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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2011-00287

March 30, 2012

On April 14, 2011, you filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request **OS-2011-00287**, seeking “a copy of each Weekly Departmental Report for the Department of the Interior produced between May 2, 2009 and the present.” On May 25, 2011, you limited the scope of your request to the three months prior to May 2011.

We are writing today to respond to your request on behalf of the Office of the Secretary.

Please find enclosed one CD containing 12 files consisting of 914 pages.

Portions of these documents have been withheld pursuant to Exemption 5 of the Freedom of Information Act, (5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (5)).

Exemption 5 allows an agency to withhold “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party... in litigation with the agency” (5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5)). As such, the privilege “exempt[s] those documents... normally privileged in the civil discovery context.” National Labor Relations Bd. v. Sears Roebuck & Co., 421 U.S. 132 (1975). The exemption incorporates several of these privileges from discovery in litigation, including the deliberative process privilege, the attorney work-product privilege, and the attorney-client privilege. Id. at 149.

Attorney-Client Privilege:

Under Exemption 5, the attorney-client privilege protects “confidential communications between an attorney and his client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice.” Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. United States Dep’t of the Air Force, 566 F.2d 242, 252 (D.C. Cir.. 1977). The attorney-client privilege is not limited to the context of litigation. See, e.g., at 252-53. Moreover, although it fundamentally applies to confidential facts divulged by a client to her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinions given by an attorney to his client based upon, and thus reflecting, those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect

confidential client-supplied information. See, e.g., McErlean v. United States Dep't of Justice, No. 97-7831, 1999 WL 791680, at *7 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 30, 1999).

The portions of these documents that have been withheld pursuant to the attorney-client privilege of Exemption 5 constitute confidential communications between agency attorneys and agency clients, or Federal attorneys and agency clients. These portions have been held confidential by the agency. Public dissemination of them would most certainly have a chilling effect on communications between agency clients and attorneys.

Deliberative Process Privilege

The deliberative process privilege “protect[s] the decisionmaking process of government agencies” and “encourage[s] the frank discussion of legal and policy issues” by ensuring that agencies are “not forced to operate in a fish bowl.” Mapother v. United States Dep't of Justice, 3 F.3d 1533, 1537 (D.C. Cir. 1993) (citing Wolfe v. United States Dep't of Health & Human Services, 839 F.2d 768, 773 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (en banc)). Three policy purposes have been advanced by the courts as the bases for this privilege: (1) to encourage open, frank discussions on matters of policy between subordinates and superiors; (2) to protect against premature disclosure of proposed policies before they are finally adopted; and (3) to protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of reasons and rationales that were not in fact ultimately the grounds for an agency's action. See e.g., Russell v. United States Dep't of the Air Force, 682 F.2d 1045, 1048 (D.C. Cir. 1982); Coastal States Gas Corp. v. United States Dep't of Energy, 617 F.2d 854, 866 (D.C. Cir. 1980).

The deliberative process privilege protects materials that are both predecisional and deliberative. Mapother, 3 F.3d at 1537; Access Reports v. United States Dep't of Justice, 926 F.2d 1192, 1195 (D.C. Cir. 1991); Vaughn v. Rosen, 523 F.2d 1136, 1143-44 (D.C. Cir. 1975). A “predecisional” document is one “prepared in order to assist an agency decisionmaker in arriving at his decision,” and may include “recommendations, draft documents, proposals, suggestions, and other subjective documents which reflect the personal opinions of the writer rather than the policy of the agency.” Maricopa Audubon Society v. United States Forest Service, 108 F.3d 1089, 1093 (9th Cir. 1997). A predecisional document is part of the “deliberative process” if “the disclosure of the materials would expose an agency's decisionmaking process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the agency and thereby undermine the agency's ability to perform its functions.” *Id.*

Those portions of the documents that have been withheld pursuant to the deliberative process privilege of Exemption 5 are both predecisional and deliberative. They constitute draft documents and pre-decisional analysis and suggestions that reflect the personal opinions of their authors. They also contain some factual material which has been withheld when the use of selected facts constitutes an exercise of judgment by agency personnel and release of those facts would expose the agency's deliberative process. They do not contain or represent formal or informal agency policies or decisions. They are the result of frank and open discussions among employees of the Department of the Interior. Therefore, their content has been held confidential by all parties. Public dissemination of this information would have a chilling effect on the agency's

deliberative processes; it would expose the agency's decision-making process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the agency and thereby undermine its ability to perform its mandated functions.

Cindy Cafaro, Attorney-Advisor with the Office of the Solicitor, was consulted in reaching this decision. Melissa M. Allen, Acting FOIA Officer, is responsible for making this decision.

Appeal Rights

If you believe that the decision to withhold this information is incorrect, you may file a FOIA appeal by writing to the FOIA Appeals Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St., NW, MS 6556-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. Your appeal letter must be received no later than 30 workdays of the date of this letter. Your appeal letter must be marked, both on its envelope and at the top of its first page, with the legend "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your appeal letter must be accompanied by a copy of your original FOIA request (a copy of which is enclosed with our response for your convenience), and a copy of this letter, along with a brief explanation of why you believe that this decision is in error.

We have classified your request as an "other-use request." As an "other-use requester," you are entitled to up to 2 hours of search time and 100 pages of photocopies before being charged for the processing of FOIA requests. As a matter of policy, however, the Department of the Interior does not bill requesters for FOIA fees incurred in processing requests when their fees do not exceed \$30.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. (See 43 C.F.R. §2.18(a)).

The FOIA fee for the processing of your request would have been \$86.00, calculated as follows:

2.0	Professional Search Time	@	\$10.50 per ¼ hour
1 CD	Compact Disk	@	\$2.00 per disk

However, insofar as your entitlements as an "other-use requester" were sufficient to cover all applicable FOIA charges, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

This completes our response to your request.

If you have any questions about your response to your request, you may contact Clarice Julka by phone at 202-208-6045, by fax at 202-219-2374, by email at osfoia@nbc.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., MS 116 SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Within the Office of the Secretary, we are committed to

providing you, our customer, with the highest quality of service possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa M. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Melissa M. Allen
Office of the Secretary
Acting FOIA Officer

Enclosure

PRIVACY ACT notice: Before you choose to contact us, electronically, there are a few things you should know. The information you submit, including your electronic address, may be seen by various people. We will scan a copy of your request into our electronic OS FOIA administrative/image file. We will key the information that you provide to us into our electronic OS FOIA tracking file. We may share it with other individuals, both within and without the Department, involved in Freedom of Information Act administration. You may be contacted by any of these individuals. In other limited circumstances, including requests from Congress or private individuals, we may be required by law to disclose some of the information you submit. Also, e-mail is not necessarily secure against interception. If your communication is very sensitive, or includes personal information like your bank account, charge card, or social security number, you might want to send it by postal mail, instead.

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

SOL Weekly Bureau Report for the Week Beginning May 30, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Matters:

BOP Examination

The parties have also moved the court to compel more detailed participation from Cameron, the BOP manufacturer. In a lengthy hearing on Monday, the Magistrate Judge ordered that Cameron should be more responsive to requests from the third-party examiner. The BOEMRE contracting officer exercised an option to have the BOP enclosure disassembled in July after the MDL-ordered testing is complete. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

EnSCO Litigation

Count V (DOCD Reg Challenge)

On May 16, ATP and the United States filed cross-motions for partial summary judgment. The trial on that count has been postponed until after that briefing and not before July 21, 2011.

Count IV (Undue Delay)

We continue to discuss settlement with EnSCO on terms that would (b) (5)
(b) (5)
(b) (5) (b) (5)
(b) (5)

The new deadline is June 20, 2011.

Other Matters:

Defending Secretarial Order 3310

The Department of Justice, in consultation with the Solicitor's Office, is currently negotiating with plaintiffs a motion that would consolidate and set a briefing schedule for *Uintah County and Utah Association of Counties v. Salazar* and *State of Utah v. Salazar*. Plaintiffs in the Uintah County case allege, among other things, that the Secretarial Order 3310 is a breach of the Norton-Leavitt settlement agreement, that FLPMA does not authorize BLM to manage for protection of wilderness outside of the Section 603 of FLPMA, and that the even if the Secretary had authority to adopt S.O. 3310, notice and comment rulemaking was required. Plaintiffs in the State of Utah case make a facial challenge to the Secretarial Order.

Ivanpah Solar Project in CA in WWP v. Salazar

Plaintiffs have threatened to seek an injunction unless BLM stops all work on this project. In (b) (5)

Hearing on San Luis Unit Drainage Case

Since 2000, the Department has been under a mandatory injunction from the Federal District Court in the Eastern District of California to provide drainage service to the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project in California. Reclamation's 2007 ROD identified a drainage solution that will cost about \$2.7 billion, which is well beyond the authorized appropriations ceiling for the Unit and well beyond the ability of the Unit beneficiaries to repay pursuant to Reclamation law. At a May 20, 2011, hearing on cross-motions for summary judgment the court indicated that it believed any water applied to lands in the San Luis Unit that results in drainage is the government's duty to address. The court further ordered the parties to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and a proposed form of order, either jointly or individually, and set a deadline of June 21.

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District ("TCID") Recoupment Lawsuit

This case, which began in 1996, involves efforts to recover water that TCID illegally diverted into the Newlands Project during the 1970s and 80s. The diversions were in excess of the limits allowed by federal regulations known as the Operating Criteria and Procedures. The Ninth Circuit remanded the case with very favorable instructions for the U.S. and as a result (b) (5) The district court ordered the parties to file briefs to determine compliance with the remand by May 25, 2011. The briefs address how much additional water is owed to the U.S. and argue that pre- and post-judgement interest in the form of water is owed to the U.S.

FWS Spotted Owl Modeling Team Legal Issue

The Court has scheduled a preliminary injunction hearing for Friday, May 27, 2011, to consider Plaintiff's request, citing the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction prohibiting further meetings of the Spotted Owl Modeling Team or any two or more of its members unless certain conditions are met. (b) (5)
(b) (5)
(b) (5)

We learned as this

report was being finalized that the court cancelled the scheduled hearing and issued an order denying the requested injunctive relief. The court held that the plaintiff had not established that they were likely to succeed on the merits because the Modeling Team appears to be within the FACA exception for recovery teams under the ESA. The parties were directed to file joint recommendations for further proceedings by June 3.

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas Trademark

The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, a part of the U.S. Patent and Trade Office (PTO), ruled on May 26, 2011, that the “Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas” trademark is entitled to continued registration at the PTO because 1) the words in the mark were disclaimed by the Commission when they were seeking to register it and 2) the design and the words together were geographically descriptive. The Board expressly stated that their decision is not a precedent of the Board.(b) (5)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
May 27, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC) – Off-Road Vehicle Management. The proposed special regulation for the Seashore's Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan/EIS has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. Once cleared by OMB, it will be published in the Federal Register followed by a 60-day public comment period. The court deadline for completing the final rule is November 15, 2011.

Golden Gate NRA (CA) – America's Cup Planning. On December 14, 2010, the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) signed a Host Agreement with the America's Cup Event Authority, and on December 31, San Francisco was selected as the event's host city. The park anticipates soon signing a Special Use Permit to cover cost recovery associated with planning and compliance for the event. Additionally, a MOA is being developed among CCSF, the Organizing Committee and the park to outline NEPA roles and responsibilities. The NPS and the US Coast Guard will serve as co-leads in the NEPA process, with public scoping expected to begin in June.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park (VA) – Walmart Chooses New Location. When Walmart agreed in February to withdraw plans for a Super Center at the gateway to Wilderness Battlefield, it promised to build its new store elsewhere along the Route 3 within Orange County. On May 23 it announced the new location, three miles from the battlefield, fulfilling its promise and ending local speculation.

ON THE HORIZON

Everglades NP (FL) – EIS for Acquisition of Florida Power and Light lands in the Everglades National Park Expansion Area. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the acquisition of land currently owned by Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) in Everglades National Park will be published in the Federal Register by early June. The NOI announces the NPS intention to prepare an EIS that will analyze the potential consequences of alternative methods for acquiring FPL lands in the Park's East Everglades Expansion Area. Publication of the NOI will solicit public, agency and tribal involvement in identifying the issues, objectives and range of alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. The project schedule anticipates a Record of Decision to be signed in October 2012.

National Parks of New York Harbor (NY) – America's Great Outdoors Summit. On June 13, Secretary Salazar and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg are convening a group of leaders in environmental, recreational and cultural activities in the greater New York City/New Jersey metropolitan area to create an action agenda around the *America's Great Outdoors* and *Great Urban Parks* national initiatives. The Summit, to be held at Gracie

Mansion, will address transportation and access, Jamaica Bay restoration, youth engagement, and collaborative management of the outdoors.

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (MD) – War of 1812

Bicentennial. On June 13, the park will host Maryland's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley is expected to attend. The next day is the park's annual celebration of Flag Day, which will include a new-citizen naturalization ceremony.

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (MD) – US Conference of

Mayors. On June 18, the park will host an evening event for approximately 1500 delegates to the 79th annual meeting of the US Conference of Mayors. Attendees will include mayors of most major US cities along with other political leaders and dignitaries.

Statue of Liberty National Monument (NY) – Life and Safety Upgrades. On May 19, notice was posted soliciting bids by July 1 for life and safety upgrades to the monument. The project includes construction of stairs and associated work to provide safe emergency egress from the Statue, its pedestal and Fort Wood, on which it rests. The 125th anniversary of the Statue is October 28. The project will require closing the statue itself for about a year, beginning November 1. Liberty Island will remain open. The project cost is estimated to be more than \$20 million.

Natural Sounds and Night Skies – Upcoming Magazine Articles. Three magazine articles on park night skies are pending. The July issue of *O Magazine* will feature a story on where to stargaze this summer, including NPS interviews on light pollution. The July issue of *Travel and Leisure Magazine* and the online architectural journal *Places* will also highlight national parks with popular stargazing programs.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
May 23, 2011

Southeast Flood Update

The Southeast's national wildlife refuges are battling water on the western side where the Mississippi River and its tributaries are breaking flood records. As of May 19, 2011, flooding from the Mississippi River has impacted 83 percent or 568,006 of 643,357 acres at 23 national wildlife refuges in Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Additional flooding is expected at four Louisiana refuges within the next two weeks. A major concern is the long-term impact on wildlife and habitats. For more information, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/2011floodsfires.html>.

Southeast Fire Update

The Southeast continues to struggle with too little water on the Atlantic Coast, where large wildfires are burning in refuges in Georgia and North Carolina. The following information summarizes the current conditions of fires:

- Honey Prairie, Okefenokee NWR – 146,924 acres, 66% contained, 324 personnel working on the fire. Crews continue to mop-up and patrol the fire.
- Pains Bay, Alligator River NWR – 25,678 acres, 80% contained, 188 personnel working on the fire. Crews continue to work on ground fire (3,700 acres) along the perimeter to contain the fire.
- Tison Fire, Sabine NWR – 2,788 acres, 35% contained. The fire continues to back and flank through grass with the potential to grow to 10,000 acres.

North Dakota 2011 Flood Update

Eyes continue to be focused on the Lake Darling dam and water flows in the Souris River in northern North Dakota. A strong rainfall event passed through the basin last week, dropping several inches of rain into an already full water system, and another storm event is forecast to drop two to two and a half inches across the western part of the Souris basin. Even before this latest storm, the Army Corps of Engineers was anticipating the highest ever releases from the Lake Darling dam as they try to stay ahead of inflows. Army Corps of Engineers and FWS Dam Engineers are monitoring the situation closely and are in communication with local emergency response authorities. No emergency assistance has been requested of FWS so far, but our employees and equipment will be prepared to respond if needed. High water in the Souris, both above and below Lake Darling, is likely to continue for several more weeks. Devils Lake in eastern North Dakota continues to go up as expected, which has inundated thousands of acres of farmland and isolated some homes. A map of the major river drainages and affected FWS facilities can be viewed at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/gis/>.

12-Month Finding and Proposed Rule to Reclassify the Argentina DPS of broad snouted caiman from Endangered to Threatened, with a Special Rule

FWS was petitioned by the Argentine Government to downlist the broad snouted caiman from endangered to threatened. This species has been listed under the ESA as endangered throughout its range since June 14, 1976. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5) *Potential Issues:* We do not anticipate any controversial issues with this action. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is 5/30/2011.

Miami blue butterfly (FL): Emergency Listing of Miami Blue plus Emergency Listing of Cassius Blue Butterfly, Ceraunus Blue Butterfly, and Nickerbean Blue Butterfly as Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance and Concurrent Proposed Rule

The petitioners have asked that critical habitat be designated. The FWS believes designation of critical habitat is not prudent because it would increase threats (collection) to the butterfly while providing little measurable benefit. Listing other butterflies due to similarity of appearance is expected to cause some initial confusion among interested parties (e.g., land managers, butterfly enthusiasts). Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 30.

Manatee Protected Area in Kings Bay, Citrus County, FL

On November 9, 2010 we published an emergency rule establishing a temporary manatee protected area in Kings Bay, Citrus County, FL. Manatee protected areas (called 'refuges' in the regulations, but distinguished from National Wildlife Refuges) are a special regulatory areas created only for manatees that restrict certain types of waterborne activities, such as boat speeds, usually on a seasonal basis each year. This manatee refuge is encompassed entirely within the existing Crystal River NWR and surrounding existing manatee sanctuaries, where all waterborne activities are prohibited. By regulation, emergency manatee refuges are temporary, and must be followed initiation of creation of a permanent manatee refuge within 180 days. This proposed rule is intended to fulfill that requirement and provide for permanent restrictions on certain waterborne activities on a seasonal basis. *Potential Issues:* It is expected that there will be some controversy, with the boating public and some people who have traditionally swum with and approached or even touched manatees in Kings Bay opposing the proposal, but Save the Manatee Club and others groups will be strongly in support. The target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is 5/31/2011

12-Month Finding on a Petition to List the Pacific Fisher in the Northern Rocky Mountains DPS (MT, ID)

The FWS review pertaining to the five factors does not indicate that listing the fisher as an endangered or threatened species is warranted at this time. This finding is on a statutory time frame; there are no court actions or deadlines. *Potential Issues:* The petitioners reiterate that fishers exist in small populations that are vulnerable to any habitat deterioration or trapping. There are ongoing cooperative efforts to improve the knowledge base of fisher habitat ecology, distribution, and population dynamics in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Over the next 2-3 years the status of the taxon may require reexamination in light of the newly developing information. The target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 2, 2011.

Proposed 10(j) Rule to List a Nonessential Experimental Population of the American Burying Beetle in Missouri

The American burying beetle (ABB) was historically found throughout 35 states and three Canadian provinces in the eastern temperate areas of North America. This 10(j) rule would aid in reintroducing ABBs into the Wah'kon-tah Prairie in southwest Missouri. The 3,000 acre Wah'kon-tah Prairie is in the center of the four counties (Cedar, St. Clair, Bates, Vernon) that would be the boundaries of the non-essential experimental population area. *Potential Issues:* The Missouri Department of Conservation has met with landowners near the proposed reintroduction site to gauge their sentiment. Because the 10(j) rule has been written to allow landowners to conduct normal legal activities without concern for ESA regulation, there have been no negative opinions on the reintroduction. There are no other anticipated potential issues. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is 6/3/2011

Marine Mammals; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Termination of the Southern Sea Otter Translocation Program and Withdrawal of Experimental Population Status

After 23 years, FWS is proposing to declare the Southern Sea Otter Translocation Program, which created experimental population at San Nicolas Island, CA, a failure, based on criteria set forth in the original regulations creating the Translocation Program. The proposed rule would eliminate the experimental population status for the remaining otters at San Nicolas Island and return them to threatened status, and allow otters from the parent population to expand their range freely, as needed, into waters previously maintained as an 'otter-free zone.' This action would also eliminate the incidental take exemptions

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Sponsors Environmental Law Institute 2011 National Wetlands Awards

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program recently sponsored the Environmental Law Institute 2011 National Wetlands Awards program, which recognized Ms. Rio de la Vista of Del Norte, Colorado, as the Conservation and Restoration award recipient. In her work with the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Ms. de la Vista has doubled the pace of conservation along the Rio Grande River, adding 13,000 acres of land to conservation easements from 2007-2010. Ms. de la Vista's work showcases an innovative approach to cooperative conservation, bringing together Federal and state government agencies, and private landowners and ranchers to benefit important wildlife habitat on privately owned land, buffering the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (CO).

Genoa NFH (WI) to Receive Grant to Construct Education/Interpretive Facility

The National Scenic Byways Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration, recently awarded a \$1.69 million grant to FWS, which will be used for design and construction of an education and interpretive facility at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery. FWS will match at least 20 percent of the project cost. The new facility will offer the byway travelers and local residents the opportunity to learn about the aquatic resources of the Upper Mississippi River basin. An estimated 14,000 people per year visit Genoa NFH to view fish and aquatic species, and participate in educational and recreational programs. Visitation is expected to significantly increase after the facility is constructed. Facility exhibits will highlight past and present uses and values of the basin's aquatic resources, and the evolution of river use from pre-historic times to the present day era. The facility is expected to open its doors in the spring /summer of 2012. The Genoa NFH

houses a wide variety of aquatic species, including lake sturgeon, walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and several native mussel species.

Native American Tribes Awarded More Than \$7 Million for Conservation Projects

FWS will announce more than \$7 million in Tribal Wildlife Grants that will go to 37 Native American Tribes in 16 states to fund a wide range of conservation projects this week. The grants are provided exclusively to federally-recognized Indian tribal governments and are made possible under the Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002 through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program. The grants provide technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of projects that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat, including non-game species. The 38 Tribal Wildlife Grant projects selected have been chosen through a rigorous selection process from a field of nearly 150 proposals submitted. FWS approved the 16 recommended top tier proposals which represent each region's highest priorities and ensure participation from all regions. In addition, 22 projects selected by a national panel have been approved. This release is expected to generate regional and local media coverage and interest from congressional delegations.

New Grants under African Elephant Conservation Fund

Under the African Elephant Conservation Fund, FWS intends to award six grants totaling \$313,481 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$914,151). These funds will assist in field projects to conserve elephants in Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, and Kenya, and law enforcement efforts and analysis of illegal trade in Africa and Asia. The estimated award date is May 31, 2011.

State Wildlife Grants to be announced

FWS will award approximately \$5 million to six state fish and wildlife agencies (GA, MA, IA, NH, KY and AZ) to help conserve and recover Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) through the State Wildlife Grants - Competitive Program. Priority is given to multistate, cooperative conservation projects that demonstrate measurable performance results and benefits SGCN. This federal funding will be matched by \$2,904,966 in non-Federal funds provided by states and their partners for projects helping SGCN and their habitats.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

May 29 – June 4, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.
DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.
DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office all week.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: BLM-NV Wilson Creek Wind Energy Project:** *The NOI to prepare an EIS for the Wilson Creek Wind Energy Project is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 27. The proposed project would be located northeast of Pioche, NV, on approximately 31,000 acres of the public lands. Phase I of the project would consist of up to 195 turbines that could generate up to 500 MW of electricity. Phases II and III would consist of 155 wind turbines that could generate 490 MW of electricity. Publication of the NOI will initiate a 60-day public scoping period during which the BLM will hold public meetings in Ely, Las Vegas, and Pioche, NV, and Cedar City, UT.*
- **Update: Renewable Energy:** *An NOI for the preparation of an EIS for the 380-MW Stateline Solar Project in NV is pending BLM and Department review and approval. This NOI is the first notice for a solar project that includes the segregation of approximately 2,000 acres of public lands for the processing of an ROW application.*

Air Quality

- **Update: Air Quality Memo of Understanding (MOU):** *The multi-agency Air Quality MOU is currently under simultaneous review and approval by the BLM, NPS, FWS, ASLM, ASFWP, FS, and EPA. The BLM, NPS, and FWS are presently working on rollout and pre-signature coordination and developing a Decision Memo for the Secretary of the Interior that outlines the agreement.*

Oil and Gas

- **New: BLM Royalty Rate Increase Proposed Rule:** *The BLM has initiated a rulemaking to authorize increased royalties for new competitive oil and gas leases on Federal land. The BLM plans to publish the proposed rule for public review later in the year. The royalty rate proposed rule began the surnaming process on May 16, and is currently in the Solicitor's Office undergoing initial review.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: BLM-CO Land Conveyance to Mesa State College:** *The BLM-CO Grand Junction Field Office is considering the conveyance of 79.45 acres, in Mesa County, CO, to Mesa State College in Grand Junction. The preliminary EA for the conveyance is available online and the public comment period June 6. Under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869), the BLM is considering selling the land to the county, which plans to construct a law enforcement and public safety training facility on the site. There has been some local media interest in the potential action due to the \$794.50 sale price for the parcel.*
- **New: General Accounting Office (GAO) Uranium Mining Study:** *The House Committee on Natural Resources has requested a GAO study on uranium mining on federal lands. The GAO will collect information pertaining to the regulations and policies that govern the extraction of uranium on federal lands; the number and status of mining claims; the types, amounts, and coverage of financial assurances held to ensure reclamation of these lands, and; the number and location of abandoned uranium sites and their associated reclamation and remediation costs. The entrance conference with the GAO, the Department, and other bureaus has not yet been scheduled.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **New: Request for Joint BOEMRE-Hawaii Task Force on Offshore Renewable Energy:** *On May 24, BOEMRE received a copy of a letter from HI Governor Abercrombie to Secretary Salazar requesting the establishment of a BOEMRE-HI task force for offshore renewable energy. The Governor would like the task force to assess the possibility of issuing research leases to support technology testing for a variety of offshore renewable energy types, and to serve as the coordination body for any future consideration of commercial leases.*
- **Update: Development of a BOEMRE/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Environmental Analyses:** *On May 19, BOEMRE and NOAA signed an MOU to increase their coordination and collaboration to ensure environmentally sound offshore energy development. The MOU, which is consistent with recommendations from the National Commission on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, specifies how BOEMRE and NOAA will cooperate and coordinate by:*
 - *Defining specific processes to ensure effective and timely communication of agency priorities and upcoming activities;*
 - *Identifying and undertaking critical environmental studies and analyses;*
 - *Collaborating on scientific, environmental and technical issues related to the development and deployment of environmentally sound and sustainable offshore renewable energy technologies; and*
 - *Increasing coordination and collaboration on decisions related to OCS activities, including with respect to research and scientific priorities.*

- **Update: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Activities in the Mid and South Atlantic:** *BOEMRE has awarded a procurement contract for the EIS. The draft EIS is expected to publish in early 2012, with the final EIS anticipated in late 2012. NMFS has agreed to serve as a cooperating agency.*
- **Update: Cape Wind Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan (ABMP):** *On Feb. 10, Cape Wind Associates LLC (CWA) submitted the updated ABMP, and distributed the revised ABMP to FWS and MA Department of Fish and Game to review. During the Mar. 22, BOEMRE and FWS came to a resolution on the major issues related to the updated ABMP. A teleconference with FWS and MA was held on May 11 to discuss MA and BOEMRE/FWS comments on the ABMP. The goal is to send BOEMRE/FWS comments to CWA in 2-3 weeks.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **No Change: OSM Anticipates Awarding Contract Next Month for Regulatory Impact Analysis and Economic Analysis Regarding Stream Protection Rule:** *OSM is soliciting bids for contractor assistance in developing the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) and analyzing the economic impacts of the proposed Stream Protection Rule that is under development and other tasks to support the rulemaking effort. The closing date for submission of bids is June 1st. OSM staff will meet the week of June 6th to evaluate the proposals, with a goal to award the contract by June 17th. OSM continues to review the draft working chapters of the EIS to determine what can be retained and what must be rewritten in order to meet NEPA requirements.*
- **Update: Complaint Alleging Violations of the ESA in Connection with Permit Renewal for New Mexico's Navajo Mine:** *On May 21, OSM staff met with attorneys from DOJ and SOL to discuss potential settlement terms of a lawsuit alleging that OSM failed to comply with the ESA when the bureau renewed a permit last year for the Navajo Mine in NM. On Jan. 31, the Energy Mineral Law Center (EMLC) filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for CO alleging that OSM, in renewing a permit for the mine last Sept., failed to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).*
- **New: OSM Receives Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award for Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative:** *On May 24, Acting Director Ashe presented OSM Director Pizarchik with the first-ever Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award. Given by the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds (which is led by the FWS and includes representation from OSM and other Federal agencies with migratory bird responsibilities), the award recognizes OSM's establishing of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), which has shown leadership in restoring areas deforested by surface coal mining.*
- **Update: Director Meets with Sen. Mark Warner to Discuss Proposed Expansion of Municipal Airport in Grundy, VA:** *On May 24, the OSM Director met with Sen.*

Warner regarding a proposed project to expand an airport runway in Grundy, VA. Officials from the FAA, the Commonwealth of VA, industry officials and local government officials also attended the meeting to discuss several issues, including whether the project will require a SMCRA permit for coal mining activities. OSM is now following up on several items and will coordinate with OCL on the next steps.

WEEK AHEAD – May 29 to June 4, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Friday, June 3

- **New: BLM-NV Public Tour of Short-Term Holding Facility:** *On June 3 and July 15, BLM-NV will offer public tours of the Indian Lakes Road Short-Term Holding Facility in Fallon, NV. The facility is privately owned and operated, so attendees will be tour the facility as a group on a vehicle provided by the BLM. The 320-acre can provide care for up to 2,850 wild horses removed from the range during gather operations. Las Vegas television reporter George Knapp is registered for the July tour. Knapp is a staunch and vocal critic of the BLM Wild Horse & Burro Program, and his coverage is expected to be negative.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday-Thursday, June 1-2:

- **Update: Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC):** *BOEMRE has concluded the review of Atlantic Grid Holdings' (AGH) qualifications to develop the Atlantic Wind Connection project. AGH has now been legally, technically and financially qualified. Staff is coordinating with the BOEMRE-State Task Forces in NY, NJ, DE, MD, and VA, and has planned teleconferences in the mornings and afternoons of Jun. 1 and Jun. 2 to discuss the proposal, the draft Request for Information and Competitive interest, and next steps.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Wednesday, June 1:

- **New: OSM to Award Additional Funding to Oklahoma AML Grant:** *On June 1, OSM plans to award \$130,000 in emergency funding to the FY 2011 OK Abandoned Mine Land program grant. OSM gives these grants to enable eligible states and tribes to reclaim lands and waters affected by past mining. OK will use the money for coal mine related emergency projects within the state borders.*

Friday, June 3:

New: Preparing for Briefing Requested by Ranking Member of House Natural Resources Committee Regarding Mountaintop Removal Mining: *Staff from the office of Rep. Markey, Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, have requested a staff-level briefing on June 3 for the Committee's Democratic staff about mountaintop removal mining (MTRM).*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wednesday, June 8

- **No Change: BLM-CA Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-CA will offer 5 parcels totaling 1,523 acres at a competitive oil and gas lease sale in Bakersfield, CA. The parcels are located in Kern County on public lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM-CA Bakersfield Field Office. The protest period ended Mar. 1. No protests were received and the BLM-CA will conduct the sale in compliance with the recently implemented oil and gas leasing reforms.

Monday-Wednesday, June 13-15

- **No Change: BLM Communications WH&B Workshop:** The BLM Washington Office Communications Directorate will hold a workshop in Denver, CO, focused on "lessons learned" and communications strategies for the upcoming wild horse and burro gather season. The purpose of the workshop is to ensure that all BLM communications staffs are fully engaged and ready to provide communications support during the upcoming gather season, which begins in July. The training will underscore the principles of transparency and openness, timely, proactive responsiveness, and consistent messaging.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, June 6:

- **Update: BOEMRE/MA Renewable Energy Task Force:** *A meeting of the BOEMRE/MA Renewable Energy Task Force has been tentatively scheduled for Jun. 7, 2011 in New Bedford, MA. The purpose of the meeting is for BOEMRE to present and discuss the comments and submissions of interest received in response to the MA Request for Interest (RFI); to present and discuss a draft Call for Information and Nominations; and to present and discuss the next steps in the environmental review process. The Commonwealth will provide an update on the responses received to the Request for Additional Information; the status of the MA Clean Energy Center Request for Proposals to collect additional information on marine mammals, marine avifauna, and sea turtles within the MA RFI area; and the status of the Governor's Fishery Working Group on Offshore Renewable Energy and Habitat Working Group on Offshore Renewable Energy. A public Q&A session will be held after the Task Force meeting. Additional stakeholder outreach meetings are being scheduled by the*

Commonwealth in Martha's Vineyard, MA, New Bedford, MA, and Boston, MA from Jun. 7-9.

Thursday, June 9:

- ***New: New England Commercial Fishing & Offshore Wind Workshop:*** *This is the first of a series of facilitated meetings to advance mutual understanding between commercial fishermen and offshore wind developers. The meeting is hosted by the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Tentatively scheduled for New Bedford, MA on Jun. 9, 2011.*

Tuesday – Thursday, June 21-23:

- ***Update: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP):*** *The National CMSP Workshop will be at MIB. The Interagency Planning Group (IPG), of which BOEMRE is a part, will have update meetings every two weeks until the National Workshop is held. The draft Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for CMSP is scheduled to be released Oct. 2011. BOEMRE will be hosting "listening sessions" or public outreach on the SAPs in AK (Jun. 9 in Barrow, Jun. 10 in Anchorage, Jun. 14 in Bethel, and Jun. 16 in Juneau) and for the Mid-Atlantic on Jun. 30 in NJ.*

Weekly Report
May 27, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities May 31-June 3:

Anne J. Castle – May 31, in DC attending various internal meetings. June 1-2, in Oklahoma City, OK to hold America's Great Outdoors meetings, and all-hands meetings at local USGS and Reclamation offices; June 3, in Columbus, OH to hold AGO meetings with Governor Kasich, State officials, and stakeholders.

Lori Caramanian – May 31- June 2, in DC; June 3, same travel as Anne Castle.

John Tubbs – May 31 – June 3, in DC.

Marcia McNutt – May 30- June 3, Aspen Environment Forum, Colorado.

Mike Connor – May 31-June 1, travel to San Diego to participate in U.S./Mexico discussions; June 2-3, in DC testifying before the House Water and Power Subcommittee, and attending various meetings.

Reclamation

Formal Section 7 Consultation Meetings Scheduled for Middle Rio Grande Biological Assessment (New Mexico)

In early May 2011, Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office initiated formal government-to-government consultations with New Mexico's 21 pueblos and tribes via letters inviting them to participate in the preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA) for operations on the Middle Rio Grande River. The BA will evaluate the effects of discretionary Middle Rio Grande water management actions and river maintenance on the Rio Grande silvery minnow, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Pecos sunflower, and least tern. Formal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations were held on May 24 and 26, with the Pueblos of Isleta and Santa Ana, respectively. Meetings with other tribal governments wishing to participate will be scheduled through mid-June in order to obtain each participating tribe's views prior to finalizing Reclamation's draft BA. Albuquerque's Area Manager will lead the Reclamation team at each formal meeting with tribal leadership.

National Research Council's fifth meeting on California Bay-Delta (California)

The National Research Council Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta is holding its fifth meeting on June 1-2, 2011, in Sacramento, California. The meeting will be open to the public. The draft agenda currently

includes presentations regarding (1) progress on the BDCP and how the NRC committee can best inform that process, (2) EPA's Delta water quality programs, (3) integrating uncertainty with water resources planning, (4) changes to lower trophic levels of the upper estuary, and (5) updates on scientific activities in the Bay-Delta area. In November 2011, the committee is expected to issue a second report on how to most effectively incorporate science and adaptive management concepts into holistic programs for management and restoration of the Bay-Delta.

Rogue Biological Opinion (BiOp) and Potential Litigation (Oregon)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is expected to issue a final biological opinion for the future operation and maintenance of the Rogue River Basin Project (Rogue Project) on May 27. That opinion, to be based on a December 2010 draft, will conclude the Rogue Project is likely to jeopardize Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon and adversely modify that species' critical habitat. The BiOp will also include a reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) containing minimum flow requirements, and other habitat and riparian zone rehabilitation activities. NMFS has indicated interest in continuing existing discussions to identify a new Project operation scenario and, eventually, reinstate consultation and issue a new biological opinion. Until that time, NMFS recommends Reclamation implement the RPA until a new operational scenario is agreed upon. We anticipate litigation by the Rogue Project Irrigation Districts (the Districts) and Oregon Wild against Reclamation and NMFS. On May 5, 2011, Reclamation received a 60-day notice of intent to sue for failure to grant the Districts applicant status during the consultation and share the December, 2010 draft of the biological opinion. Further, it is likely the Districts may sue NMFS on the biological opinion itself, Reclamation for implementation of the RPA, or both. Oregon Wild has also indicated concerns regarding the degree to which the biological opinion addresses trans-basin diversion of water from tributaries to the Klamath River. These concerns may result in Oregon Wild suing NMFS on the biological opinion or Reclamation, alleging that Rogue project operations are insufficient to avoid jeopardy of SONCC coho salmon or adverse modification of its habitat.

Columbia Basin Fish Accords Celebration (Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana)

Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region will participate in the Columbia Basin Fish Accords celebration of accomplishments set for May 31, 2011, at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, Oregon. The theme for this year's event is "Putting Fish Back in the Rivers." PN Regional Director Karl Wirkus will be among the honored speakers at the event to address accomplishments made for improving habitat for fish in the Columbia Basin. The Accords are the direct result of several years of extensive negotiations between Tribes, states and Federal action agencies that have responsibilities for operating and maintaining the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The FCRPS action agencies (Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation) have agreements with The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation; The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; State of Idaho; and the State of Montana.

Final Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (LNFH) Biological Opinion (BiOp) (Washington)

A final BiOp addressing affects on bull trout resulting from operation and maintenance of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (LNFH) was signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on May 13, 2011. This new BiOp replaces one recently invalidated by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) vs. Salazar, et al). FWS is operating the hatchery under court-ordered criteria until District Court Judge Suko reviews the new BiOp and concludes it is legally sufficient. Mediation talks involving WFC, Harriet Bullitt, and the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Reclamation, and FWS continue in an effort to reach a global settlement on multiple ongoing legal actions against hatchery operations. Any resulting mediation agreement would include settling the current case (no lawsuit over the new BiOp), the water rights case (on hold in 9th during mediation), and the 401 water quality certification being appealed before the Washington State Water Pollution Control Hearings Board (also on hold during mediation efforts). LNFH is owned and operated by the FWS. Reclamation funds O&M of the facilities as part of the mitigation for construction of Grand Coulee Dam.

Meeting of the Colorado River Basin States Principals

A meeting of the seven Colorado River Basin States principals is scheduled for May 31 in San Diego, CA. A previously scheduled conference call for May 26 was canceled. The principals will discuss Colorado River coordinated operations issues.

International Boundary and Water Commission Meeting

On June 1, Commissioner Connor and other Reclamation officials will participate in bi-national meeting in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, with members of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The Commissioner will participate via video conferencing.

Congressional Activity

- May 23 – Senator Mark Udall has reintroduced legislation concerning Reclamation’s Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel. The new bill, S. 1047, reflects several significant changes over versions introduced in the 111th and 110th Congresses.
- June 2 – the Water and Power Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on H.R. 1837, recently introduced legislation titled the “San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act,” sponsored by California Reps. Jeff Denham (R-19), Devin Nunes (R-21), and Kevin McCarthy (R-22).

U.S. Geological Survey

USGS and Reclamation Consider Consolidating Boise Data Centers

From June 7-8, USGS will meet with the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss the possibility of merging the data centers of the USGS Idaho Water Science Center and Reclamation’s Snake River Area Office. Interior is consolidating data centers across the Nation to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Because the USGS Idaho Water Science Center and Reclamation’s Snake River Area office share space in the F.H. Newell Federal Building in Boise, their individual data centers might be good candidates for consolidation.

Charter Meeting of the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

The first Steering Committee meeting for the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) was held on May 26 in Seattle, Washington. Charter members of the Cooperative's Steering Committee met to help get the partnership formally established, to develop science and management priorities, and to review research project proposals. The USGS is a key partner in the LCC, with three Steering Committee members and a strong role as science provider at the landscape scale. The USGS expects to establish strong coordination between the newly established Northwest Climate Science Center, existing USGS science centers, and the LCC.

USGS Participates in Southern Idaho BioBlitz

USGS will participate in the 2011 BioBlitz, June 10-11, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge near Boise, ID. USGS scientists will help citizen scientists collect and identify aquatic insects as part of the 24-hour intensive survey of the refuge's biodiversity. The Refuge is also hosting Kid's Fishing Day concurrently with BioBlitz. Both events support the Department of the Interior's Let's Move Outside and America's Great Outdoors initiatives.

Science Article on Climate Change and Snowpack

An article in *Science* on climate change impacts to snowpack and runoff in Colorado, Columbia and Missouri River drainages will be published in the next few weeks (exact date unknown at this time). In western North America, snowpack has declined in recent decades, and further losses are projected through the 21st century. USGS scientists evaluated the uniqueness of recent declines using snowpack reconstructions from 66 tree-ring chronologies. The study found that the increasing role of warming on large-scale snowpack variability foreshadows fundamental impacts on streamflow and water supplies across the western United States. The USGS plans to distribute an accompanying press release when the article is published.

New Insights into the Behavior of Repeating Earthquakes at Volcanic Centers

Weston Thelan, USGS is the lead author of a new paper in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth* entitled "Multiplets: Their Behavior and Utility at Dacitic and Andesitic Volcanic Centers." The paper presents new insights into the behavior of multiplets (repeating earthquakes) and compares multiplet activity at a variety of volcanoes including Mount St. Helens, in the U.S., and Bezymianny Volcano, in Russia.

Sockeye Salmon Return after an Absence of Nearly 90 Years

USGS and Canadian biologists have documented the recent re-appearance of anadromous sockeye salmon in the Coquitlam and Alouette Rivers in British Columbia. The migration patterns of the anadromous sockeye salmon had been affected by the construction of hydroelectric dams in the early part of the 20th century. Unexpected downstream migrations of juveniles during experimental water releases into both rivers in 2005 and 2006 preceded upstream return migrations of adults in 2007 and 2008. The study confirms that both the juvenile downstream migrants and adult upstream migrants were progeny of non-anadromous sockeye salmon that inhabit Coquitlam and Alouette reservoirs, and that once given an opportunity for upstream and downstream migration, both populations appear capable of reverting to a successful anadromous form, even after 25 generations.

Flood Activities:

- **Missouri Flood Update:** USGS continues to provide support to Mississippi Valley Division, USACE with one boat and 2 staff for discharge measurements in the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway.
- **North Dakota Flood Update:** High flows continue in the Souris River Basin in north-central North Dakota. Near-record stage and discharge levels at many of the USGS streamgages this spring are now being sustained by additional flow coming from above-normal releases at Canadian reservoirs higher upstream in the basin. Above-normal snowpacks, particularly in the Canadian Rockies, are the reason for the high flows making their way through the river system this season. Facing potentially the second-highest runoff year on record in the upper Missouri River Basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began releasing high flows from Lake Sakakawea in central North Dakota (as well as other upper basin reservoirs). Current storage levels in the reservoirs in the basin are nearly at last summer's peak storage level with more mountain snowpack yet to melt. Water from melting snowpacks in the Rockies usually makes its way into the upper river system in June. The cities of Bismarck and Mandan, North Dakota began offering sandbags to residents along the river who may be impacted by the high flows.
- **Reconnaissance Flights over the Morganza-Atchafalaya Floodway:** USGS flew two reconnaissance flights over the Morganza-Atchafalaya floodway, Bonnet Carre Spillway, and the Atchafalaya River Basin on May 16 and May 18. Low-oblique video footage and high-resolution color photography were collected during the flights.
- **Louisiana Flood Update:** USGS crews continue to collect water quality and streamflow data and samples on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers as the water from the Morganza Spillway makes its way south towards Morgan City, La. Crews spent Sunday, May 22, on the Mississippi River near the Old River Control Structures and the Morganza Spillway to quantify streamflow of the Mississippi River as it entered the Atchafalaya. Later this week, crews will go out to the lower Atchafalaya near Morgan City to do water quality and streamflow work.
- **Louisiana State Legislature and U.S. Congressional Staff Field Trips:** On May 20 and May 24, respectively, the USGS hosted tours of the Atchafalaya Basin. The tours highlighted current conditions in the Basin, explained how USGS was responding to the flood, and discussed anticipated effects on the Morganza Spillway.

Congressional Activities

- **USGS Participates in Congressional Hazard Caucus – briefing:** The Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus is hosting a briefing on landslides, at 2 p.m., June 21 in 1334 Longworth. Speakers are Scott Burns, Professor and Geology Department Chair, Portland State University; Susan Cannon, Research Geologist, USGS; and Jeffrey R. Keaton, Engineer and Vice President, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.

- **U.S. Senate Staff Tour USGS Organic Research Lab in Kansas:** Chad Tenpenny from Senator Pat Roberts' office in Overland Park, KS, toured the USGS Kansas Water Science Center (KWS) on May 26, for an overview on USGS in Kansas and nationally. He also toured the USGS KWS organic research lab.

Media

- **USGS-supported Website up for GSIS "Best Website" Award:** The "Diatoms of the United States" web site has been nominated for this year's Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) Best Website Award, given to a site that exemplifies outstanding standards of content, technical considerations, design and organization, and overall effectiveness. The diatom Web site, co-developed by USGS, is the first online resource and guide providing taxonomic, distributional, and ecological information of U.S. diatom species, along with easily accessed images for identification.
- **Boise State Public Radio Interviews USGS Scientist about International Assistance Work:** USGS scientist Steve Lipscomb was interviewed May 19 by Boise State Public Radio about his work on water resource issues in the Middle East. Since 2005, Lipscomb has led efforts to assist the government of Iraq in modernizing its hydrologic monitoring network. Lipscomb and a team of scientists and engineers conducted assessments of Iraq's water resources on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of Defense. Earlier this year, Lipscomb was invited along with other USGS representatives to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss ways in which the USGS could assist the Kingdom with flood risk assessments. The interview aired the week of May 23.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Chief of Staff, Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 26, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Homeland Security:

Flooding: The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) and BIA Regional Offices continued its coordination on ongoing Flood Fight operations and preparation with Blackfeet (Rocky Mountain Region), Flat Head Reservation Tribes (Northwest Region), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Liaison, BIA Regional Management and BIA Emergency Management Coordinators (EMC), regarding ongoing Flood Fight operations and preparation. Additionally, OHSES and BIA Eastern Regional Office continued coordination with the Chitimacha Tribe, the Corps and other agencies and their Tribal Liaisons (IHS, SAMHSA), regarding ongoing Flood Fight operations and preparation for eminent inundation of the reservation due to the rising waters of the Mississippi River. The Assistant Secretary and the Regional Director, Eastern Region, toured the reservation the week of May 20 with Tribal officials.

Chitimacha Tribe: The Chitimacha Tribe has not requested additional assistance at this time. It continues to work with Indian Affairs and other Federal agencies on preparations and evacuation plans for its Tribal community, including having boats available that may be used for rescue operations. OHSES assisted the Tribe in obtaining Government Emergency Telecommunications (GETS) cards and continues working to on WPS enrollment for both the Tribe and the Eastern Regional Office EMT/ERG.

Alaska: OHSES and the BIA Alaska Regional Office continued coordination with Crooked Creek Village and the state of Alaska agencies regarding the destruction of 14 houses, the severe damage of 5 homes, and the partial damage of several additional homes by an ice jam and associated flooding which tore through the village in the middle of the night. A BIA Alaska Regional Office team visited the village and met with Tribal leaders. No fatalities or serious injuries reported. All housing was reportedly insured HUD

housing and transitional and restoration of permanent housing will be discussed in ongoing conference calls/meetings. HUD and state agencies will be working together to expedite transitional and permanent/winter housing over the short summer season. This is the primary concern of the Tribal leadership. BIA Regional management has been asked to join this interagency working group in the Recovery Phase of this incident.

Yakama: OHSES assisted the Northwest Regional Office in responding to requests from the Yakama Nation for assistance in a minor flooding incident which reportedly started May 14, 2011. Sources for replacement sandbags and supplies, and future mechanisms for timely requesting and provision of assistance were discussed.

Ready Indian Country Initiative: On May 20, 2010 OHSES met with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding “READY INDIAN COUNTRY”, a new program being sponsored by FEMA. FEMA is preparing to roll out this program to Indian Country in the next three weeks. OHSES is assisting FEMA in locating pictures of Emergency Management incidents that occurred in Indian Country. The following is a brief synopsis of this program:

- designed to promote preparedness to Tribal communities in the United States through culturally relevant education. An extension of FEMA’s *Ready Campaign*, *Ready Indian Country* provides tools for Tribes to prepare their citizens, resources to enact pre-disaster policies and procedures, and information to help Tribal members prepare their family.
- has goal of using public outreach and other efforts to encourage individuals and families in Indian Country to take basic steps to prepare themselves for emergencies.
- draws upon resources already existing in the *Ready Campaign* messaging for consistency, but provide Indian Country with specific, customized tools, such as:
 - ✓ brochures, posters and billboards customized by region to reflect the diverse local conditions and cultures found in Alaska and Indian Country
 - ✓ Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in: 60, 30 and: 15 second lengths.
 - ✓ Tribal Leader Resources to help guide and direct community emergency and disaster planning efforts
- *Ready Indian Country* was created in collaboration with the *Ready Campaign*, the National Congress of Indians, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.
- *Ready Indian Country* resources can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/indiancountry>.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- **Federal Recognition:** The Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) continues its work on the following:

Proposed findings:

- Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe (Petitioner #5) – by July 18, 2011.
- Meherrin Tribe, NC (Petitioner #119b) – by before November 1, 2011.
- Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA (Petitioner #82) – by November 1, 2011.

Comment Period(s) on Proposed Finding(s):

- **Central Band of Cherokee, TN (Petitioner #227), extended to August 15, 2011.**
- **Tolowa Nation, CA (Petitioner #85) ended May 23, 2011. However, an extension was granted by the Assistant Secretary to extend the original closing date to November 11, 2011.**

EDUCATION

- *Let's Move! In Indian Country*: The Menominee Tribal Community hosted the kickoff event for the First Lady's initiative. The event took place on May 25, 2011 in Keshena, Wisconsin. Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk presented the opening speech to the attendees. It was well attended and covered very well by the media. The Assistant Secretary was joined by colleagues from the First Lady's *Let's Move!* Office; the White House Domestic Policy Council; the Departments of the Interior, Education and Agriculture; the Indian Health Service; the Corporation for National Community Service; and, the Menominee Tribe. The White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity issued its report to the President which discusses the susceptibility of American Indian and Alaska Native children to childhood obesity and related diseases, such as juvenile diabetes.
- Haskell President Selection: The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and the BIE Director are conducting the final phase of the interview process for the position of the President, Haskell Indian Nations University, the week of May 25, 2011. Once completing this phase, the Assistant Secretary and the BIE Director will make a selection to fill the vacancy. Indian Affairs is on target for meeting its June announcement date.

Elementary and Secondary Education

School Improvement

- Roxanne Brown, the Associate Deputy Director, East, All Education Line Officers are working with BIE-operated and Grant schools to appropriately expend ARRA Title funds prior to the September 30, 2011 deadline, approaching it in the manner they find most effective in working with their schools.
- Ms. Brown provided the Little Wound School with research on improving high schools. The ADD-East office intends to develop specific contact with schools, to offer “mini” webinars on Native Star, continuous improvement, and other areas of specific need. The Education Program Specialist will take the lead in this area. The idea is the result of discussions with ELOs during performance reviews to look at other ways to support the work they do. Ms. Brown will provide like webinars for the new ELOs in a variety of areas of common need.
- BIE had its weekly teleconference with Measured Progress and Second Language Testing, Inc., to discuss activities of the Oral Native Language Assessment project. The key issues at this time are arranging meetings with the three groups (i.e., Navajo Nation, Miccosukee Tribe, and Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium (OSEC)) to develop work plans and respond to a request by the Navajo Nation for professional development assistance. BIE will visit the Miccosukee Tribe June 1 - 2, 2011; a meeting with the Navajo Nation will take place at the BIE Summer Institute on June 29 - 30. The BIE's DPA has conducted outreach directly to schools to invite their

participation in services. BIE received several responses, including responses from schools ostensibly served by OSEC.

- Dr. Jeff Hamley, Associate Deputy Director for the DPA, attended the Tri-State Navajo Education Data Meeting in Window Rock. He reported that the Navajo Nation acknowledged the role of the BIE in providing \$1.5 million for the Navajo Nation to build a student information database.

Student Improvement

- Schools are finishing the formal school year and holding graduation ceremonies. Many are preparing for summer school.
- Schools in the Minneapolis Education Line Office have embraced the Native Star web-based continuous school improvement tool. A couple of schools have aligned classroom walk-through forms and performance elements to the instructional indicators.
- The Pine Ridge ELO: Pine Ridge School will provide summer school services to support a student's promotion to high school. (The ELO intervened in the expulsion of an 8th grade student from Wounded Knee School District.)
- The Standing Rock ELO has made some ground in working with the Standing Rock Community High School Superintendent on making school improvement and student academics a focal point of the discussion between the line office and the administration. The ELO will attend a Leadership Team meeting in two weeks, at the invitation of the principal. BIE will support the line office in this endeavor with Native Star Indicator applications

Safety/Facilities

- Chitimacha Tribal School is in the area of the flooding in the Gulf States. The BIE and other agencies are monitoring the impact on tribal communities, lands, and structures. The last day of school was May 24.
- The Pine Ridge School concession stand burned down on Thursday, May 19.
- A No Child Left Behind Tribal Consultation meeting will be held in Rapid City, SD on July 13, 2011.
- Ft. Wingate: A recent media newscast in Albuquerque reported an incident at Ft. Wingate concerning papers found on site when new school was opened. Press inquiry was referred through Indian Affairs Office of Public Affairs and shared with the Bureau of Indian Education. The papers reportedly include personal information associated with students such as social security numbers.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Labor Relations: An Unfair Labor Practice was filed by FISE against Indian Affairs concerning the Indian Affairs Driving Policy.

OUTREACH

- Planned Events:

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

May 31 – June 3, 2011, keynote speech at the Native Leadership Forum, Temecula, CA.

June 4-5, 2011, welcoming address at the Native Visions Camp, Shiprock, New Mexico.

June 6 - 8, 2011, the CAP Water Settlement Listening Session, Phoenix, Arizona.

June 13-16, 2011, keynote speech at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at the SAIGE Annual Training, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Bureau of Indian Education:

June 7 – 10, 2011, Council of Chief State School Officers Rural Education Big Sky, Montana.

Week of June 20, 2011, BIE Summer Institute, Reno, Nevada

August 1 – 4, 2011, BIA/SAMSHA/IHS/BIE Suicide Conference (location TBD)

September 25-27, 2011, 8th annual South Dakota Indian Education Summit, Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD. The theme of the Summit is “Supporting Culture, Building Expectations and Creating Partnerships.”

CONFIDENTIAL

May 27, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for May 30 to June 5, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report May 30, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in Washington (5/31-6/3)

Review – May 23 to May 27

- **New:** The Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) delivered 63 tribe-specific Trust Account Databases to SOL on May 20, which was earlier than the May 31 deadline. The databases are used to prepare settlement proposals for tribal litigation.
- **New:** The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) began interviews on May 23 of Office of Appraisal Services (OAS) staff in three regions. OIG representatives are obtaining regional perspectives on the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS) under development. OASIS is being designed to track and report appraisal requests. The OIG representatives have already conferred with the OAS Director, Deputy Director and the Review Appraiser who is working on the system's development.
- **Update:** On May 23, the FTO at the Tulsa Urban Office attended an Alternative Dispute Resolution hearing in the Eastern District Federal Court about tribal litigation issues with the Seminole Tribe. Also attending were SOL and DOJ attorneys, the BIA Superintendent for the Wewoka Agency and tribal leaders. Issues under consideration were those outlined in March and April meetings.

Week Ahead – May 30 to June 3

- **New:** The Office of Trust Training (OTT) is partnering with DoD to provide procurement training via webinar. OTT is also working with the Office of Trust Records to use technology to deliver records training.

- **New:** The Deputy Special Trustee for Trust Services will be in Washington, D.C., the week of May 31 to commence three depositions for the Osage Tranche 2.0 tribal litigation.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **Update:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. The government's brief, provided to the judge on May 13, included settlement offers to the plaintiffs. Mediation continued on May 20. A joint status conference call is scheduled for June 20.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than two dozen activities took place in May. To date, three activities have been planned for June.

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
May 27, 2011**

OIA Budget Director and Staff to Hold Budget Consultations with Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Marshall Islands for 2012 Compact of Free Association Funding- Next week, the OIA Budget Director and staff travel to Micronesia and the Marshall Islands for the annual budget consultations with government officials of both the FSM and the Marshall Islands. The budget consultations precede the annual bilateral meetings when determination is made as to Compact grant awards. More than 50% of Compact funding to the Marshall Islands and Micronesia are in the Health and Education sectors.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

May 27, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: May 27, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

The Department's Draft Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) Review. The Department's draft SSPP is being reviewed internally, and will be submitted to CEQ and OMB on June 3. The SSPP showcases the Department's commitment to meeting or exceeding compliance with environmental and energy statutes including reduction of our green house gas emissions. This year's SSPP also includes the Climate Change Action Plan, which outlines steps to assess the vulnerability of our resources and to identify short and long-term management actions to address changes. The Climate Change Action Plan implements Secretary Salazar's order on climate change, which CEQ has held up as a model for the Administration. Once released to the media, likely July or August, the plan is expected to generate significant interest.

Gulf Oil Spill: Lessons Learned Workshop on Non-Traditional Response Projects. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance hosted a DOI Deepwater Horizon lessons learned workshop in Washington DC, May 17-19. The workshop focused on establishing direction to improve processes and guidance for the approval, funding and implementation of innovative emergency response and restoration projects to protect sensitive natural resources. Examples of these innovative strategies designed for the DWH response included: flooding projects to create habitat for migratory birds, seed collection and plant propagation to restore injured marshes, a beach mouse capture and captive holding strategy to mitigate impacts to their populations; and sea turtle egg relocation to prevent hatchlings from being oiled.

Workshop participants included the US Coast Guard, NPFC, USDA, NRCS, NOAA, FWS, NPS, BIA and a tribal representative. OEPC will be working with the participants to draft a report based on the workshop that will identify improvements to facilitate expedited funding and implementation of these projects in future oil spills.

Arctic Policy. The monthly State Department Arctic Policy Group meeting included a read-out of the Arctic Council Ministerial in Nuuk. The State Department highlighted the importance of having both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Interior at the Ministerial, and pointed to the successful adoption of two U.S. proposals. Interior will now be working with State to establish roles and responsibilities for involvement in the task force to develop an international instrument on oil pollution preparedness and response as well as a task force on ecosystem-based management. The Office of Policy Analysis provided the Arctic Policy Group with an update on the development of the Arctic Strategic Action Plan under the National Ocean Policy.

MANAGEMENT

Homeland Security Council (HSC) National Level Exercise (NLE). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee participated in NLE-11 last week to address policy issues related to a scenario involving a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the Central U.S. The DRG reviewed issues raised during Deputies and Principals Committee meetings and will coordinate corrective actions. Issues which impact DOI include the need for Departments and Agencies to enhance their ability to collect and report information on impacts to Federal employees during catastrophic events and the need to improve Federal interagency support for Public Safety and Security functions. The Office of Emergency Management will coordinate with Human Resources and Law Enforcement on these issues.

Border Legislation Proposed in House. Representative Quayle (R-Indiana) introduced H.R. 1992, a bill with provisions identical to the McCain-Kyl Bill (S. 803), which would provide Customs and Border Protection with expedited access to DOI lands for the purpose of improving border security. Hearings are expected on this legislative proposal.

Tribal Consultation Letter Update: ONRR has invited tribal leaders to three meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could affect the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. The first meeting took place in Albuquerque, NM on May 19, 2011, where ONRR received positive feedback from the attendees. The remaining two meetings will take place in Denver, CO on May 26, 2011, and Oklahoma City on June 9, 2011. The consultation meetings will open dialogue with Indian Tribes on potential changes including valuing crude oil produced from Indian leases, removing certain natural gas index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal valuation regulations.

BUDGET

Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting. DOI was honored as one of 17 agencies for excellence in financial and accountability reporting at the Association of Government Accountants awards ceremony May 25. DOI has now won the award 11 times; the only other agency to have achieved greater recognition is the Social Security Administration which has been so honored 13 times. DOI also was recognized as one of five best in class agencies for the “Summary of Performance and Financial Information.” This means we had the best in all of government for the presentation of our performance and financial information in an easy to read and understand format that presented comprehensive information. It is based on a very stringent examination process by panel of experts who review all of the Annual Financial Reports.

2012 Budget and 302(b) Allocations. On May 11, the House Appropriations Committee released its 302(b) allocations, which set the top-line spending level for each of the FY 2012 appropriations bills.

- The allocation for the Interior Subcommittee is \$27.5 billion, which is \$2.1 billion or 7 percent below the FY 2011 enacted level and \$3.8 billion or 12 percent below the 2012 President’s Budget Request.
- The Energy and Water Subcommittee allocation is \$30.6 billion, \$1.0 billion or 3 percent below the FY 2011 enacted level and \$5.9 billion or 16 percent below the 2012 President’s budget.

The House Appropriations Committee also released its mark-up schedule for the 2012 bills.

- Interior Subcommittee markup is scheduled for July 6 and the Committee markup is on July 11.
- Energy and Water Subcommittee markup is June 2 and Committee markup is June 15.

2011 Operating Plans. The majority of the Department’s Operating Plans were submitted to the Appropriations Committees on May 13, and the remaining plans (the Bureau of Reclamation and CUPCA) were submitted May 17. The Interior Subcommittee staff was briefed on Monday, May 16, and the Energy and Water Subcommittee staff was briefed on Tuesday, May 17. The Office of Budget will work with bureaus and offices to provide more detailed briefings to the Committees, as needed.

2011 Apportionments. The Office of Budget has worked with bureaus and offices to complete FY 2011 apportionments, which were due to OMB on April 25. On April 27, POB submitted the DOI FY 2011 warrant request to the Department of the Treasury. POB will continue to work with the bureaus to amend warrants, as needed, based on approved operating plans.

OMB performance.gov website. OMB plans to open the performance.gov website for public access the week of May 23. The address is: <http://performance.gov>. DOI materials posted for Priority Performance Goals, Information Technology and Open Government, Human Resources, Acquisition Improvement, Sustainability, Financial Management, and Customer Service have been reviewed and approved by the Department.

IG/GAO Reports. The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
May 26, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Red Devil Internal Control Review Site Visit: As part of the office's Internal Control Review Plan for Fiscal Year 2011, a site visit to Red Devil Mine in Alaska is taking place this week. Representatives from the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance will be meeting with state and field personnel from the Bureau of Land Management to discuss ongoing cleanup activities at the site, as well as review financial and administrative documents. The results of this site visit will be reported as part of the office's Internal Control Review reports at the end of the year.

New: The OEPC Alaska Office is taking the lead in preparing Revision 5 of the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines*: The purpose of the guidelines, which were first approved in 1988, is to help ensure that timely and appropriate response actions may be taken when migratory birds, terrestrial mammals, and /or marine mammals have been, or may be oiled following an oil discharge anywhere in Alaska. The guidelines are the result of collaborative work among representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game with input from Federally-recognized tribes and interested stakeholders. Following completion, the guidelines will be submitted to the Alaska Regional Response Team (RRT) for approval and inclusion in the joint *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases*. The OEPC serves as the long-time Chair of the Alaska RRT's Wildlife Protection Working Group, which is the entity responsible for guideline revisions.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC REO Albuquerque reports that Fish and Wildlife Service PRFA Amendment #16 has been approved by the U.S. Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator. It covers support being provided by FWS to the Coast Guard for their preparation of the Endangered Species Act Section 7 biological assessment that is required to document the impacts of response actions, not the oil itself, on listed species and habitats. The period of performance for this particular amendment is for one year since it is presumed that this will be an extended period of involvement and a complex undertaking.
- BP has purchased portions of the privately owned section of Cat Island, and cleanup

operations continue on those areas. These BP-owned areas or at least a significant portion of them may be donated to NPS. There have been discussions between NPS and BP regarding depth of cleaning and end points for oil recovery on these areas; BP has expressed a desire to make their endpoints consistent with NPS standards. On the remainder of Gulf Islands, operations are halted due to nesting; READs are conducting bird surveys and oil observations. Operations are scheduled begin again Mid-August and may be resumed where nesting activity allows, particularly in close proximity to recreation beaches. Gulf Islands is also concerned about the end points being segment based rather than specific areas. For example the segments, which are approximately a half-kilometer in length, may have oil concentrations such that, when the whole segment is included in the assessment may be below the less than 1% coverage level but small areas may contain significant concentrations. Both BP and USCG are requesting deeper cleaning than the 6 inches allowed by NPS in areas where oil mats are present; Gulf Islands will likely hold firm on depth limitations.

- The Historic Properties Specialist is planning two Trustee Meetings to address Section 106 concerns. Both meetings will be held in New Orleans. A Trustee Work Group meeting is scheduled for June 1 and 2. A full Trustee Meeting is being scheduled for July 19 and 20. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Programmatic Agreement being developed for the MC-252 Oil Spill. A draft should be ready for circulation to the Trustee Work Group prior to the meeting. Secondary topics will be the Area of Potential Effects document and other oil spill response Section 106 foundation documents. Revised draft of these documents will be circulated for review and discussion during the full Trustee meeting in July.

Update: NRT Subsea Dispersants Guidance to RRTs: The NRT subcommittee held work meetings on May 20 and May 23. The USCG, EPA, NOAA, and BOEMRE participants finished discussing and integrating comments into the draft interim guidance. DOI comments are being incorporated. Early next week, we will have a clean version sent to us by the USCG contractor. At that point, we can provide the draft to DOI senior leadership for review and comment. At the next NRT meeting, which is being held in the Secretary of the Interior's conference room on June 30, the NRT co chairs will ask the NRT member agencies to formally review and approve the draft interim guidance. The draft interim guidance will then be sent to the RRTs which will use it to develop their regional policies/protocols for subsea dispersant use. The RRTs will also be asked to comment on the national interim draft guidance, which may subsequently be improved.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: U.S. Global Change Research Program (GCRP). The Office of Policy Analysis is supporting Alan Thornhill, the DOI liaison to the GCRP, participating with a team of bureau scientists on the GCRP's FY 2013 prioritization process to identify and report its budget priorities. This year the process will incorporate program priorities that are being identified through a strategic planning process.

New: Offshore Leasing. PPA staff met with BOEMRE Economics Staff to discuss the pros and cons of area wide leasing. This is a follow-up to the recent report on active and inactive leases.

Update: National Ocean Policy Implementation. The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the National Ocean will be released for public comment on June 1. At the CEQ's request, the Department is hosting three Listening/Public Comment sessions on the SAPs at two locations: June 9 in Barrow and June 10 in Anchorage, Alaska (BOEMRE lead); June 30, in New Jersey, Monmouth University (BOEMRE lead); June 27, Portsmouth, NH (USGS lead). The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21.

Update: NRDAR Case Support. Policy Analysis provided written comments on a draft plan for the determination of economic damages for the Anniston, AL, NRDAR case. The next trustee call, which will include discussion of the plan, is scheduled for May 31. Additional information on the case is available at:
<http://www.fws.gov/daphne/Contaminants/index-AnnistonNRDA.html>.

Ongoing: Economic Report. The report has been cleared by OMB and is currently being reviewed by the Council of Economic Advisors. PPA drafted talking points for use by the Secretary in a meeting with the President's Council of Economic Advisors to discuss the report and related issues. The PPA Director attended the meeting to support the Secretary and Chief of Staff.

Completed: NRDAR Program Support. In support of the Restoration Program's planning meeting to be held the week of June 13, Policy Analysis provided written comments of the biennial review of the NRDAR regulations. The Office also prepared issue papers on economic topics for potential discussion. As part of an issue team on restoration, the Office conducted data entry, review, and analysis of the Restoration Fund's unobligated balance.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

New: Native Hawaiian Federal Interagency Working Group.— The Working Group is in the process of developing a Practical Recommendations for Consultations with Native Hawaiian Organizations document to be shared with Federal agencies working in Hawai'i. Complying with consultation requirements for working with Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) can be difficult for Federal agencies, especially for Program Managers who lack experience in working with this community. The goal of the document is to provide brief overview to the Federal Program Manager of not only how to engage NHOs but also why. Due date for completion of the first draft of the guidance document is June 23, 2011.

Office of International Affairs

New: Brazil Follow-up: OIA and DAS-PIA discussed follow-up on the Secretary's trip to Brazil with Embassy staff in Brasilia. Department of State will host a bilateral "Global Partnership Dialogue" with Brazil on June 1; OIA staff worked with USGS, OEPC, and the Offices of Emergency Management and Wildland Fire Coordination to explore hosting a meeting on Disaster Management with the international adviser to Brazil's Minister of Science and Technology following this meeting on June 2; and coordinated with BOEMRE to

respond to Department of Energy invitation to participate in a conference on Offshore Oil and Gas in Brazil.

New: Follow-up on Ministerial Conference on Offshore Spill Containment: OIA staff reviewed and provided editorial suggestions on draft transcripts of the proceedings of this high level international meeting hosted by DOI in April 2011.

New: U.S.-Israel Cooperation on Desalination: OIA joined Water and Science DAS John Tubbs and BOR staff for a meeting with the U.S.-Israel Bi-national Industrial Research and Development foundation (BIRD), which proposed an effort to promote private sector partnerships between U.S. and Israeli companies to advance desalination technologies.

New: U.S.-Russia Bi-national Presidential Dialogue, Environment Work Group: OIA attended a briefing by Department of State on next steps for the Environment Work Group of this bi-national Presidential dialogue. Cooperation to develop a Shared Heritage Area in Beringia was highlighted as a key initiative, and it was noted that a draft Joint Declaration on Beringia may be finalized soon.

New: Tribal Involvement in Colombia River Treaty: OIA coordinated Department-wide review and provided comments on a letter drafted by the Department of State in response to a request from Pacific Northwest tribal leaders for greater engagement in decisions regarding implementation of the Colombia River Treaty.

New: CAFTA-DR Focal Points Meeting: The DOI-ITAP Regional Coordinator will attend Central America - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) environmental Focal Points Meeting in May 26-27, 2011, to update them on CITES activities planned for the coming year.

New: Andean Amazon Planning and Presentation: The DOI-ITAP Regional Coordinator (based in Colombia) for the Andean Amazon Program will be in Washington DC the next two weeks (May 30 – June 14) to finalize the Andean Amazon Workplan with USAID/Washington staff, meet with and learn more about the capabilities within USGS, OSM, and NPS, and to make a presentation to OIA regarding the status of the Workplan and the new approach that DOI-ITAP is planning to take, both in terms of geographic and thematic, within the Andean Amazon (Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia).

Update: Secretary's Planned Trip to Spain: OIA continues to assist with preparations for the Secretary's attendance at the US/Spain Council meeting in Spain, including assistance with submission of required visa applications, preparation of briefing materials, support on travel planning and consultation with the US Embassy in Madrid.

Update: Transpacific (TPP) Trade Agreement Negotiations: As preparations for TPP negotiations continue apace, OIA is participating in interagency meetings and filing comments on proposed text for a Trans-pacific environmental cooperation agreement and text in the TPP environmental chapter on public participation. OIA is coordinating closely with the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and other agencies to draft new commitments

on invasive alien species. OIA is also working with NISC and FWS to ensure that proposed new obligations in the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) text are not prejudicial to current and possible future implementation of the Lacey Act.

Update: High Level Strategic Dialogue with Colombia - Mining: OIA coordinated with NPS, FWS, PPA, USGS and others to develop talking points for interventions by State Department and NPS Director Jarvis in the Environment Work Group of the U.S./Colombia High Level Partnership Dialogue, to be hosted by State Department on May 31. In addition, OIA-ITAP, in partnership with OSM, is preparing to lead a mining discussion in the Energy Work Group of this bilateral dialogue.

Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

New: Settlement BOUCHARD Barge 120 Oil Spill, Buzzards Bay, MA. The Consent Decree for natural resource damages for the Bouchard B-120 oil spill was entered in Massachusetts District Court on Wednesday, May 16th. After receiving several comments from the public and reviewing declarations from the natural resource trustees, the Judge entered (approved) the consent decree as recommended by the natural resource trustee agencies. Under the settlement, the responsible party (Bouchard Transportation Co., Inc.) will pay \$6.076 million in natural resource damages for the April 2003 oil spill into Buzzards Bay. The Department (acting through the FWS) and co-trustees from NOAA, Massachusetts and Rhode Island will use the settlement to restore shoreline and aquatic habitat (\$2.056 million); enhance breeding grounds for shorebirds such as piping plover (\$715,000); and improve opportunities for recreational use and enjoyment of the area (\$3,091,996). All recovered funds for restoration in this settlement will be deposited in the Department's Restoration Fund. Another settlement which addresses injury to loons, terns and other birds impacted by the spill is still being negotiated.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

New: *Let's Move!* in Indian Country Launch. The Youth Office, ASIA, BIE, the White House, USDA, HHS, ED, and CNCS launched *Let's Move!* in Indian Country on May 25th on the Menominee Reservation. In addition to the launch event, the Inter-Agency team also launched a new logo, website, PSA, and Resource Guide for Tribes, schools, and community organizations. Check out www.LetsMove.gov/IndianCountry and a news clip at http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/north_counties/menominee-tribe-taking-part-in-first-ladys-lets-move-in-indian-country-health-initiative.

Ongoing: FACA Charter Finalized and Submitted to GSA - Advisory Committee for 21 Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). FACA Committee for the 21CSC was sent

to GSA for concurrence and will be prepared for the Secretary's review and approval early next week.

Ongoing: Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group.

The Youth Office convened the first Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group this week to support implementation of AGO recommendations related to Youth, Jobs, and Service. Work group members include staff from DOI, USDA, EPA, USACE, HHS, DOL, OMB, and CEQ.

New: *Let's Move!* Outside Event with The National Park Trust and The North Face.

The Youth Office Director attended a *Let's Move!* Outside event hosted by the National Park Trust and the North Face in collaboration with Virginia State Parks, Leave No Trace, and low-income schools from DC and Baltimore. Over 150 diverse youth ages 12 – 15 attend the day event, participating in hikes, Leave No Trace workshops, canoe simulations, among other outdoor activities.

Ongoing: AGO Education Work Group Support: The Youth Office is providing support to Diane Chalfant, National Park Service, who is co-leading the AGO Education Work Group with the EPA. This week, we participated in the initial meeting via conference call.

Ongoing: MOU – DOI/Wilderness Inquiry. MOU drafted to renew and expand the expired MOU between (1) DOI (BLM, BOR, NPS, and FWS); (2) USFS; (3) US Army Corps; and Wilderness Inquiry, Inc. The expanded purpose of the renewed MOU is to “establish framework for cooperation to increase recreation, service and careers related to America’s Great Outdoors” for people of all abilities, particularly low-income, underserved and diverse youth.”

Ongoing: MOU – DOI / U.S. Dept of Education to “Maximize the Use of Federal Lands in Enhancing Educational Opportunities for the American Public.” Final draft MOU developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America’s Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education’s “Blueprint for Reform.” Signing ceremony tentatively scheduled for National History Day, June 14, 2011 in Washington, DC.

New: MOU- DOI (BLM, FWS, NPS)/USDA (USFS) and HistoriCorps. MOU drafted with primary purpose for partnership to cooperatively identify joint historic preservation projects, HistoriCorps was launched as initiative of Colorado Preservation (2009) and is expanding through western states to mobilize and employ youth and teach volunteers trade skills, sustainable technology to restore historic buildings on or adjacent to public lands.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. DOI Cooperative Agreement signed May 27 between DOI (Julie Rodriguez) and Southwest Conservation Corps for the AmeriCorps Summer Intern Program with BLM, FWS, BOR, USGS. NPS will hire interns using an existing cooperative agreement.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Take Pride in America National Awards. The nominations for the upcoming Take Pride in America National Awards have been reviewed, and rated by a judging panel. Awardees will be selected and announced next week.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Indian Probate Rule. OHA has surnamed the final Indian probate rule, confirming changes to the BIA and OHA probate regulations made in the interim final rule published in February. The Solicitor's Office will review the final rule and then forward the rule to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget, for signature.

Update: White Earth Tribe Consultation. As a follow-up to a conference call held May 12, the OHA Director wrote the Chairwoman of the White Earth Tribe concerning the handling of cases under the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act. The letter summarized four options for relocating OHA's Settlement Act work when the Whipple Federal Building in Twin Cities is vacated for renovation this summer. The options are to relocate the work to new space in Twin Cities; relocate it to Bemidji, Minnesota, as suggested by the Tribe; or relocate it to OHA's existing offices in either Arlington or Salt Lake City.

Office of the Chief Information Office

New: Acquisition of Detailed Planning Services for IT Transformation. OCIO has issued a solicitation for Detailed Planning Services that will support the IT Transformation program. Contract award is anticipated in early August.

Update: Acquisition of Workforce Planning Services for IT Transformation. OCIO is collaborating with the DOI HR office and OPM to develop a Statement of Objectives to acquire Workforce Planning Services to support the IT Transformation program. Contract award is anticipated in early August.

Update: BLM Microsoft Exchange messaging migration. OCIO staff has begun installation of the first BLM Exchange servers and are presently consulting with BLM on technical architecture and operational issues.

Update: Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Plan Draft. DOI completed the review draft of the DOI Plan for Improving Online Access to Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Information required by Presidential Memorandum. The review draft has been submitted to the Executive Office of the President for review.

Update: ESN transition to GSA Networkx. The Enterprise Services Network is on track and the evaluation panel has completed the review of vendor proposals and reached consensus on the vendor whose proposal presents the best value to the government.

Update: Data at Rest (DAR). The Certification and Accreditation package for the McAfee DAR enterprise Policy Orchestrator (ePO) reporting project is scheduled to be signed by the CIO on Wednesday. The DAR reporting server is tracking approximately 69% of the total number of departmental laptops.

Update: Data Center Consolidation. The OCIO established milestones and actions to meet OMB requirements for the June Data Center Consolidation (DCC) data call. The DCC is progressing with Bureau/Office attendance and participation increasing. As a result, USGS and BLM are completing a draft charter that lays out a plan for hosting the USGS, Building 53 facility (Denver) in the BLM National Operations Center. BOR and USGS travelled to Boise, Idaho to socialize the targeted data center consolidation with the local and regional stakeholders and BIA and NBC have assessed opportunities and issues related to the lease for the Herndon Parkway facility.

National Business Center

Update: Audiovisual enhancement for conference rooms Rachel Carson and the Kiowa Dining room. Installation of communications cabling, mounts for the overhead support brackets, liquid crystal display units, and electric viewing screens has been completed. .

Update: Enhancement of the Cable Television system for the South Interior Building. The cable television system for DOI personnel in the South Interior Building has been installed and upgraded.

New: Conversion of Appraisal Request and Review Tracking System. Web Services is working with the Office of Valuation Services (OVS) to convert the Appraisal Request and Review Tracking System (ARRTS) to the Interior Valuation Information System (IVIS). IVIS will be hosted in the Salesforce.com Cloud environment. The new IVIS system will go live on May 23, 2011.

New: MIB/SIB Information Technology Customer Service Operational Improvement Plan. The IT Directorate kicked off a 6 month project designed to improve Customer Service communication and collaboration for MIB/SIB IT services.

New: Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Released. The NBC Customer Support Center accidentally released PII for SEC employees. A report was sent using unsecured email in an unencrypted file. Notification was provided to all affected agency employees and The Los Angeles Times and Government Executive picked up the story.

New: USGS teams with NBC to develop coaching. The Federal Consulting Directorate is providing program evaluation services to USGS's Office of Training and Organizational Development.

New: Addressing pest complaints received from several occupants. As a result of occupant complaints, the exterior of MIB will be treated by a pest control contractor on Monday.

New: Energy Conservation improvement at the MIB. Occupancy sensors for offices in wings 3-6 will be installed and will likely result in significant energy conservation in the MIB.

Update: Relocation of OLES Security Badge Office. The badge office is being relocated from the 1400 corridor to the 1300 corridor.

Update: Open season parking is nearing completion. Distribution of all policy driven assignments is complete. "Waiver" parking assignments at the Federal Reserve Martin Building will be distributed by May 20.

Update: Planting activities for the organic garden is proceeding. Students from the C. Melvin Sharpe School helped plant seeds and seedlings on May 15, and as a result, approximately 75% of the garden is planted. Final Spring planting is scheduled for May 19.

Update: Blast window status. Blast testing is tentatively planned for mid July. Installation of new blast windows is tentatively scheduled between September and October 31, 2011.

Update: Special Events at the MIB/SIB. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) will hold a Small Business Boot Camp for approximately 400 participants on Friday, June 3, from 7 to 9 pm.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Presidential Rank Awards. The Executive Resources Board has approved five nominations for the annual SES/SL/ST Presidential Rank Award government-wide competition. The nominees all have been vetted with appropriate Interior offices (OIG, SOL, and OCR) to ensure there are no situations that might cause the Secretary or the President embarrassment in the event that the awards are approved. These awards recognize senior career employees who have demonstrated the highest levels of performance over an extended period of time. Meritorious Presidential Rank award winners receive 20 percent of pay; Distinguished Presidential Rank awards winners receive 35 percent of pay. The decisions of the President will be known during the month of September, 2011.

New: Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). OHR staff met with OCIO management to discuss their information technology (IT) transformation initiative and potential workforce implications. An OCIO representative prepared a draft statement of work for seeking support from the Office of Personnel Management to provide HR services. OCIO is still working to determine how many IT positions will be affected by the proposed consolidation and a definitive timeframe for implementation. OHR received the first unfair labor practice charge from the Albuquerque region this week.

New: Indian Preference for National Indian Gaming Commission. We met with the Office of the Solicitor (SOL) and Bureau of Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) to discuss affording Indian Preference to the National Indian Gaming Commission. They are an excepted service organization not bound by Title 5 competitive examining rules. The Office of the Solicitor is developing a table to determine when Indian Preference is appropriate, although there is little need, since the NIGC is an excepted service, and with little justification, can hire Indians without regard to normal Federal hiring regulations.

New: Proposed Forest Service on GS-0401, Fire Management Positions in the GS-0301 Series. A conference call was held with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staffers Tamara Neukam, Cindy Pogue, and Allen Squire regarding the proposed U.S. Forest Service policy to classify GS-0401 Fire Management positions in the GS-0301 series. After eight years of monthly meetings via teleconference, and twice a year for onsite conferences to develop and iron out the details associated with establishing new qualification requirements for firefighters, the USFS now wants to institute a policy that is essentially equivalent to how positions were classified prior to the fire that killed 14 firefighters in 2003. In the past several years, the Department has weighed in on this issue with our position being that we have committed to the new Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) position of professionalizing firefighter positions as fire management specialists. Interior has completed meeting the new standards.

Update: DOI and Office, Chief Army Reserve (OCAR) Employer Partnership. A brainstorming session will be held with representatives from OCAR to explore collaborative opportunities to engage in veteran employment and military families/youth initiatives. DOI participants include Veteran Employment Programs (OHR), Military Family Advisor (OS), Youth Programs (PMB) and Law Enforcement Programs. The session is scheduled for the morning of June 9, 2011.

Update: Recruiting Diverse Talent (Using Non-competitive Hiring Authorities). Seminars will be conducted in Portland, OR on May 24, 2011, and Hadley, MA on May 26, 2011. The seminars' discussions focus on the benefits of using non-competitive appointing authorities to build a 21st Century Interior Workforce that includes veterans, individuals with disabilities and youth. Hiring managers and HR professionals will have an opportunity to hear about programs run by local partners and engage in a discussion with those partners. Local partners include VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, State Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Local Department of Labor representatives, Military Transition Assistance Program, and Wounded Warrior Programs.

Update: Project SEARCH. A plan to sponsor students with disabilities for on-site internships and employment development is on track to begin in September 2011. The Kennedy School has agreed to partner by providing an on-site teacher, job coaches and 8-10 students. Once DC Public Schools affirms the Kennedy School's participation, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be drafted. The targeted announcement date is the week of July 25, 2011.

Update: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Review. Two representatives from the Accountability team participated on a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) review of its Nevada State Office in Reno, Nevada. The team found very few significant issues, however we did identify items needing corrective action. These issues included requirements such as, ensuring that mandatory supervisory training is monitored, tracked and completed, and the annual training needs assessment is conducted. Moreover, performance plans and awards complied with OPM regulations and Departmental policy, particularly in the areas of documentation, ensuring that the Delegated Examining annual assessment and Delegated Examining Certificate audits are conducted, and the Reemployment Priority List is routinely cleared at two points. In addition, it must be documented ensuring that vacancy announcements contain all required information and that notices of personnel action are properly documented. BLM will be issuing a report within 90 days identifying its findings and required and recommended actions.

Update: Upcoming Accountability Reviews. The accountability team will be participating in the following reviews scheduled over the next three months:

- Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 2, Albuquerque, NM, June 27 – 30, 2011;
- BLM Colorado Office, Denver, CO, June 27 – July 1, 2011;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Bureau of Indian Education, Albuquerque, NM, July 18 – 22, 2011;
- NPS Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, July 18 – 22, 2011;
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Pacific Northwest Region, Boise, ID, August 1 – 5, 2011; and
- OSM, Washington, DC August 8 – 12, 2011. This review will be led by the Department.

Office of Civil Rights

New: Development of National MOU with the Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN). The Office of Civil Rights is currently partnering with the U.S Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a national memorandum of understanding (MOU) with AAGEN. In advance of signing a National MOU, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) committed to supporting this year's AAGEN National Conference at Crystal City, Virginia, June 9, 2011, by funding a level-one sponsorship at \$3,000. This sponsorship will provide DOI an exhibit booth and six complimentary registrations to the conference. All bureau EEO Officers have been contacted in an effort to obtain additional sponsorship that would result in increased complimentary registrations to be utilized by staff members, program managers, and interns.

