

# Conversation Contents

## Weekly Report to the Secretary - April 22-28, 2018

### Attachments:

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**Subject:** Weekly Report to the Secretary - April 22-28, 2018

**Attachments:** Weekly Report to the Secretary April 22-28.docx

All,

Attached is the Weekly Report to the Secretary, in both Google Doc and Word formats. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Matthew Dermody  
Special Assistant  
Office of the Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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 [Weekly Report to the Secretary April 22-28.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
APRIL 22-28, 2018**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

No updates to report.

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

**Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be in the office all week.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be in the office all week.

Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason will be in the office all week.

**Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)**

On or after April 23, consistent with the President's commitment to improved permitting, the Department plans to distribute additional guidance to its Assistant Secretaries, Bureau Directors, and NEPA Practitioners to facilitate compliance with E.O. 13807 and S.O. 3355. This guidance builds on CEQ and Department regulations that require Environmental Impact Statements to be completed within 150 pages (300 pages for complex circumstances), replaces the EIS surnaming process with a briefing schedule, and directs Decision Files to be compiled contemporaneously to EIS development and drafting.

**15-60 Day Look-Ahead**

No updates to report.

**Awareness**

On or after May 16, the Office of the Inspector General will publish on its website a report of investigation addressing Secretary Zinke's use of charter and military aircraft between March and September 2017.

**OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR**

**Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel**

OMB Briefing re Proposed Navajo-Utah Water Rights Settlement

On April 20, the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office and DWR will provide a general overview to OMB regarding the status of the Navajo-Utah water rights settlement negotiations.

The Navajo Nation and the State of Utah have been negotiating this settlement for over a decade, and the federal negotiation team established in 2013 has actively participated since. Senator Hatch introduced legislation to approve the proposed settlement, S. 664, in March 2017, and the United States and the Navajo Nation have been negotiating legislative language since then. The Nation hopes the Senate Indian Affairs Committee will hold markup in May, but no date has yet been set. Although the federal team has yet to make a final recommendation, the Working Group on Indian Water Rights expressed general support for the proposed settlement in February.

#### Eni Revised Exploration Plan

SOL provided BOEM with advice concerning its review of a Revised Exploration Plan (EP) submitted by Eni for activities at Nikaitchuq, an existing gravel island facility in State waters off Alaska's northern coast. The Revised EP proposed a continuation of ongoing exploration drilling into summer months. Eni's original EP, which BOEM approved last year after preparing an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, stated that drilling would cease by May 14. A key issue was whether BOEM should supplement its EA before rendering a decision on the Revised EP. The Solicitor's Office (SOL) helped BOEM prepare a Determination of NEPA Adequacy, finding that supplementing the EA was not necessary. BOEM approved the Revised EP on April 13, 2017.

#### Funding Agreement Negotiations Begin with Sitka Tribe of Alaska

On April 20, representatives from NPS and the Regional Solicitor's Office will meet with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) regarding an ISDEAA section 403(c) funding agreement (25 U.S.C. § 5363) to provide certain programs at Sitka National Historical Park. The specific purposes of the meeting are: (1) to formally commence negotiations for a FY19 funding agreement; and (2) to discuss issues with implementation of functions contracted for the remainder of FY18. The funding agreement for FY18 becomes effective on May 6, 2018. Related, on April 11, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs passed S.2515, a bipartisan bill to amend the ISDEAA. If passed into law, the bill likely would narrow the scope of functions classified as "inherently federal" and therefore expand the scope of services STA would be eligible to provide in the future.

### **Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

#### **NEW CASES:**

##### *Kansas Natural Resource Coalition v. U.S. DOI* (D. Kan.) - Congressional Review Act (CRA) Challenge to the PECE

On April 10, a group of western Kansas counties, that had developed a conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken in 2013, filed suit alleging that FWS violated the Congressional Review Act by not submitting its "Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions" (PECE) to Congress, as required by the Congressional Review Act. DOJ has advised us that several courts have dismissed similar claims because 5 U.S.C. § 805 of the CRA precludes judicial review.

#### Quiet Title Act Notice Filed In Alaska

On April 4, the State of Alaska provided notice to the Department of the Interior that it intends to file an action under the Quiet Title Act (QTA) to submerged lands to the Middle Fork and the North Fork of the Fortymile River and the West Fork of the Dennison Fork. The State must provide notice of its intent to sue not less than 180 days before bringing a quiet title action.

### **SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:**

*Mohn v. Zinke et al.* (10<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Order and Judgment on Appeal

On the briefs, on April 13, the Tenth Circuit affirmed the district court's dismissal of serial litigant Abiodun Mohn's latest suit. Mr. Mohn repeatedly contends that he was wrongly denied participation in the *Cobell* settlement or has otherwise been denied certain trust benefits because his ancestors were allegedly erroneously enrolled as Cherokee Freedman instead of full-blooded Cherokee members. The courts have previously dismissed more than two dozen similar lawsuits for lack of standing and failure to state a claim.

### **OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:**

Maine Water Quality Standards and Tribal Fishing Rights

The Solicitor intends to send an Advice Letter to EPA, clarifying a January 2015 letter provided to EPA in response to EPA's request for the views of the Department regarding tribal fishing rights in Maine and the relationship between tribal fishing rights and water quality. The Advice Letter will emphasize that the 2015 Letter was particularized to the State of Maine and the result of thoughtful consideration of the unique and complicated interplay among treaties, the Indian Nonintercourse Acts, the Constitution of the State of Maine, the Maine Implementing Act, the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, and subsequent Federal and State court decisions. It further clarifies that the 2015 Letter erred in establishing parallel fishing rights for the so-called "Northern Tribes" that lack treaty or statutory authority reserving those rights.

*Friends of Animals v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv.* (S. Ct.) - Barred Owl Take Permit

Friends of Animals filed a cert. petition on April 10. They challenged a Migratory Bird Treaty Act scientific permit authorizing the take of barred owls in three separate control areas to determine the effect of their removal on northern spotted owls. Friends' primary argument is that FWS may not authorize the take of one species to improve conservation or scientific understanding of another without violating the MBTA and its underlying treaties. Plaintiffs lost at both the District Court and the Ninth Circuit.

*Texas v. New Mexico & Colorado* (No. 141 Original) (S. Ct.)

On April 23, Judge Malloy will hold a telephonic status conference with the parties to discuss a case management plan for moving forward. The new judge is expected to move this case forward more expeditiously. Texas has been doing outreach within the Department on a variety of issues related to this litigation.

*Northern Improvement Company, et al. v. United States* (D. Ariz.)

Plaintiffs, Northern Improvement Company and Alfred and Tamma Schritter, seek ownership under the Quiet Title Act of sand and gravel under land administered by the BLM Kingman Field


Office in Arizona. The case was stayed pending settlement negotiations. A scheduling conference is set for April 18.

*Mesa Country Club v. United States* (D. Ariz.)

On January 4, Plaintiff filed an action under the Quiet Title Act claiming ownership to certain real property along the Tempe Canal, which is operated by the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District under an operations and maintenance agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Plaintiff, whose property abuts both sides of the canal, seeks to exclude public access to the country club. On April 11, the United States filed a motion to dismiss.

*United States v. Estate of E. Wayne Hage* (D. Nev.) (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.)

On April 13, the Ninth Circuit heard oral argument on the appeal. (b)(5)dpp/awp



*Yurok Tribe, et al. and Hoopa Valley Tribe v. Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service* (N.D. Cal.)

The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking to set aside a portion of the District court's injunction that it believes is not scientifically based (the court ignored that evidence in issuing the injunction) and is precluding delivery of irrigation water. A hearing was held on April 11, and the court has the issue under submission. The two tribes and environmental and fishing groups sued under the Endangered Species Act related to exceedance of incidental take under the Klamath Project operations biological opinion (BiOp). The court, in 2017, issued an injunction requiring specified flows to be released from the Project to the Klamath River above releases already required under the BiOp. Federal defendants and Klamath Project water users appealed the decision and the appeal is still pending before the Ninth Circuit. 2018 is a dry year in the Klamath Basin and due to the ordered additional releases, no irrigation deliveries may be made until the period of time for the injunction flows has passed in June which is too late for many Project farmers to plant.

