

From: [Ben Goldey](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Obama Tool of Tyranny Closer to Extinction
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2019 5:05:53 PM

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For Immediate Release

Date: June 27, 2019

Contact: Ben Goldey |

Ben.Goldey@mail.house.gov

**Obama Tool of Tyranny Closer to
Extinction**

*Western Caucus Members Spearhead
Effort to Rescind Pebble Mine's
Preemptive Veto*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Members of the Western Caucus and outside stakeholders released statements applauding EPA General Counsel Matthew Leopold's [memo](#) directing EPA officials to resume consideration of withdrawing the Obama Administration's preemptive veto of the Pebble Mine in Alaska:

Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar (AZ-04): "Due process and the rule of law are enshrined in our Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Businesses need regulatory and permitting certainty in order to create jobs and encourage investment. Preemptive vetoes are political weapons that fail to utilize science and undermine these essential guarantees. There is no good or lawful reason that the Pebble Project shouldn't be able to go through the normal environmental review process just like any other proposed project. I applaud EPA Counsel Leopold for traveling to

Alaska, listening to people on both sides of the issue and then directing agency officials to resume consideration of scrapping the Obama Administration's preemptive veto of the Pebble Project. The Trump administration should finalize its proposal to permanently ban preemptive vetoes by the EPA and Region 10 should quickly act to withdraw Pebble's Proposed Determination once and for all."

Chief Regulatory Reform Officer Andy Biggs (AZ-05): "The Trump administration continues to keep its promises by dismantling the Obama-era regulatory state. I encourage the EPA to move swiftly through this process to provide stability for job creation and American ingenuity."

Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist: "Americans for Tax Reform applauds the EPA's decision to resume consideration of withdrawing the Obama Administration's unprecedented preemptive veto of Pebble Mine. Pebble Mine, like all other projects, should be evaluated based upon a proper and well-established environmental review process. Instead, the Obama Administration chose to abuse and weaponize its authority under the Clean Water Act to block Pebble Mine's development before a permitting application was even submitted. Yesterday's announcement from General Counsel Matthew Leopold is a step forward towards restoring a consistent,

fair and rational permitting process at the EPA. The Trump EPA now has a chance to right the wrongs of the past and withdraw the Obama Administration's unprecedented preemptive veto. ATR encourages them to do so."

National Mining Association Senior Vice President Rich Nolan: "Industrial projects of any kind should not be vetoed before they have even been proposed. Every project should be allowed to go through a comprehensive permitting process and weighed on its merits. Now, more than ever, we should be sending signals to attract resource investment and development, not push it away. We fully expect this administration to give the Pebble Mine the fair, transparent opportunity it deserves to meet both Alaska and the nation's strong environmental standards. We applaud EPA restarting the process to consider withdrawing the veto and encourage them to quickly right an obvious wrong."

Competitive Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow Ben Lieberman: "The Obama EPA's rejection of the Pebble Mine came before the mining company had even submitted its permit application, and was based on the agency's own speculative analysis rather than the exhaustive Army Corps of Engineers review that is now underway. This is something the Trump EPA should have already reversed, and we

urge them to do so as quickly as possible."

Pebble Limited Partnership CEO

Tom Collier: "We are pleased the Trump Administration and the EPA have put this preemptive veto on a path to conclusion. We have long advocated for a full, fair and regular process for Pebble and look forward to a prompt resolution from the EPA on this long standing matter."

Adam Hawkins, Global External:

"Applicants deserve the opportunity to a fair and comprehensive review by federal agencies. This is great step by the administration to undo efforts holding companies back from a process they are entitled to under law. Thanks to the administration and members of the Western Caucus for their leadership."

Background:

On June 26, 2019, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) General Counsel Matthew Leopold signed a [memo](#) directing EPA Region 10 to resume consideration of withdrawing the Obama Administration EPA's preemptive veto (Proposed Determination) of the Pebble Limited Partnership mining project in Alaska.

Members of the Congressional Western Caucus and conservative organizations throughout the country have consistently called on EPA to formally withdraw the preemptive veto as it was issued before

the Pebble Mine had been formally proposed, was issued before any substantial environmental analysis had occurred, and threatened to set a dangerous precedent where future administrations could block important projects throughout the country solely for political reasons that are not based on science.

Actions Taken by Western Caucus to Correct this Injustice include:

- In May of 2018, Western Caucus led a coalition of 18 Members of Congress and dozens of stakeholders urging EPA to rescind the preemptive veto. [Click here for more](#)
- In June of 2019, Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar and staff met with General Counsel Leopold and staff and encouraged the EPA to act to withdraw the Obama Administration's preemptive veto.
- In June of 2019, Members of the Western Caucus opposed an amendment from Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) that would block funding to finalize an environmental study for the proposed Pebble Mine. [Click here for more](#)
- In April of 2018, Western Caucus hosted Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier for a bipartisan briefing on this issue.
- In June of 2019, Western Caucus hosted Pebble Partnership Senior Vice President Peter Roberson for a bicameral briefing on this issue.

The Pebble Mine Project:

The Pebble Mine is a proposed copper, gold, and molybdenum mine in southwestern Alaska, located on State-owned lands dedicated to resource development. Developing the Pebble deposit resource would create as many as 5,000 construction jobs and 3,000 full-time jobs in Alaska, and 16,000 jobs nationally, for the productive life of the mine; contribute as much as \$2.5 billion to the U.S. GDP every year; and generate between \$165-\$213 million in annual taxes and royalties to the State. In addition, the copper deposits alone would provide approximately 33% of the annual U.S. copper needs for many years, allowing the U.S. to reduce its dependence on foreign imports. The deposit is estimated to contain 6.5 billion tons of known minerals and another 4.5 billion tons of assumed minerals, including more than \$100 billion worth of gold alone.

NEPA, History of the Proposed Determination and Federal Overreach by the Obama Administration:

Developing the Pebble Mine requires the the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to issue a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the USACE to complete an environmental study before it can issue such a permit.

Congress enacted Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to provide a rigorous, science-based process for comprehensive federal review of proposed natural resources projects like the proposed Pebble Mine. NEPA directs the Corps to identify and evaluate reasonable project alternatives, environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures, through a process informed by comprehensive input from the public, state and federal government agency stakeholders.

In July of 2014, the Obama Administration's EPA Region 10 announced it would initiate an unprecedented proceeding to preemptively veto the Pebble Mine, while Pebble sponsors were still in the process of evaluating the financing, scope and appropriate environmental safeguards for the project and *before* they had even applied for a Section 404 permit.

In July of 2017, the Trump Administration proposed to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination. In January of 2018, EPA suspended the withdrawal proceeding.

In December of 2017, the Pebble Limited Partnership submitted a permit application to USACE to develop the Pebble Mine.

In February of 2019, the USACE released a 1,400-page draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

for the Pebble mine for public review and comment, as required by NEPA. The public comment period is slated to end July 1, 2019.

Once the public input is received and evaluated, the USACE will move forward to complete a Final EIS. EPA's Proposed Determination will need to be formally withdrawn prior to USACE issuing a permit for the Pebble Mine.

###

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From: [Western Caucus](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pebble Mine Preemptive Veto Scrapped, Obama Tool of Tyranny No More
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 6:26:54 PM

No Images? [Click here](#)



For Immediate Release

Date: July 30, 2019

Contact: Ben Goldey |

Ben.Goldey@mail.house.gov

Jeff Small | Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov

**Pebble Mine Preemptive Veto
Scrapped, Obama Tool of Tyranny No
More**



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Western Caucus Members and stakeholder released statements applauding the EPA's decision to withdraw President Obama's outdated, preemptive veto of the Pebble Mine Project in Southwest Alaska:

Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar (AZ-04): "There is no good or lawful reason that the Pebble Mine Project shouldn't be able to go through the normal environmental review process just like any other proposed project. President Obama's veto was based on political expediency rather than sound science. I am grateful to see another terrible decision from the previous administration reversed by President Trump."

EPA Region 10 Administrator Chris Hladick: "After today's action, EPA will focus on the permit review process for the Pebble Mine project. The agency has worked closely with the Army Corps to engage with stakeholders and the public on this issue, which has resulted in an expansive public record, including specific information about the proposed mining project that did not exist in 2014."

EPA General Counsel Matthew Leopold: "Region 10's decision restores the proper process for 404(c) determinations, eliminating a preemptive veto of a hypothetical mine and focusing EPA's environmental review on an

actual project before the Agency."

Chief Regulatory Reform Officer

Andy Biggs (AZ-05): "I commend the Trump administration for striking down the previous administration's preemptive veto of the Pebble Mine Project, which set an extraordinarily ominous precedent. I now hope that Pebble's sponsors receive what all mining companies deserve: a fair review. We must also extensively reform EPA's permitting process to ensure that other companies in the future are not subjected to the whims of unaccountable bureaucrats."

Chief Agriculture and Business

Officer Doug LaMalfa (CA-01): "I commend the Trump administration for striking down the previous administration's preemptive veto of the Pebble Mine Project, which set an extraordinarily ominous precedent. I now hope that Pebble's sponsors receive what all mining companies deserve: a fair review. We must also extensively reform EPA's permitting process to ensure that other companies in the future are not subjected to the whims of unaccountable bureaucrats."

Congressman Bob Gibbs (OH-07): "I am relieved to see the EPA taking this corrective action. The Obama Administration's preemptive veto of the Pebble Mine short-circuited the Section 404 permitting process, setting a dangerous precedent and empowering EPA bureaucrats well beyond their

constitutional authority. The EPA has an important role to play in the NEPA process, but preemptively issuing permit denials is an abuse of power, which is why I introduced the Reform EPA Act to curb the agency's veto authority. No entity would even bother applying for a permit without the certainty of a fair and impartial process. I applaud the Trump Administration's efforts to ensure due process and private property rights are protected."

Pebble Limited Partnership CEO

Tom Collier: "Finally, this Administration has reversed the outrageous federal government overreach inflicted on the State of Alaska by the Obama Administration. The preemptive veto was an action by an Administration that sought to vastly expand EPA's authority to regulate land use on state, private and Native-owned lands throughout the United States, and in doing so kill one of America's most important mineral projects before a development plan was proposed or a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) permitting review was undertaken. The Proposed Determination ordered to be lifted today was a preemptive veto that had never before been attempted in the 45-year history of the Clean Water Act – a fact acknowledged by the former Administrator's senior staff."

Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform: "Today's decision from the

EPA to finally withdraw the Obama administration's unprecedented use of preemptive veto against Pebble Mine is a major win for the rule of law. In an attempt to appease radical environmentalists and their donors, the Obama administration weaponized the EPA to deny this project's environmental review. ATR is thankful the Trump EPA reversed this decision and held to the simple idea that a project's permitting should be based upon a proper environmental review process and not the politics of the President."

Ben Lieberman, Competitive

Enterprise Institute: "The Obama EPA's pre-emptive rejection of the Pebble Mine threatened to block this worthwhile project that has the potential to create thousands of jobs and provide a wealth of minerals, including rare earths. The Trump EPA did the right thing by reversing this mistake and instead of participating in the Army Corps of Engineers' data-driven analysis under NEPA that is currently underway."

The National Mining Association:

"This is a long-overdue but welcome development that will allow the rigorous permit review process for the Pebble Mine project to proceed in a fair and transparent fashion. This was a classic case of the EPA under the prior administration abusing its veto authority to obstruct a project before it was even proposed. Every project - including Pebble - should be weighed on its

merits. Regulatory uncertainty in the U.S. that stemmed from actions such as the original veto have hampered investment in our vast domestic resources for too long; our hope is that commonsense action such as this, coupled with permitting reforms that have been proposed under this administration, will help increase investment in domestic mining and decrease our reliance on foreign imports."

Background:

Today, EPA Region 10 Administrator Chris Hladick withdrew the Obama Administration's preemptive veto of the proposed Pebble Mine Project in Southwest Alaska.

The Pebble Mine:

The Pebble Mine is a proposed copper, gold and molybdenum mine in southwestern Alaska, located on State-owned lands dedicated to resource development. Developing the Pebble deposit resource would create as many as 5,000 construction jobs and 3,000 full-time jobs in Alaska, and 16,000 jobs nationally, for the productive life of the mine; contribute as much as \$2.5 billion to the U.S. GDP every year; and generate between \$165-\$213 million in annual taxes and royalties to the State. In addition, the copper deposits alone would provide approximately 33% of the annual U.S. copper needs for many years, allowing the U.S. to reduce its

dependence on foreign imports.

History of Federal Overreach:

Developing the Pebble Mine requires the USACE to issue a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and NEPA requires the USACE to complete an EIS before it can issue such a permit. In February 2014, the Obama Administration EPA announced it was initiating an unprecedented proceeding under CWA Section 404(c) to preemptively veto the Pebble mine, while Pebble sponsors were still in the process of evaluating the financing, scope and appropriate environmental safeguards for the project and ***before*** they had even applied for a Section 404 permit.

Actions Taken by Western Caucus to Correct this Injustice Include:

- In April of 2018, Western Caucus hosted Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier for a bipartisan briefing on this issue.
- In May of 2018, Western Caucus led a coalition of 18 Members of Congress and dozens of stakeholders urging EPA to rescind the preemptive veto. [Click here for more](#)
- In June of 2019, Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar and staff met with General Counsel Leopold and staff and encouraged the EPA to act to withdraw the Obama Administration's preemptive veto.
- In June of 2019, Members of the

Western Caucus opposed an amendment from Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) that would block funding to finalize an environmental study for the proposed Pebble Mine.

[Click here for more](#)

- In June of 2019, Western Caucus hosted Pebble Partnership Senior Vice President Peter Roberson for a bicameral briefing on this issue.
- In June of 2019, Members of the Western Caucus and stakeholders released statements applauding EPA General Counsel Matthew Leopard decision directing officials to resume consideration of the preemptive veto.

[Click here for more](#)

Courtesy of the EPA:

This action removes the Agency's outdated, preemptive proposed veto of the Pebble Mine and restores the well-understood permit review process. EPA Region 10 reached this conclusion based on two primary reasons. First, the Corps' DEIS includes significant project-specific information that was not accounted for in the 2014 Proposed Determination and, based on that information, the Corps has reached preliminary conclusions that in certain respects conflict with preliminary conclusions in the 2014 Proposed Determination. The now-five-year-old Proposed Determination does not grapple with the currently available expansive record, including specific information about the proposed mining

project that did not exist in 2014. Second, other processes are available and better-suited for EPA to resolve issues with the Corps as the record develops; specifically, the well-understood elevation process under CWA section 404(q) and the NEPA process. EPA believes these processes should be exhausted prior to any decision by EPA, based upon all information that has and will be developed, to exercise its section 404(c) authority. A detailed explanation of EPA's decision is available in the notice signed today by EPA's Region 10 Administrator, which will be published in the Federal Register."

###

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From: calendar-notification@google.com on behalf of [Cason, James E Bernhardt, David L](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Accepted: Meeting with Former Congressman Pombo and Tom Collier, CE... @ Fri Jan 19, 2018 11am - 11:45am (EST) (b) (6) .gov
Attachments: [invite.ics](#)

James Cason
has accepted this invitation.

Meeting with Former Congressman Pombo and Tom Collier, CEO of Pebble Partnership

Confirmed Attendees:
Richard Pombo, Gavel Resources
Peter Robertson, Sr. VP Pebble Partnership, LLC
Tom Collier, CEO Pebble Partnership, LLC

POC
Ashley Ingram
Gavel Resources | www.gavelresources.com <<https://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gavelresources.com&sa=D&ust=1516319135168000&usg=AFQjCNHaj3Hy7xrSMA5F0FbUmDmDweknQ>>
400 First Street SE | Second Floor | Washington, DC 20003
Phone: 574-850-7575 | Email: AIngram@gavelresources.com <<mailto:AIngram@gavelresources.com>>

When
Fri Jan 19, 2018 11am – 11:45am Eastern Time

Where
Room 6120 (map <<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=Room+6120&hl=en>>)
Video call
https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/dwbernhardt <https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/dwbernhardt> (b) (6) ?
hceid=ZHdiZXJuaGFyZHRaAW9zLmRvaS5nb3Y.41cd3av7c6t9thjblqffi7j7j9>

Calendar

(b) (6) .gov

Who

• (b) (6) .gov
- organizer

• gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov - creator
• james_cason@ios.doi.gov

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Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. [Learn More](https://support.google.com/calendar/answer/37135#forwarding) <<https://support.google.com/calendar/answer/37135#forwarding>> .

