."

The Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle (8/4, Wright) reported similarly.

### **Geese Rounded Up From DC Park Will Be Made Into Meals.**

The AP (8/4) reported that the NPS said "in a statement that meat from 116 Canada geese was donated to the D.C. Central Kitchen last week," which "will be used in meals the kitchen prepares for homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and after school programs." The AP added, "It's the second year the park service has donated goose meat to the kitchen." The NPS explained "the geese were caught in Anacostia Park and euthanized in July as part of an effort to manage the park's wetlands."

### **Nation's Oldest Coal-fired Steamboat Returns To Mystic River.**

The AP (8/5, Eaton-Robb) reported that the 109-year-old coal-fired steamboat "The Sabino, billed by the Mystic Seaport maritime museum as the nation's oldest coal-fired steamboat in regular operation, resumed public cruises Wednesday from the maritime museum." The more than \$1.1 million restoration of the steamboat "was paid for with public and private grant money, including...a National Maritime Heritage Grant of \$199,806 administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the U.S. Maritime Administration."

### **Park Service To Host Civil War Railroad Program.**

The Jackson (WV) Herald (8/4) reported that the "Petersburg National Battlefield and its park rangers will sponsor a lecture about the importance of railroads in the Civil War at the city's Southside Train Depot." The Herald explained, "This tour is part of a series of weekend programs offered by the National Park Service in Old Towne Petersburg throughout the summer."

### **Outdoor Industry In Colorado Aims To Become Political, Economic Force.**

A 1,200-word Denver Post (8/6, Blevins) analysis says, "As the heavyweight Outdoor Retailer trade shows decamp for Colorado, the outdoor industry is" an increasingly powerful lobbying force. The Post adds that "with the Trump administration and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke plowing ahead with a review of national monuments that could result in downsizing swaths of federally protected open spaces, the outdoor industry is not about to ease up on the fight for public lands – the lifeblood of outdoor recreation, inspiring a lifestyle that prods Americans to buy more gear that is essentially researched and developed on those wildlands."

### **Historically Black Beach Enclaves Are Fighting To Save Their History And Identity.**

The [Denver Post](#) (8/6, McMullen) writes, "Sag Harbor Hills and the neighboring districts of Ninevah Beach and Azurest are unique among beach communities in the Hamptons" because "they rank as the oldest African American developments in the Hamptons and are among a handful of beach communities in the United States with African American roots." In contrast, in other cities, "As values soar in surrounding locations, pricing out many second home buyers, historically black beach enclaves from American Beach near Jacksonville, Fla., to South Carolina's rural Sea Islands are seeing sharp increases in development and new home buyers." The piece mentions that "though much of the island chain in South Carolina has been declared a Cultural Heritage Corridor by the National Park Service, that has not stopped developers from chipping away at waterfront locations."

### **Century Of Progress Homes Tour, Plus Lots To Discover In Columbus.**

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/4, Lamorte) reported, "The Century of Progress Homes Tour (Oct. 14-15) offers a rare glimpse inside five iconic houses that helped shape the way we live today." The Tribune noted that "the homes were sold to private owners before coming into the possession of the National Park Service and then into the care of Indiana Landmarks, which subleases them from NPS." The piece added, "If you're just interested in a casual peek inside the homes, your best bet is a Saturday (Oct. 14) tour led by National Park Service rangers."

### **Editorial: Zinke Should Leave Cascade-Siskiyou Protections In Place.**

The [Oregonian](#) (8/6, Board) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke should preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument designation, arguing "Scientists from a variety of disciplines have pushed since 2015 to extend the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in hopes of protecting a variety of rare species of plants, animals, butterflies and fish increasingly threatened by climate change and development." The editorial further asserts that the monument has "helped attract tourists to the businesses that have operated successfully on the private land within the boundary," and "in turn, the expansion holds the potential to link the Pacific Crest Trail to Ashland, providing an economic boost to a number of communities along the way."

### **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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### **Senate Panel Approves Five Interior, Energy Nominees After Delayed Vote.**

The [Hill](#) (8/3, Cama) reported that on Thursday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "approved Doug Domenech, who led Interior's transition effort for Trump, to be assistant secretary of insular affairs at the department by a 13-8 vote." The Hill said that "Domenech formerly led the Fueling Freedom Project at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, which advocates for fossil fuels, and previously worked at Interior under President George W. Bush," and "in his new role, he'll oversee the federal responsibilities for American Samoa, Guam,

the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.”

### **NPS Awards \$27K Grant To Preserve WWII Sites On Saipan.**

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/4) reported that on Friday, the NPS announced “\$1.2 million in grants that will be used to help communities preserve and protect America’s significant battlefields, to include a project in the Northern Mariana Islands for \$27,000.” Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds said, “We are excited to partner with public and private organizations committed to protecting and preserving our country’s historic national treasures. Through these grants, and the work the grantees are accomplishing, we are ensuring that these hallowed sites are protected and maintained for future generations.” The Tribune briefly outlined the funding goals of the American Battlefield Protection Program Battlefield Planning Grants.

### **Dept. Of Interior Awards Territory \$2.4 Million Grant For Infrastructure Improvements On Schools.**

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/4) reported, “The U.S. Department of Interior has awarded the territory a \$2.4 million grant for infrastructure improvements on Virgin Islands schools,” which “have been made available through the Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program.” Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett announced the award on Friday, saying, “The first Grant the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (ABCs) Initiative (FY 2017) is worth \$1,947,000 and will be used to address high-priority health and safety deferred maintenance needs across the territory as identified through the Insular ABCs assessment. ... The next Grant, the St. Croix Schools’ Potable Water Infrastructure Replacement Project is worth \$500,000 and will be used to begin replacement of the aging and collapsing portions of the potable water infrastructure at schools on St. Croix to prevent water loss and ensure a supply of clean and safe water.”

### **Office Of Surface Mining**

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### **Pruitt: Obama EPA “Failed” To Protect Environment After Gold King Mine Spill.**

During a visit to the site of the Gold King Mine spill in Colorado, EPA Administrator Pruitt said former President Obama’s EPA “‘failed’ at its mission to protect the environment,” [Breitbart](#) (8/6, Starr) reports. Pruitt said, “EPA should be held to the same standard as those we regulate. ... The previous administration failed those who counted on them to protect the environment.” Pruitt added, “I think it’s safe to say if this had been any other company, a BP-type of a situation, there would have been an investigation that would ensue by the agency and there would have been accountability. ... That didn’t take place here. The federal government should not be able to hide behind sovereign immunity when the facts don’t meet the protections. ... In my estimation, the EPA walked away from those folks and left them in a position of incurring damages without taking accountability.”

## **US Geological Survey**

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### **Growing Skin In A Lab Has Benefits For Humans And Turtles Alike.**

Popular Science (8/4, Baggaley) reported on the research of USGS wildlife disease specialist Thierry Work, who "is studying the virus responsible for a deadly disease called fibropapillomatosis, which causes tumors to grow all over sea turtles' skin and inside their bodies." Popular Science said, "Work's efforts represent the first time that scientists have engineered reptile skin," although researchers have been building "lab-grown versions of mammalian skin for decades." In addition, "now that reptile skin has been successfully grown in the lab, the technique could be put to work investigating other reptile and amphibian skin diseases." The piece speculated that Work's lab-grown reptile hide could "also be used instead of skin from actual snakes or alligators for bags and shoes."

### **Yellowstone Supervolcano Earthquake Swarm Surpasses 1,500 Events.**

Newsweek (8/4, Lowe) reported, "Observers have now recorded more than 1,500 earthquakes on the western edge of Yellowstone National Park as part of an ongoing 'swarm' currently in its seventh week." An unnamed USGS spokesperson said activity appeared to be "slowly winding down."

### **Magnitude 6.0 Quake Hits Philippines -USGS.**

Reuters (8/5, Maler) reported in a brief, "A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck south Mindanao island in the Philippines on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said."

### **How A 9.2 Earthquake In Alaska In 1964 Changed Our Understanding Is Explained In "The Great Quake."**

The Los Angeles Times (8/4, Phillips) summarized Henry Fountain's "The Great Quake," which is a book "dedicated to the five terrifyingly convulsive minutes around dinnertime on March 27, 1964, when the forces of geological upheaval, normally beneath our threshold of perception, violently obtruded into human time, reconfiguring not only the landscape of south central Alaska but our understanding of earthquakes and the risk posed today by the Big One and Really Big One." The Times mentioned that the USGS tasked George Plafker to assess the quake-wrought destruction on the ground, and his work "supplies a master key for understanding not only earthquakes but 'all the geological features and processes that humans have wondered about for centuries,'" Fountain wrote.

## **Top National News**

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### **Media Analyses: UN Vote Shows US Efforts To Isolate North Korea Are Working.**

Media reports cast the unanimous vote at the UN Security Council over the weekend to impose new sanctions on North Korea, as well as comments Sunday



by the Chinese foreign minister urging Pyongyang to halt its missile and nuclear tests, as signs that the Administration's efforts to isolate the nation are finding some success.


In its lead story, for example, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) reported, "The Trump Administration's effort to further isolate North Korea may be working. Today, China urged its outcast neighbor to make a smart decision and stop conducting nuclear tests. The scolding follows the passage of the UN resolution at the UN Security Council that imposes tough new sanctions on the regime that could cost the country a billion dollars in lost trade." CBS' Errol Barnett noted that Russia and China "didn't use their veto power and supported sanctions" in "a sign of diplomatic progress for the Trump Administration, which has been trying to convince China to use more of its economic leverage over Pyongyang." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/6, story 2, 2:20, Snow) similarly said the Administration's strategy is "bolstered" by the new UN resolution. At an ASEAN summit in Manila on Sunday, "Even China, North Korea's only ally, told it publicly to stop being provocative."

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Shepherd, Mogato) reports Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday that new UN sanctions "were the right response to a series of missile tests, but dialogue was vital to resolve" the crisis, which he said was now at a "critical juncture." During what he described as "very thorough" bilateral talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, Wang said he had advised him to not carry out further nuclear tests.