*Yount v. Jewell and BLM; National Mining Association (NMA) and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) v. Jewell, et al.; American Exploration and Mining Association (AEMA) v. Jewell, et al.; and Quatterra Alaska Inc. and Arizona-Utah Local Economic Coalition v. Jewell, et al.* (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit) - Challenges to Northern Arizona Withdrawal

In these consolidated cases, plaintiffs challenged former-Secretary Salazar's January 2012 decision to withdraw approximately 1 million acres of public and National Forest System lands near Grand Canyon National Park from location and entry under the 1872 Mining Law. On December 12, 2017, the 9th Circuit affirmed the District Court's dismissal of plaintiffs' challenges. On March 9, American Exploration and Mining Association and National Mining Association filed separate petitions for *certiorari* with the U.S. Supreme Court. On April 12, the US waived its response to the petitions, although the Court may request the United States' views.

*SUWA v. Schneider* (D. UT) and Appellate Case: 15-4151, 15-4152, 15-4153, 15-4155, 15-4158 (Tenth Circuit)

On April 13, Appellants State of Utah and Kane and San Juan Counties filed reply briefs in their appeal of the 2017 settlement between BLM and SUWA resolving challenges to the 2008 BLM land use plans. The next step is for oral argument, which is likely to be scheduled during the week of Sept 24-28 in Denver. The court will be calendar a date closer to September.

Mountain Valley Pipeline (*five noteworthy items*)

(1) *Sierra Club v. U.S. DOI and Wilderness Society v. U.S. BLM*, Nos. 18-1019, -1036 (4th Cir.): Petitioners elected not to reply to the briefs of the government. Oral argument is scheduled to take place on the morning of May 8.

(2) Protests: Protesters continue to block access for tree clearing, construction, and mitigation of environmental issues. The Forest Service extended a closure order pushing related protest camps farther from the sites of three protesters camped out in trees. BLM and the Solicitor's Office continue to coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service and USDA OGC regarding legal options.

(3) Variance Request: Attorneys advised BLM regarding Mountain Valley Pipeline's request for a variance to extend tree clearing past a March 31, 2018 deadline.

(4) Non-compliance: Attorneys advised BLM regarding the procedures for issuing non-compliance reports.

(5) Extension: Mountain Valley Pipeline announced a 70 mile pipeline extension proposal named MVP Southgate. The project is not expected to cross federal lands.

*Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke* (E.D.N.C.)

On April 3, Plaintiff filed this complaint alleging that the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) violated the ESA by failing to timely complete a 12-month finding on Plaintiff's 2010 petition to list two aquatic North Carolina species, the Carolina madtom (fish) and Neuse River waterdog (salamander). Depending on when the United States was formally served with the complaint, the response is due on or around June 2.

*Sierra Club v. North Carolina Department of Transportation* (E.D.N.C.)

On April 13, a settlement agreement was signed resolving this case, which included a challenge to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) authorization of the construction of a highway bypass in eastern North Carolina, and FWS's concurrence with FHWA's determination

that the project was not likely to adversely affect the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). Although the settlement agreement is solely between Plaintiff and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, it was conditioned on commitments by FWS and FHWA to future ESA Section 7 consultation if the construction does not allow for prescribed burns in the adjacent national forest in accordance with the RCW Recovery Plan.

*Clean Air Council v. United States* (E.D. Pa.) - Climate Change

On April 12, the court stayed discovery pending further order of the court. Although the court did not explain its reasons, it is likely that the court will rule on our pending motion to dismiss before allowing discovery to go forward, if it denies the motion. Plaintiffs are an environmental group and young persons alleging that the United States, including the Department, are violating the public trust doctrine and a supposed constitutional right to a stable climate. The allegations are similar to those in the *Juliana* case in the federal district court in Oregon.

*Board of County Commissioners of the County of San Miguel, Colorado v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management* (D. Colo.) (filed October 10, 2017; served October 16, 2017) - NEPA, ESA, and FLPMA Challenge to Oil and Gas Leasing

Federal defendants filed a partial motion to dismiss the Endangered Species Act claims on December 15, 2017; plaintiffs' response was filed on January 19, and defendants' response was filed February 14. A hearing on the partial motion to dismiss will be held on May 2.

**NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:**

*Wisteria Island Title Dispute*

On April 16, 2018, the Solicitor's Office briefed ASLM on status and options regarding the ongoing dispute over ownership of Wisteria Island, located off Key West, Florida. FEB Corporation claims that it owns the island and previously sued the United States to quiet title, but the District Court's dismissal of that suit on statute of limitations grounds was affirmed by the Eleventh Circuit in March of 2016. The Department intends to request that DOJ initiate affirmative litigation to quiet title in order to affirmatively resolve the title dispute.

*Imposition of Sanctions on Tribally-Controlled Schools for Failure to Conduct Background Investigations*

We are advising whether BIE may impose sanctions such as those in the Uniform Guidance for Grants and Cooperative Agreements, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, on tribally-controlled grant schools that fail to conduct background investigations on employees as required under the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act. In adopting the Uniform Guidance, the Department exempted only Self-Determination contracts. Therefore, imposing sanctions would not violate a rule against the BIE imposing additional requirements on tribally-controlled schools outside of those described in the Tribally-controlled Schools Act.

Proposed FWS/NOAA ESA Regulations

The Division of Mineral Resources (DMR) reviewed proposed regulatory changes to the implementing regulations under Section 4 of the ESA. Comments on the proposed regulations regarding critical habitat designation were due on Monday to Exec Sec today; comments on rescinding the FWS rule to always impose for threatened species all protections of an endangered species are due on Wednesday, April 18.




#### *California Bill SB 50 (Conveyances of Federal Land)*

SB 50, which became effective on January 1, requires that the State be provided with the right of first refusal before the United States conveys federal land or interests in land in the State of California. On April 2, DOJ filed a Complaint challenging the constitutionality of SB 50 and is considering whether to seek a preliminary injunction while the lawsuit is pending. Litigation Hold notices have been sent to staff and managers of all the DOI agencies likely to have records pertaining to future Federal land conveyances in California.

#### *California WaterFix (CWF)*

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) water right hearing for CWF, Part 2, commenced on Thursday, February 22. Hearing dates have been noticed through June 2018. DWR and Reclamation's cases in chief have closed and protestant cases in chief have begun. This week, Metropolitan Water District's (MWD's) Board of Directors approved funding for the full 9,000 cfs/two-tunnel project, instead of only for a 6,000 cfs/one tunnel, staged-construction project. However, any CVP contractor participation in construction financing of the CWF looks like it will remain small (perhaps only Santa Clara Valley Water District). (b)(5) dpp/awp



#### *Anacostia Community Museum Land Transfer*

The Anacostia Community Museum, run by the Smithsonian Institution, is located on lands managed by NPS within Fort Stanton Park, part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The National Parks Branch is advising the NPS National Capital Region regarding the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the NPS-managed lands used by the museum to the Smithsonian. The proposed transfer has been submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission and will be considered at its May 3 meeting.

#### *Implementation of the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement*

Under procedures developed by the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office, DWR provides support in the implementation of this recently enacted settlement, including drafting various documents necessary for the Secretary's execution of the settlement agreement and related documents. As part of this process, the Solicitor's Office requests formal concurrence from the Department of Justice in our view that the Secretary can execute the underlying settlement agreement and associated waivers of claims. After coordination with SIWRO and Billings SOL (as part of implementation team), DWR provided a draft concurrence letter to the Front Office for review and finalization. DWR will provide a draft recommendation to the Secretary to the Front Office for review and finalization this week.

