

To: Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Bauserman, Christine[christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-06-13T14:44:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 6/13/17
Received: 2017-06-13T14:45:02-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 6-13-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 6/13/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

OF NOTE: Yesterday Interior released the Secretary's memo to the President providing an interim recommendation of his review of the Bears Ears National Monument as directed by the President's Executive Order.

Key Recommendations are:

- ☐ The existing boundary of Bears Ears be modified to be consistent with the intent of the Act- which is that monuments are to be confined to the "smallest area compatible" to protect the objects
- ☐ That Congress authorize tribal co-management of designated cultural areas.
- ☐ That Congress designate selected areas within the existing Bears Ears as national recreation areas or national conservation areas.
- ☐ That Congress clarify the intent of the management practices of wilderness or wilderness study areas (WSA) within a monument.

The Department should conclude the full review under the order before more specific recommendations are made regarding Bears Ears.

What they are saying:

DESERET NEWS: "Zinke's preliminary recommendations on the designation were uniformly praised by Utah's top leaders and excoriated by environmental organizations and tribal advocacy groups. The three members of the San Juan County Commission issued a statement Monday afternoon in reaction to the preliminary recommendations, praising Zinke for listening to "all sides" on the issue. Zinke said his office has been talking to Native American tribes and is working with them for input on co-management language in a bill he said will be critical not only to the Bears Ears Monument but other monuments up for review."

NPR: "Zinke is calling on Congress to give Native American tribes formal co-management authority once the boundaries of the monument are redrawn. Under the original Obama proclamation, tribes had only an advisory role in managing Bears Ears. With the GOP in

control of both chambers and the White House. Zinke added that the administration has enormous respect for tribes and their "sovereignty, respect and self-determination."

CBS: "Zinke said the recommendation in this interim report is to revise the existing boundaries of Bears Ears. Zinke said there are some antiquities within the monument that he believes deserve to be respected, but he thinks those drawings, archeological sites, etc. can be "reasonably separated" from the rest of the monument area. Instead of the monument designation, which prevents a range of development, Zinke said some of the sprawling, 1.3 million acre site should be designated for conservation or recreation. He called on Congress to approve a land-management bill for Bears Ears and other federal lands."

Gov. Gary Herbert of Utah: "This interim report is an important first step toward re-establishing sound land management practices for one of the most special areas in the world. Throughout this process Secretary Zinke has demonstrated the utmost respect for local and tribal input. I encourage the president to take this recommendation seriously, and I applaud the secretary for his balanced and responsible proposal."

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah): "I commend Secretary Zinke for producing a balanced and factual report that should be seen by both sides as genuine progress towards a consensus solution to land use issues in San Juan County. The report confirms that President Obama abused the Antiquities Act by not limiting his monument designation to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of cultural artifacts and areas of importance. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to come up with a legislative solution that addresses the concerns raised by Secretary Zinke."

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah): "This is positive news for the state of Utah and local communities affected by the Bears Ears Monument designation. Anyone with honest intentions recognizes that local input should matter when the federal executive makes a decision of this magnitude."

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah): "I join my rural Utah constituents in celebrating today's recommendation. This is an important first step in reversing President Obama's gross abuse of the Antiquities Act. Secretary Zinke's exemplary effort to engage with local Utahns is to be commended. A locally-driven, legislative approach is the best way to strike a balance among the people who love and use the vast acreage surrounding the Bears Ears. Now it is up to Congress to find a win-win solution that will create a balance between conservation and use."

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary will be in DC Monday and then on travel the balance of the week.

TODAY TUESDAY: The Secretary will:

Travel to Connecticut.

Speak at the National Congress of American Indians at the Mohegan Sun Casino Resort in Uncasville, Connecticut.

Travel to New Hampshire.

The Secretary will announce \$1.1 billion in Pittman-Robertson funding to support wildlife conservation across the country at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, New Hampshire.

Meeting with NH Governor Chris Sununu.
Travel to Maine.
Dinner with ME Governor LePage.

TOMORROW WEDNESDAY:

June: 14: Review of the Katahdin National Monument. Driving and canoeing tour.

THURSDAY:

June 15: More on Katahdin Monument review. Meet with the Penobscot Indian Tribe.
Breakfast Meeting with Katahdin Chamber of Commerce & Local Councilmen.
Roundtable with Maine Woods Coalition.
Meeting with L.L. Bean.

FRIDAY:

June 16: Boston, MA discussions reviewing the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.
Fishermen Roundtable.

CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS

- **APPROPRIATIONS HEARINGS:**

June 20: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
June 21: Senate Interior Appropriations Hearing
June 22: House Natural Resources Committee Hearing

- **OTHER CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS**

This week:

6/14/17: SENR Rescheduled Water and Power Subcommittee Legislative Hearing on S.440, S.677, S.685, S.930, S.1012, S.1029, S.1030 in 366 Dirksen at 2:30 PM; Witness: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary, Water and Science.

Media Today

COMING: Press Release on \$1.1 Billion Hunting and Fishing Grants to States through the Pittman-Robertson Program.

(Released yesterday) **Interior Department Releases \$7.8M To Help American Samoa.**
The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (6/12) reports that the Interior Department has “released the remaining \$7.8 million in operational funds to support the daily operations of the American Samoa government, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center, the American Samoa Community College and the High Court of American Samoa.” The Interior Department “said the money is what remained of \$22.75 million released by the Office of Insular Affairs in the current fiscal year.” Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said in a statement, “These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration.”

- **Speaking Invitations**

Accepted

6/13 National Conference of American Indians (Mohegan Sun, CT)

-

Regretted

6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)

6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

6/16 Corps Day of Service (DC)

6/20 Conservation Fund's National Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment (DC)

6/21 Independent Petroleum Association of America (Laguna Niguel, CA)

6/21 Energy Exposition (Loveland, CO)

6/21 Congressional Travel & Tourism Summit (DC)

6/23 US Conference of Mayors (Miami, FL)

6/24 Outdoor Writers Association of America Annual Conference (Duluth, MN)

6/24 Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture Anniversary (Huntley, MT)

6/26 Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Conference and Annual Meeting (Colorado Springs, CO)

6/28 Aspen Ideas Festival for Climate (Aspen, CO)

6/28 Intertribal Timber Council's 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium (Yakima, WA)

-

Outstanding Invitations in Process

6/26 American Indian Higher Education Coalition Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

6/27 6th Annual Bipartisan Tribute to Veterans and Veterans in Congress (DC)

6/27 National American Housing Council (Nashville, TN)

7/5 Crans Montana Forum Annual Session (Barcelona, Spain)

7/11 Blue Dog Coalition Dinner (DC)

-

Emergency Management

In Arizona, the Freeze 2 Fire in San Carlos (BIA) has burned 2,829 (+723) acres and is 35 (+10) percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team with 344 (+7) personnel assigned, including 123 (+3) DOI personnel. The containment date is June 19. Recreation permits for San Carlos and Fort Apache have been temporarily suspended due to visitor safety concerns.

Also in Arizona, the Lizard Fire, which began on June 7, has burned 15,131 acres and is 40-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 601 personnel assigned, 143 of which are DOI personnel. There are 55 structures threatened and 50 evacuations as of this reporting period. There has been 1 responder injury. The containment date has been set for July 7.

The Bogoslof Volcano in AK began erupting on last night at 9:47 p.m. EDT. The eruption sequence was characterized by a series of explosive events lasting from 10 to 30 minutes, producing ash clouds that rose to a maximum height of 25,000 feet above sea level. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Special Weather Statement for the possibility of trace amounts of ash fallout in the Unalaska and Dutch Harbor areas. The majority of the ash fallout was expected to remain over open waters.

-

Outside Media of Interest**Interior Report Recommends That Trump Downsize Bears Ears Monument.**

USA Today (6/12, Korte) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “recommended Monday that President Trump vastly reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, and seek congressional authorization to turn over the remaining landmarks to be co-managed with Native American tribes.” Zinke’s plan “would be the largest reversal of public land protections in the 111-year history of the Antiquities Act.” The AP (6/12, Daly) reports “Zinke did not specify how much of the 1.3 million acres should be trimmed, but said he has no doubt the monument must be ‘right-sized’ significantly.”

Sununu Meeting With Members Of Trump Administration.

The AP (6/12) reports that on Tuesday, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu is scheduled to meet with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The Bedford (NH) Bulletin (6/12, Landrigan) reports that Zinke is “coming to Bass Pro Shops on Tuesday to formally announce the release of \$1 billion from two federal trust funds that support fish and wildlife preservation across the country.” Sununu is “expected to be at the event along with New Hampshire legislative leaders, the president of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and fish and hunting regulators from Arizona and other states.”

Maine AG Vows To Challenge Any Attempt To Undo Katahdin-Area Monument.