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6, A1, Morello) says the "US push to further isolate North Korea appeared to be reaping some dividends Sunday" as China urged Pyongyang to make a "smart decision" and stop conducting missile launches and nuclear tests. Said Wang, "Do not violate the UN's decision or provoke international society's goodwill by conducting missile launching or nuclear tests." Wang, however, quickly added, "Of course, we would like to urge other parties like the US and South Korea to stop increasing tensions." [USA Today](#) (8/6, Bacon) reports Wang said "the dual proposal is the most practical, viable and reasonable solution to de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula while providing a 'way out' of the nuclear issue."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/6, Chaitin) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in "requested a call Sunday evening with President Trump," and the two "welcomed the new international sanctions on North Korea unanimously passed" by the UN Security Council on Saturday.

The [New York Times](#) (8/6, Harris) reports Secretary of State Tillerson "hailed in his typically understated fashion the United Nations vote." Speaking to reporters in Manila, Tillerson said "with a smile" that "it was a good outcome." According to the [Washington Times](#) (8/6, Boyer), the Administration "says it has momentum to exert more international pressure on North Korea," following Saturday's unanimous vote. In a statement, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Trump "appreciates China's and Russia's cooperation in securing passage of this resolution," and "will continue working with allies and partners to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea to end its threatening and destabilizing behavior."

USA Today (8/5, Stanglin) reports Ambassador Haley said the vote "put the North Korean dictator on notice" and represented a "strong, united step holding North Korea accountable for its behavior." The Hill (8/6, Beavers) reports Haley also praised the new sanctions on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures , saying that it was time for North Korea to "realize we are not playing anymore."

The AP (8/6, Lederman) reports the Administration "cautiously embraced China's apparent newfound cooperation" after it voted Saturday in favor of new sanctions, "while putting it on notice that the US would be watching closely to ensure it didn't ease up on North Korea if and when the world's attention is diverted elsewhere." Still, there were "no signs the US would acquiesce to China's call for a quick return to negotiations."

Bloomberg News (8/6) reports Chinese President Xi Jinping "appears to again be back in Donald Trump's good graces – at least for now." Last week, "it looked as if the leaders of the world's biggest economies were on a collision course," but that "all changed with a breakthrough at the United Nations on Saturday." After a month of talks, the US and China agreed on new sanctions targeting North Korea's exports.

However, North Korea responded to Saturday's vote at the UN, the Wall Street Journal (8/6, Otto) reports, by telling China there would be no change in its policy. According to Chinese state media, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho restated Pyongyang's policy on the nuclear weapons issue during talks with Wang, but indicated a "willingness to maintain communications with the China side on this point."

A Wall Street Journal (8/6, Watts, Otto) report says that while the US scored a victory with Saturday's passage of toughest new sanctions against North Korea, the challenge now is making them stick amid Pyongyang's continued efforts to improve its missile and nuclear programs.

The Washington Post (8/6, Whoriskey), meanwhile, reports the new sanctions plug "a loophole that allowed North Korea to sell coal to China under the guise of 'humanitarian' trade, even though much of North Korea's coal trade has been devoted to weapons development, not humanitarian purposes, according to recent US court filings." Documents from a recently unsealed US court filing, "combined with another federal case, suggest that much of the money China has paid to North Korea for coal over the years went toward the country's weapons and military efforts."

### **Mueller Impanels At Least Two Grand Juries In Russia Investigation.**

As President Trump kicks off his summer vacation, coverage of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election intensified. The cable and network newscasts focused heavily on Mueller's decision to impanel at least two grand juries in what was cast as an overall broadening of the probe. Meanwhile, reporting in print and online examined other major developments, including revelations the FBI monitored the dissemination of "fake news" from Russia on Election Day and that Republican staffers from the House Intelligence Committee traveled to London this summer in an attempt to interview a former British intelligence operative behind a

controversial dossier on the President's ties to Russia.

In the lead [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) segment, Wolf Blitzer said Trump has begun "a 17-day vacation at the end of a tumultuous week that's seen a dramatic escalation to the Russian investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller"; a revelation that "House Intelligence Committee Republican staff members traveled to London hoping to speak with a former British intelligence agent who compiled a dossier of alleged Russian ties to...Trump's campaign"; and multiple sources' say that "the FBI monitored social media on Election Day last year in an effort to track a suspected Russian disinformation campaign spreading false stories and conspiracies, many aimed at Hillary Clinton."

According to [USA Today](#) (8/4, Johnson), Mueller "is using at least two grand juries – in Virginia and Washington, D.C. – to advance a wide-ranging federal inquiry into possible coordination between President Trump's campaign and Moscow, a lawyer involved in the case said Friday." USA Today adds that "the use of the grand jury located in Washington is potentially significant, analysts said, as it likely means investigators are probing activities that happened within that jurisdiction." Correspondent Kristen Welker said [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/4, story 3, 1:45, Holt) "confirmed special counsel Robert Mueller has multiple grand juries working on the investigation, including in Washington, DC and Virginia," although the President's legal team is "insisting they haven't been made aware of the grand jury, and say he's not under investigation."

[CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:15 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer reported that Mueller is also "already issuing subpoenas for financial records, other documents involving the Trump organization, seeing if there is any connection with the Russians." Sullivan said Mueller's question on whether investments in question had an impact on the election is "perfectly legitimate," and "really is investigation 101." Sullivan explained that Mueller "is following the money, and he wants to see where it leads." In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second segment, senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta said Mueller's probe is "ramping up" as Trump takes "time off." During his rally in West Virginia on Thursday, said Acosta, Trump "did not mention his eldest son, Jared Kushner, and campaign manager held a meeting with a Russian lawyer" in hopes of securing "promising research on Hillary Clinton."

[CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Blitzer acknowledged "some have suggested" Mueller is "going too far," and said the President "has suggested there is a red line," but he said CNN "went back and we looked at the instructions that Robert Mueller received from the Deputy Attorney General, Rod Rosenstein when he was appointed back in May. And it said that he should 'investigate any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump, and any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation, and any other matters within the scope of 28 CFR,' which is the special counsel authorization legislation, the law. So, this is wide open. He can basically go wherever the suspicion leads him." National security and legal

analyst Susan Hennessey agreed that Mueller has "a very, very broad scope," so if the investigation "leads him to Trump businesses, Trump tax returns, Trump family members, anything else – any other indication of criminal activity," then "that's all completely fair game." While [Breitbart](#) (8/4, Mason) is critical of CNN's assessment, the piece says that "if Mueller does overstep the bounds of his commission it would fall to [Rosenstein] to recognize that occurrence and take steps to refocus the investigation."

However, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/4, story 3, 1:10, Muir) reported that just "hours after the news broke" Thursday that Mueller impaneled a grand jury, the President was "downright defiant during a campaign rally in West Virginia." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:30 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump saying, "The Russia story is a total fabrication." He continued, "Most people know there were no Russians in our campaign. There never were. We didn't win because of Russia, we won because of you. That I can tell you." The President added, "Have you seen any Russians in West Virginia or Ohio or Pennsylvania? Are there any Russians here tonight, any Russians?"


[Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Olorunnipa) says "Trump and his allies are trying to rally his political base with warnings that any outcome other than vindication will be an attempt to thwart the will of voters." Bloomberg adds that the President "followed up" on his remarks with a [tweet](#) Friday morning "highlighting a cable news commentator predicting a national 'uprising' if a member of Trump's family is indicted." According to Bloomberg, "Trump is going on the offensive in seeking to cast the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's campaign in political terms." In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Borchers) says that Trump's tweet of a clip from the "Fox & Friends" morning show featuring Jeanine Pirro, "Judge Jeanine," has "invited speculation that he or a family member could be indicted" by a grand jury.

Nonetheless, [Politico](#) (8/4, Conway) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in an interview with Fox News' "Fox and Friends" on Friday "sought to downplay the investigation," saying, "Let me remind everyone what the president has said about this. It's a witch hunt. It's fake. Last night I believe [Trump] called it a fabrication. And we know that the nature of these types of investigations become fishing expeditions, where you're just throwing Jell-O up against the wall and hoping it will stick." Conway continued "this White House and everybody involved has said that they would comply and share whatever information that they do have." She added, "On this matter of the investigation, Ty Cobb, a special counsel to the president, has said that anything that accelerates the process, we are for. And we will continue to cooperate."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/4, Concha) reports former House Speaker Newt Gingrich "ripped Robert Mueller on Thursday night, telling Fox's Sean Hannity that the special counsel in the Russia investigation represents 'the deep state at its very worst.'" Gingrich added, "The Mueller threat has probably been the most deadly [facing the Administration]. He has the power of the law, he has the ability to indict people, the ability to negotiate and let some people off if they'll testify against other people." Regardless, Gingrich asserted the President is "making progress every week, he's getting things done. He's beginning to move

toward a tax cut bill that will be historic. He's gotten more judges approved than Obama had at this point, Obama and a Democratic Congress. Despite everything, I think the Trump system is beginning to work."


The Hill (8/4, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Sen. Lindsey Graham told Fox News on Friday that while he and Sen. Cory Booker have introduced legislation to protect Mueller from dismissal, he plans to "hold Mueller accountable" for any leaks. Graham stated, "If we get constant leaks coming out of the grand jury then he needs to be held accountable for that. That's not fair to the president." He added, "No American, including President Trump or his team, should have the contents of a grand jury leaked out into the press selectively."


The Daily Beast's Washington bureau correspondent, Jackie Kuchinich, said on  CNN's Situation Room (8/4, 5:35 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that she viewed Trump's comments at the Thursday rally as not "just a rant," but an "us-versus-them message" that appeals to his base's unhappiness with the Administration's struggles.

***NYTimes A1: Mueller's Team Has Asked White House For Documents On Flynn.***

The New York Times (8/4, A1, Rosenberg, Apuzzo, Schmidt) reports in a front-page article that investigators working for Mueller have "asked the White House for documents related to the former national security adviser Michael T. Flynn, and have questioned witnesses about whether he was secretly paid by the Turkish government during the final months of the presidential campaign, according to people close to the investigation." The Times states that while "not a formal subpoena, the document request is the first known instance of Mr. Mueller's team asking the White House to hand over records." According to the Times, Flynn declined to comment while Trump's special counsel Ty Cobb stated, "We've said before we're collaborating with the special counsel on an ongoing basis." Cobb added, "It's full cooperation mode as far as we are concerned."

***FBI Tracked "Fake News" From Russia On Election Day.*** In an exclusive, CNN (8/4, Prokupecz, Brown, Perez) reports that on Election Day last year, "dozens" of agents and analysts at the Federal Bureau of Investigation "huddled at a command center arrayed with large monitoring screens at the FBI headquarters in Washington watching for security threats, according to multiple sources," and "monitored social media...in an effort to track a suspected Russian disinformation campaign utilizing 'fake news.'"