*NPS to Begin Negotiations with the City of New York Regarding Costs of Response Actions at Spring Creek Landfill in Gateway National Recreation Area*

Spring Creek Park in Gateway National Recreation Area (Gateway) at Jamaica Bay in Queens, New York, is the site of a former landfill operated by the City of New York (City). The site includes filled/reclaimed land composed of dredged material, waste fill materials, ash, and sludge deposited at various times between the early 1900s and 1960s. In the early 1970s, the land on which the site is located was transferred from the City to the United States for inclusion within Gateway. Several investigations have been performed at the Site as part of planning for possible habitat restoration and coastal storm risk management projects. The results of those investigations have identified the release of several hazardous substances, and NPS is planning a more thorough investigation pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 et seq., to fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination and consider response action alternatives. As part of this process, NPS and SOL will reach out to the City with a letter to Susan Amron, Chief of the Environmental Law Division for the City, seeking an agreement by which the City would reimburse NPS for the costs of this work. A similar agreement is currently in place between the City and NPS regarding a former landfill in Great Kills Park, also in Gateway. NPS Commissioner Laird has already spoken with Ms. Amron, and she is expecting the letter. NPS is briefing the matter up to the Acting NPS Director.

*Tennessee Poised to Take over Primary Enforcement of SMCRA from OSMRE*

On April 11, following a four-year push by the state's coal mining industry, both the Tennessee House and Senate approved legislation to have the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) become the primary regulatory authority for the enforcement of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. However, TDEC won't become the primary enforcer of SMCRA until OSMRE determines that Tennessee has a state statute and state regulations that are at least as effective as their federal counterparts. The sponsors of the bill estimate it will take 18 to 24 months for the Tennessee coal program to be created and approved. Proponents of the measure claim that its passage will promote coal mining and create jobs in economically distressed areas of Tennessee. When the legislation becomes effective, the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement will become the oversight authority for SMCRA enforcement in Tennessee, the same role that it has in almost every other coal producing state in the nation. For the next 18 to 24 months of transition, SOL-KNX expects significantly greater requests for legal assistance from the Knoxville Field Office of OSMRE.

*Enforcement Issues - Justice Companies*

The OSMRE Appalachian Region and OSMRE Knoxville Field Office are preparing to brief the Director's Office about ongoing enforcement issues concerning companies owned or controlled by the governor of West Virginia and/or his family members. Members of the Knoxville Field Solicitor's Office and Division of Mineral Resources continue to advise OSMRE regarding new violations and enforcement options.

*Red Hills-Kosciusko 161-kV Transmission Line across the Natchez Trace Parkway*

Attorneys from the Southeast Region advised the National Park Service as the Natchez Trace Parkway prepared a research permit, right-of-way, and construction permit for a proposed aerial transmission line crossing the Parkway.

#### *Production Safety Systems Rule Revisions*

The DMR has reviewed the draft final Production Safety Systems rule and provided comments to BSEE on April 12, with additional comments from the Acting Deputy Solicitor on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Work remains to be done on the primary documents, and the supporting documents (Regulatory Impacts Analysis, Environmental Assessment) have not yet been provided to the Solicitor's Office for review. BSEE anticipates sending DMR updated versions of the primary documents by midday Tuesday. BSEE would like to complete Department surnaming on Monday, April 23.

#### *Arctic Outer Continental Shelf Lease Suspensions*

On April 13, BSEE granted the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation's requests for suspensions of operations on 21 leases it had acquired from Shell in the Beaufort Sea planning area of the Arctic OCS. The suspensions were granted for purposes of performing environmental analyses necessary to support potential future exploration plans. The suspensions are scheduled to run through 2022.

#### *Gulf-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 251*

The DMR is reviewing the Final Notice of Sale (Final NOS) package for Lease Sale 251, scheduled to be held in August 2018. DMR received word that the DTS documents were being replaced after additional work by the BOEM Leasing office; DMR expects to receive updated versions soon. DMR will then review and continue the surnaming process; the Record of Decision has already been received and is continuing in surname. BOEM is requesting completion of the surname process by April 30. We expect to send it to the front office of the Solicitor's Office for review by early next week.

#### *Provide Language for National Park Foundation (NPF)/Marstel-Day Agreement*

Last week, we visited NPF headquarters to review the Confidentiality provision in NPF's agreement with a consulting firm, Marstel-Day. Marstel-Day has been hired by NPF to improve NPS's infrastructure and there has been concern that the consulting firm will release sensitive or financial information of NPS.

#### *Presentation on Navigating Publishing Agreements for Government Employees*

This week, as part of USGS's monthly training series, we are presenting to the USGS on Copyright Law and Navigating Publishing Agreements for Government Employees. The presentation addresses the guidelines for publishing while a USGS Employee, including the "Do's and Don'ts" of Compensation, Endorsement, Plagiarism, and Indemnity for Government employees.

#### *Kansas Tax Notification to Haskell Indian Nations University Student Bank*

The State of Kansas sent a notice of non-filed return addressed to the Haskell Student Bank at the Haskell Indian Nations University. The Student Bank is operated solely by employees of Haskell Indian Nations University. As it may not be an independent legal entity without employees of its own, we do not believe it would be required to file an income tax withholding form. We will be working to verify that the Student Bank is run by Haskell employees and then develop an appropriate response to the State of Kansas.

### **30-60 Day Look-Ahead**

Significant Litigation Deadlines are reported separately.

### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

#### **Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel**

On April 23-27, Susan Combs, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, will be in the office.

On April 23-27, Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith and Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Hambleton will be in the office.

On April 28, FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan will be speaking at Bioblitz, an event focused on citizen science in Baltimore, Maryland.

On April 26, NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith will participate in the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership BBQ at the Potomac Boat Club in DC.

#### **Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)**

On April 24-25, state and federal agency representatives on the RESTORE Steering Committee in Pensacola, Florida. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss progress on the Initial Funded Priorities List (FPL) and future FPL funding-related issues dealing with Deepwater Horizon spill. (3/12/18)

On April 26, staff from DOI (FWP, FWS, NPS, BOEM, and USGS) and RESTORE Council staff to discuss DOI's proposed process for developing ideas for future project funding from Deepwater Horizon spill. (04/04/18)

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

***[UPDATE]*** On April 23, FWS staff will brief its leadership on the details of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FWS and Monsanto. On April 25, FWS staff and Monsanto staff will meet at MIB to discuss any outstanding issues and demonstrate some of the technical aspects of the MOU. If all parties agree, FWS and Monsanto will sign the MOU at this meeting. Outreach will not occur as part of this meeting, and no media is invited. The week of April 30 is tentatively selected for outreach In addition, a field-based demonstration event is being planned for late summer/early fall. FWS Midwest Region has been exploring the possibility of a partnership with Monsanto, and its subsidiaries, to use modern agriculture data tools to help landowners voluntarily manage their land to enhance pollinator habitat while maximizing production in their fields. Monsanto and FWS developed the MOU to outline how they will work together to: 1) provide accurate and useful information to farmers; 2) analyze data to determine the outcomes of conservation actions and make it easy for landowners to have access to

conservation programs should they choose to participate; and 3) to explore the possibilities to use these tools for other cooperative conservation efforts across the country. (Updated 04/18/2018)

On April 25, the regular meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) will be held at the Department of the Interior, in the South Penthouse. The Secretary of the Interior is the chairman of the Commission, which includes members of Congress (Senator Heinrich, and Representatives Wittman and Thompson), and representatives from federal and state wildlife agencies. The MBCC will meet to consider for approval \$9.8 million for two parcels to be added to the National Wildlife Refuge System through the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (which includes Federal Duck Stamp funds) and to consider for approval \$50.5 million for 42 wetland conservation grants for projects benefiting migratory birds in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, recommended by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. Approved grants and acquisitions will be announced via a news release on the day of the meeting. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications and a national news release. (04/11/2018)