From: [Chambers, Micah D](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Murkowski Announces Departure of Chief Counsel, Staff Promotions
Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018 2:47:42 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
Importance: High

pretty sure this isn't news to you, but just FYI.

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

From: **Majority Press (Energy)** <press@energy.senate.gov>
Date: Thu, Aug 2, 2018 at 12:02 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Murkowski Announces Departure of Chief Counsel, Staff Promotions
To: "Majority Press (Energy)" <press@energy.senate.gov>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Nicole Daigle](#) 202.224.2576

August 2, 2018

[Permalink](#)

Murkowski Announces Departure of Chief Counsel, Staff Promotions

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, today announced the departure of her chief counsel, Patrick McCormick, who has left the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for an opportunity in the private sector.

“Pat is truly one of a kind: an incredible lawyer with a servant’s heart, a tireless work ethic, and impeccable character,” Murkowski said. “Every one of us will miss him greatly, but we are grateful for his indispensable guidance and the many achievements he enabled as part of our committee. We wish him and his family all the best as he embarks on his new venture.”

McCormick joined the committee in 2011, serving as special counsel before being promoted to chief counsel in January 2013. Prior to joining the committee, he spent 20 years in the private sector as a partner at Hunton and Williams, office managing partner at Balch and Bingham, and government affairs counsel at the Potomac Electric Power Company.

Murkowski also announced today that Kellie Donnelly, who currently serves as the committee’s deputy chief counsel, will succeed McCormick as chief counsel. Lucy Murfitt will be promoted to deputy chief counsel, and Isaac Edwards will be promoted to special counsel.

“Kellie is brilliant, strategic, and has extensive knowledge of the full range of issues that come before our committee,” Murkowski said. “Lucy and Isaac are also tremendous lawyers with years

of policymaking experience. I'm excited for all three of them to move up, and recognize that even though we are losing Pat, we are fortunate to have a very strong counsel function on the committee."

Donnelly came to Capitol Hill in 1994 and shortly thereafter joined the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as majority counsel. She left to serve as counsel at the Department of the Interior and then spent several years in the private sector before joining the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in 2003. She has since served the committee in a number of roles, most recently as deputy chief counsel since 2009.

Murfitt is currently senior counsel and public lands and natural resources policy director for the committee. She previously spent eight years as senior counsel to U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., and the Republican Whip, handling the energy, environment, and natural resources portfolio. She has also worked at the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University as its director of policy and partnerships. A veteran, Murfitt served as an environmental attorney during her time in the U.S. Army.

Edwards, who was born and raised in Homer, Alaska, began his career on Capitol Hill working for former Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, in 1997. He became Sen. Lisa Murkowski's legislative director in 2003, and moved to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to serve as counsel in 2009. Prior to today's promotion, he held the title of senior counsel, focusing primarily on Arctic, territorial, and international energy issues.

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Micah Chambers
Deputy Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

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To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
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[image004.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 2, 2018

[Permalink](#)

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Micah Chambers
Deputy Director
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary of the Interior

From: [Jorjani, Daniel H](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Cc: [Renkes, Gregg D](#); [Hill, Jason A](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: 31st Annual Texas Environmental Superconference
Date: Friday, August 2, 2019 7:16:10 PM

Ann Navarro called to say that she saw Jason's presentation in Texas and that he, cc'd, knocked it out of the park.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Date: July 5, 2019 at 7:11:00 PM EDT
To: Jason Hill <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: 31st Annual Texas Environmental Superconference

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 5, 2019, at 7:07 PM, Jason Hill <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Dan:

The annual Texas environmental law superconference is going on in Austin August 1-2. They have a 20 minute spot for me to speak on Friday, August 2. I'm already going to be an hour away in Hunt, Texas picking up my daughter from Camp Mystic on August 1, and I can swing through Austin after camp pick up, so should be no cost to the government, since I'll already be down there on my own dime and can stay with my brother in Austin. Let me know if you're good with my participation in the event, and I'll run the traps with ethics when I get back next week.

Thanks,
Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Civins, Jeff" <Jeff.Civins@haynesboone.com>
Date: July 5, 2019 at 5:11:23 PM CDT
To: "Civins, Jeff" <Jeff.Civins@haynesboone.com>
Cc: "'idsal.anne@epa.gov'" <idsal.anne@epa.gov>, 'Jason Hill' <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>, "Mendoza, Mary

S." <Mary.Mendoza@haynesboone.com>, "Lozano,
Marti" <Marti.Lozano@haynesboone.com>, "Lehnhardt,
Trudi" <Trudi.Lehnhardt@haynesboone.com>, "Mercer,
Jo El" <JoEl.Mercer@haynesboone.com>, "Gonzales,
Gilbert" <Gilbert.Gonzales@haynesboone.com>,
"molly.cagle@bakerbotts.com"
<molly.cagle@bakerbotts.com>,
"Leopold.Matt@EPA.gov" <Leopold.Matt@EPA.gov>
**Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 31st Annual Texas
Environmental Superconference**

Apologies. Anne's slot is immediately after Thursday's
lunch; Jason's is immediately before Friday's lunch. Cindy
is the moderator for the Thursday afternoon session. The
listing in the agenda is accurate.

11:55 – 12:50 LUNCH – *Intermission* –
sponsored by RPS Group

Moderator: Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm
12:50 – 1:10 AIR QUALITY

Anne Idsal, Acting
Assistant Administrator,
Office of Air and
Radiation, EPA DC

TAB 7 1:10 – 2:10 AIR QUALITY – “*Under the Big
Top*”

Shannon S. Broome, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Jeffrey Clay, Assistant Regional Counsel, EPA Region 6
Jean Flores, Guida, Slavich & Flores, P.C.
Peter Wahl, Jackson Walker

TAB 8 2:10—2:40 CLIMATE CHANGE -- “*Cirque du
Soleil*”

Pam Giblin, Climate Leadership Council

haynesboone

Jeff Civins

Senior Counsel
jeff.civins@haynesboone.com

Haynes and Boone, LLP

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Suite 1300
Austin, TX 78701-3285

(t) 512.867.8477
(f) 512.867.8691
(m) 512.750.1284

[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [Website](#)

From: Civins, Jeff

Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 4:57 PM

To: Civins, Jeff <Jeff.Civins@haynesboone.com>

Cc: 'idsal.anne@epa.gov' <idsal.anne@epa.gov>; 'Jason Hill' <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>; Mendoza, Mary S. <Mary.Mendoza@haynesboone.com>; Lozano, Marti <Marti.Lozano@haynesboone.com>; Lehnhardt, Trudi <Trudi.Lehnhardt@haynesboone.com>; Mercer, Jo El <JoEl.Mercer@haynesboone.com>; Gonzales, Gilbert <Gilbert.Gonzales@haynesboone.com>

Subject: 31st Annual Texas Environmental Superconference Speakers and Planning Committee members,
Hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth. Some exciting news! A couple of Texans prominent in the administration—Anne Idsal, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA DC, and Jason A. Hill, Deputy Solicitor for Energy & Mineral Resources, Department of the Interior—will be town during the Superconference and have indicated a willingness to speak at it. We thought their generous offers were too good an opportunity to pass up and have created 20 minute slots for each of them before lunch—for Anne on Thursday and for Jason on Friday, with Anne to speak on air quality and Jason, on DOI’s NEPA streamlining process. To make this happen, we shortened lunch by 5 minutes and are ending just a bit later in the afternoon, so no one else’s session times are affected. The positioning of those 2 additional talks works well with the existing program. Attached is a revised agenda that we plan to distribute to attendees.

Cindy, as Thursday morning moderator, will introduce Anne and coordinate to insure any overlap with the air quality panel is minimized, and Peter, as Friday morning moderator, will introduce Jason.

If you’ve any questions or concerns, please let me know.
Thanks all!

haynesboone

Jeff Civins

Senior Counsel
jeff.civins@haynesboone.com

Haynes and Boone, LLP

600 Congress Avenue
Suite 1300
Austin, TX 78701-3285

(t) 512.867.8477
(f) 512.867.8691

(m) 512.750.1284

[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [Website](#)

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<mime-attachment.html>

<2019 Superconference Agenda (DRAFT), 4836-5138-7028_18.docx>

From: [Jorjani, Daniel H](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Cc: [Renkes, Gregg D](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: 31st Annual Texas Environmental Superconference
Date: Saturday, August 3, 2019 4:55:07 PM

Nice note from Jason -

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jason Hill <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>
Date: August 2, 2019 at 7:22:41 PM EDT
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: 31st Annual Texas Environmental Superconference

Cool. She told me to tell you hello. She thinks very highly of you, and for what it's worth I share her sentiments.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 2, 2019, at 6:16 PM, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Ann Navarro called to say that she saw Jason's presentation in Texas and that he, cc'd, knocked it out of the park.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Date: July 5, 2019 at 7:11:00 PM EDT
To: Jason Hill <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: 31st Annual Texas Environmental Superconference

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 5, 2019, at 7:07 PM, Jason Hill <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Dan:

The annual Texas environmental law superconference is going on in Austin August 1-2. They have a 20 minute spot for me to speak on Friday, August 2. I'm already going to be an hour away in Hunt, Texas picking up my daughter from Camp Mystic on August 1, and I can swing through Austin after camp pick up, so should be no cost to the government, since I'll already be down there on my own dime and can stay with my brother in Austin. Let me know if you're good with my participation in the event, and I'll run the traps with ethics when I get back next week. Thanks,
Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Civins, Jeff"
<Jeff.Civins@haynesboone.com>
Date: July 5, 2019 at 5:11:23 PM CDT
To: "Civins, Jeff"
<Jeff.Civins@haynesboone.com>
Cc: "'idsal.anne@epa.gov'"
<idsal.anne@epa.gov>, 'Jason Hill' <jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>,
"Mendoza, Mary S."
<Mary.Mendoza@haynesboone.com>,
"Lozano, Marti"
<Marti.Lozano@haynesboone.com>,
"Lehnhardt, Trudi"
<Trudi.Lehnhardt@haynesboone.com>,
"Mercer, Jo El"
<JoEl.Mercer@haynesboone.com>,
"Gonzales, Gilbert"
<Gilbert.Gonzales@haynesboone.com>,
"'molly.cagle@bakerbotts.com'"
<molly.cagle@bakerbotts.com>,
"'Leopold.Matt@EPA.gov'"
<Leopold.Matt@EPA.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE:
**31st Annual Texas
Environmental
Superconference**

Apologies. Anne's slot is immediately after Thursday's lunch; Jason's is immediately before Friday's lunch. Cindy is the moderator for the Thursday afternoon session. The listing in the agenda is accurate.

11:55 – 12:50

LUNCH – *Intermission*
– sponsored by RPS
Group

Moderator: Cindy Smiley,
Smiley Law Firm

12:50 – 1:10 AIR QUALITY

Anne
Idsal,
Acting
Assistant
Administrator,
Office
of
Air
and
Radiation,
EPA
DC

TAB 7 1:10 – 2:10 AIR
QUALITY – “*Under the Big
Top*”

Shannon S. Broome, Hunton
Andrews Kurth LLP

Jeffrey Clay, Assistant Regional
Counsel, EPA Region 6

Jean Flores, Guida, Slavich &
Flores, P.C.

Peter Wahl, Jackson Walker

TAB 8 2:10—2:40 CLIMATE
CHANGE -- “*Cirque du Soleil*”
Pam Giblin, Climate Leadership
Council

haynesboone

Jeff Civins

Senior Counsel

jeff.civins@haynesboone.com

Haynes and Boone, LLP

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Austin, TX 78701-3285

(t) 512.867.8477
(f) 512.867.8691
(m) 512.750.1284

[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [Website](#)

From: Civins, Jeff

Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 4:57 PM

To: Civins, Jeff

<Jeff.Civins@haynesboone.com>

Cc: 'idsal.anne@epa.gov'

<idsal.anne@epa.gov>; 'Jason Hill'

<jason.hill@sol.doi.gov>;

Mendoza, Mary S.

<Mary.Mendoza@haynesboone.com>;

Lozano, Marti

<Marti.Lozano@haynesboone.com>;

Lehnhardt, Trudi

<Trudi.Lehnhardt@haynesboone.com>;

Mercer, Jo El

<JoEl.Mercer@haynesboone.com>;

Gonzales, Gilbert

<Gilbert.Gonzales@haynesboone.com>

Subject: 31st Annual Texas

Environmental Superconference

Speakers and Planning

Committee members,

Hope everyone had a wonderful

Fourth. Some exciting news! A

couple of Texans prominent in
the administration—Anne Idsal,

Acting Assistant Administrator,

Office of Air and Radiation, EPA

DC, and Jason A. Hill, Deputy

Solicitor for Energy & Mineral

Resources, Department of the

Interior—will be town during

the Superconference and have

indicated a willingness to speak
at it. We thought their generous

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If you've any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thanks all!

haynesboone

Jeff Civins

Senior Counsel

jeff.civins@haynesboone.com

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<2019 Superconference Agenda (DRAFT),
4836-5138-7028_18.docx>

From: [Willens, Todd D](#)
To: [Rees, Gareth C](#)
Cc: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Fwd: Request For A Meeting with Congressman Pombo
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 10:05:43 PM
Attachments: [pastedImage.png](#)

Gareth,

Mr. Pombo contacted me this evening that he has not received a response to his request. Can you prioritize getting back to him or his assistant? Thank you.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Date: December 22, 2017 at 12:58:41 PM EST
To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Request For A Meeting with Congressman Pombo

Gareth,

Can you please proceed with setting this up. They should fill out the form. thank you.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW -- MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-6291

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

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

From: Ashley Ingram <aingram@gavelresources.com>
Date: Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 4:08 PM
Subject: Request For A Meeting with Congressman Pombo
To: "gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov" <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, "todd_willens@ios.doi.gov" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Richard Pombo <rpombo@gavelresources.com>

Dear Mr. Willens and Mr. Rees:

My name is Ashley Ingram. I'm writing to follow up on a previous email from Congressman Richard Pombo of Gavel Resources (I've listed below). I know the Congressman would like to discuss the Pebble Partnership Project in Alaska in person with The Deputy Secretary. Do you have any availability to meet with him after the holidays in January? Also, on the 18th and 19th, Pebble CEO Tom Collier will be in town and can join the meeting too, if that's an option.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ingram

Legislative Assistant

Gavel Resources | www.gavelresources.com

[400 First Street SE](#) | Second Floor | Washington, DC 20003

Phone: 574-850-7575 | Email: AIngram@gavelresources.com



GAVEL
RESOURCES

Previous Correspondence:

David,

I hope this note finds you well. It is exciting to see all the actions and policy developments you and the others are implementing at The Department of the Interior. You all are making great progress and I look forward to seeing all the changes that you have planned come to fruition.

I'm reaching out today to set up a meeting with you on behalf of the Pebble Partnership, LLP, regarding a couple issues they have relevant to the department.

As you know, Pebble is a large mineral (copper, gold, moly) deposit in a very remote part of southwestern Alaska—about 200 miles from Bristol Bay---on state lands designated for mineral development. A couple years ago the EPA used a little known provision of the Clean Water Act, called 404c, to veto the project before they applied for a permit...and before they even announced a mine plan.

Fortunately, the EPA, without admitting fault, is now going forth to correct the situation to allow for the normal permitting process to take place by initiating steps to withdraw its 'Proposed Determination' restricting development at the Pebble Project.

In light of this development, on October 12th, 2017, the Pebble Project introduced a new mine plan with enhanced environmental safeguards that are close to the EPA's most stringent mark for such a mine. This plan is smaller in scope and its footprint and operating plan is very different from any of the previously discussed and analyzed proposals.

The Pebble Partnership looks forward to proving it can produce an environmentally

responsible resource development project that respects cultural values and develops economic opportunities for Southwest Alaska.

As Pebble moves forward toward the NEPA process, there are a couple issues we'd like to discuss with you in person. Attending the meeting with me would be Peter Robinson of the Pebble Partnership team who is based here in DC. Please let me know your availability for such a meeting.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

From: [Voyles, James R](#) on behalf of [Depsec, NEPA](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Willens, Todd D](#); [Travnicek, Andrea J](#); [Aurelia Skipwith](#)
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2018 2:03:26 PM

Please see the link.

Edits to the document occur on pages 10-11, 13-20, 47, 82-83, 90, 94, and 98.