 CNN's Situation Room (8/4, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) crime and justice correspondent Shimon Prokupecz reported the counterintelligence analysts and investigators tracked social media activity and suspected Russian links revealing disparaging information about Hillary Clinton, "including about her health." Justice correspondent Pamela Brown said various agencies were "holding these conference calls every three hours" and that "some issues...popped up across the country," though FBI officials said no major incidents or disruptions to the vote took place and "the FBI has declined to comment on this one."

 CNN's Situation Room's (8/4, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Brown added "there certainly was coordination between the FBI, Homeland Security, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence," and that "those agencies were holding phone calls every three hours, we are told, with the team at the

Situation Room in the White House to discuss any possible problems." Prokupecz stated that the FBI also concluded or at least suspected that the fabricated stories did indeed "come from entities from places associated with Russia," though they did not "necessarily come straight out of Russia."

***Congressional Staffers Traveled To London To Interview British Spy Behind Trump Dossier.*** Politico (8/4, Watkins) reports "two Republican House Intelligence Committee staffers traveled to London earlier this summer to track down the former British intelligence operative who compiled a controversial dossier on President Donald Trump and Russia, according to three people familiar with the matter." According to Politico, "The previously unreported trip underscores the importance of the 35-page dossier Christopher Steele wrote last year to congressional probes into possible collusion between Moscow and the 2016 Trump campaign." Politico says the trip has "inflamed simmering tensions between House and Senate investigators" since "House Intelligence Committee Republicans did not tell Democrats on the panel, the Senate Intelligence Committee nor special counsel Robert Mueller's office that the investigators were pursuing Steele."

Rep. Andre Carson told  CNN's Situation Room (8/4, 5:20 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) he "was deeply disappointed" that Republican staff members did not inform Democratic staff members about their efforts to discuss the dossier with its author. Carson asserted, "If we're really concerned about digging into keeping America safe, we have to work together, both Republican staffers and Democratic staffers." He did not say whether he believed the Republican staffers tried to discredit the dossier, but lamented "it certainly causes me great discomfort."

***Emails Show NYTimes, WPost Reporters "Less Than Enthusiastic" About Covering Clinton-Lynch Meeting.*** The Washington Examiner (8/4, Scarry) reports "the non-profit American Center for Law and Justice published emails Friday that showed reporters" from the New York Times and Washington Post asking Justice Department officials about "the controversial private meeting between then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former President Bill Clinton just months ahead of the 2016 election." The Examiner says that based on the emails, the reporters seem "less than enthusiastic about covering" the meeting.

***Experts Warn Trump "An Easy Mark" For Foreign Spies.*** "Trump is proving to be an easy read for foreign intelligence services gauging how his mind works," McClatchy (8/4, Johnson) reports, according to former intelligence officials, as "the steady stream of tweets flowing from Trump's phone and the leak this week of candid conversations he's had with two foreign leaders throw open a window on Trump's views of the world, his moods and sensitivities." Former CIA director Michael Hayden said, "The president's tweets are an absolute gold mine of personal, detailed information on his personality and his emotional state." Meanwhile, McClatchy says that while "it would be tempting to believe that senior intelligence officials opposed to Trump may be leaking secret information to the Washington Post and New York Times," Hayden and other experts "cautioned against assuming the provenance of leaks." Hayden added, "I have consistently been emphasizing that the leak of intelligence information does not

necessarily mean that the leaker is from the intelligence community."

**Reuters Analysis: Trump, Pence Seemingly Disconnected On Russia.** In an analysis, Reuters (8/4, Rampton) says while Vice President Pence pushed for new US sanctions against Russia during his four-day tour of Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro this week, President Trump "took to Twitter to complain that the sanctions legislation, which he grudgingly signed, would send U.S.-Russia relations to 'an all-time & very dangerous low.'" However, Jarrod Agen, Pence's deputy chief of staff, insisted Trump and Pence are "completely aligned" on the issue of Russia. "It was the president's decision to send the vice president to the region. It was the president's decision to deliver the message that the vice president delivered," Agen asserted. Reuters also describes the apparent disconnect as "an anomaly," and added that Pence typically "goes to lengths to emphasize his loyalty to his boss and to downplay any differences."

**Veselnitskaya Recounts Meeting With Trump Jr.** The Washington Times (8/4, Sands) reports Natalia Veselnitskaya, "the Russian lawyer whose June 2016 meeting with Donald Trump Jr. and other top Trump campaign officials has become a prime focus of the Russian election collusion probe," in a 10-minute interview with Russian news program Vesti "den[ied] the meeting involved Hillary Clinton or the U.S. campaign, adding the congressional probes into the scandal are not interested in hearing her side of the story," according to the Moscow Times on Friday. Instead, Veselnitskaya "said she sought the meeting as part of her efforts to help Russian businessman Denis Katsyv, a client who was accused of money laundering after the U.S. imposed new financial sanctions on Moscow in 2012." Veselnitskaya asserted the meeting "had nothing to do with [then-candidate Donald Trump's] rivals or the presidential election. ... That never happened. That's not true."

**German Foreign Minister: New US Sanctions On Russia "More Than Problematic."** Reuters (8/4, Martin, Nasr) reports German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said Friday that new US sanctions against Russia "more than problematic" because "the draft law makes clear that they're pursuing economic interests and we think that's not acceptable." He added, "Aggressively combining foreign policy issues with American economic interests and saying: we want to drive Russian gas out of the European market so we can sell American gas there is definitely not something we can accept."

In an analysis headlined "Who Loses The Most In U.S.-Russia Sanctions Fight," Bloomberg News (8/4, Arnold) says that whereas the sanctions impact on the Russian economy seems "less than dramatic, from all appearances," the EU in contrast "could suffer collateral damage." Bloomberg also notes that Russia is also expelling US diplomats and their families in retaliation.

**Marcus Pledges Columns Castigating Trump "Will Continue Until The Danger Subsides."** In her Washington Post (8/4, Marcus) column, which is titled "Trump Is A One-man Assault On The Rule Of Law," Ruth Marcus condemns the President for his reaction to learning that Mueller has impaneled a grand jury. She asserts that Trump dominates the topic of her columns because "his behavior is so extreme and so dangerous that to respond only episodically and occasionally is to risk allowing it to appear acceptable." Marcus concludes

"outrageous words and outrageous actions require expressions of outrage in return, each and every time. That will continue until the danger subsides."

### **Pence Calls Report That He Is Readying A 2020 Campaign "Laughable And Absurd."**

In a Sunday morning statement, Vice President Pence strongly rebuked a New York Times report that he may be laying the groundwork for a 2020 presidential run. Most reporting is brief and focuses on the statement, but several commentators expressed skepticism via Twitter, and Politico's Josh Dawsey tweeted, "Some in/close to Trump world perplexed by Pence statement pushing back on NYT story. 'He's just fueling the fire,' one adviser said."

On NBC Nightly News (8/6, story 3, 1:25, Snow), Kelly O'Donnell reported that on Sunday, "the adrenaline out of the Trump Administration came from...Pence after a New York Times report described a shadow campaign for 2020" with Pence as a possible presidential candidate. In a "lengthy rebuke, the Vice President called the assertions 'disgraceful and offensive to me,' 'laughable and absurd,' and pledged his efforts to see" the President reelected.

On ABC World News Tonight (8/6, story 3, 0:35), Tom Llamas said, "Given the President's current predicament, a growing number of Republicans are already testing the waters for a possible presidential run in 2020. And the Vice President is shooting down reports he's one of them." The CBS Weekend News (8/6, story 3, 0:20, Quijano) reported that Pence "strongly denied" the Times report. The New York Times (8/6, Baker) reports, "Danielle Rhoades Ha, a Times spokeswoman, said in response: 'We are confident in the accuracy of our reporting and will let the story speak for itself.'"

The AP (8/6, Lucey) reports that the Times article "notes Pence's political schedule and active fundraising, though it also says unnamed advisers have signaled that he'd only run if Trump doesn't." The Times also reported that Pence "raised about \$1 million at a Washington fundraiser last month" for his own fundraising committee. USA Today (8/6, Gaudiano) reports that the Times "says Pence's schedule is so full of political events that Republicans joke he's 'acting more like a second-term vice president hoping to clear the field' for 2020."

Sahil Kapur of Bloomberg News tweeted, "Pence is remarkably defensive about that NYT piece. He knows how sensitive POTUS is about even a hint or a perception of loyalty breach." Bill Kristol tweeted, "It's bold of Team Pence to plant the front-page NYT story on plans for 2020, then object vociferously. Multi-dimensional chess!" Columnist Clarence Page tweeted, "Does VP Pence protest too much???"

The Los Angeles Times (8/6, King) writes that "the vehemence" of Pence's statement "underscored how sensitive the White House is to any questioning of whether Trump will seek a second term." The Washington Post (8/6, Wagner) reports that Kellyanne Conway told ABC "that she has 'zero concern' about a 2020 campaign by Pence." Conway said on ABC's This Week (8/6), "It is absolutely true the Vice President is getting ready for 2020 – for reelection as vice president."



Reuters (8/6, Cornwell) writes that while Pence is "a Trump loyalist, and there is typically little distinction between his public statements and the policies of the president...as investigations deepen" into Russia's alleged role in the 2016 election, Pence "has put some distance" between himself and the President "on the best way to approach Moscow."

### **Kelly Tells White House Staff To Put Country Before Trump, Warns Against Leaks.**

Bloomberg News (8/6, Jacobs, Talev) reports that in a meeting with about 200 White House aides on his fifth day as White House chief of staff, John Kelly "spelled out in blunt terms the way things are going to work in the West Wing he now oversees." Kelly told those gathered that "they all work for the president now...and they had to act as one team." Kelly added that "he expects all of them to put country first, the president second, and their own needs and priorities last." Citing the Bloomberg report, the Washington Examiner (8/6, Siciliano) says Kelly was "adamant that passing along even a small innocuous bit of classified information to someone without clearance constitutes a crime." Kelly "is also reining in the president in imposing new oversight to constrain Trump's Twitter account by offering advice on how to mitigate his often inflammatory tweets." However, "Trump has made clear that he reserves the right to ignore advice on tweeting."