**[NEW]** Around April 30, FWS will begin testing a Monarch Conservation Database. As part of the Species Status Assessment process for the monarch, FWS is developing the database to record conservation plans and actions that benefit monarch butterflies. FWS will launch the database in three phases. The first phase begins around April 30 when FWS opens the database to a select group for user testing; the second phase will begin two to three weeks later when it is made available to all users to enter data; and the third phase will make the database available to users to access and view data. The information in the database will help the Service and monarch conservation partners continue working strategically to improve conditions for monarchs. The database is also a tool for conducting the Species Status Assessment and for determining whether listing as an endangered species is warranted. Limited outreach is planned in mid-May when database is rolled this out for public use. Outreach will be primarily be limited to conservation agencies, organizations and industry staff who may have data to upload to the system. (04/18/2018)

On or around April 30, pending approval by DOI, FWS expects publication in the *Federal Register* of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct a 30-day public scoping period and prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project Habitat Conservation Plan. The EIS will evaluate the issuance of an incidental take permit for marbled murrelet, bald eagle and golden eagle at a proposed wind energy project in Lewis County, Washington. The project is expected to be controversial with conservation organizations (*e.g.*, American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon Society, Washington Forest Law Center). FWS has received two Freedom of Information Act requests related to the project. A communications plan has been shared with FWS HQ; outreach announcing the public scoping period is planned for Washington media, congressional office, local and state officials, tribes, and stakeholders. (03/07/2018)

**[UPDATE]** In late April, FWS plans to publish a rule removing the textual descriptions of the critical habitat boundaries from certain wildlife entries that have maps sufficient to stand as the official delineation of the critical habitat designation. This rule does not increase, decrease, or in any other way change the critical habitat designations from which we are removing the textual

descriptions of boundaries. This action will save taxpayer resources. FWS is taking this action in accordance with the May 1, 2012, revision of the regulations related to publishing textual descriptions of critical habitat boundaries. No outreach is planned. (Updated 04/18/2018)

**[UPDATE]** In late April, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of issuance for letters of authorizations issued in 2015, 2016, and 2017 under regulations authorizing the non-lethal, unintentional take of marine mammals in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. This is an administrative action and is noncontroversial. No news release will be issued. (Updated 04/18/2018)

**[UPDATE]** In late April, pending clearance by DOI, FWS will make a final determination on the proposal to reclassify the Tobusch fishhook cactus from endangered to threatened. This plant species has shown significant recovery due in part to collaborative conservation efforts with partners. Supporters of this action include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and The Nature Conservancy. FWS has gained positive coverage on downlisting proposals, and anticipates more interest when this final determination is announced. A communications plan has developed that includes outreach to congressional offices, local and state officials and stakeholders, a news release to media and posting information on social media is planned at time of publication in the *Federal Register*. (Updated 04/18/2018)

In April or May, the FWS will release less than 14-day-old captive-born Mexican wolf pups into established wild Mexican wolf dens on federal land in Arizona and New Mexico. Arizona Game and Fish Department's Mexican wolf field team personnel (part of the Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team) lead the cross-fostering efforts in Arizona. New Mexico does not play a role except for providing permits to release cross-fostered pups into New Mexico. The window of opportunity is very narrow to identify pups born in captivity with a den of pups in the wild that are very close in age (under a week old). The Mexican wolf recovery team will only have a very short time (72 - 48 hours) to get a cross-foster mission lined up for execution. Because of that, in the draft news release to announce a successful cross-foster event, the dates in draft will be open. Select reporters will be invited to attend. FWS will send a news release summarizing these cross-fostering efforts to media and stakeholders at the end of May or early June. Typically FWS will not announce until a successful cross-foster event is completed. Last year, two pups were flown in but the den in the wild could not be located. (04/04/2018)

On or before May 1, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open up to 28 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach. (03/28/2018)

National Park Service

**[NEW]** During the week of April 22, Pullman National Monument will receive partner input on planned exhibits for the visitor center. The exhibits will introduce the historic themes identified in the Presidential Proclamation, including the history of the Pullman Porters. One of the partners, the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum (Museum), claimed that it had exclusive rights to tell the Pullman Porters story, contesting the inclusion of that theme in the NPS visitor center. The Museum founder Dr. Lynn Hughes and CEO David Peterson have written several letters claiming the NPS promised to provide them financial support to operate and tell the Porter's history in the Museum. The NPS has found no evidence to support that claim. The NPS continues to reach out to the Museum to include it in the exhibit planning, with no response to date. (04/18/18)

**[UPDATE]** Between April 23 - 30, the NPS will announce \$18,735 of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grants to fund three repatriation and reburial projects. The grants will be awarded based on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, enacted as Public Law 115-123, and pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Public Law 101-601, 25 U.S.C. 3001, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the Act. This grant program generally creates minimal press and Congressional interest. (Updated 04/18/18).

**[NEW]** By April 23, Pipestone National Monument (Monument) will formally respond to a request by Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P. for a right of way to replace a 1387-foot segment of petroleum pipeline that currently traverses culturally sensitive parkland. A right of way was issued by the Office of Indian Affairs prior to NPS ownership and expired in 1967. The Monument encompasses 301 acres protecting cultural, archaeological, and natural resources, with strong ongoing associations with American Indian tribes. The NPS has been working with Magellan since 2013 to address this request. The company has indicated that they have several alternative locations identified. (04/18/18)

**[NEW]** Between April 23-May 15, Olympic National Park's 2017 Natural Resource Condition Assessment (NRCA) will be published as a National Park Service Resource Report. This report is jointly funded by the USGS and the NPS. A joint NPS-USGS news release will be issued announcing the report. (04/18/18)

On April 23rd, Antietam National Battlefield will release its Visitor Access and Circulation Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA) for 30-day public review. The purpose of the Plan/EA is to evaluate the implementation of strategies to improve visitor access and circulation at the park. This Plan/EA also serves as an amendment to the 1992 Antietam National Battlefield General Management Plan, taking into account newly acquired lands not previously considered in the general management plan and evolving management decisions regarding the visitor center and several Battlefield tour roads. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ANTICirculationPlan> (4/11/18).

On April 23, National Capital Parks-East will begin conservation work on two historic statues in Lincoln Park in Washington, D.C. Conservationists will restore and repair the statues' plaques, bronzework and masonry over the course of three weeks. While the statues will be fenced off, the park will remain open during the project. (4/11/18).

**[NEW]** By April 23, two Records of Decision (ROD) will be ready for NPS review and approval for the Isle Royale National Park Presence of Wolves Plan and the Knife River National Historic Site Archeological Resource Management Plan. Once approved, the RODs will return to the Midwest Region for the Regional Director's signature and public release. (04/18/18)

**[NEW]** On April 24, NPS/DOI will issue a news release announcing the latest annual report conducted by the NPS on the the economic impact of visitation to national parks. Visitor spending in communities near national parks in 2017 resulted in a \$35.8 billion benefit to the nation's economy and supported 306,000 jobs. The release is being timed to coincide with National Park Week. (04/18/18)

Between April 23-27, Catoctin Mountain Park is planning to conduct prescribed fires on up to 18 acres of park forests. The fires are intended to promote the growth of native plant and tree species and limit the threat of wildfires by reducing leaf litter and downed limbs. The fires will be conducted by teams of qualified wildland firefighters with support of local fire departments. Limited trail closures will be in effect for short periods of time, and the impact on park visitors and neighbors will be minor. (4/11/18).

Between April 24 and May 1, the National Park Foundation and the NPS will publicly announce nearly \$500,000 in corporate funding to support projects in recognition of the 50th anniversaries of the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Selected projects cover a diverse geography and focus on expanding outdoor recreation and access, improving infrastructure, and increasing stewardship, public use, and awareness of National Trails and Rivers. Individual project milestones will provide opportunities throughout 2018 for media coverage. (4/6/2018).