The Portland (ME) Press Herald (6/12, Miller) reports that Maine Attorney General Janet Mills called the Trump Administration’s “review of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument ‘fundamentally flawed’ and vowed Monday to ‘challenge any unlawful executive branch action’ regarding the monument’s designation.” The article notes that “the Democratic attorney general’s statements supporting the 87,500-acre monument also puts her squarely at odds with Republican Gov. Paul LePage.” Mills wrote in comments submitted to the Interior Department as part of the review: “We are prepared to challenge any unlawful executive branch action that purports to abolish or reduce the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. DOI should instead terminate its review of Katahdin Woods and Waters and reaffirm the agency’s commitment to making the monument work well for all people, particularly the residents of the Katahdin region who are now counting on it for their economic future.”

Hundreds Of Unused Oil And Gas Wells Dot Alaska. The State Wants Many Closed.

Alaska Dispatch News (6/12, DeMarban) reports Cathy Foerster, chairwoman of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, said that state inspectors are starting to require companies to properly close hundreds of unused wells that stopped producing a long time ago, some dating back to the 1960s. Foerster said that the agency has paid insufficient attention to properly closing wells, but the state is launching a two part initiative that should lead to a permanent shutdown for many wells, while ensuring there are sufficient surety bonds to protect the state if wells are not properly plugged. Companies in the state have struggled to plug wells amid market difficulties, and many have entered bankruptcy in recent years. The “state effort is separate from the federal Bureau of Land Management’s ongoing work to clean up ‘legacy’ wells dotting the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.”

Offshore Energy Exploration Is Safe, Has Been Going On For 81 Years.

In an op-ed for the Sunshine State (FL) News (6/12, Bishop), Barney Bishop III, president & CEO, Barney Bishop Consulting, writes that “the first step to exploring future offshore development opportunities is information gathering, which allows scientists to pinpoint our energy resources.” He argues that “one safe way to do so is through seismic testing, a proven and efficient means to determine energy potential in the ocean.” Bishop notes that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has “stated there is no documented scientific evidence that seismic testing causes harm to marine animals, since its inception 80 years ago.” Bishop encourages the voting public “to support opportunities to explore our offshore energy resources.”

Federal Register Listings

One item was cleared for the FR on Monday.

- REG0007042 FWS Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit. This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits. Notice 6/12/2017.

Wolf Trap Tickets

Free tickets available in the Secretary’s box for White House staff to the following shows.

6-16-17	St. Paul & The Broken Bones
6/17/17	Slightly Stoopid
6-20-17	Celtic Woman
6-20-17	Alex & The Kaleidoscope
6-21-17	Sheryl Crow

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 6/13/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

OF NOTE: Yesterday Interior released the Secretary's memo to the President providing an interim recommendation of his review of the Bears Ears National Monument as directed by the President's Executive Order.

Key Recommendations are:

- The existing boundary of Bears Ears be modified to be consistent with the intent of the Act- which is that monuments are to be confined to the "smallest area compatible" to protect the objects
- That Congress authorize tribal co-management of designated cultural areas.
- That Congress designate selected areas within the existing Bears Ears as national recreation areas or national conservation areas.
- That Congress clarify the intent of the management practices of wilderness or wilderness study areas (WSA) within a monument.

The Department should conclude the full review under the order before more specific recommendations are made regarding Bears Ears.

What they are saying:

DESERET NEWS: "Zinke's preliminary recommendations on the designation were uniformly praised by Utah's top leaders and excoriated by environmental organizations and tribal advocacy groups. The three members of the San Juan County Commission issued a statement Monday afternoon in reaction to the preliminary recommendations, praising Zinke for listening to "all sides" on the issue. Zinke said his office has been talking to Native American tribes and is working with them for input on co-management language in a bill he said will be critical not only to the Bears Ears Monument but other monuments up for review."

NPR: "Zinke is calling on Congress to give Native American tribes formal co-management authority once the boundaries of the monument are redrawn. Under the original Obama proclamation, tribes had only an advisory role in managing Bears Ears. With the GOP in control of both chambers and the White House. Zinke added that the administration has enormous respect for tribes and their "sovereignty, respect and self-determination.""

CBS: "Zinke said the recommendation in this interim report is to revise the existing boundaries of Bears Ears. Zinke said there are some antiquities within the monument that he believes deserve to be respected, but he thinks those drawings, archeological sites, etc. can be "reasonably separated" from the rest of the monument area. Instead of the monument designation, which prevents a range of development, Zinke said some of the sprawling, 1.3 million acre site should be designated for conservation or recreation. He called on Congress to approve a land-management bill for Bears Ears and other federal lands."