In her Washington Post (8/6) column, Margaret Sullivan questions whether Kelly can "take on the hardest job of all – hacking through the thicket of lies that the Trump White House produces," and argues that "the prospects for that are grim." Sullivan adds that Kelly "may well be Trump's best hope for saving the White House from utter chaos," but "a grounding in reality – yes, truth – needs to be a part of that salvation."

"Face the Nation" host John Dickerson said on the CBS Weekend News (8/6, story 2, 1:35, Quijano) that "the reviews from [Kelly's] first week are good, both because General Kelly has been able to tighten up the White House staff, having meetings in which basically, he gets everybody moving in the same direction. He has gotten some of the fight of the egos, apparently in line, it's only been one week of course. And then his other challenge which he seems to be making some inroads on is, how to manage up, which is to say working with the President, a President who loves improvisation, but who is in a job where it is very hard to improvise and not cause chaos."

### **House Democrats From Border Districts Alarmed Over DHS Waiving Environmental Laws To Build Wall.**

The Hill (8/4, Marcos) reports five House Democrats representing districts along the US-Mexico border raised concerns on Friday that the Trump Administration's plan "to waive certain environmental laws to build a wall could hurt wildlife." The Department of Homeland Security "announced earlier this week that it will use its authority under a 2005 law to bypass laws and regulations when necessary for enhancing infrastructure along the border." The Hill says the waiver "applies only to a 15-mile segment around San Diego" and "exempts projects to build

infrastructure like fencing or a wall from laws like the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act and Safe Drinking Water Act." Reps. Vicente González and Beto O'Rourke wrote a letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Duke asking whether DHS was extending its authority over other areas of the southwestern border. Reps. Henry Cuellar, Filemon Vela, Lloyd Doggett and Joaquin Castro also signed the letter.

***Collins: Keeping Up Pretense About Trump's Border Wall Will Mean Money Wasted.*** In her New York Times (8/4, Collins) column, Gail Collins writes that every day it seems like there is "a new dramatic development" regarding President Trump's border wall. This includes revelations his recent move to bar transgender people from the military was about "getting money to start building" the wall. Collins says Trump's vision for the wall keeps shifting and that it is unclear whether he thinks a wall "would do any good." She says "he certainly believes it makes him look good" and that "its all about image." She argues there is a "minimal" change the \$20 billion wall will be built and that "keeping up pretenses will mean an enormous waste of money and effort."

#### **Axios' Swan: Government May Shut Down Over Border Wall Funding Fight.**

Jonathan Swan of Axios (8/6) reports that "sources inside and close to Republican Hill leadership...say there's a good chance of a government shutdown before the end of the year because of deep rifts over spending priorities. No one sees" President Trump's proposed US-Mexico border wall "getting much more than a symbolic nod." Swan writes that congressional leaders "have discussed ways to get Trump 'enough' on border security so he feels they're making enough progress to sign their funding bills," but the President "will accept no substitutes to a huge, long, physical wall, which he believes his voters viscerally want."

#### **Infrastructure Borrowing Down As State, Local Governments Await Federal Plan.**

Reuters (8/6, Respaut, Russ) says that while President Trump took office "having promised a bold \$1 trillion infrastructure investment plan over 10 years," the Administration "has produced few details on the future of federal infrastructure funding, one reason why state and municipal governments have issued fewer bonds to improve roads, water systems and other projects so far in 2017." According to James Grabovac, a managing director at McDonnell Investment Management, "state and local governments may be 'reluctant to engage in long-term infrastructure financing given that there's a promise of a trillion-dollar federal investment program somewhere on the horizon.'" Reuters adds that the lack of "infrastructure-related bond issuance has left a 'bond picker's market,' with more buyers than sellers."

***NYTimes: Trump's Infrastructure Promise "Hollow As A Pothole."*** In an editorial, the New York Times (8/6) calls Trump's campaign promise of "a \$1 trillion investment" in infrastructure "one of the few practical job-building promises of the Trump presidential campaign," but adds that it is "turning out to be as hollow as a pothole" as Republicans "now concede that a fully detailed plan

might not surface from the administration until next year, if ever."

### **WSJournal A1: Regulator Penalties On Wall Street Down In Trump's First Six Months.**

The Wall Street Journal (8/6, A1, Eaglesham, Michaels, Dougherty) reports in a front-page analysis that in the first six months of the Trump Administration, Wall Street regulators have imposed lower penalties than in the first six months of 2016. Lawyers who defend financial cases attribute the decline to a more business-friendly agency stance under President Trump as well as delays due to the change in administrations and a slowing of cases from the financial crisis.

The Wall Street Journal (8/6) argues in an editorial that acting US Attorney Joon Kim made the right decision in dismissing charges against former J.P. Morgan Chase traders Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout.

### **Cohn: US Must Cut Corporate Tax Rate To Below 23 Percent.**

Bloomberg News (8/4, Leondis) reports National Economic Council Director Cohn in a Bloomberg TV interview Friday "suggested that the U.S. must cut its corporate tax rate by at least a third to compete with other developed countries." Cohn asserted, "We cannot be substantially higher than the OECD average tax rate," which is about 23 percent. Cohn added, "We've got to get in line with the rest of the world, we've got to entice capital to be invested in the United States." Cohn said, "My No. 1 priority for now until the end of the year is taxes. My second priority is taxes. And if you're confused, my third priority is taxes." According to Bloomberg, "Cohn's comments...may signal President Donald Trump's call for a 15 percent corporate rate – which would represent a far larger cut – is a starting point for negotiations as the administration and congressional tax writers begin drafting legislation."

**Short: White House "Confident" Democrats Will Support Tax Reform.** "Worried about the Republican Senate's inability to deliver on big campaign promises, the White House and its allies are making a strong push to get at least three vulnerable Senate Democrats to back the administration's tax reform agenda," McClatchy (8/4, Clark) reports, according to White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short, who said, "We are confident right now that we will be able to earn [Democrats'] support with our tax reform agenda." Short added the White House has "learned how difficult it is to thread the needle with 52 senators." McClatchy notes "Republicans were particularly cheered when Democratic Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia declined to sign a Senate Democratic caucus letter to Trump and congressional leaders detailing what is not acceptable in a tax plan, notably a tax cut for the top 1 percent of Americans. Every other Democrat and the two senators who caucus with them signed the letter."

**Administration Is Considering Lowering Mortgage Deduction.** Politico (8/4, Wilhelm) reports that "despite promises from the Trump administration in April that it would 'protect the homeownership...deductions,' multiple sources tracking tax reform said that the cap on the mortgage interest deduction – currently set at the interest on up to \$1 million of mortgage debt – could be lowered in tax

reform." Politico says such an action "would be a slap in the face to an industry that strongly supported President Donald Trump during his presidential bid." According to Politico, Cohn "and his lead deputy on tax reform, Shahira Knight," presided over a White House roundtable on tax reform on Monday and one attendee said, "'They're willing to ruffle some feathers. ... Everything was on the table,' including capping the deduction that the Trump administration has said it would preserve."

***Hatch: Attaining Trump's Tax Reform Goals Would Be "Miraculous."*** The New York Post (8/6, Schultz) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said in Sunday that "it would be 'miraculous' if President Trump could achieve his lower tax brackets for Americans." On Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," Hatch "cast doubt on the ability of Congress to pass legislation to lower tax rates to 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent." Said Hatch, "If we could get to those rates that would be miraculous." Hatch likewise, "poured cold water on Trump's plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent," saying, "We'd be lucky if we could get the corporate tax rate down to 20 percent, even 25 percent. ... But we're going to try. We're going to have to have some Democrat help to do it, so far that hasn't been materializing." Hatch also "said the wealthy shouldn't be optimistic either," warning, "They're not going to get anything – hardly anything – out of any tax reform that we do."

***Samuelson: Economic Growth Predictions Should Be Viewed With Skepticism.*** In his Washington Post (8/6) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that the White House's projected annual inflation-adjusted 3 percent GDP growth over the next decade should be viewed with some skepticism, noting that many economists assert that an aging population and slumping productivity will contribute to slower growth in the coming years. Samuelson adds, however, that observers generally should view economists' predictions of productivity with a degree of doubt because economists "have failed to predict major productivity changes" in the past. He concludes that the growth debate's larger significance is that growth will not likely support the White House's budget ambitions and that the country "can no longer grow" its way "out of serious conflicts."

### **US Formally Notifies UN Of Withdrawal From Paris Climate Deal.**

The Financial Times (8/6, Crooks) reported that on Friday, the US State Department submitted notification to the UN that the US will withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, formalizing President Donald Trump's June announcement.

### **Obama Administration Spent Over \$300,000 On Climate Change Museum.**

Breitbart (8/5, Starr) reports the Obama Administration spent over \$300,000 to create a climate change museum in Washington, DC in its final days. Breitbart says that according to the Washington Post, the museum was a "pet project" of former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and was designed to focus on "an Obama administration-centric narrative." Nancy Grantham, the EPA employee that brought the museum to the attention of the Trump Administration, conceded that many of the museum's panels focused on the prior Administration

and climate change may “be altered and possibly shelved.”

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

***“Trying To Make America A Little Better.”*** In an editorial, the New York Times (8/6) calls President Trump’s campaign promise of “a \$1 trillion investment” in infrastructure “one of the few practical job-building promises of the Trump presidential campaign,” but adds that it is “turning out to be as hollow as a pothole” as Republicans “now concede that a fully detailed plan might not surface from the administration until next year, if ever.”

***“Trump Embraces A Senseless Immigration Proposal.”*** In an editorial, the New York Times (8/7, Board) says a bill introduced by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton and David Perdue “would slash the total number of green cards issued by 41 percent in the first year and by 50 percent in the 10th year, with most of the cuts coming from family-based immigration.” President Trump has endorsed the proposal, but the Times argues it “would do nothing to solve the country’s immigration and economic challenges.” Instead of taking a hostile position on immigration, the Times says, a better approach “to immigration reform would be bipartisan and comprehensive,” and “include stronger enforcement, better worker protections and a pathway to citizenship for the country’s 11 million unauthorized immigrants.”