Between April 24 - 25, Cape Krusenstern National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) will hold a public meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska. The purpose of an SRC is to devise and recommend to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary a program for subsistence hunting within Alaska national parks where subsistence is authorized. The SRCs were established under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. (3/7/18).

**[UPDATE]** On April 25, a research manuscript, co-authored with the NPS, is planned for publication by *Science Advances* regarding a Late Pleistocene mega track site at White Sands National Monument. Matthew Bennett, professor with the Institute for Studies in Landscapes and Human Evolution, Bournemouth University, UK, conducted fieldwork at the monument and confirmed the occurrence of human prints that are contemporaneous with ground sloth prints, which went extinct some 10,000 years ago. The NPS Communications Office is coordinating with the park on releasing information about the research and addressing the expected media interest. (04/18/18)

On or after April 25, Lassen Volcanic National Park expects to open a public comment period on alternatives for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to ensure the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character in the park's designated wilderness and backcountry areas. The proposed action seeks to maintain unconfined recreational use while identifying and preserving resource values that the public seeks in this setting. (04/04/18).



**[UPDATE]** From April 26 to April 29 and May 3 to May 6, Yosemite National Park will pilot a traffic management program aimed at increasing safety and minimizing long lines at the Arch Rock Entrance Station on California Route 140. The park is working with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to temporarily stop vehicles on the road leading to the park, allowing traffic to incrementally enter the park on the popular road. This is one of the pilot programs the park is implementing to address traffic congestion, ensure visitor access, and address safety concerns for park visitors. (Updated 04/18/18)

Between April 26 - 27, Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) will hold a public meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska. The purpose of an SRC is to devise and recommend to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary a program for subsistence hunting within Alaska national parks where subsistence is authorized. The SRCs were established under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. (3/7/18).

**[NEW]** On April 27, Prince William Forest Park will host representatives from the US Olympic Committee and US Paralympics. The organizations will scout cycling routes and operations locations for a potential Para-cycling World Cup event in the park in the spring of 2019. This initial site visit is not expected to involve media. (04/18/18)

On April 27, Redwood National and State Parks will sponsor the public launch of *Redwoods Rising*, a new partnership with Save the Redwoods League to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration of the parks' 120,000 acres of redwood forests. It is anticipated that 200 people will attend the lunch and agreement signing, including Congressional staffers and local elected officials. Media interest expected. (04/11/18).

On April 27, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area will meet with the Navajo Nation's Department of Justice to continue the conversation on how to update the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement, the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding, and 2003 Bridge Agreement, all of which expire in 2020. The Quadrilateral Agreement provides a mechanism for commercial and recreational development along the shared GLCA/Navajo Nation boundary. The 1994 MOU, concerning the implementation of the development concept plan (DCP) for Antelope Point, is tiered from the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement. The 2003 Bridge Agreement is between the Navajo Nation and the NPS and details the administration of the Antelope Point area. This agreement also tiers off the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement and 1994 MOU. (04/04/18).

**[UPDATE]** Between April 28-May 18, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) expects to issue the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the [Muir Woods National Monument Salmon Habitat Enhancement and Bridge Replacement Project](#). The selected alternative will restore aquatic habitat degraded by riprap that was placed along the creek banks in the 1930s and replace four deteriorated pedestrian bridges that were installed in the 1990s. The project implements part of the 2014 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The projects themselves are not expected to be controversial, but there is public interest in ensuring that NPS schedules its projects to reduce

cumulative impacts from planned construction work in the area by the Marin County Department of Public Works and the Federal Highways Works Administration. (Updated 04/18/18)

On April 30, the Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center will release and announce a new website that allows the public to access archived NPS records including service-wide construction documentation; technical, planning, and scientific reports; drawings; specifications and more through a user-friendly online database/website: [pubs.etic.nps.gov](https://pubs.etic.nps.gov). Public users could include academic researchers, students, and history enthusiasts (4/11/18).

By April 30, Cape Hatteras National Seashore plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to lease Oregon Inlet Marina. The marina is operated under a concession contract, which has been extended on an annual basis since 2000. A lease has been determined to be the appropriate method for managing the property in order to provide for facility maintenance and continued public use of this locally-important and internationally-known charter fishing marina. The RFP is expected to garner attention from multiple interested parties, including the current operator, the local media, and elected officials. (Updated 04/11/18). **(embargoed until public announcement)**

By April 30, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson is expected to sign an amendment to Arkansas code, changing the permit conditions for large animal feeding stations like C&H Hog Farm near a tributary of the Buffalo National River. The Farm is authorized to hold 6,503 pigs. Currently, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality provides a 30-day comment period when a permit change involves retaining and then disposing of liquid animal waste. On March 15, the Arkansas House and Senate approved identical bills that would prevent third parties from filing complaints following a 30-day comment period if the farm remains in good standing with State regulators. The NPS has not been consulted in connection with this measure. (3/27/18)

**[NEW]** On May 1, Councillor Yamada Hiroshi, member of the Upper House of the National Diet of Japan, will visit WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. This is a follow-up visit to the one he made in September 2017. He will meet with NPS staff and is interested in learning how the park's exhibits were designed to include both US and Japanese perspectives at Pearl Harbor. (04/18/18)

**[NEW]** On May 1, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park plans to send a letter to the town of Cumberland Gap (Tennessee) for restitution according to the Park System Resource Protection Act (54 U.S. Code § 100721) in the amount of \$1,110.71. The restitution is related to a diesel spill that took place on February 11, 2018, within the park's boundary in Gap Creek. (04/18/18) **(Close Hold)**

**[NEW]** On April 28, Fort Laramie National Historic Site will be hosting a commemoration event for the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. There will be approximately 12-15 tribal nations of the Northern Great Plains encamped at the Fort. (04/18/18)

**[NEW]** By May 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue their findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and

its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The park is working with the NPS Resource Protection Branch to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (04/18/18)

On May 1, the Blue Ridge Parkway will host a public information meeting in Roanoke, VA to spotlight upcoming projects and visitor improvements planned during the 2018 visitor season. A broad range of projects will include major paving and bridge projects, citizen science projects, and restoration of historic views at parkway overlooks. This meeting is the second in a series to kick off the visitor season. The first meeting, held in Asheville, NC on February 28, was attended by an est. 200 people and was very well received. Park partners will also be participating to showcase their role(s) in supporting the NPS and improving visitor experiences. Media are invited. (04/11/18).

**[UPDATE]** Around May 1-15, Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve will begin efforts to relocate up to 2,500 feral burros from each park. Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (a nonprofit partner) will fund and carry out the roundups, test burros for disease, relocate them to holding facilities, and domesticate the animals for adoption. This is anticipated to generate public interest. (Updated 04/18/18)

In early May, the NPS plans to release a prospectus for five concession contracts to provide cruise ship services at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Two of the contracts are set aside for the two historic operators identified through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) legislation. Cruise ship services contracts have been awarded since 1980 on a 10 year basis. New contract terms are similar to previous contracts, shaped in accordance with both Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve-specific legislation and NPS law and policy. Contracts will be awarded by late October, 2019. The prospectus is in final Department and Solicitor review. (Updated 04/11/18).

On May 3, the 30-day public review period will close for the Theodore Roosevelt Island Cultural Landscape Report and Environmental Assessment (CLR/EA). The preferred alternative includes rehabilitating the comfort station, better defining and improving the islands trail system, and establishing soft landings and a floating dock on the island for non-motorized boats. The park will host a public meeting on the island the week of April 16. (Updated 04/04/18).