I am reviewing now. Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

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

From: **Oetker, Michael** <michael_oetker@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 11:19 AM
Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
To: Depsec, NEPA <nepa.depsec@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, <cathy_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Leopoldo Miranda <leopoldo_miranda@fws.gov>, Larry Williams <larry_williams@fws.gov>, Robert Tawes <robert_tawes@fws.gov>, Frazer, Gary <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <Charisa_Morris@fws.gov>, Patel, Kashyap <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, David Dell <david_dell@fws.gov>, Gina Shultz <Gina_Shultz@fws.gov>, Vicki Mott <vicki.mott@sol.doi.gov>, Shannon Goessling <shannon.goessling@sol.doi.gov>

This is a follow up to our September 14, 2018 briefing on the draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. During the briefing, we notified Mr. Bernhardt and others that the project applicants requested last minute changes to the draft EIS on September 13, 2018 and that we were working with the applicants for potential changes to the document.

Our follow up assignment coming out of the briefing were:

1. to finalize the document,
2. to obtain Solicitor surname, and;
3. to send the updated document (with any changes highlighted) to James Voyles by September 28, 2018.

The document is now finished. Two documents (SOL surname and revised dEIS) are now posted to the previously-shared link: (b) (5)

All of the changes are highlighted in the DEIS, and appear on 14 pages. The changes are relatively minor. The main edits surrounded two substantive themes: (b) (5)

(Pages 1,6, 9, 10, 11, and 38) and addressing (b) (5)
(Pages 4, 5, 74, 75, 82, and 91). In

addition there are minor editorial edits on Pages 2 and 86.

Please let us know if you have any questions and please let us know when the document is approved for publishing in the Federal Register..

Mike

On Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 3:45 PM Oetker, Michael <michael_oetker@fws.gov> wrote:

EIS Review Team

I am requesting a time and date for an oral briefing, at your earliest convenience, to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Eastern Collier County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan in eastern Collier County, Florida. This is a Stage 4 briefing, focusing on the draft EIS and the Notice of Availability to be published in the Federal Register.

We have been working closely with East Collier Property Owners, the Applicants, and have an aggressive timeline for the permitting decision. This is a programmatic project involving eleven large landowners, several conservation groups, and over 150,000 acres in Southwestern Florida. It would provide coverage for take of 18 species, including the endangered Florida panther, incidental to the Applicants planned agricultural, development, and mining activities.

We request this briefing to be scheduled on September 14, 2018, if possible.

I have attached the briefing scheduling request form, in accordance with scheduling guidance we received on August 22, 2018. The google link in the attachment contains the briefing materials, including the draft EIS. The PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike

--

Mike Oetker
Acting Regional Director
USFWS, Southeast Region
404-679-4000

--

Mike Oetker
Acting Regional Director
USFWS, Southeast Region
404-679-4000

From: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
To: [Voyles, James R](#)
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2018 2:58:00 PM

Please thoroughly look at this tonight and we can discuss this at 8/45

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Depsec, NEPA" <nepa.depsec@ios.doi.gov>
Date: September 27, 2018 at 2:03:26 PM EDT
To: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

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Cc: Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Leopoldo Miranda <leopoldo_miranda@fws.gov>, Larry Williams <larry_williams@fws.gov>, Robert Tawes <robert_tawes@fws.gov>, Frazer, Gary <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <Charisa_Morris@fws.gov>, Patel, Kashyap <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, David Dell <david_dell@fws.gov>, Gina Shultz <Gina_Shultz@fws.gov>, Vicki Mott <vicki.mott@sol.doi.gov>, Shannon Goessling <shannon.goessling@sol.doi.gov>

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Mike Oetker
Acting Regional Director
USFWS, Southeast Region
404-679-4000

--

Mike Oetker
Acting Regional Director
USFWS, Southeast Region
404-679-4000

From: [Jorjani, Daniel H](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Fwd: UFJ - Chevron Step 1
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:58:04 AM

Privileged/Deliberative

FYSA from Kyle -

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Scherer, Kyle" <kyle.scherer@sol.doi.gov>
Date: February 5, 2020 at 11:00:58 PM EST
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: UFJ - Chevron Step 1

*****PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL NOT SUBJECT TO FOIA*****

Dan,

You asked that we provide a summary (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please let me know.

Regards,

Kyle

*****PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL NOT SUBJECT TO FOIA*****

From: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
To: [David Bernhardt](#)
Subject: Fwd: Zinke's deputy: Civil, self-confident and under the radar
Date: Friday, August 10, 2018 3:57:05 PM

FYI

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

From: **Swift, Heather** <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 1:18 PM

Subject: Zinke's deputy: Civil, self-confident and under the radar

To: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Faith Vander Voort <faith_vandervoort@ios.doi.gov>

Zinke's deputy: Civil, self-confident and under the radar

Michael Doyle and Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E News reporters Published: Friday, August 10, 2018 Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt (right) listened as American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard spoke during the annual state of Colorado energy luncheon last month in Denver. David Zalubowski/Associated Press

Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt drew no crowd when he quietly entered a Capitol Hill room recently.

The No. 2 man at an agency that employs some 70,000 workers and spends about \$11.7 billion annually arrived with neither fanfare nor palace guard. When he exited the Cannon House Office Building room after about 45 minutes with several lawmakers, he amiably declined to blab to a waiting reporter.

"I certainly enjoyed the opportunity to share my views with the members of Congress, as appropriate," Bernhardt allowed, following a judicious pause. "They asked for a briefing, and I thought they should have the opportunity to be briefed."

And that was pretty much that (*E&E Daily*, July 13).

The midafternoon Capitol Hill moment displayed classic Bernhardt: civil, self-confident and sometimes under the radar. He is a careful lawyer who knows his brief. He is Mr. Inside, complementing the gunslinging former Navy SEAL who is his boss, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

In short, Zinke wears the cowboy hat. Bernhardt does not.

"The secretary certainly has a much more public-facing role," Bernhardt said in a subsequent interview in his spacious Interior office. "My role is driving the department, trying to accomplish his vision and the vision of the president."

A 48-year-old native of Rifle, Colo., Bernhardt reached his one-year anniversary as deputy interior secretary on Aug. 1. It's his second time around with the department, having served during the George W. Bush administration between 2001 and 2009, culminating then in the key position of interior solicitor.

Both supporters and opponents of the Trump administration's interior policies describe Bernhardt in remarkably similar ways — with different spins.

"He is going to be more prepared and will have read absolutely everything," said supporter Jon Hrobsky, an attorney and former interior official. "That's not all that common. The truth is there are plenty of people that are happy to not have read, or have read the CliffsNotes version of something. He is the exact opposite."

Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman of California, an opponent, said, "He's got a lot of experience and a lot of skill on these issues, and it comes from having represented over many, many years a very long list of polluters and special interests."

Experience cuts two ways

David Bernhardt. Photo credit: Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP.

Bernhardt's lobbying clients included energy and mining companies and organizations, a hunting advocacy group and California's sprawling Westlands Water District. Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP.

Bernhardt's past work as a lawyer and lobbyist shaped his reputation.

Before he joined the Trump administration, Bernhardt's legal clients ranged from Sempra Energy, NRG Energy Inc. and the Independent Petroleum Association of America to Safari Club International, California's sprawling Westlands Water District and the Rosemont Copper Co. in Arizona, according to his financial disclosure statement.

On behalf of Westlands, for instance, he once filed a \$1 billion lawsuit against the government in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. The suit centered on the alleged irrigation drainage failings of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, an agency Bernhardt now helps oversee ([Greenwire](#), Nov. 3, 2017).

A judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2013.

This past work, and how it might color his Interior responsibilities, spurred Democratic opposition last year to Bernhardt's nomination, which ultimately prevailed on a 53-43 vote. The four absent senators for the late-afternoon Monday vote were Republicans, who presumably would have supported Bernhardt had they been present.

Zinke, by contrast, won confirmation on a 68-31 vote.

"Bernhardt is a veteran operator in the Washington swamp, knows how to get these things done, and has ties to the Washington special interests that are seeking to profit from Western lands," said Chris Saeger of the nonprofit Western Values Project, echoing the Democratic criticisms.

Supporters, and those who view Interior Department issues in terms that aren't black and white, counter with homage to Bernhardt's competence. Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, praised his "extensive experience and knowledge of issues," and Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah called Bernhardt "one of the nation's most experienced and authoritative legal minds on natural resource policy."

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership President Whit Fosburgh likewise said the group saw Bernhardt as someone "who knows how the department works, and can run that ship." Bernhardt has lived up to their expectations, Fosburgh said, citing Interior's handling of an Obama-era conservation agreement to address sage grouse.

Bernhardt knows the complicated, multistate sage grouse plans "inside and out," Fosburgh said.

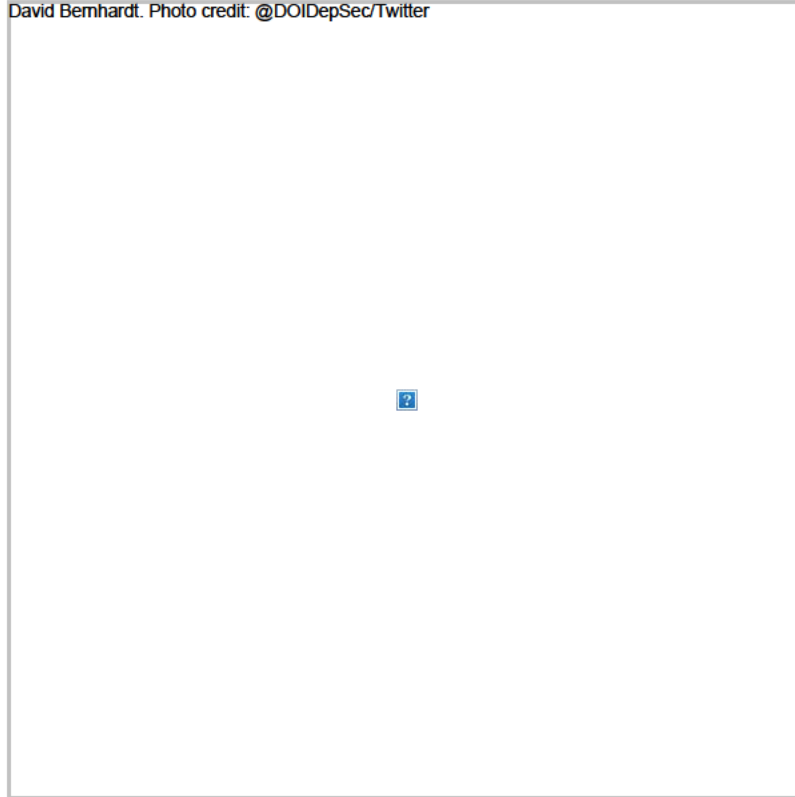
"He has shepherded that process internally," Fosburgh said. "And, honestly, I think it is a good process. They have done nothing to blow up the overall agreement."

But when the Western Values Project analyzed some 13,000 documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request for sage grouse materials, the environmentalists found it odd that they apparently included no emails sent by the bureaucratically astute Bernhardt.

"Here is the person who has been put in charge by Secretary Zinke to revise the sage grouse cooperative agreement across 11 states," said Jayson O'Neill of the Western Values Project. "So you scratch your head and say, 'How is he in charge but not communicating?'"

The workday

David Bernhardt. Photo credit: @DOIDepSec/Twitter



Bernhardt spoke with agency employees earlier this summer. @DOIDepSec/Twitter

Bernhardt lives in northern Virginia with his wife, also a federal government lawyer, and two children. On weekdays, he typically arrives at Interior headquarters between 6:45 and 7:15 in the morning. For the next 12 or 13 hours, he'll run a gauntlet of meetings, phone calls, check-ins, document reviews and personal entreaties.

Take, for example, Jan. 31, 2018 — a fairly typical day.

That morning, according to Interior schedules released under the Freedom of Information Act, Bernhardt participated in a daily "scheduling and communications" meeting. In his office, he was then set for a series of meetings with Ute tribal leaders, representatives of the Canada-based Kinross Gold Corp. and the president of BP Gulf of Mexico.

In the afternoon, Bernhardt met with Interior personnel and with representatives of the Barron Collier Cos., a Florida-based firm with diversified interests in farming, real estate and oil exploration. The day ended with a reception for a newly sworn-in Interior official.

"What the job really is, that you're an understudy for the secretary," Bernhardt said.

Bernhardt's prior work does — or did — impose some limits on his responsibilities ([Greenwire](#), July 30).

"I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate," Bernhardt wrote.

The one-year period has now passed.

Bernhardt's influence, in any event, goes beyond articulating specific policies. Paperwork and personnel decisions, for instance, are crucial.

Last April, Interior's Office of Inspector General sharply criticized how the department's leaders and Executive Resources Board handled the transfers of Senior Executive Service personnel.

"The ERB did not document its plan or the reasons it used when selecting senior executives for reassignment, nor did it gather the information needed to make informed decisions about the reassignments," the 30-page [report](#) said.

The IG added that some senior staffers "questioned whether these reassignments were political or punitive, based on a prior conflict with DOI leadership, or on the senior executive's nearness

to retirement."

In his formal response, Bernhardt blamed problems he said were inherited from the prior administration, but he also pledged reforms.

Bernhardt now chairs Interior's seven-member Executive Resources Board, which includes five political appointees and two career members of the Senior Executive Service. The board meets "roughly every two weeks, give or take," Bernhardt said, and decides assignments for senior career staff like park superintendents.

The reassignments are literally reshaping Interior, and Bernhardt's fellow board members look like the department's power center. They include Zinke's chief of staff Scott Hommel, top lawyer Daniel Jorjani and two other influential political appointees: Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason and Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech.

"I think that we've moved from actually not having everything squared away to really being on the forward side of the best way to run [it]," Bernhardt said ([Greenwire](#), July 9).

Bernhardt sometimes goes public, as with a *Washington Post* op-ed today that promotes revisions to the Endangered Species Act and slaps back at what he termed the "hyperbolic and unhelpful" reactions from some environmental organizations. In a quieter way, he is leading efforts to streamline Interior's notoriously slow permitting and environmental review processes. It's the kind of work that can sound like bureaucratic tinkering but leave lasting results.

Outside of work, Bernhardt said he attends "a lot of sporting events" with his children and owns an underused boat that he keeps on the Chesapeake Bay.

"I need to do more fishing," Bernhardt said.

-
Heather Swift
Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
[@DO PressSec](#) | [@SecretaryZinke](#) | [@Interior](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

--

David Longly Bernhardt
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240
(202) 208-6291

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From: [Willits, Todd D](#)
To: [Smith, Daniel C](#); [Larrabee, Jason G](#); [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Cc: [Foster, Maureen D](#); [Robbins, Tasha L](#); [DeSordi, Janice M](#); [Fink, Wendy B](#)
Subject: Invitation: Meeting with Representatives of Barron Collier Companies @ Wed Jan 31, 2018 2pm - 2:45pm (b) (6) .gov
Attachments: [invfile.ics](#)

more details => <https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=VIEW&eid=NWN0YjI2N2Vja29yTFONTlhZjY3ZW03aGEgZHI2ZXJuaGFyZHRaW9zLmRvaS5nb3Y&tok=MjQjdG9kZl93aWxzZW5zQGlicy5kb2kuZ292YjQ4ZDBlOGU2YjczZjhMmYyZTZhYzksMzBiNjY2Y2FjNjcxODNkMQ&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en>

Meeting with Representatives of Barron Collier Companies

Confirmed Attendees
Tom Jones, Vice President, Government Affairs, Barron Collier Companies
Christian Spilker, Vice President, Environmental Policy and Permitting, Collier Enterprises
Deidre Duncan, Partner, Hunton & Williams
Karma Brown, Counsel, Hunton & Williams

POC
Karma Brown
Counsel
kbbrown@hunton.com <<mailto:kbbrown@hunton.com>>
p 202.955.1893

When
Wed Jan 31, 2018 2pm - 2:45pm Eastern Time
Where
Room 6120 (map <<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=Room+6120&hl=en>>)
Video call
https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/todd-willens <https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/todd-willens?ceid=dG9kZl93aWxzZW5zQGlicy5kb2kuZ292YjQ4ZDBlOGU2YjczZjhMmYyZTZhYzksMzBiNjY2Y2FjNjcxODNkMQ&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en>
Calendar

- (b) (6) .gov
- who
- todd_willens@ios.doi.gov
- organizer
- gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov - creator
- daniel_smith@nps.gov
- jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov
- (b) (6) .gov
- maureen.foster@nps.gov
- optional
- tasha_j_robbins@ios.doi.gov
- optional
- janice_desordi@nps.gov
- optional
- wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov
- optional

Going?
Yes <https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=RESPOND&eid=NWN0YjI2N2Vja29yTFONTlhZjY3ZW03aGEgZHI2ZXJuaGFyZHRaW9zLmRvaS5nb3Y&rst=1&tok=MjQjdG9kZl93aWxzZW5zQGlicy5kb2kuZ292YjQ4ZDBlOGU2YjczZjhMmYyZTZhYzksMzBiNjY2Y2FjNjcxODNkMQ&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en>
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No <https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=RESPOND&eid=NWN0YjI2N2Vja29yTFONTlhZjY3ZW03aGEgZHI2ZXJuaGFyZHRaW9zLmRvaS5nb3Y&rst=2&tok=MjQjdG9kZl93aWxzZW5zQGlicy5kb2kuZ292YjQ4ZDBlOGU2YjczZjhMmYyZTZhYzksMzBiNjY2Y2FjNjcxODNkMQ&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en>
more options => <https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=VIEW&eid=NWN0YjI2N2Vja29yTFONTlhZjY3ZW03aGEgZHI2ZXJuaGFyZHRaW9zLmRvaS5nb3Y&tok=MjQjdG9kZl93aWxzZW5zQGlicy5kb2kuZ292YjQ4ZDBlOGU2YjczZjhMmYyZTZhYzksMzBiNjY2Y2FjNjcxODNkMQ&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en>

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Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. Learn More <<https://support.google.com/calendar/answer/37135#forwarding>> .