### **Washington Post.**

***“Does The Nation Still Need Affirmative Action?”*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/6) writes that the racial makeup of university students has changed modestly in recent years, with African American enrollment increasing from 32 to 35 percent from 2003 to 2015, Latino enrollment increasing from 24 percent to 37 percent, and white enrollment increasing by 15 percent. With these figures in mind in the context of the Justice Department’s examination into affirmative action policies, the Post argues that a wider federal effort “challenging affirmative action policies would represent a drastic change in the department’s priorities and, if the idea was to protect whites, a perversion of civil rights law meant to protect disadvantaged minority groups.”

***“Police Chiefs Need The Freedom To Weed Out Bad Cops.”*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/6) writes that police chiefs should have the authority to fire officers in their ranks guilty of misconduct without the heavy influence of arbitrators pushing the reinstatement of problem officers following appeals required by union contracts. Although the Post acknowledges that “some of the responsibility for having to reinstate undesirable officers falls on police agencies that make careless errors during disciplinary proceedings,” it adds that there is “a tilt in the system that makes it difficult to hold officers accountable for bad acts.”

***“Trump Promised A Trade War. Here’s What He’s Doing Instead.”*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (8/6) writes that the Administration’s NAFTA negotiation objectives laid out in a July 17 report to Congress “were in many respects necessary and proper” despite the President’s past rhetoric towards the

trade agreement. The Post adds that trade experts say the negotiating blueprint has many similarities to the objectives established in the TPP talks but does include a harmful provision calling for the elimination of Chapter 19 of NAFTA's dispute-resolution mechanism – a provision the Post concludes would constitute a "dealbreaker" for Canada.

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"The United Auto Workers Lose Again."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) writes that the 2-to-1 vote late last week at a Canton, Mississippi Nissan plant against unionizing under the United Automobile Workers marks a defeat for a campaign characterized by race-baiting and for an effort to effect stifling work rules on a factory that has created jobs and lifted wages in the community. The Journal concludes that the reason for the UAW's failure to organize workers in the South is that workers increasingly think that a union does not offer much and places their jobs at risk against global competition.

**"The Morgan Whale That Got Away."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) argues in an editorial that acting US Attorney Joon Kim made the right decision in dismissing charges against former J.P. Morgan Chase traders Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout.

### **Big Picture**

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### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[Recess, Full Plate Keep Heat On GOP Lawmakers](#)

[Penalties Against Wall Street Are Down Sharply In 2017](#)

[Egypt's Leader Makes A Risky Bet On The Healing Power Of Economic Pain](#)

[North Korea Sanctions Race With Pyongyang's Missile Development](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands](#)

[US Troops Train In Eastern Europe To Echoes Of The Cold War](#)

[Bill De Blasio Will Push For Tax On Wealthy To Fix Subway](#)

[Take The Generic, Patients Are Told. Until They Are Not.](#)

[Weaning Itself From Elephant Ivory, China Turns To Mammoths](#)

[Diplomats Question Tactics Of Tillerson, The Executive Turned Secretary Of State](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[Administration Offers Scant Details On ACA Enrollment](#)

[Trapped, Jobless And Bored: Gaza's Wasted Generation](#)

[Fix For Schools Remains Elusive](#)

[Republican Governors Stir Tension On Policing](#)

[North Korea Can Show It's Ready For Negotiations By Stopping Missile Launches](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[US Haul From Credit Crisis Bank Fines Hits \\$150bn](#)

[German Party Hit By 'Dieselgate' Whitewash Claims](#)

**Washington Times:**

'This Is A War': Trump Goes On Offensive To Spread Distrust Of Mueller Investigation

Trump's Deals In Russia Once Encouraged Even By Clintons Now Under Scrutiny

Trump's Former Las Vegas Cohorts Gird For Battle To Stop His Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Plan

After U.S. Experience, Germans Brace For Russian Election Mischief And Fake News

DeVos Dedicated To Empowering Local Schools Against Federal Bureaucracy With Republican Turnaround, State Legislatures Now Foil Liberal Ballot Measures

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Severe Weather; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Ohio-Escapee Manhunt; Australia-US Marines Accident; Italy-UK Model Abduction Attempt; Florida-Sinkhole; Taylor Swift-DJ Groping Lawsuit; Eiffel Tower-Terror Scare; California-Chemical Leak; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Wingsuit Video; Maine Lobstermen.

**CBS:** North Korea-UN Sanctions; WH Staff Shakeup-Expert Comment; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Australia-US Marines Accident; Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Severe Weather; US College-Affirmative Actions; Chicago Gun Violence; Drinking Water Safety; Teenage Drivers-Risk; Ocean Mammals-Approach Ban.

**NBC:** Severe Weather; North Korea-US Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; NATO-Russia Tension; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Philly Inbound Flight-Severe Turbulence; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Cross Border Dental Care; Commercials-Racial Biases; Girls' Baseball Team.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Severe Weather – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

North Korea Missile Test-Responses – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

WH-Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes

Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Australia-US Marines Accident – 1 minute, 55 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Justice Dept-Intel Leaks; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident.

**CBS:** North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Severe Weather; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing.

**NPR:** Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Israel-Al Jazeera Ban; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Trump-South Korea Call.

## Washington Schedule

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### Today's Events In Washington.

#### **White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; participates in a meet-and-greet with Department of Education staff.

**US Senate:** On Recess until 5 September.

**US House:** On Recess until 5 September.

**Other:** Congressional Budget Office releases 'Monthly Budget Review for July 2017' report Location: TBD [www.cbo.gov/](http://www.cbo.gov/) <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

### Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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--

Nikolao I. Pula, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Insular Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
MS 2429  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
(W) (202-208-4736  
(F) (202-208-5226



**To:** Mary Pletcher[mary\_pletcher@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Kowalski, Leanne  
**Sent:** 2017-08-03T09:56:34-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Leanne previous office/reference information in case you need for reassign purpose  
**Received:** 2017-08-03T09:57:22-04:00  
[Resume Game Changer Update for MP 08022017.docx](#)

Good Morning Mary,  
I don't have references listed on my resume but I want to give you one who is the manager of an office I worked for and serviced in Reston, VA. Her contact information is Kimberly Elmore, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Inspections and Evaluations.  
Telephone: (202) 208-5592.  
I serviced her and her employees in Reston when I was working in her Reston office.  
Thank you,  
--

Leanne Kowalski

IT Specialist

OS-OCR

Telephone Number: 202-208-4068

Facsimile Number: 202-208-6112

**LEANNE C. KOWALSKI**

Work Telephone: (202) 208-4068

Work E-Mail: W: Leanne\_Kowalski@ios.doi.gov

**OBJECTIVE:** To seek a professional position where I can exert a major positive influence and incorporate best practices of operating procedures, processes, program implementation, information assurance (IA), and outcomes. I'm looking forward to sharing my knowledge, experience, and expertise and bring that to your team. I also want to work, share, and learn from your team, and together we can all tackle and resolve today world challenges presented. Furthermore, I desire to work together with your team to execute your organization(s) strategic initiatives, and obtain economic advancement for myself.

**SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

Throughout my tenure with the Federal Government, and in my current position with the Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Civil Rights, (OCR) Washington, D.C., I was able to increase productivity and efficiency in the organization(s) I have worked for by the introduction of various technologies to automate business processes. This significantly increased productivity, resulting in cost savings, time savings, increased efficiencies, and deadlines being met in a timely manner. I am a very dedicated and responsible worker who takes pride in the tasks that I am given to accomplish the various missions of my office and agency. On a regular basis, I am often called upon to perform difficult tasks that have very short deadlines. I complete such tasks in a timely and efficient manner.

The U.S. Department of Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of Civil Rights  
1849 C. Street  
Washington, D.C.  
20240

Information Technology Specialist, GS-2210-12  
March 2004 to Present  
40 Hours Per Week

**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- ◆ Planned, coordinated, and managed projects. These projects ranged in diversity and complexity, such as the implementation of an Enterprise Level Commercial of The Shelf (COTS) Web based Discrimination Complaint System, Software Application, known as icomplaints.
- ◆ Served as the Project Manager and Contract Officer (COTR) to introduce the COTS icomplaints system into the Department of the Interior. Introduced and implemented this System in the DOI so that the DOI can efficiently and effectively track discrimination complaints within and throughout the DOI.
- ◆ Attended Authority to Operate (ATO) meetings with high level department officials. My Information Assurance (IA) efforts enabled the OCR to obtain an ATO for the icomplaints tracking system.
- ◆ Served as the Information Systems Security Officer (ISSO) for the icomplaints system. Provided IA auditing and security documents to management officials.
- ◆ Prepared and analyzed various statistical information to produce reports from the icomplaints system by the use of various COTS built in tools or prepare an SQL statement to run in the icomplaints system to search and obtain specific fields containing discrimination complaints

information across the department or within the bureaus. Utilized these reports to obtain and extract specific information concerning EEO developments occurring throughout the DOI, and provided to management.

- ◆ Analyzed, reconciled, prepared, and provided statistical reports of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEOC) No Fear Act, and the 462 Reports for ten (10) Bureaus, and the DOI, that was obtained from the icomplaints system, and provided to the EEOC and Congress.
- ◆ Conducted system training for new and experienced users to become familiar with the icomplaints system, and informed both parties of any new changes and updates that occurred during the year on the system.
- ◆ Attended icomplaints system user group meetings and provided my input for improvements and enhancements to the system.
- ◆ Keeping in compliance with IA IT Security requirements, I created the Rules of Behavior and other required DOI IT Security related forms for new users to complete prior to the creation of a user(s) account(s) in the icomplaints system.
- ◆ Created new users, removed, deactivated, and deleted users from the icomplaints system as deemed appropriate.
- ◆ Created roles and access groups in the system for users to access specific areas within the system that their Roles allowed them to access.
- ◆ Prepared Certification and Accreditation (C&A) documents, now known as the Assessment and Accreditation (A&A). Through my IA efforts, the OCR previously obtained a provisional renewal for this tracking system to continue to operate, and then a full ATO was provided.
- ◆ Prepared, reconciled, and compiled, and completed the icomplaints Exhibit 53 Budget Form received from the Capital Planning Office, submitted back to the Capital Planning Office, who in turn submits to a centralized OMB government IT system, named, Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC).
- ◆ Introduced to the DOI OCR, the Federal Risk and Authorization Program (FedRAMP) and the Continuous Monitoring (CM) guidelines to follow, of processes and procedures that were mandated by law of how a system must be managed and continuously monitored, and what IA processes and procedures to follow to receive a provisional and full ATO.
- ◆ Worked with the DOI IT Security Engineers, and followed new IA, CM, and FedRAMP guidelines of how a system must be continuously monitored in order to obtain a full ATO if need arises, and to also continuously monitor the system. Through my IA efforts, the icomplaints system for DOI received a full ATO with little vulnerabilities to mitigate.
- ◆ Participated in internal Control Reviews and audits for the system I managed. These are conducted every so often within a year. I followed IA practices to mitigate any new or outstanding high, medium, and/or low vulnerability in these reviews.
- ◆ Created roles and groups in the icomplaints system for new or current users to access specific areas within their groups that their Roles allow them to access.