Update: Federal Inter-Agency Diversity Partnership. On May 19, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights represented the DOI at the Federal Inter-Agency Diversity Partnership (FIDP) Meeting. The focus of the meeting was to design and coordinate activities for the FIDP annual diversity briefing, tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2011. The meeting took place at

the National Archives Building, in Washington, D.C. The FIDP is comprised of several Federal agencies within the D.C. Metro Area that come together to share best practices and strategies to enhance diversity within the Federal workplace.

Update: Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month – May 2011. Interior joins the Nation in observing May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. During May, we recognize the many contributions made by AAPIs to the rich heritage of our Nation. This year's theme is "Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment and Beyond." DOI's commemoration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month includes an exhibit of AAPI artifacts and information. The exhibit, sponsored by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, is located on the 4th floor, 4300 Corridor, Main Interior Building. In recognition of AAPI Heritage Month, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations hosted a screening of the documentary "Under a Jarvis Moon." The documentary described the story of over 130 young men - most of whom were Native Hawaiians- employed by Interior who were sent to occupy Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands from 1935 to 1942. The screening took place in the Main Interior Building, Yates Auditorium, on May 12, 2011.

Completed: Competency Training for EEO Practitioners. On May 18, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights presented, "Acceptance and Framing of Formal EEO Discrimination Claims," in an effort to improve efficiency in the Title VII Complaints Process. The training was conducted at the National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Training Center, 1201 Eye Street, Washington, D.C. Timothy Bladdek, a representative of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Office of Federal Operations, joined OCR Deputy Director Lola Hatcher-Capers and Alvin Dillings, senior policy advisor, in providing training to twenty-two Interior EEO Practitioners. Participants from the seven Bureaus with personnel in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area attended the training.

Update: icomplaints Training. On June 8, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights will present "icomplaints User Training", for Interior EEO Practitioners. The training will be conducted at the NPS, National Capital Training Center, in Washington, D.C. The training is designed for both new users and experienced users of icomplaints.

Update: Rescheduled EEO Counselor Training. During June 27, 2011-July 1, 2011, OCR, in partnership with the National Park Service, will provide EEO Counselor Training at the NPS Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado. A Basic EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted during June 27, 2011-July 1, 2011. An Advanced EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted during June 29, 2011-July 1, 2011. Training will be provided by staff members of OCR, NPS, and USGS. Additionally, a presentation will be made to each class by two administrative judges of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). To date, thirty DOI EEO Counselors have registered for the Basic EEO Counselor Course, while twenty have registered for the Advanced EEO Counselor Course.

Completed: DOI Pre-Conference Training Forum at Federal Asian Pacific American Counsel (FAPAC). On May 9, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights and the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, co-sponsored a training forum at the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) National Leadership Training

Conference. The training, entitled "Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment and Beyond," took place in Bellevue, Washington. Approximately 30 DOI employees attended the training forum.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

Completed: Forums and Speaker Events.

On May 18, 2011, the Government wide Senior Executive Service (SES) Forum featured an address from National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Retired), entitled "*Leading Through Crisis and Times of Change.*" He spoke about how large, complex organizations react to and manage unprecedented, anomalous events. The forum was held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington DC. The forum was available via Webinar.

Office of Occupational Safety and Health

New: POWER Safety and Health Working Group. The Safety and Health Working Group held its initial meeting on May 17, 2011. The group members were asked to "brainstorm" injury reduction strategies for discussion at the next meeting.

New: May Safety and Health Council meeting. The agenda has been finalized and all the support documents for the May Safety Council meeting have been distributed to the participants. The meeting is scheduled for May 24- 25, 2011, and will be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices in Arlington.

New: Meeting with National Park Service (NPS) on Fall Hazards at Fort Pulaski: We met with the National Park Service (NPS) to develop strategies for mitigating public fall hazards at Fort Pulaski National Park.

New: Meeting with Wildland Fire representatives on PPE. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protective Programs met with Wildland Fire representatives to discuss boots as personal protective equipment. The outcome of the meeting was a decision to develop a series of questions for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that will help clarify the information in their 2009 letter to Indian Affairs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

New: Work Load and Staffing Needs. Fish and Wildlife Service staff continue to express concerns about keeping pace with the work load associated with environmental compliance needs related to border security. Most work is related to Endangered Species Act compliance, but NEPA and cultural and historic resource concerns are also significant. These concerns

have been expressed to CBP with a request for transfer funding, addition of CBP environmental staff or a clear expression of priority needs for CBP projects.

New: Forage Enhancement Plot and Drag Road on Luke Air Force Base. Forage enhancement plots are sometimes used to provide additional food for the endangered Sonoran pronghorn. The region is experiencing a prolonged drought and this program of irrigating a large area provides a supplement to naturally available forage. Illegal activities have resulted in the need for CBP to have access to drag a road in proximity to the FEP. The concern is that regular dragging of this road is preventing the pronghorn from using the FEP. Discussions are continuing in an effort to resolve this through relocation of the FEP, possible changes in road dragging methods or some other means.

Update: Congressional Visits. DOI Border Coordinator Andrew participated in an informational briefing for Peter Ambler, Legislative Director for Representative Giffords on May 18th. A Thursday brief with House appropriations staff was postponed.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. FY 09 and 10 dollars that had been set aside in support of this agreement were lost in the final budget resolution for FY 11. CBP is evaluating other options to support the agreement with end of year funds. Discussions on the amendments to the existing Interagency Agreement are continuing so that when funding becomes available the approved projects in the amendment can be executed. The amendments under consideration would provide justification for as much as 22 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. A letter acknowledging and describing the DOI role as cooperator will be sent the week of May 23. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release in mid June, followed by public release of the draft. Public meetings will be held in July followed by a 45-60 day comment period. Documents will be placed on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base (FOB). CBP has received draft reports on Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope activity in the project area to use in project planning. Draft environmental reports have also been received; the project will be discussed with the Fish and Wildlife Service on May 25. This project is being funded with FY 2010 dollars that must be obligated this FY. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site now occupied by a temporary camp which was relocated from the Bates Wells area.

Update: Integrated Fixed Towers - OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Site visits have now been completed in three locations, Sonoita/Nogales, Douglas and west of Tucson. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew has scheduled an overall briefing with OTIA leadership on the status of OTIA activities for May 26th. This briefing will include a summary of progress on tower activities and other aspects of the program such as mobile and agent deployed equipment.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. The Alpha version of the module is overdue from the contractors but is expected soon. Field launch of the module is still expected to begin this fall.

Update: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for “non-waived” tactical infrastructure was sent to land managers and permitting offices. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in late July for Arizona and mid August for California. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis also includes “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing. TIMR contracts for other border maintenance work will be finalized this summer. CBP has provided a list of Project Managers for TIMR. These managers will work closely with the Public Lands Liaison Agent to identify and address maintenance needs. Coordination meetings with FWS Field Offices in Carlsbad and Tucson will take place on the 24th and 25th to discuss the possible impacts on endangered species.

Update: Emergency Rescue Beacons on Organ Pipe NM, BLM lands and Cabeza Prieta NWR. Border Patrol has relocated rescue beacons due to changes in undocumented alien activity patterns. One of the sites is in an area used by the endangered Sonoran pronghorn. An assessment of possible impacts on this species is being conducted under emergency rules. All beacons are therefore in place and functioning. At the same time, possible impacts are being evaluated. The beacons must be checked daily to assure they are operational and discussion is focused on the best time of day to check the beacons to avoid disturbance to pronghorns

Update: Radio Transformation. Project directors met with the executive sponsors to present a project strategy, high level schedule, financial plan, and project charter. Project directors are waiting for approval to hire a senior-level project manager.

Update: Fire IT Project. The project leaders are preparing a report to the sponsors. The report will line out options on how to move forward with updating the wildland fire architecture and implementation strategies.

Update: Interagency Interoperability. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (comprised of Interior and Agriculture executives in information technology, fire, and law enforcement) will meet on May 26 to discuss a Secretarial level charter and to re-configuration of the group to make it more agile and strategic. Two major sets of initiatives are underway. First is interconnectivity of networks and cross-recognition of credentials. A large interagency conference call took place this week among USDA, FS, and DOI CIO offices, with LESEM, to coordinate and prioritize a number of activities in this area. This work also involves the DOI and USDA Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) program offices. The second initiative is radio program improvement including interoperability, infrastructure consolidation, and use of new technologies. This initiative is being handled through the DOI Radio Transformation Project in partnership with USDA and Forest Service.

No Change: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. The DOI transition plan has been signed and transmitted to the Coast Guard.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Update of Department of the Interior Borderlands Strategy. The last borderlands strategy dealing with security and environmental issues was completed in 2003. DOI Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew has initiated internal scoping for a revised document. Scoping comments will be received until June 3 and a draft document will be prepared and circulated internally for review. A final version of the strategy is expected to move forward in late summer for approval by the Secretary.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After

substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The field meeting originally scheduled for early March is now scheduled for May 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

Final: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. OCIO Directive 2011-005 was signed and issued. Initial planning on interagency (between Interior and Agriculture) is underway.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Deployment Push 2. The Technology Division initiated IMARS Deployment Push 2 on May 13, 2011. This deployment includes 500 users from the five participating DOI bureaus. This deployment push complies with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) recommendation that IMARS should be deployed to users in incremental rollouts in at least six month intervals until the system is fully deployed in December 2012.

New: Assistant Director—Technology Division returns from Harvard Senior Executive Fellows Program. Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed finished his Harvard Senior Executive Fellows Program and returned to DOI- MIB on May 15, 2011.

New: The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) requested briefings from OLSWS on DOI Mission and Responsibilities: On Wednesday, May 18, OLES senior staff will brief ODNI representatives on the DOI mission to better prepare them for field assignments to the southwest border and west coast.

New: Attendance at Border Patrol Agents Funeral: OLES Southwest Border Coordinator attended the funerals for Agents Hector Clark and Eduardo Rojas, Jr. Both died in the line of duty on May 12, 2011 in an automobile accident near Gila Bend, AZ. Agents Clark and Rojas were assisting other officers in apprehending a group of illegal aliens when a train struck their vehicle.

Update: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20th. In addition, OLES has completed

assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: National Mall, St Louis Arch, Statue of Liberty, and a progress review at Mount Rushmore. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the USS Constitution in July and the Liberty Bell in August. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been completed at the main BOEMRE facility in New Orleans and at the USGS EROS Data Center located in South Dakota. Also in May OLES conducted a “test” security assessment, using draft guidance, at Davis Dam.

Update: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12. Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. To date OLES has received at least a partial response from NPS, BOR, OTHA and NBC. OLES is attempting to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management to support this initiative.

No Change: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and C ramp is now opened. Work has started on the A and G ramp bollards.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** The C ramp guard booth has been installed and is operational. Installation has started on the A and G ramp guard booths.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation has been posted on the GSA schedule and a contractor “walk through” was completed on April 14th.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed w/in the next month.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated (\$472,095) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative. A talking points paper was submitted for follow-up.
- **MIB Entrance Re-design:** DAS Andrew Jackson commissioned a study to redesign the C and E street entrances into the MIB. OLES has reviewed and commented on this plan.

Final: Meeting with Arizona Counterterrorism Center (ACTIC): OLES border branch personnel met with DHS Intelligence and Analysis representatives at ACTIC, the statewide fusion center. Discussed was connectivity and information flow between Interior units in Arizona and ACTIC.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

New: Incident Management Team Training. OEM is conducting “Command and General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams” (i.e., ICS 300/400 level) training for Interior employees this week in Sacramento, CA. Graduates from the course will have completed the basic qualification requirements for responding to future emergencies.

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Flooding in the Lower Mississippi Valley:* The crest of record floodwaters has proceeded down the Mississippi River, reaching southern Louisiana. The Chitamacha tribe, located on the other side of a levee from the Atchafalaya Basin, continues to check on the condition of the levee since a failure of the levee could flood the reservation. Multiple FWS refuges have flooded. BOEMRE continues to monitor impacts to offshore oil/gas production and USGS continues to measure water level and flow rates on the Mississippi to support Federal and state and local agencies.
- *Flooding in Montana Inundates Crow and Fort Belknap Reservations:* Heavy rainfall and snowmelt has caused flooding on the Crow Reservation and Fort Belknap Reservation. Many communities and buildings are isolated by the flooding. BIA and HIS are providing support.
- *Flooding in Alaska Destroys Native Village:* The State of Alaska Emergency Coordination Center (AECC) continues to coordinate the recovery operations from the severe flooding incident at Crooked Creek, an Alaskan Native Village north of Aniak, Alaska. An ice jam caused flooding which destroyed many residences in the town. State officials and HUD are working together to ensure residences have shelter while homes are being repaired/replaced.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Sixty-two DOI personnel continued to work full-time in New Orleans on Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. Oil spill cleanup continues to be slowed by the increasing numbers of nesting birds and sea turtles on shorelines.
- *Four Large Wildfires Continue to Burn on DOI Land:* There are four large wildland fires burning on DOI land in FL, GA, LA and NC. The country is now in National Preparedness Level 2 for wildland firefighting efforts.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO continues to refine the solution to provide access to CMS email addresses through Outlook and will implement this solution along with the database changes for sorting by the end of the month. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continued the process of briefing Assistant Secretaries and Deputy Assistant Secretaries about their roles and responsibilities for EH-11; OEM briefed the DAS-Technology, Information and Business Services along with his office directors on May 19. Training sessions for the annual COOP Team training requirement and EH overview will begin next week. Exercise EH-11 will take place on June 23 and will focus

on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration. OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM coordinated with the Emergency Coordinator from the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs to update their COOP team representation and also met with several members of the Office of Financial Management's new EM team to discuss their representation. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise EH-11 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). The Office of Personnel Management will conduct an evacuation drill on May 24 and OEM will provide support by hosting the OPM senior leadership during the evacuation. OEM conducted a tabletop exercise on May 17 with OLES Security and NBC Facilities to review the procedures for evacuating individuals who need assistance during a building emergency. OEM is developing the 2011 update to the DOI Occupant Emergency Plan and Occupant Emergency Employee Guide based on lessons learned from the 2010-2011 evacuations and drills.

No Change: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM participated in the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs (AS/IA)-sponsored Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) Conference in Green Bay, WI last week. Conclusions from the meeting are being developed and integrated into the expert study.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. OEM held a collaboration meeting with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and the National Park Service (NPS) on May 11 and May 16 which resulted in a consensus as to the concept of operations for integrating NPS all-hazards resources and the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. No significant resources will be required to modify the system to implement the concept; however, there will be resource costs for data management. OEM is currently revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system and plans to brief the Deputies Operating Group (DOG) on progress and costs at the May 26 DOG meeting.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) approved the latest iteration of the *DOI Positions and Qualifications Guide* on May 4. The updated Guide includes positions that were developed as a direct result of the Gulf Oil Spill. OEM received comments from the EMC on the draft policy regarding emergency incident staffing and will be making changes prior to further EMC review. Both efforts directly support the effort to ensure all DOI responder qualifications are loaded into the same qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system for future emergency response efforts.

No Change: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI at the National Security Staff's Chemical Preparedness sub-Interagency Policy Committee. She also participated in the

Interagency Animal Zoonotics (IAZ) Committee which is co-chaired by FWS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and has members from FWS, USGS and other non-DOI agencies. The IAZ Committee was formed in response to a GAO study titled “*Agencies Need Better Collaboration in Reducing the Risk of Animal-Related Diseases.*”

Final: National Level Exercise (NLE) 11. The Department and its bureaus participated in the annual National Level Exercise (NLE) 11 last week. The exercise scenario consists of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the Central U.S. The Secretary, Assistant Secretary PMB, DAS LESEM, and Director, Office of Emergency Management participated in White House meetings as part of the simulated response. The Interior Operations Center participated in the week-long exercise, coordinating DOI response. Bureau and Office Emergency Coordinators met to review the scenario and Departmental impacts during a table top exercise on May 18. An After-Action Report will be developed to highlight lessons learned and corrective actions in accordance with the Department’s Corrective Action Program.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Fire Program Analysis (FPA). The FPA Business Process and Technical Review Request for Information (RFI) has been prepared and posted, soliciting interest from GSA contractors. Use of the RFI method will expedite the contracting process. If the Open Market Option is employed, then time frames would be extended. The RFI will close on May 27, 2011. The Request for Quotes (RFQ) will be posted by June 8, closing June 22. The anticipated award date is not later than June 30. An interim report is requested by the Oversight Group by mid-August with a final report complete by September 30, 2011.

Update: LANDFIRE – 2008 Refresh Production. The second to last geographic area, Northeast was delivered early on May 18. Production work is on schedule to deliver the last geo-areas by the end of May 2011 (Alaska/Hawaii) with a staggered delivery of data products to meet leadership direction of data needs for Fire Program Analysis (FPA). The first through sixth geo-areas have been delivered, namely: the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, North Central, and South Central. Updating LANDFIRE data products as part of the Refresh project is focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as: wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 United States were organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters.

Update: Community Assistance. The Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) funding was removed from the fire management program’s operating plan for FY 2011. Thus, there is no longer any need to work on the method for allocating those funds. The Community Assistance (CA) program leads will still meet this week, to chart a path forward to fulfill the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) evaluation of the DOIs CA program.

Update: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy - Phase II. The third of three regional workshops on the “Cohesive Strategy” is being conducted this week (May 23-24) in Atlanta for the southeast region. The country was organized into three regions as part

of the phase II approach. The northeast region met May 9-10, and the west region convened on May 2-3. These workshops focus on organizing the regional and local members to support completion of Phase II. Each of the three regions will develop a qualitative report articulating the region's values, goals, objectives, and actions and activities which represents the area's best opportunity to reduce risk. The initial workshops provided an overview of the Phase II process, outcomes, timeframes, and explanation of the assessment process. Subsequent virtual and face-to-face meetings within each region are being planned to support engagement and outreach in the cohesive strategy effort.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service prepared the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. A joint DOI and FS letter is being prepared for submission to Congress.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program/International Fire Conference. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference, May 2011. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

No Change: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 continues its progression. The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD) is complete, and was approved by the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) on April 27. Four phases of the TGD are still anticipated, as specific HFPAS details are finalized and approved. Phase 2, determining the process for integration of results of the PPS and the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) is complete, and alternatives for consideration were presented to the bureau fire directors on Friday, May 13.

Final: Fire Program Analysis (FPA)/Re-Charter. In preparation for the upcoming independent, external review of the Fire Program Analysis program, OWFC is refreshing select project management documentation to reflect the re-charter.

Final: Fire Program Analysis/Budget. Based on FPA output, on April 22, the FPA Interagency Advisory Team presented a set of national, strategic budget themes and messages to the FPA Oversight Group (OG) for approval and use in the FY13 budget submissions for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. On April 27, at the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) meeting, members of the OG shared the budget messages with IFEC.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Acquisition Executive Roundtable. On May 20, 2011, PAM staff participated in an Acquisition Executive Roundtable moderated by David Wyld, Professor of Management at Southeastern Louisiana University. Discussion centered on the impact of reverse auctions in the Federal procurement process. Acquisition executives from several Federal agencies discussed how reverse auctions can add value to the procurement process by proving expediency and efficiencies during times of tight budgets.

In addition to potential savings measured using the Independent Government Cost Estimate as the baseline; reverse auctions can achieve soft savings through employee efficiency and quality control. Reverse auctions provide the documentation required for end-of-year certification as well as an audit trail in the event of a protest. The challenges of implementing reverse auctions and methods to overcome the hurdles including obtaining leadership buy-in, identifying a change agent to promote reverse auctions, providing training, and establishing metrics were discussed. The participants agreed that reverse auctions should be viewed as an important tool in the procurement toolkit.

DOI Suspension and Debarment Program: Recent Actions. On May 19, 2011, DOI debarred Sunland Industries, LLC, and Frederick P. Weiner, Sunland's owner and Chief Executive Officer. Debarment is based on Respondents failure for three consecutive quarters to comply with reporting requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under a contract awarded to Sunland by the National Park Service, and Sunland's failure to pay its subcontractor under that contract. DOI had initially proposed Sunland and Weiner for debarment under the Federal Acquisition Regulation debarment rule at 48 CFR 9.4, by Notice dated November 10, 2010. Respondents contested the notices. The contested case determination imposes a three year debarment measured from the date of the initial Notice.

Office of Budget

Update: 2013 Budget Formulation. On April 21, the Office of Budget issued initial 2013 formulation policy guidance from the DAS-BFPA to bureau budget officers. This guidance contained bureau/office planning targets for the Departmental submission, due May 31, as well as fixed cost placeholder estimates, funding levels for Secretarial initiatives, and a tentative schedule for the 2013 formulation process. In anticipation of significant budget reductions in 2012 Appropriations, the DAS-BFPA issued addendum guidance on May 20 directing bureaus and offices to provide budget scenarios depicting 11 percent reductions in a modified Department Submission. The first scenario reflects an across-the-board reduction of 11 percent from the 2011 operating plan level, which may most closely resemble impacts to the Department's pending FY 2012 request and could inform Congressional requests for impacts. This submission and associated impact statements will be due to POB on June 8. The second and third scenarios include the 11 percent reduction as well as specific priorities (such as partial vs. full LWCF funding, etc.) and will be due June 22. This guidance package also included bureau-specific and cross-cutting guidance. Technical guidance with specific instruction on the presentation of these scenarios and associated explanation of impacts/changes will be issued this week.

Update: 2011 Spring Storm Damage Report. Bureau responses to the POB datacall indicate an estimated \$22 million in damages to facilities and resources resulting from the recent spring storms. This does not include an estimated \$60 million in asset damages related to the Pacific Tsunami reported by FWS.

Update: OMB Travel.

- Week of June 26 – OMB Examiner James Hurban will visit the Rocky Mountain Region to review BIA and OST programs.
- Week of July 25 – OMB Examiner Tomer Hasson will travel to FWS Region 6 Mountain-Prairie from July 25 to July 30. The trip will cover a number of FWS-related issues, including wolves, sage grouse, wind energy, fisheries, and oil and gas development. POB Analyst Willy Gilmore will accompany him.

Office of Financial Management

New: Mid-year Internal Control and Audit Follow-up Meetings. PFM conducted mid-year Internal Control and Audit Follow-up meetings with USGS, BOEMRE, BLM, FWS, and Indian Affairs to discuss open audit recommendations as well as status of internal control reviews. While progress is being made, PFM is concerned about BLM's and Indian Affairs' low weighted rates of implementation of audit recommendations. Follow-up meetings will be held if necessary to ensure that recommendations are timely implemented.

New: Closure Requests for Audit Recommendations. PFM prepared and submitted closure requests for four audit recommendations related to Unfilled Customer Orders and Capital Leases. These closures increased the Departmental Offices Finance Division Corrective Action Plan closure percentage to 53%. The Departmental Offices expect to reach the FY 2011 target of 85% closure by June 30, 2011.

Ongoing: GAO Draft Report. PFM distributed the GAO draft report on *Federal Data Center Consolidation* to relevant bureaus and offices for review. The report has two recommendations that focus on completing missing elements in data center consolidation plans and inventories and requiring data center consolidation managers to consider challenges and lessons learned when updating plans. All comments and the response are due to GAO by June 10, 2011.

Ongoing: Pollution Removal Fund Authority (PRFA) Cost Reimbursement. PFM reviewed and submitted the 8th Pollution Removal Funding Authority (PRFA) cost documentation package for the National Park Service, totaling \$475,868, to the U.S. Coast Guard (USGC). To date, the PRFA Cost Team has assisted with collecting \$11,630,295 of \$50,973,793 requested for reimbursement from the USCG for recovery efforts performed related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Ongoing: Assessment of the Financial and Business Management System: DOI has reviewed McKinsey's draft of the Task 6 deliverable "Prioritization Criteria and Training Update." Task 6 was provided to the sponsors at the weekly meeting on May 20th by the

contractor, and McKinsey provided a draft Executive Steering Committee (ESC) standard reporting template for discussion and comment. A daily status call is held at the Herndon project management office with extended sessions on Thursday's for ESC deliverable review.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. The last of the second quarter FY 2011 Priority Goal Quarterly Status Reviews, led by Deputy Secretary Hayes, will be held on May 23rd and will cover the Safe Indian Communities goal. These meetings have provided an excellent forum for open and honest dialogue about achieving the Secretary's priority goals. To follow through on the discussions begun at the quarterly reviews, the goal leaders and participating bureau directors have identified actions to better achieve the goal and ensure continued progress. Interior's Priority Goal information has been updated on www.performance.gov in anticipation of the system's public release this week.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

No Change: Implementation of White House Small Business Procurement Group Recommendations. The OSDDBU and the PAM Office are working together to address White House recommendations on sustaining the high level of task orders awarded under multiple-award contracts to small businesses. OSDDBU is examining the tool used by GSA and DOD to evaluate small business spending on multiple award contracts.

No Change: Small Business Administration (SBA) Fiscal Year 2010 Goaling Report and Scorecard: The SBA has provided the draft FY 2010 Scorecard to Federal agencies. Interior must submit comments by Friday, May 27. The SBA will release the FY 2010 Goaling Report and Scorecards in mid-June.

Update: Postings on OMB MAX System: In support of the White House initiative to increase small business participation in federal contracting, the Department will post success stories and best practices related to small business contracting on the OMB MAX System.

No Change: CelebrAsian 2011. In support of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the OSDDBU will represent the Department at CelebrAsian 2011 in Los Angeles, California on May 23-25. CelebrAsian is the oldest and largest Pan Asian American Business Opportunity Conference in the United States.

No Change: Events Scheduled. The OSDDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDDBU for further information.

- **June 3: Construction Outreach Event:** This event will be held at the Yates Auditorium during the evening hours. Registration for the event is open.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration for the event is open.
- **September 15 (tentative) New Mexico Outreach Event in Albuquerque, NM.** Further details to be provided when finalized.

No Change: Webinar Scheduled. OSBDU has scheduled the following upcoming webinar:

- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: SAPPHIRE Now and America's SAP Users' Group (ASUG) Annual Conference. During the week of May 16, representatives from the FBMS PMO attended the SAPPHIRE Now and ASUG Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. The conference was held to bring together SAP senior leaders and users from the private sector, government organizations and educational institutions from around the world; to discuss the technological vision, insights, and actionable information SAP customers need to drive profitability and growth; and keep ahead of their competition. The conference consisted of daily key note presentations by renowned members of the SAP community, and numerous daily breakout sessions on over a thousand SAP topics. PMO representatives also held specific discussions with SAP executives and product managers on the following topics: System Usability, Mobility, Real Property concerns and advancements, and Energy Reporting.

Update: Deployment 5 End User Acceptance Survey. A survey was conducted from May 10th to May 20th to receive feedback on:

- (1) the FBMS Program Management Office (PMO) and D5 Bureaus' communications and training activities to prepare USGS users and existing BLM, BOEM, and OSM users to use FBMS's Deployment 5 (D5) functionality and systems upgrades;
- (2) user experiences with FBMS over the past 4 – 6 months; and
- (3) ways to enhance the experience of future DOI FBMS users.

The survey population was 3,251; 1,131 USGS users, 1,905 BLM users, 173 BOEM users, and 42 OSM users. The survey response rate was 36.4%. This is higher than the response rate for past FBMS acceptance surveys. The results will be analyzed May 23rd to June 10th. Feedback obtained from the survey will be included in the D5 Training Effectiveness Report. The FBMS Executive Steering Committee will be briefed on the survey results during its July 2011 meeting.

New: FBMS Deployment 6 Test Readiness Review – Integration (TRR-I): The TRR-I is scheduled for May 31st. The purpose of the TRR-I is to give DO, FWS, USGS, BLM, BOEM, OSM, NBC, and the FBMS Co-system owners an opportunity to validate that appropriate FBMS Program Management Office (PMO) and system preparations have occurred for D6 Integration Testing. During the TRR-I, the FBMS System Integrator (IBM) will use a comprehensive checklist to brief D6 stakeholders on the status of prerequisite actions required for D6 Integration Testing and make a recommendation concerning D6's readiness for integration testing. After the TRR-I, DOI D6 stakeholders will caucus to discuss the system integrator's recommendation and make a recommendation to the FBMS Sponsor concerning D6's readiness for integration testing. If approval is granted for integration testing to begin; the testing will begin on June 1st and end on August 19th.

Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office

New: Organizational Change Management. OS IMO will be holding a Role Mapping status check in conference call on June 1 with D6 Role Mapping Leads. This work will continue periodically over the summer to ensure all OS stakeholders are assigned appropriate roles and receive training necessary to receive FBMS login IDs.

New: Organizational Change Management. The PMO Role Mapping Workshop for the deploying bureaus will be held June 7-8. This workshop will provide information on: (1) Substantive changes to redeploy roles; (2) New roles; (3) Updates to SOD rules; (4) Updates to the EURMW; and (5) Updates to the role mapping timeline.

No Change: FBMS Cycle 2 Testing. The Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office (OS IMO) has been working to develop an internal project plan and identify lead testers for Cycle 2 testing that will begin mid July. These testers will primarily be subject matter experts that are daily system users. User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which begins in August, will require a different audience of testers that will bring more OS users into the testing labs. Both testing cycles are carried out in PMO labs in Herndon and Denver.

Update: Training Workshops. The OS IMO is preparing for training workshops on D6 Deployment that will begin in July. Tentative workshops are scheduled for July 12-13, August 10-11, and September 6-7. Locations for fall training for the OS community are being identified.

Update: ONRR Conversion to OS. OS IMO has been working closely with ONRR to develop a strategy to ensure cross bureau support from BOEMRE is accomplished in accordance with OS standards and meets the needs of ONRR. ONRR financial transactions will be processed through BOEMRE through FY 2012 and acquisition support will be provided by the National Business Center Acquisition Services Directorate. Discussions between the FBMS PMO, BOEMRE, NBC and OS continue to finalize other support requirements and the need for conversion of specific objects into FBMS.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Report to Congress: Analysis of RSFA Provisions and Adjustments to Royalty Payments (No Change): ONRR will be submitting for Departmental review a report to Congress as requested in GAO-08-893R, *Mineral Revenues: Data Management Problems and Reliance on Self-Reported Data for Compliance Efforts Put MMS Royalty Calculations at Risk*. The report examines the six-year time period during which companies may adjust their Federal royalty data without ONRR approval and ONRR's seven year time period for issuing monetary demands. The report notes that the majority of company adjustments occur within the first three years of the six-year period.

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations delayed (Update): ONRR has prepared two *Federal Register* Notices that were tentatively scheduled to be published the week of May 16, but publication was delayed pending additional changes to the ANPRs. The two notices include an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Federal Oil and Gas Valuation Regulations; and an ANPR for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Regulations. ONRR also developed a communications plan and press release to announce the publication of the ANPRs. The Deputy Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget have received extensive briefings on this issue. The DOI Press Office will issue the draft press release at the time of publication. We expect it to be published in the *Federal Register* within the week.

Indian Oil Negotiated Rulemaking (No Change): ONRR is in the process of forming a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) to address the valuation of crude oil produced from Indian leases. ONRR is working with the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution and the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to obtain a third party neutral to serve as facilitator for the Committee. In addition, ONRR has submitted the proposed nominees to the White House liaison for vetting. Once the White House liaison approves the members, the Department will publish *Federal Register* notices announcing the members and establishing the Committee. Additionally, the Secretary will need to sign the charter for filing with Congress. The estimated timeframe for holding the first meeting of the Committee is August 2011.

Update to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases Related to Index Zones (No Change): The Economic and Market Analysis Office (EMAO) is proposing changes to the Indian gas valuation regulations that will remove certain illiquid natural gas index prices from the Indian Index Zone calculation. These changes will potentially increase natural gas royalty revenues for Indian leases located in Oklahoma Zone 1, Oklahoma Zone 2, and the Central Rocky Mountain Zone. EMAO is participating with State and Indian Coordination to conduct outreach to Indians affected by these regulatory changes. EMAO has drafted a FR Notice to publish the changes to the calculation.

Communication/Data Sharing with BLM/BIA/OST/FS Implementation Work Group (IWG) Highlights (New): The Communications/Data Sharing with BLM/BIA/OST/FS IWG is establishing the rules of engagement for conducting customer interviews to identify and document the "as-is" data and communication flows (electronic or manual) into and out of ONRR. Defining the "as-is" will help identify opportunities for more efficient and automated information exchange. The IWG has created a standard data flow survey to capture all the necessary information in these interviews. The team will first focus internally, interviewing ONRR subject matter experts. Team members are currently identifying subject matter experts within the ONRR business units. The team plans to begin interviews in the next two weeks. After the team has interviewed the ONRR subject matter experts, the next step is to interview external entities to help identify all relevant data and communication flows.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and

Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers, records developed under the Agreement, and equipment.

- New Mexico review on May 31-June 2, 2011
- Utah review on June 7-8, 2011

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR's goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Ojo Encino Chapter House, Ojo Encino, NM, on June 8, 2011

OIG - Reports Awaiting Management Response

May 27, 2011

Reports	Report Title	Bureau/ Office	Status	Response Due Date	Contact	Comments	PFM Action/Remarks
Draft ER-IN-BIA-0016-2009	BIA- Wildland Fire Suppression	BIA	Due	6/1/2011	Patty Vendzules		
Draft HI-EV-NPS-0001-2010	National Park Service: Climate Friendly Parks Initiative	NPS	Due	5/31/2011			Response in surname process.
Final K-CX-BOEM-0001-2011	Final Costs Incurred by Accenture,LLP under Contract No. M99PC14572, with BOEMRE	BOEMRE		6/15/2011	Andrea Nygren		OIG granted extension till June 15th.
Final K-CX-BOR-0003-2010	Martin Brothers Construction, Inc. Request for Equitable Adjustment under Contract No. R10PC20747, Modification No. 2, with the Bureau of Reclamation	BOR	BOR	6/22/2011			
Draft R-GR-FWS-0003-2011	Arizona Department of Game and Fish	FWS	Due	6/13/2011			
Draft R-GR-FWS-0005-2011	South Carolina Dept of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Division of Marine Resources	FWS	Due	6/16/2011			

Early Alert - Coming up
Due - Due within 10 business days or less of the response due date.
Late - After the response due date.
Extension - Reports that have been granted a response due date extension.
Completed - Response sent to OIG.

GAO - Reports Await Management Response
 May 27, 2011

Reports	Report Title	Lead Bureau/ Office	Status	Response Due Date	Contact	Current Location/Comments
Draft GAO-11-427	AMERICAN SAMOA AND CNMI: Employment, Earnings, and Status of Key Industries Since Minimum Wage Increases Began	OIAF	Completed	5/26/2011	Nancy Thomas 208-7954	General comments emailed to GAO.
Draft GAO-11-565	DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION: Agencies Need to Complete Inventories and Plans to Achieve Expected Savings	OCIO	Due	6/10/2011	Nancy Thomas 208-7954	Started departmental summarizing of the proposed response to GAO.

**OIG AND GAO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS
 FY 2011 DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE GOAL FOR CLOSING AUDITS
 As of May 27, 2011**

BUREAU	Beginning Balance OIG	Additions OIG	Beginning Balance GAO	Additions GAO	COUNT		WEIGHTED		GOAL BASE %
					TOTAL RECS	IMPLEMENTED	OPEN	IMPLEMENTED	
DEPT/OS	17	35	13	11	76	21	67.5	19.5	29%
NBC	2	4	0	0	6	6	5.0	5.0	100%
OST	2	5	0	0	7	3	7.0	3.0	43%
ONRR	6	6	5	0	17	3	13.0	1.5	12%
IA	15	20	3	1	39	6	34.0	8.0	24%
NPS	5	25	5	0	35	20	28.0	12.5	45%
FWS	2	15	2	0	19	4	17.5	3.0	17%
BLM	20	21	22	0	63	12	57.5	13.0	23%
BOEM	5	39	9	0	53	28	54.5	29.5	54%
OSM	0	2	0	0	2	0	2.5	0.0	0%
BOR	0	3	0	1	4	2	4.5	2.0	44%
USGS	1	5	3	0	9	5	8.0	4.5	56%
TOTAL	75	180	62	13	330	110	299.0	101.5	34%

Departmental Annual Performance Goal = 85% (weighted)

While OIG recommendations are weighted .5, 1.0, or 1.5 according to their materiality and/or level of qualification assigned by the auditors, all GAO recommendations have a fixed weight of 1.0.

For record
Friday May 20

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

SOL Weekly Bureau Report for the Week Beginning May 23, 2011

DWH Matters:

EnSCO Litigation

Count V (DOCD regulations challenge). On May 16, ATP and the U.S. filed cross-motions for partial summary judgment. The trial on that count has been postponed until after that briefing and not before July 21, 2011. Depositions are now scheduled for the middle of June, but in light
(b) (5)

BOP Examination

The additional BOP testing ordered by the multi-district litigation is continuing at the Michoud site in New Orleans. Testing is ordered to be completed by June 15, 2011 (b) (5)

(b) (5)

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Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

Discovery in the MDL is ongoing and various units of the Solicitor's Office are working to respond to BP's vast request for production of documents. We are also working with the DOJ to set depositions, beginning in July, for several BOEMRE witnesses from the Gulf of Mexico Region (a drilling engineer and two rig inspectors).

Other Matters:

Oneida Land Claim Petition for Certiorari

The New York Indian land claims are among several Eastern Indian land claims that arise under the Indian Non-Intercourse Act. The Oneida Nation of New York's (Nation) land claim against New York State has been pending since 1974, and for nearly a decade the United States has affirmatively supported the Nation's efforts to address infringements to their tribal rights in lands reserved to them in the Treaty of Canandaigua. In August 2010, the Second Circuit held that all of the Nation's and the United States' claims challenging transactions conducted between 1795 and 1846 by which the State of New York purchased land from the Tribes are barred by the

equitable defense of laches. On May 16, 2011, the United States filed a petition for *certiorari*, arguing that the Second Circuit decision conflicts with settled and fundamental principles that laches does not apply to suits brought by the United States.

Western Oregon Timber

An answer or dispositive motion is due June 7 in the environmental plaintiffs' re-filed challenge to BLM's 2008 Western Oregon Plan Revision RODs. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Defending Secretarial Order 3310

By May 20, (b) (5) *Uintah County and Utah Association of Counties v. Salazar*. Plaintiffs allege, among other things, that the Secretarial Order 3310 (S.O. 3310) is a breach of the Norton-Leavitt settlement agreement, that FLPMA does not authorize BLM to manage for protection of wilderness outside of the section 603 of FLMPA, and that the even if the Secretary had authority to adopt S.O. 3310, notice and comment rulemaking was required. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

PI Threat against Ivanpah Solar Project in WWP v. Salazar

(b) (5)
(b) (5) The BLM has re-initiated ESA consultation in February on the Ivanpah solar project, based on exceeded limits for translocated adult desert tortoise, and has (b) (5)
(b) (5)). We
(b) (5)

RS 2477 Right- of-Way litigation in Utah

On May 12, the State of Utah submitted a notice of intent to sue the United States to quiet title in 95 alleged RS 2477 rights-of-way on BLM lands in Garfield County, UT. This notice, which is a necessary prerequisite to suit under the Quiet Title Act, comes as we are defending four other RS 2477 suits in Utah, including a case involving 15 alleged roads in Kane County scheduled for trial in August. It also comes as BLM continues to work on a "Pilot Project" with the State, Iron County, and other stakeholders in an attempt to develop a means to resolve some roads without litigation.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
May 20, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site (NY) – Emergency Closure. On May 10, the park was closed to the public due to life safety concerns. An inspection report recommended closure due to an unsafe fire escape on the back of the building. Occupancy of the building and Life Safety Code requires two means of egress. The park has received funds to make emergency repairs. Once a contract is executed, reopening of the site is anticipated within 60 to 90 days.

ON THE HORIZON

Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NV) – Dedication of World's First LEED-Certified Floating Building. Lake Mead NRA and Forever Resorts will dedicate the new Cottonwood Cove marina services building during a ceremony on June 6. It is expected to be certified at the LEED Gold level; this will be the first LEED-certified floating building ever constructed. It incorporates the latest green construction technology. It will serve as the marina's boat rental and maintenance offices. The building is owned government-owned but operated and maintained by Forever Resorts under a concessions contract.

Manassas and Richmond National Battlefield Parks (VA) – Possible Exchange for Utility Right-of-Way. A utility company, Williams-Transco, is seeking to expand an existing pipeline that runs through Manassas NBP. As the park has no available in-boundary properties from willing sellers, the NPS has identified a potential land exchange through which Williams-Transco would purchase and donate 90 acres to Richmond NPB. The Richmond property, now owned by the Civil War Trust, is valued at approximately \$500,000.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
May 16, 2011

Flooding in the Southeast

Though flooding has begun to lessen in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas, it is receding only inches per day, and waters are still rising in Mississippi and Louisiana downriver. More than two dozen refuges are impacted in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Some are flooded 100% (e.g. Bald Knob NWR in Arkansas and Cat Island NWR in Louisiana), while many others nearly so (Cache River NWR in Arkansas flooded 75% and St. Catherine Creek NWR in Mississippi flooded 90%). Water overtopped a levee near Panther Swamp NWR (MS), with the shop, quarters, well house, oil shed and various other outbuildings taking on 5 feet of water overnight. Damage documentation has begun, but most efforts to characterize flooding impacts won't begin until waters have fully receded, which will be weeks to months. Most refuges are expecting damage to roads, levees, water control structures, storage buildings, interpretive and directional signs, kiosks, and gates. Staff are all safe and accounted for, and have been repositioning equipment, documenting damage, and in some cases assisting local communities. Law enforcement officers not enforcing closures on their own refuges are on detail helping other stations. Staff with special training (e.g. regional aviation manager, regional motorboat instructor, Special Operations Response Team members) are either active or on standby.

Wildfires in the Southeast

Nearly 600 staff from across the nation, representing fire management programs of the Service, States, other agencies, and organizations are helping fight two major wildfires along the east coast. The Okefenokee NWR (GA/FL) "Honey Prairie" fire, at 128,861 acres, is 30% contained by 347 personnel. The 25,678-acre "Pains Bay" fire on Alligator River NWR (NC), being managed by 236 staff, is 80% contained.

Tri-State Water Issues - Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin - Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

On November 19, 2010, the Corps of Engineers requested re-initiation of consultation on the Revised Interim Operating Plan (RIOP) for Jim Woodruff Dam (ACF Basin). The action was based on new information that endangered fat threeridge mussels have re-colonized habitat at river stages higher than the minimum flow as described in the RIOP Biological Opinion. FWS is

(b) (5)

(b) (5) This could generate significant media interest given the contentious and litigious nature of the Tri-State Water Wars; however, no press announcements or events have occurred or been scheduled.

Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for the Riverside Fairy Shrimp

Pursuant to a shortened settlement agreement, the FWS is proposing to designate approximately 2,984 acres (ac) as revised critical habitat for Riverside fairy shrimp. DOD land containing essential habitat is exempt from this proposed revised critical habitat designation. The FWS is considering excluding land within five HCPs. The FWS agreed to submit a proposed revised critical habitat designation for Riverside fairy shrimp to the *Federal Register* by May 20, 2011. *Potential Issues:* The most likely issue to arise from the proposed revision to critical habitat is the significant increase in areas proposed for designation (2,678 acres) above what was designated in 2005 (306 ac). Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 20, 2011.

Emergency and Concurrent Proposed Listing of Four Butterfly Species

In response to an August 10, 2010, petition from the North American Butterfly Association, and a January 11, 2011, petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, the FWS is emergency listing the Miami blue butterfly. Three other butterfly species (cassius blue butterfly, ceraunus blue butterfly, and nickerbean blue butterfly) are also being listed as threatened due to their similarity of appearance to the Miami blue butterfly. *Potential Issues:* The FWS believes designation of critical habitat is not prudent because it would increase threats (collection) to the butterfly while providing little measurable benefit. Listing other butterflies due to similarity of appearance is expected to cause some initial confusion among interested parties (e.g., land managers, butterfly enthusiasts). Researchers and stakeholders may push for collection of wild individuals to initiate a captive colony. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 30.

90-day Finding on a Petition to List the Spot-tailed Earless Lizard

On January 13, 2010, WildEarth Guardians petitioned FWS by to list the spot-tailed earless lizard found in Texas. FWS finds substantial information indicating that listing the species may be warranted due to threats from predation by nonnative red fire ants. This action is not court ordered. *Potential Issues:* The recent controversy surrounding the proposed rule to list the dunes sagebrush lizard is likely to cause some negative reaction to this positive 90-day finding and to generate some additional media interest. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 23.

90-day Finding on a Petition to List 10 Great Basin Butterflies

On January 29, 2010, the FWS received a petition from WildEarth Guardians requesting that 10 subspecies of Great Basin butterflies in Nevada and California be listed with critical habitat designated. The draft petition finding determines that there is substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted for 6 of the 10 subspecies (Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly, bleached sandhill skipper, Carson Valley silverspot, Carson Valley wood nymph, Steptoe Valley crescent-spot, and White River Valley skipper). *Potential Issues:* Consideration of listing, based, in part, on water withdrawals and potential corresponding impacts to water tables and butterfly habitat, could be a concern to development-oriented interest groups and elected officials in the Las Vegas area as well as water users and growing communities in eastern Nevada. Proposals by the Southern Nevada Water Authority would pump 180,800 acre-feet per year of groundwater from southern, central, and eastern Nevada to the Las Vegas Valley. Other communities are pursuing groundwater rights to an additional 870,487 acre-feet per year. Target date to submit to the *Federal Register* is June 16, 2011.

90-day Finding on a Petition to List the Utah Prairie Dog

The FWS is announcing a revised 90-day finding on a February 2003 petition by Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians) and others to reclassify the Utah prairie dog from threatened to endangered. After the original February 2007 90-day “not substantial” finding was challenged, the court directed FWS to address cumulative effects and to consider whether the loss of historical range constituted a significant portion of the species’ range. The draft finding determines that the petition does not present substantial information indicating that reclassification may be warranted. *Potential Issues:* State and Federal agencies, local government, and private landowners are expected to support the not substantial 90-day finding. Local agricultural users in particular will be supportive, as the threatened status of the species enables the existing special 4(d) rule to continue. WildEarth Guardians may litigate. The court did not require a specific publication date. Target for submission to the *Federal Register* is June 20, 2011.

The Greater Everglades NWR Proposal

The Fish and Wildlife Service is working with partners to propose the establishment of a 150,000-acre national wildlife refuge at the headwaters of the Everglades in the Kissimmee River Basin. FWS expects to publish in the *Federal Register* a draft Land Protection Plan and a draft Environmental Assessment by late June 2011 for public comment. The proposed national wildlife refuge would be established within a study area of roughly 1.8 million acres, and would help conservation partners protect working landscapes in a particularly important area for Everglades restoration. Final action on the proposal is expected by September 2011. Some citizens have expressed opposition to the proposal, which initially included the River Ranch subdivision. This community will be eliminated from the broader study area. Others are raising questions about access to this proposed refuge for hunting, fishing and airboat use.

12-month Finding on a Petition to List Five Wyoming Plants

On July 30, 2007, Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians) petitioned the FWS to consider 206 species for listing. This 12-month finding addresses five of these species: Yellowstone sand verbena, Ross’ bentgrass, precocious milkvetch, Gibbens’ penstemon, and small rockcress. The draft finding determines that listing small rockcress is warranted, but precluded by higher priority actions, and that listing the remaining four plants is not warranted at this time. *Potential Issues:* BLM manages the majority of land containing occupied habitat for small rockcress. Previously, small rockcress was identified as a candidate species under the ESA, but was removed from the candidate list in 2000 due to actions implemented by the BLM to alleviate the known threats at that time. As evidenced by recent population counts, these implemented actions have not removed all threats to the species. This action is not court ordered. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 9, 2011.

Reinstatement of Final Rule for the Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel

In compliance with a March 25 court order, FWS is issuing a final rule reinstating the endangered status for the Virginia northern flying squirrel. We do not anticipate any major issues with this final rule. Issuing this final rule does not undermine the potential for appealing the court’s decision. The appeal process, should FWS and the Department of Justice pursue an appeal, will likely be lengthy and this rule is necessary to correct the species’ ESA listing status

in the CFR. The court did not require a specific publication date. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 13, 2011.

Decree settling pending litigation in United States v. Hecla Limited Mining Company

For the past several months the natural resource Trustees and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been engaged in Court ordered settlement negotiations with Hecla Limited (Hecla) to resolve cleanup and natural resource damage claims in the northern Idaho Coeur d'Alene Basin. Hecla signed the consent decree on May 6, 2011 and the Department of Justice has asked for agency review. DOI affected Bureaus (FWS, BLM, and BIA) in coordination with the SOL are currently conducting final review of the documents and it is expected that the Authorized Official (FWS, Region 1, Regional Director) will make a recommendation within the next two weeks. The natural resource Trustees are the DOI; the USDA, including USFS; the State of Idaho; and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

Whooping Cranes

Three whooping crane chicks hatched this week at Necedah NWR in central Wisconsin. The first chick to hatch this season was the offspring of wild whooping crane W1-06. W1-06 was hatched and raised in 2006 on Necedah NWR and is the first wild offspring from the Eastern whooping crane reintroduction project started more than a decade ago. Refuge biologists have been unable to locate the first chick in recent monitoring efforts. The chick may have been predated. There are approximately 105 whooping cranes in the eastern migratory population, including 19-20 nesting pairs. In addition to the three chicks hatched in the wild this week at Necedah NWR, three chicks have fledged in the wild during the course of the reintroduction project, which began in 2001. This year marks an important transition for whooping crane recovery efforts at Necedah NWR. The effort has shifted from introduction of captive-reared birds to wild whooping cranes producing eggs, hatching chicks, and fledging young. Whooping crane conservation efforts are an important form of local economic stimulation stemming from tourism, and as such the issue garners a great deal of interest among local and regional media given the levels of public interest and support whooping cranes receive.

Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony for Kirtland's Warbler Conservation

On May 21, 2011, representatives of FWS (Midwest Region), U.S. Forest Service and Michigan DNR will sign a memorandum of understanding to maintain long-term conservation programs for the Kirtland's warbler, an endangered songbird that lives almost exclusively in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. The MOU spells out necessary conservation measures for survival of the warbler, and facilitates efforts to remove the bird from the list of endangered and threatened species. The signing event will take place at Kirtland Community College during the annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival. Other attendees will be The Nature Conservancy, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and past and present members of the Kirtland's warbler recovery team. Local media interest is anticipated.

Final Rule to List Salmon Crested Cockatoo with a Special Rule

The FWS is preparing a final rule to list the salmon-crested cockatoo as threatened and a special rule allowing the import and export of certain captive salmon-crested cockatoos without a permit under the ESA, provided that the import and export comply with CITES and the Wild Bird Conservation Act. This rule is not a court-ordered action. *Potential Issues:* The listing of this

species is not likely to be controversial. The special rule may remain a concern for some groups; however, most of the objections to, and concerns with, the special rule are only applicable to activities taking place outside of the United States and these activities would not be regulated by the ESA or the special rule. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 20, 2011.

90-day Finding on a Petition to List the Golden-winged Warbler

On February 10, 2010, the FWS received a petition from Anna Sewell requesting the FWS to list the golden-winged warbler as endangered or threatened under the ESA. The FWS concludes that the petition presents substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted, primarily due to the loss and modification of habitat through changes in land use and lack of natural disturbance events. This action is not court ordered. *Potential Issues:* The FWS does not anticipate that this 90-day finding will generate significant controversy. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 27, 2011.

Final Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for Four Southwest Invertebrates

The FWS is designating approximately 521.3 acres as critical habitat in New Mexico and Texas for four aquatic invertebrates (Roswell springsnail, Koster's springsnail, Noel's amphipod, and Pecos assiminea). In response to a legal challenge by the Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians), the FWS published a *Federal Register* notice on February 17, 2011, adding critical habitat covering areas on the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. *Potential Issues:* This action is not expected to be controversial. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has expressed their support for the designation. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 30, 2011.

Shade Coffee Roundtable in Puerto Rico Provides Momentum for Local Next Steps:

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Coastal Program recently participated in a Shade Coffee Roundtable stakeholder meeting in Yacao, Puerto Rico. FWS staff provided input and technical assistance for reducing erosion and sedimentation throughout the coffee growing regions of Puerto Rico, affecting important stream, river and coral reef ecosystems. This multi-stakeholder pilot project stems from the Guánica Bay Watershed Management Plan, and addressed three collaborative goals of assisting farmers in Puerto Rico: 1) growing shade grown coffee to improve marketing and receive a higher premium and return for their products, 2) convening a group of experts and farmers to convene a discussion about how to achieve the above, and 3) identifying domestic/Puerto Rico coffee markets as well as international and Caribbean markets.

Creston National Fish Hatchery and Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe Youth Conservation Corps Program:









Creston National Fish Hatchery, Kalispell, MT, and the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe, Flathead Reservation, MT, are preparing to start the Northwest Montana Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program for the 2011 summer season. This will be the second year for this 8-week program sponsored by the Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Washington Office, Creston National Fish Hatchery and the Salish Kootenai College. Fifteen tribal youth will be hired to conduct resource conservation projects, including three Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) students who will serve as crew leaders and work day to day with the youth on a variety of community based conservation deliveries. This Fisheries sponsored YCC program

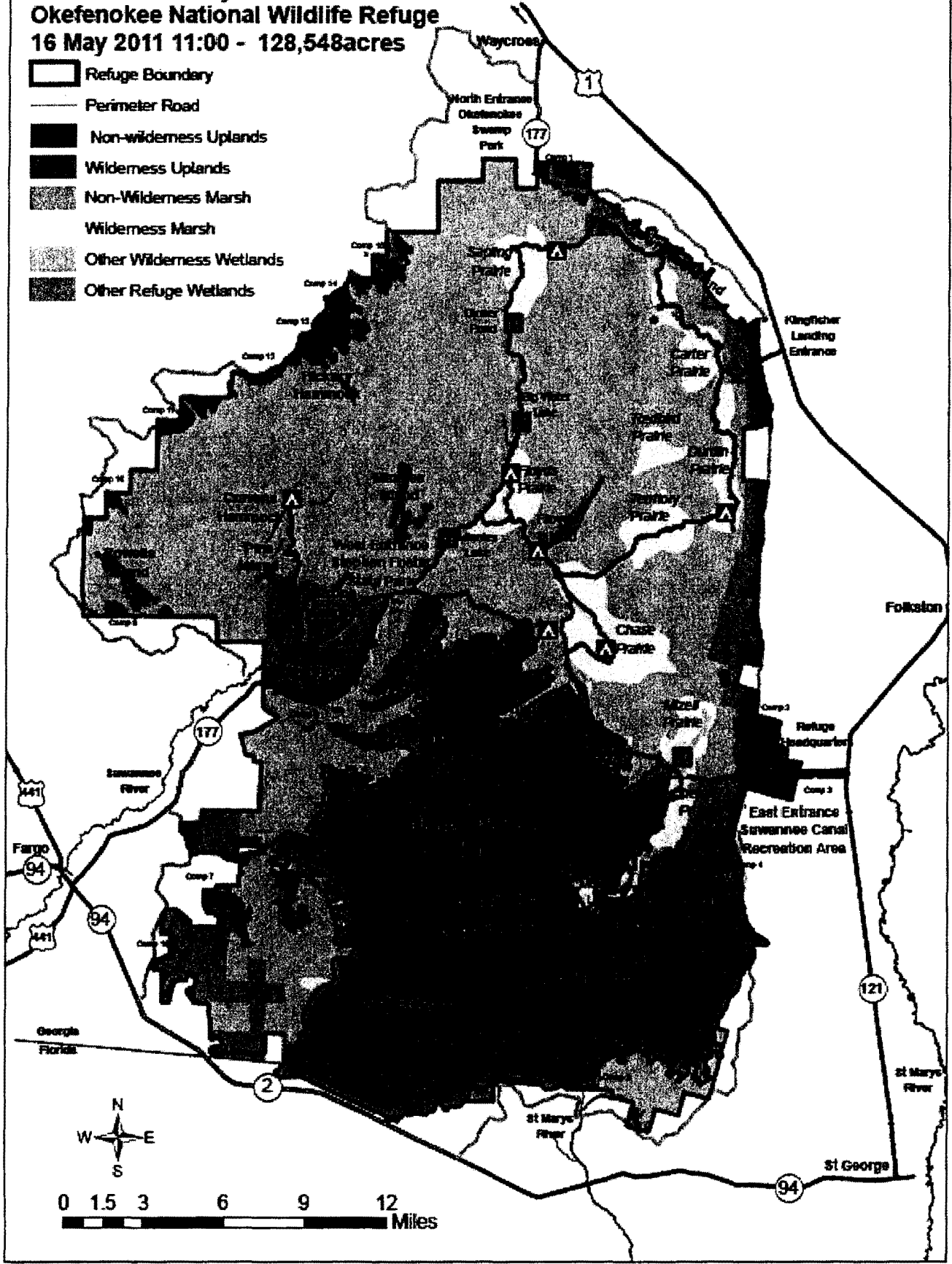
will help students better understand resource conservation, while becoming engaged in protecting and restoring fish and wildlife populations that they cherish, cultivating future leaders in natural resource conservation.

New Grants under Wildlife Without Borders Programs

Under the WWB-Africa program, FWS intends to award one grant totaling \$500,000 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$100,000). These funds will assist with capacity building in Gabon; and under the Great Ape Conservation Fund, FWS intends to award four grants totaling \$359,523 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$361,787). These funds will assist with the conservation of gorillas and chimpanzees in the Central African Republic, Gabon, and Rwanda. The estimated award date is May 23, 2011. Not expected to be controversial.

**Location of Honey Prairie Fire
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
16 May 2011 11:00 - 128,548 acres**

-  Refuge Boundary
-  Perimeter Road
-  Non-wilderness Uplands
-  Wilderness Uplands
-  Non-Wilderness Marsh
-  Wilderness Marsh
-  Other Wilderness Wetlands
-  Other Refuge Wetlands



LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

May 22 – May 28, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – On travel Monday to Key West Florida to speak at the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee on Tuesday. In the Washington office Wednesday; on annual leave Thursday and Friday.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wilderness

- **New: BLM-NV Public Meetings for Draft Wilderness Management Plan (WMP):** *The BLM-NV Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office, will hold four public meetings in May to solicit comments on the draft WMP and preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for 10 wilderness areas in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA). Meetings will be in Reno, NV (May 24); Gerlach, NV, (May 25); Lovelock, NV, (May 26), and; Winnemucca, NV, (May 27).*
- **New: Draft National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Manual:** *The National Landscape Conservation System Division will be circulating the Draft NLCS Manual to the field for review and surname. The manual addresses management of the conservation system with specific emphasis on the significance of science, inventory of cultural, paleontological and other resources, policy on the construction and management of facilities, avoidance of new rights-of-way, policy on development of RMPs and travel management, and the protection of biodiversity. The formal review process will provide 30 days for State Offices to review and submit comments on the draft manual.*

Litigation

- **New: Developments in Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) v. Lewis:** *SUWA is reportedly planning to declare settlement talks in SUWA v. Lewis to be at an impasse and ask the US District Court for the District of Columbia to set a schedule for filing motions and litigating the case. In the case, SUWA alleges that three of the six BLM-UT RMPs completed in 2008 have inadequate air quality and climate change analysis and fail to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. SUWA also filed a second lawsuit challenging the remaining three RMPs for similar reasons. The BLM has been engaged in settlement negotiations with the plaintiffs on this lawsuit.*

Congressional

- **New: Legislative Hearings:** *On May 25, BLM Deputy Director Burke will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands and*

Forests, on five lands-related bills. The bills include the reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) and the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, which would designate nearly 60,000 acres of BLM wilderness in southwestern MT and release nearly 66,000 acres from Wilderness Study Area status. On May 26, Deputy Director Burke is also tentatively scheduled to testify before the House subcommittee on Indian and AK Native Affairs, which may consider miscellaneous legislation, including Sealaska (H.R. 1408)—the Southeast AK Native Land Entitlement Finalization and Jobs Protection Act.

- **No Change: Wild Lands Policy Oversight Hearing:** On May 24, Director Abbey and DAS Baca will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands regarding Wild Lands.
- **New: Fort Carson/Piñon Canyon, CO Military Withdrawal Extension:** *The Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting for the Fort Carson/Piñon Canyon, CO, Military Withdrawal Extension, is in surname. The Notice must be published in the Federal Register by May 20 to allow for the required 90-day comment period and public meeting. The BLM Military Liaison, Legislative Affairs, and CO State Office are working closely with the Solicitor's Office, DOI's Military Liaison, and the Department of the Army to ensure that the PLO is signed prior to expiration.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *DOI should receive an initial draft of the counterproposal from the State Department by mid-May. BOEMRE is currently developing a communications plan to engage other Federal agencies, interested state offices, and NGOs to work on any perceived issues before formal negotiations begin.*
- **Update: 8(g) Revenue Disbursement Adjustments:** *On May 10, representatives from ONRR, SOL and BOEMRE Leasing Division met with representatives of the state of MS to discuss an approach for a repayment schedule, and a timeframe to implement the new method of determining and disbursing 8(g) revenue. Previous meetings were held with AL, LA and TX to explain and discuss the resolution of disbursement issue on OCS Section 8(g) Leases. LA received an overpayment of approximately \$4 million, and TX an underpayment of approximately \$9.2 million of oil and gas revenue.*
- **Update: Next 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program:** *The next milestones in the 5-year program preparation process include the development of the Draft EIS and the publication of the Proposed Program in Nov. 2011. The Scoping Report for the Draft EIS is scheduled to be completed in early Jun. The planning areas to be analyzed under section 18 for the Proposed Program include the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico, the portion of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico not under moratorium, and the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Cook Inlet, AK.*
- **Update: Joint BOEMRE/RI and MA Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting Results:** *On May 2, BOEMRE convened a joint meeting of the Task Forces to present*

and discuss a draft Call for Information and Nominations within the Area of Mutual Interest on the OCS offshore RI and MA. A teleconference will be held with Task Force members to review any changes to the draft Call.

- **Update: Proposed Rulemaking on Renewable Energy Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf–Acquire a Lease Noncompetitively:** *The final rule was published in the Federal Register on May 16. It will become effective on Jun. 16.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Update: OSM-Identified Permit Defects Cause WV Coal Company to Stop Operations:** *In Apr., OSM issued a formal notice requiring the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) to address violations OSM observed in the field and during a permit review of a site permitted by Coal Valley, LLC. Rather than attempt to correct the flawed permit, the company recently decided to discontinue its attempts to remove the refuse and is now working with the State on a reclamation plan for the disturbance to date. This resolves the permit defect violations previously noted by OSM. OSM gave WVDEP until June 11 to work out the details of the reclamation plan and respond to OSM's Ten-Day Notice.*
- **Update: Virginia Mine Blow-out Media Campaign:** *OSM is providing the funding for the Commonwealth of VA to repair a mine portal blowout in southwestern VA that also washed away a private landowner's road. Work is expected to start this week, and is projected to be completed by May 27. OSM's Office of Communications has prepared a news release for limited distribution to local media outlets no later than May 20.*

WEEK AHEAD – May 22 to May 28, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday-Wednesday, May 23-25:

- **No Change: Idaho Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *The BLM-ID State Director will conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the ID Congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in ID including renewable energy, grazing management, and preparations for the 2011 fire season.*

Tuesday, May 24:

- **Update: California Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *CA Delegation Courtesy Visits: BLM-CA Acting State Director Jim Abbott and U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Randy Moore will jointly conduct courtesy visits with Members and staff of the CA congressional delegation in order to highlight the BLM and Forest Service's contributions to communities and the reasons that they are a sound investment. Other BLM-specific topics of discussion will include the America's Great Outdoors*

initiative, protection of homes and rural communities through fuels reduction and fire suppression, as well as renewable energy.

- **No Change: BLM-ID Offers Geothermal Leasing Parcels:** The BLM-ID State Office will offer eight parcels for geothermal leasing totaling approximately 26,000 acres in southern ID. The protest period ended Apr. 18; no protests were received.
- **No Change: BLM-UT Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-UT will offer seven parcels at a competitive oil and gas lease sale covering 12,002 acres located throughout the state. A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued for the EA. The protest period ended Mar. 18; no protests received.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday- Friday, May 23-27:

- **No Change: BOEMRE to Participate in Department of State (DOS) Sponsored Unitization Workshop in Iraq:** In 2006, BOEMRE signed an interagency agreement with the DOS to provide technical assistance to the Government of Iraq (GoI); specifically, the Ministry of Oil (MoO), the entity responsible for managing Iraqi oil and gas resources. The GoI has asked the U.S. Government (USG) to provide technical assistance to the MoO and related parties on the subject of Unitization. Other USG participants include DOS and the Department of Commerce.

Tuesday- Wednesday, May 24-25:

- **No Change: Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) Renewable Energy Workshop:** The ORRAP is hosting a workshop titled "Ocean Renewable Energy: Workshop on Accelerating the Decision-Making Process". The ORRAP is comprised of individuals from the National Academies, state government, academia, and ocean industries, representing marine science, marine policy, and other related fields. BOEMRE staff will participate on a panel for the "Coordination and Information Sharing" roundtable on May 24.

Tuesday, May 24:

- **No Change: 2011 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC):** The IOSC, world's largest conference addressing oil spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration, will be held in Portland, OR. Director Bromwich will participate in the opening panel discussion on May 24. Results from five BOEMRE funded oil spill response research projects will be presented in the scientific plenary sessions. BOEMRE and the Ohmsett facility will each have exhibit booths.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Tuesday May 24:

- **Update: OSM Director to Meet with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner about proposed Virginia Airport Expansion** Director Pizarchik will meet with Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) regarding a proposed project to mine coal incidental to expansion of an airport

runway in Grundy, VA. At issue is whether the project will require a SMCRA permit for coal mining activities. OSM has expressed concerns about the project to the state and is awaiting the state's response to several technical questions which will help OSM determine whether the project qualifies for an exemption from SMCRA permitting requirements.

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wednesday, June 8:

- **New: BLM-CA Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-CA will offer five parcels totaling 1,523 acres at a competitive oil and gas lease sale in Bakersfield, CA. The parcels are located in Kern County on public lands. The protest period ended Mar. 1. No protests were received: BLM-CA will conduct the sale in compliance with the recently implemented oil and gas leasing reforms.*

Monday-Wednesday, June 13-15:

- **New: BLM Communications WH&B Workshop:** *The BLM Washington Office Communications Directorate will hold a workshop in Denver to ensure that all BLM communication staff are fully engaged and ready to provide communication support during the upcoming gather season, which begins in July. The training will underscore the principles of transparency and openness, timely, proactive responsiveness, and consistent messaging.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, Jun. 6:

- **Update: BOEMRE/MA Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The BOEMRE/MA Renewable Energy Task Force is scheduled to meet in Buzzards Bay, MA. BOEMRE will present and discuss the comments and submissions of interest received in response to the MA Request for Interest (RFI); a draft Call for Information and Nominations; and the next steps in the environmental review process. A public Q&A session will be held after the Task Force meeting. Additional stakeholder outreach meetings are being scheduled by the Commonwealth in Martha's Vineyard, MA, New Bedford, MA, and Boston, MA from Jun. 7-9.*

Weekly Report
May 20, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities May 23-27:

Anne J. Castle – May 23, travel to Sioux Falls, SD to meet with the Landsat Technical Working Group at the EROS Data Center; May 24, tour Reclamation Tribal and Rural Water projects in South and North Dakota; May 25, in Bismarck, ND to hold America's Great Outdoors meetings with Governor Dalrymple, State officials and stakeholders; May 26 return travel; May 27 in DC attending internal meetings.

Lori Caramanian – Same Travel as Anne Castle.

John Tubbs - May 23-27, in DC attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – No travel May 24-25, Quarterly USGS Executive Leadership Team Meeting, Reston, VA.

Mike Connor – May 23-24 in DC attending various meetings; May 25 in Oregon participating in AGO meetings with Governor Kitzheber and others; May 26, travel to Grand Coulee for tour of the facility; May 27, travel to DC.

Reclamation

Public Hearings on San Joaquin River Restoration Program EIS/R (California)

May 24-26, the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources will conduct four public hearings on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIS/R) for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). The hearings will be held in Visalia, Fresno, Los Banos, and Sacramento. The joint document describes the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementing the SJRRP and is out for public review and comment. The 60-day comment period closes on June 21, 2011.

Quagga Mussels Possibly Found at Rye Patch and Lahontan Reservoirs (Nevada)

A preliminary discovery of quagga mussels has been made at Lahontan and Rye Patch reservoirs in Northern Nevada. Follow-up tests are under way to validate the initial results. Reclamation is developing action plans with managing partners and agencies in the event the follow-up DNA analysis confirms the presence of quagga mussels. Follow-up DNA analysis should be available the week by the end of May.

Discussions Regarding the Columbia River Treaty (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

The Columbia River Treaty (Treaty) between the United States and the Canadian Government was ratified in 1964. The Treaty was entered to facilitate financing from the U.S. for construction of new storage facilities in Canada which produce hydropower and flood control benefits in the U.S. Treaty storage in Canada currently provides approximately 15.5 million acre feet of space to be used to reduce flood risk potential measured at The Dalles on the lower Columbia (Portland area). The Treaty has no termination date and will run indefinitely unless one country requests termination, which can occur after 2024 with 10 years prior notice. Regardless of whether the Treaty is terminated or not, the flood control plan for the Columbia River will change in 2024 when Canadian flood control space will no longer be exclusively reserved to the U.S. After 2024, the U.S. will remain entitled to call upon Canada storage to control floods in the U.S., but only if those floods cannot be adequately controlled by all related storage in the U.S. This change to “called upon” versus guaranteed flood control space, and the definition of a “related storage facility,” has sparked much interest amongst Federal, State, Tribal, public and private interests. The U.S. Entities are conducting a series of meetings with Sovereigns and Stakeholders in the region to review likely scenarios to result post-2024, with or without the Treaty.

Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) Litigation (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

On May 9, 2011, Judge Redden heard oral arguments for summary judgment. In advance of the hearing, the judge provided a letter with six issues to be addressed in the oral arguments. However, the hearing was relatively brief and ended without clear indication of Judge Redden’s intent for next steps; a transcript of the hearing has been made available. The judge may provide an opinion, or (viewed as more likely) a letter to define the process for moving forward from this point. Judge Redden previously issued an Order on spring fish operations on March 29, 2011 that accepted the Corps’ spring fish operations plan. As a result, the agencies are currently operating under Court Order, which has been the case for the past several years. The Action Agencies will continue to coordinate with the region on 2011 operations, especially on summer fish operations; summer fish operations are expected to be controversial and may be a factor in the litigation. Plaintiffs, the State of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe filed motions for summary judgment on October 29, 2010. The motion argues that habitat implementation is behind schedule and ineffective and therefore is not certain to occur (i.e., the mitigation isn’t working). The state of Oregon’s argument is highly technical and focuses on NOAA’s 2010 data analysis that they argue is flawed especially as it relates to the jeopardy standard. The Nez Perce tribe’s amicus brief makes legal arguments on the jeopardy standard and mentions removal of the lower Snake River dams. The Spokane tribe’s amicus brief focuses on the status of the Upper Columbia species and how this shows that a non-jeopardy decision is arbitrary for these species.

Columbia River Flows and Related Hydropower/Dissolved Gas Issues

After a cool and wet spring, runoff throughout Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region is currently very high and will likely increase as the weather warms. The forecast for The Dalles (the control point for the mainstem Columbia River) is now for 121% of normal runoff, a jump up from the March forecast of 99% of normal. Spring runoff will be squeezed into a very short period of six weeks instead of the usual 12 weeks, so high flows are anticipated region-wide between now and June 30. Recent warm weather, compounded by heavy rains, has resulted in current high flows in the Columbia River, e.g., 430,000 cfs at The Dalles, and flows will continue to increase in accordance with the runoff projections outlined above. High flows are also seen in the tributaries with some minor flooding taking place. Water is being spilled at Grand Coulee Dam and at all projects on the mainstem Columbia and Snake rivers, resulting in the need to manage dissolved gas issues relative to ESA-listed fish needs. BPA recently announced a policy decision to reduce generation at its thermal power sources in order to prioritize hydropower and help manage gas issues, i.e., to pass water through turbines (thereby generating power) in order to reduce spill and lessen associated dissolved gas concerns in the rivers.

Hydrology Update – Glen Canyon Dam (Arizona)

The projected annual release volume from Glen Canyon Dam for water year 2011 has increased significantly due to the above average snowpack conditions. The April-July unregulated inflow forecast for Lake Powell increased by 2 million acre-feet (maf) in the May final forecast to 11.5 maf (145 percent of average). For this reason, releases from Glen Canyon were increased to full powerplant capacity beginning May 14, when Units 3 and 4 were returned to service following annual maintenance. Powerplant capacity will likely result in a maximum release capacity of approximately 23,000 cubic feet per second. Based on the May forecast, the elevation of Lake Powell could increase by more than 50 feet to a peak elevation of 3,660 feet by late July/early August. The end-of-water year projected elevation is 3,650 feet. Additional equalization releases are projected to raise Lake Mead's elevation to 1,114.9 feet by the end of water year 2011.

Hydrology Update – Flaming Gorge Dam (Utah)

The significantly above average precipitation and snowpack in both the Upper Green and Upper Yampa river basins, coupled with a forecast for continued snow in both basins, necessitated bypass releases from the dam during May in addition to full powerplant capacity releases for a period of days. This operational strategy was employed to evacuate sufficient reservoir storage to accommodate forecasted record inflows upstream and allow for reduced downstream releases when the Yampa River (downstream tributary to the Green River) peaks at record levels. On May 12, Reclamation held a public meeting in Vernal, Utah, to share the latest hydrology and operations information with residents so they can prepare for the imminent flooding. Reclamation ceased bypass releases at Flaming Gorge Dam on May 9 in response to increasing flows from the Yampa. Releases from Flaming Gorge Dam will continue at powerplant capacity (4,530 cubic feet per second) until inflows from the Yampa peak. Depending on the reservoir inflows at that time, if possible, Reclamation is planning to further reduce releases from the dam to mitigate the downstream impact of the Yampa flood flows.

Litigation Relating to Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt (UCR/LR) Contamination (Washington)

The State of Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) are pursuing a CERCLA citizen suit against Teck Resources, Ltd. (Teck) related to negative impacts to the Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt from contamination originating from Teck's smelter in Trail, British Columbia. DOJ, EPA, and DOI (Solicitor's Office and Project Manager) are currently reviewing and evaluating expert reports prior to responding to a referral from EPA seeking the United States to intervene in the litigation. DOJ will be in consultation with all necessary Federal agencies to discuss response options to the referral. On a separate track, Reclamation is one of six DOI agencies involved with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and with the Natural Resource Trustee Council in conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). In a December 14, 2010 letter, Teck stated its intent to enter into discussions regarding the first phase of a cooperative NRDA approach. Subsequent negotiations with Teck led to the Trustee Council finalizing an April 27, 2011 funding and participation agreement (FPA) with Teck that defines the first phase of a cooperative NRDA process to be conducted by the Trustees and Teck. Teck funding for the FPA has been received and on May 10, 2011, the DOI Authorized Official (Karl Wirkus, Reclamation's Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region) authorized distribution of funds to the relevant DOI agencies.

Meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council and Forum (Colorado)

On May 25, the Upper Colorado Regional Director and Salinity Program Manager will attend a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The council was established by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 to receive reports and advise federal agencies on implementation of the act. The forum is comprised of governor-appointed representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin states. Key topics to be address by the council include the Basin States Program (created by P.L. 110-246, which amended the 1974 Act) and responses to the Advisory Council Report. Key topics to be addressed by the forum include the triennial review and a status review and discussion of alternatives for the Paradox Valley Unit.

Congressional Activity

- May 24 – Subcommittees of the House Natural Resources Committee have scheduled a joint hearing on the Future of the Navajo Generating Station. No Federal witnesses are expected to be invited.
- June 2 – the Water and Power Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on H.R. 1837, recently introduced legislation titled the "San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act," sponsored by California Reps. Jeff Denham (R-19), Devin Nunes (R-21), and Kevin McCarthy (R-22).

U.S. Geological Survey

Ongoing USGS Flood Activities:

- **Preparation for Mississippi River Flooding in Louisiana:** The USGS met with the Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch of the New Orleans Corps of Engineers to finalize plans for collecting data during the present flood on the Mississippi River. The Louisiana Water Science Center is making discharge measurements and collecting sediment samples on both the Bonne Carre and Morganza spillway. The USGS deployed 57 storm surge sensors, 10 real-times sensors, and three rapid deployment gages in the Morganza Floodway. The USGS has also deployed water quality equipment in Lake Pontchartrain and is sampling weekly to monitor impacts of freshwater into Lake Pontchartrain. In addition, the USGS will be measuring the six NASQAN stations weekly in Louisiana that are part of the national program.
- **USGS Flood Crews Work in Mississippi:** On May 11, the USGS issued a news release about efforts by USGS crews to help mitigate losses from flooding in Mississippi. USGS crews installed an emergency gage on the Mississippi River at near Hillhouse, Miss. between Memphis and Greenville. USGS crews are being dispatched to the Mississippi Delta to measure water velocity along levees and to advise the levee board where high velocities are occurring. USGS boat crews will assist the National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by making supplemental measurements as the crest moves south. The USGS Mississippi Water Science Center will continue to work during peak flows to maintain gages and verify their accuracy, and to take supplemental measurements.
- **Arkansas Water Science Center Crews Continue Flood Work:** Numerous crews from the USGS Arkansas Water Science Center, with assistance from crews from the Mississippi and Texas Water Science Centers, have been making flood measurements, flagging flood peaks, and making indirect measurements for calculation of peak discharges at sites across the State. Although stages on the Mississippi River (at Memphis and upstream) and White River are dropping, both rivers remain above flood stage. A discharge of 2.2 million cubic feet per second was measured on the Mississippi River at Memphis.
- **USGS Flood Crews Work in Tennessee:** On May 10, the USGS issued a news release about efforts by USGS crews to help mitigate losses from flooding in Tennessee. USGS crews installed emergency gages on the Mississippi River at Memphis and at three other critical locations in Shelby County. Information from the gages was used by the National Weather Service and emergency management agencies to assist in flood forecasts and response. USGS field crew's also documented high-water levels and deployed equipment to monitor the flood rise, peak levels, and recession and ungaged sites. The information was used to produce flood inundation maps for FEMA. USGS crews were filmed in the field and interviewed by Memphis ABC affiliate. The AP picked up the story, which appeared nationally.

- **Satellite Images Display Extreme Mississippi River Flooding from Space:** USGS distributed a USGS-EROS news release and associated images titled "Satellite Images Display Extreme Mississippi River Flooding from Space." The release announces the availability of Landsat images comparing the currently flooded Mississippi River to past un-flooded images of the river. The two pairs of images are available on the USGS web site.
- **Potomac Riverkeeper Honors U.S. Geological Survey Scientist with its "2011 Protector of the Potomac Award":** The 2011 Protector of the Potomac is Vicki Blazer from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a leading scientist whose work has provided a better understanding of fish kills, intersex fish, and the issue of endocrine disruptors in the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Protector of the Potomac Award is an annual award bestowed by Potomac Riverkeeper, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the preservation of clean water in the Potomac River.

USGS Releases Resource Estimate for Afghanistan Rare Earth Prospect: USGS is working on a joint news release with the Department of Defense -Task Force for Business and Stability Operations that estimates the size of rare earth elements (REE) resources at the Khanneshin prospect in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The news release, anticipated to be released during the week of May 23, is based on prospect evaluations conducted from 2009 to present and which will be reported later as part of an updated evaluation of Afghanistan's principal resources of REE, gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, zinc, phosphorus, and uranium.

Rare Earth Elements -- Critical Resources for High Technology: Rare earth elements are critical resources for high technology applications and their importance has grown dramatically during recent decades. On May 26, USGS mineral resource analyst Keith Long is participating in the USGS Evening Public Lecture Series in Menlo Park, CA, by presenting "The Future of Rare Earth Elements" explaining why, even though rare earth elements are relatively abundant in nature, deposits that are of sufficient concentrations to be economic to mine are uncommon. Long will also discuss the critical importance of these elements for many of today's high-tech industry products including flat panel display screens, cell phones, electric cars, etc., and the scarcity of raw materials due to severely restricted exports from China, which currently produces 96 percent of the world's supply.

USGS Congressional Briefing Series on Unconventional Oil & Gas: The USGS will host the subject briefing on Friday, June 24, 2011, from 10-11:00 a.m. in Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2325. Speakers include: Brenda Pierce, USGS Program Coordinator -Energy Resources Program; David Curtis, Geoscience and Energy Office, American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG); and David Goldwyn, Goldwyn Global Strategies.

Coastal Louisiana Land Loss: Coastal Louisiana wetlands make up the seventh largest delta on Earth. These wetlands are in peril because Louisiana currently undergoes about 90 percent of the total coastal wetland loss in the continental United States. Analyses show that coastal Louisiana has undergone a net change in land area of about -1,883 square miles from 1932 to 2010. Trend analyses from 1985 to 2010 show a wetland loss rate of 16.57 square miles per year. If this loss were to occur at a constant rate, it would equate to Louisiana losing an area the

size of one football field per hour. Research provides opportunities to better understand the timing and causal mechanisms of wetland loss, which are critical for forecasting landscape changes in the future. The outlet is a Scientific Investigations Map and accompanying pamphlet; it should be released in the next few weeks.

USGS to co-chair new Wildlife Health Task Force under NSTC- CHNS: The USGS will co-chair a newly commissioned Wildlife Health Task Force reporting to the Subcommittee on Foreign Animal Disease Threats (FADT), under the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Homeland and National Security. The goal of the FADT is to collaboratively identify and develop the research and tools needed to protect the United States from foreign animal disease threats introduced naturally or via bioterrorism. FADT has identified six priority diseases in their 2012-2017 strategic plan; wildlife species are susceptible to all six. Historically FADT has focused solely on the impacts to agriculture; however wildlife can play an important and unique role in the transmission and spread of newly introduced diseases. These diseases can severely impact the sustainability of wildlife populations (e.g., White Nose Syndrome in bats, chronic wasting disease, and highly pathogenic avian influenza). The Wild Health Task Force will provide advice and expertise on issues related to wildlife disease surveillance, transmission and spread, and the management and control of newly emerging diseases in free ranging populations. USGS staff will also take the lead on developing a national database for identifying wildlife expertise and capabilities in the Federal Government. FADT members include: DHS, USDA, NIEHS, NIH, DoD, USEPA, NSF, the Smithsonian, the State Department, and DOI/USGS.

Lichens Can Break Down Prions: USGS has co-authored a publication entitled "Degradation of the Disease-associated Prion Protein by a Serine Protease from Lichens" to be published in Public Library of Science in May. Prions are misshapen proteins that can cause fatal neurological diseases like bovine spongiform encephalopathy ("Mad cow" disease), sheep scrapie, deer chronic wasting disease or human Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. In addition, prions are not broken down by many agents. However, USGS scientists discovered that certain types of lichen were able to break down the prion protein with the use of an enzyme. A USGS news release on this publication was issued on May 17.

Congressional Activity

- **National Volcano Early Warning System Senate Hearing:** Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands has scheduled a hearing on a large number of bills - including S 566, to establish a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, introduced by Senator Lisa Murkowski [AK]. The USGS is drafting a statement for the record and will likely supply a technical witness. BLM will provide the principal witness.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Chief of Staff, Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 20, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- High Priority Performance Goal/Public Safety: The Office of Justice Services-OJS has achieved a combined reduction of 11% in violent crime on the HPPG during the Q2 reporting period. The reduction has been a combined effort in increased staffing, training, coordination and community oriented policing strategies.
- Tribal Courts: The BIA is hosting its fourth installment of training for Tribal Courts, specifically for Tribal Judges to provide a greater understanding of the authorities of the Indian Civil Rights Act and the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA.) The curriculum was developed in consultation with an advisory board comprised of tribal court judges, prosecutors, clerks, practicing attorneys and others who provided their expertise and hands-on perspective on the unique issues facing tribal courts. The instruction has been provided by faculty from the UNM School of Law along with experienced tribal judges, practitioners, clerks and administrators. All four sessions have been offered at no cost to the attendees; in addition, attorneys who successfully complete the training can receive CLE credits. All of these training sessions have been held at the National Indian Programs Training Center in Albuquerque, NM.
- Long Term Detention: The BIA and DOJ completed the final session on long term detention titled, Community Support for Reentering Tribal Members, on May 11, 2011. The OJS and DOJ collaborated on the detention plan required by TLOA. The project engaged the Tribes in the process through a series of webinars held in conjunction with NCAI to discuss detention plan issues.
- Substance Abuse MOU: The Indian Affairs review team comprised of IA, BIA and the SOL have made the initial review of the draft MOA; these comments will be provided to TLOA

workgroup for revisions. Section 241 of TLOA amends the 1986 Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Program. This amendment specifically directs the Secretaries of DOI, HHS and the AG to develop a Memorandum of Agreement by July 29, 2011. The draft MOA is currently being reviewed by the BIA, SOL and IA.

- Homeland Security:

Natural Disasters: OHSES and BIA Alaska Regional Office continued coordination with Crooked Creek Village and the State of Alaska Agencies regarding the destruction of 14 houses, the severe damage of five homes, and the partial damage of several additional homes by an ice jam and associated flooding which tore through the village in the middle of the night. DOI OEPC Regional Environmental Scientist is assisting with coordination, including with fuel/oil releases associated with the incident. No fatalities or serious injuries reported.