From: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: On one of Oregon's wildest rivers, mining protections lapse — High Country News
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 6:55:00 AM

<https://www.hcn.org/articles/rivers-and-lakes-on-one-of-oregons-wildest-rivers-mining-protections-lapse/>

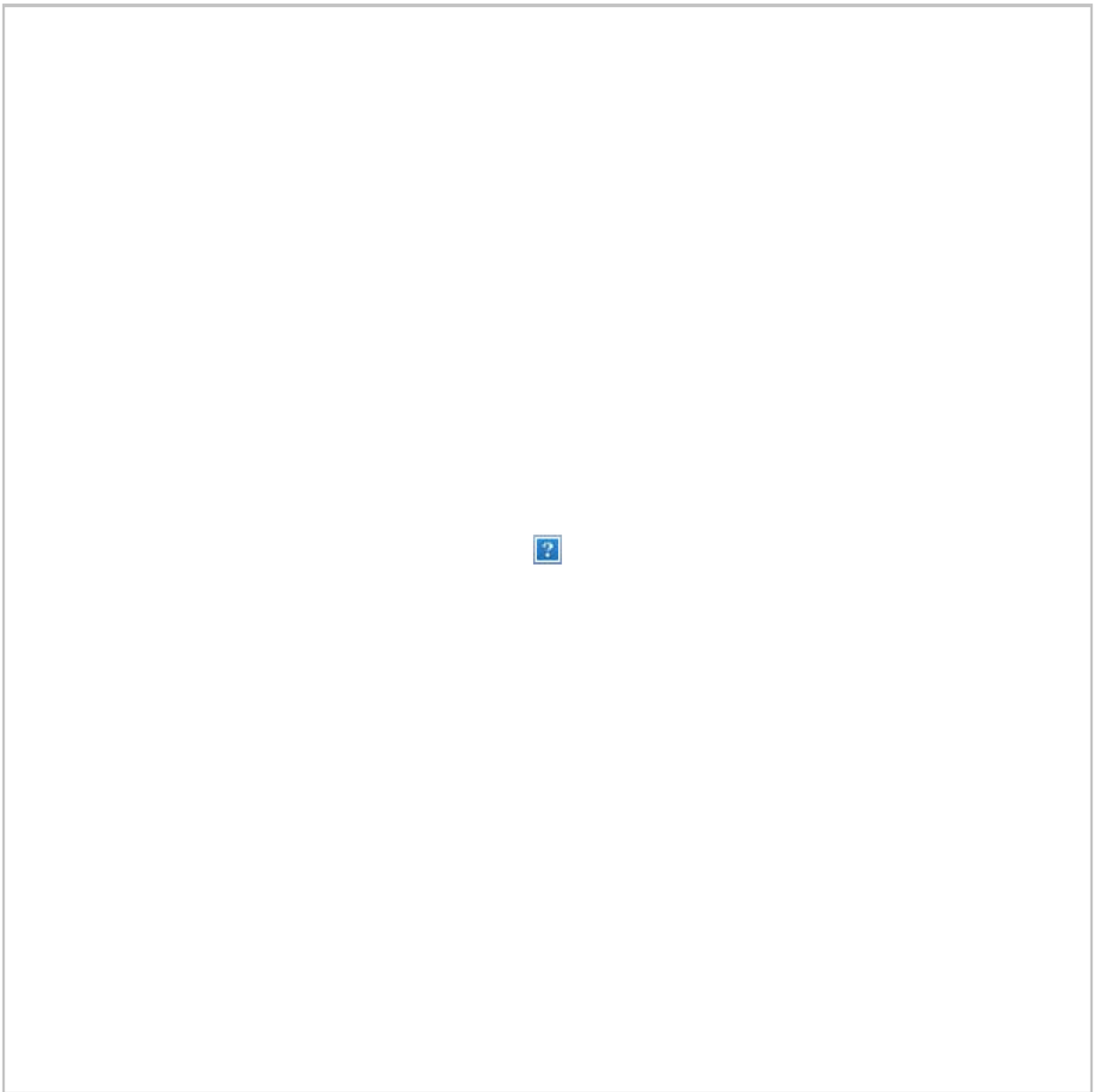
On one of Oregon's wildest rivers, mining protections lapse

[Kate Schimel](#) News Aug. 15, 2018

In tight, deep canyons and past tree-trimmed sandbars, the Chetco River runs nearly 56 miles from a remote area of southern Oregon's coastal mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Many of the river's miles lie in stretches of national forest crossed by few roads or inside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, accessible only by a steep walk.

"It's unbelievably beautiful and clear," said Zachary Collier, who owns the Northwest Rafting Company and is one of the only operators to run trips on the upper Chetco. Its lower reaches, where dense coastal forests approach the river's edge, offer world-class salmon and steelhead fishing. The river sustains human populations, too: People in Brookings and Harbor rely on it for drinking water.

But, due to inaction by the Interior Department, stretches of the river and its watershed are now open to mining. In late July, the agency allowed a ban on new mining exploration to expire [along 17 miles of the Chetco's middle and lower reaches](#). The move comes as limitations on mining on public lands are rolled back nationwide. Environmentalists say that is revealing the weaknesses of key environmental laws, including [the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act](#).



Kayakers on the Chetco River in southern Oregon. Protections that prohibited new mining on the lower stretches of the river expired last month.

[U.S. Forest Service](#)

For 30 years, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has protected stretches of the Chetco from development. But the act is limited. It offers three categories of protection: wild, scenic and recreational. While dam-building is forbidden and extensive construction of infrastructure restricted under all three designations, only stretches labeled “wild” are off-limits to mining and mining exploration.

The Chetco’s 44.5 protected miles include a mix of the three categories. In the

past, a mining operation had staked claims along 24 miles of its length. In the short term, “the solution is to plug the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act loophole for mining on the Chetco,” said Andy Kerr, a longtime public lands activist and conservation consultant. In the long term, he says the act itself needs to be overhauled to prohibit mining on all wild and scenic rivers.

Oregon politicians have attempted to minimize that loophole since 2010. Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden and others introduced legislation that would put most of the river off limits to mining and extend additional protections. But those bills have since languished as Congress remains trapped in partisan gridlock.

So, to prevent a rush of mining claims that would complicate implementation of the new protections, the Forest Service proposed a five-year ban on new mining exploration. Any current mining claims would remain intact, but new development would be off-limits. Such proposals are typical when legislation is pending; this one received strong local support and was approved by the Bureau of Land Management in 2013.

With the bills still stalled, the Forest Service filed for an extension in 2016, but the Interior Department did not act. With expiration looming, this spring, Wyden and a group of Oregon and California Congressmen [wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who has the ability to implement emergency protections, asking him to intervene directly.](#)

“With the expiration date of the current five-year withdrawal fast approaching, and what appears to be insufficient time to complete the process to extend it, our staffs cannot learn anything concrete about what is happening or what is causing what appears to be an inexcusable delay,” they wrote.

But the ban expired when the deadline passed without action from Zinke or the Interior Department. Reinstating it could require an extensive public comment process and administrative approval, during which new mining claims would be permitted.

The removal of protections by inaction is part of a broader trend in the Trump administration, which has prioritized the deregulation of the mining, energy and agriculture industries. Last year, Zinke [suspended the activities of more than 200 advisory committees that consult on management decisions in national parks](#). In addition, key leadership and science advisory posts have gone unfilled for long stretches in the Department of Interior and Environmental Protection Agency.

The cost to the Chetco of that inaction is not yet clear; there are no reports of new mining claims since the ban quietly expired on July 25. On July 26, Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, D, [introduced federal legislation](#) that would reinstate the ban and make it permanent. But given the scale of the environmental battles being waged under this administration, Collier, of Northwest Rafting Company, is not sure how quickly it could go anywhere. “With so many fires to put out, this is getting overlooked,” he said.

Kate Schimel is an associate editor at High Country News, overseeing northern coverage.

Read more

More from Rivers & Lakes

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Voyles, James R](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Re: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2018 3:03:23 PM
Importance: High

On it.

On Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 2:58 PM David Bernhardt <[\(b\) \(6\)](#).gov> wrote:
Please thoroughly look at this tonight and we can discuss this at 8/45

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Depsec, NEPA" <nepa.depsec@ios.doi.gov>
Date: September 27, 2018 at 2:03:26 PM EDT
To: David Bernhardt <[\(b\) \(6\)](#).gov>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Please see the link.

Edits to the document occur on pages 10-11, 13-20, 47, 82-83, 90, 94, and 98.

I am reviewing now. Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

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

From: **Oetker, Michael** <michael_oetker@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 11:19 AM
Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
To: Depsec, NEPA <nepa.depsec@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, <cathy_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Leopoldo Miranda <leopoldo_miranda@fws.gov>, Larry Williams <larry_williams@fws.gov>, Robert Tawes <robert_tawes@fws.gov>, Frazer, Gary <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <Charisa_Morris@fws.gov>, Patel, Kashyap <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, David Dell <david_dell@fws.gov>, Gina Shultz <Gina_Shultz@fws.gov>, Vicki Mott <vicki.mott@sol.doi.gov>, Shannon Goessling <shannon.goessling@sol.doi.gov>

This is a follow up to our September 14, 2018 briefing on the draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. During the briefing, we notified Mr. Bernhardt and others that the project applicants requested last minute changes to the draft EIS on September 13, 2018 and that we were working with the applicants for potential changes to the document.

Our follow up assignment coming out of the briefing were:

1. to finalize the document,
2. to obtain Solicitor surname, and;
3. to send the updated document (with any changes highlighted) to James Voyles by September 28, 2018.

The document is now finished. Two documents (SOL surname and revised dEIS) are now posted to the previously-shared link:

(b) (5)

All of the changes are highlighted in the DEIS, and appear on 14 pages. The changes are relatively minor. The main edits surrounded two substantive themes: (b) (5)

(Pages 1,6, 9, 10, 11, and 38) and (b) (5) (Pages 4, 5, 74, 75, 82, and 91). In addition there are minor editorial edits on Pages 2 and 86.

Please let us know if you have any questions and please let us know when the document is approved for publishing in the Federal Register..

Mike

On Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 3:45 PM Oetker, Michael <michael_oetker@fws.gov> wrote:

EIS Review Team

I am requesting a time and date for an oral briefing, at your earliest convenience, to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Eastern Collier County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan in eastern Collier County, Florida. This is a Stage 4 briefing, focusing on the draft EIS and the Notice of Availability to be published in the Federal Register.

We have been working closely with East Collier Property Owners, the Applicants, and have an aggressive timeline for the permitting decision. This is a programmatic project involving eleven large landowners, several conservation groups, and over 150,000 acres in Southwestern Florida. It would provide coverage for take of 18 species, including the endangered Florida panther, incidental to the Applicants planned agricultural,

development, and mining activities.

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I have attached the briefing scheduling request form, in accordance with scheduling guidance we received on August 22, 2018. The google link in the attachment contains the briefing materials, including the draft EIS. The PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike

--

Mike Oetker
Acting Regional Director
USFWS, Southeast Region
404-679-4000

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Mike Oetker
Acting Regional Director
USFWS, Southeast Region
404-679-4000

--

Best,
James

James Voyles
Senior Counsel
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-733-7477



From: [Voyles, James R](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Re: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Draft EIS for Eastern Collier County, Florida, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
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To: Depsec, NEPA <nepa.depsec@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, <cathy_gulac@ios.doi.gov>, James Voyles <james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Leopoldo Miranda <leopoldo_miranda@fws.gov>, Larry Williams <larry_williams@fws.gov>, Robert Tawes <robert_tawes@fws.gov>, Frazer, Gary <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <Charisa_Morris@fws.gov>, Patel, Kashyap <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, David Dell <david_dell@fws.gov>, Gina Shultz <Gina_Shultz@fws.gov>, Vicki Mott <vicki.mott@sol.doi.gov>, Shannon Goessling <shannon.goessling@sol.doi.gov>

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404-679-4000

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Best,
James

James Voyles
Senior Counsel
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-733-7477



From: [Swift, Heather N](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Hommel, Scott C](#); [Zinke, Ryan K](#); [Bockmier, John M](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:40:14 AM
Importance: High

Clips below. Went to spam this morning.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
US Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Date: October 30, 2018 at 4:50:26 AM CDT
To: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018



U.S. Department of the Interior

Daily News Briefing: 30 October 2018

DOI News

[Interior Dept. Supervisor Caught Spying on Employees. Sending Sexually Explicit Material](#)

[Oil Production On Federal Lands To Hit New Record](#)

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[Slave Descendants Say Tribal Chief Belongs In Bias Suit](#)

Bureau of Land Management

[Island Park pile burns planned by the Bureau of Land Management](#)

[BLM to begin prescribed fire projects in N. California](#)

[1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter](#)

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[BOEM all ears at South Fork](#)

[Floating Wind Farms Off California Will Require New Tethering Technology](#)

Bureau of Reclamation

[Drought's cost: Less water in Lake Mead, higher rates for consumers](#)

[CAP celebrates 50 years since landmark legislation](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Trophy Hunter On Ryan Zinke Advisory Council Bags Permits To Import 3 Lion Heads](#)

[Justices Won't Hear Chevron Test Over FWS Otter Program](#)

[Judge: Feds Failed to Protect Endangered Canada Lynx](#)

[Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Increases](#)

National Park Service

[Trump administration recognizing civil rights sites around the US](#)

[Couple who died after falling in Yosemite National Park identified](#)

[National Park Service taking competitive route to lease, improve 3 D.C. golf courses](#)

[National Parks Service to examine St. Joseph trail systems](#)

[National Park Service offers plan for Kipahulu overcrowding](#)

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[Mining and the environment: the biggest conservation projects in mining](#)

U.S. Geological Service

[As researchers study sea level rise in Collier, scientists turn to businesses for input](#)

Opinion

[Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules](#)

[Democrats, Don't Take Native American Voters for Granted](#)

[The Drilling Boom On Federal Lands Is Driven More By Price Than Policy](#)

[Opinion: Congress must reauthorize the Conservation Fund](#)

[Op-Ed: National Monument Status for Camp Nelson Good for Kentucky Tourism](#)

[Improving The Interior Department's Science And Policies](#)

[Why national parks accessibility matters](#)

[Marin Voice: Huffman should protect public land and health, not ranchers](#)

Top National News

[Pittsburgh Suspect Appears in Court as Families Prepare for Funerals](#)

[Trump Sending 5,200 Troops to the Border in an Election-Season Response to Migrants](#)

[Mueller's Russia probe nears critical post-midterm phase](#)

Washington Schedule

DOI News

Interior Dept. Supervisor Caught Spying on Employees, Sending Sexually Explicit Material

Government Executive (Katz)

A supervisor at the Interior Department sent sexually explicit messages to three subordinate employees and "inappropriately" used department surveillance to capture images of employees without their knowledge, according to a new watchdog report. The Bureau of Land Management manager sent messages to one subordinate from a government computer during work hours, and to two other subordinates from his personal cell phone. All parties agreed the exchange was consensual, Interior's inspector general said, but the manager acknowledged the conduct was not appropriate.