**[UPDATE]** By May 4, the NPS expects to publish a Call for Nominations notice in the Federal Register requesting people to serve on the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, authorized by Public Law 115-102. The purpose of the commission is to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the arrival of Africans in the English colonies in 1619. Also in process is a letter to Governors requesting nominees to serve on the commission. (Updated 04/18/18)

**[UPDATE]** On May 4, the NPS intends to terminate the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Capitol Reef National Park (CRNP) Livestock Grazing and Trailing Management Plan (LGTMP) and instead move forward with an Environmental Assessment (EA). In March 2018, one of the two remaining grazing permit holders willingly sold their grazing permit to a non-

profit and also relinquished in writing their right to graze livestock in CRNP. As such, the NPS is revising the LGTMP to address the one remaining grazing allotment and trailing routes through CRNP. Based on public and agency scoping, as well as impact analysis conducted to date, implementation of the LGTMP on the remaining allotment and trails throughout the park would not have significant impacts; therefore, the proposal is to terminate the EIS and instead move forward with the preparation of an EA for the LGTMP. The EA will analyze the impacts of livestock grazing from the remaining permittee and trailing on park resources and is intended to guide future adaptive management decisions. In 1988, Congress authorized grazing privileges to permit holders and their children born on or before the date CRNP became a national park. Our current schedule calls for releasing the EA in the Summer of 2018, with a final decision in the Fall of 2018. (Updated 04/18/18)

**[NEW]** On May 5, Shenandoah National Park will be included in the route of the Kyle Petty Charity Ride. Created 24 years ago by NASCAR driver Kyle Petty, the charity ride draws significant media attention and raises millions of dollars for children's charities. The 220 riders on 134 motorcycles and support vehicles plan to drive the full length of the park as part of their East Coast tour from Maine to South Carolina. Arriving in the morning at the North Entrance in Front Royal, the group will stop midday at the Byrd Visitor Center and Big Meadows Wayside Restaurant, and exit the park later in the afternoon via the Rockfish Gap Entrance Station. The event is expected to have no impact on park resources nor cause any delays on Skyline Drive. There has been significant local media interest. (04/18/18)

### **15-60 Day Look-Ahead**

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

On May 8, FWS Northeast Regional Director Wendi Weber will give a keynote address at the 36th Annual National Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference. This year's conference is hosted by the Narragansett Tribe and is being held in Providence, Rhode Island. FWS will provide presentations on coastal resilience projects in Rhode Island, eagle policy and permitting, white-nose syndrome in bats, and a possible field trip to the Rhode Island NWR complex. (04/11/2018)

On or around May 9, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to delist the Hidden Lake bluecurls, a plant in California, due to recovery. FWS does not expect opposition to the delisting. Primary stakeholders include California Department of Parks and Recreation Mount San Jacinto State Park. Planned outreach will include a national news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress. (03/21/2018)

On or around May 11, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to reclassify Kuenzler hedgehog cactus, a plant species endemic to New Mexico, from endangered to threatened. This reclassification is not expected to be controversial. Primary stakeholders include the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Planned outreach includes a regional news release, emails to stakeholders, social media, and web postings. (Updated 04/11/18)

On or around May 15, FWS will publish a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2019-20 hunting season. This is the first step in the annual regulatory cycle. The FWS Regulations Committee will recommend the final frameworks at their October meeting. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

**[UPDATE]** On or around May 18, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to list five Sri Lankan tarantula species as endangered. The species are in decline due to ongoing habitat loss, degradation, and the cumulative effects of this and other threat factors. This action is not expected to be controversial. Planned outreach will include web updates. (Updated 04/18/2018)

**[NEW]** In late May, FWS will announce a proposal to add a definition to the general importation and exportation regulations regarding shellfish and fishery products. This action would clarify which species of echinoderms qualify for exemptions from FWS import/export requirements. This could be controversial. Planned outreach includes a national press release, FAQs, congressional and stakeholder notifications and web updates. (04/18/2018)

**[UPDATE]** On or around May 25, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed rule to list the hyacinth macaw as threatened. To address concerns raised by the pet trade industry, FWS is including a 4(d) rule that will allow for the import and export of parrots that meet certain criteria, as well as interstate commerce in this species without a permit. Stakeholders include the bird breeding community, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. Planned outreach will include a national news release and web updates. (Updated 04/18/2018)

On or around May 31, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a national news release, and an if-asked FAQs. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the BLM. (Updated 04/11/2018)

On or before June 1, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the final 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. (04/11/2018)

On or around June 1 or later, the FWS anticipates the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for expanded public access to Rattlesnake Mountain on Hanford Reach National Monument will be available for public review and comment. This is part of the required regulatory processes to provide public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, consistent with a

mandate in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; P.L. 113-291). Section 3081 of the NDAA states “the Secretary of the Interior shall provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including (1) motor vehicle access; and (2) pedestrian and other non-motorized access.” The FWS established a Tribal Working Group with four local tribes and held public scoping meetings to address cultural concerns and to work through the process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The FWS is addressing National Environmental Policy Act compliance by drafting a supplement to the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Monument. Expanded public access will be controversial with tribes. FWS will continue outreach efforts to the tribes, media, and the public. A local news release is planned to alert the public to comment period. (Updated 03/28/2018)

On or around June 1, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice announcing the availability of a draft post-delisting monitoring plan for the lesser long-nosed bat, found in Arizona and New Mexico. This action is not expected to be opposed. Stakeholders are the petitioners, Pacific Legal Foundation and the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. Planned outreach includes a regional news release and notifications to stakeholders. (04/11/2018)

**[UPDATE]** On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* an action designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii island and is correcting the maps for existing designations for an additional four species. FWS intends to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the state of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the county of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above. (03/21/2018)

**[NEW]** As early as June, FWS in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department will propose expanding the black-footed ferret 10(j) designation to include all current and historical ferret habitat in Arizona. The 1996 Arizona 10(j) area was limited to the Aubrey Valley Experimental Population Area (AVEPA); successful reintroductions and subsequent population expansions has resulted in ferrets venturing outside of the AVEPA (as fully protected status). FWS consultation with affected tribes has been initiated. FWS will coordinate with AGFD to best approach and inform Arizona grassland residents and industry (livestock) groups. Communication planning will be conducted. (04/18/2018)

In June, pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing the potential impacts from four similar wind energy project habitat conservation plans in Hawaii. The HCPs were submitted to the Service in support of requests for permits authorizing the take of endangered or threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act. Due to similarities in the geography, impact, covered species, and proposed mitigation measures between these four wind energy projects the Service has determined that a combined PEIS is the most efficient and comprehensive approach for considering the cumulative impacts of these actions on the human environment. When the PEIS publishes, outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (Updated 04/11/2018)

## National Park Service

**[UPDATE]** On May 7, the 15-day public review and comment period will end for the Glacier National Park *Sperry Chalet, The Next 100 Years Environmental Assessment* (EA). Two public meetings have already been held. The EA will identify the NPS' preferred alternative, which is to use existing remnant walls to rebuild the structure, replicating and retaining as many historic character features as is practicable, and achieving some modernization in design. The EA will identify two construction seasons. NPS is investigating options for funding, design and construction and assessing the feasibility of construction activity that begins in the summer of 2018 and estimated completion in 2019. (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 7, the NPS expects to complete a land exchange between Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO). The NPS will convey an easement valued at \$41,000 to NIPSCO, allowing them to install a 24" diameter high-pressure natural gas line on Federal land. In exchange, NIPSCO will convey fee title to the United States for Tract 02-198 valued at \$17,000, in addition to a cash payment of \$24,000 into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, resulting in an equal value exchange. (04/04/18).

**[NEW]** Between May 7 - 10, a NPS planning team will host several public meetings throughout the State of Mississippi as part of the civic engagement phase of a Special Resource Study (SRS) looking at significant civil rights sites in Mississippi, including locations related to the life and murder of Medgar Evers, the lynching of Emmett Till and the murder of three freedom riders. The team will visit five different communities across the state containing resources that were identified in the legislation requiring the SRS. The study will evaluate the potential for inclusion of each site in the national park system based on whether it meets Congressionally-established criteria for significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management. Representatives from Congressman Bennie Thompson's office and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History are expected to participate in the public meetings. PEPC site: [https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MSCR\\_SRS](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MSCR_SRS) (04/18/18).