- An AK Spill Response Team, State Troopers and Emergency Management Team responded immediately to the village, along with the Red Cross and State Housing and Health agency personnel. Mental Health Counseling is being provided by the State.
- Over flights of the rivers in the area to determine the danger to other villages was conducted through today.
- Fuel, Food and water were air lifted to the sight. And a Spill Cleanup Kit will be airlifted to the response team on Monday.
- Red Cross served 60 dinners at the school shelter on Saturday night.
- Commodities are reported to be sufficient. No un-met needs are reported by the State on Saturday or Sunday, May 15, 2011, but the Tribal representatives were not on the daily conference call. Daily (10 am AK/2pm EST) Incident Conference Calls (800-315-6338, code 7100#) may conclude on Monday, May 15, 2011.
- All residents have been returned to the village from the temporary shelter at a nearby mine, and are being sheltered with friends, relatives and at the school, which is to have its graduation ceremonies tonight, with the cooperation of the Red Cross Shelter staff.
- Temporary tent shelters were brought in on Saturday, May 15, and installation was completed on Sunday.
- The village generator is back in operations, and normal village telephone communications will be restored as soon as the water recedes below power lines.
- Satellite phones were brought by rescuers, with 'Skype' video conferencing capability.
- The BIA Regional Director, Alaska Region, is scheduled to visit the village on Tuesday, May 17, and bring the Chairwoman a satellite phone to facilitate communication.
- Fire suppression capabilities of the village were destroyed, and are being restored by the State.
- All housing was reportedly insured HUD housing and transitional and restoration of permanent housing will be discussed in a meeting on Monday May 16.
- Lost ID Cards and 'Quest' assistance cards will be addressed next week.
- Replacement pumps for the remaining bulk fuel tanks on site will be in operation by Monday.
- Temperatures Sunday-Monday: Highs in the low 50's, Lows in the mid 30's, Wind to 15 mps; Showers through Monday.
- Synopsis: Alaska State Agencies have responded quickly and effectively and have the incident well in hand.

Training: OHSES in conjunction with DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs conducted the 2011 Tribal Assistance Coordination Group Workshop at the Oneida Nation Radisson Hotel and Casino in Green Bay, WI. Keynote addresses were given by the Honorable Jefferson Keel, President NCAI, Assistant Secretary Betsy Markey, DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Chairman Richard Hill, Oneida Nation. Fifteen different Federal Agencies as well as 18 individual Tribal representatives and regional representatives for all Tribes in Arizona, Nevada and the Northwest (WA, OR, ID) were in attendance. Presentations included Chairwomen Myra Pearson on the Spirit Lake flooding, grant opportunities, law enforcement information sharing, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood fighting and levee programs, National Tribal Incident Management Team initiative and other emergency management topics. Feedback was extremely positive from both Tribal and Federal partners.

RESTORATION OF TRIBAL HOMELANDS

The BIA on behalf of the Department has accepted **27,264 acres** into trust for the benefit of Tribal Nations during the 2011 calendar year. The restoration initiative was prioritized and supported by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to further self-determination and tribal sovereignty. The BIA's collective efforts have translated into **519 applications** processed and accepted **118,533 acres** in total for the initiative under the Obama Administration.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Federal Recognition: The Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) is currently working on proposed findings for the following:
 - Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe (Petitioner #5) – by July 18, 2011.
 - Meherrin Tribe, NC (Petitioner #119b) – by before November 1, 2011.
 - Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA (Petitioner #82) – by November 1, 2011.

The comment period on the Proposed Finding of the Tolowa Nation, CA (Petitioner #85) ends on May 23, 2011. OFA completed its on recommendation to ASIA regarding the group's recent request for a 90-day extension to the comment period, and provided the recommendation to the acting ASIA on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Action to approve/disapprove must be on or before May 23, 2011.

The comment period on the Proposed Finding of the Central Band of Cherokee, TN (Petitioner #227) has been extended to August 15, 2011. Technical assistance was also provided to a Michigan petitioning group known as the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (Petitioner #146).

EDUCATION

- Let's Move! In Indian Country: Menominee Tribal Community will be hosting the event. The event will take place on May 25, 2011 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM in Keshena,

Wisconsin. Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk will be on hand for this event.

- Haskell President Selection: Haskell President Selection: The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs will join BIE in the final phase of the interview process for the position of the President, Haskell Indian Nations University, the week of May 25, 2011. Once completing this phase, the Assistant Secretary and the BIE Director will make a selection to fill the vacancy. Indian Affairs is on target for meeting its June announcement date.

Elementary and Secondary Education

- BIE participated in the IT Transitional meeting in Albuquerque, NM. The meeting focused on IT changes in technical assistance offered by the OCIO and the potential to downsize and reduce services. The impact to BIE was not explained upon inquiry nor was the approach to improve technical assistance to BIE schools in addressing IT challenges nor the inability to hire IT staff at any level within the BIE. Casey Sovo, New Mexico South Education Line Officer accompanied the IT group to Sky City Community School and Jemez Day School where they were provided a clear picture of IT conditions at our schools. No solutions were offered, yet.
- School Improvement
 - Roxanne Brown, the Associate Deputy Director, East, is working with her schools through conference calls to develop an Operations Manual for the BIE Statewide System of Support (SSOS). She conducted a webinar on Monday, May 16 to 4 Education Line Officers to align the work of Education Line Offices (ELOs) and ADDs within the SOS.
 - *Crazy Horse School* - Multiple meetings have taken place between the Oglala Sioux Tribe Education Committee (OSTEC), the Board President, the Education Line Office, and the school team to complete the School Improvement Grant due May 13 to the Division of Performance and Accountability. The Education Line Officer and the OSTEC Director met last week and are focused on the supports for the school.
 - *Pine Ridge School* - A monitoring conference was held with Pine Ridge School and the Pine Ridge ELO to continue communicating ADD expectations and support the efforts of the line office and school in correcting the areas identified as needing improvement. A Chief School Administrator and a Middle School Principal were hired; the new high school principal may leave, providing an opportunity to recruit a change agent for that critical position. The freshmen academy is being strengthened and will have a reading course instituted, and a new elementary reading curriculum is being researched. The school lost their BIE Reads! funding due to infidelity. A review of the K-12 curriculum and the development of a bullying policy will be the focus during the summer months.
 - *Sitting Bull School* - The ADD, East received the Sitting Bull School “School Improvement Grant” for review. A conference call took place on Monday, May 16 with the ADD-East, the ELO and DPA to ensure the school meets the statutory requirements to achieve improvements, under section 1003g, P.L. 107-110. All three entities are working to support the school’s improvement. In addition, the Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA) reports that Sam Redding of the Center on Innovation and Improvement (CII) visited the School in Little, SD, the week of May 2 at the invitation of Superintendent Dave Archambault. Margaret Claymore, and the ADD-East,

accompanied him on the visit and they met ELO Bob Parisien. Dr. Redding stated that his visit stemmed “out of personal interest in a SIG school that is doing interesting things.” Margaret Claymore was there to assist the school with Native Star and offer other BIE support.

- *Gifted and Talented Program* - ELOs are completing the ISEP monitoring for Gifted and Talented and new students entering the school system, prior to finalizing the ISEP rosters for certification in June. The 2010-2011 school year membership will be averaged in with the prior 2 years’ membership, to attain the Average Daily membership for funding school year 2011-2012.
- *The Standing Rock Line Office* assisted Rock Creek Grant School with the development of the School Improvement Grant, as a Tier III school, due May 13, 2011, to DPA.
- Dr. Jeff Hamley, Associate Deputy for DPA met with Dr. Kalvin White, of the Diné Department of Education, about the delivery of the *Navajo Nation Accountability Workbook*, dated January 2011.

Other issues discussed included:

- 1) A request for a modification to the State Assessments 6111 grant made to the Navajo Nation.
- 2) Continuation of services on Oral Native Language Assessments by vendor Measured Progress
- 3) Professional development opportunities related to Oral Native Language Assessments
- 4) Tri-State Navajo Education Data Meeting on May 19 in Window Rock. [DPA is presenting at this event.]

- Student Improvement

- *Pine Ridge ELO*: Pine Ridge School may provide summer school services to support a student’s promotion to high school. (The Education Line Officer intervened in the expulsion of an 8th grade student from the Wounded Knee School District.)
- *Standing Rock ELO*: The Education Line Officer feels more confident in the work at the Standing Rock Community High School Superintendent on making school improvement and student academics a focal point of the discussion between the line office and the school administration. The ELO will attend a Leadership Team meeting in another week, at the invitation of the principal. The ADD will support the line office in this endeavor with Native Star Indicator applications.
- *Cheyenne River ELO*: The Education Line Officer continues to work directly with the administrative staff at the BIE-operated schools, providing professional development opportunities, professional reading and support and oversight of instructional follow through, with Engaged Learning as the professional platform.
- *South and Eastern States ELO*: The Education Line Officer met with the Maine Indian Education School Board and was provided the opportunity to visit all three schools – Indian Island; Indian Township; and Beatrice Rafferty -- and meet with the Superintendent and all three principals.

- Safety/Facilities

- The Standing Rock ELO--Sitting Bull School had a fire in one of its storage buildings caused by a heater malfunction during a snowstorm. The School is requesting a portable

building to replace it. The storage building held library books and Montessori equipment. The school is awaiting information on its insurance coverage.

- The Cheyenne River ELO--Facilities issues continue at Tiospaye Topa and Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Schools – extensive roof leaks in the new \$11,000,000 roof; broken sidewalks, potholes, no parking lot lighting, and no air conditioning.
- Minneapolis ELO -- There was a gas leak at Flandreau Indian School reported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Midwest Region's Facilities Manager. The school was moved under the Crow Creek/Lower Brule Line Office in 2008, as a part of the North and South Dakota Settlement Agreement. The ADD-East has alerted the BIA Regional Office of the change in jurisdiction for future actions.
- Tribal Consultation: The tribal consultation on May 12, 2011 on the IAM, BIE Health and Wellness policy was cancelled due to low participation. The consultation sessions scheduled for May 19 and May 26 will proceed as planned.
- Coach Across America/BIE: Brandi Sweet and Cheryl Arviso are working on finalizing details to partner with Coach Across America to provide coach and physical education outreach to targeted BIE schools.
- Post Secondary Education: The Higher Education Office in Oklahoma City, OK reports they received 23 applications for funding from the TCUs. The Higher Education office called several TCUs to have them send in missing documentation to complete their application package.

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

Administration

- On May 11th, the President and Vice-President of College Operations met with Joan Goodman to discuss the possibility of opening up a SIPI "Store" to sell basic school supplies for students. This has been a request of students for a while. The SIPI Board of Regents (BOR) office will initiate the operation and will run the "store" from their office; simultaneously, they will look for grant funds to open up (in the future) a larger store at the Academic Support Center.
- On May 13th, SIPI hosted a visit of 11 donors to the American Indian College Fund. A brief orientation of SIPI was provided, and a tour of the campus was given.

Academics

- Nader Vadiee attended the Micro Nano Tech Conference on May 9-11, 2011 at UNM
- Jeanne Lubbering, Adjunct instructor and Autumn Waconda, SIPI student attended the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society *29th Annual National Conference*, May 3 – 5, 2011 in South Dakota. Autumn gave a presentation on the Natural Resource Program Projects. [Other: Autumn Waconda will be transferring to NMSU in the Fall 2011, major: Wildlife biology]

Internships

- SIPI Natural Resource students will participate in the following internships this summer:

- Shawna Woody (Navajo) accepted a REU internship at New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM.
 - Aaron Johnson (Navajo) accepted a position with the Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery in Mescalero, NM.
 - Marklyn Burnette (White Mountain Apache) accepted a position with the White Mountain Apache Forestry in Ft Apache, AZ.
 - Jeffrey Weeker (Laguna Pueblo) will be working with the Laguna Department of Natural Resources in Laguna, NM.
 - Vincent Waquiu (Jemez Pueblo) accepted the NAU REU in Environmental Sciences, Flagstaff, AZ.
 - Moroni Fulton (Navajo) accepted the NAU REU in Environmental Sciences, Flagstaff, AZ.
 - Shaleene Chavarria (Santa Clara Pueblo?) will continue current internship with USGS, Albuquerque, NM.
 - Autumn Waconda (Laguna Pueblo) will continue current internship with USFWS, Albuquerque, NM.
 - Kevin Betone (Navajo) will continue his 2nd year internship with the Notre Dame Field Biology Environmental Program, location: Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. [*Kevin Betone – transferring to NM Tech in Fall 2011, major: environmental science*]
 - Teresa DeCora (Cochiti Pueblo) is collaborating with the Pueblo of Cochiti and BLM for work at the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
 - Aaron Cajero (Jemez Pueblo) is deliberating on an opportunity with USFWS Bosque del Apache Refuge or the Pueblo of Acoma Natural Resource office
- College Operations: Last week, Admissions and Financial Aid staff worked with new and returning students for the 2011 Summer Trimester. *Student Orientation* included Early Childhood and Distance Education students. SIPI was busy working with students in financial aid, taking student fees, providing identification cards, and assisting the students with the orientation and testing process. SIPI currently has 103 new students, 125 readmissions and 145 preregistered for the Summer trimester. With the continuing students, SIPI estimate 375 to 400 students this summer. Classes began on May 17, 2011.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has completed the first phase of awarding a contract. Oral presentations from the contractors concluded the week of May 9 and the joint DOI/IA panel met to evaluate the presenters and decide on a final selection. DOI's contracting staff is now completing the required acquisition requirements to close out this phase; awarding of the contract is expected within the next two weeks.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: IA met with OMB on May 18, 2011, to discuss the preliminary plan for realignment. OMB has requested that the final plan include more

specific information on sites, cost savings and a timeline for implementation, including Tribal consultation.

- Labor Relations: A meeting between the Union and AS-IA Senior Management has been scheduled to resolve outstanding issues regarding the pending collective bargaining agreement
- Acquisitions: The OCFO Office of Acquisitions hosted a working meeting with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) concerning how to improve the overall acquisition process for BIE. All eight (8) Supervisory Contract Specialists attended, as well as the Chief, Acquisition Operations, the Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, and the Chief Financial Officer. The main goal was to achieve consistency amongst the Regions in handling BIE purchase requests and procurements. Open and frank discussions were conducted on many topics with the Acquisition and BIE staff in attendance. The results were 32 action items for both staffs which were determined to be required for improvement.
- Financial Reporting: Staff in Financial Reporting and Analysis Division conducted a 2-day training on Construction-in-Progress (CIP) to 14 project managers in the Office of Facilities Management and Construction. The training was focused on topics such as proper recognition of costs that should be capitalized versus expensed, timely review and validation of quarterly CAPERS to include BIA versus Tribal ownership, and timeline for transferring of completed construction projects to fixed assets (approximately \$60 million in CIP is currently overdue for transfer.) Previous audit findings as well as lessons learned from the annual financial audits were shared to facilitate everyone's understanding of "successful" project management from both programmatic and financial reporting aspects.
- IT: The DOI IT Transformation had meetings last week in Albuquerque and at two BIE-operated schools. The meetings were well attended and very successful. The OCIO received multiple complements from Andrew Jackson, DOI/CIO regarding IA providing e-mail services for the Office of the Secretary and IA's Albuquerque data center. He asked to meet the Albuquerque messaging team in person and they received a round of applause from the people in the meeting.

The visits to the two schools were well received by the school staff and were especially appreciated by Mr. Jackson and his special advisor, Angela Graziano. Mr. Jackson had just launched his IT Transformation Twitter service and his first tweet was from Jemez Day School where he planned to post a picture of him with the Assistant Principal. The school visits were partially in response to a commitment that Mr. Jackson made to BIE to assist with the technology challenges faced by many of the schools.

OUTREACH

- Planned Events:

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

May 24-25, 2011, quarterly meeting of the Tribal Interior Budget Committee, Georgetown, Washington, DC.

May 26, 2011, speech at the official launch of the *Let's Move in Indian Country* initiative, Keshena, Wisconsin.

May 31 – June 3, 2011, keynote speech at the Native Leadership Forum, Temecula, CA.

June 6 - 8, 2011, the CAP Water Settlement Listening Session, Phoenix, Arizona.

June 13-16, 2011, keynote speech at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at the SAIGE Annual Training, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Bureau of Indian Education:

May 12, 19 and 26, 2011, Tribal Consultation sessions on the Health and Wellness Policy for K-12 BIE-funded schools. Consultations will be held online through WebEX.

May 25, 2011, Commencement speech at Shoshone Bannock graduation ceremonies.

Week of June 20, 2011, BIE Summer Institute, Reno, Nevada

September 25-27, 2011, 8th annual South Dakota Indian Education Summit, Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD. The theme of the Summit is “Supporting Culture, Building Expectations and Creating Partnerships.”

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
May 20, 2011**

Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki to Visit Guam

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki will visit Guam next week, Tuesday, May 24, to officially open a new VA clinic. AS-IN has been working with the local Guam Legislature on veteran's concerns about their medical care and the requirement that they prepay their travel to Hawaii for medical care, something many cannot afford. AS-IN will be joining Secretary Shinseki at a wreath laying ceremony to honor the occupation and liberation of Guam during WWII, Veterans Center opening, and a town hall with local Veterans Advisory Council.

USVI Governor deJongh to Visit Guam

USVI Governor John deJongh will also be on Guam next week, May 23-26, at the invitation of both AS-IN and Guam Governor Calvo. Governor deJongh will join AS-IN at the convening of the Guam Renewable Energy Task Force, Southern Health Center Ribbon Cutting, and meetings at the University of Guam. Gov deJongh will also be given a tour by NPS War in the Pacific National Historical Park Superintendent Barbara Alberti of the NPS parks while on Guam.

Announcement of Marianas Ombudsman – While on Guam, AS-IN will also be meeting with US Attorney General for Guam and the Northern Marianas to announce the expansion of DOI's Northern Marianas Ombudsman, Pamela Brown's geographical responsibility to include Guam.

This is an important expansion of the position as it serves to enhance the collaboration between Interior and DOJ, along with other federal agencies including DOD, for problems which could arise during the Guam military build-up. The expansion also serves Interior's response to human trafficking issues raised in the State Department's 2010 Trafficking in Person's Report.

Promoting Pacific Business Partnership Initiative and Kick Off Insular ABC's on Guam - May 23-26 – AS-IN will travel to Guam to meet with Governor Calvo and others to highlight OIA initiatives that include the Pacific Business Partnership Initiative, and the Insular ABC's school building assessment among other issues. AS-IN will be joined by a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) official to kick-off the Insular A, B, C's Initiative.

OIA Energy Initiative, Insular ABC's and FELD Report in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) - May 27 – AS-IN will travel to Saipan to meet with Governor Benigno Fitial and others to discuss the CNMI Energy Task Force established as part of the OIA energy initiative, kick-off the Insular A, B, C's initiative in Saipan with the USACE, and transmit the Forum on Economic and Labor Development (FELD) Report produced following the November 9, 2010, Department of the Interior's forum on the development of a technical assistance program sanctioned by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

CONFIDENTIAL

May 20, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for May 23 to May 29, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report May 23, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in Washington (5/23-27)
- Tribal/Interior Budget Council meeting in Washington, D. C. (5/24-25)

Review – May 16 to May 20

- **New:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) at the Blackfeet Agency, in collaboration with the Browning Community Development Corporation, provided Browning High School students financial skills training from May 18-19 in Browning, Montana.
- **New:** OST DC staff met with personnel from the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) on May 17. The meeting was a first step in a process to engage CADR and its conflict resolution (CORE PLUS) program in a partnership to support OST as it realigns its functions to better serve its mission and promote the Secretary's *oneInterior* initiative.
- **Update:** The FTO at the Palm Springs Agency, in conjunction with First Nations Development Institute, held a financial skills training session on May 18 for the Soboba Band.
- **Update:** Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph was keynote speaker at the South Dakota Indian Business Conference (SDIBC) and participated as a panelist on a panel about effective management. The conference was held May 17-18 at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. The PDST was interviewed on the first day by ABC KOTA TV, SD PBS radio and Fox KEVN TV. He ensured each station also interviewed Tanya Fiddler, board member of the conference's sponsoring organization, and JR LaPlante, the first Secretary of Tribal Relations for South Dakota. The conference was sponsored by the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities for tribal members in South Dakota. On May 18, the PDST met with area Fiduciary Trust Officers (FTOs) and

traveled to the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills. The Hills are considered sacred by many tribes. The PDST and the FTOs were honored to be escorted to the top of the monument by P.J. Christensen, the husband of the recently deceased Anne Ziolkowski Christensen, daughter of the late sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski who began sculpting the statue of Crazy Horse in 1948.

Week Ahead – May 23 to May 27

- **Update:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. DOJ is supporting the government's Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method (ESEM). The government's brief, provided to the judge on May 13, includes settlement offers to the plaintiffs. Mediation continued on May 20.
- **Update:** On May 23, the FTO at the Tulsa Urban Office will attend an Alternative Dispute Resolution hearing in the Eastern District Federal Court about tribal litigation issues with the Seminole Tribe. Also attending will be SOL and DOJ attorneys, the BIA Superintendent for the Wewoka Agency and tribal leaders. Issues to be resolved were outlined in March and April meetings.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** OHTA will be closing the Special Deposit Account office in Aberdeen, South Dakota by August 31. The Special Deposit Account office in Muskogee is also being evaluated for closure. As a result of ongoing mergers and integrations, OHTA staff in Lenexa, Kansas, will begin reporting to the Office of Trust Records in Lenexa, Kansas, on May 22.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than a dozen activities have been planned to take place in May.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

May 19, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: May 19, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

New: Let's Move! in Indian Country Launch. The Youth Office and BIE will launch Let's Move! in Indian Country on May 25th at the Menominee Indian Elementary School in Keshena, WI. Given the magnitude of the obesity crisis among American Indians and Alaska Natives, an interagency collaboration between the First Lady's *Let's Move!* Initiative, the White House Domestic Policy Council, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Education has been formed to reduce disproportionately high obesity rates and improve the health of Native youth. Through concrete policy changes called for in the President's Childhood Obesity Task Force Report targeted actions will be taken to address prenatal and early childhood care in the IHS hospital system and to improve access to healthier foods and increase physical activity in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)funded schools and public schools as well as address prenatal and very early childhood care in the Indian Health Service hospital system.

Gulf Coast Response: Lessons Learned Workshop on Non-Traditional Response Project. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance is hosting a DOI Deepwater Horizon supplemental-funded lessons learned workshop in Washington DC, May 17-19. The workshop will focus on establishing direction to improve processes, authorities and guidance for approving, funding and implementing non-traditional emergency response and restoration projects that seek to protect sensitive natural resources. Expected participants include the US Coast Guard, NPFC, EPA, USDA, NRCS, NOAA, FWS, NPS, BIA and a tribal representative.

MANAGEMENT

NBC Data Breach—Unauthorized Disclosure of SEC PII. NBC's Identity Theft Task Force has been coordinating with the SEC to notify potentially affected individuals that personally identifiable information may have been distributed. NBC is also offering credit monitoring services and a Call Center for additional questions the employees may have. There has been press interest in the matter.

ONRR Holds State and Tribal Royalty Audit Committee (STRAC) Meeting. ONRR will be hosting STRAC members for meetings and training from May 23-26, 2011, in Denver. Topics on the agenda include work planning, audit coordination, the ONRR strategic review and reorganization, unbundling of transportation fees, and IT initiatives.

BUDGET

2012 Budget and 302(b) Allocations. On May 11, the House Appropriations Committee released its 302(b) allocations, which set the top-line spending level for each of the FY 2012 appropriations bills.

- The allocation for the Interior Subcommittee is \$27.5 billion, which is \$2.1 billion or 7 percent below the FY 2011 enacted level and \$3.8 billion or 12 percent below the 2012 President's Budget Request.
- The Energy and Water Subcommittee allocation is \$30.6 billion, \$1.0 billion or 3 percent below the FY 2011 enacted level and \$5.9 billion or 16 percent below the 2012 President's budget.

The House Appropriations Committee also released its mark-up schedule for the 2012 bills.

- Interior Subcommittee markup is scheduled for July 6 and Committee markup is on July 11.
- Energy and Water Subcommittee markup is June 2 and Committee markup is June 15.

OMB performance.gov website. OMB plans to open the performance.gov website for public access the week of May 23. The address is: <http://performance.gov>.

DOI materials have been posted for Priority Performance Goals, Information Technology and Open Government, Human Resources, Acquisition Improvement, Sustainability, Financial Management, and Customer Service. Materials are being reviewed by the Chief of Staff, Communications and Congressional Liaison in preparation for release.

Storm Damage. House and Senate appropriations subcommittees have asked for input on recent storm damages. We are compiling estimates for submission by the end of the week. This is information to be used for a 2011 Supplemental, which will require offsets.

2011 Operating Plans. Operating plans displaying the allocation of 2011 funds were completed by Friday, May 13. The plans for bureaus and offices funded in the Interior bill were submitted to the House and Senate on Friday, May 13. The Budget Office staff briefed the House and Senate staff on the plans on Monday morning to be followed by individual bureau and office briefings.

The operating plans for the Bureau of Reclamation and CUPCA are still awaiting OMB clearance as of Tuesday, May 17. The Continuing Resolution (P.L. 112-10) requires submission of Operating Plans to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days of enactment or May 15. A detailed summary is attached.

IG/GAO Reports. The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:

PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
May 19, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: The Department's Draft Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) Review. The Department's draft SSPP was prepared by subject matter experts in bureaus and offices and is undergoing review by bureau and office Senior Sustainability Officers. Subsequent to that review, the draft plan will be reviewed by Assistant Secretaries, the Deputy Operating Group, and the bureau and office Directors.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$91.18 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.49 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$11.63 Million.

New: National Level Exercise (NLE) 2011. NLE 2011 is underway. The Exercise is simulating a response to major earthquakes along the New Madrid and Wabash Faults located in the central Midwest. OEPC Regional Environmental Officers and the National Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH) Coordinators are monitoring the situation and are providing reach back support to the activated Regional Response Coordination Centers in FEMA Regions IV, V, VI, and VII and the National Response Coordination Center's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Desk Officers. Additionally, OEPC participated in the DOI Tabletop Exercise on May 18 and in the National Response Team conference call to report on DOI exercise activities, including ESF #10 issues regarding oil spills and hazardous substance pollution incidents.

New: Fiscal Year 2011 Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF) Distribution: This week over \$8 million will be sent to over 20 different CHF projects for work in remediating some of the Department's most contaminated sites located on our lands. Funding for Fiscal Year 2012 will be discussed at the next meeting of the CHF's Technical Review Committee set for the last week of June in Lakewood, Colorado.

New: Asbestos Liability Reporting Requirement: The Department will be submitting a response to the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB)'s request for the status

of federal agencies in meeting the asbestos liability reporting requirement set to take effect in Quarter 1, Fiscal Year 2012. In order to meet this requirement, the Department has issued a data call to the bureaus for their property inventory as of June 30th, due no later than July 15, 2011. The Department has also requested FASAB consider making this requirement appear as part of the Required Supplementary Information on the financial statements until such time as the Department is ready to fully reasonably estimate our liability associated with asbestos cleanup costs.

Update: Canada/U.S. Transboundary Oil Spill Project (Project) Report Completed: The “Stakeholder Workgroup Review of Planning and Response Capabilities for a Marine Oil Spill on the U.S./Canadian Transboundary Areas of the Pacific Coast – Final Project Report” has been completed. The transboundary areas between British Columbia and Alaska (i.e., CANUSDIX) and British Columbia and Washington State (i.e., CANUSPAC) are the focus of the report, which was prepared for the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. The Alaska OEPC Office served on the Project Steering Committee and was the lead author and/or major contributor for sections on transboundary dispersant, *in-situ* burning, and places of refuge decision-making; wildlife response; and the roles of First Nations and Federally-recognized tribes in transboundary preparedness and response activities.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Chesapeake Bay Environmental Markets Team. The Office of Policy Analysis coordinated DOI’s analysis and comments on *Verification of Environmental Credit*. The document, drafted by USDA’s Office of Environmental Markets, supports the development of protocols for verifying environmental credits.

Ongoing: Economic Report. The report has been cleared by OMB and is currently being reviewed by the Council of Economic Advisors. PPA drafted talking points for use by the Secretary in a meeting with the President’s Council of Economic Advisors to discuss the report.

Ongoing: Arctic Policy. On May 12, the Secretary represented the Department and the United States alongside Secretary of State Clinton at the 7th Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Nuuk, Greenland. Other Interior delegates included the Deputy Secretary, the Deputy Assistant Secretary-Policy and International Affairs, and the Director of the Office of Policy Analysis. The Arctic Council Ministerial approved two major U.S. proposals that Interior had made substantial contributions to: a task force to develop an instrument on oil pollution preparedness and response and the formation of an experts group to discuss ecosystem-based management. Interior will continue to play a leadership role in the implementation of both of these outcomes. On May 18, Policy Analysis convened the Interior Arctic Coordination Group to hear the outcome of the Nuuk Ministerial and on May 19, Policy Analysis attended the monthly State Department Arctic Policy Group meeting.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy Implementation. The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the National Ocean will be released for public comment on June 1. At the CEQ’s request, the Department is hosting three Listening/Public Comment sessions on the SAPs at four locations: June 9-16, Alaska (BOEMRE lead); late June, location in New Jersey to be determined

(BOEMRE lead); June 27, Portsmouth, NH (USGS lead). The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21.

Ongoing: Economics of Conservation. At the request of the DAS-Budget and Business Management, PPA provided information on the economic value of conservation. A longer follow-up paper is being prepared.

Completed: Soda Ash. The PPA economists provided comments to the Bureau of Land Management on an industry consultant prepared report examining the economic contribution of the soda ash industry.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

Updated: Screening of the Documentary “Under a Jarvis Moon” – On Thursday, May 12th, in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Month, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations and the Office of Insular Affairs screened the documentary “*Under a Jarvis Moon*.” This documentary tells the story of over 130 young men employed by the U.S. Department of the Interior – most of whom were Native Hawaiians – who were sent to occupy Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands from 1935 to 1942. While their public mission was to take weather readings and collect specimens and records of the wildlife on and around the islands the United States secretly recruited these young men to colonize the islands to keep them out of the hands of other countries.

The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations is working with the Department of Defense Tribal Liaison Officer to determine if the two colonists who died in the December 8, 1941, attacks on the islands are eligible for military decorations.

Updated: Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Community Development Financial Institution Program – The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations has begun working with the State of Hawai‘i Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) on how the State agency can assist Native Hawaiian organizations in the creation of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The primary mission of CDFIs is to promote economic development in struggling areas, both urban and rural, that are underserved by traditional financial institutions. CDFIs can play a critical role in building a healthier economy by providing these communities with the access to capital. CDFI’s provide an array of financial services in their target areas, including mortgage financing for home buyers, financing for the rehabilitation of rental housing, financing for the building and rehabilitation of community facilities, commercial loans to small- and micro-enterprise businesses, and financial services needed by low-income households and businesses in the target areas.

CDFI’s Include:

Community Development Banks, which provide needed capital to help rebuild economically distressed communities through targeted lending and investment.

Community Development Credit Unions, which provide affordable credit and financial services to low-income and minority communities.

Community Development Loan Funds, which typically raise capital from socially responsible investors at below-market rates and then re-lend the money to nonprofits that build housing and community facilities in struggling urban and rural areas.

Community Development Venture Capital Funds, which provide start-up capital for real estate and new business development in economically distressed areas.

Microenterprise Loan Funds, which provide loans and technical assistance to low-income people starting very small businesses.

According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, their program's success over the last 5 years in Hawai'i was greatly helped by the outreach efforts of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations. As evidence of this success, since 2006 the State of Hawai'i has gone from having zero Native CDFIs to six.

Office of International Affairs

New: Secretary's Council of the Americas Speech Garner Positive Feedback: State Department's Western Hemisphere Bureau staff provided enthusiastic feedback on the Secretary's speech to the Council of the Americas on May 11, and expressed interest in engaging the Secretary and Department in a more robust way in the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas.

New: APEC Mining Task Force: OIA is following up with DOC and State regarding next steps ensuing from the May 7-8 APEC Mining Task Force meeting in Big Sky, MT.

New: Lacey Act: On May 12, OIA staff (along with PPA, NISC and AS-FWP staff) joined a briefing held by FWS to discuss plans to strengthen implementation of the Lacey Act, which authorizes the Secretary to prohibit import or interstate commerce in species found to be injurious to US wildlife resources and other domestic natural resources (i.e. invasive species). OIA offered comments on the initiative's relationship with international trade policies.

New: World Bank Safeguards: During the week of May 9, OIA worked with FWS staff and other agencies to evaluate US position developed by Treasury on a new biodiversity policy proposed by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, one of the largest investors in developing country infrastructure and private sector development. This week, OIA (with FWS) will file comments with Treasury, laying groundwork for improved consideration of conservation in an upcoming review of the World Bank's environmental and social safeguards.

New: Andean Amazon Program Assessment: The DOI-ITAP Andean Amazon Technical Coordinator, based in Bogota, Colombia, is traveling this week to Quito, Ecuador to meet with representatives from USAID/Ecuador, Government of Ecuador, and NGOs to identify priorities for including in DOI's Workplan for the Andean Amazon, expected to be ready for implementation this summer. Topics to be discussed include: protected area management for a

cross-border park shared with Colombia and Peru, strengthening interagency cooperation on the natural resource extraction, and strengthening indigenous community ability to manage and protect the resources in their territories. This work is part of the USAID/Washington-funded program "Initiative for the Conservation of the Andean Amazon," which includes Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, and Guyana.

Update: Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. The Secretary and Deputy Secretary attended the Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Nuuk, Greenland on May 12th. The meeting outcomes reflected two prominent DOI objectives: agreement on international coordination for oil spill response in the Arctic, and progress towards consistent interpretation of Ecosystem-Based Management processes. The Council agreed to form a task force to address the challenge of oil spill pollution, and will convene an expert group to begin considering EBM principles. DOI expects to play a major role in both efforts, and will likely co-chair the EBM expert group. DOI staff will meet with State Department staff in the next several weeks to plan the next steps.

Update: Secretary's Planned Trip to Spain: OIA continues to assist with preparations for the Secretary's attendance at the US/Spain Council meeting in Spain, including assembly of information on travel and consultation with the US Embassy in Madrid.

Update: Transpacific (TPP) and Other Trade Agreement Negotiations: As preparations for TPP negotiations continue apace, OIA is participating in several State and USTR meetings and filing comments on proposed text for a Transpacific environmental cooperation agreement and text in the TPP environmental chapter on public participation.

Update: Rio 2012 Preparations: OIA continues to monitor preparations for the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development is reviewing distributions by State, and, as appropriate, attending interagency working groups on the conference themes of Green Economy, Measuring Progress, and Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

Update: Departmental Review of International Agreements: OIA staff had a useful initial meeting on May 9 with SOL and USGS to begin a discussion on coordinating review of international agreements, and this are working on several follow up communications and products generated from that meeting.

Update: High Level Strategic Dialogue with Colombia: OIA is preparing to lead a mining discussion, and preparing talking points on climate change and energy issues to include in U.S. co-chair remarks for the Environment and Climate Change, and Energy and Mining Work Groups of the U.S./Colombia High-Level Dialogue, to take place at the State Department on May 31.

Update: Environmental Cooperation with Oman: OIA staff is in Oman this week to consult with the Omani Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, the Environment Society of Oman, and tourism development officials on a new program of work focusing on management of protected areas. OIA staff, along with Department of State officials will also consult with Oman

regarding lapses in their implementation of CITES, notably the failure to designate a CITES Scientific Authority and to pass adequate implementing legislation.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

New: AGO Education Work Group Support: The Youth Office is providing support to Diane Chalfant, National Park Service, who is co-leading the AGO Education Work Group with the EPA. We're providing assistance with kick-off meeting planning, agendas, materials for review, and more. This Work Group will complete a progress report by August 15.

Ongoing: Wilderness Inquiry MOU. MOU drafted to renew and expand the expired MOU between (1) DOI (BLM, BOR, NPS, and FWS); (2) USFS; (3) US Army Corps; and Wilderness Inquiry, Inc. The expanded purpose of the renewed MOU is to "establish framework for cooperation to increase recreation, service and careers related to America's Great Outdoors" for people of all abilities, particularly low-income, underserved and diverse youth."

Ongoing: MOU – DOI / U.S. Dept of Education to "Maximize the Use of Federal Lands in Enhancing Educational Opportunities for the American Public." Final draft MOU developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America's Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education's "Blueprint for Reform." Signing ceremony tentatively scheduled for National History Day, June 14, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. DOI Interagency 5 year MOU, and Department-wide Cooperative Agreement drafted between NPS & BLM, FWS, BOR, USGS for AmeriCorps Summer Intern Program to cooperate and coordinate financial assistance with the AmeriCorps National Program and a grant to the Southwest Conservation Corps.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Campfire U.S.A. MOU. A meeting was held this week to discuss the details of the pending partnership between Take Pride in America and Campfire U.S.A., the MOU is currently in draft form and should be finalized in the coming weeks.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Indian Probate Rule. Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs staff has drafted a final rule to be published in the Federal Register that confirms the changes to the BIA and OHA probate rules made in the interim final rule published in February. The document notes that no substantive public comments were received on the interim final rule.

New: White Earth Tribe Consultation. The OHA Director and BIA staff participated in a conference call with the Chairwoman and staff of the White Earth Tribe concerning the handling of cases under the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act. OHA is exploring options for relocating its Settlement Act work when the Whipple Federal Building in Twin Cities is vacated for renovation this summer. At the Tribe's request, the OHA Director agreed to add Bemidji, Minnesota to the options list and has discussed the availability of space with BIA.

Office of the Chief Information Office

New: Customer Feedback from IT Transformation Listening Sessions. As of last week, IT Transformation Listening Sessions have been held in Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York Montana, New Mexico, and the metropolitan DC area. OCIO staff has documented, categorized and analyzed the input to determine how to address them in the creation of the new enterprise IT organization and services that support and enhance mission delivery.

New: GAO Draft Report on Social Media. On May 11, 2011, the OCIO and Office of Communications successfully completed Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) for the Department's official use of the Facebook, Twitter and YouTube social media applications.

Update: Technical Evaluation of Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) Reporting Tools. OCIO continues to support the FBMS Program Management Office and the Technical Evaluation Team on Business Intelligence (BI) tools evaluation for FBMS reporting. The team has completed all individual proposal reviews, oral presentations, team discussions and developed a final questions list which has been delivered to the Contracting Officer. A final decision is expected in June.

Update: OCIO reviews proposals for selecting Networx vendor. OCIO is conducting a Fair Opportunity selection process for choosing a Networx telecommunication vendor that replaces the older FTS2001 telecommunication contract. An award is expected in late June.

Update: Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Plan Draft. OCIO completed the review draft of the DOI Plan for Improving Online Access to Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Information required by Presidential Memorandum as a part of the President's Open Government initiative.

Update: iStat and TechStat IT Investment Reviews. The DOI OCIO staff members are developing an executive briefing for the recent iStat for BIA's Trust Asset and Accounting

Management System (TAAMS) investment. Additional information is being gathered on system capabilities, planned investments, legal requirements and next steps in the implementation of corrective actions resulting from the iStat Performance Review.

Update: Lower Mississippi River flooding. The Enterprise Services Network continues to monitor the status of offices threatened by flooding on the lower Mississippi.

New: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Alaska Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) sharing. DOI is working with FAA Alaska to allow access to the internet as part of the agreement with the Department of Homeland Security that allowed DOI a TIC gateway in Alaska.

Update: Help Desk for DOIAccess support services. The DOIAccess SOW is ready for signature, and is awaiting USGS Senior Management review. The DOIAccess team is preparing for the Help Desk services to come on-line sometime in the coming months.

Office of Valuation Services

New: Review Appraisers. Vacancy announcements for nine GS-13 Review Appraisers have been posted to USA Staffing.

Update: IVIS Testing. The “Go Live” date for the new system is May 23.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution

New: DOI roster of facilitators. CADR is leading the effort to develop a roster of skilled facilitators available to assist in planning and facilitating internal meetings and negotiation processes, strategic planning, change initiatives, workshops, and other events on request. These impartial process experts will be available for use by all bureaus and geographic locations and provide a lower cost alternative to private professional services.

Update: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. CADR is partnering with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to provide process support for the creation of a coordinated network of LCCs with a focus on selecting impartial facilitators and process design experts to work with the DOI team.

Update: New CADR contract for professional conflict management services. The new vendor who will provide professional CORE PLUS services for any bureau or office will be selected this week. This IDIQ contract will take the place of 2 Blanket Purchase Agreements and provide excellence in customer service including quality assurance, prompt delivery of services, efficiency in contract management, and reasonable costs.

Ongoing: Recruitment for Master Mediator/Conflict Management System Leader. A new vacancy announcement will be posted next week to fill this GS-15 vacancy in CADR. The incumbent will be the senior mediator/facilitator in CADR responsible for providing leadership

in the continued efforts to institutionalize collaborative problem-solving as a standard business practice throughout DOI.

Ongoing: Open Government Working Group. The Open Government Steering committee members are attending meetings at the White House conference center and have learned that the White House leadership is indicating that the open government groups will be assessing agency progress going forward. The current focus is finalizing DOI's updated action plan for Open Government initiatives to be completed during the next 16 – 18 months is measures, taking into account the input from outside groups on how agency efforts will be evaluated.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Federal Geographic Data Committee: Planning is underway for a meeting of the FGDC Steering Committee to be held June 7, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) building. Anne Castle will chair the meeting on behalf of Secretary Salazar.

National Business Center

NEW: DOI GovTrip / Charge Card Audit. The Financial Management Directorate's Charge Card Support Center provided the Office of Inspector General with Departmental travel data, broken down by bureau, to assist them in selecting their statistical sample for their GovTrip/Charge Card Audit.

Update: Bison Bistro New Coffee Kiosk. GSA expects completion of the new coffee kiosk on or before August 24th. The kiosk will feature coffee, espresso, cold drinks, fruit smoothies, and grab-and-go food items.

Update: MIB Courtyard Renovation. The courtyard adjacent to the Bison Bistro is undergoing extensive renovation and should be completed by October 2011,

Update: Wing 2 Modernization. Wing 2 Modernization will be completed in late September; however, employee moves will not begin until early January 2012 to allow sufficient time to correct any construction deficiencies prior to occupancy. The opening will include space for a new Security Command Center, the Indian Craft Shop and showers (located in the basement) that will be available to all employees.

New: Logistical Support for U.S. and China Conference. The Special Events team provided logistical support for the successful U.S. and China Strategic & Economic Dialogue and press conferences on May 9 – 10.

New: AMD Collaboration with Fish & Wildlife Service. On May 3, the AMD Alaska Regional Director, Harry Kieling, spoke on "unmanned aircraft operations in the Department of the Interior," at the 27th Annual FAA/Transport Canada meeting in Anchorage. Various topics were discussed including DOI Raven UAS training and the very successful Sandhill Crane UAS missions that were flown at Alamosa Wildlife Refuge in April.

New: AMD Collaboration with USGS. The week of March 10-19, AMD's Alaska Region and USGS will sponsor the third Raven unmanned aerial surveillance (UAS) training class. This will be held in Anchorage for the first time. Eight students from BOEMRE, BLM, and AMD will attend the course.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: USGS Accountability Review Close-out. The Accountability team closed out its review of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Headquarters Office. The Department's accountability review of USGS's Headquarters was conducted in October 2009. The team found very few significant issues, however, did identify items needing corrective action which were identified in the report dated January 15, 2010. These included requirements such as ensuring that performance plans and awards complied with OPM regulations and Departmental policy, particularly in the areas of timeliness and documentation; ensuring that the Reemployment Priority List is documented and routinely cleared at two points; ensuring that vacancy announcements contain all required information; and that notices of personnel action are properly documented. The review team also recommended a number of actions be taken to improve overall effectiveness. USGS responded with a corrective action plan on February 7, 2011. Based on this plan, the Department determined that USGS has adequately addressed all required and recommended actions. USGS's human resources operations were restructured on October 10, 2010, and as a result, the Headquarters operation was merged with the former Eastern Region's operations into the new "Atlantic" office.

New: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada State Office Accountability Review. Two representatives from the Accountability team participated on a BLM review of its Nevada State Office in Reno, Nevada, during May 9-12, 2011. This is one of four reviews being led by the BLM during FY 2011. Once the review is finished, BLM will be issuing a report within 90 days identifying its findings and required and recommended actions.

New: Staffing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualifications Review Board (QRB). The Office of Human Resources (OHR) is currently scheduling twelve executives to serve on OPM's QRB beginning Tuesday, June 7, 2011 and ending Tuesday June 28, 2011.

New: Presidential Rank Award. Nominations for 2011 Presidential Rank Awards are due at OPM Monday, May 23, 2011. There are thirteen individuals being nominated. All thirteen names are being vetted with OIG, EEO, and SOL. Being nominated does not guarantee winning. Distinguished winners receive an award equivalent to 35% of pay; meritorious winners receive 20% of pay. Winners are announced on or after September 30, 2011, following private citizen panel judging.

Update: Employee Assistance Program (EAP). OHR is still working with acquisitions on a standardized DOI-wide EAP. OHR is looking into how we might standardize EAP benefits

across DOI and whether a single contract for all employees is a viable option. OHR staff has spoken with the acquisition's office staff and are working together to develop an appropriate acquisition strategy. We anticipate this can be implemented starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013.

Update: Telework Implementation. On May 5, 2011 a meeting was held to discuss the implementation of telework and it was well attended and provided a good exchange of information. The next scheduled meeting is June 18, 2011. Last week, OHR staff met with Sandy Wells, Director of the Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development, and began working to see how to use Quicktime and Data Mart to create a required report and how to use DOI Learn to tracking training respectively. OHR staff issued a crosswalk to the field – mapping Quicktime codes to the legislatively directed reporting requirements so bureaus/offices could pull the information from the system rather than establish new reporting mechanisms. In the future, the coding of telework in Quicktime and sister systems in bureaus that do not use Quicktime will be essential.

Office of Civil Rights

New: Federal Inter-Agency Diversity Partnership. On May 19, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is representing the DOI at the Federal Inter-Agency Diversity Partnership (FIDP) Meeting. The focus of the meeting is to design and coordinate activities for the FIDP Annual Diversity Briefing, tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2011. The meeting is taking place at the National Archives Building, in Washington, D.C. The FIDP is comprised of several Federal agencies within the D.C. Metro area that come together to share best practices and strategies to enhance diversity within the Federal workplace.

Update: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Webinar on Final Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008(ADAAA). On May 10, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights sponsored a Webinar for DOI EEO and HR Practitioners on the recently-issued EEOC Regulations on the ADAAA. During the Webinar, two EEOC Attorneys discussed provisions of the new ADAAA Regulations, and answered questions from the audience. Eighteen DOI EEO and HR Practitioners participated in the Webinar at the Main Interior Building.

Update: Competency Training for EEO Practitioners. On May 18, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights will present, "Acceptance and Framing of Formal EEO Discrimination Claims," in an effort to improve efficiency in the DOI Title VII Complaints Process. The training will be conducted at the National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Training Center, 1201 Eye Street, Washington, D.C. Nineteen DOI EEO Practitioners have registered for the training.

Update: icomplaints Training. On June 8, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights will present "icomplaints User Training", for DOI EEO Practitioners. The training will be conducted at the NPS, National Capital Training Center, in Washington, D.C. The training is designed for both new users and experienced users of icomplaints.

Completed: DOI Pre-Conference Training Forum. On May 9, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights and the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce

Management, co-sponsored a training forum at the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) National Leadership Training Conference. The training, entitled "Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment and Beyond," took place at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington. Approximately 30 DOI employees attended the training forum.

Completed: Minority Serving Institutions Community of Partners Council (MSI-COPC). On May 10, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights represented DOI at the quarterly Federal interagency meeting of the MSI-COPC. The meeting was held at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. MSI-COPC focuses on strengthening existing and developing new strategies to maximize government-wide collaborative efforts directed towards minority serving institutions.

Completed: U.S. Access Board Committee and Board Meeting. Public Civil Rights Division Chief, Jack Andre attended the U.S. Access Board's committee and board meeting during May 9-11, 2011. The agenda included the deliberation and walk-through of the Smithsonian's plan for its new exhibition titled "Everybody: The History of Disability in America."

Completed: Government-wide Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum. David Quirino, Equal Employment Specialist with the Public Civil Rights Division, attended the Government-wide Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum on May 10, 2011, featuring former CEO and leadership consultant Tommy Spaulding. He discussed his book, "It's Not Just Who You Know: Transform Your Life (and Your Organization) by Turning Colleagues and Contacts into Lasting, Genuine Relationships," and how important it is for leaders to create partnerships and share leaderships. The event was held at the Auditorium in the South Interior Building.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

New: DOI Learn Registration Change. OSEOD launched marketing for a process change in DOI Learn. On May 23, 2011 DOI Learn will employ an improved two step registration process as opposed to the current three step process that has been challenging for employees.

New: Office of the Secretary Management Intern Program (OSMIP) Governance Board Meeting. Walter Hill, program manager for the OSMIP scheduled the next OSMIP governance board meeting for May 17, 2011.

New: Tribal Consultation Policy Training. OSEOD has been asked to assist with the design and delivery of training on the DOI Tribal Consultation Policy. OSEOD staff members met with representatives from the AS-PMB office the week of May 9, 2011 to begin discussions on this process and began a process of creating an inventory of existing training.

Ongoing: Forums and Speaker Events.

- On May 18, 2011 the Government wide Senior Executive Service Forum will feature an address from National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Retired), entitled *Leading Through Crisis and Times of Change*. He will address how large, complex organizations react to and manage unprecedented, anomalous events. The forum

will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington, D.C. This forum will be available on Webinar.

- On May 9, 2011 the Government-wide Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum featured the book *It's Not Just Who You Know: Transform Your Life (and Your Organization) by Turning Colleagues and Contacts into Lasting, Genuine Relationships* by Tommy Spaulding. The same speaker was featured on May 10, 2011 as part of the DOI Leadership Forum.

Ongoing: DOI Ethics Training. OSEOD staff met with Margaret Bradley, DOI Ethics Office and Craig Clark, BOR Deputy Ethics Counselor to outline steps for success to offer the upcoming Ethics Skits Satellite Broadcast and resulting video in DOI Learn. Both the broadcast and the video will provide DOI employees the means to achieve their annual one-hour requirement of ethics training.

Update: FISSA 2011 Course. The Learning Technology Solutions Division completed both the paper copy and CD versions of the course. The CD version of the course is available on the CD download website. The paper copy of the course will be distributed as needed. To date, over 36,250 DOI learners have completed the training.

National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC)

New: The Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mr. Andrew Jackson visits the National Indian Programs Training Center. On May 12, 2011, the National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC) hosted a site visit from Andrew Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology, Information and Business Services.

Office of Occupational Safety and Health

New: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Safety and Health Program Evaluation. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protection Programs, conducted a conference call on May 11, 2011 outlining the evaluation team's approach for the Bureau of Land Management's formal Safety and Health Program Evaluation.

New: Safety Management Information System (SMIS) New Employee. Armando Galindo, Safety and Occupational Health Manager, traveled to the Lakewood, Colorado office on May 9, 2011 to welcome and formally orient Rajiv Giri to the OSH SMIS Team. Rajiv comes to us from the private sector and was hired due to his expertise in database programming.

New: Intern Training. Ryan Sloan, an Office of the Secretary Management Intern traveled to the Lakewood, Colorado office on May 9, 2011 for week long training in the budget program. This training is expected to give Ryan valuable insight into the budgeting program and further strengthen his managerial skills.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

New: Congressional Visits. DOI Border Coordinator Andrew has tentatively planned two visits to Congress. On May 18th with Representative Giffords office and on Thursday the 19th with House appropriations staff.

New: Emergency Rescue Beacon on Cabeza Prieta NWR. Border Patrol is relocating rescue beacons due to changes in undocumented alien activity. One of the sites is also in an area of high pronghorn use. Endangered species analysis is being conducted on an emergency basis. The beacon is in place and functioning. At the same time discussion is continuing on determination of the degree of impact that is expected and how it could be mitigated.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. FY 09 and 10 dollars that had been set aside in support of this agreement were lost in the final budget resolution for FY 11. CBP is evaluating other options to support the agreement with end of year funds but no word has been forthcoming as yet on if or how much funding might be available. Discussions on the amendments to the existing Interagency Agreement are continuing so that when funding becomes available the approved projects in the amendment can be executed. The amendments under consideration could make available as much as 22 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. DOI Borderlands Coordinator, Jon Andrew, will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release in mid June followed soon thereafter by public release of the draft. Public meetings will be held no later than July with the comment period closing 45-60 days following release of the draft. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review by DOI personnel.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base (FOB). CBP expects to soon receive draft reports on Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope activity in the project area which will aid in planning for this project. Also, the draft environmental reports are expected within the next week and there are tentative plans to discuss the project with Fish and Wildlife staff as early as next week. This new forward operating base is being funded with FY 2010 dollars. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site now occupied by a temporary camp which was relocated from the Bates Wells area. A coordination meeting on NEPA and ESA draft compliance work is planned for May 24th.continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

Update: Integrated Fixed Towers - OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBIInet). Site visits in the Douglas

area were planned for May 9th, but postponed due to uncertainty over passage of this year's budget. The field review of tower locations went very well. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be in the Douglas, AZ area.

Update: Radio Transformation. Project directors met the week of May 9 to finalize the charter and work plan and to meet with potential partners (Forest Service and Department of Homeland Security). Project directors are waiting for approval to hire a senior-level project manager and will be briefing the executive sponsors on May 16.

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. The DOI transition plan has been signed and transmitted to the Coast Guard.

Update: Fire IT Project. The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) completed meetings fire executives in Interior and Forest Service, the Forest Service CIO, and representatives of the Interior CIO.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. The Alpha version of the module scheduled for review the week of April 25 has been delayed. No new release date has been provided but it is expected soon. Field launch of the module is expected to begin in September of this year.

No Change: Update of Department of the Interior Borderlands Strategy. The last borderlands strategy dealing with security and environmental issues was completed in 2003. DOI Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew has initiated internal scoping for a revised document. Scoping comments will be received until June 3 and a draft document will be prepared and circulated internally for review. A final version of the strategy is expected to move forward in late summer for approval by the Secretary.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The field meeting originally scheduled for early March is now scheduled for May 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for "non-waived" tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft

documents released in late July for Arizona and mid August for California. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis also includes “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing. TIMR contracts for other border maintenance work will be finalized this summer. Each sector will have a Project Manager for this work who will work closely with the Public Lands Liaison Agent to address maintenance needs. CBP will provide a list of these for distribution to DOI field personnel.

No Change: Border Coordinator to Attend Meetings in Arizona and California. DOI Border Coordinator Jon Andrew will attend a meeting near Douglas, Arizona organized by the local ranching community to discuss border related issues. Also in attendance will be Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle and Border Patrol Sector Chief Randy Hill. Following this Andrew will attend a portion of the Borderlands Management Task Force meeting in El Centro and attend a tour of the El Centro area with Bureau of Land Management and BP officials followed by coordination meetings with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Carlsbad, CA.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

No Change: Interagency Interoperability. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (comprised of Interior and Agriculture executives in information technology, fire, and law enforcement) met to discuss priorities, projects, and organization. The group agreed to pursue a Secretarial level charter and to re-configure the group to make it more agile and strategic. Two major sets of initiatives are underway. First is interconnectivity of networks and cross-recognition of credentials. A large interagency conference call took place this week among USDA, FS, and DOI CIO offices, with LESEM, to coordinate and prioritize a number of activities in this area. This work also involves the DOI and USDA Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) program offices. The second initiative is radio program improvement including interoperability, infrastructure consolidation, and use of new technologies. This initiative is being handled through the DOI Radio Transformation Project in partnership with USDA and Forest Service.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. OCIO Directive 2011-005 was signed and issued. Initial planning on interagency (between Interior and Agriculture) is underway.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: OLES Comments on Proposed FLETC Legislation: The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, DHS, has drafted enabling legislation to replace the scattered legislation, budgetary documents and MOUs. Interior is an original signatory to the FLETC consolidated training MOU. The OLES opinion is that the proposed legislation codifies FLETC’s current state of operation, with no negative impact to Interior law enforcement training.

New: Meeting with Arizona Counterterrorism Center (ACTIC): OLES border branch personnel met with DHS Intelligence and Analysis representatives at the ACTIC, the statewide fusion center. Discussed was connectivity and information flow between Interior units in Arizona and the ACTIC.

New: Attendance at CBP’s Valor Memorial Ceremony: OLES border branch personnel attended Customs and Border Protection’s Valor Memorial Ceremony to honor CBP Agents who died in the line of duty over the past year. The event is held as part of Police Week.

New: OLES Hosts DOI 2011 Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony: In recognition of National Police Week, OLES and many bureaus have been involved in activities that culminated in a ceremony in the Yates Auditorium on Monday, May 16 at 1:00pm. The event was well attended as the Secretary was the keynote speaker and highlighted various accomplishments by DOI Law Enforcement. Numerous activities were attended by DOI law enforcement bureaus in recognition of the 2011 National Police Week Ceremony.

New: The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Requested Briefings from OLES on DOI Mission and Responsibilities: On Wednesday, May 18, OLES senior staff will brief ODNI representatives on the DOI mission to better prepare them for field assignments to the southwest border and west coast.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security: The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and C ramp is now opened. Work has started on the A and G ramp bollards.

- **Exterior Guard Booths:** The C ramp guard booth has been installed and is operational. Installation has started on the A and G ramp guard booths.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation has been posted on the GSA schedule and a contractor “walk through” was completed on April 14.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed w/in the next month.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated security upgrade costs associated with this initiative
- **MIB Entrance Re-design:** DAS Andrew Jackson commissioned a study to redesign the C and E street entrances into the MIB. OLES has reviewed and commented on this plan.

Update: OLES Security Assessments: OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall, St Louis Arch, and the Statue. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the USS Constitution in July and the Liberty Bell in August. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been completed at the main BOEMRE facility in New Orleans and at the USGS EROS Data Center located in South Dakota. Also in May OLES conducted a progress review, based on the recommendations listed in the 2009 assessment, at Mount Rushmore.

Update: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee: Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. Specific White House guidance to departments and agencies is forthcoming; a Deputy-level meeting is scheduled for May 17. Tentatively, the DOI has not been selected as a department/agency that will be audited this calendar year but should anticipate such an audit in 2012.

Update: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12: Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request was due by April 29, but the majority of Bureaus/Offices did not comply. OLES Security staff attended the BOA meeting on May 16 to request assistance in acquiring the information. OLES will continue to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management to support this initiative.

No Change: Departmental Personnel Security Review: OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating reviews of all bureaus/office personnel security programs. The reviews are conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. The review of the BOEMRE program supporting the Office of the Secretary was completed this past week. Additional reviews have been scheduled for the USGS, May 2 and FWS, May 16.

Final: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop: This workshop provides required in-service training that satisfies part of the required 40 hour annual training for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge. The Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection from the Department of Homeland Security, Todd Keil, has confirmed his participation as the keynote speaker.

Final: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Unfortunately, per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years. Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individual in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

Final: 444 DM 1 "Physical Protection and Building Security" Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is currently non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled "Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities". The new draft 444 DM is pending a second review from all bureau/office Security Managers. OLES Security hopes to issue the updated version as interim guidance in June of 2011.

Final: OLES Attendance at USNORTHCOM Annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference: As a result of the recent OLES visit to the Southwest border, OLES learned that the USNORTHCOM Joint Task Force-North (JTF-N), located in El Paso, will host its annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference on June 6-9, 2011. This conference identifies and prioritizes U.S. military Civil Support missions, at no cost to the receiving organization, in support of Counterdrug and Counter Narco-Terrorism activities. OLES will send a representative to this conference to represent the Department.

Final: Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Updates provided to the Program Manager's Office, Information Sharing Environment (ISE), for Report to Congress: OLES, together with the OCIO, provided written updates on DOI's progress toward implementing numerous ISE initiatives. The Department is progressing well and will have an automated method of reporting Suspicious Activity Reports once the Incident Management, Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) is fully deployed and operational.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Flooding in the Lower Mississippi Valley:* Record flooding has proceeded down the Mississippi River towards Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. USGS records indicate that this flood rivals the water levels of the 1927 flood which devastated the area. In order to alleviate flooding in Louisiana and attempt to save the levee system around New Orleans, the Corps of Engineers has been opening floodways to divert water away from the mainstem Mississippi. The Chitamacha tribe could experience flooding if there is a levee failure. USGS is maintaining river gages and getting readings, USFWS is preparing refuges for flooding, and BOEMRE is taking measures to prepare their Houma Office for probable inundation.
- *Flooding in Alaska Destroys Native Village:* The State of Alaska Emergency Coordination Center continues to coordinate response to the severe flooding incident at Crooked Creek, an Alaskan Native Village north of Aniak. Flooding was caused by an ice jam in the river near the town. Twenty-four homes were damaged during the flooding and most of the residents evacuated but have now returned to the village.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Fifty-nine DOI personnel continued to work full-time on Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. Oil spill cleanup efforts have been slowed so as not to disturb nesting birds and sea turtles. Planning continues determine and end point for cleanup work; at this time, no areas will be considered to be finished before the end of the 2011 hurricane season.
- *Wildfires:* There are three large wildland fires burning on DOI land in FL, GA and NC. These fires are impacting facilities under the control of FWS and NPS. Currently there are 699 DOI personnel who are actively involved in the interagency firefighting efforts to put down wildland fires. The country is now in National Preparedness Level 2 for wildland firefighting efforts.

Update: National Level Exercise (NLE) 11. The Department and its bureaus are participating in the annual National Level Exercise (NLE) 11 this week. The exercise scenario consists of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the Central U.S. The Secretary, Assistant Secretary PMB, Deputy Assistant Secretary LESEM and Director Office of Emergency Management are scheduled to participate in White House meetings as part of the simulated response. Emergency Coordinators will discuss the scenario and Departmental impacts during a table top exercise on May 18.

Update: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee is participating in NLE 11 this week (see above item.)

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI at the National Security Staff's Chemical Preparedness sub-Interagency Policy Committee. She also participated in the Interagency Animal Zoonotics (IAZ) Committee which is co-chaired by FWS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and has members from FWS, USGS and other non-DOI agencies. The IAZ Committee was formed in response to a GAO study titled "*Agencies Need Better Collaboration in Reducing the Risk of Animal-Related Diseases.*"

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO

has completed EM Rosters Report formats in the Contact Management System (CMS). The next step is to modify individual contact records to implement the sorted reports. **OCIO continues to work on the solution to provide access to CMS email addresses through Outlook.** When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM hosted a work day at Site C to continue preparation for EH-11. Participants conducted tests of vital records access as well as network connections, and also discussed exercise conduct scenarios during the work day. OEM continued the process of briefing Assistant Secretaries and Deputy Assistant Secretaries about their roles and responsibilities for EH-11; OEM briefed the office directors under the DAS-Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition on May 10. Exercise EH-11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration. OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM met with an emergency management representative for the Office of the Chief Information Officer and formulated a plan to update and coordinate necessary changes in the COOP roster for OCIO. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). OEM conducted a tabletop exercise on May 17 with OLES Security and NBC Facilities to review the procedures for evacuating individuals who need assistance during a building emergency. OEM is developing the 2011 update to the DOI Occupant Emergency Plan and Occupant Emergency Employee Guide based on lessons learned from the 2010-2011 evacuations and drills.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM participated in the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs (AS/IA)-sponsored Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) Conference in Green Bay, WI last week. Conclusions from the meeting are being developed and integrated into the expert study.

Update: Single Point Ordering of Resources. OEM held a collaboration meeting with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and the National Park Service (NPS) on May 11 and May 16 which resulted in a consensus as to the concept of operations for integrating NPS all-hazards resources and the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. No significant resources will be required to modify the system to implement the concept; however, there will be resource costs for data management. OEM is currently revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system and plans to brief the Deputies Operating Group (DOG) on progress and costs at the May 26 DOG meeting.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) approved the latest iteration of the *DOI Positions and Qualifications Guide* on

May 4. The updated Guide includes positions that were developed as a direct result of the Gulf Oil Spill. OEM received comments from the EMC on the draft policy regarding emergency incident staffing and will be making changes prior to further EMC review. Both efforts directly support the effort to ensure all DOI responder qualifications are loaded into the same qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system for future emergency response efforts.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy - Phase II. The third of three regional workshops on the “Cohesive Strategy” begins May 23-24 in Atlanta for the southeast region. The northeast region met last week, and the west region convened on May 2-3. These workshops focus on organizing the regional and local members to support Phase II for the cohesive strategy effort. Each of the three regions will develop a qualitative report articulating the region’s values, goals, objectives, and actions and activities which represents the area’s best opportunity to reduce risk. The initial workshops provided an overview of the Phase II process, outcomes, timeframes, and explanation of the assessment process. Subsequent virtual and face-to-face meetings within each region are being planned to support engagement and outreach in the cohesive strategy effort.

New: Community Assistance: OWFC will meet with the Bureau Community Assistance (CA) leads later this week, in order to make plans for allocating FY 2011 Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) funds (should they remain as a portion of the Operating Plan), as well as fulfilling the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) evaluation of the DOI’s CA program.

Update: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service prepared the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. A joint DOI and FS letter is being prepared for submission to Congress.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 continues its progression. The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD) is complete, and was approved by the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) on April 27. Four phases of the TGD are still anticipated, as specific HFPAS details are finalized and approved. Phase 2, determining the process for integration of results of the PPS and the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) is complete, and alternatives for consideration were presented to the bureau fire directors on Friday, May 13. The Directors chose an alternative that will likely be presented to the full Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) on May 31.

No Change: Fire Program Analysis (FPA)/Re-Charter. In preparation for the upcoming independent, external review of the Fire Program Analysis program, OWFC is refreshing select project management documentation to reflect the re-charter.

No Change: Fire Program Analysis/Budget. Based on FPA output, on April 22, the FPA Interagency Advisory Team presented a set of national, strategic budget themes and messages to the FPA Oversight Group (OG) for approval and use in the FY13 budget submissions for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. On April 27, at the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) meeting, members of the OG shared the budget messages with IFEC. The OG decision was supported for the national, strategic budget messages to be used in the FY13 departmental budget submissions.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program/International Fire Conference. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference, May 2011. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

Final: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past. If DOI sponsors the November conference at the \$15,000 level, then it will receive 7 free registrations to distribute. If sponsoring at the \$20,000 level, then 10 registrations would be received.

Final: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April. OWFC, National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Risk Management Committee, DOI Safety and Health Office and USFS Risk Management Office will work together to address OSHA's June 11, 2009 PPE interpretation letter specific to situation 3 and develop a recommended way forward.

Final: DOI International Fire Program/Australia Arrangement. OWFC is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

Final: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. The next geo-area, South Central was delivered April 22. Production work is on schedule for the remaining geo-areas (Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii). The first through fifth geo-areas have been delivered: the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, and North Central. Updating LANDFIRE data products as part of the Refresh project is focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as: wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters.

Final: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points: (1) success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget, (2) submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC, and (3) discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

Final: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to jointly operate a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use of the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Interior and Agriculture, soon.

Final: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: DOI Nominations for 2011 Federal Energy Management and Water Management Awards: The Office of Acquisition and Property Management provided eight nominations to the Department of Energy’s Federal Energy Management Program 2011 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards. These awards recognize outstanding achievements in energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, and fleet management within the Federal Government. Awards will be presented during a ceremony to be scheduled this summer. DOI’s exceptional service nominee is David Guthrie of the FWS. The DOI project nominees include:

- USGS Great Lakes Science Center, Michigan - Energy Savings Performance Contract;
- NPS Biscayne National Park, Florida – Renewable Energy Installation at Adams Key;
- FWS Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, Massachusetts – Visitor Center;
- FWS Morris Wetland Management District, Minnesota – Office/Visitor Center;
- FWS Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Montana – Hybrid Solar Photovoltaic and Wind Energy System;

- FWS San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, California – Headquarters Office Renovation; and
- FWS Turnball National Wildlife Refuge, Washington – Maintenance Shop Energy Renovations.

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program – Recent Actions. On May 10, 2011, DOI issued Notices of Proposed Debarment under the non-procurement rule for Chief Holy Star Fish; Wilma Jamie Rae Hoyt; Alvin Dale Lazyboy; Durand Tyland Bear Medicine; Bonita Plenty Horse; Marty Dee Heavy Runner; and Sievert Daydrill Running Crane. DOI based the actions on the individuals' criminal convictions for theft from the Blackfeet Indian tribal organization.

New: GSA Expo 2011 Conference. During the week of May 9, 2011, staff from the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) participated in GSA's annual GSA Expo conference, in San Diego, CA. During the conference, PAM staff conducted Strategic Sourcing training and participated in the Acquisition mentoring program, both of which were well received by representatives of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI). OMB commented on DOI's energetic presentation and its mission-centric approach to strategic sourcing; and FAI commented on the Interior's leadership and commitment to developing future business leaders.

During the GSA Expo, PAM staff leveraged the opportunity to engage bureau representatives from across the Nation by hosting two Departmental meetings on the Strategic Sourcing Initiatives for Wireless Service and IT Hardware. Both meetings were productive and resulted in significant progress to further these initiatives. Interior also participated in Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative meetings on Wireless and Print Management; and met with representatives from Federal Express, Verizon Federal, and Xerox, three of its SSI vendor partners.

Office of Budget

Update: 2013 Budget Formulation. On April 21, the Office of Budget issued initial 2013 formulation policy guidance from the DAS-BFPA to bureau budget officers. This guidance contained bureau/office planning targets for the Departmental submission, due May 31, as well as fixed cost placeholder estimates, funding levels for Secretarial initiatives, and a tentative schedule for the 2013 formulation process. In anticipation of significant budget reductions in 2012 Appropriations, POB is working with bureaus and offices on reduction scenarios in line with the House-passed budget resolution – a reduction of ten percent below the 2011 level.

No Change: OMB Travel. The week of June 26, OMB Examiner James Hurban will visit the Rocky Mountain Region to review BIA and OST programs.

Office of Financial Management

New: Internal Control Training Program. PMB is rolling out a new internal control training program, which includes a short, focused hour-long training session for senior managers and a two-day workshop for program managers. Three locations have been chosen to launch the

training: June 21-22 in Denver, CO; June 28-29 in Reston, VA; July 13-14 in Portland, OR. Please go to DOI Learn to sign up.

New: Assessment of the Financial and Business Management System. DOI has reviewed McKinsey’s draft of the Task 5 deliverable “Project Governance Assessment Report” on Thursday. A walkthrough of Task 5 was provided to the sponsors at the weekly meeting on May 13 by the contractor. A daily status call is held at the Herndon project management office with extended sessions on Thursday for deliverable review.

New: Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA). PFM participated in the Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) workgroup hosted by the Department of Commerce. Several agencies exchanged ideas on implementing the final guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget on IPERA. Although many agencies are not far along in establishing payment recapture audits, some include the review of improper payments in the annual A-123 risk assessments.

Ongoing: GAO Draft Report. PFM received and processed the following GAO reports:

- GAO Draft report on *Antibiotic Resistance* (GAO-11-406). There are no recommendations to the Department. Any technical comments are due to GAO by May 20, 2011.
- GAO Draft report on *Business Contracting* (GAO-11-418). Comments on the draft report were sent to GAO on Thursday, May 12.

Ongoing: Pollution Removal Fund Authority (PRFA) Cost Reimbursement. PFM received notification from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) that a total of \$414,342 was paid for the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance share of recovery effort performed related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

No change: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. Quarterly Status meetings were held with David Hayes on four of the five Priority Goals. The Safe Indian Communities goal meeting is scheduled for May 23. Goal Progress Updates are on the performance.gov website for review by OMB. Comments on the materials were received on Monday, May 16.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Small Business Accomplishments: With the release of 2011 operating plans, bureaus and offices are working at high speed to obligate funds and award contracts. We are well on the way to achieve the Department’s Small Business goals. As of May 9, 2011, accomplishments are as follows:

Program	DOI FY 2011 Goals	FY 2011 Year-to-Date – As of May 9, 2011		
		Contract Dollars Obligated*	Percentage of Small Business	Progress toward Goals

			Contracts	
Total Contracts		\$969,612,131		
Small Business	56.69%	\$493,857,523	50.93%	90%
Small Disadvantage Business Program	21.30%	\$193,535,919	19.96%	94%
8(a) Program**	12.30%	\$109,301,341	11.27%	92%
HUBZone	10.33%	\$67,000,548	6.91%	67%
Women Owned	10.36%	\$104,663,891	10.79%	Achieved!
Service Disabled Veteran	3.00%	\$18,243,442	1.88%	63%

New Item: Implementation of White House Small Business Procurement Group Recommendations. The OSDBU is working in conjunction with the PAM Office to address White House recommendations on sustaining the high level of task orders awarded under multiple-award contracts to small businesses. OSDBU is examining the tool used by GSA and DOD to evaluate small business spending on multiple award contracts.

Update: Small Business Administration (SBA) Fiscal Year 2010 Goaling Report and Scorecard: The SBA will release the draft FY 2010 Scorecard to Federal agencies the week of May 16 and agencies must submit their comments by Friday, May, 27. The SBA will then release the FY 2010 Goaling Report and Scorecards in mid-June.

Update: CelebrAsian 2011. In support of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the OSDBU will represent the Department at CelebrAsian 2011 in Los Angeles, California on May 23-25. CelebrAsian is the oldest and largest Pan Asian American Business Opportunity Conference in the United States.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 3: Construction Outreach Event:** This event will be held at the Yates Auditorium during the evening hours. Registration for the event is open.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration for the event is open.
- **September 15 (tentative) New Mexico Outreach Event in Albuquerque, NM.** Further details to be provided when finalized.

Update: Webinar Scheduled. OSBDU has scheduled the following upcoming webinar:

- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: Lean/Agile Project Management in an SAP Environment Training. On May 9, 2011, the FBMS PMO hosted a day-long workshop on Lean/Agile Project Management in an SAP Environment in Herndon, VA. The workshop was conducted to introduce 20

members of the FBMS PMO staff to the Principles of Lean Thinking and Agile Techniques that can be used to enhance an organization's effectiveness.

New: FBMS Deployment 5 End User Acceptance Survey. The survey opened on May 10 and will close on May 20 and survey analysis will be completed by June 10. The survey will provide feedback on:

- The FBMS PMO and communications and training activities;
- FBMS user experiences over the past 4 – 6 months; and
- Suggestions on ways to enhance the experiences of future DOI FBMS users.

Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office

New: FBMS Cycle 2 Testing. The Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office (OS IMO) is working to develop an internal project plan and identify lead testers for Cycle 2 testing that will begin in July. These testers will primarily be subject matter experts that are daily system users. User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which begins in August, will require a different audience of testers that will bring more OS users into the testing labs. Both testing cycles are carried out in PMO labs in Herndon and Denver.

New: Training Workshops. The OS IMO is preparing plans for training workshops that will begin in July. Tentative workshops are scheduled for July 12-13, August 10-11, and September 6-7.

Update: ONRR Conversion to OS. OS IMO has been working closely with ONRR to develop a strategy for transitioning ONRR from BOEMRE support to OS support. ONRR financial transactions will be processed through BOEMRE through FY 2012 and acquisition support will be provided by the National Business Center Acquisition Services Directorate. A scope meeting was held on Tuesday, May 10 with ONRR stakeholders and FBMS IMO core team and a follow up meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th.

No change: Organizational Change Management. The final OS-led role mapping workshop will be held on May 18-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently. The PMO is planning a role mapping workshop for the deploying bureaus June 7-8 to provide information on: (1) Substantive changes to redeploy roles; (2) New roles; (3) Updates to SOD rules; (4) Updates to the EURMW; and (5) Updates to the role mapping timeline.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Report to Congress: Analysis of RSFA Provisions and Adjustments to Royalty Payments (No Change): ONRR will be submitting for Departmental review a report to Congress as requested in GAO-08-893R, *Mineral Revenues: Data Management Problems and Reliance on Self-Reported Data for Compliance Efforts Put MMS Royalty Calculations at Risk*. The report

examines the six-year time period during which companies may adjust their Federal royalty data without ONRR approval and ONRR's seven year time period for issuing monetary demands. The report notes that the majority of company adjustments occur within the first three years of the six-year period.

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations(No Change): ONRR has prepared two *Federal Register* Notices including an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Federal Gas Valuation Regulations; and an ANPR for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Regulations. ONRR also developed a communications plan and press release to announce the publication of the ANPRs. The Deputy Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget have been briefed on the issue.

Indian Oil Negotiated Rulemaking (No Change): ONRR is in the process of forming a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) to address the valuation of crude oil produced from Indian leases. ONRR is working with the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution and the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to obtain a third party neutral to serve as facilitator for the Committee. In addition, ONRR has submitted the proposed nominees to the White House liaison for vetting. Once the White House liaison approves the members, the Department will publish *Federal Register* notices announcing the members and establishing the Committee. Additionally, the Secretary will need to sign the charter for filing with Congress. The estimated timeframe for holding the first meeting of the Committee is August 2011.

Update to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases Related to Index Zones (No Change): The Economic and Market Analysis Office (EMAO) is proposing changes to the Indian gas valuation regulations that will remove certain illiquid natural gas index prices from the Indian Index Zone calculation. These changes will potentially increase natural gas royalty revenues for Indian leases located in Oklahoma Zone 1, Oklahoma Zone 2, and the Central Rocky Mountain Zone. EMAO is participating with State and Indian Coordination to conduct outreach to Indians affected by these regulatory changes. EMAO has drafted a FR Notice to publish the changes to the calculation.

Tribal Consultation Letter (No Change): ONRR has invited tribal leaders to three meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could affect the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. These meetings will take place in Albuquerque, NM on May 19, 2011, Denver, CO on May 26, 2011, and Oklahoma City on June 9, 2011. The consultation meetings will open dialogue with Indian Tribes on potential changes including valuing crude oil produced from Indian leases, removing certain natural gas index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal valuation regulations.

Agreement Reached Between ConocoPhillips, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and ONRR (New): ConocoPhillips, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and ONRR reached an agreement in principle resolving four orders ONRR issued. The orders involved the valuation of oil, underreported gas volumes, under and overpaid royalties, gross proceeds, transportation and processing allowances, not allocating costs between products, and failure to report and pay

royalties from Jicarilla Apache Nation leases for time periods ranging from December 1992 to July 2009.

Data Mining Enhancements Implementation Work Group (IWG) Highlights (New): The Data Mining Enhancements IWG held a detailed brainstorming session the week of May 9, 2011, resulting in many reporting issues to focus on. The group categorized the items and is now developing and prioritizing solutions, including upfront edits and business intelligence dashboards. The group reports that many of these solutions are feasible in the near future.

New Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO) Director (New): Albert Bond, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, became the new Farmington, New Mexico FIMO Director on May 10, 2011. The Farmington FIMO coordinates the mineral activities of the BIA, BLM, and MMS and offers one-stop shopping for Navajo allotted lease mineral owners. The FIMO Director has delegated authority to act on behalf of the three agencies for actions covering Indian allotted lands under its jurisdiction.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers, records developed under the Agreement, and equipment.

- New Mexico review on May 31-June 2, 2011
- Utah review on June 7-8, 2011

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR's goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Ute Mountain Ute Agency, Towaoc, CO, on May 24, 2011
- Southern Ute Agency & Southern Ute Senior Ctr, Ignacio, CO, on May 25, 2011
- Pawnee Tribe, Pawnee, OK, on May 25, 2011 (morning session)
- Otoe Tribe, Red Rock, OK, on May 25, 2011 (afternoon session)
- Ponca Tribe, Ponca City, OK on May 25, 2011 (evening session)
- Ojo Encino Chapter House, Ojo Encino, NM, on June 8, 2011

OIG - Reports Awaiting Management Response

May 20, 2011

Reports	Report Title	Bureau/ Office	Status	Response Due Date	Contact	Comments	PFM Action/Remarks
Draft ER-IN-BIA-0016-2009	BIA- Wildland Fire Suppression	BIA	Due	6/1/2011	Patty Vendzules		
Draft HI-EV-NPS-0001-2010	National Park Service: Climate Friendly Parks Initiative	NPS	Due	5/31/2011			
Final K-CX-BOEM-0001-2011	Final Costs Incurred by Accenture,LLP under Contract No. M99PC14572, with BOEMRE	BOEMRE		5/16/2011	Andrea Nygren		George Kelley has been in communication with the OIG. No formal letter has been prepared yet. Will follow-up with an email regarding the status of the finding.
Final K-CX-BOR-0003-2010	Martin Brothers Construction, Inc. Request for Equitable Adjustment under Contract No. R10PC20747, Modification No. 2, with the Bureau of Reclamation	BOR	BOR	6/22/2011			
Draft R-GR-FWS-0003-2011	Arizona Department of Game and Fish	FWS	Due	6/13/2011			
Draft R-GR-FWS-0005-2011	South Carolina Dept of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Division of Marine Resources	FWS	Due	6/16/2011			
Draft R-GR-FWS-0014-2010	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	FWS	Completed	5/9/2011			Response submitted to the OIG on 5/13/11.

Early Alert - Coming up
Due - Due within 10 business days or less of the response due date.
Late - After the response due date.
Extension - Reports that have been granted a response due date extension.
Completed - Response sent to OIG.

GAO - Reports Awaiting Management Response
May 20, 2011

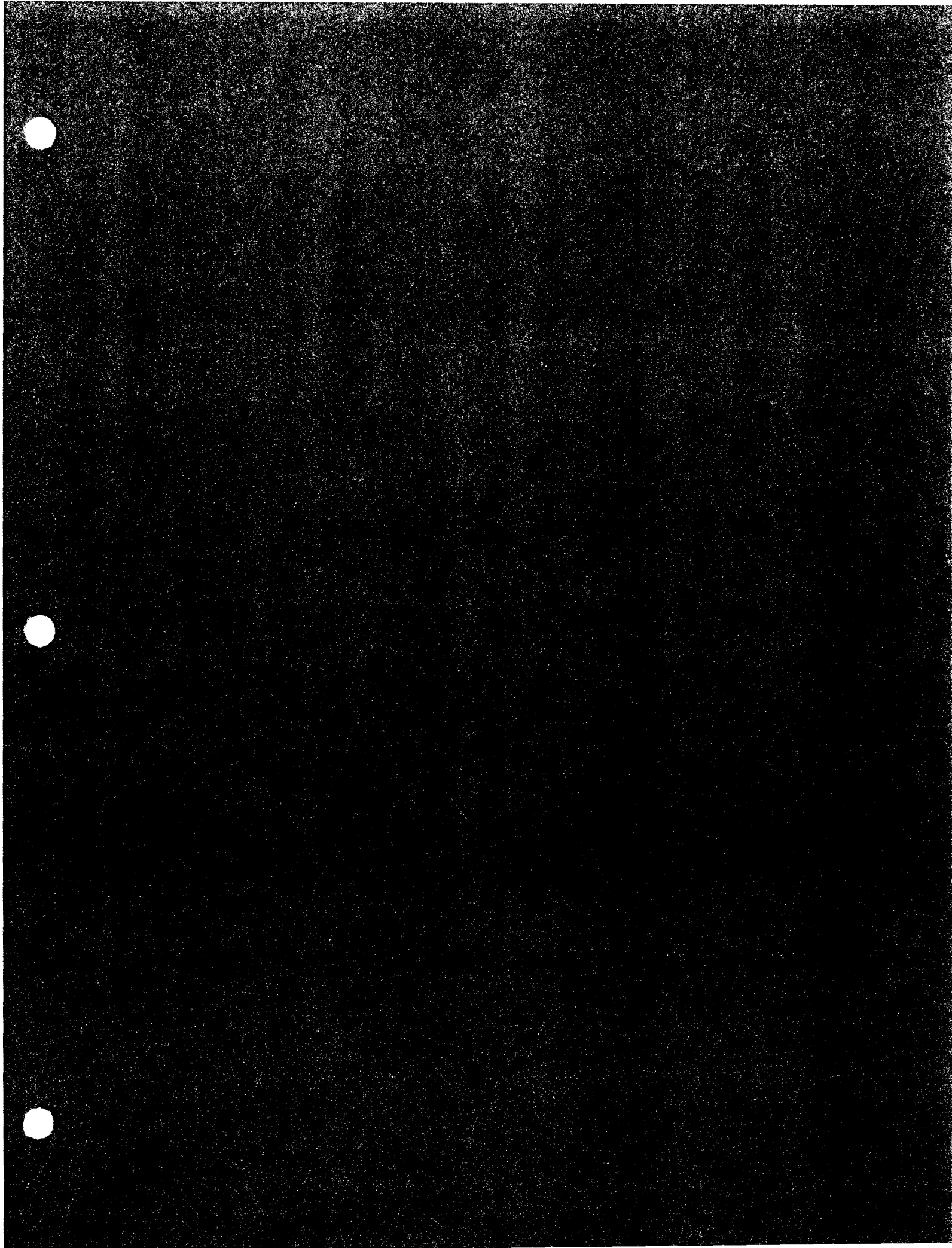
Reports	Report Title	Lead Bureau/ Office	Status	Response Due Date	Contact	Current Location/Comments
Final GAO-11-252	INDIAN COUNTRY CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Departments of Interior and Justice Should Strengthen Coordination to Support Tribal Courts	IA	Completed	5/10/2011	Nancy Thomas 208-7954	Final letters mailed out on May 17th.
Draft GAO-11-427	AMERICAN SAMOA AND CNMI: Employment, Earnings, and Status of Key Industries Since Minimum Wage Increases Began	OIAF	Due	5/26/2011	Nancy Thomas 208-7954	
Draft GAO-11-605	SOCIAL MEDIA: Federal Agencies Need Policies and Procedures for Managing and Protecting Information They Access and Disseminate	OCIO	Completed	5/27/2011	Nancy Thomas 208-7954	Emailed technical comments and additional documentation as promised to GAO on May 17th..
Draft GAO-11-406	ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE: Data Gaps Will Remain Despite HHS Taking Steps to Improve Monitoring	USGS	Completed	5/20/2011	Nancy Thomas 208-7954	Technical comments emailed on May 19th.