Oil Production On Federal Lands To Hit New Record

Oil Price (Slav)

Crude oil production from onshore federal lands reached a record high over the first seven months of this year, New York Times' Eric Lipton said in a tweet responding to a claim that oil production in Wyoming had peaked three years ago. Lipton quoted data from the Department of the Interior, which has not been made public yet, as part of an

investigation he and climate reporter Hiroko Tabuchi recently published about a second shale oil boom. The investigation cites calculations based in Interior Department data made by Taxpayers for Common Sense, which suggests over 12.8 million acres of federal land were offered for leasing to oil and gas companies in FY 2018, which ended last month. This, Lipton and Tabuchi note, is three times more than the average acreage offered for leasing during the second Obama administration.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Slave Descendants Say Tribal Chief Belongs In Bias Suit

Law360 (Hanson)

Descendants of slaves once held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have asked a D.C. federal court to deny a bid by the tribe's principal chief to escape their discrimination suit, saying...(subscription required)

Bureau of Land Management

Island Park pile burns planned by the Bureau of Land Management

Standard Journal (Ross)

The Bureau of Land Management's, Idaho Falls District, fire managers expect sufficient weather and environmental conditions to be satisfactory enough to begin burns in the Shotgun Valley area around Island Park. Around 200 acres are planned to face ignitions of cured piles if conditions are permitting. "There are several reasons we are focusing on the Shotgun Valley," said Channing Swan, forester for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office. "We want to protect the community from large, uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires, and we need to improve wildlife habitat and forest health and promote aspen regeneration."

BLM to begin prescribed fire projects in N. California

Herald and News (Owens)

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1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter

KRCR-TV (Kreider)

The capture of 1,000 wild horses from the Devil's Garden Plateau in Modoc County has sparked debate across the United States and the fear of slaughter has prompted a new lawsuit. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the wild horses are being gathered in response to an enormous overpopulation which is affecting local resources including natural resources for ranchers and native wildlife.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM all ears at South Fork

ReNews.biz

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is holding three public meetings next month as part of an environmental review of Deepwater Wind's proposed 90MW South Fork offshore wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island. BOEM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement in response to Deepwater's plans for an up to 15-turbine project, offshore substation and export cable to East Hampton in New York state.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to adequately protect endangered Canada lynx from being accidentally killed or injured by bobcat trappers, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the agency illegally allowed incidental harvest of lynx, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Increases

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Washington Business Journal (Liming)

The park service and Federal City Council had been negotiating a lease for Langston, Rock Creek and East Potomac. Those talks are over. (subscription required)

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News-Press Now (Montemayor)

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Honolulu Star-Advertiser (Wilson)

The cascading Pools of Oheo and 400-foot Waimoku Falls are among the natural wonders awaiting those willing to brave winding Hana Highway to reach the remote Kipahulu District of Haleakala National Park.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Mining and the environment: the biggest conservation projects in mining

Mining Technology (Casey)

As the mining industry becomes more aware of the environmental damage large-scale extractive operations can cause, many are taking steps to reduce the harmfulness of their operations. Often, this takes the form of extensive land rehabilitation projects, where companies set out long-term plans to redevelop land after a mine has been exhausted; however, many companies have adopted a more specific approach, engaging in operations to protect individual species of wildlife native to the lands where they mine. Here are five of the biggest conservation projects in mining...Appalachian Wildlife Center, Kentucky, US...The project has already received \$35m in funding from donors and the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement, as the national government aims to improve on its historically poor performance of mine rehabilitation in the region; according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, by 2010, just 6%-11% of Appalachia's former mines had been converted into profitable projects.

U.S. Geological Service

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Naples Daily News (Riley)

As rising sea levels and climate change become a growing concern around the globe, Collier County and a group of scientists are studying what its effects will be on the county and turning to the business community for input. Researchers at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University and the U.S. Geological Survey are in the midst of a three-year study aiming to provide the county and the cities of Naples, Everglades City and Marco Island tools they can use to find sea level rise vulnerabilities and fix them.

Opinion

Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules

Washington Post (Editorial Board)

To the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey revealed. Investigators found that Mr. Zinke's wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be "cleanest" and "lowest risk" if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him. He has since changed the policy to allow the spousal rides.

Democrats, Don't Take Native American Voters for Granted

New York Times (Ahtone)

Ahead of the midterm elections, the state of North Dakota is using one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country to engage in that most American of traditions: excluding and discriminating against indigenous people. Thanks to the state's Republican Party, all who want to take part in the democratic process must have a residential address on their identification cards. However, many tribal citizens in North Dakota don't have residential addresses or postal service. There are five federally recognized tribes in the state, with five reservations. More than 31,000 indigenous people live in North Dakota, and around 60 percent of that population lives on reservations. Those tribal citizens are usually issued tribal ID cards by their nations or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That makes those documents federally recognized, and once issued, they can be used for everything from getting through security at the airport to opening bank accounts. But they can no longer be used to vote.

The Drilling Boom On Federal Lands Is Driven More By Price Than Policy

Forbes (Blackmon)

The New York Times published an interesting piece about the oil and gas boom on federal lands over the weekend. Or rather, as the Times's headline puts it, the "Fracking Boom" on federal lands, because of course the headline contains that loaded word, along with the implication that the entire drilling (which, believe it or not, is not the same thing as "fracking") boom is being "Driven By Trump Policy Changes." It isn't.

Opinion: Congress must reauthorize the Conservation Fund

The Oregonian (Cornelison)

A key conservation program that has been at the center of protecting and preserving lands for more than 50 years is at risk. On Sept. 30, Congress allowed The Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. Congress has taken the first step in both the House and Senate committees. But now that the fund has expired, it is crucial that Congress work quickly to ensure the future of America's best conservation program and its countless projects that now have an uncertain future.

Op-Ed: National Monument Status for Camp Nelson Good for Kentucky Tourism

RCN

This past Saturday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Congressman Andy Barr announced that Camp Nelson Heritage Park in Jessamine County has been designated as a national monument. Years in the making, this makes Camp Nelson the first national monument in the Bluegrass State. Importantly, this designation will be good for business in Kentucky.

Improving The Interior Department's Science And Policies

Heartland (Sterling)

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) is taking a page out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) playbook, to improve the transparency behind the science used to develop regulations on the millions of acres of public lands it controls, and the legal actions it takes in response to lawsuits filed against it. On September 11, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a Secretarial Order promoting transparency and accountability in consent decrees and settlement agreements, aimed at ending secret "sue and settle" deals with activist plaintiffs.

Why national parks accessibility matters

National Geographic (Djossa)

In 2015, Ambreen Tariq spotted a poster in Shenandoah National Park that would transform her connection to her country's public lands. She can't remember the details, but she recalls seeing an African-American woman and child hiking outdoors. Beneath were the words "Find Your Park." "It completely moved me," says Tariq, because the poster affirmed her experiences as an Indian-American Muslim woman outdoors.

Marin Voice: Huffman should protect public land and health, not ranchers

Marin Independent Journal (Johnson)

We, the public, own the 71,000 acres that make up the Point Reyes National Seashore, and the National Park Service is our property manager. By law, the National Park Service is responsible for preserving the public's scenery, wildlife and natural and historic resources "unimpaired" for generations to come. That would certainly include the hundreds of native species that inhabit Point Reyes National Seashore. But the park's tule elk, deer, and possibly other wildlife species are being infected with a fatal contagious disease carried by the cattle that graze lands that the park service leases to private ranchers.

Top National News

Pittsburgh Suspect Appears in Court as Families Prepare for Funerals

Wall Street Journal (Maher, Ailworth)

The man charged in the shooting deaths of 11 people at a synagogue Saturday appeared in a downtown federal courtroom Monday, and victims' families made funeral preparations as this city began to move beyond the shock of the attack. Robert Bowers, 46 years old, faces 29 counts, including hate-crime and firearm offenses in connection with the shooting, and the U.S. attorney's office for the region has started the approval process for seeking the death penalty.

Trump Sending 5,200 Troops to the Border in an Election-Season Response to Migrants

New York Times (Shear, Gibbons-Neff)

More than 5,000 active-duty military troops will deploy to the southern border by the end of this week, Defense Department officials said on Monday, an escalation of a midterm election show of force against a caravan of Central American migrants that President Trump has characterized as an "invasion of our country."

Mueller's Russia probe nears critical post-midterm phase

Fox News (Singman)

President Trump's lawyers have not yet reached a deal with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team to submit written answers to questions on Russian meddling and possible collusion; reaction and analysis from Alex Little, former assistant U.S. attorney and prosecutor. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation is nearing a critical phase -- as the looming midterms could clear the way for a final set of twists and turns in the long-running probe. Key sentencing dates are on the horizon. Mueller's team is widely expected to issue findings soon after the Nov. 6 elections. And the case could yet hold some surprises, given the recent statements of central players.

Washington Schedule

Date	Host	Title
10/31	USEA	<u>Technology Briefing: What Does "Resilience" Of The Electric Power Sector Mean Today?</u>
11/02	GW Energy Club	<u>GW Energy Conference 2018: Transformation & The Democratization of Energy</u>
11/13	SAIS	<u>The Energy Model in Mexico</u>
11/13-15	NCAI	<u>NACA 2018</u>
11/14-16	NCAI	<u>Tribal Interior Budget Council, November 14 - 16, 2018</u>
11/15	USEA	<u>Inaugural Energy Efficiency & Supply Forum</u>

From: [Swift, Heather N](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Hommel, Scott C](#); [Zinke, Ryan K](#); [Bockmier, John M](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:40:14 AM
Importance: High

Clips below. Went to spam this morning.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
US Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Date: October 30, 2018 at 4:50:26 AM CDT
To: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018



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DOI News

Interior Dept. Supervisor Caught Spying on Employees, Sending Sexually Explicit Material

Government Executive (Katz)

A supervisor at the Interior Department sent sexually explicit messages to three subordinate employees and "inappropriately" used department surveillance to capture images of employees without their knowledge, according to a new watchdog report. The Bureau of Land Management manager sent messages to one subordinate from a government computer during work hours, and to two other subordinates from his personal cell phone. All parties agreed the exchange was consensual, Interior's inspector general said, but the manager acknowledged the conduct was not appropriate.

Oil Production On Federal Lands To Hit New Record

Oil Price (Slav)

Crude oil production from onshore federal lands reached a record high over the first seven months of this year, New York Times' Eric Lipton said in a tweet responding to a claim that oil production in Wyoming had peaked three years ago. Lipton quoted data from the Department of the Interior, which has not been made public yet, as part of an

investigation he and climate reporter Hiroko Tabuchi recently published about a second shale oil boom. The investigation cites calculations based in Interior Department data made by Taxpayers for Common Sense, which suggests over 12.8 million acres of federal land were offered for leasing to oil and gas companies in FY 2018, which ended last month. This, Lipton and Tabuchi note, is three times more than the average acreage offered for leasing during the second Obama administration.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Slave Descendants Say Tribal Chief Belongs In Bias Suit

Law360 (Hanson)

Descendants of slaves once held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have asked a D.C. federal court to deny a bid by the tribe's principal chief to escape their discrimination suit, saying...(subscription required)

Bureau of Land Management

Island Park pile burns planned by the Bureau of Land Management

Standard Journal (Ross)

The Bureau of Land Management's, Idaho Falls District, fire managers expect sufficient weather and environmental conditions to be satisfactory enough to begin burns in the Shotgun Valley area around Island Park. Around 200 acres are planned to face ignitions of cured piles if conditions are permitting. "There are several reasons we are focusing on the Shotgun Valley," said Channing Swan, forester for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office. "We want to protect the community from large, uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires, and we need to improve wildlife habitat and forest health and promote aspen regeneration."

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The New York Times published an interesting piece about the oil and gas boom on federal lands over the weekend. Or rather, as the Times's headline puts it, the "Fracking Boom" on federal lands, because of course the headline contains that loaded word, along with the implication that the entire drilling (which, believe it or not, is not the same thing as "fracking") boom is being "Driven By Trump Policy Changes." It isn't.

Opinion: Congress must reauthorize the Conservation Fund

The Oregonian (Cornelison)

A key conservation program that has been at the center of protecting and preserving lands for more than 50 years is at risk. On Sept. 30, Congress allowed The Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. Congress has taken the first step in both the House and Senate committees. But now that the fund has expired, it is crucial that Congress work quickly to ensure the future of America's best conservation program and its countless projects that now have an uncertain future.

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This past Saturday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Congressman Andy Barr announced that Camp Nelson Heritage Park in Jessamine County has been designated as a national monument. Years in the making, this makes Camp Nelson the first national monument in the Bluegrass State. Importantly, this designation will be good for business in Kentucky.

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The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) is taking a page out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) playbook, to improve the transparency behind the science used to develop regulations on the millions of acres of public lands it controls, and the legal actions it takes in response to lawsuits filed against it. On September 11, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a Secretarial Order promoting transparency and accountability in consent decrees and settlement agreements, aimed at ending secret "sue and settle" deals with activist plaintiffs.

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National Geographic (Djossa)

In 2015, Ambreen Tariq spotted a poster in Shenandoah National Park that would transform her connection to her country's public lands. She can't remember the details, but she recalls seeing an African-American woman and child hiking outdoors. Beneath were the words "Find Your Park." "It completely moved me," says Tariq, because the poster affirmed her experiences as an Indian-American Muslim woman outdoors.

Marin Voice: Huffman should protect public land and health, not ranchers

Marin Independent Journal (Johnson)

We, the public, own the 71,000 acres that make up the Point Reyes National Seashore, and the National Park Service is our property manager. By law, the National Park Service is responsible for preserving the public's scenery, wildlife and natural and historic resources "unimpaired" for generations to come. That would certainly include the hundreds of native species that inhabit Point Reyes National Seashore. But the park's tule elk, deer, and possibly other wildlife species are being infected with a fatal contagious disease carried by the cattle that graze lands that the park service leases to private ranchers.

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Fox News (Singman)

President Trump's lawyers have not yet reached a deal with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team to submit written answers to questions on Russian meddling and possible collusion; reaction and analysis from Alex Little, former assistant U.S. attorney and prosecutor. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation is nearing a critical phase -- as the looming midterms could clear the way for a final set of twists and turns in the long-running probe. Key sentencing dates are on the horizon. Mueller's team is widely expected to issue findings soon after the Nov. 6 elections. And the case could yet hold some surprises, given the recent statements of central players.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Daily News Briefing: 30 October 2018

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BLM to begin prescribed fire projects in N. California

Herald and News (Owens)

Fire crews from the Bureau of Land Management's Applegate Field Office in Alturas will conduct pile-burning projects during the fall and winter months, according to a news release. The piles of brush, small trees and limbs were created during juniper and brush removal projects designed to improve rangeland health and wildlife habitat, and to reduce wildfire dangers.

1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter

KRCR-TV (Kreider)

The capture of 1,000 wild horses from the Devil's Garden Plateau in Modoc County has sparked debate across the United States and the fear of slaughter has prompted a new lawsuit. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the wild horses are being gathered in response to an enormous overpopulation which is affecting local resources including natural resources for ranchers and native wildlife.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM all ears at South Fork

ReNews.biz

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is holding three public meetings next month as part of an environmental review of Deepwater Wind's proposed 90MW South Fork offshore wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island. BOEM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement in response to Deepwater's plans for an up to 15-turbine project, offshore substation and export cable to East Hampton in New York state.

Floating Wind Farms Off California Will Require New Tethering Technology

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Offshore wind farms have a big advantage over land-based installations. The wind out over the ocean tends to be stronger and more consistent than over land. It also tends to pick up near the end of the day just when electricity from solar farms is beginning to decrease. Last Friday, the Interior Department took the first steps toward leasing areas off the coast of California for deep water wind development. It will take a while for the process to be completed. The first wind turbines probably won't begin producing electricity until 2024.