**[NEW]** During the week of May 7, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area staff are participating in a four-day workshop hosted by BLM to discuss alternatives regarding the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Kanab Field Office – Escalante Area Resource Management Plans. On April 10, the park and the BLM held its first cooperating agency meeting. The NPS agreed to be a cooperating agency during this planning effort with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area functioning as the NPS point of contact. Consolidated comments from all involved NPS park units were reviewed by the regional office and sent to the BLM on April 13. (04/18/18)

On May 8, pending an updated wage determination from Department of Labor (DOL), Golden Gate National Recreation Area's General Agreement and associated draft leases for the long-term use of Pier 31 ½ as the Alcatraz ferry embarkation site will be considered by the San Francisco Port Commission for approval. This item was before the commission on February 27; however, commissioners continued the vote in response to concerns raised by labor unions about

the concession contract DOL wage determination and other labor-related issues. (Updated 04/11/18).

**[NEW]** Between May 8-23, Stonewall National Monument will be holding a series of public meetings in New York City and its boroughs to continue community engagement in the development of a foundation document for the Monument. The meetings will focus on developing an interpretive framework for visitor experience, services, and programming for the Monument. Anticipated participants include members of the general public, neighbors, LGBTQ activists, and local, state and federal elected officials. (04/18/18)

**[UPDATE]** By May 10, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Bonnie Clare Road Reconstruction Environmental Assessment and FONSI. Reconstruction work is scheduled to start in August 2018 and be completed by May 2019. This will allow reopening of the northeast entrance to the park and restore public access to Scotty's Castle after massive damage from flooding in October 2015. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

**[UPDATE]** By May 10, Death Valley National Park and the Ridgecrest BLM office anticipate opening a public comment period on the Keystone Mine Plan of Operations Amendment and accompanying Environmental Assessment. The mine is on BLM land near the park's western border, but the mining plan includes the use of water rights within the park. (updated 04/18/18).

**[NEW]** On May 10-11, the SER National Historic Landmarks program will hold public forums and stakeholder sessions to present the [Savannah National Historic Landmark District Integrity & Assessment](#) report. Public comments on the report are also being accepted through June 30. (04/18/18)

**[UPDATE]** Between May 10-30, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

Through May 11, Katmai National Park and Preserve and Alagnak Wild River will host public listening sessions and collect comments related to the Katmai National Park and Preserve and the Alagnak Wild River Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan. During the public comment period, four open house events will be held in Kodiak, Anchorage, Homer, and Naknek, Alaska, to inform the public on the planning process and solicit public feedback. Public input on key planning issues and initial management considerations will help the park develop a proposed action and preliminary alternatives, which will eventually be incorporated in the draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. (2/28/17).

**[UPDATE]** Between May 15-30, Death Valley National Park anticipates publishing a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register for the Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Saline Valley Warm Springs (plan/DEIS). The NOA will initiate a 60-day public comment period on the document during which public meetings will be held in the vicinity of the park. The plan/DEIS is intended to provide a framework for natural



and cultural resource management, administration and operations, and managing visitor use. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 04/18/18)

**[UPDATE]** By May 15, pending Departmental review, the NPS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing that the Department has authorized the preparation of a World Heritage nomination for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio. It is recirculating for surname. With nine component properties including those that form Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and others managed by the State of Ohio, this series of geometric mounds is approximately 2,000 years old. The nomination file, which will take more than a year to draft, will be developed by local proponents in Ohio with guidance from the NPS. Upon completion and review, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will determine whether the nomination will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee. (Updated 04/18/18).

On May 15, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore expects to host public meetings and online engagement related to uses and crowding at the most heavily visited portions of the park. This public input will be used to guide the development of a visitor use management plan for the park. (3/27/18)

On May 15, Rock Creek Park will issue a prospectus and begin accepting proposals from vendors to provide equestrian and related services at the park's horse center in Washington D.C. under a new 10-year concession contract. Services sought include private horse boarding, therapeutic riding programs, instructional camps, guided trail rides and riding lessons. Contract offers must be received by June 15. (04/11/18).

**[NEW]** On May 15-16, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council will hold a public meeting in Jamestown, Virginia. This will be the Council's final meeting since trail advisory councils are only authorized for 10 years under the National Trails System Act. Deputy Director Dan Smith plans to attend the first day. (4/12/18)

**[UPDATE]** By May 15 (pending Departmental approval of the NOA), Olympic National Park anticipates issuing a news release announcing that a Notice of Availability NOA is to be published in the Federal Register for its Mountain Goat Management Plan/Final EIS (Updated 04/18/18).

**[NEW]** On May 18, Fox News will shoot an interview around Fort Jefferson between Fox's Brian Kilmeade and Dry Tortugas National Park Manager Glenn Simpson for its project *What Makes America Great*. (04/18/18)

By May 20, National Capital Parks-East, via the Federal Highway Administration, will award a contract to repair the roads in Fort Dupont and Fort Davis Parks. This paving project will completely reconstruct the most deteriorated sections and resurface the roads. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has been keenly interested in the project. Public notifications will begin in the coming weeks and work is expected to begin in summer 2018. (04/04/18).

On May 25, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/11/18).

On May 30, Independence National Historical Park will hold the kick-off meeting for the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. Meeting participants will officially begin planning programs and activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. The Commission has many representatives from various organizations and corporations. Eight members of Congress serve on the Commission. (04/11/18).

**[UPDATE]** By May 30, USDA APHIS will complete data analysis that will inform a schedule for bison transfer to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Ft. Peck, Montana. On April 5, Yellowstone National Park and the Deputy Administrator of USDA APHIS discussed several key issues related to the park's proposed bison quarantine program. This was follow-up to a February, 2018 meeting, convened and facilitated by the Secretary of the Interior, between DOI, NPS, USDA APHIS, Ft. Peck tribal leadership, and the State of Montana. Substantive progress was confirmed on several issues including the structure and signators for agreements on quarantine facility operations, the future transfer of brucellosis-free bison to the Ft. Peck reservation, and USDA APHIS certification of the park bison quarantine facility. Yellowstone bison management and quarantine receive national public interest and media coverage. (Updated 04/18/18)

By May 31, the NPS intends to award multiple concession contracts for mountaineering guide services at Denali National Park and Preserve. Applicant submissions have been scored and rated. The selection process is currently in the matching phase where, one by one, prospective concessioners with ANILCA preferences have an opportunity to match the best offer. New contracts will have a term of 10 years, beginning January 1, 2019. (Updated 3/27/18).

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the

drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. (Updated 4/11/18).

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (3/7/18)

Expected to last through June or the end of the dry season, Burnett Oil Company will continue seismic operation within Big Cypress National Preserve. The Nobles Grade 3D Seismic Survey, a proposal that the National Park Service and Burnett examined and refined for more than two years before it was approved in May 2016, originally began in March of 2017 and suspended operations by June 2, 2017, when conditions became too wet to continue. Burnett is using a vibroseis technique to acquire geologic data to assess the potential for oil drilling within Big Cypress National Preserve. It is expected the exploration will continue this year through the south Florida dry season which should end by June 2018. Work began on March 29. (Updated 04/11/18).