OIG AND GAO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS
FY 2011 DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE GOAL FOR CLOSING AUDITS
As of May 20, 2011

BUREAU	Beginning Balance OIG	Additions OIG	Beginning Balance GAO	Additions GAO	COUNT		WEIGHTED		GOAL BASE %
					TOTAL RECS	IMPLEMENTED	OPEN	IMPLEMENTED	
DEPT/OS	17	35	13	11	76	17	67.5	17.5	26%
NBC	2	4	0	0	6	6	5.0	5.0	100%
OST	2	5	0	0	7	2	7.0	2.0	29%
ONRR	6	6	5	0	17	3	13.0	1.5	12%
IA	15	20	3	1	39	6	34.0	8.0	24%
NPS	5	25	5	0	35	17	28.0	11.0	39%
FWS	2	15	2	0	19	4	17.5	3.0	17%
BLM	20	21	22	0	63	12	57.5	13.0	23%
BOEM	5	39	9	0	53	28	54.5	29.5	54%
OSM	0	2	0	0	2	0	2.5	0.0	0%
BOR	0	3	0	1	4	2	4.5	2.0	44%
USGS	1	5	3	0	9	5	8.0	4.5	56%
TOTAL	75	180	62	13	330	102	299.0	97.0	32%

Departmental Annual Performance Goal = 85% (weighted)

While OIG recommendations are weighted .5, 1.0, or 1.5 according to their materiality and/or level of qualification assigned by the auditors, all GAO recommendations have a fixed weight of 1.0.



Wk of May 13, 2011.

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

SOL Weekly Bureau Report for the Week Beginning May 16, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Issues:

EnSCO Litigation

On May 10, Judge Feldman issued an adverse decision on Count IV of the EnSCO complaint, which alleges undue delay in acting upon applications for permit to drill. Adopting the reasoning used in its preliminary injunction decision, the court once again held that BOEMRE has a duty to decide whether to approve permits within 30 days; accordingly, the court ordered BOEMRE to “act on the six pending permit applications within thirty days of this Order.” Notably, the court specifically rejected the option (suggested by plaintiffs) of returning an application with clear instructions on what modifications are needed. Thus, the court’s order requires BOEMRE to either approve or reject the six permits. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

BOP Examination

The additional BOP testing ordered by the multi-district litigation is continuing at the Michoud site in New Orleans. Testing is ordered to be completed by June 15, 2011. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

The BOEMRE JIT team is continuing to review the supplemental report provided by the forensic examiner, DNV, in conjunction with preparation of Volume II of the JIT report.

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

Discovery in the MDL is ongoing and various units of the Solicitor’s Office are working to respond to BP’s vast request for production of documents. The Solicitor’s Office is also working with the Justice Department to cover depositions, beginning in July, for several BOEMRE witnesses from the Gulf of Mexico Region. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Other Issues:

Endangered Species Act Multi-District Litigation

On May 10, the United States and WildEarth Guardians filed the settlement agreement which provides that FWS will complete numerous actions within the next two years, and within six years will resolve the listing status of all 251 species that had been identified as candidates for

listing as of the 2010 Candidate Notice of Review. In exchange, Guardians will not file any deadline or warranted-but-precluded challenges for six and a half years, will submit new petitions to list no more than 10 species each year, will seek to dismiss the five existing warranted-but-precluded cases in which they are one of the plaintiffs, and will use “best efforts” to ensure that litigation by other parties does not interfere with FWS’s ability to comply with this agreement. We are working with DOJ on notices to inform the courts in the six existing warranted-but-precluded cases of this agreement and of our intention to seek stays pending the court’s approval of the settlement agreement.

Western Oregon Timber

In light of the vacatur and remand of the Department’s decision to withdraw the 2008 Western Oregon Plan Revisions RODs, environmental plaintiffs have re-filed their earlier challenge to BLM’s 2008 RODs. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

PI or TRO Expected on the Ivanpah Solar Project

The BLM re-initiated ESA consultation in February on the Ivanpah solar project because the BLM and FWS determined that take limits for translocated adult desert tortoise had been exceeded. (b) (5)
(b) (5) We
(b) (5) Plaintiffs have threatened to seek an
injunction unless BLM stops all work on the project, including work on Phase 1, due to their
belief that additional take of desert tortoises will occur.(b) (5)
(b) (5)

Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park Litigation

The plaintiffs challenged the NPS’s approval in 2008 and again in 2011 of revisions requested by the State of New York to the boundary for Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park in Brooklyn. Those revisions included removing the Tobacco Warehouse and Empire Stores Warehouse buildings from the project boundary, thereby eliminating the requirement under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act that the buildings be used for purposes consistent with public outdoor recreation. On April 8, the court ordered the NPS to restore in the interim the original 2001 boundary for the state park. The court has now rejected the parties’ proposed schedule for summary judgment motion briefing that would not have ended until July, and instead ordered the parties to immediately submit a revised schedule with a duration of no more than 30 days. It is
(b) (5)

Challenges to Wildlands Order

On April 29, 2011, Utah filed a facial challenge to Secretarial Order 3310 arguing that the Department lacks any authority under the FLPMA to issue the Order or to direct BLM to identify and protect lands with wilderness characteristics and potentially designate such lands as “Wild Lands.” The complaint also asserts that by issuing the Order, the Department and the BLM violated the procedural requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and FLPMA. Utah specifically alleges the Order represents a departure from established practices and interpretations of BLM’s management, which required the Department to take affirmative procedural steps before issuing the Order. The complaint is substantially similar to Uintah County’s lawsuit, and in fact, with the exception of Claim 1 (that the issuance of the Order is an *Ultra Vires* act) all of the claims included in Utah’s complaint are identical to Uintah County’s claims. Additionally, the State of Alaska has moved to participate as amicus curiae.

(b) (5)

In that suit, Plaintiffs allege, among other things, that the Secretarial Wildlands Order (S.O. 3310) is a breach of the Norton-Leavitt settlement agreement, that FLPMA does not authorize BLM to manage for protection of wilderness outside of the section 603 of FLMPA, and that the even if the Secretary had the authority to adopt S.O. 3310, a notice and comment rulemaking was required. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Eagle Mountain Land Exchange

On May 10, 2011, the District Court for the Central District of California issued its remand order in this case. The court did not grant plaintiffs’ request to unwind the existing land exchange. Except for retention of jurisdiction for future proceedings, judicial review of this matter is now complete and the matter has been remanded to BLM to address the FLPMA “highest and best use” requirement, and the following NEPA issues: (1) eutrophication; (2) statement of “purpose and need”; and (3) analysis of “reasonable range of alternatives.” Defendants enjoined from engaging in any action that would change the character and use of the exchanged properties pending the BLM’s preparation of a ROD consistent with the Ninth Circuit’s decision and an EIS which addresses the deficiencies identified by the court.

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (“TCID”) Recoupment Lawsuit

This case, which began in 1996, involves efforts to recover water that TCID illegally diverted into the Newlands Project during the 1970s and 80s. The diversions were in excess of the limits allowed by federal regulations known as the Operating Criteria and Procedures. The Ninth Circuit remanded the case with (b) (5)

(b) (5)

The district court has order the parties to file briefs to determine compliance with the remand by May 25, 2011. The briefs will address how much additional water is owed to the U.S. and whether interest in the form of water is owed to the U.S.

Court Rules that DOI Must Fund Tribal Contract Support

The Tenth Circuit held that the appropriations cap established by Congress for federal funding of programs carried out by tribes through the Indian Self-Determination Act (ISDEAA) did not relieve the Department of its statutory obligation to fully fund contract support costs because the total of annual appropriations are sufficient to cover contract support costs for any individual contract. The court held that the only remedy is an amendment to the ISDEAA or a tribe-by-tribe limitation in the appropriations act. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Oil Shale Litigation

On May 10, 2011, the district court denied Industry intervenors' motion to reopen the oil shale regulations case and motion for oral argument. The court found that the settlement agreement between plaintiffs and the Secretary did not require the court's approval, and did not prejudice intervenors' interests. Thus the case remains administratively closed. On the same day, the court also denied the intervenor's identical motions in the case concerning the oil shale RMP amendments and PEIS. That case also remains administratively closed.

Proposed (b) (5)

Guidance

(b) (5)

Settlement of Quiet Title Action with the State of Utah

The State of Utah filed the lawsuit in 1997 primarily to obtain an adjudication of the boundary between the bed of Utah Lake and the upland riparian lands owned by the United States. The lawsuit stems from Utah Division of State Lands v. United States, (1987), in which the Supreme Court held that ownership of the bed of Utah Lake passed to Utah at the time of its statehood in 1896 under the equal footing doctrine. However, in its decision, the Court did not identify the specific boundary between the bed of the Lake and upland properties. The bulk of the claims in the 1997 lawsuit were settled in September 2001, leaving as the remaining issues in the lawsuit the location of the boundary in relation to two non-contiguous parcels of land located in a relatively marshy area on the east side of the Lake known as the Powell Slough. Following extensive negotiations, the State and the United States executed a final settlement under which

the United States has clear title to approximately 424 acres of land, and the State has clear title to approximately 301 acres of land. On April 14, 2011, the court issued an order approving and ratifying the settlement, quieting title in accordance with its terms, and dismissing with prejudice the State's remaining claims in the lawsuit against the United States.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
May 13, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

National Mall and Memorial Parks (DC) – Wayfinding Project Media Event. A media event will be held on May 17, 2011 at 11:00 am to unveil the first of the new wayfinding signs to be put in place along the National Mall. The event will occur adjacent to the Smithsonian Metro Station. The event will unveil a new map, 17 feet by 8 feet, at the metro station. This is the first sign to be installed this spring on the National Mall as part of a partner project between the NPS and the Trust for the National Mall (the park's official fundraising partner). The Smithsonian Institution and other adjacent agencies to the Mall, the D.C. Office of Planning, and local business improvement districts cooperated in the planning and design of the visitor wayfinding system to help ensure that it meets the high standards set by the museums, monuments, and downtown areas of the Nation's capital. The wayfinding project is a \$2.2 million effort funded through the NPS Centennial Initiative in partnership with the Trust for the National Mall. All existing signs will be replaced with unified elements for effective visitor information.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (AL) - Deed Signed to Transfer Land for Visitor Facilities. A deed between Lowndes County, Alabama and the National Park Service has been signed, adding a little over 20 acres of land to the Selma to Montgomery NHT in central Alabama. The three parcels of land were formerly managed by the Alabama Department of Transportation and have been conveyed to the NPS for a rest area and interpretive contact station. The quitclaim deed was signed on May 4, 2011.

President's Park (DC) – South NEPA Project. Public scoping on the interagency President's Park South project closed on March 22, 2011. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) has announced its five finalists firms for the design competition they are holding to help develop alternatives for the NEPA Environmental Assessment. The firms are: Hood Design Studio; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architects; Rogers Marvel Architects; and SASAKI. The NCPC will hold a public meeting in July on the design submissions after which it will pick a winning design. Along with the results of the public scoping and other alternatives for the area, all of the design submissions will be used by the NPS and U.S. Secret Service in developing alternatives for the Environmental Assessment in the fall of 2011.

ON THE HORIZON

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (MO) – Revitalization of the Memorial. The Notice of Intent for the Environmental Assessment to Evaluate Alternatives for the Revitalization of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial will be forthcoming for approval. The proposed action involves physical changes to the Memorial's grounds and

facilities to improve visitor access and experience while better integrating the Memorial into the downtown St. Louis area.

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science – Update on Oil and Gas MOU. An Oil and Gas MOU is being finalized for signature by the end of May by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and the EPA Administrator. The MOU will establish mutually acceptable procedures for NEPA analysis of impacts to air quality and air quality related values associated with oil and gas development on federal lands. Governor Mead (WY) sent a letter to Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack and EPA Administrator Jackson expressing concerns that the MOU could encroach on Wyoming’s authority to protect its air quality. The draft response, which clarifies that the MOU acknowledges the states’ authorities to protect their resources and provides assurances that states will continue to be involved in oil and gas planning and development activities on federal lands, is in surname.

Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Public Meetings for Backcountry Management Plan. The NPS will hold three public meetings to discuss the revision of Grand Canyon National Park’s 1988 Backcountry Management Plan; the meetings will be in late May and early June. A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and revised Backcountry Management Plan was published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2011. That marked the beginning of the process to identify, analyze, and disclose the potential impacts of actions that could be taken to manage Grand Canyon’s extensive backcountry resources.

Week Ahead Reprt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
May 9, 2011

Wind Energy

FWS is developing a strategy to sort and respond to the 20,000+ comments for the draft Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines received so far in the electronic mailbox. The comment period for the draft Guidelines ends May 19, 2011. More comments are anticipated. The comments are being placed on FWS' Wind Energy website. The majority of the comments are form letters from conservation groups, particularly the American Bird Conservancy. Individual, substantive comments are expected from the American Wind Energy Association, industry and members of the Wind Turbine Federal Advisory Committee. Potentially controversial.

Settlement of ESA Multidistrict Litigation (MDL)

On May 10, 2011, the Department of the Interior announced its plan to take the FWS Endangered Species listing program out of the courts and return it to the FWS to manage based on biological priorities. The plan provides certainty and predictability for 251 species on the candidate list over the next 6 years; these species will either be added to the list of threatened or endangered species, or determined not to warrant listing. The plan also allows FWS to balance the species listing duties rather than be skewed to one activity by courts. The plan, which is outlined in a settlement agreement with WildEarth Guardians will resolve lawsuits for over 100 species. Guardians, FWS's largest litigant in recent years, has agreed to stand-down on petitions and lawsuits to allow FWS to restore balance to the listing program. *Potential Issues:* Some of the 251 species will be controversial: greater sage-grouse, Gunnison's sage-grouse, lesser prairie chicken, and Sonoran Desert tortoise.

Notice and Request for Public Comment on Draft Policy Interpreting "Significant Portion of its Range" Under the ESA

The FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service are taking this action as the result of court decisions that are causing the Department to rescind its prior interpretation regarding the meaning of "significant portion of its range" (SPR) in the ESA's definitions of "endangered species" and "threatened species." The draft policy reflects a permissible reading of the law and its legislative history, and minimizes undesirable policy outcomes while fulfilling the conservation purposes of the ESA. *Potential Issues:* We expect a high level of interest from environmental groups, industry groups, states, and tribes, and other federal agencies. Plaintiffs from prior SPR litigation may pay particular attention to the notice. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 8, 2011.

Final Rule to Delist the Lake Erie Water Snake Due to Recovery under the ESA

Based on a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial data, the FWS determines that the Lake Erie water snake has recovered and no longer requires protection under the ESA. The known threats have been addressed, all the criteria in the recovery plan have been met, and annual population estimates show a steady growth trend. *Potential Issues:* We do not expect this action to be controversial. The Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife submitted a letter

strongly supporting the delisting. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 8, 2011.

Proposed Rule to Revise the Existing 4(d) Rule for the Utah Prairie Dog

This proposed rule primarily institutionalizes existing Utah Division of Wildlife Resources practices. The rule proposes to establish a new incidental take exemption, limitations on direct take, and requests comments on current use of lead munitions in permitted take of Utah prairie dog. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Target

date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is mid-to-late May 10, 2011.

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge CCP

Briefings are scheduled May 25 and May 26 with FWS and DOI and members of the Idaho Congressional delegation on four preliminary alternatives for charting the future management of Deer Flat NWR. . A briefing on the preliminary draft alternatives has been scheduled with the Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks on May 26. The briefings are in advance of sharing the draft CCP and preliminary alternatives with the public. Level of controversy: high locally.

Final Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for the Lane Mountain Milk-Vetch

The FWS is designating revised critical habitat for the Lane Mountain milk vetch in compliance with a June 27, 2008, settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). The FWS agreed to deliver a final revised critical habitat designation to the *Federal Register* by May 16, 2011. *Potential Issues:* CBD is concerned that Army lands will now be exempted under section 4(a)(3) of the ESA. OHV users and recreational miners do not want the Coolgardie area “set aside” impacting their freedom to access these public lands. The rule clarifies that critical habitat designation will not curtail legal access to these lands. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 16, 2011.

12-month Finding on a Petition to List the Eastern Population of Gopher Tortoise

The final draft 12-month finding concludes that listing the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range is warranted but precluded. The species is already listed as threatened in the western portion of its range *Potential Issues:* The FWS expects significant debate on the effects of listing on Department of Defense activities, silvicultural actions, and development. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 2, 2011.

Coal Mining

The interagency Cumulative Impact Assessment team met last week to develop recommendations for managers at Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and Office of Surface Mining. The team is using landscape conservation approaches, including the watershed approach, to develop an integrated tool to assess cumulative impacts to aquatic resources at the watershed level, due to surface coal mining activities. Several issues were discovered during the meeting, including the need for quality data

by all agencies and how to obtain data from the states. This is an innovative approach that could result in significant improvements in project review and reduction of impacts to terrestrial and aquatic resources. Not controversial.

Honey Prairie Fire at Okefenokee NWR

Okefenokee NWR is managing the Honey Prairie wildfire in the southwestern portion of the Refuge. Water levels are currently running about a foot below the levels in 2007, when wildfires burned most of the Refuge, and it appears likely that this will be a large long duration wildfire. A unified command has been established with the Refuge, Georgia Forestry Commission, Florida Department of Forestry, and Osceolan National Forest, and a Type 2 Incident Management Team has been ordered.

90-day Finding on a Petition to List the Eastern Small-footed Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat

The FWS received a petition dated January 21, 2010, from the Center for Biological Diversity requesting that the eastern small-footed bat and northern long-eared bat be listed as threatened or endangered, and that critical habitat be designated under the ESA. The FWS finds that the petition presents substantial information to indicate that listing may be warranted, primarily due to threats from white-nose syndrome. *Potential Issues:* The FWS does not believe this action will be controversial. The target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 10, 2011.

Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Development of Natural Gas Pipeline

FWS has received a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Application for an Incidental Take Permit from NiSource, Inc, a natural gas pipeline company headquartered in Merrillville, Indiana. FWS Regions 3, 4, and 5 have worked with NiSource over the last 6 years to develop the MSHCP and the Service has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to accompany the application package. The MSHCP proposes a 50--year permit for certain natural gas pipeline activities over 14 states, spanning lands from Louisiana to New York. FWS expects to issue a notice announcing the availability of the documents and opening a 90-day comment period in the near future.

Barred Owl Report

The next issue of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, due out in late May/early June, will include a paper titled, "Barred Owl Occupancy Surveys within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl," the result of research collaboration funded by several state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS. The paper indicates barred owls are more abundant than generally recognized in coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest, a finding with likely implications for the recovery of the threatened northern spotted owl. The researchers also found that barred owls were most likely to be found in the structurally diverse forests of mature and old trees that are almost entirely limited to public lands. Related studies about the competitive interactions between barred owls and spotted owls are under way, with results anticipated this summer. The report is likely generate high interest because the Service has identified barred owls as a major threat to northern spotted owls and has proposed shooting barred owls to reduce that threat.

Franciscan Manzanita 12-month Finding

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will release a 12-month finding on the Franciscan Manzanita. This plant species had been thought extinct in the wild until it discovered in late 2009 on the site of a major San Francisco highway reconstruction project under construction. It has been determined that the species warrants listing and that critical habitat is not determinable at this time. Publication will open a 60 day public comment period. Expected Publication Date: May 17, 2011

U.S.-Russia Environmental Agreement Working Group Meeting

On June 1 and 2, 2011, FWS will meet with counterparts from Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Academy of Sciences and other agencies to review bilateral exchanges conducted in 2009-2010 under Area V, "Conservation of Nature," of the U.S.-Russia Environmental Agreement, and adopt a work plan of activities for 2011-2012. Topics for cooperation include protected areas/refuges, migratory birds, marine mammals, fisheries, wildlife diseases, invasive species, and conservation education.

U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Agreement Commission Consultations

On June 3, 2011, four commissioners of the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear agreement will conduct a consultative meeting. Attending will be Geoffrey Haskett and Charles Johnson for the U.S., and Amirkhan Amirkhanov and Sergei Kavry for the Russian Federation. Topics to be discussed will include preparations for the 3rd meeting of the Commission in Russia the week of July 25-29, and implementation of native subsistence harvest quotas for polar bears in Alaska and Chukotka for 2011.

"Sammie the Salmon" Media Campaign

FWS Pacific Region Fisheries Program has launched a new 6-week media campaign, "Sammie the Salmon" which uses Facebook, Twitter, YouTube videos and Google Maps to track the journey of spring Chinook smolts released from Winthrop National Fish Hatchery as they out-migrate to the Pacific Ocean. With scientific expertise provided by Region 1 Fisheries' biologists, they are using new media to educate audiences on FWS Hatchery production, fish passage, behavioral and ecological physiology, habitat restoration, aquatic invasive species, and human and natural threats to survival during the journey. There is tremendous potential to engage both lay and conservation professional audiences with news media, and this is a great opportunity to combine Fish Hatchery, Fish Health, and Fishery Resource Office expertise with a dash of creativity and humor. You can follow the campaign at the provided links below.

Service Hosts Orientation for 2011 Youth and Diversity Intern Program

The Fish and Wildlife Service has invited the Secretary of the Interior to attend the May 31 orientation for the Career Discovery Intern Program (CDIP) at the National Conservation Training Center. CDIP focuses on youth and diversity training, and supports the Secretary's Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative and Inclusive Workplace strategy. The program introduces culturally and ethnically diverse college students from primarily urban areas to the conservation work of the Fish and Wildlife Service, increases the diversity of the applicant pool for conservation-based jobs, and promotes an inclusive workplace. More than 60 diverse students will participate in this year's program. Since the program began three years ago, more than 70 students have graduated. Two of the students are now Service employees, and seven are

participating in a formal training program. Additionally, 18 graduates are pursuing other conservation careers.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

May 15 – May 21, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday afternoon travel to Newport, RI to speak at the 2011 Ocean Tech Expo on Thursday.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Transmission

- **New: Gateway South Transmission Line Scoping Meetings:** *The BLM is seeking public comment on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate the potential impacts of constructing a 400-mile, 500-kV transmission line through portions of WY, CO, and UT. The proposed Gateway South Transmission Line project would transmit about 1,500MW of electricity generated from planned wind and geothermal facilities in WY. The public scoping period ends June 2. Scoping meetings have been held in WY and will continue in CO and UT through the end of the comment period.*

Congressional

- **No Change: Wild Lands Policy Oversight Hearing:** On May 24, Director Abbey and DAS Baca will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands regarding Wild Lands.

Wild Horse & Burro Program

- **Update: Proposed Nevada Legislation Restricting Water for Wild Horses and Burros:** *On May 3, BLM-NV staff and the staff from the SOL's Office met with the NV State Engineer (NSE) regarding BLM concerns over the potential impacts of Assembly Bill 329. The BLM and SOL's Office have expressed concerns that the proposed bill would amend NV's definition of "wildlife," and exclude wild horses and burros from certain provisions of law relating to water, thereby eliminating or restricting water sources that are currently available to wild horses and burros. However, the NSE asserted that this was not the case and stated that additional clarifying testimony would be provided when the bill is introduced to the state Senate Natural Resources Committee.*
- **New: BLM Communications WH&B Workshop:** *The BLM Washington Office Communications Directorate will hold a workshop in Denver, CO, June 13-15, on "lessons learned" and communications strategies for the upcoming wild horse and burro gather season. The workshop purpose is to ensure that all BLM communications professionals are fully engaged and ready to provide communications support during the upcoming gather season, which begins in July.*

- **New: Ecosanctuary Proposal Deadline Extended:** *At the request of the public and stakeholders, the BLM extended the submission deadline for public-private partnerships to establish wild horse “ecosanctuaries” on private or other non-BLM managed land to May 18.*

Air Quality

- **Update: Air Quality Memo of Understanding (MOU):** *The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and the EPA Administrator are scheduled to sign the MOU at a signing event on May 18. The specifics for this event have not yet been determined. The BLM, NPS, and FWS are developing a Decision Memo for the Secretary of the Interior that outlines the agreement. The MOU contains a number of steps that participating agencies will take to ensure that Federal laws protecting air quality, human health, and the environment are balanced with the Nation’s energy needs.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: BLM-ID Volunteer to Receive National Award:** *On May 26, BLM-ID Challis Field Office volunteer Duane Wilson will receive the BLM's 2011 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award in Washington, D.C. Wilson has volunteered as a campground host at the Cottonwood Campground for 12 consecutive years. He has devoted more than 10,080 hours of his time to the successful campground operation. Visitors at Cottonwood Campground average 11,800 per year—meaning that Wilson has made approximately 140,000 friendly, helpful contacts in his nearly 13 years of service.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: Shell Exploration Program (EP):** *On May 4, 2011, Shell submitted a revision to its OCS Camden Bay Beaufort Sea Exploration Plan (EP). BOEMRE approved the original EP on Oct. 21, 2009. Under 30 CFR 250.285(c), BOEMRE must determine if the revision is a “significant change to the impacts previously indentified and evaluated.” Upon preliminary review, the Alaska Region believes that the plan has changed significantly in the following ways: the addition of two drilling sites; a change to the drilling unit and associated air emissions inventories; adding a second drilling season; and changes to the number and roles of the support craft.*
- **Update: Ensco v. Salazar:** *On May 10, the court held that BOEMRE has a duty to decide whether to approve permits within 30 days. Accordingly, the court ordered BOEMRE to “act on the six pending permit applications within thirty days of this Order.” In addition, the court ordered the United States to file a report within 30 days “on the status of each of the six pending permit applications.” The court’s order effectively requires BOEMRE to either approve or reject the six permits.*
- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *The last working session between the U.S. and Mexico was held Apr. 27-28 and focused on safety and environmental regulation and inspections. DOI should receive from the State Department an initial draft of the counterproposal to be vetted through the agency by mid-May. Afterwards, it will be distributed through the interagency Circular 175 process for comment by other*

agencies. BOEMRE and State seek to deliver the counterproposal to the Mexicans by mid-June. Prior to submitting the counterproposal to Mexico, BOEMRE will be soliciting feedback from interested NGOs. Both parties seek to have a finalized, written document created by the end of 2011. BOEMRE personnel have reached out to the U.S. Coast Guard and are discussing OCS marine security issues. BOEMRE and State are exploring the possibility of a meeting between PEMEX, National Hydrocarbons Commission, U.S. industry, and U.S. Government, in Houston, TX, on the mechanics of unit operating agreements.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Update: Virginia Mine Blow-out:** On May 6, OSM Director Pizarchik authorized funding to make repairs to an inactive underground mine in Virginia which experienced a seal "blow-out" in March. Director Pizarchik has authorized the use of SMCRA civil penalty funds to pay for a bat gate to be installed in place of the original mine seal, and for repair of the private road, at a total cost of approximately \$17,000. OSM is preparing a news release to local area media. Prior to construction, the Commonwealth of Virginia will investigate the cause of the mine seal's failure. OSM and VA hope to complete all work before Memorial Day.
- **Update: Stream Protection Rule and Draft EIS:** On May 6, OSM began to solicit bids for OSM contractor assistance in analyzing the economic impacts of the Stream Protection Rule and other tasks to support the rulemaking effort. The period to solicit bids closes on June 1.

WEEK AHEAD – May 15 to May 21, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday-Wednesday, May 16-18:

- **New: Alaska Delegation Courtesy Visits:** BLM-AK State Director Bud Cribley and BLM-WO Legislative Affairs staff will conduct courtesy visits with Members and staff of the AK congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in AK, including climate change and partnership development.
- **No Change: North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Meeting in Washington, DC:** Representatives from NSSI will meet with DOI and BLM leadership, the US Coast Guard, NOAA, and congressional staff to discuss the NPRA, climate change, a project tracking system, and the recent NSSI workshop held Mar. 29-31 in Barrow, AK.

Thursday-Friday, May 19-20:

- **New: BLM-MT and BLM-WY Tribal Consultation Working Group Meeting:** The BLM-MT and BLM-WY State Offices will hold a tribal coordination and consultation working group meeting in Pierre, SD to discuss the development of formal tribal consultation protocols and agreements designed to improve the efficiency and

effectiveness of BLM tribal consultation efforts in the Eastern Montana/Dakotas and the High Plains Districts.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, May 16:

- **No Change: Sale 193 Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS):** On Mar. 4, BOEMRE announced the revised schedule for completion of the Sale 193 SEIS, which will include an analysis of a Very Large Oil Spill scenario. The revised draft SEIS is scheduled to be available for public comment from late May until early July 2011. The NOA is under departmental review and approval and is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 27.

Tuesday – Thursday, May 17-19:

- **No Change: BOEMRE OCS Scientific Committee (OCSSC) Meeting:** The OCSSC will meet in Hyannis, MA to review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet BOEMRE scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of BOEMRE.

Thursday, May 19:

- **No Change: Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Meeting:** BOEMRE has been invited to present and discuss recent DOI offshore wind energy initiatives such as “Smart from the Start” and the status of the intergovernmental Task Forces in the Northeast at the next NROC meeting. BOEMRE will make a similar presentation to New England Federal Partners on May 18.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Week of May 16-20:

- **New: Tribal Consultation:** *OSM Director Pizarchik will travel to Albuquerque, NM, Kykotsmovi, AZ, and Crow Agency, MT to consult with representatives of the Navajo, Hopi, and Crow Nations on the President’s Budget Proposal for Funding of AML programs under SMCRA. If Congress were to enact this proposal, the Tribes would no longer receive annual AML grants. The legislation would also implement a hard rock AML program to address any remaining hardrock AML sites on Tribal Lands.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday-Wednesday, May 23-25:

- **No Change: Idaho Delegation Courtesy Visits:** The BLM-ID State Director will conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the ID Congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in ID including renewable energy, grazing management, and preparations for the 2011 fire season.

Tuesday-Wednesday, May 24-25:

- **New: California Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *The BLM-CA Acting State Director Jim Abbott will conduct courtesy visits with Members and staff of the CA congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in CA, including renewable energy.*
- **No Change: BLM-ID Offers Geothermal Leasing Parcels:** The BLM-ID State Office will offer eight parcels for geothermal leasing totaling approximately 26,000 acres in southern ID. The protest period ended Apr. 18; no protests were received.
- **No Change: BLM-UT Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-UT will offer seven parcels at a competitive oil and gas lease sale covering 12,002 acres located throughout the state. A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued for the EA. The protest period ended Mar. 18; no protests received.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday- Friday, May 23-27:

- **New: BOEMRE to Participate in Department of State (DOS) Sponsored Unitization Workshop in Iraq:** *In 2006, BOEMRE signed an interagency agreement with the DOS to provide technical assistance to the Government of Iraq (GoI); specifically, the Ministry of Oil (MoO), the entity responsible for managing Iraqi oil and gas resources. The GoI has asked the U.S. Government (USG) to provide technical assistance to the MoO and related parties on the subject of Unitization. Other USG participants include DOS and the Department of Commerce.*

Tuesday, May 24:

- **New: 2011 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC):** *The IOSC, world's largest conference addressing oil spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration, will be held in Portland, OR. Director Bromwich will participate in the opening panel discussion on May 24. Results from five BOEMRE funded oil spill response research projects will be presented in the scientific plenary sessions. BOEMRE and the Ohmsett facility will each have exhibit booths.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Tuesday May 24:

- ***New: OSM Director to Meet with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner about proposed Virginia Airport Expansion:*** Director Pizarchik will meet with Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) regarding a proposed project to mine coal incidental to expansion of an airport runway in Grundy, VA. At issue is whether the project will require a SMCRA permit for coal mining activities. OSM has expressed concerns about the project to the state and is awaiting the state's response to several technical questions which will help OSM determine whether the project qualifies for an exemption from SMCRA permitting requirements.

Weekly Report

May 13, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities May 16-20:

Anne Castle – May 16 in DC attending various meetings; May 17-19 in Phoenix, AZ for Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group and Federal Family meetings, followed by Arizona AGO meetings; May 20 proposed (still unconfirmed) AGO meetings in Oklahoma City, OK; May 21, attending a C.A.S.T. (Catch a Special Thrill)/Let's Move Outside event at Lake Bastrop, TX.

John Tubbs – May 16-20 in MT, delivering keynote to a Water Quality Law Seminar, and visiting Crow Reservation and Yellowtail Dam.

Lori Caramanian – May 16 in DC attending various meetings; May 17-19 in Phoenix, AZ for Glen Canyon and Federal Family meetings, followed by Arizona AGO meetings.

Marcia McNutt - May 16-20, No Travel.

Mike Connor – May 16-20, in DC attending various meetings.

Reclamation

Rewatering Truckee Carson Canal Planned (Nevada)

Lahontan Basin Area Office (LBAO) is working very closely with the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District to resume flow in the Truckee Canal for deliveries to the Truckee Division (Fernley, Nevada.). Rewatering of the canal began Saturday, May 7 and will continue through the remainder of the irrigation season (November 15) when the canal will be dewatered for construction replacement of the conduits in the Fernley reach of the Truckee Canal. Due to potential state health and water quality issues and to be compliant with state law, diversions to the unincorporated community of Hazen (<25 homes) will not resume.

Status of Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID) Canal Breach Settlement Agreement (Nevada)

On April 26, LBAO received through the U.S. Attorney's Office a copy of TCID's Truckee Canal Breach Settlement Agreement. Within this Agreement, TCID's Insurance Company purported to pledge numerous assets that belong to the United States, not TCID, as security for the payments owed. The asset security issues include the purported assignment of the O&M contract, the commitment to deposit federal revenues (from Old Lahontan Powerplant, a Reclamation facility) into a settlement trust account, the commitment to deposit restricted-use revenue into the same settlement trust account (water user fees), and inclusion of Donner Lake water rights which is

problematic because of explicit restrictions on TCID's transfer or encumbrance of Donner Lake water rights by Judge McKibben in the recoupment case. Reclamation responded in writing by outlining these issues. As a result TCID, has declined the Agreement. The Plaintiffs are now requesting an emergency mediation meeting to discuss the Agreement.

District Court issues Order to modify Final Judgment in the Delta Smelt Consolidated Cases (California)

On March 28, 2011, Judge Wanger issued a final judgment order remanding without vacatur the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' (USFWS) delta smelt Biological Opinion (BO) and Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) and Reclamation's provisional acceptance of the RPA. On May 4, 2011, Judge Wanger issued an order modifying the remand schedule in the Final Judgment order at the request of the United States. The modified order requires the USFWS to complete a new draft BO by October 1, 2011 and requires Reclamation to complete review of the RPA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by December 1, 2013. The original deadline for completing the NEPA review was December 15, 2011.

Reclamation Bypassing Water at Flaming Gorge Dam Due to High Inflow (Utah)

On May 3, 2011, Reclamation began releasing water from the bypass tubes at Flaming Gorge Dam in response to increased forecasted inflows as storms continue to occur over both the Upper Green and Yampa river basins. Precipitation and snowpack are above average in both basins with the corresponding snow water equivalent for the Green River Basin at 162 percent of average and the Yampa River Basin at 172 percent of average. Extended cool weather has delayed the start of low elevation snowmelt runoff. As temperatures warm over the coming days, the low elevation snow in the Yampa River Basin is expected to start running off, increasing the potential flows at Jensen, Utah, to between 20,000 and 24,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The above average low elevation snow in the Upper Green River Basin has not started to run off yet, and more snow is projected to fall throughout the next week. Flaming Gorge was releasing water at full powerplant capacity of 4,530 cfs with the reservoir at 84 percent of full capacity. Bypass flows of up to 4,000 cfs will be maintained for at least 5 days to evacuate storage to accommodate the expected high spring runoff. The May preliminary forecast for inflow to Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 139 percent of average compared with the April 1st forecast, which was 113 percent of average. The Yampa River forecast increased over the same time period from 157 percent to 197 percent of average. Total releases from the dam will increase to between 8,400 and 8,600 cfs.

Echo Dam Modification Dewatering Contract Awarded (Utah)

On May 3, 2011, Reclamation's Provo Area Office issued a press release announcing a \$1.3 million contract award for foundation dewatering work at Echo Dam, located in Summit County, Utah to facilitate seismic retrofit work under the Safety of Dams Program. The dewatering work will be done in advance of, and continue throughout subsequent excavation work, in which potentially liquefiable foundation material will be removed and replaced with stronger, denser material. This work will increase the dam's ability to withstand a significant seismic event.

Eight-Mile Stretch of Rio Grande Runs Dry (New Mexico)

An eight-mile stretch of the Rio Grande (south of Albuquerque, New Mexico) near the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge experienced a drying situation for several days that began on April 22, 2011. Prior to the drying, Reclamation and its water management partners believed that sufficient water was in the river and being released to meet the continuous flow requirements in accordance with the 2003 Biological Opinion. However, conditions on the river became so dry that measures that were effective in the past were not sufficient this time. As a result, an eight-mile stretch of the river went dry. Reclamation immediately coordinated with its partners on a series of actions to return water to the system and on April 25th the river was re-wetted within the Bosque Del Apache reach. The river drying was determined to be inadvertent due to unexpectedly high riparian and irrigation water demands. There was documented mortality of 527 endangered silvery minnow which Reclamation believes is covered within the Incidental Take Statement of the 2003 Biological Opinion. Meanwhile, Reclamation continues to develop a new biological assessment as part of the current Endangered Species Act consultation process that will result in a new, updated biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Reservoirs and Runoff at Record High with High Probability of Downstream Flooding (Utah)

Reclamation's Provo Area Office reports that preliminary snowpack forecasts for April-May indicate that many Utah reservoirs will face record water supplies and spring runoff, and a high probability of downstream flooding.

Releases from Ridges Basin Dam Being Made to Test Improvements Made to Basin Creek during Construction of the Animas-La Plata Project (Colorado)

Approximately 5,000 acre-feet of water will be released down Basin Creek to test operation of the 11 drop structures constructed downstream between Ridges Basin Dam and the Animas River. These drop structures improve the creek's ability to transport release flows from the dam back to the Animas River by dissipating energy and minimizing sediment. Preliminary water releases began on April 27, 2011; however, the majority of the releases will occur between May 9 and May 27, 2011.

Reclamation to Meet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Discuss ESA Compliance on the Middle Rio Grande (New Mexico)

On **May 9, 2011**, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak will meet with Dr. Ben Tuggle and Lt. Colonel Williams of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss (1) how the two federal agencies will proceed with review of the separate biological assessments submitted by the action agencies and (2) negotiations for the final biological opinion that will provide broad coverage for non-federal participants within the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program.

Southern Delivery System (SDS) Contracts (Colorado)

On May 4, 2011, Great Plains Regional Director Michael Ryan executed the Excess Capacity and Conveyance Contracts for the Southern Delivery System's use of Reclamation's Fryingpan-Arkansas Project in Colorado. All parties, including Colorado Springs, Fountain, Pueblo West, and Security, have also signed. On May 6, 2011, Eastern Colorado Area Manager Michael Collins issued a Notice to Proceed for construction. Construction work began on May 9, 2011. The Southern Delivery System is a nearly billion dollar effort by the communities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo West, Fountain, and Security to construct pumping stations, pipeline, and water treatment facilities to provide potable water. Although the communities will be exercising their own water rights, they negotiated and contracted with Reclamation for the use of excess capacity in Federal facilities (principally Pueblo Dam of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project) to facilitate the storage and conveyance of their water. The public review process of the draft contracts ended on April 25, 2011. No substantial comments were received and no changes were made from the drafts to the final versions of the contracts.

Navajo Generating Station (Arizona)

Letty Belin and Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee will meet with Salt River Project and the other Navajo Generating Station (NGS) owners on Friday, May 13, to explore several topics: status of the "Strawman" Proposed joint BART recommendation to EPA, funding for Phase I of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Study, and questions posed by Environmental Defense Fund regarding potential opportunities to transition to renewable energy. A joint oversight hearing on "Protecting Long-Term Tribal Energy Jobs and Keeping Arizona Water and Power Costs Affordable: The Current and Future Role of The Navajo Generating Station" has been scheduled on May 24 by the House Subcommittees on Water and Power and Indian and Alaska Native Affairs. DOI has not yet been asked to testify at the hearing. Reclamation has identified a portion of the \$500k needed for Phase I of the NREL study associated with NGS. The goal of the overall study is to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of integrating clean energy technologies as a possible means to improve regional air quality while maintaining current energy and Central Arizona Project water delivery obligations. Phase I of the study, to be completed before EPA makes its final BART determination, will be very helpful in pulling all of the associated information together and will assist in the extensive communication and outreach with the many stakeholders interested in this complex project.

International Boundary and Water Commission Bi-National Meeting

On May 18 and 19, Lower Colorado Deputy Regional Director Jayne Harkins will participate in International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) bi-national work group meetings in Tijuana, Mexico, to discuss water issues.

(Update): Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) Litigation (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

On May 9, 2011, Judge Redden heard oral arguments for summary judgment in the long-running FCRPS litigation. In advance of the hearing, the judge provided a letter with six issues to be addressed in the oral arguments. However, the hearing was relatively brief and ended without clear indication of Judge Redden's intent for next steps. The judge may provide an opinion, or (viewed as more likely) a letter to define the process for moving forward from this point. Judge Redden issued an Order on spring fish operations on March 29, 2011 that accepted the Corps' spring fish operations plan. As a result, the agencies are currently operating under Court Order, which has been the case for the past several years. The Action Agencies will continue to coordinate with the region on 2011 operations, especially on summer fish operations; summer fish operations are expected to be controversial and may be a factor in the litigation. Plaintiffs, the State of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe filed motions for summary judgment on October 29, 2010. The NWF et al. motion argues that habitat implementation is behind schedule and ineffective and therefore is not certain to occur (i.e., the mitigation isn't working). The state of Oregon's argument is highly technical and focuses on NOAA's 2010 data analysis that they argue is flawed especially as it relates to the jeopardy standard. The Nez Perce tribe's amicus brief makes legal arguments on the jeopardy standard and mentions removal of the lower Snake River dams. The Spokane tribe's amicus brief focuses on the status of the Upper Columbia species and how this shows that a non-jeopardy decision is arbitrary for these species.

Congressional Activity

- May 19 – Reclamation is preparing for a Senate Subcommittee on Water & Power hearing on S. 201 - C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir; S. 419 - Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System Act; S. 499 - the Bonneville Unit Hydropower Act; and S. 808 - Uintah Water Conservancy District.

U.S. Geological Survey

Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award to USGS Director: USGS Director Marcia McNutt was presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in a service on Thursday, May 5. Dr. McNutt was recognized for her performance of duty while leading the National Incident Command's Flow Rate Technical Group and as a key leader of the Science and Technology Team for the Deepwater Horizon Spill. She was cited for her leadership and collaborative approach in drawing out the best ideas and forging consensus among a disparate group of experts, leading to key determinations on the flow rate and fate of oil. Her leadership of the Science and Technology Team in overseeing responsible party interventions to stop the flow of oil at the well site, enabling the Government to make informed decisions and direct risk mitigation measures on a host of novel procedures proposed by the responsible party, was also acknowledged.

FCC Communications Forum: David Applegate, USGS, spoke at an Earthquake Communications Preparedness Forum, held on May 3 at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) headquarters. The Forum considered the preparations that should be made in advance of an earthquake and how to develop and implement national communications policies and emergency procedures to respond to an earthquake's potential impact on communications networks and services. Applegate was part of a panel discussing what can be expected from a large-scale earthquake and preparations to respond to an event of this nature. Prior to the Forum, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski called for development of an earthquake 'early warning' system in the United States. The forum was broadcast live with open captioning over the Internet from the FCC's web page.

NSF Workshop on Disaster Resilience, Vulnerability, and Risk Reduction: The USGS has been invited to a two-day workshop at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Headquarters to provide input regarding the potential creation of a new cross-directorate program on disaster resilience, vulnerability, and risk reduction. This workshop is being held at the behest of three directorates (Engineering, Geosciences and Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences) within the National Science Foundation. This workshop, which will take place at NSF Headquarters on June 1-2, 2011, will provide input to these directorates on how best to structure this new multidisciplinary program.

California Land Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Open House: The USGS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct an Open House on Friday, June 3, 2011, at California State University, Sacramento, to celebrate the inaugural year of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The open house will showcase the program's collaborative dialog on landscape conservation, including projects from the program's first year. Event coordinators will be inviting Representative Doris Matsui's office to the event. Media will be invited.

Mississippi Flood Update: The USGS continues to make flow measurements of the inflow and outflow of the New Madrid Floodway on the Mississippi River below Cairo, Illinois. These measurements are crucial for both monitoring the floodway performance and forecasting the river stages during this flood crisis. USGS boat crews are in the floodway making the needed flow measurements, installing an emergency Rapid Deployment Gage (RDG) for the Mississippi River at Memphis, TN, to replace a damaged gage operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. USGS crews are making flow and QW measurements in the Bonnett Carre' floodway above New Orleans as soon as it is activated on Monday (tomorrow). Crews are installing additional RDG's and storm surge sensor in the Morganza floodway on the Mississippi River above Baton Rouge in anticipation of the Corps utilizing that floodway toward the end of this week. Once Morganza is activated, crews will be making flow measurements there as well. USGS crews have started flagging high water marks on the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in Kentucky at the request of FEMA Region 4. This work will result in flood inundation maps for those areas. It is anticipated that this work will also be done in Tennessee and Mississippi at the request of FEMA Region 4.

Satellite Imagery for Mississippi River Flooding: The International Charter has been activated by the USGS on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the States of Missouri and Illinois, for flooding on April 28. Radar and some imagery is being collected and processed to make it available to emergency response officials. The International Charter allows for free use of satellite imagery from several participating countries by emergency response officials.

Flooding Breaks Records in New York: On May 4, the USGS announced preliminary findings about record flooding in northern New York, and efforts by USGS crews to measure flooding. Hundred year old records were broken at a number of sites including a new 141-year record lake level for Lake Champlain. USGS New York Water Science Center scientist Gerard Butch was interviewed by WNYT (NBC Albany), which aired that evening and the story received national coverage following a USGS news release. A congressional notification was issued.

USGS to Participate in National Level Exercise: The USGS continues its heavy involvement in preparation for FEMA's National Level Exercise 2011, taking place May 11-16. This is the first time that FEMA has focused its primary annual response exercise on a natural disaster, and they and the many participating agencies, have been looking to the USGS for assistance in understanding the NLE's scenario of a catastrophic disaster in the Central United States. The scenario is based on a repeat of one of the magnitude-7+ earthquakes that struck the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the winter of 1811-12.

USGS Releases Resource Estimate for Afghanistan REE Prospect: During the week of May 16, the USGS will issue a joint news release with the Department of Defense -Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) that estimates the size of REE resources at the Khanneshin prospect in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The news release is based on prospect evaluations conducted from 2009 to present and which will be reported later as part of an updated evaluation of Afghanistan's principal resources of REE, gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, zinc, phosphorus, and uranium.

NASA Supports Advanced Modeling Project on Climate Drivers: NASA recently accepted a USGS Fort Collins Science Center proposal for a 4-year project using USGS' Resource for Advanced Modeling (RAM) to connect climate drivers to biological responses through habitat niche modeling. The project will be conducted in collaboration with the NASA Ames Research Center and the university-based VisTrails group. The RAM is a facility for collaborative research that offers computing capability to run and test various habitat suitability models at a variety of spatial scales (county, State, regional, national, or global).

Comprehensive New Book on Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat: The greater sage-grouse is at the center of a complex challenge to conserve sagebrush ecosystems. The species has declined across much of its range, including 11 western States and 2 Canadian provinces, mostly

due to loss of critical sagebrush habitat. Agriculture, roads, development of energy resources, wildfire, and invasive plants threaten sage-grouse habitat. Longer term consequences are

predicted due to climate change. USGS ecologist Steve Knick and Idaho Fish and Game scientist John Connelly edited a new book describing sage-grouse ecology and conservation and its sagebrush habitat. Thirty-eight scientists from Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations collaborated to synthesize their research findings and reviews of existing information in the comprehensive publication. The book provides an understanding of greater sage-grouse distribution, biology, behavior, population dynamics, and requirements for sagebrush. It also includes extensive details about the characteristics and dynamics of sagebrush systems and the land uses that influence them. A press release was issued.

Upcoming EnergyNow Interview on Rare Earth mining in the U.S.: EnergyNow reporter Tyler Suiters will interview USGS scientist Keith Long at the USGS National Center on rare earth mining in the United States. Keith Long was the lead author of a 2010 USGS report detailing the principal rare earth deposits in the United States. The interview is tentatively scheduled for June 1, 2011.

Congressional Activities

- **Legislative Affairs Panel at the National Map Users Conference:** A panel of specialists will discuss legislative affairs for geospatial information at *The National Map Users Conference* at 4 p.m., on May 13, in Denver, Colorado.
- **Chesapeake Bay Visits:** USGS Chesapeake Bay Coordinator Scott Phillips is continuing his schedule of congressional courtesy visits to Members of the Chesapeake Bay delegation. Visits are planned for May 18 and 25. Mr. Phillips will update Members and/or staff on USGS efforts to implement the Executive Order and support restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Chief of Staff, Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 13, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- **Strategic Plan:** The Office of Justice Services (OJS) is holding its second plenary session for the development of the Strategic Plan for OJS. The subject matter experts are meeting in Albuquerque, NM this week on framing the plan with an emphasis on prevention, policing, prosecution and corrections. After completing the framework the OJS will present to Indian Affairs senior leadership for their input, direction and approval.
- **Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA):** BIA hosted its final session titled Community Support for Reentering Tribal Members the week of May 9. The BIA/OJS and the Department of Justice (DOJ) are collaborating on the detention plan required by TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from BIA's Office of Indian Services and Bureau of Indian Education are participating in sub-committees appropriate for their discipline.
- **High Priority Performance Goal/Public Safety:** The BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) in coordination with the Tribes and the Federal family has achieved a combined reduction of 11 percent of violent crime on all four targeted reservations. The OJS is reviewing crime reduction strategies and crime statistics at all four sites.
- **Homeland Security:**
 - ***Survey:*** On May 2, 2011 the OHSES sent out the Aviation Security Information Sharing and Intelligence Integration Survey to the tribes for the Office Director National Intelligence. The tribes have until May 15 to response to the survey.

- *Damage Reports:* OHSES and many BIA and BIE Emergency Management Coordinators (EMC) spent much time and effort, and much time in conference calls to establish the status of their subordinate offices and the Tribes they serve, in the aftermath of the severe weather systems that impacted the majority of the nation over the last week. Fortunately, only relatively minor damage has been reported, and no un-met needs for assistance are reported as outstanding.
- *Training Courses:* OHSES continued its efforts to bring ‘Active Shooter’, Bomb Threat, and other training courses to ASIA-BIA/BIE employees and the Tribes. These courses are offered on-line and at no cost. OHSES also distributed the announcement of a new FEMA Emergency Management training available on-line to BIA/BIE employees and the tribes. OHSES continues to provide information from many sources to the Tribes and to our employees and their families. OHSES, working with DOI, has established the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements for Incident Command System (ICS) Training, per DOI policy. These requirements will affect both tribes and ASIA/BIA employees. Many of these trainings are also offered on-line and at no cost.
- *National Level Exercise:* Follow-up discussions between OHSES and BIA Regional Emergency Management Coordinators in the final planning for National Level Exercise (New Madrid Earthquake) to be held on May 18. This exercise is a part of a series of Congressionally mandated emergency preparedness exercise activities designed to educate and prepare participants for potential catastrophic events. It will simulate an earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) in the central United States and will provide the framework for testing coordination among eight impacted states and four FEMA regions to examine earthquake and recovery plans.
- *Regional Coordination:* OHSES conducted its monthly conference call with BIA and BIE Regional Emergency Management Coordinators (EMC.) This month’s focusing was on enabling Regional Directors and Deputies password authorizations to enable them to access Send Word Now to alert and distribute messages to their Emergency Management Teams/Emergency Relocation Groups (EMT/ERG), employees within their Regions, or specific Agency Offices. Other issues discussed were the need to be able to track (cost codes) for emergency responses, in order to submit requested reports from DOI, as IA currently lacks the capability to code labor or other costs to track expenditures for emergency response or tribal support.
- *Tribal Liaison Contacts:* OHSES has been asked by DOI to coordinate the information regarding Tribal Liaison, and Hazardous Materials positions, given IA’s expertise in Tribal Consultations and the need for a comprehensive establishment of positions with various levels of HazMat expertise. The reality is there will be unavoidable releases of HazMat and petroleum contaminants during disasters of all types (hurricanes, tornados, quakes, tsunamis, flooding, etc.), and as it is essential that our employees and tribal members who volunteer to respond to such emergencies not be exposed to life changing or even deadly contaminates.

- *Tribal Requests:* OHSES is receiving increasing numbers of requests for on-reservation Interoperable Communications acquisition assistance, and Incident Management Team (IMT) establishment and training of personnel, to facilitate their 'NIMS Compliance' and their ability to continue to receive FEMA funding for Emergency Management /Services and Planning.
- *Tribal Legislative Concern:* Tribes continue to express their support for reforming the Stafford Act.
- *Flooding:* OHSES continues its coordination efforts with Blackfeet Reservation, Flat Head Reservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Tribal Liaison, and BIA Emergency Management Coordinators regarding ongoing flooding operations and preparation. The Corps is concerned about the high water content of the snow remaining on the ground along the Northern Tier States, and especially about the 60" of water equivalent currently reported on the Blackfeet and Flat Head Reservations in Montana. Additionally, media reports are anticipated to continue on the flooding throughout the Northern Tier States and tornadoes in Oklahoma and other states. Warmer weather has increased the spring thaw and snows have been reported to have record levels of water waiting to melt throughout the northern tier states. SitReps and personal communications report water levels are generally just below or at flood stage and there is a potential for serious flooding should the weather warm more quickly, and/or warm rain should fall on the remaining snow pack. OHSES coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Tribal representatives regarding ongoing Flood Fight operations and preparation and conveyed the Corps' concerns about the high water content of the snow pack along the Northern Tier States.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Federal Recognition: The Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) is currently working on proposed findings for the following:
 - Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe (Petitioner #5) – by July 18, 2011.
 - Meherrin Tribe, NC (Petitioner #119b) – by before November 1, 2011.
 - Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA (Petitioner #82) – by November 1, 2011.

The comment period on the Proposed Finding of the Tolowa Nation, CA (Petitioner #85) ends on May 23, 2011. The comment period on the Proposed Finding of the Central Band of Cherokee, TN (Petitioner #227) has been extended to August 15, 2011. Technical assistance was also provided to the California petitioning group known as the Fernandeno/Tataviam Tribe (Petitioner #158) this past week.

EDUCATION

- BIE PALA Challenge The BIE had over :13,000 PALA participants in the PALA challenge. On May 17, 2011, the BIE Director will be at Kinlani Dormitory in Flagstaff, Arizona to present the awards to students and faculty for winning the PALA challenge.
- Haskell President Selection: BIE held initial interviews with the applicants for the position the week of May 9. It is on track to make a final selection by June.
- Elementary and Secondary Education
 - *Tribal Field Visit:* Mr. Bart Stevens, Deputy Director School Operations accompanied the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (ASIA) to Supai Canyon to meet with the Havasupai Tribal Council. Upon arrival, the group of Indian Affairs officials from the BIA Western Region accompanied the ASIA on a tour of BIA and BIE quarters. The group then briefly visited with BIE School Principal, teachers and students. The meeting with the tribal council began thereafter with an agenda that included law enforcement, Head Start, and other concerns. The council brought forward specific inquiries regarding the BIE, which were addressed in detail by Mr. Stevens and were accepted by the tribal council. Issues addressed by Mr. Stevens included Highly Qualified teachers and administrators – recruitment and retention efforts, staffing concerns, student/staff safety, information technology, declining student enrollment, employee quarters accommodating employee families, quality education, limited extracurricular activities, school restructuring, school calendar and required instructional seat time, suicide/substance abuse prevention efforts and culture and language.
 - *Chemawa Indian School:* Mr. Stevens and the BIE Human Resources Employee Relations/Labor Relations (HR ER/LR) debriefing on the Chemawa Indian School (CIS) visit are complete. Several significant issues are being addressed and HR ER/LR will provide specific recommendations holding management and leadership from the school and Education Line Office accountable. Directives were issued to address necessary changes to immediately return all school employees to their positions of record and the Education Line Officer was assigned to the CIS campus as the acting school supervisor to regain stability. The Associate Deputy Director, West School Safety Specialist will also report to CIS immediately to assist in assuring student safety efforts are in place during these last two weeks of school and to fill any voids created by returning all employees to their positions of record. All vacant positions, including the school supervisor’s position, will be filled as soon as possible.
 - *Navajo Nation:* Mr. Stevens, David Talayumptewa, Assistant Deputy Director, Administration and the Education Line Officer met with the Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education and Jeehdeez’a Academy, Incorporated (JAI) administrative staff and one school board member to address financial issues found during the April 5, 2011 visit to the school campus. Strategies were discussed to allow the school board to make the necessary adjustments to correct these deficiencies. Follow up meetings that include BIE technical assistance from the ELO, administration and the Navajo Nation will be scheduled.
- School Improvement

- Roxanne Brown, Associate Deputy Director, East spent four days this week in Albuquerque with the Tier III schools approved for implementing year 1 or 2 of the School Improvement Grants (SIGs). *Porcupine School*; *Little Wound School*; *American Horse School*; Crazy Horse School; Rock Creek Grant School; and Flandreau Indian School are the schools within her area that meet the definition of the 20 percent of BIE-funded schools which are persistently the lowest-performing.
- The Pine Ridge and Crow Creek/Lower Brule Line Officers attended the meeting, as well as a representative from the Standing Rock Line Office. Each Office is responsible for monitoring, intervening and providing assistance with the development and implementation of the SIGs. Ms. Brown conducts regular follow up calls with the Pine Ridge, Crow Creek and Standing Rock Education Line Officers to maintain oversight and assistance. Note: The italicized Grant Schools request assistance when needed and have a healthy relationship with the Education Line Office. All others cited have an active and ongoing working relationship with the Education Line Office (ELO). Sitting Bull School is identified as a Tier I school (lowest 5 percent) under the Standing Rock Education Line Office. Ms. Brown and the Education Line Officer are working closely with the Superintendent to guide the SIG plan.
- Student Instruction/Improvement
 - The South and Eastern States ELO – Ahfachkee Indian School is conducting interviews for a K-12 principal; the ELO is working with Cherokee Central Schools on the development of a Restructuring Plan.
 - The Turtle Mountain ELO has begun a review of data on culture/language programs at the four BIE-operated schools, with inclusion of curricula, schedules, critical elements and student academic growth charts, using triangulated academic data.
 - The Cheyenne River ELO conducted classroom walkthroughs at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School grades K-1.
 - Oklahoma Education Line Office: The Riverside Indian School principal has made a determination to make staff changes and changes to the administrative staffing at both the elementary and high school based on performance data.
 - Graduation for the Riverside Indian School seniors is May 13. Mr. Bart Stevens is the Graduation speaker and he will participate in the annual pow-wow on the evening of May 12.
 - The Crow Creek /Lower Brule ELO has worked closely with Flandreau Indian School at the SIG training. We expect a lot of improvement with student residential and academic progress.
- Professional Development

- The ADD, East School Safety Specialist completed school safety surveys at Marty Indian School, Crazy Horse School, and Crow Creek High School and Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School.
- Safety/Facilities
 - The Pine Ridge ELO: Loneman School's request for \$34,000 in emergency repairs was approved.
 - The South and Eastern States ELO: The BIE-funded schools in the south were not directly impacted by the tornadoes of the past few weeks.
 - The Cheyenne River ELO met with the School Safety Specialist during the site visit to Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School.
 - Mr. Bart Stevens received information regarding a suspicious telephone call received at Crownpoint Community School. The school initiated its Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) effectively and efficiently. Notifications were made through this process to local law enforcement, the ELO, Mr. Stevens, Eric North, the ADD West School Safety Specialist, BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS), Indian Affairs Homeland Security, and DOI Security. The BIE Director was briefed on this issue upon inquiry. OJS notified the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). No students or staff members were injured and vigilant efforts continue as a result. School personnel did an exceptional roll out of the EPP and were commended.
- Post Secondary Education
 - Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute Administration
 - The first class from the SIPI/YDI Early Learning Center was promoted on May 4.
 - Ms. Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes, Director of Head Start-Health and Human Services visited the SIPI/YDI Early Learning Center. Photos were taken by Mark Hopwood and sent to Nedra Darling for a possible news release.

Academics

- The American Indian College Fund completed a site visit on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 for the "Within the Circle: Creating a Culture of Assessment" Project at SIPI.

College Operations

- Facilities Management has installed suggestion boxes throughout campus. The boxes are in place and the Facilities / Security office is regularly collecting the suggestions and disseminating them to the SIPI Leadership. This has resulted in a number of good suggestions and has given everyone on campus a way of having their opinions and suggestions heard.

Housing and Recreation

- A campus wide staff meeting took place on May 3, 2011. Pertinent information was shared, discussion provided clarity to issues, questions and concerns. An overview presentation was made by the head of security on the Continuity Of Operation Plan (COOP), which addresses the guidelines on procedures to follow in the event of any kind of emergency impacting the SIPI community.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study is in the final stages for awarding of the contract. Oral presentations from the contractors concluded the week of May 9; the joint DOI/IA panel will meet May 13 to conclude the process.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: IA is on track for its meeting with OMB and the Department the week of May 15 to discuss the progress of the report.

OUTREACH

- Planned Events:

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

May 16 - 19, 2011, keynote address at the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Semi-Annual Meeting, Marksville, Louisiana.

May 17 - 19, 2011, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, New York.

May 26, 2011, speech at the official launch of the *Let's Move in Indian Country* initiative, Neopit, Wisconsin.

May 31 – June 3, 2011, keynote speech at the Oklahoma Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and at the Native Leadership Forum, Temecula, CA.

June 6 - 8, 2011, the CAP Water Settlement Listening Session, Phoenix, Arizona.

June 13-16, 2011, keynote speech at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the SAIGE Annual Training, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Bureau of Indian Education:

May 12, 19 and 26, 2011, Tribal Consultation sessions on the Health and Wellness Policy for K-12 BIE-funded schools. Consultations will be held online through WebEX.

June 20, 2011, the BIE Summer Institute, Reno, Nevada

September 25-27, 2011, 8th annual South Dakota Indian Education Summit, Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD. The theme of the Summit is “Supporting Culture, Building Expectations and Creating Partnerships.”

CONFIDENTIAL

May 13, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for May 16 to May 22, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report May 16, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in Washington (5/16 and 20)
- South Dakota Indian Business Conference (5/17-18)
- Travel (5/16 and 19)

Review – May 9 to May 13

- **New:** On May 10, Office of Trust Records' Supervisor of Records Management Operations participated in briefing the mediator of the Quinn Lienbach tribal litigation. Also attending were personnel with the Office of Historical Trust Accounting and SOL attorneys. The briefing was held in Washington, D.C.

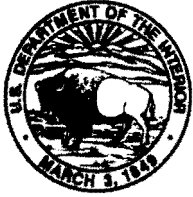
Week Ahead – May 16 to May 20

- **New:** The FTO at the Palm Springs Agency, in conjunction with First Nations Development Institute, will hold a financial skills training session on May 18 for the Soboba Band.
- **Update:** Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph will be keynote speaker at the South Dakota Indian Business Conference (SDIBC) and will be a panelist on a governance panel about effective management. The conference will be held May 17-18 at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Rosebud Agency is participating on the conference planning committee and will moderate one session and present financial skills content at another. The sponsoring organization is the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities for tribal members in South Dakota. It is comprised of individuals in federal, state and tribal governments and non-profit organizations.

- **Update:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. SOL and DOJ have the government's Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). A mediation session will take place in Washington, D.C., on May 20. The Deputy Special Trustee for Trust Services will attend that session.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** On May 23, the FTO at the Tulsa Urban Office will attend an Alternative Dispute Resolution hearing in the Eastern District Federal Court on tribal litigation issues with the Seminole Tribe. Also attending will be SOL and DOJ attorneys, the BIA Superintendent for the Wewoka Agency and tribal leaders. Issues for resolution are those that were outlined in March and April meetings.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. Almost a dozen activities have been planned to take place in May.
- **Update:** The Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) delivered to SOL approximately 5000 imaged documents relative to the Kaw Nation tribal litigation. Since the litigating parties are engaged in mediated settlement talks, SOL requested additional time for OHTA to search for documents. The Court in the Western District of Oklahoma stayed discovery in the case pending resolution of Alternative Dispute Resolution proceedings in the Court of Federal Claims case. There is no specific end date for the stay. Therefore, OHTA continues to deliver imaged documents to SOL.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

May 12, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: May 12, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Youth: DOI Alaska Town Hall and Youth Programming Strategic Planning. The Youth Office Director, Julie Rodriguez, travelled to Alaska to meet with DOI leadership to layout out the Secretary's Youth Vision and to receive bureau updates and youth programming action plans. While there, she also had the opportunity to address the Cook Inlet Tribal Council to discuss their efforts and to explain Let's Move in Indian Country and the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award.

Youth: Wilderness Inquiry MOU. An MOU has been drafted to renew and expand the expired MOU between (1) DOI (BLM, BOR, NPS, and FWS); (2) USFS; (3) US Army Corps; and Wilderness Inquiry, Inc. The expanded purpose of the renewed MOU is to "establish framework for cooperation to increase recreation, service and careers related to America's Great Outdoors" for people of all abilities, particularly low-income, underserved and diverse youth."

MANAGEMENT

Gulf Coast Response Staffing. We have submitted the DOI "Stage 4" staffing plan to the Unified Command for approval. Under this plan the Department will begin the transition to the "no further treatment" level of activity. Staffing in New Orleans and in state field offices in support of clean up will continue through at least the end of this calendar year, but at decreased levels. After hurricane season is over a complete reassessment of shorelines is necessary before response (clean up) activities will finally cease. Responsibility for monitoring and related ongoing work is shifting to NPS and FWS regional and unit offices. Work on projects to

improve future response capability in training, financial management, and resource ordering continues with many activities completed or nearly so. The DOG will be briefed on this work on May 26.

OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. Specific White House guidance to departments and agencies is forthcoming; a Deputy-level meeting is scheduled for May 13. Tentatively, the DOI has not been selected as a department/agency that will be audited this calendar year but should anticipate such an audit in 2012.

BUDGET

New: 2012 Budget and 302(b) Allocations. The House Appropriations Committee is expected to release its 302(b) allocations this week, which sets the top-line spending level for each of the twelve FY 2012 appropriations bills. The House Budget resolution permits discretionary spending at about what Congress appropriated for fiscal 2006. For Interior, the 2006 funding levels were \$10.9 billion as compared to the 2011 enacted funding level of \$11.8 billion.

Update: 2011 Operating Plans. The Continuing Resolution (P.L. 112-10) requires submission of Operating Plans to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days of enactment or May 15. The Office of Budget has submitted all of the bureau/office operating plans to OMB and is working with the bureaus and offices to address OMB's questions and preparing to finalize the plans for submission to Congress by Friday, May 13.

Update: 2011 Apportionments. The Office of Budget has worked with bureaus and offices to complete FY 2011 apportionments, which were due to OMB on April 25. On April 27, POB submitted the DOI FY 2011 warrant request to the Department of the Treasury.

IG/GAO Reports. The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:

PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
May 12, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Working with OMB on Sustainable Building Program Challenges. DOI is in the process of working with OMB to address DOI's "red" score for sustainable buildings on the OMB Sustainability/Energy Scorecard. DOI is drafting a data call to assess the impact of potential solutions discussed with OMB. When drafted, the data call will be sent to OMB for review and comment – possibly as early as next week. After OMB approves the data call it will be sent to DOI bureaus who have buildings listed in the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP). OMB would like to discuss the results of the data call in early July 2011.

New: National Wide Permit 21 (NWP 21- Surface Coal Mining Activities). The Department met last week with internal stakeholders to discuss the three options proposed by the Corps for NWP 21. The Department supports option 2, which is also the Corps' preferred Option. Option 2 imposes limits on acreage and stream length impacts and does not authorize valley fills. However, the Department plans to ask for further modifications to option 2. The Department recommends this NWP explicitly exclude use for mine through as well as valley fills. Justifications for any waivers should include, at a minimum, an explanation of the avoidance and minimization measures used by the applicant to reduce the adverse impacts to the stream and a description of how the applicant will compensate for unavoidable impacts that are greater than minimal, using the watershed approach described in the 2008 Compensatory Mitigation Rule. The Department plans to submit its comments to the Corps NLT Friday, May 6, 2011.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$91.18 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.49 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$11.63 Million.
- The USCG/NPFC has indicated that the FOSC has approved the proposed amendment to DOI's PRFA for DOI staffing of the National Incident Command (NIC). That amendment will increase the total reimbursable budget authority from \$125,000 to \$147,462.76. OEPC will subsequently submit the PRFA cost documentation to the

NPFC and coordinate NPFC direct reimbursements to those bureaus and offices that provided staff to the NIC under this PRFA (OEPC, OEM, BOEMRE, and USGS).

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque submitted proposed FWS PRFA Amendment #15 to the FOSC. The amendment would fund an additional staff member to coordinate FWS involvement in the Endangered Species Act Section 7 biological assessment to document impacts of the spill response actions, not the oil itself, on listed species and critical habitats. If approved, the FWS staff person will be covered until the end of June with no increase in the spending ceiling. Also discussed with FWS and NPFC the possibility of adding an experienced Forest Service staffer to assist (as requested by the USCG) and the best mechanism to cover that approach. Discussed with FWS and they would rather not do that because of the bookkeeping complexity. In addition, NPFC did agree with our proposed approach of covering the staff person necessary for the biological assessment under a separate PRFA Amendment (#16) with a period of performance of a year. Briefed FWS and they are working on the budget and statement of work for the new amendment.
- ***The Phase II Orphan Anchor Work Plan*** has not yet been released. The Pilot Project, which includes survey of several divisions within Louisiana, has been completed, and the data review is underway. A presentation of the data, results and recommendations was held May 6 with Louisiana state agency principals including representative from the Attorney General and Governor's Office participating. The project design and remote sensing operations were described and the results of the Pilot Project were presented by the BP project manager. Two Divisions in St. Bernard Parish were surveyed with priority on locations potentially posing personal safety hazard for boaters and secondary priority on isolated areas where a boater should encounter an anchor, the response time would be lengthy. The U.S. Coast Guard USCG estimates 2-6% of anchor loss during boom deployment.

New: National Response Team (NRT) Subsea Dispersants Draft Interim Guidance: On May 5, 2011 OEPC staff and BOEMRE staff participated in a one-day work meeting with EPA, USCG, and NOAA staff to develop the NRT 's interim draft guidance to Regional Response Teams (RRTs) regarding the testing, application, and monitoring protocols for subsea dispersants. The draft interim guidance will be presented for DOI senior management review and comment before May 20, 2011.

New: Alaska Interior-Regional Emergency Coordination Council (I-RECC) Meeting: The Alaska I-RECC will hold its quarterly meeting on May 12. Among the meeting topics will be the semi-annual update to the *DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska*, which was completed in April 2011. The plan helps ensure that Alaska-based DOI Bureaus/Offices can immediately respond to address Alaska-based DOI Bureau/Office emergencies and provide timely and coordinated assistance among those DOI Bureaus/Offices and their approximately 3,000 employees located in 30 communities throughout the State. The plan includes detailed information on responses to major earthquakes in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, terrorism incidents, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and any other incident where one or more DOI Bureaus

requires assistance to save lives and/or property. The OEPC Alaska Office chairs the Alaska I-RECC and takes the lead on plan revisions.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

Updated: Screening of the Documentary “Under a Jarvis Moon”. On Thursday, May 12th, from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Month, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations and the Office of Insular Affairs will show in the Yates Auditorium the documentary “*Under a Jarvis Moon*.” This documentary tells the story of over 130 young men employed by the U.S. Department of the Interior – most of whom were Native Hawaiians – who were sent to occupy Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands from 1935 to 1942. While their public mission was to take weather readings and collect specimens and records of the wildlife on and around the islands the United States secretly recruited these young men to colonize the islands to keep them out of the hands of other countries.

Living for months at a time in teams of four, the colonist collected specimens; mapped the islands; cultivated coconuts and vegetables; and even prepared a landing field for Amelia Earhart, who was expected to make Howland Island one of her last stops on her round-the-world flight. Through it all, they endured rats, sharks, isolation, and ultimately, enemy fire with grace and aloha for each other.

Following the screening of the documentary there will be a one hour panel discussion with Noelle Kahanu, Producer and Director; George Kahanu, Sr., Panala‘au; Franklin Odo, Director of Smithsonian’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Program (invited); and Barry Stieglitz, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuges.

Office of International Affairs

New: Transpacific (TPP) and Other Trade Agreement Negotiations. On May 5, OIA staff attended a Trade Policy Staff Committee meeting to discuss how to address environmental and other issues in a proposed agreement with a number of Persian Gulf states; OIA is continuing this week to consult with USTR and other agencies on this matter. On May 11 and 12, OIA staff will meet with USTR and other agencies to discuss proposed text for the TPP environmental chapter on public participation as well as plans for a review of the potential environmental effects of the TPP.

New: Rio 2012 Preparations. OIA attended an interagency meeting chaired by NSC regarding preparations for the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development. State Department reported that Brazilian hosts are promoting a strong economic growth message for the conference, with an emphasis on the role of the “emerging economies” in sustainable development. U.S. interagency working groups are developing positions on conference themes of Green Economy, Measuring Progress, and Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. NSC encouraged agencies to begin identifying participants in the conference the first week of June, 2012, to enable the U.S. Consulate in Rio to reserve hotel rooms.

New: Departmental Review of International Agreements. OIA staff will meet on May 9 with SOL and USGS to begin a discussion on coordinating review of international agreements proposed by bureaus and the Department regarding any legal, policy and cross-bureau issues relating to such agreements.

New: High Level Strategic Dialogue with Colombia. OIA is attending meetings convened by State and otherwise coordinating DOI involvement in upcoming May 31-June 1 meetings between the two governments on themes including climate change, energy, and environment. State has asked whether DOI would host a two-hour high level segment on mining (AS or DAS) and DOI has agreed to convene USG representatives for a half-day staff-level working meeting on mining and mine safety.

New: CITES Training in Morocco. A DOI-ITAP staff person will be traveling to Morocco with a US FWS Senior Wildlife Inspector to conduct training on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). They will be training Moroccan customs officers on how to conduct CITES inspections in order to assist Morocco's efforts to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. The workshop is part of a larger agreement between the U.S. and Morocco to cooperate on issues of environmental importance, and is a continuation of programmatic activities funded by USAID.

New: Study Tour in U.S. for Jordanian Team. This week, DOI-ITAP will host a team of three conservation specialists from Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature who will visit Pinnacles National Monument, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and other sites to learn best practices for management of forested areas. The group will also include the project's in-country coordinator who will act as a translator. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New: New Funding Secured for Technical Assistance in the Philippines. DOI will be signing an amendment to its Participating Agency Program Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development for \$205,000 in new funding to support continued technical assistance on natural resources law enforcement efforts in the Philippines.

Update: Secretary's Planned Trip to Spain. OIA continue assisting with preparations for the Secretary's attendance at the US/Spain Council meeting in Spain, including assembly of information on travel and consultation with the US Embassy in Madrid.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff completed the final text of the Secretary's briefing book for the Arctic Council meeting in Nuuk and produced ten copies. OIA continued to work with the Office of Policy Analysis and the State Department to coordinate logistics necessary for this meeting.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Economics of Conservation. At the request of the DAS-Budget and Business Management, PPA provided information on the economic value of conservation. A longer follow-up paper is being prepared.

New: Technology Transfer. Based on the training and information obtained at the Conference of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer in Nashville, TN, May 2-5, and meetings with the Administrator and staff of the Office of Technology Transfer, Agricultural Research Service, PPA will develop an outline for a Departmental Manual chapter addressing technology transfer to and from federal researchers, industry, universities, and other non-governmental groups.

Update: National Ocean Policy Implementation. The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the National Ocean will be released for public comment on June 1. At the CEQ's request, the Department is hosting three Listening/Public Comment sessions on the SAPs at four locations: June 9-16, Alaska (BOEMRE lead); late June, location in New Jersey to be determined (BOEMRE lead); June 27, Portsmouth, NH (USGS lead). The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21.

Ongoing: Economic Report. The report has been cleared by OMB and is currently being reviewed by the Council of Economic Advisors.

Ongoing: Arctic Policy. The Director of the Office of Policy Analysis traveled, along with the Deputy Assistant Secretary-Policy and International Affairs, to Nuuk, Greenland, for the Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council during the week of May 9. They supported the Secretary during his participation at the Ministerial on May 12 as he attended high-level meetings alongside Secretary of State Clinton. On May 13, PPA represented the Department at the staff-level Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee as a follow-up to the April 26 IARPC principals meeting. The Office also participated on the White House-led interagency team on Alaskan Offshore Oil/Gas Permitting.

Completed: Pechanga Indian Water Settlement. Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office and provided comments on how elements of the Settlement were being valued.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

Ongoing: DOI STEM Education Strategic Plan. The Youth Office and USGS are co-leading a new DOI STEM Education Strategic Plan Working Group. Youth Task Force members have identified a Bureau representative for the Working Group. The Working Group will meet May 19 and continue meeting, about every other week, for about 3 months.

Ongoing: MOU – DOI / U.S. Dept of Education to “Maximize the Use of Federal Lands in Enhancing Educational Opportunities for the American Public.” Final draft MOU developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America’s Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education’s “Blueprint for Reform.” Signing ceremony tentatively scheduled for National History Day, June 14, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. DOI Interagency 5 year MOU drafted between NPS & BLM, FWS, BOR, USGS for AmeriCorps Summer Intern Program to cooperate and coordinate financial assistance with the AmeriCorps National Program and a grant to the Southwest Conservation Corps. NPS may use existing cooperative agreement to provide DOI Agencies funding for specific AmeriCorps activities, and the other DOI agencies will ensure separate funding arrangements are executed with NPS (i.e. Reimbursable Service Agreement).

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Youth Day of Service. This week Take Pride in America will participate in the San Diego River Foundation, Youth Day of Service, where 1200+ youth and their families are expected participate in volunteer activities along the San Diego River.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Hydropower Licensing Rule. OHA is awaiting policy guidance from the Assistant Secretary on how to address the major remaining issue in this rulemaking. The Solicitor’s Office has advised that the Department is not required to provide an equal consideration statement regarding a condition or prescription for a hydropower license if no license party has proposed an alternative condition or prescription. OHA has provided a paper describing four options for revising the draft rule in light of the legal opinion.

Office of the Chief Information Office

Update: IT Transformation Field Outreach Sessions. Deputy CIO Lawrence Gross will conduct listening sessions this week in Boulder City (Hoover Dam), Las Vegas, Reno, and Salt Lake City. DAS Andrew Jackson will conduct listening sessions in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico. BIA, BLM, NPS, and USGS are sponsors for these events.

Field outreach sessions were held last week in West Glacier, Billings, and Yellowstone Montana. Presenters for these events were DAS Jackson and CIO Bernie Mazer. BOR's ADIR, Bruce Muller, supported the discussion. The combined site visits engaged over 90 employees.

Update - Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA): KPMG met with the OCIO on May 4, 2011 to discuss the communications plan with the bureau and office Chief Information Security Officers.

New: Open OIG and GAO Audit Recommendations. The OCIO conducted a pre-meeting is preparing for the Office of Financial Management's internal control and audit follow-up. Thirteen OCIO items were identified in the most recent report. OCIO will provide for the appropriate oversight and quarterly updates to the IT security plan.

Update: DOI Climate Change Observations and Data Management. OCIO developed an executive summary outlining alternative approaches for implementing the requirements identified by the DOI Integrated Climate Change Observations and Data Management Working Group to support broad based improvements in data access and management.

Update: Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Plan Draft. OCIO completed the initial draft of the DOI Plan for Improving Online Access to Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Information required by Presidential Memorandum. The draft is required to be completed (but not a final version) by May 18.

New: DOI prepares to submit an updated IT budget to OMB. There is a new OMB requirement for agencies to resubmit their IT Budget reporting for the FY 2012 Budget. The resubmission should reflect the final enactment of agency FY 2011 appropriations. Resubmissions should be consistent with the FY 2012 Budget request, but also reflect the detailed program-level budget levels for agency accounts as enacted in the final FY 2011 Continuing Resolution. It is expected that detailed budget levels by agency accounts should be available no later than May 16th from agency budget offices.

New: Federal IT Dashboard: DOI's official April status. As of May 5th, DOI has 36 green (71%), 14 yellow (27%), and one red (2%) IT investment(s).

Update: Deepwater Horizon BP Oil Spill (DWHZ) Discovery Project. OCIO continues the ongoing weekly meetings with LABAT, the DOJ litigation support contractor, and DOJ. SOL and LABAT are still working on server collection and the use of Laserfiche, an Electronic Records Document Management System, as a review platform solution. SOL and OCIO are working on identifying locations and procedures for paper collection.

Update: ESN Transition to Networx. The Networx proposal review is on track for June 27 completions. The evaluation panel is currently reviewing proposals from all three vendors on the universal contract. One and a half proposals have been evaluated to date. The consensus meeting is scheduled for the end of next week.

New: Law Enforcement iPhone Pilot. Four employees are in their first week of piloting iPhones. Initial observations found that the phones work extremely well for DOI Outlook-based e-mail, downloading attachments, photos and spreadsheets. The team also is experimenting with applications. A users group meeting will be held during the week of May 16, to review benefits, challenges and overall status of the deployment.

Update: Interim Unified Messaging. The OCIO is working on a draft Interim Unified Messaging Project Charter for executive review and approval.

Update: Temporary Radio Frequency Support. The OCIO provided, through the National Interagency Fire Center, 42 temporary radio frequencies to support multi-agency wild land fire activities in Colorado and 6 in Georgia. The existing 209 temporary radio frequencies in Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, Tennessee and Texas for multi-agency wild land fire activities remain in use.

Update: ESF #2 Activated to Support Tornado Aftermath. DOI's Emergency Support Function #2 (Communications) remains activated for temporary radio spectrum support for the recovery operations. No tasks have yet been assigned by FEMA.

New: DOI/USDA Joint Broadband/4G pilot project in Hawaii. DOI is working with USDA to develop a pilot project in Hawaii to demonstrate broadband service use on federal lands. This pilot will implement broadband/4G on three tower sites in the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and provide devices to NPS and USGS Volcano Observatory personnel.

Update: Denver Outage contingency planning. On May 5, the Denver Federal Center facilities underwent mandatory GSA electrical maintenance. For this activity, the ESN Denver Hosting Center Manager procured a second backup mobile generator for standby power in the event of an emergency. This activity did not impact ESN Denver traffic through the ESN Gateway. Engineers were on standby to troubleshoot and fix any issues that could arise. These added precautions were taken as a result of the GSA electrical maintenance work from April 9-10, which caused an unexpected circuit failure impacting the ESN Gateway. The Problem Management report which resulted from the April 9-10 incident included a recommendation to add precautions for similar events in the future.

Update: Network improvement for NPS. System latency was reported April 19th in the Pacific North West Region of NPS, specifically impacting the Regional Head Quarters (Oakland, CA) and Vancouver, WA. The OCIO took action to relieve this issue by re-routing network traffic to the Denver Gateway. NPS testing shows that network performance was dramatically improved as a result of this action and site contacts are reporting this as a success.

Update: Storms Create Network Outages. OCIO previously reported multiple storm related outages. Only one location, Bald Knob Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas, remains off line due to flooding. The estimated time to restore services will have to wait until flood waters subside. Bald Knob is a flood plain wetland along the Little Red River supporting waterfowl migration. Additional low lying offices along the lower Mississippi are expected to lose connectivity if levees are breached. The network operations center has been put on alert.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: CADR tracking system for CORE PLUS. CADR and the Bureaus liaisons to CADR held a kick off meeting on May 4 to jointly design a new and improved electronic system for consistently tracking CORE PLUS activity. This tracker will provide a common tool for efficiently and accurately tracking information on the use of CORE PLUS services and assistance by all bureaus and offices including trends and cost data.

New: Indian Land Consolidation. CADR is partnering with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to provide impartial process consultations for the work to be done on Indian land consolidation.

Update: Open Government Working Group. DOI's Open Government Steering committee is meeting with Chris Vein, the Director the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the lead on the federal interagency Open Government initiative, on May 10, to discuss DOI's Open Government efforts. The working group is finalizing an action plan for review by senior DOI management, including the AS-PMB and Deputy Secretary.

Ongoing: Facilitating Discussion on Disability Issues. Senior Counsel for CADR and CADR are facilitating discussions on the current state and opportunities to improve coordination on reasonable accommodation and other issues related to employees' with disabilities. This discussion supports the Every1 Matters and the diversity initiatives and the efforts to expand employment opportunities in DOI for disabled veterans.

Ongoing: Collaboration and Conflict Management Training. CADR is working in close coordination with the Strategic Employee and Organizational Development team and CADR liaisons in the bureaus on providing leadership and supervisory training on collaboration and conflict management skills and Government-to-Government consultation processes and partnering to develop more e-learning modules in support of CORE PLUS and Environmental Conflict Resolution.

National Business Center

New: Upgrade of FPPS. NBC performed an upgrade to software of in the development and test environments used by the Federal Personnel Payroll System (FPPS) Application team. The DBA team worked in conjunction with the FPPS Application Team to address any issues as they arose. This upgrade will continue until the next release of FPPS in August, 2011, when the production and training environments will be upgraded.