Bureau of Reclamation

Drought's cost: Less water in Lake Mead, higher rates for consumers

Arizona Capitol Times (Hawk)

Swaths of mineral-stained white rock, more than 100 feet tall, mark Lake Mead's basin, punctuating decades of drought in the Southwest. At one point, the white rock was underwater. If the lake levels dip too low, Arizona could lose about a seventh of its annual water allotment to the Central Arizona Project, which supplies much of the state's water. The dark side of low-water levels could mean cutbacks to Arizona, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The bureau, responsible for divvying up Lake Mead's water and electric power, in August reported a 57 percent chance that Lake Mead's water levels would be so dismal in 2020 that Arizona and Nevada would face reductions.

CAP celebrates 50 years since landmark legislation

Arizona Capitol Times (Forman)

As the Central Arizona Project celebrates the 50th anniversary of the federal act that authorized the massive water project, Arizona is still locked in complicated conversations about how the state will move forward on water issues. A half century ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Colorado River Basin Project Act, which authorized construction of CAP to funnel water from the Colorado River Basin to central Arizona... The states have released draft agreements to implement drought-contingency plans in the Upper and Lower Basins after the Bureau of Reclamation predicted a shortage in Lake Mead — wherein water levels are projected to fall beneath elevation—1,075 feet above sea level — in 2020.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Trophy Hunter On Ryan Zinke Advisory Council Bags Permits To Import 3 Lion Heads

Huffington Post (D'Angelo)

Steven Chancellor, an Indiana coal executive who raised more than \$1 million for President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, has obtained permits to import the heads and hides of at least three male lions from Africa since being tapped last year to advise Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about the benefits of international hunting. The retroactive permits, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in early June and obtained by HuffPost through a public records request, apply to two lions Chancellor killed for sport in 2017 and a third he hunted in 2016. All three animals were killed in Zimbabwe, one of the African nation's where the Trump administration lifted Obama-era bans on the importation of such animal parts.

Justices Won't Hear Chevron Test Over FWS Otter Program

Law360 (Phillis)

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a challenge to the effect of so-called Chevron deference on agency decision-making, keeping in place a Ninth Circuit decision that rejected a...(subscription required) Additional sources: [Video:KCOY](#)

Judge: Feds Failed to Protect Endangered Canada Lynx

Courthouse News Service (Reese)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to adequately protect endangered Canada lynx from being accidentally killed or injured by bobcat trappers, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the agency illegally allowed incidental harvest of lynx, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Increases

KJZZ (Jones)

After the Frye Fire in southern Arizona in 2017, the already endangered Mount Graham red squirrel population dropped from just over 250 to 35. A year later, the population has almost doubled. Holly Hicks is the statewide coordinator for non-game mammal activity at the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "It was a cooperative effort between us, the Phoenix Zoo, the Forest Service, the Coronado National Forest and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where we did a few different things over this past year," said Hicks. "We did some supplemental feeding and some planting for some new trees." Hicks said the squirrels' biggest threat is habitat loss.

National Park Service

Trump administration recognizing civil rights sites around the US

ABC News (Ebbs)

As Americans engage in a national conversation about divisions in the U.S., amplified after the weekend synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, the Trump administration has been carrying out a bipartisan effort to celebrate sites that mark the history of civil rights and African-Americans in the United States. In recent weeks, the National Park Service has been announcing additions to a network of historic sites related to the civil rights movement. And on Friday, President Trump designated the Union Army recruitment center at Camp Nelson in Kentucky a national monument.

Couple who died after falling in Yosemite National Park identified

People (Merrett)

Two bloggers, who spent the last couple of years of their lives traveling the world, tragically died after falling off an overlook at Yosemite National Park on Oct. 24. The bloggers, who National Park Service spokesperson Jaime Richards identified as married couple 29-year-old Vishnu Viswanath and 30-year-old Meenakshi Moorthy who are from India but were living in America, NBC Bay Area reported, fell approximately 800 feet below Taft Point, National Park Service said in a statement. Additional sources: [Los Angeles Times](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#) [Merced Sun-Times](#) [Video: CBS SF](#)

National Park Service taking competitive route to lease, improve 3 D.C. golf courses

Washington Business Journal (Liming)

The park service and Federal City Council had been negotiating a lease for Langston, Rock

Creek and East Potomac. Those talks are over. (subscription required)

National Parks Service to examine St. Joseph trail systems

News-Press Now (Montemayor)

The Pony Express Trail is one of two trails that will be analyzed as part of a four-day study from multiple National Parks service members in November. The nation's leading agency for national parks will be in St. Joseph in November as the city looks to revitalize some of its most historic locations. Making the trek all the way from Santa Fe, New Mexico, landscape architects and two trail historians from the National Parks Service will spend four days getting a pulse of St. Joseph's history come Nov. 5. During that time, National Park Service members will meet with local stakeholders, speak with historians and analyze a treasure chest of information related to two historic St. Joseph trails: the Pony Express and California Gold Rush Trails.

National Park Service offers plan for Kipahulu overcrowding

Honolulu Star-Advertiser (Wilson)

The cascading Pools of Oheo and 400-foot Waimoku Falls are among the natural wonders awaiting those willing to brave winding Hana Highway to reach the remote Kipahulu District of Haleakala National Park.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Mining and the environment: the biggest conservation projects in mining

Mining Technology (Casey)

As the mining industry becomes more aware of the environmental damage large-scale extractive operations can cause, many are taking steps to reduce the harmfulness of their operations. Often, this takes the form of extensive land rehabilitation projects, where companies set out long-term plans to redevelop land after a mine has been exhausted; however, many companies have adopted a more specific approach, engaging in operations to protect individual species of wildlife native to the lands where they mine. Here are five of the biggest conservation projects in mining... Appalachian Wildlife Center, Kentucky, US... The project has already received \$35m in funding from donors and the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement, as the national government aims to improve on its historically poor performance of mine rehabilitation in the region; according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, by 2010, just 6%-11% of Appalachia's former mines had been converted into profitable projects.

U.S, Geological Service

As researchers study sea level rise in Collier, scientists turn to businesses for input

Naples Daily News (Riley)

As rising sea levels and climate change become a growing concern around the globe, Collier County and a group of scientists are studying what its effects will be on the county and turning to the business community for input. Researchers at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University and the U.S. Geological Survey are in the midst of a three-year study aiming to provide the county and the cities of Naples, Everglades City and Marco Island tools they can use to find sea level rise vulnerabilities and fix them.

Opinion

Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules

Washington Post (Editorial Board)

To the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey revealed. Investigators found that Mr. Zinke's wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be "cleanest" and "lowest risk" if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him. He has since changed the policy to allow the spousal rides.

Democrats, Don't Take Native American Voters for Granted

New York Times (Ahtone)

Ahead of the midterm elections, the state of North Dakota is using one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country to engage in that most American of traditions: excluding and discriminating against indigenous people. Thanks to the state's Republican Party, all who want to take part in the democratic process must have a residential address on their identification cards. However, many tribal citizens in North Dakota don't have residential addresses or postal service. There are five federally recognized tribes in the state, with five reservations. More than 31,000 indigenous people live in North Dakota, and around 60 percent of that population lives on reservations. Those tribal citizens are usually issued tribal ID cards by their nations or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That makes those documents federally

recognized, and once issued, they can be used for everything from getting through security at the airport to opening bank accounts. But they can no longer be used to vote.

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1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter

KRCR-TV (Kreider)

The capture of 1,000 wild horses from the Devil's Garden Plateau in Modoc County has sparked debate across the United States and the fear of slaughter has prompted a new lawsuit. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the wild horses are being gathered in response to an enormous overpopulation which is affecting local resources including natural resources for ranchers and native wildlife.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM all ears at South Fork

ReNews.biz

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Couple who died after falling in Yosemite National Park identified

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The park service and Federal City Council had been negotiating a lease for Langston, Rock

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News-Press Now (Montemayor)

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The cascading Pools of Oheo and 400-foot Waimoku Falls are among the natural wonders awaiting those willing to brave winding Hana Highway to reach the remote Kipahulu District of Haleakala National Park.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Mining and the environment: the biggest conservation projects in mining

Mining Technology (Casey)

As the mining industry becomes more aware of the environmental damage large-scale extractive operations can cause, many are taking steps to reduce the harmfulness of their operations. Often, this takes the form of extensive land rehabilitation projects, where companies set out long-term plans to redevelop land after a mine has been exhausted; however, many companies have adopted a more specific approach, engaging in operations to protect individual species of wildlife native to the lands where they mine. Here are five of the biggest conservation projects in mining... Appalachian Wildlife Center, Kentucky, US... The project has already received \$35m in funding from donors and the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement, as the national government aims to improve on its historically poor performance of mine rehabilitation in the region; according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, by 2010, just 6%-11% of Appalachia's former mines had been converted into profitable projects.

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Naples Daily News (Riley)

As rising sea levels and climate change become a growing concern around the globe, Collier County and a group of scientists are studying what its effects will be on the county and turning to the business community for input. Researchers at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University and the U.S. Geological Survey are in the midst of a three-year study aiming to provide the county and the cities of Naples, Everglades City and Marco Island tools they can use to find sea level rise vulnerabilities and fix them.

Opinion

Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules

Washington Post (Editorial Board)

To the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey revealed. Investigators found that Mr. Zinke's wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be "cleanest" and "lowest risk" if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him. He has since changed the policy to allow the spousal rides.

Democrats, Don't Take Native American Voters for Granted

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Ahead of the midterm elections, the state of North Dakota is using one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country to engage in that most American of traditions: excluding and discriminating against indigenous people. Thanks to the state's Republican Party, all who want to take part in the democratic process must have a residential address on their identification cards. However, many tribal citizens in North Dakota don't have residential addresses or postal service. There are five federally recognized tribes in the state, with five reservations. More than 31,000 indigenous people live in North Dakota, and around 60 percent of that population lives on reservations. Those tribal citizens are usually issued tribal ID cards by their nations or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That makes those documents federally

recognized, and once issued, they can be used for everything from getting through security at the airport to opening bank accounts. But they can no longer be used to vote.

The Drilling Boom On Federal Lands Is Driven More By Price Than Policy

Forbes (Blackmon)

The New York Times published an interesting piece about the oil and gas boom on federal lands over the weekend. Or rather, as the Times's headline puts it, the "Fracking Boom" on federal lands, because of course the headline contains that loaded word, along with the implication that the entire drilling (which, believe it or not, is not the same thing as "fracking") boom is being "Driven By Trump Policy Changes." It isn't.

Opinion: Congress must reauthorize the Conservation Fund

The Oregonian (Cornelison)

A key conservation program that has been at the center of protecting and preserving lands for more than 50 years is at risk. On Sept. 30, Congress allowed The Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. Congress has taken the first step in both the House and Senate committees. But now that the fund has expired, it is crucial that Congress work quickly to ensure the future of America's best conservation program and its countless projects that now have an uncertain future.

Op-Ed: National Monument Status for Camp Nelson Good for Kentucky Tourism

RCN

This past Saturday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Congressman Andy Barr announced that Camp Nelson Heritage Park in Jessamine County has been designated as a national monument. Years in the making, this makes Camp Nelson the first national monument in the Bluegrass State. Importantly, this designation will be good for business in Kentucky.

Improving The Interior Department's Science And Policies

Heartland (Sterling)

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) is taking a page out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) playbook, to improve the transparency behind the science used to develop regulations on the millions of acres of public lands it controls, and the legal actions it takes in response to lawsuits filed against it. On September 11, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a Secretarial Order promoting transparency and accountability in consent decrees and

settlement agreements, aimed at ending secret “sue and settle” deals with activist plaintiffs.

Why national parks accessibility matters

National Geographic (Djossa)

In 2015, Ambreen Tariq spotted a poster in Shenandoah National Park that would transform her connection to her country’s public lands. She can’t remember the details, but she recalls seeing an African-American woman and child hiking outdoors. Beneath were the words “Find Your Park.” “It completely moved me,” says Tariq, because the poster affirmed her experiences as an Indian-American Muslim woman outdoors.

Marin Voice: Huffman should protect public land and health, not ranchers

Marin Independent Journal (Johnson)

We, the public, own the 71,000 acres that make up the Point Reyes National Seashore, and the National Park Service is our property manager. By law, the National Park Service is responsible for preserving the public’s scenery, wildlife and natural and historic resources “unimpaired” for generations to come. That would certainly include the hundreds of native species that inhabit Point Reyes National Seashore. But the park’s tule elk, deer, and possibly other wildlife species are being infected with a fatal contagious disease carried by the cattle that graze lands that the park service leases to private ranchers.

Top National News

Pittsburgh Suspect Appears in Court as Families Prepare for Funerals

Wall Street Journal (Maher, Ailworth)

The man charged in the shooting deaths of 11 people at a synagogue Saturday appeared in a downtown federal courtroom Monday, and victims’ families made funeral preparations as this city began to move beyond the shock of the attack. Robert Bowers, 46 years old, faces 29 counts, including hate-crime and firearm offenses in connection with the shooting, and the U.S. attorney’s office for the region has started the approval process for seeking the death penalty.

Trump Sending 5,200 Troops to the Border in an Election-Season Response to Migrants

New York Times (Shear, Gibbons-Neff)

More than 5,000 active-duty military troops will deploy to the southern border by the end of

this week, Defense Department officials said on Monday, an escalation of a midterm election show of force against a caravan of Central American migrants that President Trump has characterized as an “invasion of our country.”

Mueller's Russia probe nears critical post-midterm phase

Fox News (Singman)|

President Trump's lawyers have not yet reached a deal with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team to submit written answers to questions on Russian meddling and possible collusion; reaction and analysis from Alex Little, former assistant U.S. attorney and prosecutor. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation is nearing a critical phase -- as the looming midterms could clear the way for a final set of twists and turns in the long-running probe. Key sentencing dates are on the horizon. Mueller's team is widely expected to issue findings soon after the Nov. 6 elections. And the case could yet hold some surprises, given the recent statements of central players.

Washington Schedule

Date	Host	Title
10/31	USEA	<u>Technology Briefing: What Does "Resilience" Of The Electric Power Sector Mean Today?</u>
11/02	GW Energy Club	<u>GW Energy Conference 2018: Transformation & The Democratization of Energy</u>
11/13	SAIS	<u>The Energy Model in Mexico</u>
11/13-15	NCAI	<u>NACA 2018</u>
11/14-16	NCAI	<u>Tribal Interior Budget Council, November 14 - 16, 2018</u>
11/15	USEA	<u>Inaugural Energy Efficiency & Supply Forum</u>

From: [Bockmier, John M](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:06:39 AM
Importance: High

David,

My apologies. I am forwarding you this morning's clips. I will ensure you receive them in the future. Have a great day.

Thanks,

John M. Bockmier



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Date: Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 5:51 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
To: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>



U.S. Department of the Interior

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Interior Dept. Supervisor Caught Spying on Employees, Sending Sexually Explicit Material

Government Executive (Katz)

A supervisor at the Interior Department sent sexually explicit messages to three subordinate employees and “inappropriately” used department surveillance to capture images of employees without their knowledge, according to a new watchdog report. The Bureau of Land Management manager sent messages to one subordinate from a government computer during work hours, and to two other subordinates from his personal cell phone. All parties agreed the exchange was consensual, Interior’s inspector general said, but the manager acknowledged the conduct was not appropriate.

Oil Production On Federal Lands To Hit New Record

Oil Price (Slav)

Crude oil production from onshore federal lands reached a record high over the first seven months of this year, New York Times’ Eric Lipton said in a tweet responding to a claim that oil production in Wyoming had peaked three years ago. Lipton quoted data from the Department of the Interior, which has not been made public yet, as part of an investigation he and climate reporter Hiroko Tabuchi recently published about a second shale oil boom. The investigation cites calculations based in Interior Department data made by Taxpayers for Common Sense, which suggests over 12.8 million acres of federal land were offered for leasing to oil and gas companies in FY 2018, which ended last month. This, Lipton and Tabuchi note, is three times more than the average acreage offered for leasing during the second Obama administration.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Slave Descendants Say Tribal Chief Belongs In Bias Suit

Law360 (Hanson)

Descendants of slaves once held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have asked a D.C. federal court to deny a bid by the tribe's principal chief to escape their discrimination suit, saying... (subscription required)

Bureau of Land Management

Island Park pile burns planned by the Bureau of Land Management

Standard Journal (Ross)

The Bureau of Land Management's, Idaho Falls District, fire managers expect sufficient weather and environmental conditions to be satisfactory enough to begin burns in the Shotgun Valley area around Island Park. Around 200 acres are planned to face ignitions of cured piles if conditions are permitting. "There are several reasons we are focusing on the Shotgun Valley," said Channing Swan, forester for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office. "We want to protect the community from large, uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires, and we need to improve wildlife habitat and forest health and promote aspen regeneration."