Gov. Gary Herbert of Utah: "This interim report is an important first step toward re-establishing sound land management practices for one of the most special areas in the world. Throughout this process Secretary Zinke has demonstrated the utmost respect for local and tribal input. I encourage the

president to take this recommendation seriously, and I applaud the secretary for his balanced and responsible proposal."

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah): "I commend Secretary Zinke for producing a balanced and factual report that should be seen by both sides as genuine progress towards a consensus solution to land use issues in San Juan County. The report confirms that President Obama abused the Antiquities Act by not limiting his monument designation to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of cultural artifacts and areas of importance. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to come up with a legislative solution that addresses the concerns raised by Secretary Zinke."

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah): "This is positive news for the state of Utah and local communities affected by the Bears Ears Monument designation. Anyone with honest intentions recognizes that local input should matter when the federal executive makes a decision of this magnitude."

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah): "I join my rural Utah constituents in celebrating today's recommendation. This is an important first step in reversing President Obama's gross abuse of the Antiquities Act. Secretary Zinke's exemplary effort to engage with local Utahns is to be commended. A locally-driven, legislative approach is the best way to strike a balance among the people who love and use the vast acreage surrounding the Bears Ears. Now it is up to Congress to find a win-win solution that will create a balance between conservation and use."

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary will be in DC Monday and then on travel the balance of the week.

TODAY TUESDAY: The Secretary will:

Travel to Connecticut.

Speak at the National Congress of American Indians at the Mohegan Sun Casino Resort in Uncasville, Connecticut.

Travel to New Hampshire.

The Secretary will announce \$1.1 billion in Pittman-Robertson funding to support wildlife conservation across the country at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, New Hampshire.

Meeting with NH Governor Chris Sununu.

Travel to Maine.

Dinner with ME Governor LePage.

TOMORROW WEDNESDAY:

June 14: Review of the Katahdin National Monument. Driving and canoeing tour.

THURSDAY:

June 15: More on Katahdin Monument review. Meet with the Penobscot Indian Tribe.

Breakfast Meeting with Katahdin Chamber of Commerce & Local Councilmen.

Roundtable with Maine Woods Coalition.

Meeting with L.L. Bean.

FRIDAY:

June 16: Boston, MA discussions reviewing the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.

Fishermen Roundtable.

CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATIONS HEARINGS:

June 20: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing

June 21: Senate Interior Appropriations Hearing

June 22: House Natural Resources Committee Hearing

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

This week:

6/14/17: SENR Rescheduled Water and Power Subcommittee Legislative Hearing on S.440, S.677, S.685, S.930, S.1012, S.1029, S.1030 in 366 Dirksen at 2:30 PM; Witness: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary, Water and Science.

Media Today

COMING: Press Release on \$1.1 Billion Hunting and Fishing Grants to States through the Pittman-Robertson Program.

(Released yesterday) **Interior Department Releases \$7.8M To Help American Samoa.**

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (6/12) reports that the Interior Department has “released the remaining \$7.8 million in operational funds to support the daily operations of the American Samoa government, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center, the American Samoa Community College and the High Court of American Samoa.” The Interior Department “said the money is what remained of \$22.75 million released by the Office of Insular Affairs in the current fiscal year.” Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said in a statement, “These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration.”

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

6/13 National Conference of American Indians (Mohegan Sun, CT)

Regretted

6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations' Ocean Awards Gala (DC)

6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

6/16 Corps Day of Service (DC)

6/20 Conservation Fund's National Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment (DC)

6/21 Independent Petroleum Association of America (Laguna Niguel, CA)

6/21 Energy Exposition (Loveland, CO)

6/21 Congressional Travel & Tourism Summit (DC)

6/23 US Conference of Mayors (Miami, FL)

6/24 Outdoor Writers Association of America Annual Conference (Duluth, MN)

6/24 Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture Anniversary (Huntley, MT)

6/26 Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Conference and Annual Meeting (Colorado Springs, CO)

6/28 Aspen Ideas Festival for Climate (Aspen, CO)

6/28 Intertribal Timber Council's 41st Annual National Indian Timber Symposium (Yakima, WA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

6/26 American Indian Higher Education Coalition Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
 6/27 6th Annual Bipartisan Tribute to Veterans and Veterans in Congress (DC)
 6/27 National American Housing Council (Nashville, TN)
 7/5 Crans Montana Forum Annual Session (Barcelona, Spain)
 7/11 Blue Dog Coalition Dinner (DC)

Emergency Management

In Arizona, the Freeze 2 Fire in San Carlos (BIA) has burned 2,829 (+723) acres and is 35 (+10) percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team with 344 (+7) personnel assigned, including 123 (+3) DOI personnel. The containment date is June 19. Recreation permits for San Carlos and Fort Apache have been temporarily suspended due to visitor safety concerns.