New: IT Security performance. The NBC IT Security Division prevented 543 incidents of possible release of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) while blocking 78,314 DOI user attempts to access Websites considered to be a possible source of malware or viruses.

New: Enhanced Financial Practices for Insular Affairs. NBC is assisting the Office of Insular Affairs in keeping its discretionary and mandatory funding separate. Insular Affairs had previously combined discretionary and mandatory spending authority for projects under one fund and were keeping the accounting separate by using different program names within the Federal Financial System (FFS). To separate these, the National Business Center created a new fund. Prior year obligations entered under the original fund were de-obligated without generating recoveries and then entered into the new fund. By using an automated process, NBC saved labor hours, reduced the risks of improper document processing, and created an audit trail.

New: BIA New Business for NBC. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is considering options for processing Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves for employees. NBC is exploring ways to leverage its experience with employee move support to assist the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

New: MIB Special Event. NBC assisted with preparations for the May 9, U.S. and China Strategic & Economic Dialogue 2011, which will include participation of the Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, and members of the Chinese delegation.

New: Auditorium Stage Updated. The auditorium stage was refinished the weekend of April 30 - May 1, 2011 in preparation for the special event. Additionally, a new wheelchair lift will be delivered on Thursday, May 5. The lift will be used to make the Sydney R. Yates Auditorium stage accessible. We hope to have the lift installed and in operation in time for the event.

New: Relocation of NPS Public Information Office. The National Park Service public information office located in room 1013 will be relocated to room 2071 in preparation for construction of the new child care facility. This move must be completed by May 31, 2011.

Update: Bison Bistro New Coffee Kiosk. Will be meeting with GSA on May 9 to determine the schedule for installation of the new coffee kiosk which is to include coffee, espresso, fruit smoothies, and grab-to-go food items.

New: GSA Meeting. On Thursday, May 5, NBC met with officials from the GSA Potomac Services Delivery Team to discuss a list of building-improvement projects we feel are needed for the South Interior Building. Some of these items are being requested by the OSM Director.

Update: Parking Open Season. Parking permits, maps, and regulation assembly are approximately 40% complete. A LAN message is scheduled to be sent this week. The current plan is to issue the new permits next week, with an effective date of May 16.

Update: Organic Garden. First planting took place on Friday April 29, and the second planting is scheduled for May 5. C. Melvin Sharpe School students are tentatively scheduled to help plant on May 13. We are coordinating a meeting with NPS staff, who help to maintain the White House Kitchen Garden, to see if we can learn about their garden and make improvements to ours.

Upcoming Special Events:

MIB Auditorium

Monday, May 9th

8:00a.m. - 11:30a.m.

U.S. and China Strategic & Economic Dialogue 2011 (w/VPOTUS, Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Chinese delegation)

Participants: ~250

Tuesday, May 10th

2:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.

Post Press Conference – U.S. and China Strategic & Economic Dialogue

Participants: 200

Thursday, May 12th

8:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. - OLESM

Emergency Management Meeting

Participants: 150

Monday, May 16th

1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m. - OLEMS

Police Week

Participants: 250

SIB Auditorium

Tuesday, May 10th

8:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. - DOIU

Executive Forum

Participants: 60

Tuesday, May 10th

3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. - SIO

Town Hall with the Secretary

Participants: ~175

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Fourth of July Ceremony. The Office of Human Resources (OHR) is currently making preparations for the Fourth of July Length of Service Recognition Ceremony. The first meeting with the Bureau/Officers is scheduled for May 11, 2011.

New: Classification Appeals Determinations. The Department rendered decisions on two classification appeals, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Geological Survey

(USGS). Both appeals were denied. One additional classification appeal with the National Park Service (NPS) is currently in the process of review.

New: Interagency Personnel Mobility Agreement Request. OHR prepared two requests for extensions of term appointments (both NPS), approved by the Department, and sent to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for decision. Two additional requests by (NPS) are currently in the process of review.

New: Employee Relations (ER)/Labor Relations (LR) Counterparts Meetings. A Counterparts meeting was held with ER and LR representatives from the bureaus/offices. The topics discussed included DOI updates, case law updates, and bureau/office updates and issues.

New: Standardized DOI-wide Employee Assistance Program (EAP). OHR is looking into how we might standardize EAP benefits across DOI and whether a single contract for all employees is a viable option. We have spoken with the acquisitions office staff and are working together to develop an appropriate acquisition strategy. We anticipate this can be implemented starting in fiscal year (FY) 13.

New: Bureau of Reclamation Accountability Report. The accountability team issued a report on its review of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Denver Office. The Department led this review in November with representatives from OPM along with human resources specialists from across BOR's headquarters and regions. The review team found no major issues, or illegal appointments, but rather identified a number of best practices that will be highlighted in the report. These best practices will also be shared with other bureaus via the Accountability Program's quarterly newsletter as well as through the SharePoint site. BOR will develop a corrective plan to address all required and recommended actions.

Update: eOPF. Interior has continued to implement eOPF throughout the department. Group II (BOR, BOEMRE, OSM, FWS, and OS) is moving forward in preparation for the project implementation, now that the continuing resolution has been lifted and the final reimbursable service agreements (RSA's) have been sent to the bureaus that still owe monies. We have had a meeting with OPM on the next steps and have started the deployment activities. Formal training is being scheduled with the first class in Chantilly, Virginia the week of May 16, 2011. The Implementation kick off meeting was held Wednesday May 4, 2011.

Update: Implementation Meeting for GS-1109 Series. A meeting was held with the Deputy Director, Acquisitions and Grants Management to finalize the memo to bureau directors regarding the implementation of OPM's new GS-1109 Grants Management Services classification flysheet and qualifications standard.

Update: Upcoming Accountability Reviews. The Office of Human Resources will be participating in the following reviews scheduled over the next three months. OHR will lead the OSM review.

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada Office in Reno, Nevada, May 9-13, 2011.
- Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 27-30, 2011.

- BLM Colorado Office in Denver, CO, June 27-July 1, 2011.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Bureau of Indian Education, Albuquerque, NM, July 18-22, 2011.
- National Park Service (NPS) Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, July 18-22, 2011.
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Pacific Northwest Region, Boise, Idaho, August 1-5, 2011.
- Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Washington, DC, August 8-12, 2011.

Office of Civil Rights

New: U.S. Access Board Committee and Board Meeting. During May 9-11, 2011, Public Civil Rights Division Chief Jack Andre will attend the U.S. Access Board's committee and board meeting located in Northwest Washington, DC. The agenda includes technical programs; vote on medical diagnostic equipment; airport terminal access; and accessible design in education. Moreover, the board will discuss the Smithsonian's plan for a new exhibition: "Everybody: The History of Disability in America." The three day meeting will also involve a presentation on issues for people who are deaf/blind.

New: DOI Pre-Conference Training Forum. On May 9, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management co-sponsored a training forum at the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) National Leadership Training Conference. The training, entitled "Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment and Beyond," takes place at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington. The FWS is providing transportation for DOI employees from Portland, Oregon to Bellevue, Washington.

New: Minority Serving Institutions Community of Partners Council (MSI-COPC). On May 10, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is representing DOI at the quarterly Federal interagency meeting of the MSI-COPC. The meeting is held at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. MSI-COPC focuses on strengthening existing and developing new strategies to maximize government-wide collaborative efforts directed towards minority serving institutions.

New: Competency Training for EEO Practitioners. On May 18, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights will present, "Acceptance and Framing of Formal EEO Discrimination Claims," in an effort to improve efficiency of the DOI Complaints Process. The training will be conducted at the NPS, National Capital Training Center, 1201 Eye Street, Washington, D.C.

New: icomplaints Training. On June 8, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights will present "icomplaints User Training", for DOI EEO Practitioners. The training will be conducted at the NPS, National Capital Training Center, in Washington, D.C.

Update: Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month – May 2011. DOI joins the Nation in observing May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. During May, we recognize the many contributions made by AAPIs to the rich heritage of our Nation. This year's theme is "Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment and Beyond." DOI's commemoration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month includes an exhibit of AAPI artifacts and

information. The exhibit, sponsored by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, is located on the 4th floor, 4300 Corridor, Main Interior Building. In recognition of AAPI Heritage Month, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations is hosting a screening of the documentary "Under a Jarvis Moon." The documentary tells the story of over 130 young men - most of whom were Native Hawaiians- employed by the DOI who were sent to occupy Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands from 1935 to 1942. The screening is taking place in the Main Interior Building Yates Auditorium on May 12, 2011, from 12:30p.m. to 1:30p.m.

Update: Rescheduled EEO Counselor Training. During June 27, 2011-July 1, 2011, OCR, in partnership with the National Park Service, will provide EEO Counselor Training at the NPS Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado. A Basic EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted during June 27, 2011-July 1, 2011. An Advanced EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted during June 29, 2011-July 1, 2011. Tuition for each course is \$500.00. Training will be provided by staff members of OCR, NPS, and USGS. Additionally, a presentation will be made to each class by two (2) Administrative Judges of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Completed: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Leadership Conference. The Office of Civil Rights Director, Sharon D. Eller, attended the EEOC Executive Leadership Conference, in Cambridge, MD, during May 3-5, 2011. The EEOC is an independent Federal law enforcement agency that enforces laws and guidelines against work discrimination.

Completed: Holocaust Days of Remembrance. The Department joined the Nation in observing the Holocaust Days of Remembrance from May 1-8, 2011. In recognition, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) had a Days of Remembrance exhibit located on the 4th Floor, 4300 corridor of the Main Interior Building. Moreover, DOI is a co-sponsor of the Federal Interagency Holocaust Memorial Remembrance Program that took place on May 4, 2011, at the Lincoln Theatre in Washington, D.C. The program featured three Holocaust survivors. Also, DOI provided the bus transportation for Anacostia High School students who attended the program.

Completed: 2011 Public Civil Rights (PCR) Forum. During May 3-4, 2011, staffers from the Public Civil Rights Division led by Jack Andre, Chief, and facilitator from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Kim Montoya, Public Civil Rights Specialist identified and established PCR Program goals for 2011/2012; discussed program gaps/deficiencies and made recommendations; reinforced Civil Rights requirements i.e. Department of Justice (DOJ) memorandums; and identified sub-teams to work on specific goals. Also, U.S. Access Board Accessibility Specialist William R. Botten gave a presentation to the group on providing leadership in accessible design with the newly devised DOJ's 2010 Standards.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

New: Upcoming Forums and Speaker Events

- On May 9, the Government-wide Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum will feature the book *“It’s Not Just Who You Know: Transform Your Life (and Your Organization) by Turning Colleagues and Contacts into Lasting, Genuine Relationships”* by author Tommy Spaulding. The leadership consultant and former CEO will explain in his book the importance of creating and sustaining relationships. The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington D.C.
- On May 10, 2011 the Department of the Interior Leadership Forum will feature the book *“It’s Not Just Who You Know”* by author Tommy Spaulding. The forum will be held in the South Interior Building for DOI executives.
- On May 18, 2011 the Government wide Senior Executive Service Forum will feature a lecture from the National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Retired), entitled *“Leading Through Crisis and Times of Change.”* He will address how large, complex organizations react to and manage unprecedented, anomalous events. The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington, D.C. This forum will be available on Webinar.

New: Principles of Federal Appropriations. The Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development (OSEOD)/DOIU signed an Inter-Agency Agreement with OPM to deliver ten *“Principles of Federal Appropriation Law”* courses in the Washington Metropolitan area and in Denver, Colorado. The courses have received outstanding reviews from the participants.

Update: FISSA 2011 Course. The Learning Technology Solutions Division completed both the paper copy and CD versions of the course. The CD version of the course is available on the CD download website. The paper copy of the course will be distributed as needed. To date over 25,000 DOI learners have completed the training.

Completed: Training for White House Staff. Sondra Cook, Chief Administer Officer for the Executive Office of the President (AO/EOP) and Jerry Gidner, OSEOD Deputy Director made welcoming remarks at *“The OZ Principle Accountability Training Workshop,”* held in DOIU’s classroom on April 27, 2011. The training was facilitated by Maury Heirs and had over 25 attendees.

National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC)

Completed: NIPTC Fifth Anniversary. On April 27, 2011, The National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC) commemorated its 5th Anniversary in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Guest speakers included Mr. William Walker, Southwest Regional Director for the BIA; Margaret Williams, Deputy Special Trustee Trust Accountability for OST; Lynn McPheeters, President of DOIU; and representatives of local officials. Governor Frank Lujan from the Pueblo of Isleta and Governor Marcellus Medina from the Pueblo of Zia were also in attendance. Approximately 150-200 attended this special event.

Office of Occupational Safety and Health

New: Randon in Legacy Uranium Mines. The Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) participated in a conference call with the Environmental Protection Agency Regions 6, 8, 9, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and BLM to flesh out the basic architecture of a (NIOSH) Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) of abandoned uranium mines. NIOSH is responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related illnesses and injuries. Specifically, DOI (via BLM) will identify current mine closing efforts for (NIOSH) to monitor in an effort to quantify the exposures to workers engaged in this activity. The initial work on this activity by an EPA employee detailed to BLM, while indicating large potential exposures, was methodically flawed. (NIOSH) is working on this issue. HHE will attempt to validate the exposure assessment and prove more defensible data. EPA's interest stems from the large exposure potential across the western states in access and use of these abandoned mines. BLM has already taken initial mitigation efforts to reduce exposures to their employees and contractors.

New: Denver Office. The OSH staff in Denver has revisited the current plan to occupy space in their current building (755 Parfet), on a different floor due to delays with the project. So far, we see no end in sight with the six month delays regarding the subpar conditions and size of that proposed space. Another suitable area in the Denver Federal Center has been located. The office space designs will be underway soon.

New: Wildland Fire Boots. At the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFECs) request, we are working with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to set up a meeting to discuss the meaning of the work "extreme heat" in the OSHA interpretation letter, "What constitutes specialized footwear, and whether the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards or the wildland fire policy carry more weight." This meeting will likely happen the week of May 23, 2011. NFPA consists of interagency safety representatives who oversee and monitor National Fire and Aviation.

New: Medical Cases. OSH staff is providing support in the medical case review to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), and the OS EEO in support of current case efforts. OSH also met in Denver with BOEMRE HR and ER staff to discuss overall disability case approaches and support capabilities.

Completed: Clear Creek Natural Occurring Asbestos. OSH completed its review of an international environmental research foundation/Harvard University report in support of BLM's efforts to manage the access and mitigate the risk of exposure to the motorcycle riding public in the Clear Creek, California Management area.

Completed: National Park Service (NPS) Conserv-O-Gram. OSH completed reviewing the draft, "Guidelines for Handling, Care, Storage and Disposal of chemical compound in historical collections.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

New: Update of Department of the Interior Borderlands Strategy. The last borderlands strategy dealing with security and environmental issues was completed in 2003. DOI Borderlands Coordinator Jon Andrew has initiated internal scoping for a revised document. Scoping comments will be received until June 3 and a draft document will be prepared and circulated internally for review. A final version of the strategy is expected to move forward in late summer for approval by the Secretary.

Update: Radio Transformation. Project directors are meeting the week of May 9 to finalize the charter and work plan and to meet with potential partners (Forest Service and Department of Homeland Security). Project directors are waiting for approval to hire a senior-level project manager. Meeting with the executive sponsors has been rescheduled for the week of May 16.

Update: Fire IT Project. The project leaders [Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)] met with fire executives in Interior and Forest Service, the Forest Service CIO, and representatives from the Interior OCIO.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. The Alpha version of the module scheduled for review the week of April 25 has been delayed. No new release date has been provided but it is expected soon. Field launch of the module is expected to begin in September of this year.

No Change: Interagency Interoperability. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (comprised of Interior and Agriculture executives in information technology, fire, and law enforcement) met to discuss priorities, projects, and organization. The group agreed to pursue a Secretarial level charter and to re-configure the group to make it more agile and strategic. Two major sets of initiatives are underway. First is interconnectivity of networks and cross-recognition of credentials. A large interagency conference call took place this week among USDA, FS, and DOI CIO offices, with LESEM, to coordinate and prioritize a number of activities in this area. This work also involves the DOI and USDA Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) program offices. The second initiative is radio program improvement including interoperability, infrastructure consolidation, and use of new technologies. This initiative is being handled through the DOI Radio Transformation Project in partnership with USDA and Forest Service.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. OCIO Directive 2011-005 was signed and issued. Initial planning on interagency (between Interior and Agriculture) is underway.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. It was learned on April 15 that the FY 09 and 10 funds that had been set aside in support of this agreement were lost in the final budget resolution sent to the President. CBP is evaluating other options to support the agreement with end of year funds but no word has been forthcoming as yet on if or how much funding might be available. Discussions will continue on the final language in the amendments to the agreement so that when funding becomes available the approved projects in the amendment can be executed. The amendments under consideration could make as much as \$22 million available to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The field meeting originally scheduled for early March is now scheduled for May 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release in mid May followed soon thereafter by public release of the draft. Public meetings will be held from mid to late May to late June with the comment period closing in late July following a 45 day public

comment period. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

No Change: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. A coordination meeting on NEPA and ESA draft compliance work is planned for the week of May 16. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for “non-waived” tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in late July for Arizona and mid August for California. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis also includes “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing. TIMR contracts for other border maintenance work will be finalized this summer. Each sector will have a Project Manager for this work who will work closely with the Public Lands Liaison Agent to address maintenance needs. CBP will provide a list of these for distribution to DOI field personnel.

No Change: Integrated Fixed Towers - OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Site visits in the Sonoita/Nogales area took place the week of April 25. These visits were postponed due to uncertainty over passage of this year’s budget. The field review of tower locations went very well. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be in the Douglas, AZ area.

No Change: Border Coordinator to Attend Meetings in Arizona and California. DOI Border Coordinator Jon Andrew will attend a meeting near Douglas, Arizona organized by the local ranching community to discuss border related issues. Also in attendance will be Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle and Border Patrol Sector Chief Randy Hill. Following this Andrew will attend a portion of the Borderlands Management Task Force meeting in El Centro and attend a tour of the El Centro area with Bureau of Land Management and BP officials followed by coordination meetings with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Carlsbad, CA.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: U.S./China Meeting at the MIB with Vice President and Secretary of State: The U.S./China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting took place in the MIB on May 9-10. The VP and Secretary of State attended the main meeting in the MIB Auditorium on Monday morning and the Secretary of State attended the closing meeting on Tuesday, also in the Auditorium. Other high level officials, such as the Secretary of the Treasury and high level Diplomats from China were in attendance. In addition, throughout Monday and Tuesday other lesser meetings were held in various locations in the MIB. OLES coordinated security with the U.S. Secret Service, the Diplomatic Security Service and NBC for this event.

New: OLES meetings with BIA training and field managers: The OLES training chief from the National Law Enforcement Training Office travelled to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) training site in Artesia, New Mexico May 3-6. He held meetings with the head of the Indian Police Academy and the Associate Director, Division of Professional Standards, to discuss the status of the Land Management Police Training Program (LMPT), the BIA views of the program, and possible discrepancies between the training and the bureau requirements. While there, he attended the Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial ceremony. He met with FLETC training managers to discuss the status of the LMPT, primarily to confirm that DOI bureaus are receiving the same content and quality at Artesia and in Brunswick. In addition, he met informally with BIA district managers and BIA and Tribal police department chiefs who were attending training at the same time. These discussions will help prepare for FLETC's upcoming curriculum review of the LMPT.

New: Office of Professional Responsibility and Inspections: OLES personnel convened a meeting with members of the Internal Affairs (IA) Units from the respective bureaus to conduct a review regarding timely entries of cases into the Internal Affairs Case Tracking System (IAB-CTS). Discussions also took place regarding the future implementation of the Early Intervention Policy System. Members of the discussion group were requested to submit suggestions and ideas as related to the system by June 3. The group also discussed the Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) software product and its impact on the IA program as a whole.

Update: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Deployment: The IMARS team has completed its first of 10 deployment pushes to the DOI law enforcement bureaus. The Records Management System (RMS) is being implemented across five bureaus and seven law enforcement programs nationwide. During this deployment push, 500 users received the RMS and many users began entering live incidents in the system. The Assistant Director—Technology Division will be preparing a report that will provide details about the deployment. Deployment Push 2 will begin on May 13.

No Change: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and C ramp is now open. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun and work on G ramp should begin in the near future.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** C ramp guard booth has been installed and is operational.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation has been posted on the GSA schedule and a contractor “walk through” was completed on April 14.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed within the next two months.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated (\$472,095) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative.
- **MIB Entrance Re-design:** DAS Andrew Jackson commissioned a study to redesign the C and E street entrances into the MIB. OLES has been invited to review and comment on this plan.

No Change: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12. Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request was due by April 29, but the majority of Bureaus/Offices have not supplied the information. OLES is attempting to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management to support this initiative.

No Change: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall, St Louis Arch, and the Statue. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been completed at the main BOEMRE facility in New Orleans. An additional assessment has been scheduled for the USGS EROS Data Center in May. Also in May, OLES will conduct a progress review based on the recommendations listed in the 2009 assessment at Mount Rushmore.

No Change: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. This workshop provides required in-service training that satisfies part of the 40 hour annual training requirement for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation’s most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge. The Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection from the Department of Homeland Security, Todd Keil, has confirmed his participation as the keynote speaker.

No Change: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating reviews of all bureaus/office personnel security programs. The reviews are conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. The review of the BOEMRE program supporting the Office of the Secretary is complete. Additional reviews are scheduled for the USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Unfortunately, per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years. Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individual in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

No Change: 444 DM 1 “Physical Protection and Building Security” Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is currently non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled “Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities”. The new draft 444 DM is pending a second review from all bureau/office Security Managers. OLES Security hopes to issue the updated version as interim guidance in June of 2011.

No Change: OLES Attendance at USNORTHCOM Annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference. As a result of the recent OLES visit to the Southwest border, OLES learned that the USNORTHCOM Joint Task Force–North (JTF-N), located in El Paso, will host its annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference June 6-9. This conference identifies and prioritizes U.S. military Civil Support missions, at no cost to the receiving organization, in support of Counterdrug and Counter Narco-Terrorism activities. OLES will send a representative to this conference to represent the Department.

No Change: Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Updates provided to the Program Manager’s Office, Information Sharing Environment (ISE), for Report to Congress. OLES, together with the OCIO, provided written updates on DOI’s progress toward implementing numerous ISE initiatives. The Department is progressing well and will have an automated method of reporting Suspicious Activity Reports once the Incident Management, Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) is fully deployed and operational.

Final: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On April 25, the DAS LESEM, Director OLES, USPP and NPS personnel met in New York regarding security procedures and visitor screening for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. A final decision from the NPS on the security screening procedures is pending.

Final: OLES participated in a Curriculum Review Conference at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center April 26-27. The Conference was to review and revise the curriculum for the Uniformed Police Training Program, the basic training utilized by the United

States Park Police and the Bureau of Reclamation. The meeting was a formal working group meeting leading up to the final conference in late May. The participating agencies and FLETC have proposed several changes, but no major modifications.

Final: Federal Chief Information Officer's 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Technology Division received eight responses from vendors to the cloud computing Request for Information (RFI). The Technology Division and the OCIO will review the responses to the RFI. After evaluation of the vendors who responded to the RFI, the Request for Proposal (RFP) with the Statement of Work will be issued. This Cloud Computing Initiative is required by the 25 Point Implementation Plan to Reform Federal IT released by the Federal Chief Information Officer from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Recovery Operations for Severe Storms and Flooding in Central U.S.:* Severe storms, tornadoes and flooding ravaged the central states of the U.S. in April. The National Weather Service is indicating that one of the largest outbreaks of tornadoes in 40 years occurred on April 27, resulting in more than 300 fatalities and destruction of large swaths of homes. The President issued nine major disaster declarations to impacted states. The worst hit state was Alabama, where almost 200 fatalities occurred. National Parks and Wildlife Refuges lost thousands of trees in the storm and at least one visitor was killed by a falling tree.
- *Flooding in the Midwest:* Floodwaters on the Souris, Sheyenne and Red River are receding, but flood fighting continues on the Mississippi River, particularly in the Lower Mississippi Valley. As the floodwaters move south, the Corps is expecting to use the Morganza Floodway, the Bonnet Carre Spillway and the Old River Control Station to reduce the impacts of flooding in Louisiana. Water levels could remain at flood stage through June in some areas. USGS teams continue to support interagency flood monitoring and prediction efforts, and OEPC and FWS are coordinating with interagency counterparts regarding environmental impacts.
- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* Japanese authorities now report that there are 14,919 confirmed deaths and 9,893 persons remain missing following the earthquake and tsunami. EPA is beginning to scale back air, water and milk monitoring for radiation. Some RADNET sensors will be removed from remote sites.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Sixty-two DOI personnel continued to work full-time in New Orleans on Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. DOI's proposed personnel transition staffing plan has been approved within the Department and will be presented to the Coast Guard on May 9. Oil spill cleanup efforts have been slowed so as not to disturb nesting birds and sea turtles.
- *Wildfires Continue to Burn in the West and in Florida:* There are eight wildland fires burning on DOI land in AZ, CA, FL, GA, NC and NM. These fires are impacting facilities under the control of BIA, BLM, FWS and NPS. Currently there are 459 DOI personnel who are actively involved in the interagency firefighting.

- *Tropical Storm Aere forms in the Western Pacific:* Tropical Storm Aere made landfall on May 9 in the Philippine Islands with wind speeds of 40-50 mph. No U.S. interests are currently threatened, however on its current projected track, the storm will pass close by the damaged nuclear power plant in Japan on May 12-13

Update: National Level Exercise (NLE) 11. NLE 11 is still scheduled to take place the week of May 16 and the scenario will consist of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (Midwest US). The Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretary PMB are scheduled to participate in White House meetings as part of the simulated response. Due to real world flooding and tornado response, there will be no play from the FEMA Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) and the Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) for the NLE 11 Functional Exercise. As reflected in the letter of instruction signed by the Assistant Secretary, PMB and distributed to bureau and office directors on April 29, this change in participation from FEMA and the involved states will have an impact on DOI interaction in those particular states but will not affect DOI play in the other four states involved (i.e., Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, and Missouri).

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, participated in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Food and Agriculture monthly teleconference. This week she will represent DOI at multiple interagency meetings – the NIPP Health Sector’s quarterly meeting, the Interagency Animal Zoonotic Group and the National Security Staff’s Chemical Preparedness sub-Interagency Policy Committee.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. **OCIO has begun work on the solution to provide access to CMS email addresses through Outlook, OWA and Blackberry. Customized reports and database modifications are in progress to address special EM Rosters Reports requirements.** When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM participated in the Interagency Facilitator Training on May 5. OEM also began the process of briefing Assistant Secretaries and Deputy Assistant Secretaries about their roles and responsibilities for EH 2011; OEM briefed the DAS-Human Capital and Diversity on May 5. Exercise EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration. OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM met with the Emergency Coordinator for the Office of Financial Management to discuss their COOP team representation along with general EM roles and responsibilities. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) evacuation drill has been rescheduled for May 24; under OPM's Occupant Emergency Plan, key OPM leaders move to the IOC to operate during emergencies. OEM has scheduled a tabletop exercise with OLES Security and NBC Facilities to review the procedures for evacuating individuals who need assistance during a building emergency. OEM is developing the 2011 update to the DOI Occupant Emergency Plan and Occupant Emergency Employee Guide based on lessons learned from the 2010-2011 evacuations and drills.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM is participating in Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs (AS/IA)-sponsored Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) Conference in Green Bay, WI May 10-12. This is the final site-visit scheduled for the expert study prior to the finalization of the expert study.

Update: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) approved the latest iteration of the *DOI Positions and Qualifications Guide* on May 4. The updated Guide includes positions that were developed as a direct result of the Gulf Oil Spill. OEM received comments from the EMC on the draft policy regarding emergency incident staffing and will be making changes prior to further EMC review. Both efforts directly support the effort to ensure all DOI responder qualifications are loaded into the same qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system for future emergency response efforts.

Update: Single Point Ordering of Resources. OEM will be holding a collaboration meeting with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) and the National Park Service (NPS) on May 11 to come to consensus about a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on this, OEM is currently revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system and plans to brief the Deputies Operating Group (DOG) on progress and costs at the May 26 DOG meeting.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee met last week to discuss an aggressive implementation schedule of the recently signed Presidential Policy Directive 8 (National Preparedness) and other topics. The National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continues to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Fire Program Analysis (FPA)/Re-Charter. In preparation for the upcoming independent, external review of the Fire Program Analysis program, OWFC is refreshing select project management documentation to reflect the re-charter.

New: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy - Phase II. The second of three regional meetings on the "Cohesive Strategy" begins May 9-10 with a meeting in Minneapolis for the northeast region. Last week's meeting was held in Denver for the western region. The

southeast regional meeting will be May 23-24 in Atlanta. These meetings are focusing on regional members for the cohesive strategy effort, providing an overview of the Phase II process, outcomes, timeframes, assessment process, regional goals and working groups.

New: National Cohesive Strategy Science and Analysis Team Virtual meeting. The science and analysis team met May 4-5. Discussion topics included the phases of the strategy, role of the science team, prototype efforts, organizing science efforts, expectations, and next steps.

New: Fire Program Analysis/Budget. Based on FPA output, on April 22, the FPA Interagency Advisory Team presented a set of national, strategic budget themes and messages to the FPA Oversight Group (OG) for approval and use in the FY13 budget submissions for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. On April 27, at the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) meeting, members of the OG shared the budget messages with IFEC. The OG decision was supported for the national, strategic budget messages to be used in the FY13 departmental budget submissions.

Update: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting. OWFC, NWCG Risk Management Committee, DOI Safety and Health Office and USFS Risk Management Office will work together to address OSHA's June 11, 2009 PPE interpretation letter and develop a recommended way forward.

Update: Secretary Salazar visit to NIFC: The OWFC successfully hosted Secretary Salazar's visit to NIFC. Attendees included Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, BLM Director Bob Abbey, DAS Kim Thorsen as well as interagency fire officials. The topics discussed included the Cohesive Strategy, wildland fire safety and preparedness for the current fire season; and a national strategy to address the mounting risks of wildfire around the nation. The Secretary also met with Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to explore how DOI and Idaho can work together to advance the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative to support local conservation and recreation efforts.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 continues. The first of four phases, the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD), is complete. Phase 2 -- determining the process for integration of results of the PPS and the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) -- has begun and alternatives were presented to the bureau fire directors on May 6. The Directors asked the DOI members of the Fuels Management Committee (FMC) to revise a couple of the alternatives, which will be discussed further on May 13. Great progress continues to be made with partners in USGS to create a temporary, interim, web-based approach to gather from field units all of the data needed to run the Project Prioritization System, which is the highest priority task for the Fuels Decision Support Sub-committee (FDSSC). The Directors asked that they be presented with a report of EMDS options on May 13. A preliminary program of work is currently anticipated by approximately the beginning of September

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. The next geo-area, South Central was delivered April 22. Production work is on schedule for the remaining geo-areas (Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii). The first through fifth geo-areas have been delivered: the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, and North Central. Updating LANDFIRE data products as part of the Refresh project is focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as: wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters.

LANDFIRE (Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools) is an interagency vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics mapping program. It is a shared initiative between the DOI and USDA Forest Service. Data products are based on satellite imagery (Landsat) and created at a 30-meter grid spatial resolution designed to facilitate national- and regional-level strategic planning and reporting of management activities. LANDFIRE data products include layers of vegetation composition and structure, surface and canopy fuel characteristics, and fire regimes data at the landscape level. LANDFIRE methodologies are science-based and include extensive field-referenced data [including Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data]. For more information on LANDFIRE and the schedule see www.landfire.gov.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points: (1) success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget, (2) submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC, and (3) discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft. A final NIFC draft was submitted on April 15 to OWFC and FS Fire and Aviation offices.

No Change: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to jointly operate a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties.

The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use of the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Interior and Agriculture, soon.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program/International Fire Conference. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program/Australia Arrangement. OWFC is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No change: Fire Planning Analysis System Coding Review. Pre-production environment is available for data load in progress. Forest Service Secure Coding review has been initiated. There was a GA Lead conference call on Thursday, May 5.

Final: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

Final: International Support. OWFC continues to provide support and coordination to the DOI Office of International Affairs and USAID for the potential deployment of DOI resources should they be required to assist Mexico.

Final: Wildland Fire Training Course Proposal for OSHA. OWFC is coordinating with the Office of Occupational Safety and Health and Bureau Fire Safety Program Managers on the development of a proposed wildland fire safety training course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Officers.

Final: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

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BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Guidance on Asbestos-Related Cleanup Costs. On May 4, 2011, DOI issued guidance on asbestos-related cleanup costs. This guidance was issued jointly by the Office of Financial Management (PFM), PAM, and the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) and provides the Department's methodology for calculating its asbestos-related costs. Bureaus and offices are to provide information on their real property inventory to PFM, PAM and OEPC by July 15, 2011. Accounting guidance for reporting and recognizing asbestos cleanup liability will be issued by June 2011.

New: Meeting with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. On May 4, 2011, representatives with PAM met with Jennifer Swartz, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (DOI). Discussions focused on common acquisition priorities such as acquisition savings, acquisition workforce, strategic sourcing, and small business program changes.

Office of Budget

New: 2011 Spring Storm Damage Report. POB issued a data call to determine the amount of damages to Interior's facilities and natural resources from the recent spring storms. Congress is considering emergency supplemental funding to address such damages.

No Change: OMB Travel. The week of June 26, OMB Examiner James Hurban will visit the Rocky Mountain Region to review BIA and OST programs.

No Change: 2013 Budget Formulation. On April 21, the Office of Budget issued initial 2013 formulation policy guidance from the DAS-BFPA to bureau budget officers. This guidance contained bureau/office planning targets for the Departmental submission, due May 31, as well as fixed cost placeholder estimates, funding levels for Secretarial initiatives, and a tentative schedule for the 2013 formulation process. POB continues to develop bureau-specific/cross-cutting and technical guidance, to be issued shortly.

Office of Financial Management

Ongoing: Audit of the Use and Monitoring of GovTrip. PFM has been assisting the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) in addressing internal control matters with regard to system access for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the audit of the Use and Monitoring of GovTrip.

Ongoing: GAO Draft Report. PFM received and processed the following GAO reports:

- GAO Draft report on *American Samoa and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Employment, Earnings, and Status of Key Industries since Minimum Wage Increases Began* (GAO-11-427). There are no recommendations to the Department. The Office of Insular Affairs is reviewing the report and comments if any are due back to GAO by May 26, 2011.
- GAO final report on *Grants.gov: Additional Action Needed to Address Persistent Governance and Funding Challenges* (GAO-11-478). No action required since the recommendations are to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ongoing: Pollution Removal Fund Authority Cost Reimbursement. PFM reviewed and submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the 11th Pollution Removal Fund Authority (PRFA) cost reimbursement package from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement totaling \$3,395. The PRFA cost team has assisted in collecting nearly \$12 million of the \$50 million that the bureaus have billed the USCG in recovery efforts.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. The first set of Priority Goal Quarterly Status Reviews with David Hayes and bureau goal owners were conducted on May 5 and 6, except for Safe Indian Communities. Corresponding "Progress Updates" have been made available for review by OMB and interested White House offices this week. OMB has requested that the DOI-related Priority Goal overview and descriptive pages on www.performance.gov be updated by May 18.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New: Small Business Administration (SBA) FY 2010 Goaling Report and Scorecard. The SBA will release the draft of the scorecard to Federal agencies the week of May 16. Agency responses are due to SBA on May, 27. The SBA will release the Final Fiscal Year 2010 Goaling Report and Scorecards in mid-June.

New: Postings on OMB MAX System. In support of the White House initiative to increase small business participation in federal contracting, the Department will post success stories and best practices related to small business contracting on the OMB MAX System.

New: CelebrAsian 2011. In support of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the OSDBU will represent the Department at CelebrAsian 2011, in Los Angeles, CA, on May 23-

25. CelebrAsian is the oldest and largest Pan Asian American Business Opportunity Conference in the United States.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 3: Construction Outreach Event:** Event will be held at the Yates Auditorium during the evening hours. Further details to be provided when finalized.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration for the event is open.
- **September 15 (tentative) New Mexico Outreach Event in Albuquerque, NM.** Further details to be provided when finalized.

Update: Webinar Scheduled. OSBDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinar:

- **June 1: Minority Serving Institutions.**

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

Update: FBMS Deployment 7 (D7). The D7 Business Blueprint Phase will begin on May 2, 2011, and end on November 11, 2011. During D7, FBMS will be deployed to Indian Affairs and the National Park Service.

Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office

New: Separation of Duty Analysis. The Departmental Offices FBMS Implementation Office (OS IMO) began performing internal Separation of Duties (SOD) analysis on OS office End User Role Mapping Workshop submissions utilizing the Approva tool.

Update: ONRR Conversion to OS. OS IMO is working closely with ONRR to develop a strategy to ensure cross bureau support from BOEMRE is accomplished in accordance with OS standards and meets the needs of ONRR. ONRR financial transactions will be processed through BOEMRE through FY 2012 and acquisition support will be provided by the National Business Center Acquisition Services Directorate. A scope meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10 with ONRR stakeholders and FBMS IMO core team.

Update: Organizational Change Management. The final OS-led role mapping workshop will be held on May 18-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently. The PMO is planning a role mapping workshop for the deploying bureaus June 7-8 to provide information on: (1) Substantive changes to redeploy roles; (2) New roles; (3) Updates to SOD rules; (4) Updates to the EURMW; and (5) Updates to the role mapping timeline.

No Change: Go-Live Preparation. OS IMO has begun the development of processes and procedures for the FBMS "Go-Live" black out period and catch up plan that is scheduled to

begin September 25th. This plan will be vetted and disseminated through out the stakeholder community.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Institutionalize Strategic Review and Enhance Performance Measures Team Highlights

(New): The Institutionalize Strategic Review and Enhance Performance Measures (ISR) Implementation Work Group (Group) presented its goal, “Continuous improvement is part of everyone's job” to the Quality Steering Committee (QSC) on May 5, 2011. The ISR Group will also begin drafting processes and procedures as we look at how to instill the continuous improvement culture into ONRR. The other Groups continue to meet on a regular basis to frame the scope of the tasks ahead and formalize work plans to implement the Strategic Review recommendations.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers, records developed under the Agreement, and equipment:

- New Mexico review on May 31-June 2, 2011
- Utah review on June 7-8, 2011

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR's goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Ute Mountain Ute Agency, Towaoc, CO, on May 24, 2011
- Southern Ute Agency & Southern Ute Senior Ctr, Ignacio, CO, on May 25, 2011
- Ojo Encino Chapter House, Ojo Encino, NM, on June 8, 2011

Report to Congress: Analysis of RSFA Provisions and Adjustments to Royalty Payments

(No Change): ONRR will be submitting for Departmental review a report to Congress as requested in GAO-08-893R, *Mineral Revenues: Data Management Problems and Reliance on*

Self-Reported Data for Compliance Efforts Put MMS Royalty Calculations at Risk. The report examines the six-year time period during which companies may adjust their Federal royalty data without ONRR approval and ONRR's seven year time period for issuing monetary demands. The report notes that the majority of company adjustments occur within the first three years of the six-year period.

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations Nearing Publication (Update): On April 22, 2011, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget signed two Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) - one for Federal Gas Valuation and the other for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation. The ANPRs are currently under review by OMB. ONRR has also developed a communications plan and press release to announce the publication of the ANPRs. ONRR anticipates the publication in the near future.

Indian Oil Negotiated Rulemaking (No Change): ONRR is in the process of forming a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) to address the valuation of crude oil produced from Indian leases. ONRR is working with the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution and the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to obtain a third party neutral to serve as facilitator for the Committee. In addition, ONRR is gathering information necessary for the Department and the White House liaison to analyze and vet the proposed Committee members. Once the Department and White House liaison approve the members, the Department will publish *Federal Register* notices announcing the members and establishing the Committee. Additionally, the Secretary will need to sign the charter for filing with Congress. The estimated timeframe for holding the first meeting of the Committee is August 2011.

Update to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases Related to Index Zones (No Change): The Economic and Market Analysis Office (EMAO) is proposing changes to the Indian gas valuation regulations that will remove certain illiquid natural gas index prices from the Indian Index Zone calculation. These changes will potentially increase natural gas royalty revenues for Indian leases located in Oklahoma Zone 1, Oklahoma Zone 2, and the Central Rocky Mountain Zone. EMAO is participating with State and Indian Coordination to conduct outreach to Indians affected by these regulatory changes. EMAO is also in process of drafting a FR Notice to publish the changes to the calculation.

Tribal Consultation Letter (No Change): ONRR has invited tribal leaders to three meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could affect the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. These meetings will take place in Albuquerque, NM on May 19, 2011, Denver, CO on May 26, 2011, and Oklahoma City on June 9, 2011. The consultation meetings will open dialogue with Indian Tribes on potential changes including valuing crude oil produced from Indian leases, removing certain natural gas index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal valuation regulations.

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of April 18, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Matters:

EnSCO Litigation

Count IV (Undue Delay) - In the district court, the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment were filed on April 12. Responses to cross-motions are due on April 25. With respect to the appeal of the preliminary injunction, the Fifth Circuit denied EnSCO's motion to reconsider the stay.

BOP Examination

(b) (5)

On a related note, we have also been monitoring the progress of the court-ordered additional BOP testing to be led by BP. (b) (5)

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

On Monday, BP propounded extensive discovery to the United States, much of which requires response from the Department. We are working with the Justice Department to triage the discovery requests and the work required to make the production will be extensive. Also this week, DOJ intends to file the government's position on the scope of the first trial to be held by the Court in February 2012. Depositions are ongoing in New Orleans and the parties are now working to schedule the first testimony from Government witnesses, expected to be BOEMRE witnesses involved in the permitting and inspection process.

Other Matters:

WildEarth Guardians v. U.S. Secretary of the Interior

This week a district court ruled in favor of the FWS's negative 90-day finding on a petition to list the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The district court adopted a magistrate's report and recommendation which included a finding that the term "significant portion of its range" is ambiguous, and that FWS's interpretation is entitled to *Chevron* deference if FWS articulated a

reasoned basis for its decision and articulated a rational connection between the facts and the decision made. Citing a Ninth Circuit case, the court noted in passing that “[t]he ESA allows the Secretary to list an animal as endangered through all or a significant portion of its range,” *id.* at 9, a statement that is contrary to recent SPR case law (i.e., wolf and Gunnison’s prairie dog).

Wolf Litigation

Our appeal of Judge Molloy’s decision on the 2009 rule is still pending before the Ninth Circuit.
(b) (5)

Multi-District Litigation on the Polar Bear Endangered Species Act Listing Rule and Sec. 4(d) Rule

On April 13, 2011, District Judge Sullivan conducted two lengthy hearings on the parties’ summary judgment motions on the challenges to the so-called Section 4(d) rule for polar bears and on the challenges to the prohibition on the importation of polar bear trophies taken in Canada. Briefing and oral argument on all claims pending in this MDL case has now concluded, and the cases are now submitted to the court for a final judgment.

Klamath Irrigation District v. United States (Takings Case) – (b) (5) (b) (5)

The Court remanded the case to the Court of Federal Claims to apply the Oregon court’s analysis of whether project water users hold a property right to the water under Oregon law. The Federal Circuit’s decision is interlocutory and does not finally decide any issues in this case, but remands for further review by the trial level court.

Cape Hatteras Off-Road Vehicle Litigation

The district court held a status hearing on April 7 and orally indicated it would grant the parties’ joint motion to modify the consent decree and extend the deadline for the final regulation until November 15. A written order is expected shortly. Under the consent decree, the final regulation was originally to be published April 1. Though NPS released the record of decision for the ORV plan on time in December 2010, it has not yet released the proposed regulation. The AUSA reports that the court is nonetheless fairly pleased with NPS’s progress.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park

On March 1, Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint in their challenge to NPS’ approval in 2008 of revisions by New York State to the LWCF Sec 6(f) boundary for Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. Those revisions included removal of the Tobacco Warehouse and Empire Stores Warehouse buildings from the project boundary, thereby eliminating the LWCF requirements for use of the buildings to be consistent with public outdoor recreation. The court granted the plaintiffs’ preliminary injunction request on April 8, 2011. NPS has been ordered to restore the

original 2001 boundary for the LWCF grant assisted Empire Fulton Ferry State Park. The court also scheduled a status conference for April 20, 2011, to address the permanent injunction.

Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) Litigation [Douglas Timber/Pacific Rivers Cases]

On December 30, 2008, the BLM completed revisions to six Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in Western Oregon. The revised RMPs primarily addressed timber management and removed the BLM from the Northwest Forest Plan. Three lawsuits filed by environmental organizations challenged the WOPR alleging, among other things, a violation of the Endangered Species Act for failure to complete Section 7(a)(2) consultation on the plan revisions. Representatives of the timber industry also filed a lawsuit challenging the WOPR as inconsistent with the O&C Act. On July 16, 2009, the Department withdrew the WOPR Records of Decision. All of the WOPR lawsuits were dismissed following the administrative withdrawal. The timber industry subsequently filed suit challenging the administrative withdrawal. On March 31, 2011, in *Douglas Timber Operators v. Salazar*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia vacated and remanded the decision to withdraw the WOPR RODs. On April 11, 2011, nine environmental organizations jointly re-filed their original complaint challenging WOPR in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon (*Pacific Rivers Council v. Shepard*). While stating in their complaint that the March 31 order did not “explicitly re-instate the WOPR RODs,” plaintiffs reinstate their ESA, NEPA, APA, and O&C Act challenges of the WOPR. An answer to the complaint will be due 60-days from date of service.

Wind River Irrigation Project - April 20, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Field Hearing

The Solicitor’s Office received notice from the BIA that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has scheduled a field hearing to be held at the Wind River Irrigation Project. The Committee has not provided a detailed agenda for the hearing or identified what particular topics it is interested in. The BIA’s Congressional Affairs Office asked BIA irrigation program staff to prepare testimony for the hearing generally summarizing project operations and recent maintenance initiatives. (b) (5)

The Wind River Project was authorized in 1905. Located in central Wyoming on the Wind River Indian Reservation and operated and administered by the BIA at the Wind River Agency, the Project consists of a total of 37,883 assessable acres, including 467 miles of canals and laterals and 5,268 irrigation structures. In 2008, the BIA completed Operations and Maintenance Guidelines for the Project.

Redding Rancheria Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Regulations Challenge

On March 28, 2011, the Redding Rancheria of northern California filed a complaint that challenges the Department’s Part 292 regulations interpreting Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). The Tribe’s specific grievance is the Assistant Secretary’s decision from December 22, 2010, which denied the Tribe’s proposed trust acquisition for an off-reservation gaming parcel called Strawberry Fields. The Tribe had argued that the site would be gaming eligible under the “restored lands” exception to IGRA’s general prohibition against gaming on newly acquired trust lands. Under the Department’s Part 292 regulations, the site could not qualify for the restored lands exception. The Tribe mounts a challenge to the authority

of the Department to promulgate the Part 292 regulations, alleging that Congress gave the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) the exclusive authority to promulgate regulations to implement IGRA. The Tribe also alleges that the Department acted arbitrarily and capriciously in adopting the criteria for the restored lands exception found under Part 292, as well as in applying those criteria to the Tribe's circumstances. Finally, the Tribe alleges that the Department breached a fiduciary trust duty that the Department owes the Tribe when the Department failed to interpret IGRA and the Department's Part 292 regulations in favor of the Tribe. The United States must file an Answer or Motion to Dismiss by May 31, 2011.

Delaware Audubon Society and PEER v. Salazar (D. Del.)

FWS, Region 5, is considering a request from the Governor of Delaware to commence a breach-filling action at Prime Hook NWR as soon as the State issues its wetlands permit, despite the fact that the Service's EA/FONSI indicated that it would not take action between April 1-August 15 due to the presence of nesting migratory birds in the area of the breach. The State's permit was delayed by a public request for a hearing on the proposed permit, which is now expected to be issued within a few weeks, or less. The EA/FONSI justified the filling action on the basis of trying to preserve Refuge resources while a long-term marsh restoration plan is completed via the CCP/EIS. There has been intense lobbying by residents of the barrier island community located between the marshes and Delaware Bay to fill the breach to protect their properties from flooding and to maintain easy access to the mainland over the low-lying State-owned access road. The Governor's Office has proposed declaring a state of emergency and the FWS is awaiting receipt of this notice. The plaintiffs objected to the wetland's permit at the state hearing. In the federal litigation, they challenged the appropriateness of the breach-filling action as not being motivated by protection of Refuge resources but instead to protect private property.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
April 15, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC) – Off-road vehicle management. The status of the proposed special regulation for the Seashore's Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan/EIS (plan/EIS) continues to be of great interest to stakeholders, local government, the Court, the NC Congressional delegation, and regional news media. The proposed rule package is under review. The April 2008 Court-approved consent decree had set a deadline of April 1, 2011, for completion of the final ORV special regulation. On April 7, 2011, the Court held a status hearing on the consent decree, ORV plan/EIS, and proposed rule. U.S. District Court Judge Terrence W. Boyle approved extending the deadline for completion of the final rule until November 15, 2011.

National Mall and Memorial Parks (DC) – Capitol Reflecting Pool draining and structural assessment. On April 17, the Capitol Reflecting Pool at the eastern end of the National Mall will be drained and cleaned; this will last two weeks. An engineering structural assessment will examine integral structural slabs, coping, utilities and perimeter sidewalks.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (CA) -- Southern California Edison (SCE) hydroelectric diversion permit. SCE holds a special use permit for the operation of the Kaweah #3 hydroelectric facility, for which the primary water supply is located in Sequoia National Park. SCE compensates the park, but a review found the amount to be inadequate. The permit expired in September 2006, but SCE continued to operate the plant under short-term extensions issued by the park during consultations. The NPS has concluded four years of consultation with SCE and has set a permit fee at \$483,000 (reduced from \$1.4 million), phasing in the permit fee as requested by Senator Feinstein. The NPS has offered a 90-day permit extension to SCE for continued operations, stipulating that this would be the final extension. SCE declined the extension and has ceased operations in the park. Water from the Kaweah River will not be diverted to run down the flume; instead it will continue to run down the river. SCE will be required to remove hydrofacilities from park lands if a new special use permit is not issued.

Death Valley National Park (CA) – Devil's Hole pupfish survey. The spring 2011 Devil's Hole pupfish survey for adult pupfish was recently completed; survey results indicated 104 adults. This number is slightly lower than last year's 120 and remains below the springtime average of about 200 fish for the multi-decade period of record. However, the adult population has been above 100 since the fall of 2009. The next count will occur in September 2011.

Mammoth Cave National Park (KY) – White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has announced that WNS, a serious disease in bats, has been discovered in Trigg County, about 120 miles west of Mammoth Cave. The park is using this discovery to initiate formal post-WNS activities. The park completed a WNS Response Plan that addresses bat protection and visitor management concerns. There are more than 400 caves

within the park, all of which are closed to human access, except via ranger-led tours or by permit.

ON THE HORIZON

Haleakala and Hawaii Volcanoes National Parks (HI) – Air Tour Management Plans/EIS.

The parks and FAA have released draft Air Tour Management Plans (ATMP) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for each park, with 60-day public comment periods ending June 6. Haleakala currently has 12,796 air tours annually over parklands; Hawaii Volcanoes has 28, 441 air tours annually. The Haleakala draft analyses six alternatives to address commercial air tours over the park including: continuing at current flight conditions, no air tours, a quiet technology option, and a variety of air tour routes around the crater area. The Hawaii Volcanoes draft ATMP/EIS analyses five alternatives to address commercial air tours over the park and include a variety of actions: defining flight paths, examining a range of flight numbers annually, daily and weekly, and restricting times and days. April public meetings are scheduled for both plans.

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (WA) – Vacation cabin draft EA comment period extended. The park is evaluating the effects of issuing Special Use Permits for 26 existing private vacation cabins at the park. Alternatives include: issuance of new 5-year permits with no new conditions; cabin removal and restoration of the areas to natural conditions; and, as the preferred alternative, issuance of 5-year permits with new terms and conditions towards improved shoreline environment, wildlife habitat, and visitor experiences. The NPS has extended the comment period 30 days, closing May 6. A 90-day extension, as requested by members of the Washington delegation would have delayed the final decision to a point where cabin owners would not have had time to upgrade their septic systems, a permit-extension requirement.

Biscayne National Park (FL) - Resource Protection Act case referral. In October 2007, the *Walton Smith*, a 96-foot research vessel owned by the University of Miami, struck multiple patch reefs within the park. The vessel attempted to power off, injuring more than 880 square meters and excavating more than 29 cubic meters of coral reef habitat. The grounding also damaged a shipwreck, dislodging and damaging artifacts. The NPS case team and the Solicitor's Office attempted to reach a settlement with the University, but were unsuccessful. The case is being referred to the Department of Justice.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
April 11, 2011

Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee

FWS will host a public meeting of the Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee on April 27, 2011, at its headquarters office in Arlington, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to present and discuss FWS's Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. The public will have an opportunity to comment at this meeting.

Oil & Gas Pilot Program

FWS anticipates receiving FY 2011 funding for an Environmental Streamlining Pilot Project within the next 2 weeks. The funding is provided by BLM through Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The staff provides dedicated technical assistance to BLM and States on oil and gas issues on BLM lands, and also handles National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act questions. Not controversial.

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

FWS Alaska reports that the NOA for the draft revised CCP and EIS for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be resubmitted to the Department for approval. The Secretary was briefed on the CCP and EIS on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. The revised CCP will provide management direction for the refuge for the next 15 years and includes wilderness and wild river reviews. Release of the draft CCP and EIS is now anticipated the end of May, 2011. A high level of controversy is anticipated.

North and South Dakota 2011 Flood

On April 7 President Obama signed a disaster declaration for North Dakota flooding, which gives FEMA and the other federal agencies the authority to respond under the Stafford Act. The FWS flood response team is participating in the interagency Joint Operations Center command post. Since Saturday, two airboat rescue missions have been performed to remove eleven people. Upper Souris NWR staff is coordinating public news releases and congressional outreach with the Corps of Engineers to ensure the integrity of Lake Darling Dam and to protect life and property downstream.

Progress made on the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange Road Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

FWS Alaska reports that progress continues on the EIS for a proposed land exchange for the purposes of constructing a road connecting the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska as required by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The EIS is now scheduled for release in early Fall 2011. The King Cove contingent plans to be in DC the week of May 9th meeting with elected officials and officials in the Department of the Interior. The record of decision is now scheduled for release in late spring/early summer 2012 concurrently with the Secretary's finding of public interest related to the project.

Notice of Availability for the Palmyra Atoll Nonnative Rat Eradication Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

The project/FEIS will enable FWS to eradicate all nonnative rats from the atoll through the successful delivery of a lethal dose of toxicant to every rodent on the atoll in a manner that avoids and minimizes harm to the ecosystem while still maintaining a high probability of success.

Proposed Rule to Establish a Manatee Refuge in Kings Bay, Citrus County, Florida

This proposed manatee refuge is located entirely within the existing FWS Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding existing manatee sanctuaries, where all waterborne activities are prohibited. This proposed rule is intended to provide for permanent restrictions on certain waterborne activities on a seasonal basis. *Potential Issues:* Public, Congressional, and media interest is expected to be high. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 15, 2011.

Final Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for the Lane Mountain Milk-Vetch

The FWS is designating revised critical habitat for the Lane Mountain milk vetch in compliance with a June 27, 2008, settlement agreement with CBD. The FWS agreed to deliver a final revised critical habitat designation to the *Federal Register* by May 16, 2011. *Potential Issues:* CBD is concerned that Army lands will now be exempted under section 4(a)(3) of the ESA. OHV users and recreational miners do not want the Coolgardie area “set aside” impacting their freedom to access these public lands. The rule clarifies that critical habitat designation will not curtail legal access to these lands. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 16, 2011.

Private Parties May Draft Revised Coastal Barrier Resources System Map for Gasparilla Island, Florida

On April 4, 2011, FWS staff met with staff from the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife, staff from Congressman Mack’s (R-FL) office, and a lawyer representing a homeowner’s association on Gasparilla Island, Florida (located south of Sarasota). This meeting concerned the removal of approximately 20 homes from Coastal Barrier Resources System (CRBS). FWS has responded to correspondence from Congressman Mack’s office, Lee County, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection concerning this matter. Due to the large backlog of CBRS units requiring review and remapping, and other program priorities, FWS is unable to produce a revised map at this time. Private parties may seek to draft their own revised map that is the subject of legislation. Potential for controversy is high.

Notice of Availability of the Draft Economic Analysis for Buena Vista Lake Shrew Revised Critical Habitat

The FWS announces the availability of a draft economic analysis of the potential impacts of its proposed revised designation of critical habitat for the Buena Vista Lake shrew. The FWS reopened the comment period and will hold a public hearing on June 8, 2011, in Bakersfield, California. On October 21, 2009, the FWS published a proposed rule to designate 4,649 acres in Kern County, California, as revised critical habitat. Economic impacts are not significant (\$11,700 annualized). *Potential Issues:* Reconsideration of the exclusions under 4(b)(2) is

expected to be a potential issue in the final rule as all but 84 acres were excluded in the previous 2005 designation. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 12, 2011.

Eagle Summit II

The Mountain-Prairie Region and the Oglala Sioux Tribe are hosting a daylong event on May 2, 2011 about eagles and consultation issues for 36 tribes served by the region. Eagle Summit II is a follow up to Eagle Summit held in March 2010. The event is garnering wide attention from those outside the region with many requests to participate. A reporter from Indian Country Today plans to attend.

12-month Finding on a Petition to List the Striped Newt

On July 14, 2008, the Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy petitioned the FWS to list the striped newt throughout its range. Apalachicola National Forest is an important area for striped newts within its western region. The FWS received public comments from State and Federal government agencies (including Department of the Navy) and non-governmental agencies following publication of the 90-day finding. Most of these comments provided additional updated information on the decline in the species. *Potential Issues:* Significant controversy related to this action is not expected. Anticipated delivery date to the *Federal Register* is May 1, 2011.

12-month Finding on a Petition and Proposed Rule to Downlist the Broad Snouted Caiman in Argentina from Endangered to Threatened with a Special Rule

The Argentine Government petitioned the FWS to downlist the broad snouted caiman from endangered to threatened. The species is listed in CITES Appendix I in all range countries except Argentina, and the Argentine population was downlisted to CITES Appendix II in 1997. Intense management of the species in Argentina has improved the status of the Argentina population. The FWS proposes to reclassify the Argentina population of the species, as a distinct population segment (DPS), from endangered to threatened. The FWS also proposes to add the Argentina DPS of this species to the existing special rule for trade in caiman species. Broad snouted caiman in Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay would remain listed under the ESA as endangered. *Potential Issues:* This action is not expected to be controversial. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 6, 2011.

Final Rule to Downlist the Tulotoma Snail from Endangered to Threatened

The tulotoma snail is endemic to Alabama and was listed as endangered under the ESA in 1991. At the time of listing, the tulotoma snail was known from five localized areas in the lower Coosa River drainage in Alabama. The known range of the tulotoma snail has increased from less than two percent to 10 percent of its historic range and threats have been ameliorated through a formal agreement with Alabama Power Company to maintain base flows. *Potential Issues:* No controversy is anticipated. The FWS received no public comments on this rule, and received only one comment from a peer reviewer providing an additional publication. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 10, 2011.

Proposed Rule to List Willowy Monardella and Revise Critical Habitat

Under the terms of a settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity, the FWS agreed to reconsider designation of critical habitat and is required to submit a proposed rule to

the *Federal Register* by June 18, 2011. The FWS is proposing to split the currently endangered subspecies (willow monardella) into two distinct species: willow monardella and Jennifer's monardella. Listing the willow monardella as endangered continues to be appropriate, but listing Jennifer's monardella is not warranted. The FWS proposes to designate approximately 348 acres of land as critical habitat for willow monardella in San Diego County, California. This proposed revision includes all 73 ac designated as critical habitat in the final rule in 2006, and portions of areas excluded from the 2006 designation. *Potential Issues:* Conservation groups may disagree with our consideration to exclude lands covered by Habitat Conservation Plans. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 12, 2011.

FWS Grantee Receives Prestigious Goldman Family and Foundation Award

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grantee under the Rhino-Tiger Conservation Fund and long-term partner in conservation was selected by the Goldman Family and Foundation as the continental winner for Africa for his sustained and significant grassroots efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment for rhinoceros through citizen participation in his community. The award for \$150,000 is the largest in the world for grassroots environmentalists. Other award winners include individuals from Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America. The awards ceremony hosted by the Goldman Foundation will be held at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History attended by Zimbabwe's Ambassador to the U.S., Tim Wirth, and other dignitaries on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

April 17 – April 23, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office all week.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **Update: Proposed Renewable Energy Segregation Rule:** *The rule package has been approved by the Department and submitted to OMB.*
- **New: BLM-ID China Mountain Wind Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement Completed:** *The Draft EIS and RMP Amendment for the proposed China Mountain Wind Project was published in the Federal Register on Apr. 8. China Mountain Wind, LLC, and NV Energy propose construction of a 425-megawatt wind energy facility on lands in south central ID and northeastern NV. The proposal is controversial because of potential impacts on sage-grouse habitat. Publication of the notice opened a 90-day public review and comment period that will close on Jul. 6.*
- **New: BLM-CA Desert Sunlight Solar Project and Palen Solar Project:** *The 550-MW Desert Sunlight project and the 484-MW Palen Solar project Final EISs are scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 15 and Apr. 22, respectively. Both projects are located in Riverside County, CA.*
- **Update: BLM-OR North Steens:** *The NOA for the Final EIS for the North Steens Transmission Line Project is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 6. The proposed project consists of a 29-mile 230-kV transmission line in southeastern OR crossing 9 miles of BLM administered lands and 1.7 miles of FWS administered lands.*
- **New: BLM-AZ Sun Valley to Morgan Project:** *The NOI to prepare a draft EIS and land use plan amendment for the Sun Valley to Morgan Project is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 11. The project is a 38-mile-long, 500/230kV transmission line in Maricopa County, AZ. Approximately 8 miles would be located on BLM administered lands.*
- **Update: Draft Solar Programmatic EIS Public Comment Period Ends:** *The public comment period for the Draft Solar Programmatic EIS closes on Apr. 16. The study is a*

comprehensive environmental analysis that has identified proposed “solar energy zones” on public lands in six western states that are most suitable for environmentally sound, utility-scale solar energy production.

- **New: BLM-UT Milford Wind Corridor Phase II:** *Construction is complete on 75 percent of the turbines. All component parts are expected to be delivered by Apr. 15, and First Wind is projecting the 102MW Phase II construction should be completed by Apr. 30.*

Litigation

- **New: Conservationists File Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) Lawsuit:** *On Mar. 31, a judge in the DTO v. Salazar lawsuit issued a summary judgment and ruled that the Secretary lacked inherent authority to withdraw the December 2008 Western Oregon Plan Revision Record of Decision (ROD). On Apr. 8, a lawsuit was re-filed in U.S. District Court in Portland by the conservation organization Earthjustice. According to the Associated Press article, the lawsuit was filed as a “precaution against the possibility that the Obama administration may decide to let stand the so-called Western Oregon Plan Revision.”*

Minerals

- **New: BLM-NV Proposed Genesis Mine Expansion:** *The NOA for the Final EIS for the Newmont Mining Corporation’s proposed Genesis Project in Eureka County, NV is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr.15. Genesis is an existing gold mine and the Final EIS analyzes potential impacts of the expansion, which extend mining operations 12 years. The project is not expected to be controversial.*

Oil Shale

- **Update: Oil Shale Programmatic EIS:** *The NOI to prepare a Programmatic EIS for oil shale and tar sands resources is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 14.*

Oil and Gas

- **New: Fair Return Report Draft Report:** *The Fair Return report will compare oil and gas fiscal systems in other countries with those used by the U.S. Government in managing Federally-owned offshore and onshore lands. The draft report is scheduled to be released by Apr. 17. The final report is scheduled to be released in June 2011.*

Timber

- **New: BLM-OR Timber Sales:** *BLM-OR will hold a series of forest treatments and timber sales:*
 - *On Apr. 20, the Marys Peak Resource Area will issue the Decision Record for the North Fork Overlook Mid-Seral Enhancement Project. The proposed project involves density management on 329 acres located in the Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve land use allocations within the Upper Alsea River Watershed in Benton County. Anticipated volume offered for sale is 12.3 MMBF.*

The project lies within the Northwest Forest Plan, and is likely to attract moderate to high levels of controversy.

- *On Apr. 28, the Siuslaw Resource area will offer two density management thinning, the “Kelly Creek” sale and the “No Bounds” Sale. The Kelly Creek sale is for 3,634 MBF on 227 acres, and the No Bounds is for 992 MBF on over 91 acres. These sales are not expected to be controversial.*
- *On Apr.28, The Siuslaw Resource area will offer a resale of the Nutmeg Commercial Thinning sale, a mutually cancelled sale of the original contract by the purchaser and BLM . The Nutmeg resale is a 3,379 MBF over 168 acres. This sale is not expected to be controversial*
- *On Apr. 28, The Eugene District’s Upper Willamette Resource Area is offering the Cedar Creek commercial thinning sale for 2,762 MBF on 146 acres. The total volume for all sales is 10,767 MBF. This sale is not expected to be controversial.*
- *On Apr. 26, the Pass the Buck Timber Sale will be offered for sale. This is a reoffer following mutual cancellation of the original contract by the purchaser and BLM. The sale volume is an estimated 2,444 MBF. The stands to be thinned are located on the South River Resource Area in the Middle Fork Coquille fifth-field watershed, in Douglas County, OR. This sale is not expected to be controversial.*
- *On Apr. 26, the remaining portions of the “Saddle Up To Paradise” Commercial Thinning & Density Management timber sale will be re-offered for sale. The Decision will be open for a 15-day protest period beginning April 26, 2011. Saddle Up To Paradise will provide approximately 3.282 MMBF of timber for auction. This sale is not expected to be controversial.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: Madeleine Pickens to Testify at House Interior Appropriations Public Witnesses Hearing:** *On Apr. 14 Madeleine Pickens testified as a public witness before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee regarding the BLM Wild Horse and Burro program. Rep. Burton (R-IN), a supporter of Madeleine Pickens’ efforts and an outspoken critic of the BLM’s management of wild horses and burros, is also scheduled to testify at the hearing.*
- **New: Air Quality MOU:** *Senior managers at the BLM, NPS, FWS, EPA, and FS confirmed that the draft Air Quality MOU will be ready for signature by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and the EPA Administrator by Apr. 29. The MOU addresses analyses and mitigation of air quality impacts associated with federal oil and gas decisions. The BLM received the final draft MOU on Apr. 4 and will prepare a decision memo for the Secretary, coordinating with NPS and FWS. The BLM has coordinated with the Department, which has anticipated to issue the press release.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **New: BOEMRE Approves Tenth Deepwater Drilling Permit:** *On Apr. 8, the Gulf of Mexico Region approved the tenth deepwater drilling permit that complies with rigorous new safety standards implemented in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon explosion and*

resulting oil spill. Under the permit, Statoil will be allowed to drill a new well in 7,813 feet of water in its Logan prospect, 219 miles off the Louisiana shoreline, south of Houma, LA.

- **New: Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC):** On Mar. 31, BOEMRE received an unsolicited right-of-way application from Atlantic Grid Holdings LLC to build the AWC project, a subsea backbone transmission system to be constructed offshore the coasts of NY, NJ, DE, MD, and VA. BOEMRE will initiate an adequacy review of the project.
- **Update: “Smart from the Start” (NJ, DE, MD and VA):** BOEMRE is preparing a regional EA and conducting consultations for lease issuance and site assessment activities for areas on the OCS offshore NJ, DE, MD and VA. The NOI announcing a 30-day public scoping period closed on Mar.11. A total of 38 comments were received. Impact Analyses sections are due from subject matter experts on May 1, 2011. Endangered Species Act and 106 consultations were initiated in Mar.
- **Update: 5-Year Programmatic Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Multisale EIS:** The NOI for the 5-Year Programmatic EIS and the Multisale EIS were published in the Federal Register on Jan. 4. The scoping period for both documents ended Mar. 31, 2011. A total of 1,280 email comments were received from both documents.
- **Update: 8(g) Revenue Disbursement Adjustments - Alabama:** A meeting with the State of AL was held on Apr.4 to explain and discuss the resolution of disbursement issue regarding OCS Section 8(g) Leases. AL received an over-payment of approximately \$7.4 million in oil and gas revenues. AL requested information about how the changes in methodology will affect them prospectively. A meeting with MS to discuss the under-payment of \$3,070 million of oil and gas revenue, has not been scheduled.
- **Update: Lease Sale—Related Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultations in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM):** BOEMRE reinitiated ESA Section 7 consultation on the existing GOM 5-year multisale document with the FWS and NMFS on Jul. 30, 2010. However, NMFS and FWS have placed this consultation on hold because the environmental baseline needs to be updated by the results of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process, and the NRDA data have yet to be released. In the interim, BOEMRE has developed (with approval from the SOL) an ESA 7(d) determination that essentially states the existing consultation still applies to upcoming lease sales in the GOM given these lease sales do not, in themselves, represent an irretrievable commitment of resources.
- **Update: Western Planning Area Sale 229 (late 2012):** This sale will be the first sale under the 2012-2017 5-Year Program. The comment period closed on Apr. 14. BOEMRE staff are in the compiling and summarizing comments. Work on the Area ID document has begun. The decision for the Area ID will be needed around the end of Apr. to early May. (Not Clear)

- **Update: Noble Energy v. Salazar (Noble II):** *One of the Amber leases, Lease OCS-P 0320, has a well that has not been permanently plugged. BOEMRE issued an order directing Noble, the lessee and designated operator, to submit a plan for plugging the well in order to comply with its decommissioning obligations. Noble filed a complaint for injunctive relief asking the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to enjoin BOEMRE from enforcing the order requiring the permanent plugging or from imposing any penalty for not doing so. As a result, BOEMRE extended the deadline for compliance with the order to permanently plug the well on multiple occasions in 6-month increments, the deadline is now Sep. 30, 2011.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: OSM Holds Workshops on Proposed Navajo Mine Permit Revision and OSM's Environmental Assessment of Proposal:** *On Apr. 13 and 14, OSM held two workshops on the Navajo Reservation to provide the public with information and receive comments on a proposal to revise BHP Navajo Coal Company's existing permit to mine an additional area within the permit boundary. The workshops also provided information and solicited comments on OSM's assessment of the proposal's environmental impacts.*

WEEK AHEAD – April 17 to April 23, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wednesday, April 20:

- **No Change: BLM-NM Oil and Gas Leases:** BLM-NM will offer 27 parcels for lease, covering 11,229 acres in NM, OK, and TX. The majority of nominated lease parcels occur in two traditional oil and gas producing basins: the San Juan Basin in northwestern NM near Farmington and the Permian Basin in southeast NM near Carlsbad. The protest period ended Feb. 18. No protests were received.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Week of April 18:

- **Update: Call for Information for New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing:** *The Call for Information to gauge interest in commercial wind development leases in areas offshore NJ is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register during the week of Apr. 18.*

Monday, April 18:

- **No Change: Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee:** The first meeting of the Committee will be held in Washington, DC to address the scope and role of the Committee and begin framing the Committee's action plan for the next 12 to 24 months. The meeting will include an expert panel on the findings and recommendations of recent investigations of U.S. offshore drilling regulation.

Tuesday, April 19:

- **New: BOEMRE Meeting with American Petroleum Institute (API):** *BOEMRE will meet with API to review API's Standards Plan for 2011, including Standards being developed in response to the Deep Water Horizon blowout and spill.*

Friday, April 22:

- **No Change: Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM) Sale 218 (December 2011):** The draft SEIS for WGOM Sale 218 (December 2011 sale) has been completed and sent to the printer. The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft SEIS is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 22.

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Friday, April 29:

- **No Change: BLM-NV Expenditures Public Comment Period Ends:** The public comment period will end for the preliminary recommendations on the SNPLMA Round 12 expenditures. The SNPLMA Executive Committee, which includes the regional directors of the NPS, FWS, USFS Regional Forester, and the BLM-NV State Director, will review the comments, and forward its final recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for approval, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

Tuesday, May 3:

- **New: BLM-WY Oil and Gas Sales:** *BLM-WY will offer 14 parcels for sale covering a total of 16,082 acres. The parcels are located in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties. The sale is expected to fully implement the BLM leasing reform policy. The protest period will end on Mar. 3. BLM-WY received two protests for seven parcels concerning big game, sage grouse, and the master leasing plan.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, April 26:

- **New: NC Sustainable Energy Conference (NCSEC):** *BOEMRE staff are scheduled to give a presentation on offshore wind energy activities energy to the NCSEC at the 8th annual meeting in Raleigh, NC sponsored by the NC Energy Office.*

Weekly Report
April 15, 2010

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities April 18-22:

Anne J. Castle – April 18-22 in DC, attending various meetings. On April 18, will participate in Goddard Space Flight Center visit with congressional appropriations committee staff and NASA and USGS personnel.

John Tubbs – April 18-22 in DC, attending various meetings.

Deanna Archuleta – April 18-22 in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – April 18, Field trip to Goddard's Space Flight Center; April 21-22, Site visit to USGS New Mexico Water Science Center and Caswell Silver Distinguished Lecturer at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Mike Connor – April 18 in DC; April 19-20 in Sacramento, CA, participating in the FY 2013 Budget Review/Reclamation Leadership Team Meeting; April 21-22, on annual leave.

Reclamation

Cle Elum Fish Passage Facilities and Fish Reintroduction Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Yakima Project (Washington)

Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology have completed the Cle Elum Fish Passage Facilities and Fish Reintroduction Project FEIS. On April 8, 2011, the document was filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a Notice of Availability submitted for publication in the Federal Register. The purpose of the project is to evaluate fish passage facilities at Cle Elum Dam that would provide fish access to historic habitat and restore biodiversity and the natural production of anadromous salmonids in the upper Cle Elum subbasin. Cle Elum Dam, located on the Cle Elum River about 8 miles northwest of Cle Elum, Washington, was built in 1933 without fish passage facilities. The Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage and Fish Reintroduction Project is also included as a component of the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan being developed by the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup.

Below Average Inflow in the Rio Grande and Pecos River Basins (New Mexico)

Due to significantly below average precipitation in the Rio Grande Basin, Reclamation is being forced to use water stored from previous years from the supplemental water pool to maintain flow condition to the Elephant Butte Dam through June 15 (in a dry year), as required by the 2003 Biological Opinion. Water managers are concerned over the need for supplemental water this early in the season due to the lack of spring runoff. To date, precipitation for the Rio Grande Basin has been 78 percent of average and the heaviest snows usually occur in the months of March and April, which is not happening this year. To date, precipitation in the Pecos River Basin is at 52 percent of average.

High Inflow to Lake Powell Projected to Result in Equalization Operations at Glen Canyon Dam (Arizona)

The current April-July inflow forecast for Lake Powell is 9.5 million acre-feet (maf), or 120 percent of average. This is up 300,000 acre-feet from March and results in a projected annual inflow for the Upper Basin of almost 13 maf. With this forecast, it is projected that operations at Glen Canyon Dam (Lake Powell) will shift this month to the “Equalization Tier” of the 2007 Interim Guidelines resulting in a projected release of 11.63 maf to Lake Mead. This release is projected to result in an end-of-water year (September 2011) elevation for Lake Powell at or slightly above last year’s end-of-water year elevation, and an end-of water-year elevation at Lake Mead over 20 feet above last year’s end-of-water year elevation.

Forecasted High Runoff on the Green River Likely to Result in High River Flows Below Flaming Gorge

Projected runoff in the Green River Basin, including the lower tributaries of the Yampa and Duchesne, is causing concern that there may be high flows once the runoff begins. The Yampa River runoff is currently projected at 157 percent of average, which is comparable to 1984 levels, and the projected Duchesne River runoff is at 200 percent of average, a record high for the last 30 years. A fast warming trend could result in high runoff in both the Green River and Duchesne River basins. Reclamation is evacuating space in Flaming Gorge Reservoir, above these tributaries, in order to reduce contributions from the upper Green River.

Congressional Activity

- **April 18** – Senator Feinstein’s new Washington-based staffer for water and environment, James Peterson, requested a tour of various Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities during the week of 4/18. The tour will likely include visits to C.W. (Bill) Jones Pumping Plant, Tracy fish collection facility, San Joaquin River, and Red Bluff Diversion Dam fish screen/pumping plant project. Reclamation is working to accommodate Mr. Peterson’s request to merge the Reclamation tour with his plan to visit with state officials and tour facilities of the California State Water Project, such as Oroville Dam. Separately, Reclamation plans to offer another tour of CVP facilities for Congressional staff during the week of May 16. Details are still being assembled.
- **April 27** – the Senate Full Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a field hearing in Santa Fe, NM, on Climate Change and Western Water Supplies. Time: 1:30pm, Mountain Time, Location: Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Center.

US Geological Survey

USGS Open File Report, “Strategies for Improved Earthquake Monitoring in Support of Nuclear Power Plant Safety in the Central and Eastern U.S.”: In the near future, date unknown, USGS plans to publish an open file report entitled, “Strategies for Improved Earthquake Monitoring in Support of Nuclear Power Plant Safety in the Central and Eastern U.S.” The report was prepared at the request of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A joint press release is planned.

USGS Assists the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Flood Hazard Analyses: Recent flash floods in Jeddah and other Saudi Arabian cities have prompted the Kingdom to develop a comprehensive plan for flood hazard assessments. As a result, the Kingdom has invited the USGS to share its expertise in flood hazard risk analyses. USGS scientists Saud Amer and Steve Lipscomb will travel to Jeddah and Riyadh for meetings with Saudi counterparts to discuss the development of a generalized flood hazard assessment map of the Kingdom and to provide recommendations for completing a detailed, kingdom-wide flood hazard analysis. Amer and Lipscomb have collaborated previously on water-resource assessments in Iraq.

USGS Collaborates with FWS on 50 Climate Stories: A series of 50 climate change stories in 50 States is being created by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support Earth Day. The USGS provided the Service with several story ideas of USGS research across the nation to consider in this series.

Multi-Agency Workshop about Effects of Cattle Grazing on Amphibians: USGS ecologist Michael Adams will present the results of research about cattle grazing and Columbia spotted frogs at a multi-agency workshop in Salt Lake City, UT on April 26-27. The workshop will use structured decision making to address the management of springs occupied by the frogs. Participants represent the USGS, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, non-governmental organizations, and private land owners.

USGS Scientists Receive Alaska FWS Outstanding Partner Award: USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center biologist Andrea Woodward and Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center ecologist Erik Beaver recently received the Outstanding Partner award from the Director of the Alaska Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The award recognized the long-term commitment of the USGS to complete and adapt the project to improve the strategic and scientific foundations for an expanded ecological monitoring program. Reports from the project will provide an excellent starting point for discussions within the new Landscape Conservation Cooperatives being developed in Alaska and elsewhere.

USGS Scientist in Japan: Rob Kayen (USGS) is currently in Japan, as part of a Geo-Engineering Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) team. The team is working with Japanese colleagues to investigate the liquefaction and ground failure effects of the Great Tohoku earthquake. Reports will be posted on the EERI web site

Transmission of E. coli Strains between Near-shore habitats and Threatened Sea Ducks in Alaska: USGS scientist, Paul Flint, co-authored a recently published paper in *Environmental Microbiology Reports* about a study on the prevalence and characteristics of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) strains and its harmful effects in Steller's eiders and harlequin ducks. Study results show that Steller's eiders and harlequin ducks wintering in near-shore marine habitats in Alaska harbour *E. coli* carrying virulence genes and that microbial exposure may pose health risks to wintering Steller's eiders in south-west Alaska.

New Web Tool on Condition of Fish Habitats: USGS recently announced a web tool that enables the public to access and use data and information about the condition of fish habitats nationwide. The USGS helped build and is hosting a map and data viewer information that can be accessed at on the web via the "Science and Data" tab at the top of the USGS home page. The USGS has coordinated this technical release with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Congressional Activities

- Representative Wolf (VA 10) has asked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to host conferences on the East and West coasts aimed at better preparing the United States for a tsunami. The conferences would be for governors and other State and local officials. They would address tsunami alert systems and evacuation strategies such as the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoy alert system. Wolf has requested that the USGS be invited to the summits.
- At the request of Appropriations staff, the USGS and NASA will host a field trip to Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, Maryland for staff from the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees on Monday, April 18, 2011. They will view the Thermal Infrared Sensor (TIRS) in testing and tour the Mission Operations Center.
- Navy Tour for Congressional Appropriator to visit HVO: The U.S. Navy contacted Congressional Affairs to inquire about including the Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory (HVO) as a stop during a tour planned for Rep. John Culberson (TX-7). Rep. Culberson is Chair of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee and is also a member of the Commerce, Justice & Science Appropriations Subcommittee. While the focus of the trip is related to military construction issues, April 17 is reserved for visits to the USGS and NOAA facilities on the island of Hawaii. A half day is reserved to visit HVO and perhaps include overflights of active lava flows on Kilauea. Planning is just under way.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Homeland Security: The IA Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) requested proposed dates from BIA/BIE field (Regional Office levels) sites for a series of planned Programmatic Review of Emergency Management within ASIA. Regions have been offered one week per month for the next two years to schedule these visits in relation to their needs/schedules. The visits are planned to bring together the leadership/ management and emergency management coordinators from all Tribes, BIA Regional and Agency Offices, as well as FEMA, IHS, and states within each BIA Region. Presentations from these agencies will be made to familiarize all present with their capabilities for provision of assistance to the Tribes, and each other, and to review the best methods of requesting such assistance. Emergency Contact information is to be shared, liaisons are to be facilitated, and Tribes and Agencies will be encouraged to enter into Mutual Aid Agreements/MOUs, and otherwise improve self sufficiency and efficient/effective emergency management and services. A “Listening Session” is also planned, wherein Tribes within each Region are offered an opportunity to present their review of emergency management/services within the Region, point to challenges, and make recommendations for improvement. In addition, Emergency Management Training in the implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be conducted, including the Incident Command System (ICS). If time allows, a COOP functional exercise will be conducted to point out the strengths and challenges of the Regional Offices’ COOP and Emergency Safeguards Planning (ESP), and preparation. Development of this training and presentations has been ongoing, with trial presentations made to NW Regional Office Emergency Management Team/Emergency Relocation Group (EMT/ERG), and Agency Superintendents.
- TLOA: The second of four DOJ/BIA/NCAI webinars titled Alternatives to Detention/MultiJustice Centers/Treatment Centers was held on April 13, 2011. The BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) are collaborating on the

detention plan as required by TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from BIA Office of Indian Services and the Bureau of Indian Education will be asked to participate in sub-committees appropriate for their discipline.

The Indian Affairs review team comprised of IA, BIA and the SOL have made the initial review of the draft MOA. These comments will be provided to TLOA workgroup for revisions. Section 241 of TLOA amends the 1986 Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Program. This amendment specifically directs the Secretaries of the Interior and the Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to develop a Memorandum of Agreement by July 29, 2011. The draft MOA is currently being reviewed by the BIA, the Office of the Solicitor (SOL) and the Indian Affairs leadership. The implementation of TLOA is currently on target. The standards for Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLECs), BIA Interim SLEC Protocol and Core Jail Standards were published on January 25, 2011. Indian Affairs is coordinating the next round of Tribal Consultations on long term incarceration under TLOA. These consultation sessions will be held jointly with DOJ.

- High Priority Performance Goal: The BIA Office of Justice Services in coordination with the Tribes and its sister Federal agencies has achieved a combined reduction of 11 percent of violent crime on all four target reservations.
- Improving Indian Affairs Organization: Efforts are underway within Indian Affairs to complete an organizational analysis by mid May to respond to the FY 2012 OMB Passback language. The analysis will consider consolidation of BIA field sites and other efficiencies to produce administrative savings.
- Internal Tribal Disputes: *Southern Ute Indian Tribe (CO)*: The Southern Ute Tribe has elected its first woman as Tribal Chairman. Ms. Pearl Casias won the election with 37 percent of the votes over five other candidates. She was sworn into office on April 13, 2011.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Little Shell (Petitioner #31) Thursday, April 14, 2011 - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management - Indian Affairs George Skibine provided the Administration's testimony on S. 546, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2011, before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The Department issued a final determination against the Federal acknowledgment of the Little Shell petitioner. The decision is not final and effective for the Department because the Little Shell filed a request for reconsideration before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals on February 1, 2011.
- Muscogee Nation of Florida (Petitioner #32) Friday, April 15, 2011 - the Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment and the Director of Congressional Legislative Affairs will provide a briefing for Representative Jeff Miller and his staff, Diane Cihota, regarding the Federal acknowledgment process (25 CFR Part 83) and this group's current status.

- Choctaw Nation of Florida (Petitioner #288) Tuesday, April 19, 2011 - the Office of Federal Acknowledgment will brief the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs with a recommended final determination. The Department issued a negative proposed finding, and the final determination is due on or before April 25, 2011.

EDUCATION

- ESEA Reauthorization: Internal discussions as well as those with the Department of Education continue on potential provisions to the reauthorization bill.

- Elementary and Secondary Education

- School Improvement

- Fourteen BIE personnel attended a meeting with the Northwest Evaluation Association, Inc., in Portland, Oregon. The purpose of the meeting was threefold:

1. Assess the current status of student achievement using all the data available, including NWEA MAP, DIBELS, AIMSweb, and state assessments.
2. Discuss BIE's approach to instructional programs.
3. Develop a plan of action for improvement of instruction.