- ◆ Developed a website for the OCR by the use of web applications and languages that include; HTML, XHTML, CommonSpot, Macromedia Dreamweaver MX, Microsoft Front Page, Home Site, and Drupal Web Applications.
- ◆ Produced various reports, presentations, and forms by the use of software applications that included, Adobe Professional XI, MS Suite 2010, and Google Products. Knowledge of MS Outlook mail application.
- ◆ Compiled and prepared IT equipment Inventory of assets information and submitted completed inventory reports requested by various parties. Used MS Excel and MS Access database to accomplish this task resulting in an error free assets report.
- ◆ Provided advice and reviewed a Statement of Work to establish estimated cost, time frame implementation, complexity, performance measures, and schedule development and deployment of a system.

The U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Inspector General  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA  
20170-4817

Information Technology Specialist, GS-2210-7/9/11/12  
June 1996 to March 2004  
40 Hours Per Week

- ◆ Served as the Network Manager in the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG), and supported the operations for the implementation of software applications, hardware analysis, and coordinated, tested, modified, and provided upgrades to customer applications on the server(s) and on user(s) desktop and laptop machines.
- ◆ Migrated file and print servers from one operating system to another. For example, migrated servers from a Novell enterprise system to a Windows enterprise system environment.
- ◆ Migrated Mail servers from one Network Operating System (NOS) to another Network Operating System.
- ◆ Managed, setup, and administered various Network Operating Systems (NOS).
- ◆ Provided various help desk duties to users such as providing customer and software application support e.g., the creation of user accounts, disabling and deactivating user accounts, and assisted users with hardware and/or software problems on their desktop or laptop machines.
- ◆ Determined what server problems occurred and resolved the issue(s) to bring back the server to an online status.
- ◆ Attended NOS team meetings and provided my ideas and support to the office IT programs.
- ◆ Installed, repaired, and maintained servers, desktops, and laptop machine(s).
- ◆ Compiled and prepared IT equipment Inventory of assets data, and submitted completed inventory reports requested by various parties. Used MS Excel and MS Access database to accomplish this task resulting in an error free inventory of assets report.

◆ **EDUCATION**

Attended College for Information Systems Technology Degree. Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, VA. From 1994 to 2001.

◆ **TRAINING**

- RBST Training: Vulnerability Assessment Virtual Training Course, DHS, Office of Cybersecurity & Communication's, Certificate of Completion, July 20, 2017
- Information Assurance Compliance Virtual Training, August 24, 2017, DHS, Office of Cybersecurity & Communication's, (will be attending this training coming up shortly).
- Master Game Changer Course, OPM, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, January-March 2016
- DHS Role Based Security Training, June 15, 2016, Federal Executive Cybersecurity Training
- AFCEA Washington DC Chapter Cybersecurity Summit, October 11, 2016
- Sharepoint 2010 Workshop, March 18, 2015
- Google Sites Basic and Intermediate, March, January 2015
- Certificate of Completion, Unconscious Bias, March 26, 2015
- Hello Drupal Web Application, February 5, 2015
- icomplaints User and Administrator Training, 2012 and 2014
- icomplaints User Forum, 2006 to 2014
- icomplaints EEOC 462 Training, 2006 to 2013
- icomplaints inputting of Hours into system, 2011
- EEO Counselor Training, 2010
- EEO Diversity Training, 2014
- Fundamentals of Project Management, 2005
- Project Management Training, 2009
- Certificate of Achievement, Adobe Professional XI Training, April 18, 2013
- Certificate of Completion In Recognition Of The Successful Completion of Diversity Training, 2 Hours, June 18, 2014
- FOSE, attended Cyber Security, Cloud Services, and Project Management Tracks. Last FOSE attended in 2014, Earned 16 Continuing Education Hours
- Franklin Covey, attended the Dignity and Respect Training, Working at the Speed of Trust, October 2, 2014
- U.S. Department of the Interior sponsored, Dignity & Respect, Train-the-Trainer Workshop, November 5 and 6, 2014. Attended for Training others in the Agency on how to promote dignity and respect in the workplace by the utilization of the 7 Pillars of Dignity and Respect. 16 Hours – Diversity Credit.
- Attended various IT events and training classes to keep abreast of the newest developments and innovations in the information technology field.

◆ **CERTIFICATES**

- Certificate of Completion, DHS Role Based Executive Cybersecurity Training – June 15, 2016
- Certificate of Completion, Master Game Changer Course, OPM, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, January-March 2016
- Certificate of Training for the Federal Information Systems Security Awareness + Records Management & Privacy Act, (FISSA+) 2016
- Certificate of Completion in Recognition of the Successful Completion of 2015 Role Based Security Training (RBST), 08/27/2015

- Certificate of Completion in Recognition of the Successful Completion of 2015 Rules of Behavior (ROB) for Computer Network Users, 08/27/2015
- Certificate of Completion in Recognition of the Successful Completion of 2015 DOI Multi-Cultural Day Workshops – Groups A and B, 2 Hours EEO/Diversity Credits
- Certificate of Completion in Recognition of the Successful Completion of 2015 DOI Multi-Cultural Day – Opening Program, 09/09/2015
- Certificate of Completion for Discrimination and Whistleblowing in the Workplace (No Fear Act), 2013
- Certificate of Training for Completion of DOI's EEO and Diversity Days, 2013
- Certificate of Completion for DOI's Federal Asian-Pacific American Council (FAPAC), 2007
- Certificate of Training for the Federal Information Systems Security Awareness + Records Management & Privacy Act, (FISSA+) 2015
- ISSO Completion Certificate, Role Based Security Training (RBST) Self Certification, October 2015
- ISSO Completion Certificate, Applying the Risk Management Framework to Federal Information Systems, October 2012
- ISSO Completion Certificate, Computer Security Incident Response Training (CSIRT), October 2012
- Certification, Fundamentals of HTML and Cascading Style Sheets, 1.8 CEUs from WestLake Training and Development, September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008
- Privacy Tool Box, 2005
- Certificate of Training, COR/COTR Certification Course, 40 Credit Hours, 2005
- Certificate of the Graduate School, USDA for Successful Completion of HTML Programming: Introduction
- Certificate of the Graduate School, USDA for Successful Completion of HTML Programming: Intermediate, 2004
- Certificate of the Graduate School, USDA for Successful Completion of Microsoft Access 2000: Introduction, 2004
- Certificate of the Graduate School, USDA for Successful Completion of Microsoft Access 2000: Intermediate, 2004
- Certificate of Achievement, Successful Public Speaking, Dale Carnegie Training, 2004, 7 CEUs.
- Certificate, Getting the Most from Microsoft Office, 1.2 CEUs or 12 CPEs, 2004
- Certificate of Training, DOI Diversity Annual Training Requirement, 2000
- Certificate of Completion, DOI Charge Card Refresher Course, April 2014
- Certificate of Completion, GSA SmartPay® Travel Card Training (Cardholders & Approving Officials) on April 2014
- Certificate of Completion, Charge Card Annual Agreement of Responsibility 2013, April 2014
- Certificate of Achievement, Fast Track to Adobe Acrobat XI, April 2013
- Fundamentals of HTML, XHTML, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), October 2008
- XHTML and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), September 2008
- Certificate of Completion, Diversity Days Kick-Off Program, June 2008
- Certificate of Completion, Myers Briggs Type indicator and Diversity Course, June 2008
- Certificate of Appreciation in support to the DOI Human Capital Training Conference, September, 2006
- Certificate of Completion, Help Desk Support of Notes R5, May 2001
- Certificate, Moving to Notes Mail (Notes/Domino R5), May 2001
- Certificate of Completion, Maintaining Domino Users, June 2001

- Administering and Supporting Microsoft Windows NT, 1.2 CEUs, June 2001
- Certificate of Completion, Microsoft Word 2000, Intermediate, September 2000
- Certificate, Windows NT 4.0 Workstation, 3 CEUs, May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 5, 2000
- Certificate, Maintaining Domino User R5, August 2000
- Certificate, Maintaining a Domino Server Infrastructure R5, July 2000
- Certificate, Implementing a Domino R5 Infrastructure, August 2000
- Certificate, Extend Notes Client/Notes Calendar and Schedule, July 2000
- Certificate, Intro Notes Client/Domino Databases, July 2000
- Certificate, Novell Intranetware: Novell Netware 4.11 Administration, August 1999
- Certificate, Novell Intranetware: Novell Netware 4.11 Administration, April 1999
- A+ Certificate of Completion, May 1999
- U.S. DOI, OCR Certificate of Completion, Dealing with Conflict, March 2006
- Certificate of Completion, Dignity and Respect, Train-the-Trainer Workshop, November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2014.
- Certificate of Completion, Dignity and Respect Training, Working at the Speed of Trust, October 2, 2014

#### ◆ AWARDS

- STAR Award presented in recognition of accomplishments and contributions in OCR icomplaints User Training(s) and setting up Webinars for icomplaints User Training(s).
- Monetary Award or Recognition, STAR Award, for assisting the OCR with the information technology expertise needed to support the planning and implementation of a new solution for tracking complaints of discrimination, and served as the primary point of contact to the Bureaus who need assistance with the program by operating the “help desk” in support of this important OCR initiative, 2005.
- STAR Award presented in recognition of excellent work in support of the President's New Freedom Initiative's On-line Resources for Americans with Disabilities, September 2006.
- Individual Time-Off Award, in recognition of working with the OCR 462 team and provided invaluable assistance to EEO professionals in all the bureaus in DOI, May 2007.
- Time-Off Award in recognition of invaluable assistance to EEO Professionals in all bureaus of the DOI, while preparing the Agency's Annual Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Statistical Report of Discrimination Complaints (Form 462 Report) for FY 2006. As a result of her efforts, OCR submitted an accurate and timely 462 Report to the EEOC.
- STAR Award in appreciation for support to the Human Capital Training Conference for support of 400 employees with over 60 presentation and three major plenary events which require considerable logistic support that she provided. November 2006.
- STAR Award Presented in recognition of significant contributions in furthering the mission of the Office of the Inspector General, October 2000.
- STAR Award Presented in recognition of contributions in furthering the mission of the Office of Inspector General, October 1999.
- Certificate of Appreciation presented for dedicated service and commitment to the Office of Inspector General, June 2004.
- Time-Off-Award, 2007.
- Time-Off-Award presented, for recognition of exceptional contributions to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) especially in the areas of Local Area Network Administration and technical support for computer networks located in regional offices, October 2001.
- Special Act or Service Award, STAR Award, in recognition of a dedicated member of the staff who does not require a lot of direct supervision. Worked at an offsite location alone and was responsible for geographically dispersed offices that required regular site visits. Was a key member of the Y2K task team. Regularly developed technical tips which were routinely used

by all staff at the DOI OIG, August 2000.