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The New York Times published an interesting piece about the oil and gas boom on federal lands over the weekend. Or rather, as the Times's headline puts it, the "Fracking Boom" on federal lands, because of course the headline contains that loaded word, along with the implication that the entire drilling (which, believe it or not, is not the same thing as "fracking") boom is being "Driven By Trump Policy Changes." It isn't.

Opinion: Congress must reauthorize the Conservation Fund

The Oregonian (Cornelison)

A key conservation program that has been at the center of protecting and preserving lands for more than 50 years is at risk. On Sept. 30, Congress allowed The Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. Congress has taken the first step in both the House and Senate committees. But now that the fund has expired, it is crucial that Congress work quickly to ensure the future of America's best conservation program and its countless projects that now have an uncertain future.

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RCN

This past Saturday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Congressman Andy Barr announced that Camp Nelson Heritage Park in Jessamine County has been designated as a national monument. Years in the making, this makes Camp Nelson the first national monument in the Bluegrass State. Importantly, this designation will be good for business in Kentucky.

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National Geographic (Djossa)

In 2015, Ambreen Tariq spotted a poster in Shenandoah National Park that would transform her connection to her country’s public lands. She can’t remember the details, but she recalls seeing an African-American woman and child hiking outdoors. Beneath were the words “Find Your Park.” “It completely moved me,” says Tariq, because the poster affirmed her experiences as an Indian-American Muslim woman outdoors.

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More than 5,000 active-duty military troops will deploy to the southern border by the end of

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Fox News (Singman)|

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From: [Swift, Heather N](#)
To: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Hommel, Scott C](#); [Zinke, Ryan K](#); [Bockmier, John M](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:40:14 AM
Importance: High

Clips below. Went to spam this morning.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
US Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Date: October 30, 2018 at 4:50:26 AM CDT
To: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018



U.S. Department of the Interior

Daily News Briefing: 30 October 2018

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Descendants of slaves once held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have asked a D.C. federal court to deny a bid by the tribe's principal chief to escape their discrimination suit, saying...(subscription required)

Bureau of Land Management

Island Park pile burns planned by the Bureau of Land Management

Standard Journal (Ross)

The Bureau of Land Management's, Idaho Falls District, fire managers expect sufficient weather and environmental conditions to be satisfactory enough to begin burns in the Shotgun Valley area around Island Park. Around 200 acres are planned to face ignitions of cured piles if conditions are permitting. "There are several reasons we are focusing on the Shotgun Valley," said Channing Swan, forester for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office. "We want to protect the community from large, uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires, and we need to improve wildlife habitat and forest health and promote aspen regeneration."

BLM to begin prescribed fire projects in N. California

Herald and News (Owens)

Fire crews from the Bureau of Land Management's Applegate Field Office in Alturas will conduct pile-burning projects during the fall and winter months, according to a news release. The piles of brush, small trees and limbs were created during juniper and brush removal projects designed to improve rangeland health and wildlife habitat, and to reduce wildfire dangers.

1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter

KRCR-TV (Kreider)

The capture of 1,000 wild horses from the Devil's Garden Plateau in Modoc County has sparked debate across the United States and the fear of slaughter has prompted a new lawsuit. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the wild horses are being gathered in response to an enormous overpopulation which is affecting local resources including natural resources for ranchers and native wildlife.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM all ears at South Fork

ReNews.biz

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is holding three public meetings next month as part of an environmental review of Deepwater Wind's proposed 90MW South Fork offshore wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island. BOEM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement in response to Deepwater's plans for an up to 15-turbine project, offshore substation and export cable to East Hampton in New York state.

Floating Wind Farms Off California Will Require New Tethering Technology

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Offshore wind farms have a big advantage over land-based installations. The wind out over the ocean tends to be stronger and more consistent than over land. It also tends to pick up near the end of the day just when electricity from solar farms is beginning to decrease. Last Friday, the Interior Department took the first steps toward leasing areas off the coast of California for deep water wind development. It will take a while for the process to be completed. The first wind turbines probably won't begin producing electricity until 2024.

Bureau of Reclamation

Drought's cost: Less water in Lake Mead, higher rates for consumers

Arizona Capitol Times (Hawk)

Swaths of mineral-stained white rock, more than 100 feet tall, mark Lake Mead's basin, punctuating decades of drought in the Southwest. At one point, the white rock was underwater. If the lake levels dip too low, Arizona could lose about a seventh of its annual water allotment to the Central Arizona Project, which supplies much of the state's water. The dark side of low-water levels could mean cutbacks to Arizona, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The bureau, responsible for divvying up Lake Mead's water and electric power, in August reported a 57 percent chance that Lake Mead's water levels would be so dismal in 2020 that Arizona and Nevada would face reductions.

CAP celebrates 50 years since landmark legislation

Arizona Capitol Times (Forman)

As the Central Arizona Project celebrates the 50th anniversary of the federal act that authorized the massive water project, Arizona is still locked in complicated conversations about how the state will move forward on water issues. A half century ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Colorado River Basin Project Act, which authorized construction of CAP to funnel water from the Colorado River Basin to central Arizona. The states have released draft agreements to implement drought-contingency plans in the Upper and Lower Basins after the Bureau of Reclamation predicted a shortage in Lake Mead — wherein water levels are projected to fall beneath elevation—1,075 feet above sea level — in 2020.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Trophy Hunter On Ryan Zinke Advisory Council Bags Permits To Import 3 Lion Heads

Huffington Post (D'Angelo)

Steven Chancellor, an Indiana coal executive who raised more than \$1 million for President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, has obtained permits to import the heads and hides of at least three male lions from Africa since being tapped last year to advise Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about the benefits of international hunting. The retroactive permits, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in early June and obtained by HuffPost through a public records request, apply to two lions Chancellor killed for sport in 2017 and a third he hunted in 2016. All three animals were killed in Zimbabwe, one of the African nation's where the Trump administration lifted Obama-era bans on the importation of such animal parts.

Justices Won't Hear Chevron Test Over FWS Otter Program

Law360 (Phillis)

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a challenge to the effect of so-called Chevron deference on agency decision-making, keeping in place a Ninth Circuit decision that rejected a... (subscription required) Additional sources: [Video:KCOY](#)

Judge: Feds Failed to Protect Endangered Canada Lynx

Courthouse News Service (Reese)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to adequately protect endangered Canada lynx from being accidentally killed or injured by bobcat trappers, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the agency illegally allowed incidental harvest of lynx, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Increases

KJZZ (Jones)

After the Frye Fire in southern Arizona in 2017, the already endangered Mount Graham red squirrel population dropped from just over 250 to 35. A year later, the population has almost doubled. Holly Hicks is the statewide coordinator for non-game mammal activity at the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "It was a cooperative effort between us, the Phoenix Zoo, the Forest Service, the Coronado National Forest and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where we did a few different things over this past year," said Hicks. "We did some supplemental feeding and some planting for some new trees." Hicks said the squirrels' biggest threat is habitat loss.

National Park Service

Trump administration recognizing civil rights sites around the US

ABC News (Ebbs)

As Americans engage in a national conversation about divisions in the U.S., amplified after the weekend synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, the Trump administration has been carrying out a bipartisan effort to celebrate sites that mark the history of civil rights and African-Americans in the United States. In recent weeks, the National Park Service has

been announcing additions to a network of historic sites related to the civil rights movement. And on Friday, President Trump designated the Union Army recruitment center at Camp Nelson in Kentucky a national monument.

Couple who died after falling in Yosemite National Park identified

People (Merrett)

Two bloggers, who spent the last couple of years of their lives traveling the world, tragically died after falling off an overlook at Yosemite National Park on Oct. 24. The bloggers, who National Park Service spokesperson Jaime Richards identified as married couple 29-year-old Vishnu Viswanath and 30-year-old Meenakshi Moorthy who are from India but were living in America, NBC Bay Area reported, fell approximately 800 feet below Taft Point, National Park Service said in a statement. Additional sources: [Los Angeles Times](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#) [Merced Sun-Times](#) [Video: CBS SF](#)

National Park Service taking competitive route to lease, improve 3 D.C. golf courses

Washington Business Journal (Liming)

The park service and Federal City Council had been negotiating a lease for Langston, Rock Creek and East Potomac. Those talks are over. (subscription required)

National Parks Service to examine St. Joseph trail systems

News-Press Now (Montemayor)

The Pony Express Trail is one of two trails that will be analyzed as part of a four-day study from multiple National Parks service members in November. The nation's leading agency for national parks will be in St. Joseph in November as the city looks to revitalize some of its most historic locations. Making the trek all the way from Santa Fe, New Mexico, landscape architects and two trail historians from the National Parks Service will spend four days getting a pulse of St. Joseph's history come Nov. 5. During that time, National Park Service members will meet with local stakeholders, speak with historians and analyze a treasure chest of information related to two historic St. Joseph trails: the Pony Express and California Gold Rush Trails.

National Park Service offers plan for Kipahulu overcrowding

Honolulu Star-Advertiser (Wilson)

The cascading Pools of Oheo and 400-foot Waimoku Falls are among the natural wonders awaiting those willing to brave winding Hana Highway to reach the remote Kipahulu District of Haleakala National Park.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Mining and the environment: the biggest conservation projects in mining

Mining Technology (Casey)

As the mining industry becomes more aware of the environmental damage large-scale extractive operations can cause, many are taking steps to reduce the harmfulness of their operations. Often, this takes the form of extensive land rehabilitation projects, where companies set out long-term plans to redevelop land after a mine has been exhausted; however, many companies have adopted a more specific approach, engaging in operations to protect individual species of wildlife native to the lands where they mine. Here are five of the biggest conservation projects in mining...Appalachian Wildlife Center, Kentucky, US...The project has already received \$35m in funding from donors and the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement, as the national government aims to improve on its historically poor performance of mine rehabilitation in the region; according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, by 2010, just 6%-11% of Appalachia's former mines had been converted into profitable projects.

U.S. Geological Service

As researchers study sea level rise in Collier, scientists turn to businesses for input

Naples Daily News (Riley)

As rising sea levels and climate change become a growing concern around the globe, Collier County and a group of scientists are studying what its effects will be on the county and turning to the business community for input. Researchers at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University and the U.S. Geological Survey are in the midst of a three-year study aiming to provide the county and the cities of Naples, Everglades City and Marco Island tools they can use to find sea level rise vulnerabilities and fix them.

Opinion

Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules

Washington Post (Editorial Board)

To the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey revealed. Investigators found that Mr. Zinke's wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be "cleanest" and "lowest risk" if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him. He has since changed the policy to allow the spousal rides.

Democrats, Don't Take Native American Voters for Granted

New York Times (Ahtone)

Ahead of the midterm elections, the state of North Dakota is using one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country to engage in that most American of traditions: excluding and discriminating against indigenous people. Thanks to the state's Republican Party, all who want to take part in the democratic process must have a residential address on their identification cards. However, many tribal citizens in North Dakota don't have residential addresses or postal service. There are five federally recognized tribes in the state, with five reservations. More than 31,000 indigenous people live in North Dakota, and around 60 percent of that population lives on reservations. Those tribal citizens are usually issued tribal ID cards by their nations or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That makes those documents federally recognized, and once issued, they can be used for everything from getting through security at the airport to opening bank accounts. But they can no longer be used to vote.

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From: [Bockmier, John M](#)
To: [Swift, Heather N](#)
Cc: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Hommel, Scott C](#); [Zinke, Ryan K](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:47:40 AM
Importance: High

Thanks for the heads up

John M. Bockmier



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Press Secretary
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1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter

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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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[ReNews.biz](#)

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National Park Service

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Washington Business Journal (Liming)

The park service and Federal City Council had been negotiating a lease for Langston, Rock Creek and East Potomac. Those talks are over. (subscription required)

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The cascading Pools of Oheo and 400-foot Waimoku Falls are among the natural wonders awaiting those willing to brave winding Hana Highway to reach the remote Kipahulu District of Haleakala National Park.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

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Mining Technology (Casey)

As the mining industry becomes more aware of the environmental damage large-scale extractive operations can cause, many are taking steps to reduce the harmfulness of their operations. Often, this takes the form of extensive land rehabilitation projects, where companies set out long-term plans to redevelop land after a mine has been exhausted; however, many companies have adopted a more specific approach, engaging in operations to protect individual species of wildlife native to the lands where they mine. Here are five of the biggest conservation projects in mining... Appalachian Wildlife Center, Kentucky, US... The project has already received \$35m in funding from donors and the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement, as the national government aims to improve on its historically poor performance of mine rehabilitation in the region; according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, by 2010, just 6%-11% of Appalachia's former mines had been converted into profitable projects.

U.S, Geological Service

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Naples Daily News (Riley)

As rising sea levels and climate change become a growing concern around the globe, Collier County and a group of scientists are studying what its effects will be on the county and turning to the business community for input. Researchers at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University and the U.S. Geological Survey are in the midst of a three-year study aiming to provide the county and the cities of Naples, Everglades City and Marco Island tools they can use to find sea level rise vulnerabilities and fix them.

Opinion

Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules

Washington Post (Editorial Board)

To the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey revealed. Investigators found that Mr. Zinke's wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be "cleanest" and "lowest risk" if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him. He has since changed the policy to allow the spousal rides.

Democrats, Don't Take Native American Voters for Granted

New York Times (Ahtone)

Ahead of the midterm elections, the state of North Dakota is using one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country to engage in that most American of traditions: excluding and discriminating against indigenous people. Thanks to the state's Republican Party, all who want to take part in the democratic process must have a residential address on their identification cards. However, many tribal citizens in North Dakota don't have residential addresses or postal service. There are five federally recognized tribes in the state, with five reservations. More than 31,000 indigenous people live in North Dakota, and around 60 percent of that population lives on reservations. Those tribal citizens are usually issued tribal ID cards by their nations or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That makes those documents federally recognized, and once issued, they can be used for everything from getting through security at the airport to opening bank accounts. But they can no longer be used to vote.

The Drilling Boom On Federal Lands Is Driven More By Price Than Policy

Forbes (Blackmon)

The New York Times published an interesting piece about the oil and gas boom on

federal lands over the weekend. Or rather, as the Times's headline puts it, the "Fracking Boom" on federal lands, because of course the headline contains that loaded word, along with the implication that the entire drilling (which, believe it or not, is not the same thing as "fracking") boom is being "Driven By Trump Policy Changes." It isn't.

Opinion: Congress must reauthorize the Conservation Fund

The Oregonian (Cornelison)

A key conservation program that has been at the center of protecting and preserving lands for more than 50 years is at risk. On Sept. 30, Congress allowed The Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. Congress has taken the first step in both the House and Senate committees. But now that the fund has expired, it is crucial that Congress work quickly to ensure the future of America's best conservation program and its countless projects that now have an uncertain future.

Op-Ed: National Monument Status for Camp Nelson Good for Kentucky Tourism

RCN

This past Saturday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Congressman Andy Barr announced that Camp Nelson Heritage Park in Jessamine County has been designated as a national monument. Years in the making, this makes Camp Nelson the first national monument in the Bluegrass State. Importantly, this designation will be good for business in Kentucky.

Improving The Interior Department's Science And Policies

Heartland (Sterling)

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) is taking a page out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) playbook, to improve the transparency behind the science used to develop regulations on the millions of acres of public lands it controls, and the legal actions it takes in response to lawsuits filed against it. On September 11, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a Secretarial Order promoting transparency and accountability in consent decrees and settlement agreements, aimed at ending secret "sue and settle" deals with activist plaintiffs.

Why national parks accessibility matters

National Geographic (Djossa)

In 2015, Ambreen Tariq spotted a poster in Shenandoah National Park that would transform her connection to her country's public lands. She can't remember the details, but she recalls seeing an African-American woman and child hiking outdoors. Beneath were the words "Find Your Park." "It completely moved me," says Tariq, because the poster affirmed her experiences as an Indian-American Muslim woman outdoors.