A variety of data was examined and observations and comparisons made about the data. The exercise showed what data is available to inform decisions that affect academic achievement. It also highlighted the need to train principals, teachers, ELOs, ADDs, and BIE staff in interpretation and use of data, especially the NWEA data. It was agreed that data "roll-ups" would occur three times a year to examine NWEA data. Specific training will be needed to prepare personnel to become adept at data driven decision-making around achievement.

The planned examination of BIE's approach to instructional programs did not progress as far as hoped. Ideally, the discussion would have identified features of the current model, as well as strengths and weaknesses. Further discussion is needed to critique BIE's approach and to develop a plan to improve it.

The beginning of a plan of action to improve instructional delivery was developed. It was agreed that additional work will continue on the plan and that it should be completed as quickly as possible.

- The South and Eastern States Education Line Officer will travel to Cherokee Central Schools for the Indian Student Equalization Program (ISEP) certification and to open dialogue on the Restructuring Plan
- The Cheyenne River Education Line Officer conducted classroom walk-throughs at Tiospaye Topa and Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Schools, in addition to planning for next year.
- The Standing Rock Education Line Officer has extended his partnership to the Standing Rock Elementary School administrator to begin working collaboratively using Native Star as a platform for school improvement/student achievement. The result was positive.
- Several schools in the ADD, East lost funding to continue with the enhancement programs identified as "BIE Reads" and "Math Counts," due to lack of measurable

progress or lack of an earnest attempt to fulfill the requirements of the framework/program.

- The Turtle Mountain Education Line Officer worked with the Indian Health Service to deliver a series of Wellness workshops to students at the Turtle Mountain Middle school, geared toward team-building, bullies, personal wellness, and self-esteem. The workshops required students to move from different “course” offerings, which allowed them exercise, a break, and time to process.

Safety/Facilities

- The Cheyenne River Education Line Officer conducted a follow-up on the bus accident that occurred last week. Fifteen individuals were on the bus, and there were 3 minor injuries. The school will file the report on the Safety Management Information System (SMIS); the Line Officer completed the “Active Shooter” training online.
 - Potholes in the parking lot, leaking ceilings in the girls’ dorm, and damaged sidewalks are a result of the winter weather.
- The Standing Rock Education Line Officer is working on obtaining a portable building to replace the office space they are currently occupying, which is scheduled to be demolished in the future. The availability of space has been researched and the resulting thought is that a portable is the best option, for now.

BIE PALA Challenge

- The BIE has over 1,290 PALA participants completing the PALA challenge, with 68 PALA Coordinators and 57 registered schools. Part one of the PALA challenge ended with 547 individuals having completed the program. We are waiting for the end of Part two expected within the next few weeks. Levi Horn of the Chicago Bears and NikeN7 will present the awards to the winning school on May 17.

Professional Development

- A Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) training for Line Officers, school administrators and the school safety points of contact on the regular ADD, East ELO call April 28 from 10:00-12:00 CST

Post Secondary Education

Haskell Indian Nations University

- BIE management has requested an extension on the Certificate of Eligibles for the Haskell President’s position. A committee consisting of a mix of Senior Managers within Indian Affairs will review the candidates, schedule interviews and then make the recommendation to the Director. The announcement is still expected in June 2011.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. Oral presentations from the contractors has begun to assist in the selection of a contractor out of the possible 8 proposals; 5 oral presentations will be completed the week of April 13, 2011.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: Indian Affairs has notified the Department of its need for an extension to the March 15 due date to OMB for its passback directive to address consolidation of its field sites. BIA has been working feverishly on the analysis as directed by the OMB passback language, however, due to the complexity and size of the BIA organization itself, additional time is required to complete the work.
- BIE Organization Reassessment: The BIE has been notified by the acquisition staff that it will have to re-bid the project. BIE is working with the OCFO acquisition staff to ensure all steps are followed so that a contractor may be chosen for this reassessment.
- Chief Information Office/IT Transformation Team: The Team schedule is as follows:
 - New Mexico (May 10-13): Andrew Jackson is scheduled to attend and may spend up to one day meeting with BIE. Planning is underway for him to visit at least one BIE school. The Transformation team meetings will be at the BIA-2 building and Masthead locations.
 - Arizona (April 25-28): The Transformation Team will visit Tucson, Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tuba City Boarding School (BIE).
 - DC Metro Area (April 5-27): A series of Transformation Team meetings will be held in the DC metropolitan area.
- Strategic Planning: The Office of Planning and Performance Management (OPPM) met with the IA Chief of Staff to develop a strategy for responding to tribes on comments they provided during the DOI Strategic Plan Consultation sessions. Efforts have begun on a draft response packet, which will include a tribal leader letter, strategic plan document, and a matrix of comments and feedback.

OUTREACH

- NCA Fall Conference: BIE will also participate in the NCA Fall Conference on October 3-4, 2011 in Flagstaff, Arizona to provide information regarding the School Improvement Grant process, NATIVE Star alignment with NCA tool and participate as needed in planning activities.
- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- The Navajo Nation is hosting a Tri-State Data Meeting for state Indian education directors from New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. The BIE will participate at the event by presenting data related to Navajo students within BIE schools. The meeting is scheduled for the week of May 19, 2011.
- Planned Events:
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

April 25 – 29, 2011, the Assistant Secretary (accompanied by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary) will travel to Northern California to meet with Tribes at their request (first trip to meet specifically with the Northern California tribes).

May 2 – 6, 2011:

Palm Springs, CA: Attend the 2011 National Self Governance Conference.

Artesia, NM: Provide the keynote speech at the annual BIA Law Enforcement Memorial.

May 16 – 20, 2011: Attend the USET session in Tunica – Biloxi, MS and meet with individual member Tribes.

June 13 – 16, 2011: Attend the National Congress of American Indians session in Milwaukee, WI.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs:

April 25 – 29, 2011, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary will accompany the Assistant Secretary to Northern California to meet with Tribes at their request (first trip to meet specifically with the Northern California tribes).

Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development:

April 17, 2011: Presenting a speech at the 2011 American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference in Bismarck, ND.

Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

April 27 – 29, 2011: Serving as a panelist on the tribal consultation panel at the DOI-cosponsored *State of Environmental Justice in America* conference in Washington, DC.

Director, Bureau of Indian Education:

April 27 – 29: Participate in the *No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee* meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL

April 15, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for April 18 to April 24, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report April 18, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings by phone (4/18-22)

Review – April 11 to April 15

- **Update:** OHTA delivered to SOL approximately 5000 imaged documents relative to the Kaw Nation tribal litigation. Since the litigating parties are engaged in mediated settlement talks, SOL has requested additional time for OHTA to search for documents, beyond the Court's April 30 deadline.
- **Update:** Fiduciary Trust Officers at the Papago Agency and the Pima Agency conducted a financial skills training session on April 12 for Arizona residents who live in and around the Gila Bend area, the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Gila River Indian Community.
- **No Change:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, was detailed to the OAS office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 21 to April 8 to develop the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews. On March 29, he met with OST's IT personnel regarding their requirements and assistance with deployment. Issues raised that may impact development of OASIS include certification, independent of OST's blanket certification, and submitting a "technical paper" that includes intended use, users, program flow, application objects, and database table design. IT indicated they prefer a web-based application, which has hindered development and increased costs of the Appraisal Request and Review Tracking System. The Review Appraiser is identifying alternatives for consideration by the OAS Director.
- **Update:** New Mexico State University Grants campus offered two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency and the FTO at

the Southwest Regional Office partnered with First Nations Development Institute personnel to conduct training sessions on March 30 and April 14.

Week Ahead – April 18 to April 22

- **Update:** The *Status Report to the Court Number Forty-Four* is for the period January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. The purpose of the report is to inform the Court of actions taken since the issuance of the preceding quarterly report, including delays in and obstacles to trust reform activities. Program managers submit reports on the status of their respective Indian trust activities. OST senior managers and attorneys from SOL and DOJ are interviewing program managers from BIA, BLM, BOEMRE, OCIO, OHTA and OST.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Tulsa Urban Office will attend an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) hearing in the Eastern District Federal Court on litigation between the Seminole Tribe and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Also attending the hearing on April 26 will be SOL and DOJ attorneys, the BIA Superintendent for the Wewoka Agency and tribal leaders of the Seminole Tribe. Issues to be considered were outlined in the March ADR hearing.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. Almost three dozen activities have been scheduled to date to occur during April.
- **No Change:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). Parties are considering the week of May 23 for a mediation session.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

April 15, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: April 15, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Arctic Council Ministerial. The two DOI proposals to 1) share technology and best practices for safe oil and gas development and spill response; and 2) create an ecosystem-based management framework for the Arctic that includes both the marine and terrestrial environments continue to move forward with strong backing from the Department of State.

Deepwater Horizon Response: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Status. Monitoring of clean-up activities and site surveys are ongoing. Four stakeholders' meetings are planned for April: Destin, FL April 12; Orange Beach AL April 14; New Orleans April 26; Biloxi April 26. These meetings are listening and discussion sessions devoted to cultural heritage resources potentially affected by the oil spill. Current Section 106 issues include review of the orphan oil boom anchor plan and insuring areas being considered for anchor removal undergo review. The Section 106 team is also reviewing the final phase of the Tactical Plan for Submerged Oil Mats and recommending remote surveys for any submerged resources prior to any seabed disturbance caused by removal of these oil mats.

Youth: Everglades National Park and Miami Conservation Corps Partnership.

The Office of Youth Director facilitated a meeting between Dan Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Park and the Greater Miami Conservation Corps to discuss partnership opportunities. Next steps include drafting a template cooperative agreement to formalize the partnership, implementing the Public Land Corps Non-Competitive Hiring Authority, and

sharing information about the Phoenix College Academic Certificate program for possible replication with Miami Dade College.

MANAGEMENT

Border Hearing with House Committee on Natural Resources and Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. DAS Thorsen will be testifying for the Department at this hearing on Friday April 15th. Also testifying will be the Border Patrol and US Forest Service. The title of the hearing is, “The Border: Are Environmental Laws and Regulations Impeding Security and Harming the Environment?”

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations. ONRR has prepared two *Federal Register* Notices (1) an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Federal Gas Valuation Regulations and (2) an ANPR for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Regulations for anticipated publication in April. ONRR is also developing a communications plan and press release to announce the publication of the ANPRs.

Indian Oil Negotiated Rulemaking. Comments and nominations of proposed committee members are being analyzed and proposed Committee members will be vetted through the Department and the White House liaison for approval. Once members are approved, the Department will publish Federal Register Notices to announce the members and establish the Committee, and the Secretary will sign the Charter to be filed with Congress. The estimated timeframe for holding the first meeting of the Committee is May/June 2011. ONRR is coordinating closely with the Executive Secretariat and the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

Update to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases related to Index Zones. The Economic and Market Analysis Office (EMAO) is proposing changes to the Indian gas valuation regulations that will remove certain illiquid natural gas index prices from the Indian Index Zone calculation. These changes will impact Oklahoma Zone 1, Oklahoma Zone 2, and the Central Rocky Mountain Zone. EMAO is working with State and Indian Coordination to conduct outreach to Indians affected by these regulatory changes. EMAO is also in process of drafting a FR notice to publish the changes to the calculation.

Tribal Consultation Letter. ONRR is inviting Tribal leaders to one of two meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could impact the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. These meetings will take place in May in Colorado and June in New Mexico to open dialogue with Indian Tribes on changes including calculating major portion prices for Indian oil, removing certain index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal product valuation regulations.

BUDGET

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolutions. A seventh continuing resolution was passed by the House and Senate on April 8, 2011 and signed by the President on Saturday, April 9. The

current CR (P.L. 112-8) expires on midnight Friday, April 15. It includes reductions totaling \$2 billion that impact the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Late on April 8, the President, House and Senate leadership agreed to a Fiscal Year 2011 full year continuing resolution. The bill will be completed, posted, and taken up by the House and Senate during the week of April 11. The bill will cut current-year spending by \$38 billion (subsuming in this amount the \$12 billion reduced to date in the seven continuing resolutions) from both discretionary and mandatory programs.

Shutdown Planning. Throughout the week of April 4, Interior bureaus and offices worked to complete and post contingency plans to be used in the event of a government shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations. One-page briefing papers, questions and answers, and additional guidance materials were posted on the website on Thursday –Friday, April 7-8. Preliminary furlough notices were provided to employees consistent with OMB guidance. As a result of the budget agreement, no shutdown actions were undertaken; however we are prepared for future shut down threats.

2013 Budget Resolution. On April 6, the House Budget Committee adopted a 2012 budget resolution. Floor debate is set to begin Thursday. The GOP plan cuts spending by \$6.2 trillion over 10 years compared and significantly modifies Medicaid and Medicare.. Although the resolution is expected to easily pass the House, it faces heavy opposition in the Senate. Among the many proposals included in the Committee-passed 2013 budget resolution, the following are most relevant to DOI:

- Return non-security discretionary spending to below 2008 levels and freeze it there for five years
- Continue the fiscal 2011 earmark ban in fiscal 2012
- Reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent and freeze federal pay through 2015
- Reduce the federal auto fleet by 20 percent by selling unneeded inventory
- Streamline process for disposal of federal real property and assets

President Obama on Wednesday proposed what he called a “balanced” fiscal overhaul that would shave \$4 trillion from deficits over a dozen years through a combination of spending cuts and increased revenues generated by a tax code overhaul. The plan, which he presented at George Washington University, recommends reductions in the cost of entitlement programs but offers nothing like the restructuring of Medicare and Medicaid proposed by House Republicans. The plan would seek to pare \$400 billion off projected discretionary security spending through 2023, while saving \$770 billion in non-security spending during the same period. More details to come on this as we learn more.

2012 Budget and Hearings. On April 13, the Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Director of the Central Utah Project Completion Act will testify before the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

**Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
April 15, 2011**

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Incident Report. Forward incident report of the spillage of 1.5 - 3.2 million gallons of raw sewage from the Veolia Water Treatment Plant Sewage Facility in Gatlinburg, TN to FWS. The amount of spillage was later change to 850,000 gallons. Two employees died from the collapsed wall at the facility. The watch office was notified of as well.

New: Referred Record of Decision (ROD) for Vieques Island. Referred ROD for Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Area in Puerto Rico to the FWS Contaminants Program and Habitat Conservation coordinator for review.

New: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council's Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting. On April 13, the EVOS PAC met in Anchorage to review and make recommendations on projects for the Trustee Council's Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Work Plan. The PAC advises the Trustee Council on their use of restoration settlement funds received for injuries to natural resources/services caused by the 1989 T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. The Department of the Interior is one of six trustees on the council, and is responsible for Trustee Council compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

New: Earth Day at Rawlins Park. Once again, DOI and OEPC have partnered with GSA and OPM to organize the annual Earth Day Celebration at Rawlins Park, located at 19th and E Streets, NW. The event is planned for Wednesday, April 20 from 11am to 2pm with a rain date of Thursday, April 21. This year's theme is, "A Billion Acts of Green: A billion small acts can have an impact on global carbon emissions." Expected features include 40 exhibitors, computer hardware collection, alternative fuel vehicles provided by GSA, green products, games, entertainment, and refreshments. This event is on Secretary Salazar's schedule.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$92.50 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.47 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.97 Million. The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation

Team is currently reviewing cost documentation packages recently received from USGS and BOR.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque previously provided notice to FWS and USGS that a request would be coming to Regional Response Team 6 to allow the use of natural sorbents such as sugar cane bagasse, kenaf, or peat moss on oiled shorelines in Barataria Bay, Louisiana, that have been extremely difficult to clean. Normally the National Contingency Plan requires sorbent materials to be collected after they are applied. An exemption to that requirement is being requested. RRT 6 met via conference call and consensus was reached to approve the request to use the sorbents through the existing segment-specific approval process which includes all the appropriate consultation procedures.
- Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA) Amendment 14 for the Fish and Wildlife Service was approved which extends the period of performance to June 30, 2011, but without an increase in funding.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Pechanga Indian Water Settlement. Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office and provided comments on how elements of the Settlement were being valued. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for the week of April 18.

New: Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Case Support. At the request of the FWS, Policy Analysis will provide economic claim development for the Anniston AL, Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) case. Efforts are expected to include valuation of recreational fishing and ecosystem services from fish, mussels birds mammals and supporting habitats. The kick-off call with Policy Analysis was held April 7. Additional information on the case is available at <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/Contaminants/index.AnnistonNRDA.html>.

Update: National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan. Policy Analysis continues to support the co-chairs of the National Ocean Policy Changing Conditions in the Arctic Strategic Action Plan (SAP) writing team and is acting as one of the primary coordinators and drafters of the Arctic SAP. Policy Analysis coordinated DOI input for the Arctic SAP and assisted with the integration of Interagency Policy Committee and OMB feedback into the full content outline now under review as noted in “National Ocean Policy Implementation.”

Update: Brown Tree Snake Technical Committee Meeting. The Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Technical Committee meeting scheduled on Guam, April 12-15, was cancelled due to the uncertainty about the Federal Government shutdown. It is likely to be rescheduled at another time. The NISC staff was scheduled to present on the status of the BTS Memorandum of Agreement and the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

Update: Brown Bag on April 11. The April Policy Analysis Brown Bag series featured a presentation by Sarah Cline, Economic Analysis staff on Measuring the Economic Impact of Invasive Species on Ecosystem Services. The Brown Bags are held in the Rachel Carson Room at 12:15 p.m. on the second Mondays of the month and are open to everyone.

Update: Arctic Policy. The Office of Policy Analysis has worked with International Affairs the Department of State and NOAA to prepare an updated proposal for an Arctic Council Ecosystem-based Management framework. If approved, the updated proposal would call for a meeting of Ecosystem-based Management Experts to be hosted by the United States in the fall of 2011. This proposal will be discussed at a Senior Arctic Officials meeting on April 14th for approval and submission to the May Arctic Council Ministerial.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy Implementation. Policy Analysis continues to coordinate implementation of the National Ocean Policy for DOI. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) – “Coordinate and Support,” and is providing support for another “Changing Conditions in the Arctic;” FWS is chairing the “Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration” SAP writing team. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC) co-chaired by Eileen Sobeck DAS-FW and the National Ocean Committee staff are now reviewing full content outlines of all SAPs prior to the outlines being released for public comment in May. The next ORM IPC meeting will be April 27 at the Department of Commerce.

Ongoing: Departmental Federal Advisory Committee Policy. Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Federal Advisory Committee Policy, in collaboration with the Department’s Committee Management Officer. The new chapter will update the 1975 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Economic Report. The report is currently being reviewed at OMB.

Ongoing: Chesapeake Bay Federal Agency Market Survey. At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Ecosystem Markets, Policy Analysis is helping coordinate Interior’s response to a Federal agency survey designed to identify potential Federal roles and opportunities in environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay. These markets, designed to reduce environmental impacts, are called for in the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Action Plan. Policy Analysis and USFWS emailed the Federal Surveys to DOI bureaus on March 31. Responses to USDA are due April 27.

Ongoing: Klamath. The pilot test for the non-use valuation survey has been approved by OMB. Implementation should begin at the end of the week of April 11 or the beginning of the following week.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Public Call for Nominations to Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The National Invasive Species Council has announced the open submission period for nominations to

Class 7 of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee in the Federal Register. The 60-day submission period to fill 13 open seats on the committee will run from April 4 to June 2, 2011.

Completed: NRDAR Program Support. As a follow-up to the DOI Restoration Program national Workshop held March 28-31, Policy Analysis provided additional economic information and consultation on damage assessment to the Fon Du Lac Reservation USGS-Columbia NOAA-WA, and BLM-CA during the week of April 4.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

UPDATE: Mark-up of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2011 (S. 675) – On 4/7/2011, the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee marked up favorably the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2011 (S.675) by a voice vote. S. 675 is textually the same as H.R. 2314, which passed out of the House of Representatives on 2/23/2010 during the 111th Congress. However, there are significant differences between S. 675 and S. 3945. S. 3945 is a revised version of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act Senators Akaka and Inouye introduced on 11/15/2010 as a result of a compromise between the Hawai'i U.S. Congressional Delegation and then Governor Linda Lingle (R-HI).

While the Administration has issued statements supporting both versions of the bill, an official statement of the Administration's Position was only issued for S. 3945. The letters to Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell, issued on 12/09/2010 by Secretary Salazar and Attorney General Holden, expressed the Administration's strong support for the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2010 (S. 3945).

Office of International Affairs

New: Two New International Technical Assistance Program Agreements. Two new Inter-Agency Agreements will be signed this week that will obligate new funds for several technical assistance activities. One Agreement provides new funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development for ongoing activities in the Republic of Georgia and Jordan. The second Agreement provides new funds from the State Department for ongoing activities in Morocco and new activities in Chile. The new program in Chile will provide assistance on Chile's mining sector and organizational strengthening within Chile's newly-formed Ministry of the Environment.

New: Meeting with Repsol regarding Drilling Plans in Cuban Waters. OIA Director participated in a briefing, organized by BOEMRE, by officials of Repsol, the Spanish oil and gas company preparing to drill in Cuban deep waters. Repsol hopes to begin drilling operations this summer or fall, pending completion of permit processes in Cuba.

Update: International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment will be held on April 14. OIA prepared initial drafts of briefing materials on participating countries' offshore oil sectors, and continued to coordinate with U.S. and foreign embassies to deliver invitations from the Secretary to counterparts in key offshore oil and gas producing countries and respond to requests for additional information from invitees. To date, we have confirmed 41 participants

from 10 countries (Angola, Australia, Canada, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand Norway, Russia and UK) and the EU.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff coordinated a major portion of the logistics necessary for this meeting. OIA staff also worked with PPA to review DOS and NOAA comments on the U.S. ecosystem-based management (EBM) concept paper that the State Department plans to deliver to Arctic Council members next week. The interagency comments are in line with DOI interests.

Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

Completed: Eleventh Annual DOI Restoration Program Workshop. The annual DOI Restoration Program workshop was held March 28 to April 1 in Phoenix, AZ and was attended by 223 people (208 from federal, State and tribal trustee agencies, and 15 individuals representing industry and non-governmental organizations). The Workshop included presentations on “Model Practices for Cooperative NRDAR” and “Sequestering Carbon through Restoration.”

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America’s Great Outdoors Implementation

Complete: Miami Dade College White House Youth Round Table. The Youth Office Director facilitated a roundtable discussion with 10 student leaders and faculty at Miami Dade College to identify opportunities to connect youth to America’s Great Outdoors in and around Miami. Transportation was identified as the number 1 barrier. The Youth Office Director sent information to students and faculty about the Explore Fund which provides mini-grants to support getting diverse, urban youth outdoors, including funding for transportation.

Complete: National 4-H White House Youth Round Table. The Office of Youth hosted a White House Round Table with a group of National 4-H Conference participants. The 4-H teens shared their recommendations reading of the *America’s Great Outdoors* recommendations. Their recommendations included creating a “Youth Environmental Awareness” (YAE) program via 4-H with Cooperative Extension at Land Grant Universities, and promoting National Park Week in schools and via a national media contest for a PSA video to air on national television and social media sites, such as Facebook. We are following up with the National Park Service to share the young people’s recommendations.

Ongoing: Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group.

The Office of Youth continues to guides an Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group this week to support implementation of AGO recommendations related to Youth, Jobs, and Service. Work group members include staff from DOI, USDA, EPA, USACE, HHS, DOL, OMB, and CEQ.

Ongoing: FI-STEM Education (Federal Inventory of STEM Education): The Office of Youth is representing DOI on a Federal Inventory task force. The work of FI-STEM will inform a strategic planning task force as part of the new White House OSTP Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM). CoSTEM, and the strategic planning task force, are represented by USGS Director Marcia McNutt. We are also coordinating efforts with a similar GAO STEM education inventory.

Ongoing: YouthGo.gov Web Portal.

The YouthGo.gov web portal continues to be a one-stop shop for young people looking for employment opportunities and fun events, as well as educational resources. The portal allows us improve access to federal resources through an easy-to-use format that matches young people with DOI and partner resources to create a new generation of citizen stewards. It continues to provide alignment with the Let's Move Outside initiative and support the priorities of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. We are negotiating with the Forest Service/USDA to help fund maintenance and expansion of the portal.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Complete: National Youth Employment Coalition Annual Members Forum. The Director of the Office of Youth gave an inspiring plenary address at the annual forum, highlighting the Department's efforts and support around the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: Draft "Call for 2011 Nominations for the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award" sent to Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management & Budget for review and surname process. Interior Bureau/Office nominations due June 17, 2011 and potential Departmental Award Ceremony in the fall of 2011.

New: Partnership Coordinator delegated to participate in OS "Organizational Impact Assessment" for FBMS for the Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service. Coordinator is tasked with being the information liaison for DOI to external partners on new processes on internal reporting, tracking, monitoring and affect on agreements, partnership processes.

Ongoing: Letter of Intent drafted between DOI & The Corps Network (TCN) to implement MOU. Specific tasks outlined are to organize a working group to develop a "Bureau by Bureau" guide for youth employment at DOI, cross-sharing of key contacts between DOI & TCN and to compile a database of youth employment programs and training on Public Land Corps hiring authority.

Ongoing: FACA Charter drafted - Advisory Committee for 21 Century Conservation Service Corps (AC - 21CSC). Charter and call for nominations - FACA Committee for 21 CSC drafted and distributed among AGO Inter-Agency Jobs & Youth Workgroup for review, prior to GSA concurrence, and prior to Secretary's approval.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: National Volunteer Week. In conjunction with National Volunteer Week, Take Pride in America will participated in the Keep America Beautiful Times Square awards event, by recognizing two public lands volunteers with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Take Pride in America also participated in a volunteer event along the Charles River in Boston, MA in partnership with The Mission Continues – a veterans service organization.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Hydropower Licensing Rule. A legal opinion from the Solicitor’s Office on the major remaining issue in this rulemaking was expected last week. At issue is whether the Department is required to provide an equal consideration statement regarding a condition or prescription for a hydropower license if no license party has proposed an alternative condition or prescription. Once the memorandum is received, OHA will prepare an options paper for the Assistant Secretary on how to revise the draft rule in light of the legal conclusion.

Office of the Chief Information Office

New: Denver Hosting Center Outage. A series of cascading equipment failures resulted in an outage at DOI’s Denver Data Center (DDC). Electricity to the DDC is supplied by the General Services Administration (GSA). DOI was provided advance knowledge of the planned power outage; however, backup power systems failed to operate safely, despite having been recently inspected and tested, causing failure to DOI’s department-wide network and corresponding outages at several bureaus. The OCIO has identified the technical failures that led up to the outage and are developing an in-depth after action report, including lessons learned and preventative steps that the OCIO and bureaus can take to prevent future outages of this type. DOI OCIO also conducted meetings with the bureau Assistant Directors for Information Resources (ADIRs) to discuss the outage and to develop joint action items to prevent future outages.

New: New Department Wide Hardware Contracts Awarded. New contracts have been awarded for the acquisition of workstations, servers and peripherals. As result, the Department is now able to obtain volume pricing by soliciting the best value or lowest costs for hardware needs.

Update: IT Transformation Listening Sessions. IT Transformation listening sessions were conducted in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Additionally, CIO Bernie Mazer facilitated a session with National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) staff in Boise, ID. Following the session at NIFC, DAS Jackson joined the CIO at Grand Coulee Dam, where they met with BOR staff, toured the facility, and observed one of BOR’s most important mission-specific operations. The next series of listening sessions will occur from April 19th to 21st in Lafayette, LA, Jefferson, LA, and Rolla, MO. BOEMRE and USGS will be hosting these events.

Update: Unified Messaging. A briefing was provided to the Bureau ADIRs regarding plans for implementing an interim, internally operated unified email solution for the entire Department.

This approach will allow DOI to continue the momentum that has been built for a single email system, reduce email costs and establish a single address book for all DOI users, and it will allow for migration to Outlook by bureaus whose Lotus Notes licenses have not been updated for several years, a situation that has created further instability in the Departments' overall email situation. The approach was well received and with no major concerns expressed by the ADIRs in attendance. However, several key people were not able to attend the call due to preparations for the potential shutdown last week. A follow-up briefing is being scheduled to accommodate those individuals.

Office of Valuation Services

New: OVS client management meeting. The OVS Client Service Managers and Team Lead Appraisers met with the OVS Director and Deputy Director/Chief Appraiser in California last week to discuss strategic direction and policies specific to valuation. The meeting included an afternoon discussion with DAS Jackson, the regional Realty Officers for BOR, NPS, and FWS, as well as the BLM State Realty Lead.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: Facilitation for Leadership Strategic Planning retreat. CADR is providing impartial facilitation assistance for the leadership team for the National Landscape Conservation System and the Community and Partnerships division of the BLM. CADR assisted the leadership team in planning a facilitated strategic planning meeting to be held on April 12-13.

Update: Open Government Implementation. A joint effort of the Office of Communications, CADR, OCIO, and members of the Open Government steering committee resulted in the posting of a one year anniversary assessment of DOI's Open Government efforts on April 8. The next working group meeting to finalize action planning for ongoing projects and initiatives will be held on April 28 at the new BLM building.

Update: Government-to-Government Consultation policy. CADR is drafting the meeting summary for the last negotiating meeting between DOI representatives and Tribal representatives held in Suquamish, Washington during the last week of March. In addition, CADR continues to provide process support and is offering proposed language for the policy regarding impartial process assistance available to help managers plan and carry out effective consultation processes and practices once the new policy is published.

Completed: Nimble Thinker Training. CADR sponsored a free training on the Nimble Thinker by the Keystone Center on April 6 at the OHA conference room in Arlington, VA. The evaluations from the 33 participants were very positive and the training satisfied learning goals for Individual Development plans and Executive Development plans.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Meeting with NatureServe and Geospatial Information Officers. The GIO will be meeting with representatives from NatureServe and GIOs from Agriculture and EPA to discuss options for making NatureServe data available to Federal agencies through the Geospatial Platform.

Update: Geospatial Platform. The Technical Deployment Task Team has developed a prototype of the Geospatial Platform that will be demonstrated to a small group of agencies for the purpose of clarifying the technical concept of operations.

Update: Geospatial Information and Tools for Open Government. The GIO continues to work with the Open Government Steering Committee to identify ways the OG Initiative can be supported with geospatial capabilities. A demonstration on geospatial technology will be conducted for the Steering Committee this week.

National Business Center

New: The NBC IT Directorate Network Services Branch Hosts Satellite press tour for Secretary. Staff from the NBC telecommunication branch completed a two- hour satellite press tour with Secretary Salazar for six television broadcast stations.

Update: Enterprise Architecture Support. Staff provided guidance and oversight to the Human Resource Directorate Single-Sign-On for the Social Security Administration (SSA) including conducting technical working sessions with NBC and SSA on issues that had been lingering for several months and defining and assigning the responsibilities to NBC and SSA teams.

New: AMD Participation in the Wounded Warrior Program. On April 5, 2011, AMD Alaska Region (ARO) Director and the ARO management team met with Captain Ian Cabbage and Mr. Mark W. Avery, Supervisory Transition Coordinator of the Warrior Transition Battalion-Alaska. The Alaska Region is seeking to provide a meaningful work experience for one or more Warriors in Transition through this DoD program.

New: AMD Donates to Pembroke Lighthouse Learning Academy. In support of GSA's Computers for Learning Program (CFL), AMD's East Regional Office donated excess computer equipment and peripherals to Pembroke Lighthouse Learning Academy. The excess donations would allow them to develop a student computer lab and provide more computer based training to the students.

New: FPPS Payroll Workshop Hosted. NBC staff hosted a successful workshop in Washington, D.C. April 4-6, 2011 focusing on the Payroll operation business processes and the interactions required with clients of the NBC and regulatory and policy updates and their impact on payroll systems. The workshops provide valuable input from our client agencies and face-to-face contact with the Payroll Operations Division staff who work with NBC's clients from around the country.

New: The NBC Nears Completion of Client Estimates. NBC is approximately 85% complete on its Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Management client estimates. These estimates provide a basis for negotiating Interior discretionary agreements as well as agreements with

external customers. DOI discretionary agreements cover additional services DOI bureaus and offices choose that are in addition to mandatory services.

New: Completion of IRS 1099s. The National Business Center completed its annual preparation and distribution of Internal Revenue Service 1099 forms for calendar year 2010. Copies were sent both to customers and to IRS regulatory authorities. The NBC met prescribed deadlines and performance metrics.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Agency Query System (AQS) Web Form Non Disclosure Statement: Workers' Compensation. Carmen Craddock, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) Program Manager has been working directly with the Department of Labor (DOL) to review and verify the Department's 1053 active AQS user accounts. She also provided an authorization and completed the (AQS) web form non disclosure statement applications for 887 (AQS) system users. Completing the (AQS) web form non-disclosure statement provides increased protection measures for personally identifiable information (PII) and other sensitive program data, while improving DOI to DOL's Electronic Data Interface (EDI). The department's workers compensation personnel will be able to electronically file the CA-16 , Medical Authorization, CA-3- Agency Return to Work Notification, and CA-7(a and b), Lost Time Claim forms. Access to electronic processing capabilities for all three forms improves the Department's ability to meet three of the seven POWER initiative performance measures set by DOL and (OWCP).

Update (Pending): OWCP Program and Accountability Program Collaboration. The OWCP Program Manager will review and modify a previously drafted checklist for a possible OWCP add-on component to established accountability programs. This includes a prior document drafted to correlate with previous OWCP performance initiatives. Our accountability review guidelines and checklist will be updated to reflect the current POWER initiative.

Office of Civil Rights

New: FY 2009 and FY 2010 Information and Reporting Requirements. Last week, upon the request by the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Public Civil Rights Division, Chief, Jack Andre is preparing the fiscal year (FY) 2009 and (FY) 2010 information and reporting requirements for agencies that administer federally assisted programs subject to Executive Order 12250. This provides for the consistent and effective implementation of various laws prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or religion.

Update: EEO Counselor Training. The April 11-15, 2011, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) EEO Counselor Training, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), at the NPS Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado, is being rescheduled due to the uncertainty of a potential government shutdown midnight April 8, 2011.

Completed: EEO Compliance Training. During April 5-7, 2011, Office of Civil Rights Senior Policy Advisor Alvin Dillings, conducted EEO Compliance Training for supervisors, managers, and employees of the National Park Service, National Park Police, Battery Park, New York Region, following a Finding of Discrimination. The training was held at Ellis Island and Staten Island, New York.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

Update: White House Task Force, Veterans Acquisition Intern Program. Lynn McPheeters, President, DOI University and Rob Foye, DOI Intern Program Manager briefed the executive steering committee on the proposed orientation program and training curriculum for the multi-year veteran intern program. Committee members include the Veterans Administration (VA) Assistant Secretary, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Deputy Director, Department of Labor (DOL) Assistant Secretary, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chief Human Capital Officer, and the Department of Defense (DOD) Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Update: Federal Collaborative e-Learning Laboratory (Fed-CEL). During April 5-7, 2011, the Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development (OSEOD) hosted over 25 representatives from over twelve federal government organizations for the inaugural Fed-CEL meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting was a huge success and the group will continue to work collaboratively to develop and share online courses, brainstorm ideas, share best practices, and provide feedback on existing projects in order to maximize resources for the e-learning community.

Update: Pathways to Leadership. During April 4-8, 2011, DOIU delivered the Transforming Public Organizations module to 30 BIA, BIE, and Office of Special Trustee (OST) mid-level leaders. Mike Black, BIA Director Mike Smith, Deputy Director of Field Operations, Ray Joseph, Principal Special Deputy Trustee for American Indians, and Kevin Bearquiver, Deputy Bureau Director participated in the training event.

Update: National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC). On April 7, 2011, the National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC) Media Product Center (MPC) recorded in the studio the third in a series of programs for BIE, working with Lamar Associates. The program on "Prescription Drug Abuse," will be distributed via DVD to the BIA/BIE schools.

Update: Washington Learning Center (WLC). The WLC staff worked with Emily Joseph, Environmental and Disposal Liabilities (EDL) Program Manager, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) in the training logistics coordination and training material review for the upcoming webinar "Environmental & Disposal Liabilities Webinar I". A nationwide announcement was distributed as a LAN message to advertise the course among DOI employees.

Update: Upcoming Forums and Speaker Events

- On April 7, the Government wide Senior Executive Service Forum featured the book *Survival of the Savvy: High-Integrity Political Tactics for Career and Company Success*

written by author Dr. Rick Brandon. He described a program for using high integrity politics to achieve career success. The forum was held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington, DC. .

- The Department of the Interior Leadership Forum will feature the book *The Wisdom of Bees: What the Hive Can Teach Business about Leadership, Efficiency, and Growth* by Social Psychologist and Management Consultant Dr. Michael O'Malley. He will describe what the hive can teach business about leadership, efficiency, and growth. The forum will be held on consecutive days in the South Interior Building (SIB) for DOI executives on April 18, 2011, and at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center for DOI and other federal employees on April 19, 2011.

Ongoing: Presidential Management Fellows (PMF). The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced the upcoming 2011 PMF Finalist Job Fair and Graduation Ceremony during the week of April, 2011. This year, over 800 finalists were selected from a candidate pool of close to 11,000 high-achieving graduate students.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)/Forest Service Citation Settlement. At OSHA's request, Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Programs, acted as a mediator for a citation settlement conference with the U.S. Forest Service involving three willful citations for not providing interview statements when requested.

Ongoing: Wildland Fire Safety Training. On April 6, 2011, a teleconference with the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FFAST) was held on course content. FFAST asked for a work order prior to expending any time or resources on the project. The Office of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) drafted the work order request. OSHA's Office of Federal Agency Programs and the U.S. Forest Service have asked to participate in this project.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. The draft DOI organization plan for Stage 4 is undergoing review by staff in New Orleans. Field and New Orleans staffs want to be clear on the role of Resource Advisors (READs), especially considering the current wildlife strategic pause (and in anticipation of questions as to the need for READs during this period). The role of READs during this time is to check beaches for oiling conditions and report this information to SCAT teams, note any bird or turtle nesting activity, and, in Gulf Islands National Seashore, perform incidental clean-up. Noting oiling and nesting areas will help define operations once the strategic pause is removed. There is concern that READs cannot perform beach clean-up as most of them are walking and cannot carry much debris off the beach. The NPS is going to clarify parameters of incidental clean-up.

Update: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is awaiting signature by the CIO following issuance of the M-11-11 policy document on HSPD-12 implementation.

Update: Radio Transformation. Project directors are waiting for approval of funding for the project manager so that further work can take place. Jim Douglas attended an interagency meeting with representatives from various Executive Office of the President offices, Agriculture, Commerce, and Homeland Security to discuss opportunities to leverage investment in rural broadband.

Update: Fire IT Project. The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) will meet with focus groups in Boise the week of April 18. Additional meetings with fire executives and agency chief information offices are being arranged.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Discussions are continuing on the final language to be contained in the amendment. New concerns were expressed by CBP over the basis for the mitigation acreage in Texas which had been previously addressed. Meetings with CBP leadership are planned for this week and it is hoped a final agreement can be reached soon. This amendment could result in making available as much as 22 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex). New concerns arose over the possibility of cuts in DHS budget that would make these funds unavailable. Status was unknown at the time of this report.

Update: OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Based on a thorough assessment of the SBInet program CBP has modified its direction significantly. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. Site visits in the Sonoita/Nogales area are scheduled for this week to review tower locations that had been identified and evaluated as part of SBInet planning. A substantial amount of environmental assessment work had been done for these sites previously. This review will look at the sites to determine if anything has changed since the previous work was done. Contracts will be let this fall for work to be conducted through next winter. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be centered in the Douglas, AZ area.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. Draft storyboards were received from CBP March 22. Comments were consolidated for DOI and submitted to CBP on April 8, 2011. A final module is still expected to be completed in the summer of 2011.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on May 13th. Public meetings will be held from May 30 to June 17 with comment closing in July. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The meeting originally scheduled for March 9th was postponed due to a schedule conflict with CBP and is now being planned for the week of April 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

No Change: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. Coordination on NEPA and ESA compliance is continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: DHS Cyber Threatscape Intelligence Briefing. OLES, in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 and as the Sector Specific Agency for National Monuments and Icons (NM&I) is coordinating with DHS for a briefing regarding cyber threats to NM&I critical infrastructure. This briefing is scheduled for April 13th.

New: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 National Monuments & Icons Sector Annual Report. OLES Security is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Infrastructure Protection Division and the National Monuments and Icons security managers in the development of the 2011 annual report. Currently, the document is in the data collection stage with a first draft due to DHS by June 6, 2011.

Update: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The final Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report for the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project, written by Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, was submitted to the FPA Board of Directors on March 23. The US Forest Service (USFS) and DOI stakeholders are currently in discussion to strategize a path forward to execute the corrective actions recommended in the report.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and official turn over to OLES is pending. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun and work on G ramp is scheduled to begin on April 18th.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** C ramp guard booth (frame) has been delivered and installed. Façade and internal wiring work is scheduled to be completed 2nd/3rd week in April.

- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation was posted on the GSA schedule the week of April 4th. DAS Andrew Jackson has vetted and provided comments.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed w/in the next two months.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated (\$472,095) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative. A talking points paper was submitted for follow-up.

Update: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20th. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall, St Louis Arch, and the Statue. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution (Boston). Security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 1) have been scheduled for a BOEMRE facility in New Orleans in April and the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

Update: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12. Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or where they have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request is due by April 29. In addition, OLES is attempting to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management in support of the initiative.

Update: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On March 8, OLES Security participated in a conference call with the National Park Service and the United States Park Police regarding security procedures and visitor screening for Liberty and Ellis Island. A decision from the NPS on the security screening procedures at Ellis and Liberty Island has not been finalized.

Update: OLES Visit to the Southwest Border. Last week members from the Intelligence Division met with DOI stakeholders along the SW Border in an effort to better understand their information/intelligence needs and requirements. The trip involved personnel from the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. A visit was also made to the El Paso Intelligence Center. A trip report on the findings will be forwarded to the Director, OLES.

Update: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. Specific

White House guidance to department and agencies is forthcoming. There is a Wikileaks IPC scheduled for April 14.

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Unfortunately, per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years.

Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individual in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

No Change: 444 DM 1 “Physical Protection and Building Security” Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements, listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled “Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities”. The new draft 444 DM 1 has been vetted through all Bureau/Office Security Director’s and is pending a second review. OLES Security hopes to issue the updated version as interim guidance in June of 2011.

No Change: Federal Chief Information Officer’s 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Assistant Director—Technology Division has written a Statement of Objectives (SOO) for inclusion in a Request for Information (RFI) to vendors. The Technology Division will issue this RFI in order to learn more about the cloud computing capabilities of the vendors.

No Change: USA Today FOIA Request Regarding DOI Facilities. The Solicitor’s office has requested the assistance of OLES Security to review a FOIA request from USA Today. The FOIA request is regarding the location (address and descriptions) of all DOI’s 46,000 facilities. It is believed that the request stems from an effort to remove unused Government property from inventory. OLES Security continues to review and comment on the draft data fields associated with this request. Additional review is pending Bureau/Office comment.

No Change: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating a review of all bureaus/office personnel security programs. The review is conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. Reviews have been scheduled for the Office of the Secretary (April 11), USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

Final: Incident Management Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) Case Study. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Federal CIO conducted a case study of IMARS. The case study was reviewed by the e-Gov Board and others (CIO Council Best Practices Committee, Partnership for Public Service) for recommendations to strengthen the study. The Case Study has been completed and in process to be published on CIO.gov by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

New: National Level Exercise (NLE)-11. A letter of instruction regarding DOI participation in NLE-11 has been surnamed by the Assistant Secretary, Water and Science, Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Director, Office of Wildland Fire. The letter of instruction will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary, PMB for final approval and issuance to bureau and office directors. NLE-11 will take place the week of May 16, 2011 and the scenario will consist of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (Midwest US).

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* Japanese authorities now report that there are 13,000 confirmed deaths and 13,700 missing following the earthquake and tsunami. Power plant operators at the Fukushima Daiichi plant have stopped the major leak of radioactive water from the #2 reactor. EPA has been measuring radiation levels in Guam and the CNMI, but has not yet detected unhealthy levels of contamination. Several large aftershocks, up to 7.1 M have occurred in the vicinity of the plant during the last week. U.S. DOD leaders have begun demobilizing forces and equipment that have been provided to assist. The president has issued a major disaster declaration for Hawaii County, Maui County, and the City and County of Honolulu for damage associated with the tsunami surge.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* One hundred DOI personnel continue to work full-time on Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. Cleanup operations continue at a slow pace due to migratory bird nesting and spring-break tourism. Removal and mitigation of Submerged Oil Mats which continue to foul beaches. April 20 is the One Year Anniversary of the beginning of the spill.
- *Sewage Spill in the Great Smoky Mountains NP:* An estimated 850,000 gallons of untreated sewage spilled into the Little Pigeon River on Park land. Two persons at the water treatment plant were killed in the incident.
- *Flooding in the Midwest:* Flooding continues in the Midwest with many rivers in North and South Dakota and Iowa fueled by heavy snowpack, rain and warming temperatures. Being judged as the fourth worst flooding to hit the areas, residents are busy sandbagging and strengthening dikes. USFWS has accepted two FEMA Mission Assignments to assist the emergency personnel in Fargo, ND with response management and small boats for search and rescue activities. USGS is installing, maintaining and reading gages on all the impacted rivers
- *Tropical Depression #2 Passes through Mariana Island Chain:* A tropical depression passed between the islands of Agrihan and Pagan in the CNMI. Little damage occurred and there were no injuries to the islanders before the tropical depression dissipated.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). Last week, OEM coordinated with the Office of Civil Rights and NBC to ensure that self-identified, hearing-impaired individuals have been added to the building emergency alert systems. OEM staff has met with each person who has self-identified as needing evacuation assistance to provide them with emergency information and specific evacuation instructions. OEM is finalizing the After-Action Report on the

evacuation drills conducted in the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23.

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI in the Chemical National Security Staff sub-Interagency Policy Committee (sub-IPC). She continues to keep informed about the public health related activities the Federal interagency community is engaged in related to the Japanese earthquake/tsunami/nuclear situation.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM conducted a visit last week with BIA Regional Director Stanley Speaks and his staff, Matthew Ellis from the Indian Health Service, and representatives from the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council in Portland, OR to discuss emergency management issues. Additionally, OEM met with FEMA Region X Administrator Ken Murphy, his Deputy and other FEMA Region X staff in Bothell, WA. OEM is now working with BIA and emergency management staff within the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan a visit to Montana possibly the week of May 2. OEM will then conclude interviews with additional DC-based staff to complete the data gathering stage of the expert study.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. Approximately 70 individuals were invited to self-update their records using the Contact Management System (CMS) in anticipation of the government shutdown. Group reports and rosters are in review and requirements for the most complex reports have been provided to the development team. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups. OEM is also coordinating with OCIO and OLES to enhance readiness of secure systems to support operations on a reliable 24/7 basis. Partial funding is being provided to OCIO to dedicate a staff position to provide communications security functions and related management of classified systems.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH-11) and participated in the Interagency EH-11 Final Planning Conference on April 5. The agenda included discussion on exercise staff training events as well as finalizing plans for exercise execution. OEM briefed the Emergency Management Council on the training opportunities and continues to publish training information on Safetalk for EH-11 as well as other continuity events. Exercise EH-11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM met with AS-IA representative in order to formulate a continuity and devolution plan for their Bureaus and Assistant Secretary's immediate office. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included

in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM has received a new submission of positions from the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance for review and approval to cover the Department's role in response and recovery related to Natural, Cultural, and Historic Properties. As a result, OEM will be coordinating a subject matter expert review across the bureaus to analyze and review the positions prior to submitting the package to the Emergency Management Council for formal approval. The next iteration of the Guide is slated to be released within the next 60 days and under the new agreements, will be loaded into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for all-hazard responder positions.

Update: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues. The Japan IPC will meet today (4/12); Assistant Secretary Castle and Larry Broun will participate.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the needs of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Biomass – Feasibility Studies Meeting. As part of the wildland fire fuels program, OWFC participates on the Woody BUG (Woody Biomass Utilization Group). Interior, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Energy (DOE), conducted feasibility studies to determine if a proposed project can reduce the use of fossil fuels and convert all or part of the current facility energy use to renewable energy. There were 48 feasibility studies assessed in 2010 and of the 48 studies, 15 of them were DOI locations. DOI/OWFC hosted a meeting on April 11, 2011 with DOI contracting and engineering managers to discuss the status of the reports, Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), and possible next steps for these studies.

New: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Management Advisory Team (MAT): The interagency FPA MAT will hold their monthly conference call on Wednesday April 13th. They are scheduled to discuss their Guiding Principles document which they will present to the FPA Oversight group during a webinar scheduled on April 22, 2011. The Guiding Principles document will address the configuration of and future engagement of the MAT.

New: International Support. OWFC provided support and coordination to the DOI Office of International Affairs in addressing a request for fire assistance to Mexico. Information was

provided outlining possible courses of action for response and support. This included private vendor availability rosters and process for requesting direct support.

Update: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy (Cohesive Strategy).

On March 25, 2011, Secretary Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack jointly signed and transmitted to Congress two documents: the first is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy)* and the second is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. Together, these important documents provide the foundation for the entire wildland fire management cohesive strategy effort. A joint press release was issued on Monday March 28, 2011 at 11am, officially announcing the public availability of these documents on www.forestsandrangelands.gov. The release of these documents concludes Phase I, and effort is underway to implement the direction of the Cohesive Strategy in phases two and three. A Regional Strategy Committee (RSC) has been established for each region of the country – Northeast, Southeast, and West – to provide executive leadership and oversight for implementing phases II and III. The RSC meetings are scheduled as follows: West RSC, May 2-3 in Denver; Northeast RSC, May 9-10 in Minneapolis; and Southeast RSC, May 16-17 in Atlanta.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. All of the attributes for the Project Priority System (PPS) have been completed, including their weights, definitions, and business rules. Formal approval from IFEC was received on March 28.

The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD) was complete on April 4, but several improvements were asked to be made by the bureau Fire Directors. Those revisions were completed last week, and will be presented to the Fire Directors the week of April 18. Work on Phase 2, determining the process for integration of results of the PPS and the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) will commence.

Great progress was made last week with our partners in USGS to create a temporary, interim, web-based approach to gather from field units all of the data needed to run the PPS.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) is scheduled to hold a webinar/conference call Friday April 22nd, 2011. The topics of the webinar are an update on the progress of FPA 2011 Technical and Business review, discussion of the latest analysis the Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) has completed, and an update from the FPA Management Advisory Team (MAT) regarding their future engagement in support of FPA.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team: The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) was scheduled to meet in Boise, ID on April 12th - 14th. This meeting has been cancelled and the IST will have a discussion with the FPA Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) regarding the outputs from the latest analysis via a teleconference later this week.

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah

November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

No Change: EPA's Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA's goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work on updating LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as but not limited to wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through fourth geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and Southwest. The next geo-area, North Central will be delivered by March 31, 2011 with production on track for the remaining geo-areas (South Central, Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii).

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-charted to support the continued refinement of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1, 2011 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination

was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

OWF is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC). WFLC met and approved the following reports: *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for Secretarial approval on or before Friday, March 18, 2011. The WFLC also approved a proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy and concurred with the membership recommendations for the three Regional Strategy Committees (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process.

No Change: Wildland Fire Training Course Proposal for OSHA. OWFC is coordinating with the Office of Occupational Safety and Health and Bureau Fire Safety Program Managers on the development of a proposed wildland fire safety training course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Officers.

No Change: Federal Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2011. The exercise is scheduled for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other federal partners to identify a course of action. DOI, USFA, and USFS fire leadership are reviewing the updated exercise components to determine a final by April 01.

No Change: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan. OWF is coordinating with the FS to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Update: GSA Meeting on BIA Fleet Pricing. On April 11, 2011, representatives from PAM and BIA met with the Director of the GSA Office of Motor Vehicle Management to discuss a proposed rate increase to the fleet of buses leased by BIA for student transportation. On March 1, GSA notified DOI of its intent to increase its bus rental and mileage rates for the BIA fleet by 15 percent effective May 1; and by an additional 31 and 33 percent annually in FY 2012 and 2013, respectively. The goal of the meeting was to collaborate to develop an acceptable solution to this issue. (Note: this meeting was previously scheduled for April 8, 2011.)

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program – Letter of Appreciation from NASA. David M. Sims, DOI Debarment Program Manager, has received a letter of appreciation from the Director of NASA's Acquisition Integrity Program (AIP), for his contributions to shaping the agency's suspension and debarment process. Mr. Sims has contributed knowledge and expertise, shared best practices, and assisted AIP attorneys in working through complex legal issues in the area of suspension and debarment. The assistance provided by Mr. Sims and DOI has made a lasting imprint on the NASA program.

Office of Budget

Update: 2013 Budget Formulation. On Monday, April 11, the DAS for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition presented to the Principals Operating Group strategic issues to consider during the formulation of the 2013 budget. Using these decisions, POB continues to refine the 2013 formulation guidance for the development of the bureaus' May budget submission to the Department. On April 5, POB issued "Attachment G" guidance regarding the development of the 2013-2017 Five Year Plans for Construction and Deferred Maintenance.

Office of Financial Management

New: Closure Request. The Office of Financial Management, Departmental Offices Finance Division submitted closure requests for audit recommendations G.2 (in fiscal year 2011, a second individual is required to compare the prompt payment information from the accounting system) and G.4 (updates the prompt payment interest rate in the accounting system when the rate changes) related to NFR DOI-2010-304 (Prompt Pay).

New: Use and Monitoring of GovTrip. PFM worked with the bureaus for the second site visit of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the audit of the Use and Monitoring of GovTrip. PFM has is working with the OIG to respond to concerns expressed by bureaus about the volume of data requested for transactions testing in an extremely short turnaround time.

On-going: GAO/OIG Audits.

- PFM attended the GAO entrance conference on *Review of the Use of Chemical Dispersants following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill* (Job code 361265).
- PFM is consolidating and finalizing bureau comments on the GAO Draft report on *Federal Land Management* (GAO-11-377). The Department's comments are due to GAO on April 13.
- PFM is finalizing the Department's response to Senator Pryor's letter to the Secretary requesting the Department's plans of achieving cost savings based on the findings identified in GAO's report on *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue*.
- PFM participated in an Interagency Single Audit Follow-up meeting at the Department of Education. The meeting included discussions on the following items: OMB activities, a pre-award risk assessment tool used by Education, audit resolution of cross cutting findings, training and potential changes to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. In addition, participants were encouraged to use the OMB MAX website to post questions and sample documentation (such as training presentations).

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. OMB follow-up actions to our first quarter status data in *www.performance.gov* have been provided to the bureaus to discuss during the next set of quarterly status reviews that have been scheduled with David Hayes in early May. In accordance with the direction distributed in the March 28, 2011 memo, data as of the close of the second quarter of FY 2011 is due to PPP by April 22.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

Update: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference: The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be co-host of this year's conference and represent the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement conference that will be held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, on April 21, 2011. The conference is the most prominent government-wide event on the

small business calendar each year. Volunteers from the Department are requested to assist the OSDBU. A senior advisor to the President of the United States will be the White House representative at the conference along with other congressional representatives.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business
- TBA: University of Guam – Economic Development Webinar

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

Update: Aviation Management Directorate Business Process Impact. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office held meetings with the Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) of NBC to draft business processes that will be used by bureaus in FY 2011 for aviation program related operations.

Update: Organizational Change Management. OS is preparing for OS role mapping workshops 2 and 3 to be held April 19-21 and May 17-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office will hold the second role mapping “check-in” conference call on May 4. This conference call will provide a forum for reporting on the status of the assigned role mapping exercise and to discuss any issues or problems encountered along the way.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): ONRR has begun the implementation of the Strategic Review recommendations. ONRR officially launched the Implementation Work Groups (IWG) for the 2011 initiatives on April 6, 2011, in Denver, Colorado, with Acting Assistant Secretary for PMB, Chris Henderson, in attendance.

All-Agency Congressional Briefing Scheduled on May 4 (No Change): ONRR is participating in an all-agency Congressional Briefing sponsored by the Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) on Wednesday, May 4, at the Denver Federal Center. The All-Agency Briefing will include round-table discussions, tabletop displays, and a briefing notebook of high-level information about each of the agencies participating.

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR's goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Uintah and Ouray Agency, Ft. Duchesne, UT on April 21, 2011
- Crow Reservation, Crow Agency, MT, on April 26, 2011
- Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow, Albuquerque, NM, on April 28-30, 2011

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of March 28, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Matters

Ensco Litigation

On March 16, Ensco filed a motion to vacate the stay of the district court's order that the Fifth Circuit granted on March 15 in this case. The government filed an opposition to Ensco's motion on March 22. The government filed a supplemental administrative record regarding Plaintiff's unreasonable delay claim on March 18. On March 21, the government filed responses to Ensco's interrogatories.

BOP Forensic Examination

The BOP forensic examiner, Det Norske Veritas (DNV), completed its final report, and it was publicly released on March 23. The JIT has scheduled hearings for the first week of April to receive the examiner's testimony and that of other subsea witnesses. The JIT plans to release a BOP report concurrent with the one-year anniversary of the accident.

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

Depositions are continuing in New Orleans in the multi-district litigation with witnesses from BP, Transocean, and Halliburton. The first Government witnesses to be called will likely testify later this spring.

Other Matters

Amended Complaint in Uintah County v. Salazar

Uintah County and the Utah Association of Counties sued the Department last year claiming that land use decisions in the county were being made using an illegal de facto wilderness management policy. The complaint has now been amended to challenge the Secretary's Wild Lands Order and the Manuals that were issued to implement it. The Plaintiffs are asking the court to declare the Order and the Manuals illegal and to set them aside. The complaint alleges that Secretarial Order 3310 is ultra vires and unlawful under a potpourri of legal theories, including that the Order (1) is an improperly promulgated rule, (2) was issued without proper compliance with NEPA, (3) is an illegal withdrawal of public lands, (4) violates various other provisions of FLPMA, and (5) violates the terms of the 2003 settlement agreement between the State of Utah and the Department. The government's response to the amended complaint is due April 29.

Consolidation Coal Co., et al. v. United States (S. Ct.)

Plaintiffs/petitioners argue that the abandoned mine land (AML) fee OSM collects pursuant to SMCRA and its implementing regulations violates the Export Clause of the United States Constitution to the extent that OSM collects AML fees on coal that is ultimately exported. Petitioners seek refunds of AML fees they previously paid on exported coal. On February 9, 2011, plaintiffs/petitioners filed a petition for a writ of *certiorari*. Petitioners are asking the Supreme Court to review a decision issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in which that court held that OSM's regulations do not violate the Export Clause.

Settlement of Shell Oil Company Royalty Underpayment

Shell Oil Company has agreed to pay the United States \$2.2 million plus interest to resolve claims that they violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from Federal leases. The settlement arises from a lawsuit filed by a whistleblower. The investigation and settlement of these matters were jointly handled by the Department of Justice's Civil Division and the Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resource Revenue, the Solicitor's Office and the Inspector General's Office.

WildEarth Guardians v. National Park Service

Today the district court ruled in favor of the NPS in this long-delayed case, which challenged the Elk Management Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park. Though the merits have been fully briefed since early 2009, the case was in part delayed by a long battle over the Safari Club's motion to intervene (the Tenth Circuit last year reversed the district court's denial). The significant issue in the case was whether the use of "public volunteers" to cull elk in the park would be found to run afoul of the prohibitions on hunting under the NPS Organic Act and the park's enabling statute. Today's decision finds that it does not. The court also brushed aside the plaintiff's effort to rely on a post hoc Senate hearing transcript in which the Secretary referred to the Rocky Mountain culls as "hunting," finding it extra-record and irrelevant to the dispute. The park has been implementing the elk management plan for the last several years while this decision has been pending; today's decision confirms that it may continue to do so.

Northern Rocky Mountain Wolves

Yesterday, Judge Molloy of the District of Montana held a hearing on the proposed wolf settlement filed last Friday. The State of Montana has filed a brief in support of the settlement. The non-settling plaintiffs have filed briefs in opposition. The Judge did not rule from the bench.

Environmental Justice Inter-agency Working Group

The Solicitor's Office is participating in the Environmental Justice Inter-agency Working Group formed in furtherance of Executive Order 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994). Our long-term goals for this working group are: (1) to create a network of agency attorneys to facilitate dialogue among our agencies on EJ issues; (2) to discuss our experiences counseling our agencies on EJ issues, to

share information and to discuss common issues; and (3) to identify ways that, as attorneys, we can help advance our agencies' commitment to environmental justice.

Bureau of Indian Education access to Teacher Incentive Fund Grants from the Department of Education

The BIE seeks access to the Teacher Incentive Fund competitive grants authorized by P.L. 109-149 – The Department s of Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to carry out subpart 1 of Title V Part D, No Child Left Behind, for the development and implementation of performance-based compensation systems in high-need schools. The application process requires the applicant to show the involvement and support of the union. The Solicitor's Office met with counsel from Department of Education on March 18, 2011. DOE will report back on what it requires as evidence of Union involvement and support. (b) (5)

Everglades Consent Decree

The district court granted the State of Florida's Rule 60(b)(5) motion, supported by the United States, that it be relieved from the obligation to construct a water storage reservoir in the Everglades Agricultural Area as a purported remedy to improve water quality in Loxahatchee NWR. The reservoir's construction had been sought by the Miccosukee Tribe for admitted violations of the Everglades consent decree. In ruling in favor of the State, the court noted that since the reservoir was first proposed as a remedy that there were numerous changed circumstances in both fact and law that warranted a different remedial approach. As a result, the State may use the lands instead as a storm water treatment area to improve water quality for waters discharged to the central Everglades, which is a course of action recommended by EPA, Interior and the Army in related litigation. Remedies for water quality issues in Loxahatchee NWR remain a matter in litigation before a special master appointed in the Everglades consent decree and (b) (5)

We expect that the Special Master will issue a report on remedies later this spring.

Stockton East Water District, and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District v. U.S.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted the government's petition for rehearing on this breach of contract case, reconsidering its original decision. Plaintiffs are two Central Valley Project water service contractors with contracts to supplies out of New Melones Reservoir. Plaintiff's originally sued the U.S. for breach of contract in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for failure to deliver water. The trial court found plaintiffs had not met their burden of proving that the U.S. had breached the contracts by failing to deliver certain quantities of water. On appeal, the Circuit Court reversed, holding that the United States had in fact breached the contracts in certain years and was responsible for proving a valid defense. Upon reconsideration of its initial decision, the Circuit Court found that it had ample evidence before it to conclude that the United States' sole defense was the shortage provision found in Article 9(a) of the contract, which provided a valid defense only on account of a hydrologic drought.

Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. Pizarchik, et al. (D. Colo.)

On January 31, 2011, Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity, Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, and San Juan Citizens Alliance filed a complaint against OSM in the U.S. District Court for Colorado. The complaint alleges that OSM's Western Region violated Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act by failing to consult with the FWS prior to approving a renewal of BHP Navajo Coal Company's permit to conduct surface mining operations at the Navajo Mine, New Mexico. OSM approved renewal of the permit on September 7, 2010. That action is currently subject of an administrative appeal (by Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, and San Juan Citizens Alliance IBLA-2011-0085).

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
March 25, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Cumberland Island National Seashore (GA) – Former reserved properties management plan. The park will release the Former Reserved Properties Management Plan and EA on March 28. The plan outlines how seven properties, which were formerly held under reserved property agreements on the seashore, will be used by the park to further its mission. The plan and EA includes a 30-day public comment period ending April 28. One of the properties, The Grange, has a strong support group (Partners In Preservation) that seeks to lease the house from the NPS for use as a residential property and to offset government costs for restoration and maintenance. The plan will set a precedent for how the other properties will be treated in the future as their retained-right estates expire.

Alaska Native Corporations excluded from NAGPRA. The 1995 NAGPRA regulations treated the corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) as tribes for grant purposes and repatriation of artifacts. ANCSA, however, did not describe the corporations as tribes. ANCSA corporations have made claims, and received repatriated items and NAGPRA grant funds for consultation and repatriation projects. Many of these have been on behalf of Alaska Native Villages. The GAO report on NAGPRA of July 2010 found that the ANCSA corporations should not be treated as tribes in the NAGPRA process. A joint opinion from the solicitors' offices for Fish and Wildlife and Parks and for Indian Affairs will be issued in late March, directing the National NAGPRA Program to delete ANCSA corporations from the list of tribes eligible for grants and participating in repatriation. Delisting has already occurred. An emergency technical amendment to the 1995 regulations is being prepared.

Rock Creek Park (DC) – Wireless telecommunications facilities. AT&T is seeking permission from the NPS to establish wireless telecommunications facilities at two existing Verizon Wireless monopoles in the park. One is at the Rock Creek Park Tennis Center, where the proposal is to install nine antennas on the monopole and construct a 14-by-16-foot radio equipment shelter. The other is at the park maintenance yard, where nine antennas and another equipment shelter would be placed. A public meeting on the proposal was held on March 22 at the park. Public comments are now being accepted on the proposal.

Big Bend National Park (TX) – Possible multi-use backcountry trail at Panther Junction. The park is in the late stages of assessing the potential environmental effects of a 10-mile trail that would accommodate use by mountain bikers and hikers utilizing non-wilderness landscape adjacent to an existing developed area. Authorized mountain bike use will require a formal exception to existing NPS regulations. Environmental advocacy groups largely oppose the possibility; active recreationists, led by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, support its development. Public comment on the draft EA closes April 2.

Congaree National Park (SC) – Canoe launch and parking improvements. On March 10, the park announced a 30-day public comment period for a Draft EA on proposed safety and natural resource improvements for two canoe launch sites and associated development. Improvements would enhance the overall visitor experience, reduce the risk of visitor injuries, and protect park resources. A public meeting will be held at the park once engineering drawings are available.

Fort Sumter National Monument (SC) – Settlement agreement. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has reached a settlement agreement on behalf of the park for CERCLA response costs and Park System Resource Protection Act lost-use claims from the Calhoun Park Area Superfund Site, in Charleston, which includes mainland property associated with the island-based historic fort. Concurrence with the settlement agreement from the park superintendent and the Southeast Regional Director is still required.

ON THE HORIZON

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC) – Off-road vehicle management. The proposed rule package for the park's Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/EIS is under review within the NPS. The park recently implemented pre-nesting closures to protect suitable shorebird nesting habitat by March 15 as required by the consent decree. Since then, shorebird breeding activity has been observed and pre-nesting closures have been modified as required by the consent decree, resulting in a temporary ORV (but not pedestrian) closure at Cape Point on Hatteras Island and a temporary closure at South Point on Ocracoke Island, two popular surf-fishing areas. The Court will hold a status hearing on the consent decree, ORV plan/EIS and proposed rule on April 7. Public interest in this proposed rule is high.

Anacostia Park (DC) – Canada Geese management plan/DEIS. Over the past decade, an increasing number of non-migratory Canada Geese have been observed in Anacostia Park. Tidal wetland restoration efforts are being jeopardized by the growing resident and grazing Canada goose population. The draft EIS preferred alternative involved an intense lethal reduction program (capture and euthanasia) combined with non-lethal techniques (habitat buffer and scare/harassment). Under this alternative, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services would perform the capture and euthanasia once a year during the summer molt when the birds are flightless. This may result in public controversy even though these measures are commonly used. The NPS will soon issue a Federal Register Notice to announce the release of the DEIS and a 60-day public comment period. Implementation of the selected alternative from the Plan/DEIS is anticipated in spring 2012.

Fire Island National Seashore (NY) – Deer and vegetation management. The Notice of Intent for the park's White-Tailed Deer and Vegetation Management Plan/EIS has been prepared and will be circulated for review and approval within the next three weeks. The Plan/EIS is to address issues associated with the abundance and distribution of white-tailed deer at the park such as impacts on the natural and cultural resources of the park and impacts resulting from deer-human interaction.

Morristown National Historical Park (NJ) – Vegetation and deer management. The Notice of Intent for the park’s Vegetation and White-Tailed Deer Management Plan/EIS has been prepared and will be circulated for review and approval within the next three weeks. The Plan/EIS is to provide the framework for managing vegetation and deer browsing to promote a naturally regenerating hardwood forest with mixed-aged classes of trees that reflect the historic and naturally diverse character of the park.

National Capital Region parks (MD/VA) – Deer management. A Notice of Intent for the Antietam, Manassas and Monocacy Battlefields White-Tailed Deer Management Plan/EIS is in process. The plan/EIS is to establish a deer-management strategy that 1) supports preservation of the cultural landscape through protection and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources, and 2) provides for management of chronic wasting disease at the affected parks.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA) – Draft EIS for updating General Management Plan (GMP). The park has been operating under its 1980 GMP even though the park has doubled in size, manages additional sites such as Muir Woods, and has an annual visitation approaching 16 million. The park will soon release a Draft EIS for a new GMP considering four alternatives for a 60-day public comment period. It is expected to draw intense media and public interest.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (WI) – Release of final GMP/Wilderness Management Plan. The park will soon release its final GMP/WMP and EIS after six years of planning and public involvement. The preferred alternative generally continues current management direction with minor changes to increase opportunity for more people to have an island experience. The plan also provides specific management direction for other issues, including the future of the park’s light stations, life estates and expired-use-and-occupancy properties, visitor centers, and the park’s operational and administrative facilities on the mainland.

Manassas National Battlefield Park (VA) – Tri-County Parkway. In 2005, the NPS and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) evaluated in a draft EIS, alternatives to relocate traffic from U.S. Route 29 and Virginia Route 234 in and near the park through construction of the Manassas Battlefield Bypass. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) also evaluated alternatives for a Tri-County Parkway as a north-south transportation link to connect the city of Manassas with I-66 and the Dulles Airport corridor. No action resulted from either effort. VDOT now proposes to complete an EIS for the Tri-County Parkway and is evaluating an alignment that would use a portion of the preferred alternative earlier identified for the Battlefield Bypass. The preservation community opposes the Tri-County Parkway and questions the need for the roadway, but generally supports the Battlefield Bypass. The NPS wants to coordinate with VDOT on possible use of parkland for the Tri-County Parkway and to close or restrict traffic on Route 234. This would allow part of the Battlefield Bypass to be built by VDOT and reduce/restrict through-park traffic.

Ford’s Theatre Society (DC) – Possible union protest at construction site. The privately owned structure adjacent to Petersen House (the house where Lincoln died) may be picketed for use of non-union labor. The building is owned by the park’s partner, the Ford’s Theatre Society,

and is undergoing a major restoration project. Protests could impact both the separate construction work at the adjoining Petersen House and visitor experience at Ford's Theatre itself, across 10th Street from the site.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC) – Grand opening of new visitor center on April 15. The new Oconaluftee Visitor Center near the park's second most visited entrance at Cherokee, North Carolina, is the first one to be built in the Smokies since the 1960s. It was fully funded by the park's cooperating association and Friends group. The Great Smoky Mountains Association financed the \$3 million construction costs of the 6,300-square-foot visitor center, outside orientation kiosk, and a 1,700-square-foot comfort station. The Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park provided more than \$550,000 to fund the visitor orientation and museum components that will tell about the park's rich cultural heritage.

Olympic National Park (WA) – Concession prospectus. In mid-April, the NPS will release a concession prospectus for operating the park's Kalaloch Lodge which has been under contract with Aramark since 1978. The concession has gross receipts of just under \$5 million and manages 48 structures so very competitive bidding is expected. The NPS recently settled the possessory interest due to the concessioner for just under \$7 million. A new concessioner will be required to purchase the possessory interest, personal property, and inventory of the current concessioner. The new contract is expected to start in early 2012.

Shepherdstown Battlefield (WV) – Special Resource Study. A Special Resource Study and EA relating to the Civil War Battle of Shepherdstown will evaluate adding the battlefield and related sites as elements of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or Antietam National Battlefield. After the scoping and historian roundtable in FY2011, alternatives development and EA preparation will take place over FY2012-2013 with a determination expected in 2014. Private organizations and citizens are concerned about development threats to the Shepherdstown site.

Harriet Beecher Stowe House (ME) – Special Resource Study. The NPS will hold a public meeting on April 7 at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, to discuss a Special Resource Study/EA for the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick. The study will help determine whether the site meets criteria for designation as a unit of the National Park System.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
March 21, 2011

Proposed Rule for a Non-essential Experimental Population of Wood Bison in Alaska

Historically, the wood bison occurred in the central regions of Alaska, but was extirpated there more than 100 years ago. Currently, it is found entirely within Canada where the Canadian government lists it as threatened. It is currently listed as endangered under the ESA, but was proposed for reclassification to threatened on February 8, 2011. The State of Alaska is very interested in reestablishing the wood bison in Alaska in order to restore a native species to the landscape. Use of the experimental population designation is intended ease fears related to the potential for mineral extraction and other activities in the experimental population area.

Potential Issues: Both the State of Alaska and the Safari Club have expressed interest in the potential to allow hunting on the experimental population and are likely to object that the proposed rule does not go far enough. However, the ESA only allows for regulated taking under cases of extraordinary population pressure that cannot be relieved otherwise. Should such a situation occur in the future and yet the wood bison has not been delisted, the FWS would consider proposing revisions to the experimental population accordingly. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 15, 2011.

Proposed Rule for a Non-essential Experimental Population of American Burying Beetle in Missouri

Historically, the American burying beetle (ABB) occurred throughout 35 states and three Canadian provinces in the eastern temperate areas of North America. It was previously documented in 13 counties throughout Missouri, but no extant populations in Missouri have been found since the species was listed in 1991. This proposed rule would aid in reintroducing ABBs into the 3,000 acre Wah'kon-tah Prairie, which is located in the center of the four counties (Cedar, St. Clair, Bates, Vernon) that would be the boundaries of the non-essential experimental population area. *Potential Issues:* The Missouri Department of Conservation met with landowners near the proposed reintroduction site to gauge their sentiment. Because the proposed rule has been written to allow landowners to conduct normal legal activities without concern for ESA regulation, there have been no negative opinions on the reintroduction. There are no other anticipated potential issues. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 20, 2011.

12-Month Finding on a Petition to List the Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly

The FWS is preparing a 12-month finding on the February 25, 2009, petition from Mr. Javier Biaggi-Caballero to list the Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly as endangered under the ESA. The FWS published a "substantial" 90-day petition finding in the *Federal Register* on April 26, 2010. In this draft 12-month finding, the FWS finds that listing is warranted due to threats from urban, agricultural and commercial development, limited distribution and specialized ecological requirements, herbicide and hand clearing of vegetation, and habitat fragmentation, but that the listing is precluded by higher priority actions. This action is not court ordered. *Potential Issues:* The Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club may object to the decision to preclude

listing the species at this time. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 22, 2011.

6-Month Extension for the Final Listing of Nine Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Two of the proposed DPS's (North Pacific Ocean and Northwest Atlantic Ocean) were petitioned for listing. On March 16, 2010, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service (Services) announced 12-month findings on the petitions to list the North Pacific and the Northwest Atlantic populations as DPS's with endangered status, and included a proposed rule to designate nine loggerhead DPS's worldwide (seven as endangered and two as threatened). Under Section 4 of the ESA, we are extending the deadline for the final rule by 6 months, which will provide the additional time needed to resolve disagreement among the NMFS/USFWS Cross-Agency Working Group on whether to list the proposed Northwest Atlantic DPS as endangered or threatened. *Potential Issues:* The petitioners (Center for Biological Diversity, Turtle Island Restoration Network, and Oceana) may not be happy with the 6-month extension request. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is mid-to-late March.

High Prairie/Wind Capital Wind HCP

On April 4, 2011, a Federal Register Notice will publish that announces the availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Environmental Assessment (EA), and Interagency Agreement (IA) for the High Prairie/Wind Capital HCP. This HCP allows for the incidental take of the federally listed Indiana Bat and two other unlisted bats.

Regional Wind Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan

On April 5, 2011, an MOU signing ceremony will be held in the FWS Midwest Region (Region 3) regional office. This ceremony will kick off the Regional Wind Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. It is anticipated that 15-20 individual wind development companies and their representatives will attend. States will also be invited to participate.

FWS to Unveil "Buyer Beware" Exhibit at Logan Airport

FWS, Northeast Region, Law Enforcement will be unveiling an exhibit entitled, "Buyer Beware," at Logan Airport in Boston, tentatively scheduled for public release April 4 or 5. The exhibit will be housed in the international departure terminal to maximize the educational value for international travelers about the hazards, from a conservation and legal perspective, of purchasing and importing items made from protected species. The exhibit will feature seized wildlife contraband as well as informational posters, fact sheets and pamphlets to inform travelers of their legal responsibility to declare wildlife items and avoid purchasing items made from protected species. The exhibit will also include regional and national contact information for travelers about how to obtain proper permits for legal wildlife products.

Capacity Building Program to Support National Parks in Republic of Gabon

From March 17-April 1, 2011, the Division of International Conservation will lead a mission in the Republic of Gabon to produce a training needs assessment benefiting the country's national park system. This capacity-building program, to be supported by FWS, will provide significant support to the national park system in Gabon and their nascent Wildlife Protection Brigade.

While in country, a FWS representative will meet with various governmental and non-governmental partners and the US Embassy in Libreville.

U.S.-Japan Migratory Bird Meeting

From April 4-5, 2011, representatives from FWS will meet with Japanese counterparts from the Nature Conservation Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Environment in Moscow, Russia to review implementation of the U.S.-Japan Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds, and Birds in Danger of Extinction, and their Environment. In recent years, the two countries met biennially with Russian colleagues, since all three countries have migratory bird conventions with each other. Such three-country meetings enhance networking among specialists and reduce the overall travel footprint. The U.S.-Japan discussion serves as a senior level review of joint efforts for the conservation and management of the endangered short-tailed albatross and other shared migratory bird species of conservation concern. In addition, issues of mutual interest such as avian influenza surveillance programs, impact of climate change, and shorebird monitoring efforts will be discussed.

Chinese Government Officials Visiting the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

On March 31, a delegation of Chinese government officials associated with the Three Gorges Project in China will visit the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and Grand Coulee Dam in Washington state. The delegates will learn about mitigation efforts at the hatchery related to the dam. Not controversial.

FWS SLAMM-View2 to be presented at NOAA's Coastal GeoTools Conference

The updated Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM-View 2) was released to the public at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal GeoTools conference March 21 - 24, 2011. SLAMM-View 2 provides a visual approach to displaying coastal changes and is primarily used by researchers and managers to understand the impacts of sea level rise on critical coastal resources. It is also widely used to educate the public on the effects of sea level changes.

Funding proposals submitted by Federal Drug Administration Approved

The Federal Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine announced on March 14, 2010, that each of six funding proposals submitted by the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership program (AADAP), to work on the effectiveness and/or safety of new aquatic animal drugs were approved. Each award was for \$24,210, for a total of \$145,260. Most of the work will focus on immediate-release sedatives/anesthetics. At present, the only approved sedative/anesthetic for fish can be legally used on a limited list of species, but more importantly, it has a 21-day withdrawal period. Approval of one or both of these drugs would provide substantive economic (cost savings) benefits for industry, state, and Federal captive propagation programs, such as the National Fish Hatchery System. We do not anticipate controversy.

FWS Fisheries Program Blog Launches

FWS Division has a new communications tool and it is looking "finward." The new blog, Finward Thinking launched on March 15, 2011. The blog is intended to reinforce the Fisheries Program's goal of reaching the diverse publics that are served. Finward Thinking communicates the conservation work of the Program, through news and notes from our 154 field stations,

regional offices, and Washington office. The blog, <http://finwardthinking.blogspot.com/>, is now an integral component of the suite of media tools the Program employs, which include Twitter, Facebook, Eddies magazine, and the website: www.fws.gov/fisheries/. We do not anticipate controversy.

America's Great Outdoors

National Junior Duck Stamp Contest on April 15 in Philadelphia

The 2011 Junior Duck Stamp Contest will be held on April 15 at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in Philadelphia, Penn. First-place winners from all 50 states and territories have advanced to this national contest, where one piece is selected to be printed as the 2011 Junior Duck Stamp, which the FWS sells for \$5. Proceeds from the sale of the Junior Duck Stamp support conservation education, awards, and scholarships. The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic arts and science program that connects youth with nature and celebrates America's great outdoors, and is designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school.

Grants

New Grants under Wildlife Without Borders Programs

Under the Great Ape Conservation Fund, FWS intends to award 12 grants totaling \$637,691 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$746,743). These funds will assist with the conservation of Sumatran orangutans, Bornean orangutans, white-cheeked crested gibbons, yellow-cheeked crested gibbons, pileated gibbons, western black-crested gibbons, eastern hoolock gibbons, and western hoolock gibbons; under the WWB-Mexico Program, FWS intends to award one grant totaling \$25,000 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$41,130). These funds will assist with capacity building and/or biodiversity conservation in Mexico; and under the WWB-Africa Program, FWS intends to award one grant totaling \$60,000 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$10,414). These funds will assist with capacity building and conservation of gorillas. The estimated award date for all programs is March 28, 2011. Not expected to controversial.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

FWS to Break Ground on "Green" Aquatic Conservation and Education Center

Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery, in Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, will soon be home to one of the most energy efficient buildings ever built by the FWS. A ground-breaking ceremony will take place at the future site of the Aquatic Conservation and Education Center on March 23, 2011. The center will feature energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems, recycled and locally available building materials, educational exhibits and meeting space, storm water capture and re-use, and native plantings. It is expected to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

March 27 – April 2, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office Monday thru Wednesday. On leave Thursday and Friday.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: BLM-NV Salt Wells Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Public Comment Period Ends:** *The public comment period for the BLM-NV Salt Wells DEIS ends Mar. 29. The DEIS analyzes three new projects proposed by Sierra Pacific Power Company; Ormat Technologies, Inc.; and Vulcan Power Company in the Salt Wells area near Fallon, NV. Routing of the NV Energy transmission line continues to be a significant concern. The proposed facilities would be sited on a combination of private property and public lands managed by BLM-NV and BOR.*
- **New: BLM-NV Wilson Creek Wind Project Under Review:** *As requested by the Washington Office, the BLM-NV State Office is currently revising a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the proposed 500-MW Wilson Creek Wind Project in NV.*
- **New: BLM-AZ Quartzite Solar Project Under Review:** *An NOI to prepare an EIS for a Plan Amendment for the 100-MW Quartzite Solar Project in AZ is currently under review in the BLM Director's Office.*

Wild Horse and Burro

- **New: Pickens Wild Horse Eco-sanctuary Briefing for Sen. Landrieu (D-LA):** *Staff of Sen. Landrieu (D-LA) requested a conference call with the BLM to discuss the legal authorities needed to implement the proposal from Madeleine Pickens for a wild horse eco-sanctuary. BLM Wild Horse and Burro and Legislative Affairs staff will participate in the conference call scheduled for Mar. 24.*
- **New: BLM to Solicit Proposals for Eco-Sanctuary Partnerships:** *On Mar. 24, the BLM is expected to announce its solicitation of proposals for wild horse eco-sanctuaries that would be established on combined public and private lands. The application deadline is May 24. This solicitation is separate from a Mar 22 announcement that covered private-public partnerships for wild horse eco-sanctuaries on private land.*
- **New: Public Comment Period Ends on Proposed Wild Horse Gather:** *On Mar. 28, the public comment period ends on the EA for a proposed wild horse gather in the Red*

Desert Herd Management Area (HMA) Complex, in the BLM-WY Rawlins and Lander Field Offices. Horses gathered would be permanently removed from the range. Gathered mares would be treated with a fertility control vaccine before being returned to the range. To date, few comments have been received, and little public interest has been noted.

- **New: Wyoming Air Toxics Report Public Meeting:** *The WY Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division, has completed an air toxics report for Sublette County. The study estimated the health impacts of 51 toxic air contaminants (TACs) and concluded that the estimated impacts are not high enough to suggest a need for a more refined health risk assessment. On Mar. 31, Sublette County will host a public meeting to review the report findings and answer questions. A link to the complete report can be found at: <http://www.sublettewyo.com/CivicAlerts.aspx>.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **New: Additional Gulf Deepwater Drilling Permits Approved:** *On Mar. 18, BOEMRE approved a third deepwater drilling permit that complies with all of the new safety standards, including demonstrated containment capacity, implemented in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill. The approved permit is a revised permit to drill a new well for ATP Oil & Gas Corporation's Well #4 in MS Canyon Block 941, located approximately 90 miles south of Venice, LA. On Mar. 22, 2011, BOEMRE approved a fourth deepwater drilling permit. The approved permit is a revised permit to drill a new well for Exxon Mobil Corporation's Well #3 in Keathley Canyon Block 919 in 6,941 ft. water depth, approximately 240 miles off the LA coastline, south of Lafayette, LA. This is the first permit approved that designates the Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC) containment system as its containment solution.*
- **New: Deepwater Exploration Plan Approved:** *On Mar. 21, BOEMRE approved an Exploration Plan, submitted by Shell Offshore Inc., following the completion of a site-specific EA for deepwater oil and gas exploration. This is the first new deepwater exploration plan approved since the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill. The plan is a supplemental exploration plan that to drill three exploratory wells in approximately 2,950 feet water depth, 130 miles offshore LA.*
- **New: BOEMRE Approved Use of First-Ever Floating Production Storage Offloading (FPSO) in Gulf of Mexico:** *On Mar. 17, BOEMRE approved Petrobras America, Inc. beginning oil and natural gas production at its Cascade-Chinook project using a FPSO facility, which will be the first time this technology will be used in the Gulf of Mexico. The FPSO has a production capacity of 80,000 barrels of oil per day and 16 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. With the completion of this final regulatory step, production from this facility is expected to begin in the near future.*
- **Update: Cape Wind Energy Project:** *An EA is currently being prepared; the 15-day comment period for the EA scoping ended on Mar. 9. Approximately, 175 comments have been received. BOEMRE has received several comments requesting an extension of*

the comment period to 60 days. Other issues concerning high electricity cost, airport safety construction, microclimate impacts, and the location of the staging area have been raised. Work has begun on the analysis of noise and economic impacts of altered flights. BOEMRE distributed the revised Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan ABMP to FWS and MA Department of Fish and Game to review. BOEMRE held a meeting in Herndon with FWS migratory bird staff on Mar. 22 to discuss areas of agreement within the latest draft plan.