- Special Act or Service Award, STAR Award, in recognition of IT Support and contributions to the DOI OIG staff to accomplish their various missions, September, 1999.

#### ◆ **SKILLS**

- Articulated system requirements into plain English language without the use of complicated technical lingo so an audience of any kind understands the technical requirements being explained.
- Ability to understand and speak another language, Fante (a West African dialect).
- Problem Solver - Identified problems, determined accuracy and relevance of information, and used good judgment to evaluate alternatives and make recommendations.
- Provide technological and systems guidance and advice to management.
- Served as a project manager on projects assigned between internal government clients in the OCR office, stakeholders in other DOI offices, and other stakeholders outside the federal government such as contractors and/or external IT system engineers.
- Served as a liaison between contractors and government on specific projects assigned.
- Managed and analyzed software and hardware application for project(s) such as developing business and functional requirements with our DOI clients/customers.
- Knowledge of various web applications and languages that include; HTML, XHTML, CommonSpot, Macromedia Dreamweaver MX, Microsoft Front Page, Home Site, and Drupal Web Applications.

#### ◆ **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- The DOI Interior Toastmasters
- The Federal Employed Women Organization (FEW)
- The Women Ambassadors Foundation helps the youth, and helps women in crisis.
- The Come Get Help Foundation (CGHF) helps women in crisis.

#### ◆ **REFERENCES**

- Available upon request.



**To:** Elena Gonzalez[[maria\\_gonzalez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:maria_gonzalez@ios.doi.gov)]; Amy Holley[[Amy\\_Holley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov)]; Olivia Ferriter[[Olivia\\_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Olivia_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov)]; Mary Pletcher[[mary\\_pletcher@ios.doi.gov](mailto:mary_pletcher@ios.doi.gov)]  
**From:** Summers, Christina  
**Sent:** 2017-08-02T11:25:21-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** DOI Agency Reform - Spectrum PPT  
**Received:** 2017-08-02T11:25:53-04:00  
[DOI Agency Reform - Spectrum v2 8.2.17.pptx](#)

All,  
Attached is the DOI Agency Reform Spectrum slides (as of 8/2/2017) which Jim Cason requested.

Christina

--

Christina Summers, FAC P/PM  
Program Analyst

On detail to the Office of the Assistant Secretary/Policy, Management & Budget  
202-208-4030 (Work)

Office of the Director  
Interior Business Center  
202-802-6174 (Cell) [christina\\_summers@ibc.doi.gov](mailto:christina_summers@ibc.doi.gov)  
US Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
[www.ibc.doi.gov](http://www.ibc.doi.gov)

Your Focus: Your Mission  
Our Focus: You

# DOI Agency Reform - Spectrum

**DOI's Agency Reform Approach**

- Initiatives are cross-cutting, and impact DOI and other federal land management agencies
- Spectrum provides an agile menu of options based upon budget/resources and approvals
- Initiatives are organized in the spectrum by levels of complexity and maturity in achieving DOI's vision

Traditional

Transitional

Transformational

Multi-level Implementation:



DOI Agency Reform  
Spectrum - Phases/Initiatives

	TraditionalFY17-19	TransitionalFY19-21	TransformationalFY20-22
Operational	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>(b)(5)</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>(b)(5)</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>(b)(5)</div></div>
Administrative	<div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>(b)(5)</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div>(b)(5)</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>(b)(5)</div></div> <div>2</div>

Spectrum: Traditional

FY17-19

Operational

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Administrative

(b)(5)

## Spectrum: Transitional

FY19-21

### Operational

1-8. Implement "Traditional" phase initiatives



(b)(5)

(b)(5)

### Administrative

(b)(5)

## Spectrum: Transformational

FY20-22

### Operational

1-14. Implement "Traditional" & "Transitional" phase initiatives



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### Administrative

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(b)(5)

## DOI Agency Reform

Joint Management Agency (JMA)

SCENARIO 1  
(DOI Internal JMA Structure)

(b)(5)

## DOI Agency Reform

Joint Management Agency (JMA)

SCENARIO 2

(DOI Internal JMA Structure w/external agency & state liaisons)

(b)(5)







## DOI Agency Reform

### Joint Management Agency (JMA)

#### SCENARIO 3

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Stakeholders' Impact Matrix	 No impact	 Minimal impact	 Some Impact	 Significant impact
(b)(5)				

### Stakeholders' Benefit Matrix

(b)(5)

17-01174\_015274;17-01174\_015274;17-01174\_015275;17-01174\_015276;17-01174\_015277;17-01174\_015278;1...

Notes Summary:

No speaker notes are contained in this presentation.

**To:** Benjamin M. Simon[Benjamin\_Simon@ios.doi.gov]; Shawn Buckner[shawn\_buckner@ios.doi.gov]; Liza Johnson[Liza\_M\_Johnson@ios.doi.gov]; Hilary Smith[hilary\_smith@ios.doi.gov]; Jonathan Steele[Jonathan\_Steele@ios.doi.gov]; Indur M. Goklany[Indur\_Goklany@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Clement, Joel  
**Sent:** 2017-01-23T11:54:11-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Information Request to OES and Compliance with January 20 WH Memo re: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review  
**Received:** 2017-01-23T11:54:59-05:00  
[Attachment A-WH Regulatory Memo 1-20-2017.pdf](#)  
[K.Haugrud DOI Regulatory Freeze Implementation Memo.pdf](#)

Let me know, thanks!

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

**From:** Glomb, Steve <[steve\\_glomb@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jan 23, 2017 at 11:34 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Information Request to OES and Compliance with January 20 WH Memo re: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review  
**To:** Joel Clement <[joel\\_clement@ios.doi.gov](mailto:joel_clement@ios.doi.gov)>, Michaela Noble <[michaela\\_noble@ios.doi.gov](mailto:michaela_noble@ios.doi.gov)>, Karen Senhadji <[karen\\_senhadji@ios.doi.gov](mailto:karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov)>, Jamie Reaser <[jamie\\_reaser@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jamie_reaser@ios.doi.gov)>, Kaiini Kaloi <[kaiini\\_kaloi@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kaiini_kaloi@ios.doi.gov)>, Stanton Enomoto <[stanton\\_enomoto@ios.doi.gov](mailto:stanton_enomoto@ios.doi.gov)>, Shawn Buckner <[shawn\\_buckner@ios.doi.gov](mailto:shawn_buckner@ios.doi.gov)>, Mary Josie Blanchard <[maryjosie\\_blanchard@ios.doi.gov](mailto:maryjosie_blanchard@ios.doi.gov)>, David Downes <[david\\_downes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:david_downes@ios.doi.gov)>, Barbara Pitkin <[barbara\\_pitkin@ios.doi.gov](mailto:barbara_pitkin@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mark Huston <[mark\\_huston@ios.doi.gov](mailto:mark_huston@ios.doi.gov)>

Do any of your offices have anything that has been sent to the Federal Register that has not been published? I saw nothing from DAS-PIA on the attached list, but need to double check. If your office does have something pending at FR, we have been directed to withdraw it pending review by the new administration.

Thanks for checking on this..

Steve  
202-208-4863  
[steve\\_glomb@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov)

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

**From:** Holley, Amy <[amy\\_holley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:amy_holley@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jan 23, 2017 at 11:26 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Information Request to OES and Compliance with January 20 WH Memo re: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review  
**To:** Olivia Ferriter <[Olivia\\_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Olivia_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov)>, Harry Humbert <[harry\\_humbert@ios.doi.gov](mailto:harry_humbert@ios.doi.gov)>, Mary Pletcher <[Mary\\_Pletcher@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Mary_Pletcher@ios.doi.gov)>, Elena Gonzalez <[maria\\_gonzalez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:maria_gonzalez@ios.doi.gov)>, Steve Glomb <[steve\\_glomb@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov)>, Greg Gould <[greg.gould@onrr.gov](mailto:greg.gould@onrr.gov)>

All:

Please see below and attached. Let me know if you have questions--or anything to add.

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

From: **Lillie, Juliette** <[juliette\\_lillie@ios.doi.gov](mailto:juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov)>

Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2017 at 5:59 PM

Subject: Information Request to OES and Compliance with January 20 WH Memo re: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review

To: Kevin Haugrud <[jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov](mailto:jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov)>, Edward Keable

<[edward.keable@sol.doi.gov](mailto:edward.keable@sol.doi.gov)>, Amy Holley <[amy\\_holley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:amy_holley@ios.doi.gov)>, Richard Cardinale

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Cc: Mark Lawyer <[mark\\_lawyer@ios.doi.gov](mailto:mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov)>, Juliette Lillie <[juliette\\_lillie@ios.doi.gov](mailto:juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov)>

Good evening: On behalf of Jack, I am sending this memo describing DOI's actions to comply with the Administration's current request regarding regulations at the Federal Register. The memo from Chief of Staff Priebus is a separate attachment to this email entitled Attachment A-White House Regulatory Memo 1-20-1017. By 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, January 23, we are asking you to review the regulations listed in the attached memo from Jack for accuracy and to let OES (me) know if any of your regulation actions satisfy the named exceptions in the WH memo.