Also in Arizona, the Lizard Fire, which began on June 7, has burned 15,131 acres and is 40-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-1 IMT with 601 personnel assigned, 143 of which are DOI personnel. There are 55 structures threatened and 50 evacuations as of this reporting period. There has been 1 responder injury. The containment date has been set for July 7.

The Bogoslof Volcano in AK began erupting on last night at 9:47 p.m. EDT. The eruption sequence was characterized by a series of explosive events lasting from 10 to 30 minutes, producing ash clouds that rose to a maximum height of 25,000 feet above sea level. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Special Weather Statement for the possibility of trace amounts of ash fallout in the Unalaska and Dutch Harbor areas. The majority of the ash fallout was expected to remain over open waters.

Outside Media of Interest**Interior Report Recommends That Trump Downsize Bears Ears Monument.**

USA Today (6/12, Korte) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “recommended Monday that President Trump vastly reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, and seek congressional authorization to turn over the remaining landmarks to be co-managed with Native American tribes.” Zinke’s plan “would be the largest reversal of public land protections in the 111-year history of the Antiquities Act.” The AP (6/12, Daly) reports “Zinke did not specify how much of the 1.3 million acres should be trimmed, but said he has no doubt the monument must be ‘right-sized’ significantly.”

Sununu Meeting With Members Of Trump Administration.

The AP (6/12) reports that on Tuesday, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu is scheduled to meet with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The Bedford (NH) Bulletin (6/12, Landrigan) reports that Zinke is “coming to Bass Pro Shops on Tuesday to formally announce the release of \$1 billion from two federal trust funds that support fish and wildlife preservation across the country.” Sununu is “expected to be at the event along with New Hampshire legislative leaders, the president of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and fish and hunting regulators from Arizona and other states.”

Maine AG Vows To Challenge Any Attempt To Undo Katahdin-Area Monument.

The Portland (ME) Press Herald (6/12, Miller) reports that Maine Attorney General Janet Mills called the Trump Administration’s “review of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument ‘fundamentally flawed’ and vowed Monday to ‘challenge any unlawful executive branch action’ regarding the monument’s designation.” The article notes that “the Democratic attorney general’s statements supporting the 87,500-acre monument also puts her squarely at odds with Republican Gov. Paul LePage.” Mills wrote in comments submitted to the Interior Department as part of the review: “We are

prepared to challenge any unlawful executive branch action that purports to abolish or reduce the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. DOI should instead terminate its review of Katahdin Woods and Waters and reaffirm the agency's commitment to making the monument work well for all people, particularly the residents of the Katahdin region who are now counting on it for their economic future."

Hundreds Of Unused Oil And Gas Wells Dot Alaska. The State Wants Many Closed.

Alaska Dispatch News (6/12, DeMarban) reports Cathy Foerster, chairwoman of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, said that state inspectors are starting to require companies to properly close hundreds of unused wells that stopped producing a long time ago, some dating back to the 1960s. Foerster said that the agency has paid insufficient attention to properly closing wells, but the state is launching a two part initiative that should lead to a permanent shutdown for many wells, while ensuring there are sufficient surety bonds to protect the state if wells are not properly plugged. Companies in the state have struggled to plug wells amid market difficulties, and many have entered bankruptcy in recent years. The "state effort is separate from the federal Bureau of Land Management's ongoing work to clean up 'legacy' wells dotting the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska."

Offshore Energy Exploration Is Safe, Has Been Going On For 81 Years.

In an op-ed for the Sunshine State (FL) News (6/12, Bishop), Barney Bishop III, president & CEO, Barney Bishop Consulting, writes that "the first step to exploring future offshore development opportunities is information gathering, which allows scientists to pinpoint our energy resources." He argues that "one safe way to do so is through seismic testing, a proven and efficient means to determine energy potential in the ocean." Bishop notes that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has "stated there is no documented scientific evidence that seismic testing causes harm to marine animals, since its inception 80 years ago." Bishop encourages the voting public "to support opportunities to explore our offshore energy resources."

Federal Register Listings

One item was cleared for the FR on Monday.

REG0007042 FWS Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit. This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits. Notice 6/12/2017.

Wolf Trap Tickets

Free tickets available in the Secretary's box for White House staff to the following shows.

6-16-17	St. Paul & The Broken Bones
6/17/17	Slightly Stoopid
6-20-17	Celtic Woman
6-20-17	Alex & The Kaleidoscope
6-21-17	Sheryl Crow