- **Update: Smart from the Start Regional Environmental Assessment:** *BOEMRE is preparing a regional EA and conducting consultations for lease issuance and site assessment activities for areas on the OCS offshore NJ, DE, MD, and VA. The NOI announcing a 30-day public scoping period closed on Mar. 11. The Bureau received 34 comments in response to the NOI.*
- **Update: Deepwater Horizon Investigation:** *On Mar. 23, the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), announced that the report on the forensic examination of the BOP prepared by U.S. Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Columbus, the contractor that performed the examination, is available online at www.deepwaterinvestigation.com. The JIT will hold a seventh session of public hearings the week of Apr. 4 in New Orleans to focus specifically on the forensic examination of the Deepwater Horizon BOP.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Virginia Mine Blow-out:** *On Mar. 21, the VA Division of Mined Land Reclamation notified OSM that water impounded in a closed underground mine void had suddenly discharged on Mar. 20. The blow-out occurred in Wise County, VA, in the State's southwestern corner. While the discharge caused extensive erosion that made a private road impassable, initially blocked a State highway, and washed debris into nearby yards. There were no injuries or death. Further investigation revealed that the discharge occurred from a mine portal at an underground mine operation that had achieved bond release reclamation in 1991. The VA Division of Mined Land Reclamation continues to investigate the situation.*
- **New: WV Group Reopens Case Involving State's Special Reclamation Fund:** *On Mar. 15, the WV Highlands Conservancy (WVHC) moved to reopen a case involving the solvency of WV's alternative bonding system (ABS), a bond pool made up of forfeited bonds and taxes on coal production. At issue is how the State treats water pollutional discharges at bond forfeiture sites. OSM's reply to the motion is due on Mar. 29. In its current complaint, the WVHC alleges that the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has undermined the Special Reclamation Fund Advisory Council's annual report recommendation that WV increase revenue in its ABS to meet anticipated shortfalls in funding the treatment of water pollution discharges by increasing the tax on coal from 14.4 cents to 25.49 cents per ton. In addition, the WVHC maintains that the State has not included in its projections the cost to obtain NPDES permits for long-term water discharges at bond forfeiture sites.*

WEEK AHEAD – March 27 to April 2, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, March 28:

- **New: Federal Lands Highways Program Briefing with staff of House Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee:** *DOI representative from BLM and OCL will meet with the majority and minority staffs of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss the Federal Lands Highway Program, the Sarbanes Transit in the Parks (TRIP) Program, and other programs authorized under the Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation.*

Wednesday, March 30 – Thursday, March 31:

- **New: Meeting Scheduled for BLM-NV Resource Advisory Council:** *The BLM-NV will host a meeting of the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council at the BLM-NV Carson City District Office. Topics of discussion will include the District Manager's reports on current programs; Southern NV Public Land Management Act Round 12 review of proposals and RAC-hosted public comment; landscape approach/land health assessment processes; impacts on eagle habitats from proposed wind energy projects; BLM wild lands policy; geothermal program review; Salt Wells Energy Projects Draft Environmental Impact Statement; field tour of ENEL Geothermal Power Plant at Salt Wells; and the Nevada Historic Marker Dedication for Pony Express Trail at ENEL Plant.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Week of March 28:

- **Update: Call for Information for New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing:** *The call for information to gauge interest in commercial wind development leases in areas offshore NJ is undergoing final Departmental review and could be sent to the Federal Register during the week of Mar. 28.*

Wednesday, March 30:

- **No Change: BOEMRE Workshop on Flaring and Venting:** *BOEMRE's Gulf of Mexico Region will hold a public workshop to obtain feedback on whether or not BOEMRE should propose regulations that would require offshore operators to flare instead of vent, when such releases are necessary, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately 90 people have registered to attend including oil-industry representatives, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the World Bank.*

Thursday, March 31:

- **Update: BOEMRE/OR OCS Renewable Energy Task Force:** *BOEMRE will hold the first Task Force meeting in Portland, OR to discuss the purpose and charter of the Task Force, as well as an overview of BOEMRE's renewable energy regulatory process. The state is interested in discussing coastal and marine spatial planning in advance of wave and wind energy projects on OR's OCS.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Friday April 1:

- **Update: OSM to Receive Update on Kentucky's Efforts to Address Deficiencies in Calculating Reclamation Bond Amounts:** *On Mar. 1, the KY Department for Natural Resources (KYDNR) provided OSM with an interim report describing the State's efforts to update how it calculates the amount of bonds to ensure that surface coal mines are reclaimed after mining. On Mar. 17, OSM sent a written response to KYDNR's Mar. 1 interim progress report. OSM's letter expressed concern over Kentucky's lack of progress and reiterated OSM cannot agree to KYDNR's position that existing mine permits will not be evaluated for bond adequacy. The State's final report is due to OSM on Apr. 1.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, April 5:

- **No Change: FY 2012 BLM Budget Request Oversight Hearing:** Director Abbey will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, on the BLM's Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Minerals Budget request.

Thursday, April 14:

- **New: BLM-AK will hold a NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Meeting at the Community Center in Wainwright, AK to discuss following:** *Arctic Field Office projects, BLM permitted projects, Wild Lands inventory of all BLM managed lands, ConocoPhillips Alaska and FEX, L.P. well plugging and abandonment update, cleanup at the U.S. Air Force Distance Early Warning Station near Wainwright update, research updates, and community concerns.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, April 11:

- **Update: BOEMRE/NC Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The second Task Force meeting has been rescheduled to Apr. 11 due to a conflict with other meetings scheduled in the state. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the preliminary Call area and request review and comment.*

Wednesday, April 13:

- **Update: Gulf of Mexico lease Sale 218 Supplemental EIS:** *The draft supplemental EIS is being prepared for printing. BOEMRE expects the draft SEIS to be delivered to EPA on Apr. 13, with a Notice of Availability to follow shortly thereafter. Public hearings will be held in May.*

Monday, April 18:

- **Update: Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee:** *Arrangements are being made for the first meeting to be held in Washington, DC. A Federal Register notice is being prepared and must be published at least 15 days prior to the meeting.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Thursday, April 7:

- **New: OSM Director to Testify on FY 2012 Proposed Budget to a Subcommittee of House Natural Resources Committee:** *Director Pizarchik will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, on the BLM's Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Minerals Budget request.*

Weekly Report
March 25, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities March 28-Apr. 1:

Anne Castle - March 28-April 1 in DC, attending various meetings.

Deanna Archuleta – March 28-March 30 in DC, attending various meetings; March 31-April 1 in Santé Fe, NM speaking at the Law of the Rio Grande conference.

John Tubbs – March 28-April 1 in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – March 28-Apr.1, No Travel; March 28, Participate on a panel at the 72nd meeting of the National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board, Keck Center, Washington, D.C.

Mike Connor – March 28-Apr 1, in the office attending various internal meetings.

Reclamation

Additional Boost for South-of-Delta Central Valley Project Water Service Contractors (California)

Due to continuing storms in California, Reclamation has determined an additional boost in the water supply allocation for users south of the Delta will be announced March 28. The updated allocation to agricultural water service contractors South-of-Delta will increase to 60 percent of their contracted supply. South-of-Delta M&I contractors will increase to 85 percent of their historic use. On March 22, Reclamation announced an increase of 5 percent in the 2011 water supply allocation for South-of-Delta (SOD) CVP water service contractors, due to a steady influx of rain and snowfall in February and March. Agricultural water service contractors SOD are currently allocated 55 percent of their contract supply. SOD M&I contractors are allocated 80 percent of their historic use. The initial allocation announced on February 18 for most other CVP contractors was 100 percent of their contract supply. South-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors continue to face challenging water supply conditions, particularly given the past few dry years and regulatory constraints. Work continues with the federal, state and local partners to secure more reliable water supplies for all CVP water users while at the same time addressing significant ecological issues.

Current Flood Control Operations in Mid-Pacific Region (California)

Storms continue to bring more valley rain and heavy mountain snow in California. Precipitation in the Northern Sierra is 140 percent of seasonal average and in the Southern Sierra is 163 percent of the seasonal average as of March 22. Reclamation has increased releases from several reservoirs for flood control management.

Excess Capacity Contract Pricing for Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark) (Colorado)

Reclamation's Eastern Colorado Area Manager Michael Collins attended the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Southeast) board meeting on March 17, 2011, and informed Southeast of Reclamation's proposed next steps in the process for revising the rate for temporary excess capacity contracts in the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. For the rate process, Reclamation offered next steps as follows: 1) A listening session to gather perspectives on the options for this process; 2) Publish a draft process for determining market rates and criteria in the Federal Register; 3) During the comment period, conduct a public informational meeting; and 4) Publish a final process in the Federal Register. In the interim, Reclamation anticipates a general, incremental increase of about \$2 per acre-foot in Fry-Ark temporary excess capacity contracts in 2012. Letters to the temporary excess capacity contractors will be sent out soon to alert them of the rate increase.

Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement and Compact Commission (New Mexico)

In opposition to the Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement, the state of New Mexico has requested \$3 million from the state legislature to sue Reclamation and the Elephant Butte and El Paso irrigation districts over the agreement which was approved and signed by all parties in March 2008. Legislation enabling such action has apparently made it to the Governor's desk. The State of New Mexico is concerned that the water allocation procedures, water accounting calculations, and water carryover accounts instituted with the agreement are not fair to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), gives advantages to El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EP#1), and may impact the Rio Grande Compact. This issue will be addressed during the annual Rio Grande Compact Commission meeting to be held in Albuquerque on March 29-30.

Reclamation to Begin Monthly Testing for Invasive Mussels (New Mexico)

On March 22, 2011, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region will begin monthly quagga and zebra mussel sampling at its facilities in New Mexico. One test in August came back positive at Lake Sumner, a Reclamation facility on the Pecos River in Eastern New Mexico. All follow-up tests were negative. However, Reclamation will continue to monitor that and other facilities closely and will continue its work with New Mexico Game and Fish and New Mexico State Parks on educating boaters and helping to wash incoming boats at some of the larger reservoirs on holiday weekends.

Navajo Generating Station (Arizona)

On Monday, March 28, Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee will meet in Phoenix, Arizona, with Navajo Generating Station (NGS) owners as part of a continuing discussions regarding emissions reduction at the NGS in Page, Arizona. Reclamation's 24.3 percent share of NGS power is used to operate the Central Arizona Project (CAP). Power in excess of CAP needs is marketed and proceeds are deposited into the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund and are credited against the annual CAP repayment obligation. Reclamation is treated as a "co-owner" of the NGS, and contributes its proportionate share of all NGS associated expenses.

Chinese Officials to Visit Grand Coulee Dam (Washington)

On March 30, about 17 Chinese nationals will visit and tour Grand Coulee Dam. The group is made up mostly of government engineers, designers, and contractors involved in hydropower development. Many of them work at Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China's Hubei Province. They will receive a briefing from Reclamation staff and a basic tour of the facility.

Litigation Relating to Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt (UCR/LR) Contamination (Washington)

The state of Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) are pursuing a CERCLA citizen suit against Teck Resources, Ltd. (Teck) related to negative impacts to the Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt from contamination originating from Teck's smelter in Trail, British Columbia. DOJ, EPA, and DOI (Solicitor's Office and Project Manager) are currently reviewing and evaluating expert reports. While U.S. intervention in the case was once sought by the plaintiffs, they no longer desire the U.S. to become a party; since intervention is unlikely to occur. On a separate track, Reclamation is one of six DOI agencies involved with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and with the Natural Resource Trustee Council in conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). In a December 14, 2010 letter, Teck it's their intent to enter into discussions regarding the first phase of a cooperative NRDA approach. On January 27, 2011, the Trustee Council sent Teck a draft funding and participation agreement that would define the first phase of a cooperative NRDA process to be conducted by the Trustees and Teck. Teck has provided comments on the Trustee Council's revised draft agreement; the Trustee Council will review these comments and discuss how to finalize an agreement during the week of March 21, 2011.

Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) Litigation (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

Plaintiffs, the State of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe filed reply briefs on January 21. The reply briefs raised no new issues, and the Federal defendants and allied parties filed a response on February 11. All briefings have been completed. The judge may set the matter for hearing in the spring of 2011 or rule on the briefs without oral argument. Plaintiffs may file a request for preliminary or permanent injunctive relief on operations. The Action Agencies continue to coordinate with the Fish Accord partners and the region on 2011 operations as usual. The Corps' spring fish operations plan, unchanged from last year's plan, went to Plaintiffs on March 16, 2011 and will go to the Court on March 22, 2011.

Brigham Young University to Honor Former Reclamation Commissioner John W. Keys

On March 30, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak will join Reclamation Chief of Staff Bob Quint and retired Deputy Commissioner and former Pacific Northwest Regional Director Bill McDonald at an awards dinner reception at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The reception will honor former Commissioner John W. Keys as the university's 2010 George Romney Institute of Public Management Administrator of the Year.

2011 Conference of the Water Resources Research Center (Arizona)

Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee will be among the Reclamation staff members speaking at the 2011 Conference of the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) scheduled on April 26-27, in Yuma, Arizona. The conference, held in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, will explore the role of desalination in expanding water supplies. Reclamation staff members will share the latest information on the Yuma Desalting Plant pilot run. Other key issues to be discussed include desalination in water planning, environmental concerns, regulatory matters, and technical and cost challenges.

Congressional Activity

- **March 29** – Gina Banks, Senator Feinstein's Director of Field Services will tour the Red Bluff Pumping Plant/Fish Screen project in northern California. Reclamation and the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority will jointly host the visit.
- **March 31** – the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has announced plans to hold a hearing on two bills pertaining to hydropower. Reclamation testimony is in surname.
- **April 11** – the House Water and Power Subcommittee has announced plans to hold a field hearing in Fresno, CA, titled "Creating Jobs by Overcoming Man-Made Drought: Time for Congress to Listen and Act." Reclamation testimony is in surname.

U.S. Geological Survey

USGS Response to the Great Tohoku Earthquake: The USGS National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) continues to report on aftershocks that have rattled Japan ever since the magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck off the east coast of Honshu on March 11, 2011. To date, the NEIC has recorded more than 300 aftershocks over magnitude 5, nearly 40 over magnitude 6, and 2 over magnitude 7. The vast majority of these earthquakes are in the offshore area ruptured by the magnitude-9 mainshock, but there also have been magnitude-6+ earthquakes in western and southern Honshu. On March 15, a magnitude-6.2 earthquake occurred below the flanks of Mount Fuji, 110 kilometers to the west of Tokyo. These events are a reminder that damaging earthquakes can occur anywhere on the island. The frequency of aftershocks will tend to decrease with time, but the general decrease of activity may be punctuated by episodes of higher aftershock activity. The USGS is holding regular calls to coordinate post-earthquake investigations by the four National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) agencies (FEMA, NIST, NSF, and USGS) and their government and academic partners. USGS scientists are providing dozens of media interviews, briefing Congress, and participating in White House coordination meetings.

Continuing USGS Imagery and Mapping Support Activities for Tohoku Earthquake: The USGS began supporting the Japan earthquake/tsunami relief efforts on Friday, March 11, just 1 hour and 15 minutes after the earthquake occurred. USGS is providing imagery access through the Hazards Data Distribution System for Landsat 5 and 7, EO-1, ASTER, and commercial data from GeoEye and DigitalGlobe. The USGS is also providing image access to search and rescue teams from the US, Germany, France, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. On March 13, an International Charter for Disaster Response colleague from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), requested support with image analysis and mapping of [the US] satellite images. Staff from USGS, GisCorps (an association of GIS Volunteers), ImageCat (a firm that specializes in assessing risk), Rochester Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State University, Harvard, George Mason University, and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has responded. This work will be coordinated with partners who are also doing analysis and mapping.

USGS Identifies Mineral Processing Facilities in Northern Honshu, Japan: USGS has identified a number of mineral processing facilities that may have been affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The identified facilities include cement plants that produce approximately one-third of Japan's cement, which will likely be in high demand when reconstruction begins. Also in the affected area are two copper smelters/refineries that produce almost 2.5 percent of the world's refined copper. Japan ranks second in world iodine production, much of it produced at the Miniami Kanto gas field, east of Tokyo in Chiba Prefecture, where iodine is processed at seven plants. Continued operation of these facilities will depend not only on the severity of the damage from the earthquake and tsunami, but also on the availability of sufficient electric power and of transportation capabilities for raw materials and finished products. USGS Open-File Report 2011-1069, entitled "Mines and mineral processing facilities

in the vicinity of the March 11, 2011, earthquake, in northern Honshu, Japan,” will be released shortly. A press release or technical announcement is planned.

USGS to Brief Federal Reserve Board: USGS will brief economists from the Federal Reserve Board’s (FRB's) International Finance Division at the USGS National Center in Reston on March 29. The FRB requested the meeting to discuss USGS information on issues relating to several nonfuel mineral commodities including aluminum, copper, iron ore, nickel, tin, and zinc. The FRB is particularly interested in price trends, commodity exchange inventories, and mineral resource availability at sustained high prices for selected mineral commodities.

Great Rivers Partnership (GPR) Yangtze Fellow: The USGS and The Nature Conservancy recently finalized an agreement making the USGS a Great Rivers Partnership Yangtze Fellow. The USGS will provide technical assistance and scientific guidance to the GRP and its Chinese partners, as they initiate official data collection on the Yangtze River using sampling methods also used on the Upper Mississippi River System for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Environmental Management Program (EMP). The USGS provides scientific research, analysis, and monitoring coordination and oversight for the EMP’s Long Term Resource Monitoring Program, authorized by Congress under the 1986 Water Resources Development Act. The USGS will travel to China in May, and will host a reciprocal visit of Chinese colleagues during the summer and fall.

Untreated Groundwater Tested for Arsenic, Uranium and Radioactive Elements near Houston: Detectable concentrations of arsenic, uranium and radioactive elements were measured in untreated groundwater from 47 municipal supply wells near Houston, TX. Filtered arsenic, uranium and unadjusted, gross alpha-particle activities at 72 hours were detected in all 47 wells sampled, and unadjusted gross alpha-particle activities measured at 30 days was detected in 46 of the 47 untreated water samples collected. This upcoming USGS report is the second phase of an ongoing USGS study in cooperation with the City of Houston to determine source (untreated) water quality conditions in 60 municipal wells before being treated to become drinking water. A press release will be distributed. Houston TV station KHOU has developed an investigative news series on this topic. Date of release TBD. Submitted in December 2010 Weekly Issues Report.

Flood Outlook: USGS crews are active in the northern Plains/upper Midwest and California, making measurements of streamflow on flooded streams and rivers in support of our many local, State, and Federal partners including the National Weather Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Heavy rains and snows have occurred in California, resulting in high water at numerous rivers. USGS field crews are also making a number of streamflow measurements to define the stage-streamflow relations for the National Weather Service in California. Warm temperatures the week of March 7 did result in melt and subsequent flooding in the southern portions of the northern Plains and upper Midwest. In South Dakota and Minnesota, some major flooding is occurring with USGS crews making flood measurements of streamflow. The worst of the flooding in the northern Plains and upper Midwest has yet to occur as another cold snap, along with 8 to 18 inches of snow has fallen in North Dakota. Most of the moisture is still locked up in the snow pack in these areas. There is a high likelihood of major and even record

flooding on many rivers in the area. USGS has installed numerous extra streamgages in anticipation of the flooding.

USGS Drilling Project at Hilton Head, SC: Through a year-long permitting process and partnership with various agencies in the State of South Carolina, the USGS is slated to begin drilling a 1,000-foot deep corehole on Hilton Head Island the week of March 28, 2011. Site preparation and surveying has already been completed. The purpose of this work is to develop a better understanding of the Floridan aquifer, the major drinking water supply for this area of South Carolina and Georgia. These efforts will also help water-use managers understand the influence of salt-water intrusion. The detailed subsurface stratigraphy developed by USGS scientists will help define the aquifers and develop a consistent framework across the Georgia-South Carolina border. By April 8, the USGS drilling team will have reached a depth of in excess of 200 ft in the Upper Floridan aquifer of South Carolina

USGS Invited to Participate in Downlisting Ceremony for Okaloosa Darter: The USGS has been invited to speak at the downlisting ceremony (endangered to threaten) of the Okaloosa Darter on March 28. The Okaloosa Darter is a freshwater fish found in streams and tributary systems of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, in Northwest Florida. USGS scientists have worked on the species in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, Loyola University New Orleans, Eglin AFB, and others for almost 20 years and have been recognized by the USFWS for their assistance in the recovery of the species.

USGS Publishes Circular on Fundamental Science Practices (FSP): The USGS has a long and proud tradition of objective, unbiased science in service to the Nation. To help preserve this vital asset, the Fundamental Science Practices (FSP) Advisory Committee has developed Circular 1367, "U.S. Geological Survey Fundamental Science Practices." The Circular provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of USGS scientists and managers and outlines our peer review and Bureau Approval processes. A description of the associated documents, tools, and supporting functions available on the Internet and Intranet to assist employees in following FSP is included. The Circular can be found at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1367>.

California Nutrients--30 Year Study: Nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations decreased in streams of the Santa Ana Basin during 1975-2004, as improved wastewater treatment was implemented basinwide. Nutrient concentrations in the San Joaquin Basin during the same period increased in association with increased land application of nutrients. In the Sacramento Basin, nutrient trends were mostly downward. A new USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) report details these findings. A news release is expected within the next few weeks.

Giant Constrictor Data Report: A USGS Data Series Report (DS 579) entitled "Data for Giant Constrictors Biological and Management Profiles and an Establishment Risk Assessment for Nine Large Species of Pythons, Anacondas, and the Boa Constrictor" was published online March 10, 2011. The giant constrictors' climate space data set represents the information needed to recreate the climate space and climate matching analyses in USGS Open File Report 2009-1202 (Giant Constrictors: Biological and Management Profiles and an Establishment Risk Assessment for Nine Large Species of Pythons, Anacondas, and the Boa Constrictor). A detailed

methodology and results were included in the Risk Assessment report. The individual spreadsheets of location data match the figures in the Reed and Rodda (2009) report, illustrating areas of the mainland United States that match the climate envelope of the native range. The authors have made this data available when requested, but the publication of this report will allow for greater accessibility and ensure a permanent archive of the data.

Congressional Activities

- **USGS 2011 “Natural Hazards” Congressional Briefing Series:** The USGS will host the first in its 2011 Congressional Briefing Series on April 15, subject: Floods. **Flooding is the most frequent natural hazard. Flooding causes billions of dollars in damage and threatens lives and property in every State. For more than 100 years, the USGS has played a critical role in reducing flood losses by operating a nationwide streamgauge network that monitors the water level and flow of the Nation’s rivers and streams and providing this information to the National Weather Service. Speakers are Brian McCallum, USGS, and Tom Graziano, the National Weather Service.**

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- HPPG/ Public Safety and Justice: The HPPG initiative is still on track to meet its goals. The Incident Management and Reporting Analysis System (IMARS) was rolled out at three of the sites and local staff have gone through extensive training on how to use the system. IMARS is a major initiative of the Department and will greatly enhance BIA's capabilities to collect accurate data and utilize modern policing strategies. The fourth site is a tribally operated program, and the tribe has declined use IMARS as it already a data management system in place.
- TLOA: The implementation of TLOA continues to be on target. Working partnerships with the Department of Justice, the Office of the Solicitor and internally with the BIA Office of Indian Services and the Bureau of Indian Education are moving forward on their respective areas. Kim Teehee from DPC will be calling an interagency implementation coordination meeting next week to discuss progress.
- Tribal Courts: Indian Affairs continues its initiative to build tribal court capacity with tribes. BIA held its first training session for Tribal courts on March 15, 2011; 24 Tribal court judges from across the nation attended the four-day session. The agenda included sessions on jurisdiction, domestic violence, sexual assault and TLOA, and the criminal case process including mock trials. It was a very comprehensive curriculum covering many pertinent legal issues taught by attorneys and judges; the second session for judges is scheduled to begin on May 23. This has been one of the major priorities and concerns expressed by Tribal Leaders. The next scheduled training is set for March 28-30 for Tribal prosecutors to enhance their knowledge and skills of criminal law and procedure; training for Tribal court administrators and clerks is scheduled for April 18-20 on such topics as record development, case management, and budgeting. Any practicing attorneys taking part in the training will receive continuing legal education (CLE) credits which goes towards maintaining their bar licenses.

- Tribal Corrections Initiative: Indian Affairs continues to work with DOJ to develop a comprehensive plan to address tribal corrections issues and meet the reporting requirements of TLOA. A work group has been formed with DOJ and work plan developed. Announcements on tribal consultation on the development of this plan will be forthcoming.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Tribal Consultation: The final meeting of the joint team of Tribal and Federal representatives (for DOI's policy) is scheduled for March 30, 2011.
- Internal Tribal Disputes:
 - Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma (OK): Ongoing internal tribal leadership dispute between the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on two issues. The first is the validity of the tribal court, justices and staff. The second issue involves the tribal court's order to remove the Governor. To prevent the disruption of critical services to the Tribes, the BIA Southern Plains Regional Director has determined, on an interim basis, to recognize Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell as the Governor pending final resolution. The Lieutenant Governor has filed an appeal of the Region's decision of interim recognition. The Regional Office has been notified with notice of appeal and pre-docket notice by the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.
 - Snoqualmie Tribe (WA): On-going internal leadership and member political struggle which has yet to exhaust internal tribal remedies (had requested BIA intervention). Tribe took case to Federal Court where Court returned case to Tribe citing that internal Tribal remedies had not been exhausted. Tribal members opposed to current incumbent Council have started a new email campaign addressed to the ASIA to intervene in Tribal situation.
 - *Southern Ute Indian Tribe (CO)*: There are five candidates that are currently running for the position of Tribal Chairman in the upcoming special election. The candidates include Matthew Box, the former chairman who resigned on February 11, 2011. The election is scheduled for April 12, 2011. Bureau of Indian Affairs officials will observe the proceedings. The Tribal Council has appointed an Interim Chairman that will serve until the Special Election.

EDUCATION

- BIE PALA Challenge: The BIE has over 12,668 PALA participants completing the PALA challenge, with 68 PALA Coordinators and 57 registered schools.
- PostSecondary:
 - Leadership Panel Memorandum: A draft memorandum to the Director for the Secretary's signature which asks other DOI Bureaus to submit names of representatives for a leadership panel to work with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) is currently progressing through the internal review process. The leadership panel is part of an agreement signed by BIE and AIHEC in February.
 - Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI):

Accreditation: SIPI is making great strides with the Higher Learning Consortium (HLC) in its efforts on accreditation. After a rigorous six month review process, HLC has determined that SIPI meets the eligibility requirements for continued candidacy. In addition BIE is absolutely making reasonable progress--met all expectations regarding the issues identified in the July 2, 2010 final letter. BIE also assembled and provided the evidence to demonstrate that SIPI can apply for accreditation; however, HLC is in the process of establishing procedures that will determine the timeline for this to happen. BIE has demonstrated that it is building the infrastructure and are implementing strategic planning; however, HLC feels that SIPI needs two cycles of data and we need to have time to implement our processes in order for it to be successful. The HLC final report will be available in approximately six weeks.

These efforts were preceded by the preparations for the HLC's site visit (March 21 -23, 2011):

- Letter was sent to all students directing students to SIPI's Mission, Vision, Goals and Values Statements;
- Letter of invitation was developed and disseminated to alumni and partners for the external constituency meeting with the HLC team;
- Separate briefing sessions were held with a group of 20 students, Board of Regents members, and all staff and faculty
- The SIPI leadership team met on the budget and planning process
- Special session was offered by the SIPI leadership team to all staff and faculty to further discuss issues or concerns and discuss 'what shared governance means at SIPI.' Specific responsibilities were developed and shared with Board members. This will be an on-going process that SIPI leadership and shareholders will continue to work on completing.

Handbook: Developed of the SIPI Personnel Handbook. Much of this information is general in nature and SIPI is working to ensure the standard information for Federal employees is culled to provide ready access for those policies, regulations and practices that are most important to SIPI and its employees. The Handbook was developed in collaboration with the BIE, Human Resources Office and the SIPI Human Resource Office.

Housing: SIPI Housing and Recreation Department reported zero violations in the Residential Program. As of Thursday, March 17, 2011, Four Winds Lodge and Golden Eagle Lodge each have ten (10) new computers and study/computer carrels.

○ Haskell Indian Nations University

- 1) The New Haskell Suicide Presentation Committee is now active and meeting on campus.
- 2) The Haskell Student Senate has started a campaign to encourage everyone on the Haskell campus to conserve energy, such as turning off lights when not needed.
- 3) The Lawrence (KS) Police Department made several presentations to students in residential housing on several topics related to law enforcement.

- BIE Standards and Assessments Initiative: BIE has completed the first draft of a policy paper outlining recommendations on how to move forward in developing BIE specific standards and assessments. This initiative is a major component of BIE's reform efforts, and once completed will have a significant impact on student performance and the number of schools making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
- School Improvement
 - *Miccosukee Tribe*: The South and Eastern States Education Line Officer is currently working with the Miccosukee Tribe to convert the P.L. 93-638 Contract to either a P.L. 100-297 Grant or consolidate four contracts under one school operations contract and update the Statements of Work.
 - *Tiospa Zina School*: Tiospa Zina School under the Crow Creek/ Lower Brule Education Line Office is utilizing data to evaluate school staff and provide performance improvement plans and release poor performing staff members.
 - *Lower Brule*: The Crow Creek/Lower Brule Education Line Officer has conducted several teacher observations at Lower Brule Tribal Schools and was asked to return and conduct more observations at the request of the school administration.
 - *Student Teacher*: A University of Oregon student teacher has been placed at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School.
 - *Site Verification Visit*: BIE will submit a report to the Department of Education in May 2011 outlining progress in addressing findings from the Site Verification Visit in 2008. The final report has been delayed several times, while additional information is gathered. BIE changes to the A-133 reporting process must be completed before the report can be submitted.
 - *Site Visits*: Anticipated BIE Site Visits by the Department of Education:
 - Title programs (2011)
 - McKinney-Vent Homeless program (2011)
 - Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program (April 12-15)
 - 21st Century Program (April 12-15)
 - Special Education program (2012)
 - BIE anticipates fiscal monitoring to be the central focus of the visits.
- FACE: The Family and Child Education (FACE) Procedures section of the Indian Affairs Manual were finalized and signed. It has been forwarded to the Indian Affairs Office of Regulatory Development for inclusion in Directive Management system and available on the Indian Affairs Directives webpage.
- Safety/Facilities
 - *Facilities Condition*: The Cheyenne River Education Line Officer sat in on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Education Committee meeting and submitted a newsletter from the school and line office. The tribe is concerned about the condition of the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School facilities
 - *Pine Ridge School*: Erroneous reports and rumor circulated regarding an incident at Pine Ridge School. The Associate Deputy Director (ADD), East office was able to make immediate correction to the reports. The ADD, East Office, the Deputy Director, School Operations, and the Chief of Staff were notified and all students

were safe and no harm or other act was committed. The Principal and School Safety Specialist will follow protocol to close out the activity.

- *Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School:* The wall supporting a door frame gave way and crumbled at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School. Pictures and the request for assistance were forwarded to OFMC.
 - *Flooding:* Marty Indian School and the Rosebud Education Line Officer met with OFMC/ABQ via teleconference to request emergency funding for the flooding that occurred in July 2010. OFMC assured the school that the funds would be reimbursed.
 - *Reported Threat:* The Pine Ridge School conducted a lock-down of its school facilities during a reported threat to attack a student. The police department was notified and after an investigation, determined that there was no threat to any students or staff on campus. The ADD, East School Safety Specialist received a Critical Incident Report and is engaged in follow-up discussion with the principal.
- Professional Development
 - The ADD, East is working on strategies to heighten the level of engagement in the Line Offices on school improvement, utilizing Native Star ELO Indicators as the instrument. The approach will be working individually with each line officer until results are observable.
 - A Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) training for Line Officers, school administrators and the school safety points of contact on the regular ADD, East ELO call scheduled for April 28 from 10:00-12:00 CST.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California. IEED will have two booths at this conference to further market the Wind Atlas for all tribes seeking company and investor partners. The purpose behind attending the Conference is to assist tribes who would like to develop wind energy projects on their reservations and are actively seeking wind developer and/or investor partners.
- IEED Director Job Announcement: The job vacancy for the IEED Director will soon be advertised. Indian Affairs is committed to finding the best candidate possible to fill this important leadership position and provide stability to the program.
- Indian Affairs Economist: Indian Affairs will soon complete interviews for the position of economist. The organization has not had an economist since the early 1970s and it is expected that this individual will assist greatly in providing relevant data to support policy making decisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Communication: Indian Affairs continues efforts to improve internal and external communications. In November 2010 the Assistant Secretary began a weekly employee communication message, and continues these efforts. Working in conjunction with the Department's Communications Office, Indian Affairs will soon be bringing on a New Media

Specialist to better utilize technology and greatly improve Indian Affairs communication capabilities.

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. A total of 20 solicitations were received by the Department to conduct the follow-up study; 10 solicitations were agreed upon by the selecting panel to hold oral presentations. The Chief of Staff has taken an active, leadership role in these proceedings on behalf of Indian Affairs. Presentations are scheduled to begin the week of April 6 to assist in the selection of a contractor out of the possible 10 proposals.
- BIA: Indian Affairs advised the Department that it would require an extension to the mid-March deadline set by OMB (in its FY 2012 OMB Passback) regarding a plan to address consolidation of field sites and other efficiencies to produce administrative savings.
- BIE: A vendor has been selected for BIE's organizational assessment; a meeting has been scheduled with the contractor on March 23, 2011, to discuss the expectations and timeframes for this contract. The organizational assessment will be an important management tool in helping BIE leadership identify targeted areas to improve performance, evaluation, communication, cost savings, and efficiencies within BIE to transform the organization into a top performing school system.

OUTREACH

- For the remainder of March, the Assistant Secretary is scheduled to meet with 1) the Midwest Tribal leaders in Washington, DC to discuss issues of concern to them; 2) the Alaska Federation of Natives regarding subsistence, transportation and other pending legislation; and 3) testify before the House Appropriations Committee on the FY 2012 President's Budget Request for Indian Affairs.
- The Haskell Career Fair, Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, is scheduled for March 31 to April 1, 2011.
- The Director, Bureau of Indian Education, will travel to Portland, Oregon to join staff from the Division of Performance and Accountability in a meeting with the Northwest Evaluation Association the week of April 4 to 7, 2011.
- The Director, Bureau of Indian Education, will travel to Albuquerque, NM April 27-29 to participate in the final meeting of the *No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee*.
- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- *The Bureau of Indian Education: 2009-2010 Baseline Data Report* (February 2011), by the Kingsbury Institute-NWEA, will be available on the BIE website in the near future.

CONFIDENTIAL

March 25, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for March 28 to April 3, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report March 28, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (3/28 – 4/1)
- Budget Hearing Witness before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (3/30)

Review – March 21 to March 25

- **New:** On March 23, the Principal Deputy Special Trustee met with SOL and DOJ attorneys about expediting the SPOA process by using alternative methodologies to resolve the remaining 80 tribal litigation cases in a shorter timeframe.
- **New:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). On March 21, the attorneys held a conference call with the Judge. The mediation session that had been planned for that day is being rescheduled to allow time to fully assess and apply the evaluation results.
- **New:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee held a conference call on March 24 with Chairman Moran of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Pablo, Montana. The Fiduciary Trust Officer and the BIA Superintendent at the Flathead Agency were parties to the call. The Chairman requested the call to review issues of importance to the tribes.
- **New:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, is detailed to the OAS office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 21 to April 8. He will continue to develop the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews.

- **Update:** A meeting was held March 16 to review the Quechan tribal litigation settlement calculations, which were developed using the government's Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method. OST, DOJ and SOL personnel continue to evaluate the new methodology to determine if it will deliver desired results *and* protect government interests. A status conference before the Judge is scheduled for March 31.
- **Update:** The FTO at the Blackfeet Agency collaborated with Browning Community Development Corporation to conduct financial skills training for elders. The training took place March 23 in Browning, Montana.
- **Update:** The FTO at the Flathead Agency provided financial skills training at the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority's Native home buyer education class in Pablo, Montana, on March 25.

Week Ahead – March 28 to April 1

- **New:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee will be a witness at the March 30 budget hearing of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. The PDST will be prepared to respond also to questions about the Cobell settlement and The Trust Land Consolidation Fund.
- **Update:** Trust Services continues to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.
- **No Change:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency and the FTO at the Southwest Regional Office will partner with First Nations Development Institute personnel to participate in the kickoff on March 17 and the training sessions, which are scheduled for March 30 and April 14.
- **No Change:** Starting in March and continuing for one year, the FTO at the Northern Cheyenne Agency will participate in the new Second Season program, for youth involved in the court system. Six students will participate in the inaugural season. Every two weeks, the FTO will provide one hour of financial skills training, following modules in the First Nations Development Institute workbook. The financial training is one aspect of the program, which will bring volunteers in many disciplines from across the community to work with participants.
- **No Change:** The FTO at the Winnebago Agency will partner with a Nebraska Legal Aid attorney to provide estate planning, including the topics of wills, AIPRA and gift deeds. Participants will also receive financial skills information produced by the First Nations

Development Institute. The program will be held March 31 at the Macy Senior Center in Macy, Nebraska.

- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than two dozen activities have already taken place in March.

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
March 25, 2011**

Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms Initiative – Following through on meetings with the US Army Corps Of Engineers last week, OIA is preparing to publicly unveil a new program - *Insular Schools: Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms initiative (Insular ABC's)*. The *Insular ABCs* initiative will involve a complete and detailed inventory and assessment of all public schools located in U.S. territories (except Puerto Rico) within 14 months. Consistent with OIA's strategic plan (2011-'16) *Insular ABC's* will produce a report which will be a valuable tool – at no cost to any of our US territories - for island leadership decision making. The final report will include the overall physical condition of all school facilities; an accounting of deferred maintenance and replacement values to assist in capital investment decisions; and, indentifying trends in maintenance practices and requirements to pinpoint opportunities for efficiencies. AS-IN is working closely with Governors and local school boards to ensure complete buy-in from all sectors of the community.

Implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (CNRA), PL 110-229 – OIA will be holding an interagency consultation with the Departments of Labor and Commerce on the DRAFT Forum on Economic and Labor Development (FELD) Report and the development of TA programs for the CNMI as provided under the law. The DRAFT report is a result of a conference hosted by OIA held in November 2010. The report will make recommendations on sectors of the CNMI which should be pursued to further diversify and strengthen the CNMI economy. OIA has set aside \$1 million to carry out the initiative.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

March 25, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: March 25, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Environmental Justice in America Conference. OEPC, on behalf of the Department, has worked with several other Federal agencies and organizations to sponsor this year's Environmental Justice in America Conference. The conference is in support of Executive Order 12898 (*Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*), which states in part that “each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations...”

The theme for this year's conference is “Building the Clean Energy Economy with Equity.” The conference will encompass several of Secretary Salazar's high priority goals, such as renewable energy development, tribal consultation, and youth and community involvement. This is a unique opportunity for participants to collaborate and network with a diverse and multi-disciplined audience that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to engage. The conference is open to all Department employees.

The State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference is scheduled to take place from April 27-29 in Washington, D.C. The conference seeks to bring together Federal employees, state employees, tribes, academics, business and industry, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, local community activists, and others to participate in dialog on achieving environmental equality and environmental protection. Conference registration is open now.

Arctic Policy. Following the meeting of the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) in Copenhagen, March 16-17, we are working with the U.S. State Department to further refine the Ecosystem-based Management proposal that was discussed at that meeting. We briefed the Department Arctic leads at the monthly Interior Arctic Coordination Group call on March 23 and represented the Department at the interagency Arctic Policy Group meeting at State Department on March 24th. Policy Analysis will be working with International Affairs to finalize the U.S. proposals and to prepare for another ad hoc meeting of the SAO mid-April where the proposals will be addressed for submission to the May Arctic Council Ministerial.

Ministerial Forum. Planning for the Ministerial Forum on Offshore Containment Technologies (Forum) continues. The Forum will be held on April 14 in the South Interior Building. To date, we have confirmation of participants from six of the thirteen countries that were invited plus a representative from the EU. We are continuing to work through the US Embassies in country to follow up.

Let's Move in Indian Country. To date over 13,000 students in 183 BIE schools are working towards the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) by committing 60 minutes of physical activity a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. We are working with AS-IA, BIA and BIE, USDA, HHS, ED, and the First Lady's Let's Move team to support strategic planning for a *Let's Move in Indian Country* initiative –involving a White House/First Lady launch in June 2011. Office of Youth is finalizing the LMIC toolkit that will be posted on the LMIC website upon launch.

MANAGEMENT

Wounded Warrior Event. On March 30, 2011, DOI will host wounded warriors from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Fort Belvoir and Bethesda Medical Center. The event will be in the MIB Cafeteria from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and is an opportunity for managers to meet, interview and offer internship opportunities to wounded warriors. Managers will be given an opportunity to give a 5 minute informal presentation to the wounded warriors at the event (no PowerPoint) and provide appropriate information/hand-outs. Several managers are participating and are looking for interns to fill opportunities in the DC Metro Area, which include Wolf Trap, National Mall and Memorial Parks, Office of Surface Mining, Office of Inspector General, Office of the Secretary DOI/DoD liaison, Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors and others.

BUDGET

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolutions. On Friday, March 18, the President signed P.L. 112-6, a sixth CR that continues government operations through April 8. The bill includes reductions of \$196.0 million from the 2010 enacted level for Interior programs funded in the Interior bill and continues the Bureau of Reclamation reductions of \$37.6 million provided in P.L. 112-4, the fifth CR. The reductions included in the CR are primarily the result of eliminating earmarks from the 2010 level and elimination of a limited number of other programs as proposed in the 2011 President's budget request. Reductions in P.L. 112-6 include:

- NPS: -\$125.8 million including Preserve America -\$4.6 million, Save America's Treasures -\$25.0 million, Statutory Aid -\$5.9 million, Construction -\$72.9 million; and Land Acquisition -\$17.4 million.
- FWS: -\$45 million including Resource Management -\$12.1 million, Construction -\$10.3 million, and Land Acquisition -\$22.5 million.
- Bureau of Land Management: -\$6.6 million including Management of Lands and Resources -\$600,000, Construction -\$2.0 million, and Land Acquisition -\$3.0 million.
- USGS: -\$17.4 million including earmarks -\$6.9 million, and Climate Effects Network -\$10.5 million.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs -\$1.45 million; and
- Insular Areas -\$900,000.

OMB guidance directs that availability under a CR be limited through the apportionment process to the lowest of prior year or House or Senate passed funding levels. This means that bureaus cannot obligate funds for accounts zeroed out in H.R.1, including the NPS Park Partnerships, FWS North American Wetlands Conservation Fund and FWS State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program, or called out in P.L. 112-6, for example NPS Save America's Treasures and Preserve America.

2012 Budget and Hearings. Last week, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee continued its hearings on the 2012 budget with FWS, USGS, BOEMRE, and ONRR. The last DOI appropriations hearing is for BIA/OST, scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, at 1 pm. The Office of Budget is working with DOI bureaus and offices to complete the hearing records on the FY 2012 Budget.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
March 24, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: The OEPC Alaska Office is taking the lead in preparing Revision 6 of the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines: Pribilof Islands (Guidelines)*. The purpose of the Guidelines is to help ensure that timely and appropriate response actions may be taken when migratory birds and/or fur seals are at risk of oiling, or have been oiled, following an oil discharge in the marine environment. The Guidelines are the result of collaborative work among representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Pribilof Islands' local governments, Native corporations, Federally-recognized tribes, and fishing and petroleum products industries. Following completion, the Guidelines will be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Alaska Department of Environment Conservation for inclusion in the *Aleutian Islands Subarea Contingency Plan*.

New: CEQ Panel Discussions: OEPC-Natural Resource Management Team participated in a special panel discussion hosted by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) on "Modernizing NEPA: Promoting Transparency and Public Engagement" on Wednesday, March 9. The panel discussed the benefits of enhanced openness and transparency in NEPA as well agencies' practical experience in implementing transparency initiatives. The discussion was part of CEQ's commitment to advance to improving the quality and accountability of NEPA implementation in line with the President's call for greater transparency and public engagement, including through the use of information technology tools, such as www.nepa.gov.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$92.50 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.40 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 Million. The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team is currently reviewing cost documentation packages recently received from USGS and NPS.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports that NPS PRFA Amendment #13 was approved by the USCG on March 18, 2011 and provides a no-cost extension of the period of performance through March 31, 2011.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports that starting April 1, 2011 the FWS and NPS PRFA amendments will be negotiated to include 90-day performance periods through June 30.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Public Call for Nominations to Invasive Species Advisory Committee. In early April, the National Invasive Species Committee intends to announce the open submission period for nominations to Class 7 of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee in the Federal Register. The 60-day submission period to fill 13 open seats on the committee will run from April 4 to June 2, 2011.

New: DOI Restoration Program National Workshop. Policy Analysis helped plan and develop the National Workshop, to be held March 28 - April 1, 2011, at BLM's National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona. This workshop provides a forum for Federal, tribal and State Trustees, as well as industry practitioners, to meet and stay informed on issues related to restoration. Policy Analysis is providing support staff and session presenters for the week-long program, including a half-day economic training session for natural resource damage assessment and restoration practitioners.

New: National Ocean Policy Meetings Changed. Policy Analysis continues to coordinate implementation of the National Ocean Policy for DOI. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held, tentatively in late June, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior; this is a postponement from the original May 3-5 date. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) - Coordinate and Support; and FWS is chairing the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration team. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC) and the National Ocean Committee staff provided initial feedback last week on SAP content outlines and will ask for full outlines by April 8, to be released for public comment in May after additional review. The ORM IPC met at DOI March 23 and discussed the plans and other pending business.

New: Chesapeake Bay Federal Agency Market Survey. At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Ecosystem Markets, Policy Analysis revised a draft Federal agency survey designed to identify potential Federal roles and opportunities in environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay. These markets, designed to reduce environmental impacts, are called for in the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Action Plan. Policy Analysis will work with the USFWS to coordinate DOI bureau and office responses.

New: Onshore Natural Gas Wells. Policy Analysis assisted the Bureau of Land Management in designing a sampling plan for gas well records in order to respond to a Congressional request regarding the proportion of wells that had been hydraulically "fracked."

New: Pechanga Indian Water Settlement. At the request of the Indian Water Settlement Office, Policy Analysis is reviewing the economic analysis conducted to support this settlement.

New: Indian Water Rights Settlements. Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office to discuss how the Economics staff could assist by reviewing some of the analysis required for settlements. Specific activities will be identified in the coming weeks.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Economics Report. Policy Analysis is continuing to edit the draft report.

Ongoing: Soda Ash Royalty. Policy Analysis received a request from BLM to assist in drafting a report to Congress on the 5-year soda ash royalty reduction enacted in 2006. Policy Analysis has provided BLM additional data and analysis on soda ash exports and is continuing to provide input to the draft BLM is preparing. A draft was shared with BLM leadership the week of March 21.

Completed: Oil and Gas Leasing Information. In response to a request from the White House, Policy Analysis assisted in preparing information on Federal oil and gas leasing. This memo included information on how the various elements of the fiscal regime might impact industry decisions on leasing and production.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

New: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Federal Agency Coordinators Meeting. On March 24, 2011, ONHR is participating in the NAGPRA Federal Agency Coordinators Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the recent GAO report discussing the National NAGPRA Office, provide a status report on the NAGPRA Working Group's progress on drafting 43 CFR 10.7 (disposition of unclaimed human remains), and to discuss upcoming trainings for Federal Agencies.

Update: NAGPRA Workshop in March 2011. ONHR co-sponsored a NAGPRA Workshop on March 15, 2011, along with Bernstein & Associates (consultant trainers for the National NAGPRA Program), Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the Native Hawaiian Liaison and U.S. Army Garrison – Hawaii. We reached our targeted participation goal of 100 Native Hawaiian community leaders. The Native Hawaiian Liaison, U.S. Army Garrison – Hawai'i sponsored all food and provided staffing for the workshop. ONHR coordinated the venue, printed the handouts in-house, and also provided staffing for the workshop. Announcements for the workshop were distributed through the Native Hawaiian Organizations Notification List and were sent to participants in ONHR's NAGPRA Consultation Protocol consultation meetings who indicated an interest in future NAGPRA workshops.

Office of International Affairs

New: Agreement with State Department. DOI-ITAP will be signing a new Agreement with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Agreement provides support for capacity building within the Government of Guatemala agencies responsible for the protection of antiquities found within the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a large protected area with significant archaeological resources. This Agreement will provide support for two activities: 1) a Maya Biosphere Reserve Training and Coordination Workshop on Prevention and Prosecution of Cultural and Environmental Crimes; and 2) a Selva Maya Tri-National (Mexico-Belize-Guatemala) Coordination Workshop on Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage Trafficking. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is a new partner for ITAP.

New: Modification of Agreement with State Department. DOI-ITAP will be signing a modification to its Agreement with the State Department's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science. The modification provides support for continued technical assistance in: Morocco on sustainable tourism and improved implementation of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and Oman on protected areas management. The Agreement also contains funds to support continued USGS engagement in Chile on glacier monitoring and continued NPS engagement on sister parks in Chile.

New: Signage Design, Fabrication and Installation in Tanzania. As a cash-for-work activity for rural communities under the USAID-funded Financial Crisis Initiative, ten DOI-ITAP signage design, fabrication and installation specialists will travel to community-managed Wildlife Management Areas March 23-April 8 to evaluate existing sign programs and to train and assist community members in the design, development, and implementation of a cost effective, uniform, directional and orientation sign system. Signage specialists will conduct sign-related training; conduct safety training relating to sign fabrication and tool use; and assist in creating "animal resistant" signage.

Update: TransPacific Partnership Trade Agreement (TPP). OIA provided comments to USTR on several innovative U.S. text proposals for the upcoming negotiating round at the end of this month, working closely with USTR, EPA, DOL, DOS, DOJ and other federal agencies, and consulting internally with FWS, BOEMRE, SOL and others. We briefed and staffed the Acting AS-PMB for his attendance at a March 16 interagency meeting chaired by USTR to resolve interagency disagreements. As a result of our engagement a number of improvements were adopted that were helpful to DOI mandates in texts relating to regulatory coherence, environment and "SPS" (import regulations to protect against risks such as invasive species).

Update: International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment. OIA is assisting with planning for this event which will be held on April 14, including coordinating with U.S. and foreign embassies to deliver invitations from the Secretary to counterparts in key offshore oil and gas producing countries and responding to requests for additional information from invitees. To date, 11 invitees from the EU and 6 countries (Angola, Canada, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, and UK) have confirmed their plans to attend the forum.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff attended the Senior Arctic Officials meeting in Copenhagen, March 16-17, along with Policy

Analysis staff. There is encouraging but reserved support from the other Arctic nations for the U.S. proposal for a project to review ecosystem-based management (EBM). Next steps will include, revising the proposal to incorporate international comments and supporting the State Department at the next preparatory meeting April 12-14.

Update: World Water Day Preparations. OIA, along with USGS and BOR, supported internal DOI consultations to respond to the State Department's request for high-level DOI participation in a high-profile signing on World Water Day, March 22, of a new MOU between the USG and the World Bank to increase collaboration on water issues. OIA subsequently coordinated preparation of briefing materials for the AS-W/S, who is scheduled to represent DOI. OIA will attend the event. OIA previously worked to ensure that the MOU included appropriate reference to DOI.

Update: CITES Species Protection and Sustainable Tourism in Dominican Republic: DOI-ITAP is co-hosting a community workshop on sustainable tourism and protection of CITES species habitat on March 22-24. A DOI Fish and Wildlife Service expert will join Humane Society International, the Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR), and The Nature Conservancy to provide practical training on CITES species habitat and sustainable tourism to local community members from Isla Saona, part of the Parque Nacional del Este. The workshop is part of ITAP's capacity building program under the Central America – Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), funded by the State Department.

Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

New: Registration nears Completion for Restoration Program Annual Workshop in Phoenix, AZ. The 11th Annual Workshop of the Department's Restoration Program to be held in Phoenix AZ starting on March 28 and running through April 1, 2011 has already had 130 DOI employees register out of the total 200 registered State, Federal, tribal, industry, and NGO registrants. The Workshop will include a plenary session, as well as concurrent paper presentations and a number of 4-hour training courses in topics ranging from environmental law to Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

New: Hanover College Capstone Speaker Series.

The Director of the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors gave an inspirational talk to over 200 students highlighting the Department's efforts and support around the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The Director conducted a roundtable discussion with the students to reengage them and outline their priorities, as well as to identify and address their concerns.

New: Phoenix College Conservation Curriculum Model.

The Director of the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors conducted a site visit to Arizona to meet with the folks on the ground who have developed one of the most innovative programs that supports the DOI's Youth Initiative. The overall objective of this model is to develop career

pathways for Tribal and minority youth that results in a well-qualified, diverse, 21st century workforce. The model builds an employment pathway for young people utilizing a diverse set of partners and resources. The Office of Youth will work towards institutionalizing this best management practice across DOI.

Ongoing: 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.

In response to the first recommendation from the America's Great Outdoor Initiative the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors is taking the lead on the implementation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to build upon and leverage the experience and expertise of existing Federal and non-profit programs to facilitate conservation service work/service opportunities on public lands and to encourage a new generation of natural resource managers and environmental scientists. An interagency working group led by the Office of Youth will set priorities and develop an action plan towards implementation.

Ongoing: Let's Move Outside.

Bureau directors issued guidance this week to direct staff to the DOI intranet page which hosts the LMO Toolkit to align 2011 LMO events and programs. A reporting structure has been developed to collect the number of programs and youth engaged in outdoor activity on our public lands.

Ongoing: YouthGo.gov Web Portal.

The YouthGo.gov web portal continues to be a one stop shop for young people looking for employment opportunities and fun events, as well as educational resources. The portal allows us improve access to federal resources through an easy-to-use format that matches young people with DOI and partner resources to create a new generation of citizen stewards. It continues to provide alignment with the Let's Move Outside initiative and support the priorities of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. Several grant applications have been submitted to supports summer, veteran and year-long employment programs.

Youth Diversity/Inclusion

Ongoing: Targeted Recruitment - Haskell Indian Nations University.

In a continued effort to streamline the pathways for young people to enter into federal service the Office of Youth is coordinating a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31, 2011 for the Department. The objective of this effort demonstrate and institutionalize to all the bureaus the benefits of the target recruitment process and also introduce them to the students, staff, resources, and facilities of a postsecondary education institution operated by BIE.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

Ongoing: MOU – DOI NPS Interpretation & Education/ U.S. Dept of Education. First draft of MOU has been developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America's Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education's "Blueprint for Reform."

Ongoing: Initiating Regular Meetings of Bureau Partnership Coordinators. Creating new forum for "Best Practices Network" among DOI staff engaged in the development of Department-wide partnering policies including 1) all Bureau Partnership Coordinators, 2) PMB staff of the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and 3) Office of the Solicitor.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: National Awards. Nominations are now being accepted for the annual Take Pride in America National Awards ceremony. Nominations for outstanding public lands volunteers will be accepted now through May 6th. Winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, July 19, 2011.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Unified Messaging. Minor follow-up work continued last week after OHA successfully migrated its e-mail accounts to the Department's interim unified messaging system.

Office of Valuation Services

New: Supervisory Contract Specialist Position. Interviews for the Supervisory Contract Specialist, wrapped up in Denver on Thursday, March 18, 2011. The selection for the position will be announced the week of March 28th.

New: Contract Specialist Position. Selection certificates for the Contract Specialist, vacancies were received on March 22, 2011.

New: Special Projects Manager. The job offer was extended for the Review Appraiser (Special Projects Manager) vacancy. The report date is pending clearance from security.

New: Quality Assurance Officer. A job offer was extended for the Review Appraiser (Quality Assurance Officer), vacancy. The report date is pending.

New: ARRTS Migration to Force.com Team. The ARRTS' Migration to Force.com Team will be meeting in Herndon on Thursday, March 24th and Friday, March 25 for User Acceptance Testing.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

Ongoing: Open Government Working Group. The kick-off meeting of the Open Government Working Group will be held on March 23-24, in Arlington, VA. Chris Vein from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy will open the meeting with “*Why Open Government Matters.*” This working group will take the lead on implementing DOI’s Open Government Plan.

Ongoing: Government-to-Government consultation policy team. CADR is providing impartial process support to the federal team in preparation for the next and final meeting of the DOI and Tribal representatives jointly developing the new consultation policy for DOI.

New: Request for ADR for appeal pending at Interior Board of Indian Appeals. CADR is consulting with parties seeking an ADR process to attempt negotiated resolution of issues raised on appeal before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

National Business Center

New: FBMS Transition. The NBC Financial Management Directorate will meet next week with Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss NBC opportunities for NBC to perform all payment functions for their bureau as they transition to FBMS.

New: Annual Disaster Recovery Testing. DOI Federal Financial System (FFS) annual disaster recovery testing was completed last week and declared a success. The training included Office of the Secretary, Office of the Special Trustee, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Recrimination (all remaining FFS Bureaus). The Office of the Secretary and Bureau of Indian Affairs IDEAS (Interior Department Electronic Acquisitions System) applications were also tested.

New: First Contact Resolution for FBMS. The NBC’s Customer Support Center (CSC) is actively working to improve service to the FBMS deployed Bureaus and to the FBMS Project Management Office. The CSC started a project in August 2010 to improve First Contact Resolution (FCR) for FBMS. Through training and management oversight, the average FCR for FBMS in February was 16%, up from 2% in August. The FCR is monitored closely and all tickets are analyzed for any missed opportunities. The CSC resolves approximately 90% of all contacts that the analysts have access to resolve. Additionally, the CSC kicked off a project in early March to upgrade the Remedy ticketing system to bring FBMS over to a new platform with additional capabilities.

New: Human Resources. To support the President’s initiatives to increase the hiring of employees with disabilities including disabled veterans, NBC hosted a teleconference that included the national representatives from both the National Employment Team - Vocational

Rehabilitation and the Veterans Affairs - Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment along with state representatives from the 7 states and the District of Columbia where NBC has employment opportunities.

New: DOI Composting Efforts. Administrative Operations staff met with the GSA Horticulturist and conducted a conference call with the vendor who collects our biodegradable cafeteria and kitchenette waste and makes compost to learn about the process, cost, composition and logistics of making composting efforts full cycle. Plans are to use the compost in our organic garden and landscaping.

New: DOI Federal Reserve Parking. Administrative Operations met with representatives from Federal Reserve, SOL, POB, NPS and OLESM on March 15 to discuss several issues including renewal of the 1968 agreement that provides DOI parking, maintenance of the parking, capital improvements in the garage, Shelter-in-Place and DOI access identification. It is expected that the Federal Reserve will request that DOI transition to the Federal Reserve a substantial number of DOI parking spaces to mitigate the Federal Reserve's loss of spaces due to modernization. Federal Reserve will draft a new agreement and share with DOI so negotiations can begin. The existing agreement expires in 2014.

New: Office Moves. The relocation of the NBC-Acquisitions office to the 1700 corridor has been completed. The relocation of Valuation Services to the 1300 East corridor is scheduled for March 23, 2011.

New: Infrastructure Operations Services. Infrastructure Operations Services Conducted the annual live Disaster Recovery (DR) Test for Denver last week and successfully recovered production applications at the cold backup site at the IBM Business Continuity Center in Boulder, CO. Customers also tested their cold site at Sungaard as an alternative workplace to access the applications. The following applications were successfully restored, configured and live-tested by customers - Federal Financial System (FFS), Infopac, Program and Budget System (PABS), BIA -Trust Land records Information System (LRIS), BIA – Social Services Automated System (SSAS), Interior Department Electronic Acquisition System - Purchasing Desktop (Ideas -PD) and the blue zone Mainframe remote connection application. The next live DR test will be for the ESC in May at the IBM Business Continuity Center in Sterling Forest NY.

New: Systems Software. All Windows Denver Data Center servers were migrated from the Monitoring Analysis Reporting System (MARS) to the ArcSite content management system.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Labor Management Forum. The Labor Management Forum held their quarterly meeting on March 22, 2011. The agenda included a briefing by Andrew Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Technology, Information, and Business Services, on the status and plans

for IT Transformation. The Union members of the Forum expressed appreciation for the briefing and offered constructive ideas for improving communication to employees, lessons learned from other large-scale change efforts in the Federal sector, and things to consider in terms of managing the workforce challenges. Other agenda items included finalizing the Charter for the LM Forum, reviewing the status of the pending labor-management baseline survey, and discussion of the requirements for creating measures and metrics to track progress on issues identified as priorities by the LM Forum.

Update: Career Transition Assistance Program Personnel Bulletin. The Office of Human Resources is finalizing a Personnel Bulletin on the Career Transition Assistance Program. The bulletin incorporates recent changes in regulations. The Career Transition Assistance Program is a priority placement program available to employees who have received a notice of expected separation or have been separated due to reduction in force.

Update: U.S. Geological Survey (Lakewood, CO) Accountability Review. The Accountability team participated on a review led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of its former Central Region's HR Office in Lakewood, Colorado. On October 10, 2010, USGS reorganized its HR organization, cutting their servicing offices down from four offices (Headquarters, Central, Eastern and Western) to two (Atlantic and Pacific). The work done by the Central Region was split between the Atlantic and Pacific HR organizations, however, the physical office remains in Lakewood with the employees reporting to one or the other HR offices. The team found no serious deficiencies or violations of merit principles, veterans' preference, regulations or policy. Most of the issues found were relatively minor. USGS will issue a report of its findings within 90 days of the review and identify any corrective actions that will be required or recommended. The HR office will be expected to develop a corrective action plan within 60 days of receiving the report.

Update: Upcoming Accountability Reviews. The Accountability team continues to prepare upcoming reviews at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 3, the Bureau of Land Management's Nevada Office, and the National Park Service's New England Servicing Human Resources Office.

Office of Civil Rights

New: EEO Compliance Training. During March 22-24, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, conducted EEO Compliance Training for managers, supervisors, and employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Colville Agency, following a finding of discrimination. The training was held in Nespelem, WA.

Completed: National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. On March 16, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights participated in the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers meeting at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in Washington, D.C. The meeting provided an opportunity for discussions of the Executive Order regarding Student

Pathways, the Hispanic Council on Federal Employment launched by the Office of Personnel Management, and the national observance of Hispanic Heritage Month in September 2011.

Completed: Civil Treatment, EEO, Diversity and Human Resources Training. On March 17, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights staff attended training on “how to build workplace diversity and inclusion, prevent harassment and discrimination, and improve workplace civility, productivity, and service delivery.” The training was hosted by the Broadcasting Board of Governors in Washington, D.C.

Completed: Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership. On March 17, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights represented the Department at a meeting of the Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership. The group, comprised of federal agencies in the Washington, D.C. area, initiated plans to develop and implement a “Diversity Briefing” to promote diversity within the federal government. More information will be provided as the plans are finalized.

Completed: EEO Compliance Training. During March 15-17, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, conducted EEO Compliance Training for 24 manager/supervisors, and 92 non-supervisory employees, at BIA, Rocky Mountain Region Headquarters, in Billings, MT. The training was required, following a finding of discrimination.

Office of Strategic Employee Development

New: Scientific Integrity Training. The Office of Strategic Employee Development (OSED) is holding discussions to develop mandatory Scientific Integrity training that will support a new policy that is currently underway.

New: Learning Management System. Last week, OSED reviewed a demo from the Department of Energy in an effort to uncover a potential cost-effective replacement for our current Learning Management System.

New: Skillsoft Open Season now open. The Spring 2011 SkillSoft Open Season began on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 and will end on Friday, April 29, 2011. **The dates of the active license period are April 1-September 30, 2011. For a fee of \$15, users** who purchase a license will have access to the SkillSoft library in [DOI Learn](#). The library is available to SkillSoft license holders wherever there is Internet access and users have access to over 3,500 online courses. Courses cover a wide range of subject matters such as, leadership/supervisory skills, Microsoft applications, and project management.

Completed: Government wide Senior Executive Service (SES) Forums. On March 10, 2011, DOIU hosted the Government wide SES Forum entitled “A Morning with the Presidents” which featured two Presidents from the early days of our Nation. Over 220 federal executives attended the event.

National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC)

New: Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Annual Administrators Conference. During March 22-24, 2011, NIPTC will host the BIE Annual Administrators Conference. Over 250 participants are expected at the Albuquerque learning center.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Armed Forces Public Health Conference. OHS staff attended the Armed Forces Public Health Conference in Hampton Virginia. Conference workshops included: Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine Update; Public Health Emergency Management; Epidemiological Methods for Public Health Surveillance; and a host of other technical topics in the field of industrial hygiene and occupational health.

New: Safety and Health Council Meeting. The DOI Safety and Health Council met at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service complex in Arlington VA, March 15-16, 2011. Council members were provided informational briefings and shared ideas related to: bureau best management practices; DOI Safety Management Information System (SMIS) status; DOI Safety Week awareness campaign; council approved Department Manual Chapter 8, *Employee Reports of Unsafe Conditions*, for DASHO level review; initiated council level review of new Serious Accident Investigation procedures; and established Fiscal Year 2012 safety and health project proposals for future council approval.

New: 2010 Occupational Medicine Program Handbook posted on the Electronic Library of Interior Policies (ELIPS). The Occupational Medicine Program Handbook was prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Occupational Safety and Health, in consultation with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Public Health Service's Federal Occupational Health Service. First published in 1997, the *Handbook* underwent major updates in July of 2000, and again in October of 2005. The 2010 edition of the *Handbook* incorporates updates and enhancements that have been made in DOI policies and occupational medicine practice since the last edition and has been posted on the Electronic Library of Interior Policies (ELIPS).

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: Radio Transformation. Jim Douglas briefed the Law Enforcement Board of Directors and prepared to brief the Asset Management Team. The meeting with the USDA and USFS CIOs to develop a partnership with them on the initiative was moved to March 23. Project directors are waiting for approval of funding for the project manager so that further work can take place.

Update: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is still awaiting signature by the CIO. Jim Douglas met with Judy Snoitch, HSPD-12 Project Manager, to discuss tasks necessary to fully implement the Directive prior to the 2012 fire season.

Update: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

Update: Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. The Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion of a final rule for establishment of this population in Arizona. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed in April, 2010. Customs and Border Protection has expressed concerns over the impact of establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Pronghorns on border security operations. Regional and Washington Office staff in FWS briefed CBP leadership on March 15 on the nature of the rule. Significant concerns still exist and FWS is planning to revise portions of the rule to address those concerns. A better explanation of the regulatory impacts of NEPs, which are significantly lower, will be included in the preamble to the rule. This proposal is not expected to impact border security operations significantly. The rule needs to be finalized soon to allow for construction of holding pens for release of the animals in the winter of 2011-12.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Discussion is continuing on determination of the actual impact acreage that will be included in the final Interagency Agreement amendment. There was a wide discrepancy between the FWS and CBP estimate of impact that has occurred. Resolution has been reached on mitigation acreage for Phase 1 of the land acquisition portion of the mitigation. Project Data Worksheets and an amendment to the original Interagency Agreement are being prepared now. Substantial agreement was reached on the estimated cost of mitigation acreage and the third party process to be used for acquisition. This amendment will result in making available approximately \$22 million to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex). Signature of the agreements is expected in the next few weeks.

Update: OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Based on a thorough assessment of the SBInet program CBP has modified its direction significantly. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew will convene a meeting between DOI bureau personnel and OTIA on March 25 to scope the work that is expected to be undertaken by CBP. The first step will be to assess the type, location and timing of work so that an assessment of the scope and need for environmental analysis can be accomplished.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use three acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. Coordination on NEPA and ESA compliance is continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

Update: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The meeting originally scheduled for March 9 was postponed due to a schedule conflict with CBP. The meeting will be rescheduled as soon as possible so that alternative sites for mitigation can be evaluated. CBP has indicated that alternate sites may be workable for them.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. CBP convened a briefing on the status of this PEIS on January 7. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status has been delayed but is expected within the next two weeks. CBP previously issued requests for comments directly to the Bureaus. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew requested that these be directed to DOI. Bureaus will then be requested to comment with responses from each bureau consolidated by DOI. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on April 22. Public meetings would be held in May with comments closing in early June. A final PEIS is planned to be completed in October, 2011. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis includes non-waiver activities, "new" construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. A request for photos of environmental topics was received from the contractor and we are working to provide as many images as possible. A final module is still expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No change: Fire IT Project (was National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture). The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) continued work on the project.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December, 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) will be briefing the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC, and solicit bureau input on improving coordination with Interior.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Intelligence Community Arctic Working Group Conference. OLES will attend this conference on March 22 that will focus on geospatial issues and human activity in the region and will be organized as a series of working meetings on key topics related to Arctic intelligence issues.

New: Facility Security Level Information in Support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. Per a request from the Executive Steering Council and the DOI Access Team, OLES has asked all bureaus/offices to compile and submit a list of all facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request is due by April 29.

New: Federal Chief Information Officer’s 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Assistant Director, Technology Division and the IT Operations Manager, Technology Division attended a meeting with the DOI Chief Information Officer and the DOI IT Security Officer to discuss leveraging the Cloud Computing Initiative required by the new 25 Point Implementation Plan to Reform Federal IT released by the Federal Chief Information Officer from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Assistant Director plans to issue a Request for Information (RFI) to vendors in order to learn about their cloud computing capabilities.

Update: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating a review of all Bureaus/Office personnel security programs. The review is conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. Reviews have been scheduled for the Office of the Secretary and USGS.

Update: National Fusion Center Conference. OLES attended the National Fusion Center Conference in Denver, participated in a panel discussion to address information sharing with Tribal Nations and conducted an interview with Tribal News Today – click on link: <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/03/indian-lands-key-in-security/>

Update: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Deployment Push 1. The Technology Division initiated IMARS Deployment Push 1 on March 14. This deployment includes 500 users from the five participating DOI bureaus. This Deployment Push complies with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) recommendation that IMARS should be deployed to users in incremental rollouts in at least six month intervals until the system is fully deployed in December, 2012. The bureaus will deploy IMARS to the 500 users in this Deployment Push by April 29.

Update: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The Assistant Director, Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed, provided a results briefing on the planning of the FPA Program to DAS Thorsen, Special Assistant James Douglas, and Director, OWFC Kirk Rowdabaugh on March 16. The final Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report was submitted to the DAS on March 18. This report will be released to the FPA Board of Directors at a meeting on March 23.

Update: Operation Trident Surge. The final deployment of NPS, BLM, FWS, and Forest Service officers continued this week. The focus areas for the operation are Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Cabeza Prieta NWR, and nearby BLM Public Lands. The operation has yielded narcotics seizures of 26,500 pounds and 1,900 apprehensions of undocumented aliens. OLES personnel continue to work with bureau incident commanders and Border Patrol to address operational planning, prosecution, and intelligence sharing procedures. Notable events this week included the arrests of 91 illegal aliens in one large group. Agents monitoring cameras on towers initially located the group. The operation ended Friday, March 18.

Update: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. OLES is currently working with BOR to schedule an assessment at Glen Canyon Dam. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. Assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Arch, Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been scheduled for a BOEMRE facility in New Orleans in April and the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

No Change: Departmental Security Manager Trip to the Transportation Security Lab. Working with the United States Park Police, OLES Security is coordinating a trip to the Transportation Security Lab (TSL) for Departmental Security Managers. The TSL, affiliated with the Transportation Security Agency, is the only federal agency that certifies security equipment. TSL has agreed to allow DOI employees a behind the scenes tour of the facility.

No Change: USA Today FOIA Request Regarding DOI Facilities. The Solicitor's office has requested the assistance of OLES Security to review a FOIA request from USA Today. The FOIA request is regarding the location (address and descriptions) of all DOI's 46,000 facilities plus additional information. It is believed the request stems from the effort to remove unused Government property from the inventory.

No Change: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On March 8, OLES Security participated in a conference call with the National Park Service and the United States Park Police regarding security procedures and visitor screening for Liberty and Ellis Island. In addition, a meeting between OLES and the New York Police Department was discussed.

No Change: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is almost complete; work on the A ramp has begun.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** One Guard Booth has been installed on C ramp and is in the process of being tested. Additional booths are on schedule to be installed.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** Awaiting the contracting office to finalize and post the solicitation.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** To date, we have downloaded between 3-5,000 OPM employee files and 5-9,000 GSA employee files into our PACS system.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Work continues on updating the IDS and upgrading the security cameras.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** Costs for security upgrades to support the Child Care Center are in the process of being submitted to the Office of Budget.

No Change: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee and the Office of National Counterintelligence Executive Meetings. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. By mid-March, ten or more departments and agencies will be identified for site visits by an inter-agency team of experts who will review security policies and practices as part of an Office of Management and Budget review.

Final: Threats to DOI Senior Leadership: During a recent Departmental Security Advisory Council meeting conducted by OLES Security, the handling and reporting of threats to Departmental employees and threat training opportunities was discussed. All Security Managers were encouraged to notify OLES Security for support in dealing with these situations.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* Japanese response and recovery activities continue with the assistance of international support from around the world. USGS representatives have had a major role in the response to this catastrophe, from developing the seismic picture of the quake to predicting and monitoring the path of the tsunami as it raced across the Pacific, as well as documenting the damage that has resulted from the tsunami. At the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, workers continue to try and gain control of the damaged reactors. Of the six reactor units at the plant, four continue to have overheating problems that could, potentially result in a melt-down. The Department of State and the US Agency for International Development are the lead agencies who are coordinating US assistance to Japan.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* There has been a slowdown of the cleanup efforts along the Gulf Coast due to tourist activities (spring break and Mardi Gras) and bird nesting. The number of personnel working on the incident is approximately 2,000, compared with 4,000 two months ago. The U.S. Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOOSC) requested that a questionnaire be distributed regarding the staffing and training plan for Federal responders. The IOC collected and submitted the information for approval and routing to the FOOSC.
- *Angostura Dam Flood Operations:* BOR reported on March 14 that the Angostura Reservoir (near Hot Springs, SD) was experiencing large inflows of water due to the warmer weather melting the snow pack in the region. The dam returned to normal operation on March 18 as the water inflow decreased.
- *Oklahoma Wildfires:* BIA resources responded to 26 fires in eastern Oklahoma March 12-13 which impacted approximately 6,000 acres. One Trust home was lost to fire activity near the Mekasuke Mission area within the Wewoka Agency jurisdiction.
- *Center Fire in California:* The Center Fire, which began in an area adjacent to the town of Big Pine on March 18, was contained on March 20. BIA Regional and Agency staff have been attempting to contact the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley to determine if assistance is required.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH11). Based on feedback from the continuity and devolution break out session at the Emergency Management Council Off-Site, OEM is working with OS offices to define their devolution concept of operations. OEM is currently working on a template to document OS Office devolution plans in a standardized manner and facilitate planning for EH11. Exercise EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM received an updated roster from NPS and continues to work with OCIO and OHS this week. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning. OEM conducted Evacuation Support Team training on March 17 and 21. Of the 19 attendees to the classes, 15 were new team members

who replaced employees who had changed jobs or left DOI. OEM met with the Office of Civil Rights last week to discuss improvements in the self-identification process for people with disabilities. OEM continues to review the initial draft After-Action Report (AAR) on the evacuation drills conducted in the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23. Once completed, the AAR will provide recommendations to improve the evacuation and/or sheltering of employees during building emergencies.

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. Larry Broun and LCDR Elaine Wolff, U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI in the U.S. Department of Health Service (HHS)-led Dark Zephyr tabletop exercise on March 15-16. The exercise scenario dealt with an anthrax release in San Francisco and the public health issues impacting the response. While the scenario limited Interior's role in this exercise, the DOI participants emphasized the need for including Tribes in the planning and response to such scenarios. The planned follow-on Senior Officials Exercise (SOE) 2-11 for the Domestic Resilience Group that was scheduled for Friday, March 18 has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. Plans to visit the BIA regional office in Portland, OR and FEMA's Region X office in Bothell, WA are progressing with an anticipated visit the week of April 4. These visits may include discussions with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council depending on availability. In addition to this trip, OEM is working with BIA and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan visits to Tribal Nations in the Dakotas.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO has begun Phase III of the Contact Management System (CMS). The Group Management module of Phase III has been developed and turned over to OEM for testing. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel and will allow individuals to securely update their own contact information, and will automatically feed data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups, thereby ensuring alerts and other information is properly delivered and received during emergency situations.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM met with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group last week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. Significant progress was made to reach agreement on the process and timeline for loading the positions into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the needs of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Management Advisory Team: The interagency FPA Management Advisory Team (MAT) will meet in Phoenix, AZ on March 29-30. On March 29 the MAT will be briefed on the status of FPA application and work to finalize the MAT operating plan. On March 30 the discussion will include the FPA communications framework, the strategy for the MAT, and the operating strategy for the next 6 months.

New: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team: The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) is scheduled to meet in Boise, ID on April 14-15. The IST will have a discussion with the FPA Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) regarding the outputs from the latest analysis. They will also discuss the progress that has been made by the group in developing and testing system improvements.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) is scheduled to hold a quarterly meeting in Boise March 24-25. The topics of discussion include the status and update from the FPA teams, FPA communications framework, and the independent external review of the FPA application.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. The analysis processes are being developed by the Interior members of the Fuels Management Committee and the technical specialists assigned to the project – the Decision Support Sub-committee. Attributes used to determine high priority projects were finalized on March 18. Specialists have already completed several geospatial data improvements to the HFPAS to determine the high priority treatment areas. The Decision Support Sub-committee meets in Denver March 22-24 to continue work on several technical details. A DOI Hazardous Fuels Reduction program of work, based on the FY 2012 President's proposed budget, should be available by June 15.

Update: Federal Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise. The exercise is scheduled for April 12. The exercise will run for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other federal partners to identify a course of action. DOI, USFA, and USFS fire leadership are reviewing the updated exercise components to determine a final by March 28.

Update: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

No Change: WFDSS (Wildland Fire Decision Support System) Investment Review. OWFC has been working on submissions for the WFDSS investment as part of the Capital Planning Investment Control process in preparation for the new DOI IRB. Background information and briefings for DAS Thorsen are occurring this week.

No Change: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) Meeting March 10, 2011. WFLC met and approved the following reports: *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for Secretarial approval on or before March 25. The WFLC also approved a proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy and concurred with the membership recommendations for the three Regional Strategy Committees (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process.

No Change: Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). The WFEC charter was filed with the Federal Register's Office on March 3. Appointment letters to the Council members are in the process of being signed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and the first meeting is scheduled for April 1.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) last week addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-chartered to support the continued development of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work associated the update of LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first three geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest. Production is on track to deliver the next geo-area which is the Southwest. For more information on LANDFIRE and the schedule see www.landfire.gov.

No Change: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to jointly operate a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use of the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is in coordination with the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and will be finalized soon.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWFC is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland fire personnel. Federal Management Partners,

Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews to HR and OWFC. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build a business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

Final: GAO engagement: Wildland Fires in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region (Job code: 361250). Initial meetings were conducted at NIFC on January 12 -14 to gain some understanding for fire operations near the border; what financial, fire investigation and fire occurrence data sets are available; and to develop some contacts. GAO will perform a fire data analysis by mid-March. Several site visits in Arizona were conducted by the GAO.

Final: 620 DM 3 – Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation. OWFC is coordinating with the Interior Burned Area Emergency Response Coordinators (IBAER) to discuss the current Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation policy and identify items that would need to be addressed for a policy revision. The IBAER completed their initial review and proposed changes were presented at the January IFEC meeting. The final recommended changes will be submitted in May.

Final: Emergency Management. OWF attended and participated in the Annual Off site Emergency Management Council Meeting. Discussions centered on upcoming strategy for All Hazard position, qualifications and physical fitness; reports from ESF planners; upcoming COOP and devolution exercises; and coordination for upcoming National Level Exercise.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Suspension and Debarment Program – Federal Register Notice for Privacy Act System of Records. The Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) has prepared a Federal Register notice to propose amending its regulations to exempt certain records of the Suspension and Debarment Program from one or more provisions of the Privacy Act because of criminal, civil, and administrative reinforcement requirements. The Federal Register notice was prepared in close coordination with SOL and DOI Privacy Act offices to facilitate issuance, and is now moving forward in the concurrence process.

The primary purpose of this System of Records is to assist DOI in conducting and documenting debarment and suspension proceedings to ensure that Federal procurements and Federal discretionary assistance, loans, and benefits are awarded to presently responsible business entities, organizations, and individuals. DOI does not collect any information that is not required for the Suspension and Debarment process. DOI estimates that the System will not contain a large amount of records, as it will be limited to individuals who have been referred for action consideration, proposed for debarment, debarred, or suspended from eligibility or participation in Federal procurement and non-procurement awards.

New: Federal Register Notice – Proposed Rule for the Department of the Interior Acquisition Regulation. The Department of the Interior Acquisition Regulation (DIAR) Proposed Rule signed by Chris Henderson on March 7 is scheduled for publication in the Federal Register for public review and comment on Tuesday, March 22. The proposed rule has been coordinated internally among DOI contracting activities. PAM intends to finalize the rule by the end of this fiscal year after addressing any public comments, which will be due May 23, 2011. This rule will make minor corrections to DOI acquisition procedures to be consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), of which the DIAR is a supplement. In addition, this rule will add a new clause covering contract administration roles and responsibilities. The new clause is necessary in order to notify contractors of their roles and responsibilities in complying with technical direction given by authorized representatives of the contracting officer.

New: Asset Management Team Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, at the USGS Headquarters in Reston, VA. Agenda items include an update on the Civilian Property Realignment Act and related OMB Federal Real Property Asset Management initiatives; a briefing on the Enterprise Wireless Communications Roadmap (radios); a demonstration of the USGS Maximo/FBMS interface; and a discussion of the DOI Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) process.

Office of Budget

No Change: 2013 Budget Formulation. The Office of Budget is preparing 2013 formulation guidance for the development of the bureaus' May budget submissions to the Department.

Update: Cost of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. POB and the Office of the Solicitor worked together to provide additional information on the DOI spill-related non-PRFA/non-NRDA cost data, as requested by the Department of Justice.

Office of Financial Management

Update: Cost of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. PFM received cost reimbursement requests No. 6 and 7 from the National Park Service (NPS) totaling \$493,768 and \$149,975, respectively. After reviewing the NPS cost documentation, PFM submitted the two packages to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC) for payment. PFM will conduct an on-site visit to the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Fund Center to review the second cost documentation package submitted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which totals approximately \$34.5 million.

Ongoing: GAO Report. PFM reviewed several audit recommendation closures submitted by NPS on three different GAO reports and provided feedback requesting additional information. PFM coordinated the submission of additional comments to GAO on their statement of facts regarding the Federal Land Data review. The draft report has not been issued yet.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

No change: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. OMB's review of status information through Q1 FY2011 in www.performance.gov is underway. David Hayes will begin regularly scheduled quarterly status reviews with goal owners in April with the close of the second quarter of FY 2011.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Small Business Administration Outreach Events. The Small Business Administration has planned a number of [Jobs Act Tours](#) that will allow small businesses to meet with leaders from SBA, give input on new regulations, and learn how to take advantage of new tools coming out of the Small Business Jobs Act. As part of the outreach efforts, SBA will focus on loan opportunities, competing for federal contracts, finding training and counseling resources, and starting or increasing exports. The events are expected to take place around the nation between March 28 and April 15.

Update: Requirement to Post Outreach Events on FedBizOpps. As of March 15, 2011, federal agencies will be required to post information about outreach events on FedBizOpps, which is the required one stop portal for business for federal contracting matters. This requirement is based on recommendations by the Interagency Task Force on Small Business Contracting. The OSDBU will be the point of contact for the Department for this requirement and has begun the process of collecting information from the Bureaus and Offices in order to populate the database as required.

Update: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference: *The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be representing the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement conference that will be held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, on April 21, 2011. The conference is the most prominent government-wide event on the small business calendar each year. Volunteers from the Department are requested to assist the OSDBU. A senior advisor to the President of the United States will be the White House representative at the conference.*

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **April 1: DOI First Friday Small Business Session, Yates Auditorium** – Registration is now open. Over 300 small businesses have registered for this event. Larry Gross, DOI Deputy CIO, will be the main presenter at the event. The event will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- March 23: General Small Business
- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business

- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business
- TBA: University of Guam – Economic Development Webinar

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

233 Days before Go Live.

Update: Functional Design Specifications. The Office of the Secretary (OS) continues to participate, review and comment on Functional Design Specifications. This activity is scheduled to conclude by the end of March. The OS Implementation Management Office (OS IMO) has begun reviews of Technical Design Specifications.

Update: Organizational Impact Session. An OS sponsored role mapping workshop was held on March 16-17. Feedback from those attending the two day session indicated that it was successful. Expectations for participation were exceeded and presentations of business process impacts by members of the OS IMO team were well received. Kudos went to the presenters who understood the complexities of the “as” and “to be” states and fielded questions effectively.

Additional accolades went the FBMS Program Management Office Communications Team for their support. As a result of the first OS role mapping session, several internal processes will require an assessment to address efficiencies and standardization. Some of these processes include, but are not limited to, property roles, approval processes for Interagency Agreements and RSAs, and OCIO IT Purchase approval process. The role mapping workshops are intended as educational activities that will help to prepare for the overall role mapping exercises to come. The second OS role mapping workshop will be held on April 19-21, 2011.