Thank you,

Julie

Juliette Lillie

Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs

Department of the Interior

1849 C St. NW

Washington DC 20240

Email: [juliette\\_lillie@ios.doi.gov](mailto:juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov)

Ph: 202-219-7724



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JAN 22 2017

### Memorandum

To: Chiefs of Staff, Bureaus and Offices,  
From: K. Jack Haugrud  
Subject: Compliance with January 20, 2017 R. Priebus Memo re: Regulatory Freeze  
Pending Review

On January 20, 2017, Mr. Reince Priebus, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, issued a memo to all Federal agencies. The memo (Attachment A) asks agencies to take immediate actions with regards to regulations at or needing to go to the Federal Register. The memo specifically asks that agencies:

1. Subject to any exceptions the Director or Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (the "OMB Director") allows for emergency situations or other urgent circumstances relating to health, safety, financial, or national security matters, or otherwise, send no regulation to the Office of the Federal Register (the "OFR") until a department or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2017, reviews and approves the regulation
2. With respect to regulations that have been sent to the OFR but not published in the Federal Register, immediately withdraw them from the OFR for review and approval as described in paragraph 1, subject to the exceptions described in paragraph 1. This withdrawal must be conducted consistent with OFR procedures.
3. With respect to regulations that have been published in the OFR but have not taken effect, as permitted by applicable law, temporarily postpone their effective date for 60 days from the date of this memorandum, subject to the exceptions described in paragraph 1, for the purpose of reviewing questions of fact, law, and policy they raise. Where appropriate and as permitted by applicable law, you should consider proposing for notice and comment a rule to delay the effective date for regulations beyond that 60-day period. In cases where the effective date has been delayed in order to review questions of fact, law, or policy, you should consider potentially proposing further notice-and-comment rulemaking. Following the delay in effective date:
  - (a) for those regulations that raise no substantial questions of law or policy, no further action needs to be taken; and

(b) for those regulations that raise substantial questions of law or policy, agencies should notify the OMB Director and take further appropriate action in consultation with the OMB Director.

**4. Exclude from the actions requested in paragraphs 1 through 3 any regulations subject to statutory or judicial deadlines and identify such exclusions to the OMB Director as soon as possible.**

5. Notify the OMB Director promptly of any regulations that, in your view, should be excluded from the directives in paragraphs 1 through 3 because those regulations affect critical health, safety, financial, or national security matters, or for some other reason. The OMB Director will review any such notifications and determine whether such exclusion is appropriate under the circumstances.

6. Continue in all circumstances to comply with any applicable Executive Orders concerning regulatory management.

To comply with this memo, I have asked the Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES) to provide the following information:

1. A list of all regulations that will be published on Monday, January 23 (Attachment B)
2. A list of all regulations scheduled for public inspection on Monday, January 23 (Attachment B)
3. A list of all regulations scheduled for public inspection and publication the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> (Attachment C)
4. A list of all regulations currently at the FR but not yet scheduled for publication (Attachment D).
5. A list of all published regulations that have not yet gone into effect (Attachment E).

In order to comply with the White House's request, OES will notify the Office of Federal Register before noon on Monday, January 23, 2017, that the Department is withdrawing from publication the regulations not yet scheduled for publication. OES will also withdraw from publication all those documents scheduled but not yet published (numbers 2 and 3 above), unless the regulation clearly falls into one of the exceptions set out in the Chief of Staff's memorandum. I am asking that you take the immediate following actions and provide OES with the following information:

1. **By 10:30 a.m. on Monday**, please identify any of the regulations listed in attachments B, C, and D that are needed to meet statutory or judicial deadlines, or that you believe fall into the exception for emergency situations or other urgent circumstances relating to health, safety, financial, or national security matters. Please indicate which exception you believe applies. Please also identify any rules not shown in the attachments that you expect to be scheduled for public inspection or publication during the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.



2. Also by 10:30 a.m. on Monday, please review the list of rules not yet in effect (Attachment E) for accuracy and provide OES with your determination of whether any of the identified exceptions in the memo should apply to extending the comment period for 60 days beyond January 20, 2017.

In addition to the above, **any document that was approved for publication in the Federal Register prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>, but has not been delivered to the Federal Register is no longer considered approved. Until further notice,** any document that must be published in the Federal Register, must be cleared through the Office of the Executive. Please see the memo from OES dated January 20, 2017.

cc: Regulatory Contacts Bureaus and Offices

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **LIST OF REGULATIONS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION ON JANUARY 23 and LIST OF REGULATIONS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ON JANUARY 23, 2017**

#### **I. LIST OF RULES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION ON JANUARY 23**

##### Bureau of Indian Affairs:

- Final Rule: 2017 Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments; Annual Adjustments

##### FWS

- OMB Approved Information Collection Requirement (ICR): OMB approved ICR for final rule on eagle permits that published on 12/16/2016 and became effective on 1/17/2017.

Both of these rules become effective immediately upon publication.

#### **II. LIST OF RULES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ROOM ON JANUARY 23**

##### BSEE

- Final Rule: 2017 Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments; Annual Adjustments

##### FWS

- Final Rule: Correcting Amendments for the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Dakota Skipper and Poweshiek Skipperling;
  - Replacing a map, including a map, and correcting an erroneous map

## **ATTACHMENT C**

### **LIST OF ALL REGULATIONS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION OR PUBLICATION THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23 (As of January 22, 2017)**

None currently scheduled other than the two rules set out in attachment B, which are scheduled for publication on Tuesday, January 24, 2017:

#### BSEE

- Final Rule: 2017 Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments; Annual Adjustments

#### FWS

- Final Rule: Correcting Amendments for the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Dakota Skipper and Poweshiek Skipperling;
  - Replacing a map, including a map, and correcting an erroneous map

**ATTACHMENT D****RULES DELIVERED TO THE FEDERAL REGISTER THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SCHEDULED AS OF JANUARY 22, 2017**

Bureau	Title	Action	Regulation Identifier Number (RIN)	Approved to go to Office of the Federal Register (OFR)	Delivered to OFR (or not)	Scheduled/ Publication Date
BLM	Oil Shale Management -- General	Final Rule	1004-AE28	01/10/2017	Yes	Not yet scheduled
BOEM	Oil, Gas & Sulphur Operations in the OCS - Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments 2017	Final Rule	1010-AD95	01/10/2017	No data	No data
FWS	Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2017 Season	Proposed Rule	1018-BB71	12/30/2016	Yes (01/09/2017)	Not yet scheduled
FWS	Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Use of Inedible Bird Parts in Authentic Alaska Native Handicrafts for Sale	Final Rule	1018-BB24	12/30/2016	Yes (01/09/2017)	Not yet scheduled
OSMRE	Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustments	Final Rule	1029-AC74	01/10/2017	Yes	Not yet scheduled

**ATTACHMENT E****LIST of ALL PUBLISHED REGULATIONS THAT ARE NOT EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 20, 2017**

<b>Bureau</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Regulation Identifier Number (RIN)</b>	<b>Scheduled/ Publication Date</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
BLM	Onshore Order 1 – Final Rule	Final Rule (Order)	1004-AE37	01/10/2017 (82 FR 2906)	02/09/2017
FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (final listing rule under the Endangered Species Act)	Final Rule	1018-BB66	01/11/2017 (82 FR 3186)	02/10/2017
FWS	Revisions to the Regulations for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances	Final Rule	1018-BB25	12/27/2016 (81 FR 95053)	01/26/2017
FWS	Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy	Notice		12/27/2016 (81 FR 95164)	01/26/2017
NPS	Alaska Region Subsistence Collections	Final Rule	1024-AE28	01/12/2017 (82 FR 3626)	02/13/2017

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Reince Priebus  
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review

The President has asked me to communicate to each of you his plan for managing the Federal regulatory process at the outset of his Administration. In order to ensure that the President's appointees or designees have the opportunity to review any new or pending regulations, I ask on behalf of the President that you immediately take the following steps:

1. Subject to any exceptions the Director or Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (the "OMB Director") allows for emergency situations or other urgent circumstances relating to health, safety, financial, or national security matters, or otherwise, send no regulation to the Office of the Federal Register (the "OFR") until a department or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2017, reviews and approves the regulation. The department or agency head may delegate this power of review and approval to any other person so appointed or designated by the President, consistent with applicable law.

2. With respect to regulations that have been sent to the OFR but not published in the *Federal Register*, immediately withdraw them from the OFR for review and approval as described in paragraph 1, subject to the exceptions described in paragraph 1. This withdrawal must be conducted consistent with OFR procedures.

3. With respect to regulations that have been published in the OFR but have not taken effect, as permitted by applicable

law, temporarily postpone their effective date for 60 days from the date of this memorandum, subject to the exceptions described in paragraph 1, for the purpose of reviewing questions of fact, law, and policy they raise. Where appropriate and as permitted by applicable law, you should consider proposing for notice and comment a rule to delay the effective date for regulations beyond that 60-day period. In cases where the effective date has been delayed in order to review questions of fact, law, or policy, you should consider potentially proposing further notice-and-comment rulemaking. Following the delay in effective date:

- (a) for those regulations that raise no substantial questions of law or policy, no further action needs to be taken; and

- (b) for those regulations that raise substantial questions of law or policy, agencies should notify the OMB Director and take further appropriate action in consultation with the OMB Director.

4. Exclude from the actions requested in paragraphs 1 through 3 any regulations subject to statutory or judicial deadlines and identify such exclusions to the OMB Director as soon as possible.

5. Notify the OMB Director promptly of any regulations that, in your view, should be excluded from the directives in paragraphs 1 through 3 because those regulations affect critical health, safety, financial, or national security matters, or for some other reason. The OMB Director will review any such notifications and determine whether such exclusion is appropriate under the circumstances.

6. Continue in all circumstances to comply with any applicable Executive Orders concerning regulatory management.

As used in this memorandum, "regulation" has the meaning given to "regulatory action" in section 3(e) of Executive Order 12866, and also includes any "guidance document" as defined in section 3(g) thereof as it existed when Executive Order 13422 was in effect. That is, the requirements of this memorandum apply to "any substantive action by an agency (normally published in the *Federal Register*) that promulgates or is expected to lead to the promulgation of a final rule or

regulation, including notices of inquiry, advance notices of proposed rulemaking, and notices of proposed rulemaking," and also covers any agency statement of general applicability and future effect "that sets forth a policy on a statutory, regulatory, or technical issue or an interpretation of a statutory or regulatory issue."

This regulatory review will be implemented by the OMB Director. Communications regarding any matters pertaining to this review should be addressed to the OMB Director.

The OMB Director is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the OMB Director mentioned in the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.