Marin Voice: Huffman should protect public land and health, not ranchers

Marin Independent Journal (Johnson)

We, the public, own the 71,000 acres that make up the Point Reyes National Seashore, and the National Park Service is our property manager. By law, the National Park Service is responsible for preserving the public's scenery, wildlife and natural and historic resources "unimpaired" for generations to come. That would certainly include the hundreds of native species that inhabit Point Reyes National Seashore. But the park's tule elk, deer, and possibly other wildlife species are being infected with a fatal contagious disease carried by the cattle that graze lands that the park service leases to private ranchers.

Top National News

Pittsburgh Suspect Appears in Court as Families Prepare for Funerals

Wall Street Journal (Maher, Ailworth)

The man charged in the shooting deaths of 11 people at a synagogue Saturday appeared in a downtown federal courtroom Monday, and victims' families made funeral preparations as this city began to move beyond the shock of the attack. Robert Bowers, 46 years old, faces 29 counts, including hate-crime and firearm offenses in connection with the shooting, and the U.S. attorney's office for the region has started the approval process for seeking the death penalty.

Trump Sending 5,200 Troops to the Border in an Election-Season Response to Migrants

New York Times (Shear, Gibbons-Neff)

More than 5,000 active-duty military troops will deploy to the southern border by the end of this week, Defense Department officials said on Monday, an escalation of a midterm election show of force against a caravan of Central American migrants that President Trump has characterized as an "invasion of our country."

Mueller's Russia probe nears critical post-midterm phase

Fox News (Singman)

President Trump's lawyers have not yet reached a deal with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's team to submit written answers to questions on Russian meddling and possible collusion; reaction and analysis from Alex Little, former assistant U.S. attorney and prosecutor. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation is nearing a critical phase -- as the looming midterms could clear the way for a final set of

twists and turns in the long-running probe. Key sentencing dates are on the horizon. Mueller's team is widely expected to issue findings soon after the Nov. 6 elections. And the case could yet hold some surprises, given the recent statements of central players.

Washington Schedule

Date	Host	Title
10/31	USEA	<u>Technology Briefing: What Does "Resilience" Of The Electric Power Sector Mean Today?</u>
11/02	GW Energy Club	<u>GW Energy Conference 2018: Transformation & The Democratization of Energy</u>
11/13	SAIS	<u>The Energy Model in Mexico</u>
11/13-15	NCAI	<u>NACA 2018</u>
11/14-16	NCAI	<u>Tribal Interior Budget Council, November 14 - 16, 2018</u>
11/15	USEA	<u>Inaugural Energy Efficiency & Supply Forum</u>

From: [Bockmier, John M](#)
To: [Swift, Heather N](#)
Cc: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Hommel, Scott C](#); [Zinke, Ryan K](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:47:40 AM
Importance: High

Thanks for the heads up

John M. Bockmier



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Office of the Secretary - MIB 6225
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Washington, D.C.
20240

202.208.3636 Office
202.897.7366 Cell



On Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 9:40 AM Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Clips below. Went to spam this morning.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
US Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Date: October 30, 2018 at 4:50:26 AM CDT
To: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018

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Government Executive (Katz)

A supervisor at the Interior Department sent sexually explicit messages to three subordinate employees and “inappropriately” used department surveillance to capture images of employees without their knowledge, according to a new watchdog report. The Bureau of Land Management manager sent messages to one subordinate from a government computer during work hours, and to two other subordinates from his personal cell phone. All parties agreed the exchange was consensual, Interior’s inspector general said, but the manager acknowledged the conduct was not appropriate.

Oil Production On Federal Lands To Hit New Record

Oil Price (Slav)

Crude oil production from onshore federal lands reached a record high over the first seven months of this year, New York Times’ Eric Lipton said in a tweet responding to a claim that oil production in Wyoming had peaked three years ago. Lipton quoted data from the Department of the Interior, which has not been made public yet, as part of an investigation he and climate reporter Hiroko Tabuchi recently published about a second shale oil boom. The investigation cites calculations based in Interior Department data made by Taxpayers for Common Sense, which suggests over 12.8 million acres of federal land were offered for leasing to oil and gas companies in FY 2018, which ended last month. This, Lipton and Tabuchi note, is three times more than the average acreage offered for leasing during the second Obama administration.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Slave Descendants Say Tribal Chief Belongs In Bias Suit

Law360 (Hanson)

Descendants of slaves once held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have asked a D.C. federal court to deny a bid by the tribe's principal chief to escape their discrimination suit, saying...(subscription required)

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Ahead of the midterm elections, the state of North Dakota is using one of the most restrictive voter identification laws in the country to engage in that most American of traditions: excluding and discriminating against indigenous people. Thanks to the state's Republican Party, all who want to take part in the democratic process must have a residential address on their identification cards. However, many tribal citizens in North Dakota don't have residential addresses or postal service. There are five federally recognized tribes in the state, with five reservations. More than 31,000 indigenous people live in North Dakota, and around 60 percent of that population lives on reservations. Those tribal citizens are usually issued tribal ID cards by their nations or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That makes those documents federally recognized, and once issued, they can be used for everything from getting through security at the airport to opening bank accounts. But they can no longer be used to vote.

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The Oregonian (Cornelison)

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11/14-16	NCAI	<u>Tribal Interior Budget Council, November 14 - 16, 2018</u>
11/15	USEA	<u>Inaugural Energy Efficiency & Supply Forum</u>

From: [Bockmier, John M](#)
To: [Swift, Heather N](#)
Cc: [Bernhardt, David L](#); [Hommel, Scott C](#); [Zinke, Ryan K](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:47:40 AM
Importance: High

Thanks for the heads up

John M. Bockmier



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On Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 9:40 AM Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Clips below. Went to spam this morning.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
US Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Date: October 30, 2018 at 4:50:26 AM CDT
To: doimediaanalyst <doimediaanalyst@barbaricum.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Department of the Interior Daily News Briefing 30 October 2018

Daily News Briefing: 30 October 2018

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Interior Dept. Supervisor Caught Spying on Employees, Sending Sexually Explicit Material

Government Executive (Katz)

A supervisor at the Interior Department sent sexually explicit messages to three subordinate employees and “inappropriately” used department surveillance to capture images of employees without their knowledge, according to a new watchdog report. The Bureau of Land Management manager sent messages to one subordinate from a government computer during work hours, and to two other subordinates from his personal cell phone. All parties agreed the exchange was consensual, Interior’s inspector general said, but the manager acknowledged the conduct was not appropriate.

Oil Production On Federal Lands To Hit New Record

Oil Price (Slav)

Crude oil production from onshore federal lands reached a record high over the first seven months of this year, New York Times’ Eric Lipton said in a tweet responding to a claim that oil production in Wyoming had peaked three years ago. Lipton quoted data from the Department of the Interior, which has not been made public yet, as part of an investigation he and climate reporter Hiroko Tabuchi recently published about a second shale oil boom. The investigation cites calculations based in Interior Department data made by Taxpayers for Common Sense, which suggests over 12.8 million acres of federal land were offered for leasing to oil and gas companies in FY 2018, which ended last month. This, Lipton and Tabuchi note, is three times more than the average acreage offered for leasing during the second Obama administration.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Slave Descendants Say Tribal Chief Belongs In Bias Suit

Law360 (Hanson)

Descendants of slaves once held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have asked a D.C. federal court to deny a bid by the tribe's principal chief to escape their discrimination suit, saying...(subscription required)

Bureau of Land Management

Island Park pile burns planned by the Bureau of Land Management

Standard Journal (Ross)

The Bureau of Land Management's, Idaho Falls District, fire managers expect sufficient weather and environmental conditions to be satisfactory enough to begin burns in the Shotgun Valley area around Island Park. Around 200 acres are planned to face ignitions of cured piles if conditions are permitting. "There are several reasons we are focusing on the Shotgun Valley," said Channing Swan, forester for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office. "We want to protect the community from large, uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires, and we need to improve wildlife habitat and forest health and promote aspen regeneration."

BLM to begin prescribed fire projects in N. California

Herald and News (Owens)

Fire crews from the Bureau of Land Management's Applegate Field Office in Alturas will conduct pile-burning projects during the fall and winter months, according to a news release. The piles of brush, small trees and limbs were created during juniper and brush removal projects designed to improve rangeland health and wildlife habitat, and to reduce wildfire dangers.

1,000 wild horses in need of homes, advocates say older horses are destined for slaughter

KRCR-TV (Kreider)

The capture of 1,000 wild horses from the Devil's Garden Plateau in Modoc County has sparked debate across the United States and the fear of slaughter has prompted a new lawsuit. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the wild horses are being gathered in response to an enormous overpopulation which is affecting local resources including natural resources for ranchers and native wildlife.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM all ears at South Fork

[ReNews.biz](#)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is holding three public meetings next month as part of an environmental review of Deepwater Wind's proposed 90MW South Fork offshore wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island. BOEM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement in response to Deepwater's plans for an up to 15-turbine project, offshore substation and export cable to East Hampton in New York state.

Floating Wind Farms Off California Will Require New Tethering Technology

Clean Technica (Hanley)

Offshore wind farms have a big advantage over land-based installations. The wind out over the ocean tends to be stronger and more consistent than over land. It also tends to pick up near the end of the day just when electricity from solar farms is beginning to decrease. Last Friday, the Interior Department took the first steps toward leasing areas off the coast of California for deep water wind development. It will take a while for the process to be completed. The first wind turbines probably won't begin producing electricity until 2024.

Bureau of Reclamation

Drought's cost: Less water in Lake Mead, higher rates for consumers

Arizona Capitol Times (Hawk)

Swaths of mineral-stained white rock, more than 100 feet tall, mark Lake Mead's basin, punctuating decades of drought in the Southwest. At one point, the white rock was underwater. If the lake levels dip too low, Arizona could lose about a seventh of its annual water allotment to the Central Arizona Project, which supplies much of the state's water. The dark side of low-water levels could mean cutbacks to Arizona, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation... The bureau, responsible for divvying up Lake Mead's water and electric power, in August reported a 57 percent chance that Lake Mead's water levels would be so dismal in 2020 that Arizona and Nevada would face reductions.

CAP celebrates 50 years since landmark legislation

Arizona Capitol Times (Forman)

As the Central Arizona Project celebrates the 50th anniversary of the federal act that authorized the massive water project, Arizona is still locked in complicated conversations about how the state will move forward on water issues. A half century ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Colorado River Basin Project Act, which authorized construction of CAP to funnel water from the Colorado River Basin

to central Arizona...The states have released draft agreements to implement drought-contingency plans in the Upper and Lower Basins after the Bureau of Reclamation predicted a shortage in Lake Mead — wherein water levels are projected to fall beneath elevation—1,075 feet above sea level — in 2020.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Trophy Hunter On Ryan Zinke Advisory Council Bags Permits To Import 3 Lion Heads

Huffington Post (D'Angelo)

Steven Chancellor, an Indiana coal executive who raised more than \$1 million for President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, has obtained permits to import the heads and hides of at least three male lions from Africa since being tapped last year to advise Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about the benefits of international hunting. The retroactive permits, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in early June and obtained by HuffPost through a public records request, apply to two lions Chancellor killed for sport in 2017 and a third he hunted in 2016. All three animals were killed in Zimbabwe, one of the African nation's where the Trump administration lifted Obama-era bans on the importation of such animal parts.

Justices Won't Hear Chevron Test Over FWS Otter Program

Law360 (Phillis)

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a challenge to the effect of so-called Chevron deference on agency decision-making, keeping in place a Ninth Circuit decision that rejected a...[\(subscription required\)](#) Additional sources: [Video:KCOY](#)

Judge: Feds Failed to Protect Endangered Canada Lynx

Courthouse News Service (Reese)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to adequately protect endangered Canada lynx from being accidentally killed or injured by bobcat trappers, a federal judge ruled. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the agency illegally allowed incidental harvest of lynx, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Mount Graham Red Squirrel Population Increases

KJZZ (Jones)

After the Frye Fire in southern Arizona in 2017, the already endangered Mount Graham red squirrel population dropped from just over 250 to 35. A year later, the population

has almost doubled. Holly Hicks is the statewide coordinator for non-game mammal activity at the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "It was a cooperative effort between us, the Phoenix Zoo, the Forest Service, the Coronado National Forest and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where we did a few different things over this past year," said Hicks. "We did some supplemental feeding and some planting for some new trees." Hicks said the squirrels' biggest threat is habitat loss.

National Park Service

Trump administration recognizing civil rights sites around the US

ABC News (Ebbs)

As Americans engage in a national conversation about divisions in the U.S., amplified after the weekend synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, the Trump administration has been carrying out a bipartisan effort to celebrate sites that mark the history of civil rights and African-Americans in the United States. In recent weeks, the National Park Service has been announcing additions to a network of historic sites related to the civil rights movement. And on Friday, President Trump designated the Union Army recruitment center at Camp Nelson in Kentucky a national monument.

Couple who died after falling in Yosemite National Park identified

People (Merrett)

Two bloggers, who spent the last couple of years of their lives traveling the world, tragically died after falling off an overlook at Yosemite National Park on Oct. 24. The bloggers, who National Park Service spokesperson Jaime Richards identified as married couple 29-year-old Vishnu Viswanath and 30-year-old Meenakshi Moorthy who are from India but were living in America, NBC Bay Area reported, fell approximately 800 feet below Taft Point, National Park Service said in a statement. Additional sources: [Los Angeles Times](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#) [Merced Sun-Times](#) [Video: CBS SF](#)

National Park Service taking competitive route to lease, improve 3 D.C. golf courses

Washington Business Journal (Liming)

The park service and Federal City Council had been negotiating a lease for Langston, Rock Creek and East Potomac. Those talks are over. (subscription required)

National Parks Service to examine St. Joseph trail systems

News-Press Now (Montemayor)

The Pony Express Trail is one of two trails that will be analyzed as part of a four-day study from multiple National Parks service members in November. The nation's leading agency for national parks will be in St. Joseph in November as the city looks to revitalize some of its most historic locations. Making the trek all the way from Santa Fe, New Mexico, landscape architects and two trail historians from the National Parks Service will spend four days getting a pulse of St. Joseph's history come Nov. 5. During that time, National Park Service members will meet with local stakeholders, speak with historians and analyze a treasure chest of information related to two historic St. Joseph trails: the Pony Express and California Gold Rush Trails.

National Park Service offers plan for Kipahulu overcrowding

Honolulu Star-Advertiser (Wilson)

The cascading Pools of Oheo and 400-foot Waimoku Falls are among the natural wonders awaiting those willing to brave winding Hana Highway to reach the remote Kipahulu District of Haleakala National Park.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Mining and the environment: the biggest conservation projects in mining

Mining Technology (Casey)

As the mining industry becomes more aware of the environmental damage large-scale extractive operations can cause, many are taking steps to reduce the harmfulness of their operations. Often, this takes the form of extensive land rehabilitation projects, where companies set out long-term plans to redevelop land after a mine has been exhausted; however, many companies have adopted a more specific approach, engaging in operations to protect individual species of wildlife native to the lands where they mine. Here are five of the biggest conservation projects in mining... Appalachian Wildlife Center, Kentucky, US... The project has already received \$35m in funding from donors and the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement, as the national government aims to improve on its historically poor performance of mine rehabilitation in the region; according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, by 2010, just 6%-11% of Appalachia's former mines had been converted into profitable projects.

U.S, Geological Service

As researchers study sea level rise in Collier, scientists turn to businesses for input

Naples Daily News (Riley)

As rising sea levels and climate change become a growing concern around the globe, Collier County and a group of scientists are studying what its effects will be on the county and turning to the business community for input. Researchers at the University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida Gulf Coast University and the U.S. Geological Survey are in the midst of a three-year study aiming to provide the county and the cities of Naples, Everglades City and Marco Island tools they can use to find sea level rise vulnerabilities and fix them.

Opinion

Add Ryan Zinke to the list of Trump administration officials who flout the rules

Washington Post (Editorial Board)

To the list of Trump administration officials who seem to believe that the rules need not apply to them, add Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The latest evidence comes from a report of the Interior Department inspector general, which The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Lisa Rein and Josh Dawsey revealed. Investigators found that Mr. Zinke's wife, Lolita Zinke, traveled with him on official trips in government vehicles, though doing so violated department policy. Interior staff warned the secretary that it would be "cleanest" and "lowest risk" if he did not give his wife rides in government vehicles, but he did so anyway, on the notion that the policy did not apply to him. He has since changed the policy to allow the spousal rides.

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