**[NEW]** July 3 is the deadline for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to submit a nomination to the Keeper of the Ch'u'itnu Historic District Traditional Cultural Property nomination submitted by the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT). On April 4, 2018, the AK Historical Commission (Commission) approved the nomination submitted by the NVT, a federally recognized tribe that has lived within the proposed district for many generations. The District encompasses ca. 109,000 acres of land within Alaska's Ch'u'tnu River watershed approximately 90 miles west of Anchorage. The nomination is opposed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources as well as some private organizations/commercial entities. An accord can only be submitted to the Keeper by the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and only after it has been reviewed by the Alaska Historical Commission. It is the Keeper's understanding that despite approval of the nomination by the Commission, the SHPO remains strongly opposed to it. Failure of the SHPO to meet the 90 day/ July 3 deadline will likely result in the filing of a third appeal by NVT directly to the Keeper to review the nomination and list the property in the NR. (04/18/18)

Between July 19-31, the American Indian Movement (AIM) will hold its 27th annual Sundance at Pipestone National Monument. The Sundance is the central sacred ceremony for the Lakota Tribes. On April 2, the NPS received a proposal from AIM to improve the grounds used for the Sundance. The NPS will begin working through the compliance process for the proposed improvements and has introduced possible alternatives to meet AIM's needs. (Updated 04/11/18).

## Conversation Contents

### Fwd: After Action review for Monthly Meeting

#### Attachments:

/14. Fwd: After Action review for Monthly Meeting/1.1 3-14-18.pptx  
/14. Fwd: After Action review for Monthly Meeting/2.1 University Overhead examples.docx  
/14. Fwd: After Action review for Monthly Meeting/4.1 PMB 4-11 Sec briefing input.pptx  
/14. Fwd: After Action review for Monthly Meeting/5.1 4-11-18.pptx

**"Cameron, Scott" <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)>**

---

**From:** "Cameron, Scott" <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 09 2018 12:36:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Steven Howke <[steven\\_howke@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steven_howke@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: After Action review for Monthly Meeting  
**Attachments:** 3-14-18.pptx

Hi Steve,  
Will you be back Wednesday morning to present this?  
Thanks,  
Scott  
Scott J. Cameron  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Secretary of the Interior  
Desk 202 208 4242  
Cell 202 706 9031

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

From: **Thiele, Aaron** <[aaron\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2018 at 9:30 AM  
Subject: Re: After Action review for Monthly Meeting  
To: Joseph Balash <[joseph\\_balash@ios.doi.gov](mailto:joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov)>, Timothy Petty <[timothy\\_petty@ios.doi.gov](mailto:timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov)>, "Domenech, Douglas" <[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>, Scott Cameron <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)>, Jason Larrabee <[jason\\_larrabee@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov)>, John Tahsuda <[john.tahsuda@bia.gov](mailto:john.tahsuda@bia.gov)>, John Tanner <[john\\_tanner@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_tanner@ios.doi.gov)>, Vincent DeVito <[vincent\\_devito@ios.doi.gov](mailto:vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov)>, Steven Howke <[steven\\_howke@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steven_howke@ios.doi.gov)>, Rick May <[rick\\_may@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rick_may@ios.doi.gov)>  
Cc: Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>, David Bernhardt <(b) (6) - David Bernhardt.gov>, Caroline Boulton <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)>, "Rees, Gareth" <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)>

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Thanks,  
Aaron

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---

**From:** "Cameron, Scott" <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 09 2018 12:47:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Steven Howke <[steven\\_howke@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steven_howke@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: After Action review for Monthly Meeting  
**Attachments:** University Overhead examples.docx

OK, Steve. Looking forward to seeing you.

By the way, Tanner and Voyles and I met with House Resources majority committee staff on Friday, in anticipation of a rescheduled grants oversight hearing or two in the next month or so.

One factoid I brought up to justify our focus on universities is high university overhead rates. In that context, if you are OK with it, I'd like to send the Congressional staffers the attached as background.

Thanks,  
Scott  
Scott J. Cameron  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Secretary of the Interior  
Desk 202 208 4242  
Cell 202 706 9031

On Mon, Apr 9, 2018 at 2:41 PM, Steven Howke <[steven\\_howke@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steven_howke@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Yes. I will be back to work tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

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To: Joseph Balash <[joseph\\_balash@ios.doi.gov](mailto:joseph_balash@ios.doi.gov)>, Timothy Petty



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<[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>, Scott Cameron <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)>,  
Jason Larrabee <[jason\\_larrabee@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov)>, John Tahsuda  
<[john.tahsuda@bia.gov](mailto:john.tahsuda@bia.gov)>, John Tanner <[john\\_tanner@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_tanner@ios.doi.gov)>, Vincent DeVito  
<[vincent\\_devito@ios.doi.gov](mailto:vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov)>, Steven Howke <[steven\\_howke@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steven_howke@ios.doi.gov)>, Rick  
May <[rick\\_may@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rick_may@ios.doi.gov)>  
Cc: Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, Scott Hommel  
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Caroline Boulton <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)>, "Rees, Gareth"  
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<3-14-18.pptx>

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**From:** Steven Howke <[steven\\_howke@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steven_howke@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 09 2018 12:57:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Cameron, Scott" <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: After Action review for Monthly Meeting

Good idea, I like it!

Sent from my iPhone

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Cc: Downey Magallanes <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>, David Bernhardt <[\(b\)\(6\)-Bernhardt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:(b)(6)-Bernhardt@ios.doi.gov)>, Caroline Boulton <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)>, "Rees, Gareth" <[gareth\\_rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov)>

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Aaron

<3-14-18.pptx>

**"Cameron, Scott" <scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Cameron, Scott" <scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Apr 10 2018 07:55:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: After Action review for Monthly Meeting  
**Attachments:** PMB 4-11 Sec briefing input.pptx

Aaron,  
I updated the PMB pages on the attached.

Thanks,  
Scott  
Scott J. Cameron  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Secretary of the Interior  
Desk 202 208 4242  
Cell 202 706 9031

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**"Thiele, Aaron" <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Apr 10 2018 15:19:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
Joseph Balash <joseph\_balash@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Petty <timothy\_petty@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Cameron <scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan\_combs@ios.doi.gov>, John Tahsuda <john.tahsuda@bia.gov>, John Tanner <john\_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Howke <steven\_howke@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Argo <michael\_argo@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent DeVito <vincent\_devito@ios.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david\_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>  
**To:** Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, David



**CC:** Bernhardt <(b)(6)-Bernhardt gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, "Rees, Gareth" <gareth\_rees@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Re: After Action review for Monthly Meeting

**Attachments:** 4-11-18.pptx

All attached is the current draft for the slides tomorrow. Please note that we are still awaiting slides from ASLM and Vincent.

Thanks,  
Aaron

On Tue, Apr 10, 2018 at 9:42 AM, Thiele, Aaron <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov> wrote:  
All this is a reminder that slides are due today at noon.

Thanks

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**"Cameron, Scott" <scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov>**

**From:** "Cameron, Scott" <scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 16 2018 09:18:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Thiele, Aaron" <aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, Caroline Boulton <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: After Action review for Monthly Meeting

FYI, what I sent last week I think still works for tomorrow's meeting.

Thanks,  
Scott  
Scott J. Cameron  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Secretary of the Interior  
Desk 202 208 4242  
Cell 202 706 9031

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Aaron



# Monthly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



# 2018 Top Policy Goals

## Yellowstone bison

- In winter 2017-18, 800 bison captured at the Stephens Creek facility; 355 to slaughter (expect 500 by 03/16). Treaty and state hunters harvested approximately 260 bison.
- 3 criminal acts at the Stephens Creek facility in past two months: release of 52 bison from quarantine; release of 50+ bison from capture facility; brief self-chaining of two activists to processing facility.
- The NPS is negotiating with APHIS and the State of Montana to reach an agreement to quarantine bison and send brucellosis-free bison to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes at Fort Peck Reservation.
- Lack of common understanding on the outcome: Fort Peck believes it will receive bison in 7 to 8 months; USDA APHIS believes no bison transfer until quarantine is complete, and the State of Montana looking to USDA APHIS to modify its position to allow early transfer to Fort Peck.



Draft-Deliberative

## Special Projects

### Bison

(b)(5)-dppp