Update: Business Process Requirements. OS continues to prepare business process impact presentations by functional area. A follow up meeting with the NBC Aircraft Management Division is scheduled for the first week of April to finalize the processes for FBMS.

New: OS Executive Steering Committee Meeting. The next meeting is being planned for March 31.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): The ONRR has begun the implementation and roll-out of work relating to the Strategic Review recommendations. Implementation Work Groups (IWG) will be formed in late March. Acting Assistant Secretary for PMB, Chris Henderson will attend a formal launching of the IWG’s on April 6, 2011, in Denver, Colorado.

Possible Joint DOI-DOJ Press Release on False Claims Act Settlement (No Change):

ONRR Public Affairs is preparing to announce a pending settlement agreement between the United States and Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation, and OXY USA, Inc., as part of the Wright Federal False Claims Act litigation. The agreement involves the Department of Justice, ONRR, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of various

individual American Indian mineral owners. Under the agreement, the Oxy Defendants will pay \$2.05 million plus interest to resolve the issue. The settlement is expected to be finalized this month. The DOI Press Office and the Justice Department's Press Office are reviewing a draft release.

Draft employee feature story highlights Oklahoma's Julie Hamersley (New): ONRR Public Affairs has completed a draft feature story highlighting the volunteer efforts of Julie Hamersley, an IT Specialist in the Oklahoma City Field Office. Julie helped with the construction of several churches in Africa. The release and photos will be forwarded to oneINTERIOR after internal ONRR review is complete.

Financial and Program Management

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreements and equipment. A review of the Texas General Land Office is scheduled for April 5-6, 2011 in Austin, Texas.

Audit and Compliance Management

Asset Management

Royalty Simplification - Valuation Regulations (New): ONRR has drafted an options paper on proposed changes to the existing regulations governing the valuation for royalty purposes of Gas produced from Federal onshore and Offshore oil and gas leases. The paper includes a proposed recommendation to proceed with an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and two alternatives. Once the paper is finalized, AS-PMB and ONRR will discuss the paper and the next steps with Deputy Secretary Hayes. The timeline proposes to publish the ANPR in April 2011.

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of March 21, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Matters:

Ensco Litigation

On March 15, the Fifth Circuit granted the government's motion for a stay of the district court's two injunction orders regarding the permitting decisions for seven deepwater APDs. Supplemental administrative record materials remain due on March 18. Responses to interrogatories remain due on March 21.

Multi-District Litigation

Depositions are continuing in New Orleans in the multi-district litigation with witnesses from BP, Transocean, and Halliburton. (b) (5)

he first government witnesses to be called will likely testify later this Spring.

Other Matters:

Polar Bear Critical Habitat Litigation

Last week, the State of Alaska filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, claiming that the FWS's designation of critical habitat is legally flawed. This complaint comes on the heels of a similar complaint by the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA), which was filed last week. The State's complaint includes five claims for relief, alleging that the Service: (1) failed to comply with the procedural requirements of the ESA and APA by, among other things, failing to properly consider whether the benefits of excluding areas of critical habitat outweigh the benefits of designation and erring in its economic impact analysis; (2) failed to provide adequate justification to the State for declining to adopt the State's recommendations; (3) failed to adequately cooperate with the State; (4) failed to consider, incorporate, or respond to the State's comments; and, (5) violated the APA by adopting a rule that arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not otherwise in accordance with the law for the reasons previously described.

Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Critical Habitat

The court upheld FWS's exclusion of certain areas from the final critical habitat designation for the species. The opinion acknowledged that these are extremely difficult and technical issues, found FWS's conclusions well-supported in the record, and deferred to them. Among other things, the court rejected plaintiffs' argument that the exclusion would result in the extinction of the species. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case addressing such an issue.

Challenged to 18 BLM Land Use Plans Involving Sage Grouse

These cases challenge numerous BLM land use plans in six western states alleging violations of NEPA and FLPMA based on the lack of analysis of effects on sage grouse and its habitat. Parties have agreed to proceed on two test cases for the Craters of the Moon RMP in Idaho and the Pinedale RMP in Wyoming. Plaintiffs filed their summary judgment briefs on March 14. The U.S. brief is due on April 28. The U.S. will also be responding to a motion from Intervenor, including the State of Wyoming to dismiss or stay the proceedings on the Pinedale RMP because BLM is currently engaged in the land use planning amendment process. Our response to this motion is due March 24.

Firebaugh Canal Water District litigation (Drainage)

The Department remains subject to a mandatory injunction, issued in 2000, directing the Secretary to provide drainage service to the San Luis United of the Central Valley Project in California “without delay.” The U.S. is preparing to file an April 1 status report with the court outlining steps it has taken in the past 6 months to comply with the 2000 order. This issue also came up as part of BOR’s appropriations hearing and the Solicitor’s Office is working with BOR and OCL on a response.

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (“TCID”) Recoupment Lawsuit

This case, which began in 1996, involves efforts to recover water that TCID illegally diverted into the Newlands Project (NV/CA) during the 1970s and 80s. The diversions were in excess of the limits allowed by federal regulations known as the Operating Criteria and Procedures. The Ninth Circuit remanded the case (b) (5)

The district court has requested a status report for April 1 to determine how this case will proceed now that TCID's certiorari petition has been denied.

Bighorn Sheep (Closing Grazing Allotments)

A significant resource issue facing BLM Idaho is management of domestic sheep grazing allotments and trailing routes that overlap or are near wild bighorn sheep habitat. Best available science suggests that domestic sheep can and will transmit bacterial strains to bighorn sheep resulting in their mortality, and circumstantial evidence suggests that such disease outbreaks are occurring throughout the western United States and this disease is affecting the sustainability of bighorn sheep herds. (b) (5)

CERCLA Stipulated Penalty Settlement – Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

On March 11, 2011, we received the fully executed settlement agreement enforcing the Department's claim for stipulated penalties incurred by General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems (GD-OTS) as a result of its failure to comply with certain requirements of an administrative order on consent (AOC) issued by the Department and FWS pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The AOC requires GD-OTS to perform a remedial investigation and feasibility study to characterize contamination and evaluate remedial alternatives at one "operable unit" of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Superfund site in southern Illinois. Under the settlement, GD-OTS will pay \$3.6 million to the Department's Central Hazardous Materials Fund. We expect to receive payment before the end of March.

Pollution Settlement at Ft. Sumter National Monument

The United States and the State of South Carolina (State) have reached an agreement with the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) to settle NPS claims for CERCLA response costs and damages under Section 19(jj) of the Park System Resource Protection Act (PSRPA), and State and Federal claims for natural resource damages related to releases of hazardous substances in the Calhoun Park Area (Site) in Charleston, South Carolina. The Site is located within and adjacent to Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston Harbor. Pursuant to the (b) (5)

The Department of Justice requests concurrence and authorization to enter the settlement by March 31.

U.S. Liable at Phosphate Mine Site in Idaho

On March 4, 2011, the U.S. District Court of Idaho issued a decision holding that the United States is an owner, operator, and arranger under CERCLA with respect to four phosphate mine sites located on National Forest System land in southeastern Idaho. The four mines are subject to BLM regulatory authority pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. The district court's decision did not address available defenses or issues associated with allocation of costs between Plaintiffs and the U.S. In contesting Plaintiffs' motion, the U.S. conceded owner liability. The U.S. argued, however, that it is not an operator or arranger under CERCLA because, among other things, the U.S. acted in a purely regulatory role at the sites. Based on the facts presented by these sites, the district court rejected this argument. While the full implications of the court's decision are (b) (5)

Proposal to Include Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings as World Heritage Sites

At the NPS's request, we are reviewing for legal sufficiency the application for a group nomination to the World Heritage List (WHL) of eleven Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings. The WHL is an international registry of cultural and natural properties nominated by signatories to the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The United States participates in this program pursuant to the convention, a provision in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §

470a-1), and the regulations codified at 36 C.F.R. part 73. In order to nominate a property, the NPS first must determine that there are sufficient legal protections in place (e.g., conservation easements) to preserve it. For the Frank Lloyd Wright buildings nomination, that means reviewing existing legal protections for all eleven properties, which are owned by a mix of private, commercial, non-profit, and governmental entities. The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks makes the United States' nomination after meeting with the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage. This meeting to produce a nomination could occur as early as next month.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
March 18, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA) – Comment period extended for draft Dog Management Plan. The public comment period for the Draft EIS/Dog Management Plan has been extended to May 30. Press releases, a website announcement, and direct mailers have been distributed. The proposed plan provides a clear, enforceable policy delineating appropriate areas of the park for dogs, including whether and how off-leash dog walking may be allowed. The agency-preferred plan identifies 21 areas for site-specific treatments derived from various alternatives and offers a range of visitor experiences, including no dogs, dog walking on-leash, and dog walking under voice-control. Negotiated Rulemaking Committee's consensus agreements for site-specific treatment of one area, guiding principles, and a proposal for commercial dog-walking are also included in the preferred plan.

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (MT) – Park protection and management. A six-month public engagement initiative regarding four major management issues at Little Bighorn Battlefield was concluded in December 2010. The issues include the visitor center; museum collection storage; roads and parking; and significant portions of the battlefield that remain unprotected and inaccessible. A report to stakeholders and the public will be released in the next few weeks describing NPS's proposed actions to address each. The NPS' decision to temporarily move the park's museum collection to the Western Archeological Conservation Center in Tucson, Arizona, may be controversial since it is far away from the park.

Lassen Volcanic National Park (CA) – Warner Valley Comprehensive Plan. The Record of Decision for Warner Valley CSP/EIS has been approved. The project area features a large meadow and one of the largest known fens in the northern Sierra Nevada-southern Cascades, the 2.7-acre human-constructed Dream Lake, and the concession-operated Drakesbad Guest Ranch Historic District. The approved plan includes: 1) removing Dream Lake Dam and restoring the damaged riparian/wetland/meadow complex; 2) removing non-contributing features from the Historic District, to be replaced with a "green" concession housing-services facility outside of the historic core; and 3) enhancing visitor experience and safety through improving a small campground and appurtenant infrastructure. A programmatic agreement was executed with the State Historic Preservation Office to guide work in the historic area.

The American Chestnut Foundation agreement. NPS has signed an agreement with The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) to work together to restore American chestnuts within the native range of the tree. Under the agreement, the NPS and TACF will focus on demonstration projects in park cultural resource and developed zones, which will provide opportunities for restoration of historic settings and science education. A joint news release announcing the agreement between the NPS and TACF is currently being reviewed.

Natchez Trace Parkway and Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail (MS/AL/TN) – Tree planting. The parkway has begun planting 14,000 new indigenous trees along 300 miles of the parkway as part of a comprehensive scenic resource protection and wetlands mitigation project. This project involves multiple partners including the Land Trust for Tennessee, various communities, and private land owners adjacent to the parkway. This will be the first of a multi-phased project addressing scenic resource issues along the entire 444-mile scenic corridor.

Climate Smart Conservation Interagency Group. On March 22-23, NPS will participate in the first meeting of an interagency group facilitated by the National Wildlife Federation to develop guidance for “Climate Smart Conservation.” Other participants in the effort include: EPA, FWS, USFS, NOAA Fisheries, USGS, State of Florida, State of Maryland, and several NGO and university representatives.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HI) – Reopening of Chain of Craters Road. Reduced sulfur dioxide emissions and strong trade winds have allowed the park to reopen six miles of the Chain of Craters Road closed after significant volcanic activity in the park the previous week.

ON THE HORIZON

National Mall and Memorial Parks (DC) – Constitution Avenue reconstruction project. Beginning about April 11, after the conclusion of the 2011 Cherry Blossom Festival, Constitution Avenue, between 15th and 23rd St., NW, will be re-constructed. Work will last until December 2011. The work will include repairs to the road base, new surface asphalt, new storm drainage system, new sidewalks, new granite curbs and handicap ramps, post and chain enclosures around existing trees, and new streetlights. Work will proceed block by block and will involve no more than four lanes at a time. Parking will not be available in any block during active construction. The NPS has been consulting with the D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) for several years on this project. Extensive media efforts to educate travelers and other parties have begun. The NPS will hold a media briefing on March 21. The focus on this effort is to reach out to traffic reporters, U.S. Congress, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, District of Columbia Government agencies, tourism authorities, hotels, and landowners in the affected area.

State LWCF program ineligibility (VT). The NPS regional office has notified the State of Vermont that they will become ineligible to participate in the LWCF Program on April 1. Each state is required to have a NPS-approved Five-Year Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to maintain their eligibility for participation in the LWCF Program. Vermont's SCORP expired on December 31, 2009. The state received a one-year time extension, but failed to meet the new deadline and was placed on a 90-day probation. If Vermont's SCORP does not receive approval by March 31, the state will become ineligible.

Assateague Island National Seashore (MD/VA) – Release of draft GMP alternatives. The park will soon release four draft alternatives for the Seashore's General Management Plan. A newsletter will be mailed to approximately 700 individuals and park partners followed by public meetings scheduled for April 12-14.

National Capital Region parks (MD/VA) – Deer management. A Notice of Intent for the Antietam, Manassas and Monocacy Battlefields White-Tailed Deer Management Plan/EIS is in process. The plan/EIS is to establish a deer-management strategy that 1) supports preservation of the cultural landscape through protection and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources, and 2) provides for management of chronic wasting disease at the affected parks.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
March 14, 2011

Tsunami hits Midway Atoll National Refuge

FWS prepared for the tsunami on Midway Atoll by evacuating all 67 staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors to the 3rd floor of one of the residential barracks and by moving most of the vehicles, heavy equipment, and boats to higher ground. After sustaining the 5 to 6 foot tsunami waves, no damage was found to infrastructure, but substantial wildlife impacts were observed. A minimum estimate of 1,000 adult/subadult and tens of thousands of Laysan Albatross and black-footed albatross chicks have been lost. Midway Atoll is comprised of three islands. The smallest, Spit Island, 15 acres, was completely washed over. Eastern Island, 334 acres, sustained an estimated 60% over-wash. Sand Island, 1,200 acres, sustained an estimated 20% over-wash. The short-tailed albatross chick (first one hatched outside Japan in recorded history) survived and was found about 40 yards away from its nest. Wisdom, a 60+ year-old Laysan albatross, the oldest known bird recorded in the U.S and Canada, also survived. Crews are rescuing as many chicks and adults buried in debris as possible.

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

FWS Alaska reports that the NOA for the draft revised CCP and EIS for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be submitted to the Department for approval the week of March 14. The document is scheduled for release on or about April 10, 2011 for a 90-day public review. The revised CCP will provide management direction for the refuge for the next 15 years and includes wilderness and wild river reviews. The State of Alaska and development interests strongly object to the wilderness and wild river reviews; many individuals and conservation organizations strongly support these reviews. A high level of controversy is anticipated.

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment and NEPA for Proposed Endangered Status and Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for Two Fish (Spikedace and Loach Minnow)

The FWS proposes to change the status of spikedace and the loach minnow from threatened to endangered, and to designate critical habitat for both species. In total, approximately 1,257 kilometers (779 miles) are being proposed for designation as critical habitat for both species. This is the fourth time we have proposed critical habitat for these two species. *Potential Issues:* Our most recent challenge, leading to this critical habitat revision is a result of *Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties for Stable Economic Growth, et al. v. Salazar, et al.* (D. NM). Plaintiffs challenged the FWS's critical habitat designation for the spikedace and the loach minnow on the grounds that the critical habitat was designated without adequate delineation or justification. We filed a motion for voluntary remand of the final rule on February 2, 2009, in order to reconsider the final rule in light of a recently issued Department of the Interior Solicitor's Opinion, which discusses how to conduct an economic analysis in critical habitat designations. On May 4, 2009, the Court granted our motion for voluntary remand. We anticipate delivering the NOA to the *Federal Register* around April 15, 2011.

Fungal Infection Results in Massive Mallard Die-off near Pierre, South Dakota

Government personnel have been investigating a large mallard die-off located approximately 16 miles northwest of Pierre, South Dakota. A recent update by the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) indicates that the loss of at least 8,000 mallards was likely caused by respiratory fungal infections. Field biologists hypothesize that the mallards developed the fungal respiratory infections after being exposed to moldy corn. A moldy corn silage pile was found at a feedlot located within 2 miles of the site where most of the dead mallards were found. Observations indicate that mallards are drawn to the feedlot when snow cover keeps them from feeding elsewhere. A joint news release from USGS and USFWS is forthcoming.

Manatee Unusual Mortality Event

Between December 1, 2010, and February 21, 2011, 231 manatee carcasses have been recovered and 35 live manatees rescued throughout Florida. The event seems to involve manatees primarily affected by extreme cold weather temperatures and preliminarily reports indicate that 124 of the deaths and 19 of the rescues can be attributed to the cold. Therefore, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FWS have requested consultation with the Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events for declaration of an Unusual Mortality Event. We do not anticipate controversy concerning this issue.

Southern Sea Otter Translocation Program – Evaluation

The Otter Project and Environmental Defense Center filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of California in 2009 that challenged FWS' delay in finalizing a determination that the southern sea otter translocation program has failed and, thus, withdrawing the rule promulgated in 1987. A Settlement Agreement was finalized on November 23, 2010, that stipulates deadlines for specific actions between now and completion of the final determination by December 7, 2012. In order to meet the deadlines, Region 8 has prepared a timeline for the administrative process. The first item to be completed is the Revised Draft Translocation Evaluation, which has undergone initial Washington office review. The FO/RO is incorporating feedback received through the informal reviews and we expect they will provide the Evaluation for the Assistant Director and Director's concurrence in early March 2011. We do not anticipate controversy.

12-Month Finding on a Petition to List Hermes Copper Butterfly

In this 12-month finding, the FWS finds that listing the Hermes copper butterfly is warranted due to wildfire and small, isolated populations, and to a lesser extent, habitat loss and fragmentation, but that the listing is precluded by higher priority actions. *Potential Issues:* FWS does not anticipate this 12-month finding will generate significant controversy. The larval host plant is relatively widespread in California and Mexico, but the species is not. Very little is known about the distribution of the species in Mexico and status of those populations. Much of the habitat that supports the species is protected under the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program, and several of its subarea plans. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 15, 2011.

90-Day Finding on a Petition to List Peary and Dolphin-Union Caribou

On September 15, 2009, the FWS received a petition dated September 15, 2009, from the International Fund for Animal Welfare requesting that two subspecies of barren-ground caribou be listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. An amended petition was submitted on May 14, 2010, and provided supplemental information to the original petition. The FWS considers this amended petition, along with the previously submitted information, to be a new petition and the statutory timeframes to begin on May 14, 2010. These two subspecies are the Peary caribou and the Dolphin-Union caribou. The finds that the petition provides substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted. *Potential Issues:* There are no potential issues identified at this time. The FWS expects to submit this rule to the *Federal Register* by March 31, 2011.

90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Prairie Chub

On January 25, 2010, FWS received a petition dated January 14, 2010, from WildEarth Guardians, requesting that the prairie chub be listed as threatened or endangered and critical habitat be designated under the ESA. The prairie chub is listed as a high priority species in the Oklahoma and Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies. *Potential Issues:* The status of this species appears to be a concern for both States; therefore, we do not anticipate any potential issues from this positive 90-day finding. We anticipate delivering this finding to the *Federal Register* on April 16, 2011.

MOU between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the FWS

Notice of availability will appear in the Federal Register to announce the availability of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the FWS to promote conservation of migratory birds. The MOU, which is to be signed by the end of March, provides for enhanced collaboration between FERC and FWS with the goal of strengthening migratory bird conservation by identifying and implementing strategies that promote conservation and reduce or eliminate adverse impacts on migratory birds.

FWS Coastal Program Project Recognized as 2010 Coastal America Partnership Award Recipient

The Treasure Coast Invasive Species Management Area, a collaborative partnership between FWS Coastal Program, Nature Conservancy, Martin County, Florida Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, St. Lucie County, University of Florida/IFAS, and the Treasure Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, was recently recognized as the 2010 Coastal America Partnership Award recipient. This award, from President Obama, is the Administration's highest level of recognition for conservation partnership efforts. The award recognize outstanding collaborative, multi-agency and multi-stakeholder efforts that leverage and combine resources to accomplish coastal restoration, preservation, protection, and education projects. Department of the Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary Eileen Sobeck presented the award to the Treasure Coast partnership along with over 70 members from the conservation community, at the Coastal America Partnership Award Presentation in Martin County, Florida, on March 4, 2011. Not expected to be controversial.

America's Great Outdoors

April 16 Event Opening New Visitor Contact Station at E.B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey

The grand opening of the new \$1.5 million visitor information center at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville, NJ will be held April 16, 2011. The facility features solar panels that were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that help provide radiant heat to the building. The facility houses a nature store run by refuge volunteers, an outdoor eBird Trail Tracker to post bird sightings, and visitor services. The refuge, located just 10 miles from Atlantic City, hosts about 250,000 visitors annually, supporting the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

State of the Birds Report

The State of the Birds 2011 Report on Public Lands and Waters will be released in late March or early April. This is a partnership effort with many organizations and agencies. The release of the report may be part of an America's Great Outdoors event and will showcase some of the goals of AGO, including landscape scale conservation, expansion of recreational opportunities on public lands, and wildlife corridor conservation.

Grants

New Grants under Wildlife Without Borders Programs

Under the Great Ape Conservation Fund (CF), FWS intends to award five grants totaling \$366,609 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$853,897). These funds will assist with the conservation of bonobos, gorillas, and chimpanzees in Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Uganda, and Nigeria; and under the Rhinoceros and Tiger CF, FWS intends to award 11 grants totaling \$528,891 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$756,260). These funds will assist with the conservation of tigers and rhinos. The estimated award date for both programs is March 21, 2011. Not expected to be controversial.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

March 20 – March 26, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office Monday, Tuesday and Friday; on travel Wednesday and Thursday to Annapolis and DE to attend task force meetings.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **Update: Proposed Renewable Energy Segregation Rule:** *The rule package is progressing through the review and approval process. The BLM will simultaneously publish two rules in the Federal Register in 2011—the proposed rule and the temporary interim final rule—amending regulations to grant the BLM authority to segregate lands included in a wind or solar energy right-of-way (ROW) application and lands offered for wind or solar energy lease.*
- **New: BLM-OR Community Wind Project on Hold:** *On Mar. 8, Oregon Community Wind asked that the BLM-OR Lakeview Field Office place a hold on the NEPA review for its proposed wind-energy project in southern OR on BLM-managed lands in the South Warner Mountains. Low wind speed measurements have raised concern regarding project feasibility. Oregon Community Wind will monitor wind speeds through June 2011, and then determine future options.*
- **New: RS 2477 and State of Alaska Quiet Title Action:** *On Mar. 11, Gov. Parnell asked the AK Department of Law to notify the Department that the AK intends to file suit to quiet title on eight RS 2477 trails that are located in the Fairbanks District. Approximately 107 miles of the trails traverse segments of the Fortymile National Wild and Scenic River corridor, and include areas across Native Selected and State Selected lands.*

Litigation

New: US Found Potentially Responsible for Phosphate Mining Impacts: *Federal Judge Lynn Winmill ruled this week that the United States is an owner, operator, arranger, and a potentially responsible party (PRP) under CERCLA for remediating historic phosphate mines in the Dry Valley area of southeastern ID. The BLM was identified as a PRP for its role in administering subsurface minerals. Agrium Inc.—another PRP and current owner of the subject sites—has filed suit in Federal Court regarding the Federal government's responsibilities at the sites for approving mine and*

reclamation plan; conducting inspection; and other past involvement over the years. It is not known at this time whether the DOJ will appeal this ruling.

Grazing

- **New: BLM-WY Public Comment Period Ends for Revised Green Mountain Common Allotment (GMCA) Environmental Assessment (EA):** *The 30-day public comment period for the revised GMCA EA will end on Mar. 23. The amended EA proposes to divide the GMCA into four separate grazing allotments, implement deferred grazing systems specific to each new allotment, reduce Animal Unit Months by 44 percent over existing permitted use levels, implement forage use standards until new range infrastructure is in place, and authorize redesigned range improvement projects.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: BLM Solicits Proposals for Partnerships to Establish Wild Horse Ecosanctuaries:** *On Mar. 15, the BLM announce that it is soliciting proposals for private-public partnerships to establish wild horse “ecosanctuaries” on non-BLM managed land. The ecosanctuaries would help the BLM feed and care for excess wild horses that have been removed from Western public rangelands. A separate request for applications for partnerships relating to ecosanctuaries located on both private and BLM-managed lands will be posted at a later time.*
- **New: BLM-NV to Release Wilderness Management Plan for Public Review:** *The BLM-NV Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office, is scheduled to release the Black Rock Draft Wilderness Management Plan on Mar. 21 for a 30-day public comment period. The wilderness area is located in northwestern NV and includes approximately 752,000 acres. Public scoping meetings will be held in Winnemucca, Lovelock, Gerlach, and Reno, NV during this time.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *On Mar. 3, the White House issued a press release recognizing the negotiations between the two governments. U.S. and Mexico continue talks regarding transboundary reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. The next working session will occur on Mar. 29-30 at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., and will cover operating agreements and a mechanism for dispute resolution, health, safety and environmental regulations, and inspections.*
- **Update: Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee:** *On Mar. 10, BOEMRE notified the 15 nominees of the results of the membership selection process. The committee is comprised the Chairman (Tom Hunter); (6) Federal designees; (4) industry representatives; and (4) academia and non-government organizations. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Apr. 2011. A Federal Register notice must be published at least 15 days prior to the meeting.*

- **Update: Transocean Deepwater Horizon:** *On Mar. 8, Relief Well #2 was declared permanently plugged. The JIT expects to hold another set of public hearings during the week of Apr. 4, to focus specifically on the BOP and findings from the forensic examination.*
- **New: Gulf Deepwater Drilling Permit Approved:** *On Mar. 11, BOEMRE approved another deepwater drilling permit for a well in the Gulf of Mexico. BHP Billiton PLC will be allowed to resume drilling in its Shenzi field, located about 120 miles off LA's coast. The company began production in Mar. 2009 on the well which is located about 4,300 feet below the surface, but stopped drilling last year during the moratorium initiated after the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill.*
- **New: RI Fishing Community Stakeholder Meeting:** *The State of RI invited BOEMRE Alternative Energy Programs staff to participate in a state-hosted fishing community stakeholder meeting in Providence, on Mar. 15. BOEMRE presented its commercial leasing process for the Area of Mutual Interest offshore RI and MA, provided an update on the joint BOEMRE/RI and BOEMRE/MA Offshore Renewable Energy Task Forces, and answered questions from the fishing industry.*
- **Update: Unsolicited Applications in the Area of Mutual Interest; RI Call for Information:** *On Feb. 9 and Mar. 1, respectively, BOEMRE informed Neptune Wind LLC and Deepwater Wind New England LLC that their filing is sufficient for establishing legal, technical, and financial qualifications for their unsolicited requests. Staff are preparing a draft Call for Information and Nominations for the Area of Mutual Interest to be shared with the Joint BOEMRE/RI and BOEMRE/MA Task Forces in Mar. A joint Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled in Apr. 2011.*
- **Update: Deepwater Wind (DWW) Interim Policy (IP) Lease:** *Deepwater submitted its final IP project plan for installing meteorological buoys offshore NJ to BOEMRE in Oct. 2010. BOEMRE anticipates that all reviews will be completed by Apr. 2011 allowing DWW to proceed with its project.*
- **Update: Briefing on Potential Renewable Lease of Area Offshore NC:** *On Mar. 1, BOEMRE met with NPS Superintendents from Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras National Seashores and the NC Task Force Point of Contact in Raleigh to address viewshed lighting and other concerns associated with possible renewable energy development offshore NC. The State and BOEMRE are working with the NPS to address these issues in area delineation.*
- **Update: Civil Penalties Final Rule:** *BOEMRE has drafted a final rule adjusting the maximum daily civil penalty to \$40,000 per day, per violation. The increase from \$35,000 reflects changes in inflation since the last increase. The rule is currently with SOL for review and approval.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Future Mining Plans for BHP Navajo Coal Company's Navajo Mine:** *On Mar. 7, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed a 25-year site lease extension for the Four Corners Power Plant, located on the Navajo Reservation outside Farmington, NM. The current site lease will expire in 2016. With the anticipated extension of the life of the power plant, BHP Navajo Coal Company's Navajo Mine, which supplies coal to the plant, will be submitting an application for a new mine adjacent to the power plant's existing supply. The company's application will seek to allow coal mining through 2041. OSM expects that the company will submit the permit application this fall. Once it receives a complete application, OSM will start to develop an EIS, which the bureau anticipates will take three years to complete.*

WEEK AHEAD – March 20 to March 26, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, March 21:

- **New: BLM-NV Geothermal Smart from the Start Workshop:** *The NV Conservation League (NCL), Nevada Wilderness Project (NWP) and Clean Energy Project (NWP) will host the first 1-day geothermal "Smart from the Start" workshop in Reno. BLM-NV leadership and staff will attend the workshop and participate in several panel discussions throughout the day. Topics will highlight geothermal success stories, the BLM permitting process, the economic benefits of geothermal production and methods to expedite the permitting process. The Gov. Sandoval has expressed concerns about the BLM geothermal leasing process and the length of time it takes the BLM to approve permits.*

Tuesday, March 22:

- **New: BLM-ID Resource Advisory Council Meeting:** *The BLM will hold a meeting for the Cour d' Alene District Resource Advisory Council. The meeting will include the election of officers, field office briefings, WH&B updates, and a discussion of the U.S. Forest Service recreation program.*
- **No Change: BLM-UT Cadastral Work on the Navajo Reservation:** *The BIA and the BLM will host a public meeting in Bluff, UT, on Mar. 22, to review the results of the BLM-BIA cadastral work on the Navajo reservation, which examined riparian ownership on the San Juan River. A follow-up cadastral survey will take place this summer. The survey includes areas near Monument Valley, Red Mesa, McCracken Mesa, and Hovenweep in the southeastern corner of UT.*

Wednesday, March 23:

- **New: BLM/BIA Annual Meeting with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs):** *The BLM-MT and WY state offices and the BIA-Rocky Mountain Regional Office will jointly sponsor an annual meeting of THPOs from Montana and Wyoming tribal governments in Helena. Discussions will focus on practical implementation of NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); consultation practices and protocols for working with Federal and state agencies; revisions to the BLM National Programmatic Agreement; renewable energy and the designation of Wind Energy*

Potential Areas (WEPAs); the Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Implementation Plan; and improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of BLM tribal consultation efforts.

- **No Change: Annual MSHA-BLM Meeting:** The BLM-UT will host an annual meeting with the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Attendees will include personnel from the OSM and the Coal Mine Safety and Health Administration. Discussions will include government agency coordination, collaborative research, and training.

Thursday, March 24:

- **New: Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council Meeting:** *The Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council will meet in Miles City, MT. Topics will include council administrative business, Billings and Miles City field office updates, a discussion on local access projects, and other ongoing resource management issues.*
- **No Change: BLM-CO to Hold Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-CO will hold a competitive oil and gas lease sale for one parcel totaling 1,964 acres in Routt County northeast of Craig, CO. Two protests were received - one from the CO Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and one from the Center for Native Ecosystems (CNE). The CDOW protest was resolved by deferring a parcel from the final sale. The CNE protest alleged that its members' interests in rare and imperiled species and ecosystems on BLM lands would be adversely affected by oil and gas leasing and that additional environmental analysis regarding imperiled species and native ecosystems is necessary. The CNE protest is expected to be dismissed prior to the sale.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday, March 23:

- **New: BOEMRE/MD Renewable Energy Task Force:** *A Task Force meeting is scheduled in Annapolis to discuss the comments and nominations received in response to the MD RFI as well as the area to be published in the Call for Information, and next steps. DAS Farquhar will make a "Smart From the Start" presentation.*

Wednesday-Thursday, March 23-24:

- **New: USGS Review of BOEMRE Worst-Case-Discharge Methodology:** *BOEMRE Resource Evaluation Division and GOMR staff along with Gemini Inc., will conduct a two-day workshop for USGS staff tasked with reviewing BOEMRE's WCD procedures in the Gulf of Mexico Region.*

Thursday, March 24:

- **New: BOEMRE/DE Renewable Energy Task Force:** *A Task Force meeting will be held in Lewes, DE to discuss the results of the Request for Competitive Interest, and BOEMRE's decision regarding competitive interest, and next steps.*

Friday, March 25:

- **New: Plans Workshop:** *The Gulf of Mexico Region (GOMR) will sponsor a one-day workshop for GOMR oil and gas stakeholders in New Orleans to discuss processing requirements for exploration and development plans with an emphasis on new/revised requirements. The goal is to help companies understand and comply with the requirements and to facilitate a more efficient incorporation of the new requirements into plan submittals.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Monday, March 21:

- **Update: Proposed Change to MD Program to Regulate Coal Combustion Byproducts:** *In response to a request submitted by the Sierra Club, OSM has extended the comment period by 30 days; the comment period will now end on Mar. 28. A public meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Annapolis on Mar. 21.*
- **Update: North Dakota Mining Plan Decision at OSM Headquarters for Review:** *ND submitted a mining plan modification that will allow Coteau Properties Company's Freedom Mine to recover almost 43 million tons of Federal coal from the leased area. The Mining Plan Decision Document is currently at OSM Headquarters awaiting review.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday-Thursday, March 29-31:

- **New: BLM-AK North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Workshop:** *The NSSI will host a workshop, "Science, Natural Resources, and Subsistence in Alaska's Arctic Lands and Waters – A Continuing Dialogue on Working Together to Understand our Changing Arctic" in Barrow, AK. North Slope residents, scientists, and land and resource managers will discuss North Slope environmental science. Discussions are expected to focus on detecting and documenting environmental changes and more effectively involving local communities in resource planning for climate change.*

Tuesday, April 5:

- **New: FY 2012 BLM Budget Request Oversight Hearing:** *Director Abbey will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on the BLM's Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Minerals Budget request.*

Thursday-Saturday, April 7-9:

- **New: WH&B Adoption in Texas:** *The BLM-NM will present approximately 60 wild horses and burros at an adoption near El Paso in Canutillo, TX. The event will be accompanied by an aggressive local marketing/PR/media relations campaign, likely to result in numerous articles and interviews in local TV/print/radio. Media treatment of the WH&B adoption program in this region has generally been positive-to-neutral.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Thursday - Friday, April 28-29:

- **New: Global Marine Renewable Energy Conference (GMREC):** *Director Bromwich will be a keynote speaker at the 4th annual GMREC held at Almas Temple in Washington, D.C. The BOEMRE co-sponsored conference is organized by the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition and Foundation for Ocean Renewables and attended by top leaders from government, non-government organizations, environmental advocates, academics, and industry. The program is focused on the opportunities and challenges associated with deploying marine renewable energy technologies.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Mining Plan Decision for Wyoming Coal Company:** *A Mining Plan Decision for Thunder Basin Coal Company, LLC's Black Thunder Mine in WY, is likely to arrive at OSM Headquarters in late March or early April for review. The mining plan modification will allow the Black Thunder surface mine to recover more than 45 million additional tons of Federal coal from the leased area.*
- **Update: OSM Issues Ten-Day Notice for Permit Defects on West Virginia Mine:** *WV requested a 180-day extension to respond, OSM granted a 30 day extension (until Apr. 6) for the State to prepare its final response. The State's initial letter asking for an extension also advises it may challenge OSM's authority to issue TDNs for permit defects, but the letter adds that the State would respond to the specific allegations. On March 10, two of the involved citizens advised OSM that the State Water Quality Board had just finished an appeal hearing and was remanding the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit back to the State for correction. This is likely to have an impact on the timing and nature of the State's response to OSM on the surface mining permit. It is unlikely that mining can proceed without the NPDES permit approvals in question. No written order from the Water Quality Board is yet available. The citizens contested the NPDES permit to the State's Water Quality Board but did not challenge the surface mining permit with the State's Surface Mining Board.*

Weekly Report
March 18, 2010

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities Mar. 21-25:

Anne J. Castle – March 21, in Colorado with Secretary Salazar at the Landsat event at Ball Aerospace in Boulder; March 22-25 in DC, attending various meetings, including the March 22 State Department/World Bank MOU signing event. Secretary Clinton and World Bank President Zoellick will sign an MOU that provides a framework for cooperation between the US government and the World Bank on worldwide water issues.

John Tubbs – March 21-25 in DC, attending various meetings.

Deanna Archuleta – March 21-25 in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – March 21, Boulder, CO, Ball Aerospace; March 22-25, Reston VA, Standing DOI meetings.

Mike Connor – March 21-25, in the office attending various internal meetings.

Reclamation

Updated 2011 Water Supply Allocation for the Central Valley Project (CVP)

Results of the California Department of Water Resources third snow survey of the season, taken on March 1, 2011, confirm that water content in California's mountain snowpack is above average at 124 percent of normal for the date, and 109 percent of the April 1 seasonal average. These percentages are improved over those from the second snow survey, taken on January 28, 2011. That survey, which showed snowpack water content at 78 percent of the April 1 seasonal average, was used in part to determine the initial CVP water supply allocation for the 2011 contract year (released by the Department on February 18, 2011). With the March 1 snow survey showing a 31 percent increase in water content for the April 1 seasonal average, Mid-Pacific Region staffs are now determining whether Reclamation can increase the water supply allocation for South-of-Delta agricultural and municipal and industrial contractors. Whether or not an updated allocation can be made, it is anticipated an announcement will be released the week of March 21, 2011.

Record of Decision Signed on Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (California)

The Record of Decision has been signed for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project located in Contra Costa County. The project would expand the existing reservoir from 100,000 acre-feet to 160,000 acre-feet. Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir will develop reliable dry year water supplies, provide additional water quality improvement for Contra Costa Water District customers, and provide additional emergency water supply for the San Francisco Bay Area. Los Vaqueros is the first surface storage expansion project to move forward under the CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act of 2004. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a 30-year program (2000-2030) based on four major resource management objectives that guide actions designed to achieve a healthy ecosystem while supplying 25 million Californians with a reliable water supply. The objectives are ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability, water quality and levee system integrity. Reclamation plays a key role as the federal lead agency for implementing water supply reliability actions in coordination with state and local partner agencies.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Water Action Plan (Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming)

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's (Program) Water Action Plan Milestone calls for the reduction of shortages to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service target flows by at least 130,000 acre-feet of water by the end of the Program's First Increment (2019). The States of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming have contributed 80,000 acre-feet of water to that Milestone through the implementation of the three state projects (Nebraska Environmental Account, Tamarack I, and the Pathfinder Modification Project), leaving the Program to acquire at least 50,000 acre-feet of water by 2019. The Program is nearing the completion of feasibility studies for a proposed re-regulation reservoir project, and a proposed groundwater recharge project. These projects, in addition to the potential to lease irrigated land for temporary use of that water, as well as the potential to contract with the State of Wyoming for roughly 4,800 acre feet per year of additional water from the Pathfinder Modification Project, should be sufficient to meet the goal of 50,000 acre-feet by the end of 2019. Water from the Pathfinder Modification Project should be available in 2012, and construction of the re-regulation and ground water recharge projects is currently scheduled to begin in 2013.

Reclamation Extends Public Review and Comment Period for Both Glen Canyon Dam Draft Environmental Assessments (EA) (Colorado River Basin)

Reclamation extended the public review and comment period for two recently released draft EAs associated with Glen Canyon Dam to Friday, March 18, 2011. Previously, comments for both draft EAs were due on February 28, 2011. Reclamation extended the deadline to ensure that stakeholders and the public had sufficient opportunity to thoroughly review the Draft EA for Development and Implementation of a Protocol for High-Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam and the Draft EA for Non-Native Fish Control Downstream from Glen Canyon Dam, and to submit comments that will be considered prior to completion of final decision documents.

Multi-Species Conservation Program Five-Year Accomplishment Tour (Arizona, Nevada, California)

From March 14 through March 18, the Lower Colorado Region's Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is hosting a Five-Year Accomplishment Tour for supporting and cooperating federal, state and private partners. The trip highlights the species conservation and habitat restoration successes implemented during the first five years of the MSCP program. A Five-Year Accomplishment report will be distributed to partners at the tour and mailed to those not attending.

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Davis Dam Quagga Mussel Project (Arizona)

On April 1, 2011 the Lower Colorado Regional Office will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Draft EA for the Davis Dam cooling pipe quagga mussel project. The Draft EA will be available for public comment for thirty days with a final EA anticipated in mid-May. Public meetings to share information and gather input take place on April 14 in Bullhead City, Arizona.

Update: Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) Litigation (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

Plaintiffs, the State of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe filed reply briefs on January 21. The reply briefs raised no new issues, and the Federal defendants and allied parties filed a response on February 11. All briefings have been completed. The judge may set the matter for hearing in spring 2011 or rule on the briefs without oral argument. Plaintiffs may file a request for preliminary or permanent injunctive relief on operations. The Action Agencies continue to coordinate with the Fish Accord partners and the region on 2011 operations as usual.

Congressional Activity

3/21/11 thru 4/29/11 – Reclamation is monitoring plans for House or Senate field hearings during the next Congressional recess (3/21/11), or the following recess (4/18/11 to 4/29/11). Past spring recesses have featured field hearings, and at the 3/2/11 House subcommittee hearing, Chairman McClintock said that his subcommittee intended to hold hearings in the Central Valley of California "within the next 60 days" regarding water supplies and ecosystem issues in California. The Senate Committee may also pursue a field hearing.

US Geological Survey

USGS Response to March 11 M9.0 Earthquake in Japan: A magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck at 05:46:23 UTC off the northeast coast of Japan, resulting in a PAGER red alert for economic losses (greater than \$1 billion) and orange alert for casualties (between 100 and 1,000 fatalities). USGS responses included:

- White House Briefings: USGS gave a White House briefing on the earthquake.

- Press Conference: USGS participated in a joint press conference with FEMA and NOAA, at which more than 200 reporters attended and which generated numerous news stories.
- Live Television Interviews: USGS scientists appeared on NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News, as well as local programs all over the country.
- International and Spanish-Language: USGS gave numerous interviews with the BBC and Spanish-language programming.
- The USGS National Earthquake Information Center fielded many media inquiries and granted many over-the-phone interviews to radio and television stations and newspapers.
- Web responses included USGS Homepage announcements, Facebook and Twitter announcements and updates, an audio podcast, and a live Ustream that was attended by nearly 1500 people.
- USGS' Did You Feel It? Intensity Map reported 551 responses from 176 cities in Japan and surrounding regions.

New USGS Open-File Report on Earthquake Preparedness - This report contains a detailed analysis of response to the 2010 M8.8 Maule (Chile) earthquake and lessons learned that can be applied to California in the event of a similar disastrous earthquake. It includes sections on Science and Technology, Health and Medical Services, Emergency Services, Volunteer Services, and Executive/Red Cross Management and was partnered by the American Red Cross. Common issues highlighted include lack of education about disasters and preparedness, lack of redundancy and flexibility in emergency plans, vulnerabilities in communications systems, inadequate or poorly enforced building codes, and lack of regional/community emergency exercises. This USGS Open-File Report (OFR 2011-1053) is titled, "Report on the 2010 Chilean earthquake and tsunami response," by the American Red Cross Multi-Disciplinary Team (USGS participants on the 20-person delegation to Chile were Lucy Jones and Deborah Weiser).

USGS Open-File Report on the Value of Landsat— A new report on the value of Landsat to U.S. users is now available on the USGS website. The objectives of this study were to: 1) identify and classify U.S.-based users of this imagery; 2) better understand how and why moderate resolution imagery (MRI), and specifically Landsat, is being used; and 3) qualitatively and quantitatively measure the value and societal benefits of MRI (focusing on Landsat specifically). This Open-File Report is titled "The Users, Uses, and Value of Landsat and Other Moderate-Resolution Satellite Imagery in the United States—Executive Report" by Holly M. Miller and 5 other authors.

USGS Southwest Climate Science Center Forum: On March 22, a forum on the establishment of the Southwest Climate Science Center (SWCSC) will be held in San Diego, CA, for USGS staff. SWCSC interim director Dave Busch will provide information about the status of the establishment of the DOI Climate Science Centers and will be joined by Alexander Gershunov of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, one of the host institutions designated to be part of the SWCSC consortium. They will be joined by Rebecca Fris, research coordinator of the California

Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and speakers from the two USGS science centers who will describe some of their climate-related research.

Bristol Bay Region Mineral-Environmental Assessment Workshop: The USGS will be participating in a multi-agency workshop, March 28-April 1, in Anchorage, AK, to inform and solicit input and cooperation from all interested parties regarding USGS plans to develop and carry out a mineral-environmental assessment for the Bristol Bay region of southeastern Alaska. Other workshop participants will include scientists and economists from the University of Alaska, Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research; Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Climate Change and Aquatic Invertebrates - Meltwater Stonefly: The USGS will publish a study examining the little known effects of climate change on alpine aquatic invertebrates in *Climate Change Letters*. The team examined the rare meltwater stonefly which is petitioned for listing under the ESA due to climate-change-induced glacier loss. A news release will accompany the study, publication date to be determined.

USGS Provides Citizen Science Opportunities to Study Dune Lakes: The USGS led an environmental study of aquatic species inhabiting the coastal dune lakes between Waldport and Coos Bay, OR, to assess water quality characteristics, determine the presence of fish and mussels, and to provide data collection experiences for middle school, high school, and university students. Four organizations involving 57 individuals participated in the 2010 project, having received training in ecology, history, and geology, as well as specimen identification and collection, water quality characteristics, and data recording techniques. Study collaborators include the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon State Parks and Recreation.

USGS Research Published on Fall Chinook salmon in the Snake River: In a recent issue of *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, USGS scientist Ken Tiffan published a paper entitled "Distinguishing between natural and hatchery Snake River fall Chinook salmon subyearlings in the field using body morphology." The authors found that natural and hatchery fish can be separated in the field with over 90% accuracy. The most important distinguishing characteristics were eye and pupil diameter and body shape.

Media: Scientific American Interview on USGS Afghanistan Research: A reporter with *Scientific American* interviewed USGS scientists on March 10-11 regarding research in Afghanistan. Discussions included USGS assessments of water resources, mineral resources, rare earth minerals, earthquake hazards, geospatial activities, airborne geophysics, and more. The timeframe for the news story has not yet been determined.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 18, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- HPPG/ Public Safety and Justice: The HPPG initiative is still on track to meet its goals. The four scheduled meetings at each HPPG site have been concluded on schedule; recent statistics show that there has been combined reduction of 11 percent in violent crime on all of the 4 targeted reservations.
- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): The implementation of TLOA continues to be on target. BIA offices participating in the implementation of various sections of the TLOA include the Office of Justice Services and the Office of Indian Services. The Bureau of Indian Education is also an active participant in this effort as it relates to incarcerated juveniles in BIA-funded facilities. Juanita Keesing, BIE Program Analyst, is the Co-Chair for the TLOA MOU Newsletter work group. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22. On March 17, Ms. Keesing will provide an update for the Newsletter Work Group to the TLOA Executive Steering Committee. Dr. Jim Martin is serving as the Co-Chair to the Education Work Group. Ms. Keesing is working with him on establishing the objectives for the Work Group. The specific areas are the establishment and implementation of summer youth programs and obtaining base funding for Indian juvenile detention centers through the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The next meeting of the Education Work Group is March 16. BIE was asked to provide input to possible educational instruction software for students incarcerated within the three BIA operated Juvenile Detention Centers (JDC). [Bart Stevens has also participated in these discussions.]
- BIE Wellness Committee: The BIE Health and Wellness policy was submitted to the wellness committee and the Solicitor's office for review. A consultation plan is drafted and tentative dates for consultation are tentatively set for May 5, 12 and 19. Additionally, a memorandum announcing the BIE wellness committee is currently going through Indian Affairs internal review process.

- Disaster Assistance Improvement Project (DAIP): OHSES has forwarded to FEMA DOI's MOU/IAA for DAIP for FY 2011. OHSES is awaiting official notification from FEMA on its approval.
- Japan Earthquake: OHSES reports that there has been coordination between ASIA-BIA/BIE, IHS, other agencies and Tribes to assure Tribal notification and response to Japan's March 11 earthquake. No employees, Tribes, or Tribal Members were reported to be affected from the earthquake's tsunamis. This was an excellent test of the Send Word Now and other alert mechanisms, plans and actual evacuation of several Tribes to higher ground in targeted areas.
- No-Cost Tribal Training: In working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA and the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, OHSES transmitted information to the tribes on available training opportunities. One academic program is a [Master's Degree Program](#) which is an 18 month program offered at no cost to eligible senior Local, State, and Tribal officials with significant homeland security responsibilities.
- Oklahoma Fires: On Saturday March 12, 2010, OHSES received reports of fires in Oklahoma from DHS National Operations Center (NOC). They reported fire activity based on data in the Interior Geospatial Emergency Management System (IGEMS), which indicated there were several Bureau of Indian Affairs offices, buildings or other identifiable assets in the communities of Shawnee and between McCloud and Harrah that may have been in the fire zone. In checking with local officials in Southern Plains and Eastern Oklahoma Regions, each Region stated that no Tribal or BIA homes/facilities or resources were lost or involved, other than some plowed fields and woodlands.
- State of the Border: The OHSES Director participated in the State of the Border conference call on Tuesday, March 8, 2010. Highlighted topics discussed included:
 - DHS-DOI Interagency Agreement—status update and future amendments
 - Revising the DOI Internal Border Communications Plan
 - Northern Border PEIS to be Prepared by DHS—DOI Bureau(s) as cooperating agencies.
 - SBInet and the Establishment of OTIA-The Office of Technology, Innovation and Acquisition
 - Congressional Interest and Activities
 - Sharepoint Site for DOI Border Activities
 - USGS Monitoring Plan
 - Public Lands Liaison Agent – Annual Conference week of June 20, 2011, Tucson,
 - Status of Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Module-on line training for BP Agent
 - Update on TIMR-NEPA compliance
- Yakama Tribe Fire: Meetings were held with Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES), BIA Northwest Regional Office, its Yakama Agency and the Yakama Tribal representatives concerning the fire that destroyed many homes and displaced families. OHSES coordination continues with BIE, IHS, FEMA and Washington State Office of Emergency Management to provide temporary housing (trailers) and counseling for affected

persons, including children in the public school that was narrowly spared from burning. Additional meetings were held with the Regional Office management and EMC and 'Faith Based' NGOs to expedite the provision of resources, restoration and rebuilding of homes.

The Tribe has sent letters to the White House, ASIA, the Washington State Governor, and Representatives concerning the need for State, FEMA and BIA assistance. The Governor has reportedly been unable to satisfy requests from the Tribe for the State to request FEMA for a State Disaster Declaration and request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration (PDD) which would allow FEMA to assist with trailers, other resources, and funding, due to the State and FEMA Preliminary and follow-on Assessments finding damages less than the threshold required for declarations.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- 477 Program: Congressional interest/concern has been conveyed regarding the DOI and HHS execution of programs included in a P.L. 102-477 program. Joint DOI/HHS nationwide Tribal consultations have been on tribal reporting requirements for three HHS programs: 1) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 2) Native Employment Works, and Child Care and Development Fund. Participating Tribes are opposed to HHS' amended reporting requirements. A joint response to the Congressional interest is being prepared.
- Tribal Consultation: March 14 was the close of the comment period for Tribal leaders to provide feedback on a DOI-wide draft policy. The next open comment period is scheduled for public comments; exact date of this period has not yet been published. The final meeting of the joint team of Tribal and Federal representatives is still on track to be held March 30, 2011.

EDUCATION

- Let's Move in Indian Country! Initiative (LMIC): 1) The LMIC team met with Robin Schepper, First Lady's *Let's Move!* office on March 9, 2011. The team expects to have a tentative LMIC launch date within a week. Meanwhile, the White House has asked the agencies to continue to prepare for an April launch. 2) On March 10, 2011 the LMIC Interagency Team met with 19 Urban Indian Center Directors and stakeholders from across the nation by telephone and held a dialogue on the goal areas defined in the LMIC briefing document. 3) Chaske Spencer, actor, best known for his role in the Twilight series, contacted Brandi Sweet, the BIE point of contact for the LMIC, to state that he is interested in being a sponsor for the LMIC.
- BIE PALA Challenge: The BIE has over 12,233 PALA participants completing the PALA challenge, 124 PALA Coordinators and 65 registered schools. Dr. Stephen McDonough from the President's Council on Fitness, Sport, and Nutrition met with the BIE PALA coordinators by conference call on Monday March 7, 2011. Dr. McDonough has worked for 30 years as a pediatrician in North Dakota and more than 15 years in senior positions at the North Dakota Department of Health. Much of his work has been dedicated to combating childhood obesity, which is exactly what we are all doing with PALA.

- Bill of Collection: A meeting with the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe's attorneys and the solicitors is scheduled for March 23 Minnesota. The ELO and ADD-Administration will be in attendance. The Bill of Collections for the Tribe was re-issued in the amount of \$660,121, to the Department of the Treasury on February 26, 2011.
- Class Action: The Minneapolis Education Line Office reports that it has heard that no other schools within their jurisdiction will be joining the Hannahville School in a class action suit against the BIE, regarding a perception of inequity in the Special Education Part B formula.
- Classroom Evaluations: Roxanne Brown, the Associate Deputy Director, East had a follow up meeting with the Pine Ridge ELO and the two Education Specialists to ensure the ELO makes sure the school principals conduct classroom visitations and strengthen policies and protocols for evaluating teachers, ensure implementation of the curricula, and establish protocols for reporting bullying by staff and students. A directive was issued for the Special Education person in the line office to intervene in a situation with a Kindergarten student, to ensure a 504 Plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP) is in place. The Education Line office staff was directed to get more involved with what is actually happening in the classrooms with instruction, implementation of the IEPs, transition services, and school improvement via Native Star Indicators.
- Cooperative Agreement(s): The BIE ADD East office received the Cooperative Agreements for Turtle Mountain Middle and Turtle Mountain Elementary Schools, which will be forwarded to the twin cities field solicitor's office for review and comment.
- ESEA Reauthorization: BIE continues to review sections of the reauthorization of the ESEA under the legislative referral process, including joint meetings with the Department of Education.
- FY 2012 Budget Request: BIE has received a copy of an email from a constituent in the Northern Plains concerning the funding cuts proposed within the FY 2012 Indian Affairs Budget for the Residential Education Placement Program (REPP). The email is a plea to recipients to join in a campaign to reverse the decision to defund REPP. The email includes sample templates of letters for email recipients.
- IDEIA: Information Collection Update: IDEIA Part B/Part C was submitted to the Department for approval on March 3.
- Indicators: The Crow Creek ELO presented two ELO Indicators via webinar. Each ELO has been asked to provide a presentation on 2 Indicators in an attempt to support a learning community as BIE becomes more adept at School Improvement through reflecting on its work at the Line Office level and how BIE impact schools, communities, and tribes.
- NASIS/Native Star: BIE is developing a formal directive to all BIE operated schools mandating the use of NASIS and Native Star. This will assist in BIE operated schools to be on the same path to ensure accurate data is a routine educational practice.

- National News: Dianne Sawyer with the ABC network 20/20 program were on site at the Wounded Knee School (a Tribal grant school) in Wounded Knee, South Dakota, interviewing students and personnel. The 20/20 piece will air this summer and is a follow up to a story about the death of a young man last summer. The focus of the piece is on the youth at Pine Ridge.
- New Employee Orientation: BIE is in the planning stages of developing an overall orientation program for new Education Line Officers (ELO) and other staff assuming new positions to provide resources on matters of responsibility, such as Human Resources, Instructional Programs, Residential Programs, and Administrative activities.
- Pine Ridge: The ADD, East, the Pine Ridge ELO, and the Chief School Administrator met to develop a response to a list of concerns expressed by Frederick Cedar Face, parents, School Alumnus, and member of the Black Hills Treaty Council, on issues related to improving the current state of affairs primarily in the academic arena and school climate.
- School Improvement: The ADD, East also reports that classroom observations and on-site walkthroughs are occurring in each of the Eastern Regional Education Line Offices on the road toward school improvement.
- Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute: A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held on March 10. A quorum was established and the Board unanimously approved the Student Complaint Policy and Procedures, 2011-12 and 2012-13 Academic Calendar and Faculty Handbook. Mrs. Darva Chino, a member of the Acoma Pueblo, was officially confirmed and accepted as the Regent member for the Ten Southern Pueblos; she replaces Paul Shattuck (Isleta Pueblo) who previously resigned from the Board
- Special Education Cooperative Agreement Unit: The Minneapolis ELO is working with the schools to solicit participation in the Special Education Cooperative Agreement Unit (CAU) for special education monitoring and technical assistance services. A CAU requires that a specific number of schools agree to contribute to the salary of a full time equivalency (FTE) for Special Education (or School Improvement) coordination, support, and technical assistance by an individual who is hired by the ELO. It may vary from ELO to ELO, as most ELOs do not have the luxury of having a position to focus solely on Special Education. This CAU allows schools to receive a percentage of the services in exchange for the funding they contribute. Currently, the Minneapolis ELO is in “talks” with the schools in the education line office to resume and/or begin contributing for the services of an individual who is qualified to provide these Special Education services. Although this individual will work for several schools, the supervisor will be the ELO.
- Student Athletics: The Oklahoma ELO and the Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith will work together to approach the Oklahoma Athletic Association on a provision allowing BIE-funded school students to play. Schools in Oklahoma currently play in regional and state level tournaments as districts. However, the Oklahoma Indian schools, such as Sequoyah and Riverside, are not affiliated or recognized under any district. Chief Smith and the ELO

will develop a strategy to ensure that our teams can qualify and compete in these tournaments.

- Training: 1) The Environmental Management System initial training has been completed except for Rosebud and Crow Creek Line Offices and schools. A second tier of hands-on instruction with the schools is expected and in some instances already scheduled. 2) Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect (SCAN) training by webinar is being provided to ELOs and their schools to ensure that personnel are trained and understand their responsibilities.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- RES 2011: The Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development and the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) actively participated in the RES 2011 conference the week of March 14 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Deputy Assistant Secretary provided the keynote speech at the conference. In addition, Indian Affairs was a Presenting Sponsor of the gathering which is the largest annual gathering of Indian business men and women in the nation. It was a resounding success and promoted economic development in Indian Country by connecting prime contractors with tribal businesses from eight featured reservations: Red Lake, Crow, Colville, Oneida of Wisconsin, Ysleta del Sur, Ft. Berthold, Fond du Lac, and Metlakatla.
- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California. IEED will have two booths at this conference to further market the Wind Atlas for all tribes seeking company and investor partners. The purpose behind attending the Conference is to assist tribes who would like to develop wind energy projects on their reservations and are actively seeking wind developer and/or investor partners.

RESTORATION OF TRIBAL HOMELANDS

- Fee To Trust Decisions: Attention from the Congress has increased of late on the expected decision letter to either approve or deny the application submitted by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees (UKB) to place 76 acres in Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The Cherokee Nation objects to the application within its former reservation for jurisdictional reasons. The White House, a Congressman and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee have expressed interest in the situation.

OUTREACH

- On March 22, the Assistant Secretary and the Chief of Staff are scheduled to travel to Arizona for the groundbreaking of the Twin Arrows Casino on the Navajo Reservation and to meet with Tribal Leaders of the InterTribal Council of Arizona; in Nevada, they will meet with the InterTribal Council of Nevada; and in Utah, they will attend the Utah Tribal Leaders meeting, which will be attended by many leaders and members of the five tribes in Utah.
- For the remainder of March, the Assistant Secretary is scheduled to meet with 1) the Midwest Tribal leaders in Washington, DC to discuss issues of concern to them; 2) testify before the House Appropriations Committee on the FY 2012 President's Budget Request for Indian Affairs; and 3) the AFN Alaska Federation of Natives regarding subsistence, transportation and other Alaska pending legislation.

- During the week of March 23, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to Albuquerque, NM, to participate and speak at a day and half symposium sponsored by the New Mexico School of Law and the University of New Mexico Indian Law Program. He will then travel to Madison, WI to attend meetings at the University of Wisconsin's Law School.
- The Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, will travel to Hollywood, FL, to meet with the Seminole Tribe of Florida for a ribbon cutting event on March 21 – 23, 2011.
- The Director, Bureau of Indian Education, will participate in the BIE Administration Conference the week of March 21, 2011 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and then will travel to Portland, Oregon to join staff from the Division of Performance and Accountability in a meeting with the Northwest Evaluation Association the week of April 4 to 7, 2011.
- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- The Haskell Career Fair, Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, is scheduled for March 31 to April 1, 2011.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

BIA: Efforts continue within Indian Affairs to respond to the FY 2012 OMB Passback language which requires by mid-March an analysis of the Bureau of Indian Affairs organization regarding consolidation of field sites and other efficiencies to produce administrative savings. In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) Study has moved forward. A total of 20 solicitations were received by the Department to conduct the follow-up study. The review panel have met to schedule company presentations during the week of April 1.

BIE: In response to a previous year OMB directive, BIE is involved in an organizational assessment that will focus on improving efficiencies and effectiveness in three areas, Organizational Health, Achievement, and Leadership and Faculty. BIE hopes the assessment will guide future focused training efforts and provide guidance on a strategic focused funding effort in the future that will reap benefits for its constituency and program itself. BIE is also part of the NAPA Study as discussed above.

February 25, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for February 28 to March 6, 2011

**Office of the Special Trustee (OST)
Assistant Secretary Weekly Report
February 28, 2011**

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (2/28-3/4)
- National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C. (2/28)
- Non-career SES Training at the White House (3/3)

Review – February 21 to February 27

- **Update:** The FTO at the Laguna Agency represented OST at the symposium on Financial Literacy and College Success at Minority-Serving Institutions: *Institutionalizing Approaches to Student Success*. The symposium, sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education Policy and USA Funds, was held in Dallas, Texas, February 22-25. The FTO worked with officials from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), who also attended, to implement a financial education program at their school.

Week Ahead – February 28 to March 4

- **New:** Late last month, the Office of Appraisal Services Northwest Region received from BIA over 500 probate appraisal requests for the Nez Perce Reservation. The goal is to complete the appraisals by the end of March. Two Review Appraisers are traveling to the area to assist with writing appraisals for the 417 remaining requests. They will arrive on February 28 and have planned their return travel March 3, cognizant of the potential expiration of the continuing resolution on March 4. When work resumes, additional personnel will assist with completing the workload.
- **New:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) at the Warm Springs Agency is conducting a series of six “Investing for the Future” financial skills training sessions for employees of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The sessions are being held between February 24 and March 10. The FTO is using First Nations Development Institute course materials.

- **Update:** OST's Trust Services will continue to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing over the next few weeks in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.
- **Update:** OST and BIA are collaborating to effect a partial per capita payment to approximately 3,600 Western Shoshone tribal members. This project will result in a partial payment of about \$20,000 per member; a total of \$72 million. OST is working with BIA to establish restricted accounts, when needed, and testing with Treasury to provide for direct deposits to members' accounts. The partial payment target date is February 28.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency will participate in the kickoff on March 17 and the training sessions, which are scheduled for March 30 and April 14.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than two dozen activities occurred in February.

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
March 18, 2011**

Quarterly Trust Fund Committee Meeting for Marshall Islands – San Francisco, CA – Next week, OIA Director Pula, as Chairman of the Marshall Islands Trust Fund Committee (TFC), will hold a quarterly meeting of the Marshall Islands TFC.

Joint Economic Management Committee Meetings for Micronesia and the Marshall Islands – San Francisco, CA – Next week, the semi-annual meeting of the U.S.-Micronesia Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) and the U.S.-Marshall Islands Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee (JEMFAC) which will take place in San Francisco. These bodies deliberate on Compact funding and policy issues related to Compact implementation for the two nations. Officials from both countries and federal agencies are expected to participate.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

March 18, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: March 18, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Arctic Council. This week the Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meeting is taking place in Copenhagen. During this meeting the SAOs representing the Arctic Council States will negotiate final proposals to be put forward for consideration during the Arctic Council Ministerial in May.

Youth: Leveraging Employment Resources - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. The Office of Youth has presented several opportunities to the bureaus that provide mechanisms for providing environmental stewardship focused employment opportunities for young people. Working together with our current DOI partners and CNCS's AmeriCorps and National Civilian Community Corps we are able to present longer, more meaningful, cost effective opportunities for young people that also work to build community capacity.

MANAGEMENT

National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy. Two documents have been prepared for Secretary Salazar's and the Secretary of Agriculture's signature this week: the first is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the second is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. Both

Cohesive Strategy Phase I documents were reviewed and recommended for Secretarial signature and transmittal to Congress by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) on Thursday March 10, 2011. Under the oversight of the WFLC, a collaborative planning and analysis process will be implemented for Phase II and Phase III of the Cohesive Strategy effort.

BUDGET

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolutions. The government is operating under the fifth continuing resolution (P.L. 112-4), which expires on midnight Friday, March 18. The CR includes \$4 billion in spending reductions including reductions of \$52 million in total net discretionary budget authority from the Bureau of Reclamation.

The House and Senate passed a sixth CR (H.J.Res. 48). The CR, that is expected to be signed by the President before expiration of the CR on March 18, continues government operations for three weeks - through April 8. The bill includes reductions of \$198 million for Interior programs funded in the Interior bill (excludes BOR). Reductions include:

- NPS -126 million including Preserve America -\$4.6 million, Save America's Treasures - \$14.8 million, Statutory Aid -5.9 million, Construction -\$72.9 million, Land Acquisition -\$17.4 million;
- FWS -\$45 million including Resource Management -\$12 million, Construction -\$10.3 million, Land Acquisition -\$22.5 million;
- Bureau of Land Management -\$7 million including Management of Lands and Resources -\$1.6 million, Construction -2 million, Land Acquisition -\$3 million;
- USGS -\$17 million including earmarks -\$7 million, Climate Effects Network -\$10.5 million;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs -\$1.45 million; and
- Insular Areas -\$900,000.

OMB guidance directs that availability under a CR be limited through the apportionment process to the lowest of prior year or House or Senate passed funding levels. Apportionments for accounts zeroed out in H.R.1, including the NPS Park Partnerships, FWS North American Wetlands Conservation Fund and FWS State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program, or called out at a specific rate in H.J.Res. 48 are impacted.

2012 Budget and Hearings. Last week, the Secretary testified before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the 2012 budget. Hearings continue with Bureau and Office Directors this week and until March 30.

House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearings remaining on the budget are as follows:

- **BIA/OST** – Wednesday, March 30 (1 pm)

OIG/GAO Responses. This week's list of reports and their status is attached.

Small Business Plan. The Department submitted its FY 2011 Small Business Plan to The White House and the Small Business Administration on March 9, 2011. The plan outlines the actions necessary to attain the 56.69 percent small business contracting goal for FY 2011. The Plan requires that bureaus and offices throughout the Department work together in support the reaching the Department's goal for FY 2011. A large portion of the Plan focuses on outreach and senior accountability. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be assisting in this regard throughout the year.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
March 17, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami Response. Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH) is continuing to monitor the impact of tsunami waves on Hawaii, California, and Pacific Territories following the earthquake off the coast of Japan last Friday. ESF #11 NCH and OEPC have been coordinating with the Bureaus and USDA to provide staffing to the ESF #11 desk at the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Currently, the ESF #11 desk remains on call to provide assistance if requested. ESF #11 NCH is maintaining situational awareness and is in close communication with the Bureaus and our support agencies should any request for NCH assistance be received. More information on ESF #11 NCH can be found by visiting the program's website at <http://www.doi.gov/protectNCH/>.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$92.50 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.40 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 Million. The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team is currently reviewing cost documentation packages recently received from USGS and NPS.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports NPS PRFA Amendment #13, which will be a no-cost extension of the period of performance through March 31, was submitted on March 14, 2011.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports that starting April 1, 2011 the FWS and NPS PRFA amendments will be negotiated to include 90-day performance periods through June 30.
- Pursuant to the National Response Team's (NRT) dispersants policy initiative, OEPC's Resource Protection, Preparedness and Response Team is drafting a letter to the NRT's

co-chairs that outlines DOI's issues and concerns regarding the NRT's and Regional Response Teams' development of new dispersant use policies.

- OEPC is distilling OEM's March 8th proposed revisions for the draft DOI after Action Report on DWH oil spill preparedness and response issues.

Completed: The OEPC Alaska Office took the lead in preparing and holding an annual exercise of the *DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska: Fairbanks Earthquake Annex* in Fairbanks on March 15th. The exercise provided Fairbanks-based DOI Damage Assessment Evaluators, Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment Team Members, Radio Dispatchers, Communications Technicians, Bureau Liaison Chiefs, and DOI Coordinating Officers with the opportunity to become more familiar with their roles and responsibilities following a major earthquake in the Fairbanks area. The exercise included use of the dedicated emergency response handheld radio communication system in buildings in Fairbanks where approximately 600 DOI Bureau employees work and where equipment and materials useful in disaster response are stored. The OEPC Alaska Office is the lead for the Alaska-based DOI disaster preparedness and response program.

Completed: Oil Spill Response Planning in Alaska: On March 17th, a meeting of the joint Federal/State Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) Committee was held in Anchorage. The SCPs are joint government preparedness documents for responses to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases in Alaska. Updates are currently underway for the Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea, and Beaufort Sea areas. The DOI OEPC Anchorage Office is the lead for preparing the Sensitive Areas Section of the SCPs. Meeting participants included, in addition to DOI, representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Indian Water Rights Settlements. Office of Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office to discuss how the Economics staff could assist by reviewing some of the analysis required for settlements. Specific activities will be identified in the coming weeks.

Ongoing: Arctic Policy. Policy Analysis and International Affairs represented the Department at the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting in Copenhagen, March 16-17.

During the meeting, U.S. proposals on ecosystem-based management and oil spill response in the Arctic were considered for SAO endorsement and to be forwarded to the May Ministerial. The proposals were originally circulated by the State Department and the Department of the Interior provided substantial feedback and edits that reflect the Department's substantial equities in the Arctic region.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy. Policy Analysis continues to implement the National Ocean Policy. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Workshop will be held May 3-5 in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for two priority areas: Coordinate and Support, and Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC) and

the National Ocean Committee Staff provided initial feedback this week and will ask for the next version of the outline by April 8.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with the Bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Brown Bag Series. Policy Analysis' March Brown Bag was a presentation by Jason Riley, DOI International Technical Assistance Program, on Building CITES Capacity in Central America - Improving Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species with Our Trading Partners. The Brown Bags are held in the Rachel Carson Room at 12:15 p.m. on the second Mondays of the month and are open to everyone.

Ongoing: Economics Report. Policy Analysis is continuing to edit the draft report.

Ongoing: Soda Ash Royalty. The Bureau of Land Management requested that Policy Analysis assist in drafting a report to Congress on the 5-year soda ash royalty reduction enacted in 2006. Policy Analysis participated in a March 10 conference call with BLM staff to plan for a final draft by March 15. Policy Analysis has provided data and analysis on soda ash exports to BLM and is continuing to provide input to the draft being prepared by BLM.

Completed: Oil and Gas Information. Policy Analysis staff assisted in preparing information on U.S. oil and gas production in advance of the Secretary's Congressional Hearings. Some of this information was subsequently used by the President in his address on Friday March 11, 2011.

Completed: Presentation at the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Annual Training Workshop, March 15 - 18, Kansas City, MO. National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff attended the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) annual training workshop and presented an overview of the Department of Defense-funded Micronesia Biosecurity.

Completed: 76th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. The Department's Invasive Species Coordinator presented an update on NISC and bureau invasive species accomplishments to the Invasive Species Committee at the North American Wildlife Conference on March 16.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

UPDATE: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Workshop in March 2011. ONHR is co-sponsoring a NAGPRA Workshop on March 15, 2011, along with Bernstein & Associates (consultant trainers for the National NAGPRA Program), Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the Native Hawaiian Liaison, U.S. Army Garrison – Hawaii. We reached our targeted participation goal of 100 community leaders. Registration is free. The Native Hawaiian Liaison, U.S. Army

Garrison – Hawai‘i is sponsoring all food for the workshop, in addition to providing staffing. ONHR is coordinating the venue, printed the handouts in-house, and is providing staffing for the workshop. Announcements for the workshop were distributed through the Native Hawaiian Organizations Notification List and were sent to participants in ONHR's NAGPRA Consultation Protocol consultation meetings who indicated an interest in future NAGPRA workshops.

Office of International Affairs

New: World Water Day Preparations. OIA, along with USGS and BOR, participated in a preparatory meeting led by State on March 10 in advance of World Water Day (March 22). State is leading efforts to host a high-profile signing on World Water Day of a new MOU between the USG and the World Bank to increase collaboration on water issues. As a result of prior OIA efforts DOI is referenced in the MOU as a key agency that can provide technical expertise to support water projects in the developing world, and plans to participate in the event.

New: DOI-ITAP Brownbag on CAFTA-DR CITES Environmental Cooperation Program. Jason Riley, who works for the DOI International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) gave a presentation on recent progress and future activities to strengthen CITES implementation under the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement – Environmental Cooperation Program during the Office of Policy Analysis' March monthly brown bag series.

Update: Secretary's Trip to Brazil and Mexico. OIA continues to make progress in coordination with Embassies in Mexico and Brasilia, the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro, and DOI bureaus in scheduling meetings and preparing briefing materials for the trip to Brazil and Mexico on March 30 – April 5, including developing the trip agenda, compiling briefing materials, and providing guidance to travelers regarding travel logistics.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff will attend the Senior Arctic Officials meeting in Copenhagen, March 16th-17th along with Policy Analysis staff.

Update: International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment. OIA assisted with planning for this event for April 14, including coordinating with US and foreign embassies to deliver invitations from the Secretary to counterparts in key offshore oil and gas producing countries and responding to requests for additional information from invitees.

Update: TransPacific Partnership Trade Agreement (TPP). OIA provided comments to USTR on text proposals for the upcoming negotiating round at the end of this month. The environment text proposals and the sanitary/phytosanitary text proposals, the latter of which could have implications for how DOI implements the Lacey Act, were cleared subject to comment from DOI. The regulatory coherence text has been controversial and will likely not be cleared at the staff level. On March 16, USTR is planning to convene a review group at the Assistant Secretary level to resolve remaining disagreements on the regulatory coherence text. OIA is prepared to brief on this issue as necessary.

Office of Natural Resource Restoration

New: Environmental Education and Marsh Restoration Project funded by the Romic settlement at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, CA . An eight week Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program employing local youths contributing over 2,000 hours of labor to a project on the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The YCC team mechanically and manually removed invasive mustard and other invasive plants and constructed solarization tents to contain the invasives. The YCC crew also constructed a salinization/irrigation system to deter non-native plants; collected seeds and cuttings and propagated native plants in a nursery and successfully transplanted 2,800 native plants. In addition, they constructed two benches alongside a trail for public use. The YCC crew members also participated in environmental education activities, learning about local habitats, endangered species, and environmental issues.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

New: AGO Youth Web Chat. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will host a live video chat for youth on President Obama's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative. Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack will answer YouTube and Facebook questions on the Administration's commitment to developing a 21st century conservation and recreation strategy based on the priorities of American communities. This event will be broadcast live at www.whitehouse.gov/live.

Ongoing: Leveraging Employment Resources - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. The Office of Youth has presented several opportunities to the bureaus that provide mechanisms for providing environmental stewardship focused employment opportunities for young people. Working together with our current DOI partners and CNCS's AmeriCorps and National Civilian Community Corps we are able to present longer, more meaningful, cost effective opportunities for young people that also work to build community capacity.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Targeted Recruitment - Haskell Indian Nations University. In a continued effort to streamline the pathways for young people to enter into federal service the Office of Youth is coordinating a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31, 2011 for the Department. The objective of this effort demonstrate to all the bureaus the benefits of the target recruitment process and also introduce them to the students, staff, resources, and facilities of a postsecondary education institution operated by BIE. The Office of Youth will continue to work with the Department's human resources staff in the implementation and institutionalization of targeted recruitment at the bureau level as a resource to be utilized as they engage with young people across the country at various events.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Public Land Service Corps Hiring Authority (PLCS). The Office of Youth is coordinating the implementation of the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority for the Department. The Office of Youth is coordinating efforts with USDA to ensure that the reporting, tracking, and certification processes are streamlined across the two Departments. Critical feedback has been obtained from USDA and partners. Next steps have been identified that will address some of the barriers associated with implementation.

Ongoing: Leveraging Educational Resources - USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Partnership. The Office of Youth is working with NIFA to align DOI bureaus with NIFA's Land Grant University Funding opportunities to advance research, extension, and education in the agriculture and natural resource fields. Grant funding for these particular Universities, which include African-American Land Grant Universities, Native American Land Grant Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions have the potential to "pipeline" greater numbers of diverse students into careers with the Department of the Interior.

Ongoing: Let's Move Outside. The Office of Youth has formed an interagency team with the USFS and USACE to create interagency awareness around Let's Move Outside events and programs. The LMO bureau team will be working on guidance to regional and field offices describing LMO co-branding criteria for the purposes of bureau summer events and programs. A reporting structure has been put in place so we will know the number of programs and youth engaged in outdoor activity on our public lands.

Ongoing: Let's Move in Indian Country. So far 13,000 students in our 183 BIE schools are on their way to achieving the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) by committing to participating in 60 minutes of physical activity a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. The Office of Youth is working with AS-IA, BIA and BIE, USDA, HHS, ED, and the First Lady's Let's Move team to support strategic planning for a *Let's Move in Indian Country* initiative –involving a White House/First Lady launch in April 2011. Office of Youth continues to host stakeholder meetings around this initiative and is worked closely with Corporation for National Community Service this past week to put in place 5 VISTA volunteers who will help with the LMIC effort.

Ongoing: Improving Youth Programming Across the Department -Youth Programming Impact Evaluation Development. The Office of Youth has facilitated the development toolkit which would act as a resource available to program managers that are interested in piloting an assessment process for youth programs. This toolkit introduces free standardized processes for the Department to document impact, improve effectiveness and promote accountability for youth programming. A draft toolkit is being reviewed by critical offices and staff. After the final review key DOI staff will outline the roll-out strategy to field test this resource with pilot programs during the 2011 summer.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

Ongoing: MOU – DOI NPS Interpretation & Education/ U.S. Dept of Education. First draft of MOU has been developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement

recommendations from the America's Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education's "Blueprint for Reform."

Ongoing: MOU(s) – Boy Scouts & Campfire USA. The Partnership Office is working with SOL to complete final draft MOUs between DOI (Secretary Salazar - on behalf of Take Pride in America) with (1) Boy Scouts; and (2) Campfire USA. The final draft will include amendments to emphasize partnerships to implement AGO, Youth engagement, Let's Move Outside and an organized collection of annual metrics, including the number of youth volunteers/service projects and the use of public lands for recreation.

Ongoing: Initiating Regular Meetings of Bureau Partnership Coordinators. Creating new forum for "Best Practices Network" among DOI staff engaged in the development of Department-wide partnering policies including 1) all Bureau Partnership Coordinators, 2) PMB staff of the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and 3) Office of the Solicitor.

Completed: North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. The Partnerships Office staff engaged with numerous partners and heard further input on the America's Great Outdoors Report and Recommendations as well as the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives efforts. The conferences provided an excellent venue for DOI to align efforts to address the AGO recommendations and to improve the LCC objectives.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Upcoming Events. Coordinating conference calls were held this week to discuss the following upcoming events: April 2 - Let's G.O. event on the National Mall, in partnership with the Sierra Club and the Children and Nature Network's Natural Leaders Network; April 6 - 4-H National Conference; May 15 - Youth Service Day in San Diego in partnership with the San Diego River Foundation; June 6 River Rally Conference Presentation.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Completed: Unified Messaging. OHA successfully migrated its e-mail accounts to the Department's interim unified messaging system. Benefits include OHA's ability to terminate its agreement with Zantaz for live capture of all e-mail messages, since the Department's system uses EVault for this purpose.

Office of the Chief Information Office

(Update) IT Transformation Planning for Field Input Sessions – OCIO staff conducted productive outreach sessions with IT customers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Copper Center, Soldotna, and the Fire Centers in Alaska. Outreach activities will continue with a March 21th through the 24th scheduled visit to Boise (ID), Portland (OR) and Vancouver (WA). This geographic area represents approximately 5,000 of DOI's workforce in the northwest of the United States.

Office of Valuation Services

Update: OVS Leadership Team. The OVS Leadership Team is now in place with a permanent Director and Deputy Director, along with a chief of the Business and Administrative Management Division. Client Service Managers and Team Lead Appraisers for each of the four bureau clients have also been named. The client managers and team leads were selected in collaboration with client bureaus.

Update: Collaboration with the Office of the Special Trustee. OVS continues to work with the Office of Special Trustee on valuation methodologies for the Cobell Settlement.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: Facilitation assistance for Office of Valuation Services management team. OVS is consulting with the CADR office on strategies for building a high functioning management team. CADR will assist in designing the quarterly team meetings and providing teambuilding tools and resources.

Update: Open Government Working Group. The planning continues for the kick-off meeting of the Open Government Working Group on March 23 -24, to be held in Arlington, VA. As an opener, Chris Vein from the White House will talk with the team about “*Why Open Government Matters.*” This working group will take the lead on implementing DOI’s Open Government Plan.

Ongoing: Government-to-Government consultation policy team. CADR is providing impartial process support to the federal team in preparation for the next meeting of the DOI and Tribal representatives jointly developing the new consultation policy for DOI. The next meeting will take place during the last week of March in Seattle, Washington.

Completed: Senior CORE PLUS Coordinator position. An offer will be extended this week for the senior CORE PLUS coordinator.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Upcoming National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and DAS-TIBS will address the Advisory Committee and issue 2011 guidance.

New: Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors Federal Programs Conference. The GIO will be participating in the MAPPS Conference this week to describe current geospatial activities of the Department of the Interior and the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

New: Multi-State RFI for Geospatial Cloud Services. Mr Dick Clarke, CIO with the state of Montana and member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, will be providing an overview of the multi-state RFI in the Interior Building at 1:30 pm Wednesday.

Update: Geospatial Platform. The final version of the Modernization Roadmap has been completed and is in the process of being reviewed by the DOI Budget Office prior to being submitted to OMB.

National Business Center

New: AMD Participation in HAI Helicopter Expo. Aviation Management personnel participated in the HAI Helicopter Expo, where their exhibit was visited by over 1500 conference participants and personnel conducted a training seminar providing onsite training to over 100 helicopter vendors on the new Aviation Management System. NBC personnel actively engaged helicopter industry vendors by answering questions in preparation for the upcoming fire season and in response to other aviation needs by the Department of Interior.

New: Facilitation for on-going IT support issues for the OS/SIO, OS/OEPC, and OS/DOIU offices in Anchorage. The IT Directorate established weekly meetings with customers to monitor existing open issues.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: State of Human Capital. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) provided a briefing to the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer, the Director, Office of Human Resources (OHR), and his management staff on the state of human capital in the Department of the Interior. OPM's findings were based primarily on the Human Capital Management Report issued by OHR December 15, 2010. OPM identified a number of DOI strengths including meeting the President's Hiring Reform Initiative, use of the Employee Viewpoint Survey, and success in correcting a long-standing issue involving the 401 Fire Management Specialist series. OPM also indicated that the Department has been challenged by the lack of an agency Strategic Plan and a decline in resources/staff. OPM encouraged the Department to use the Strategic Plan as a roadmap to form clear human capital goals and measure and to track goal progress and results.

Update: National Business Center (East) Outbrief Accountability Review. The Accountability team conducted an outbrief of its accountability review of the National Business Center's East branch to NBC's Associate Director, Human Resources Directorate and representatives from NBC's Human Resources Office in Denver and Washington, DC. The Department expects to issue a report of this review within 90 days and corrective action will be required.

Update: Accountability Team US Geological Survey Review Preparation. The Accountability team continues to prepare upcoming reviews at the USGS Central region, the

FWS's Region 3, and BLM's Nevada Office. The National Park Service review of Sequoia and King's Canyon National Park is being delayed until July because the team lead was called away in order to personally facilitate the rollout of the HROC II migration. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has scheduled reviews of its Bureau of Indian Education to take place in July, and its office in Anadarko in October 2011.

Office of Civil Rights

New: National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. On March 16, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is participating in the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers Meeting at the US Environmental Protection Agency, in Washington, D.C. The meeting agenda calls for discussions of the Executive Order regarding Student Pathways, the Office of Personnel Management Hispanic Council on Federal Employment, and the national observance of Hispanic Heritage Month in September 2011.

New: Civil Treatment, EEO, Diversity and Human Resources Training. On March 17, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights staff is scheduled to attend training that will teach "how to build workplace diversity and inclusion, prevent harassment and discrimination, and improve workplace civility, productivity, and service delivery." The training is being hosted by the Broadcasting Board of Governors in Washington, D.C.

New: Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership. On March 17, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is representing the Department at a meeting of the Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership. The group, comprised of Federal agencies in the Washington, D.C. Area, will initiate plans to develop and implement a "Diversity Briefing" for the purpose of promoting diversity within the Federal Government.

Update: National Women's History Month. The Department of the Interior proudly joins the Nation in celebrating National Women's History Month. Throughout the month of March, the Nation honors the achievements of women across the country. The National theme is "Our History is Our Strength." In observance of Women's History Month, the Office of Surface Mining is hosting a presentation from Dr. Edna Green Medford, Professor and Chairperson for the Department of History, Howard University, on March 23, 2011, in the South Interior Building (SIB), Room 220. Dr. Medford will speak on the role of women in the Civil War.

Completed: 2011 OCR/EEO Officers Offsite Workshop. OCR Director Sharon D. Eller and her senior leadership team conducted and participated with Bureau EEO Officers on the USGS Campus in Reston, Virginia during March 8-10, 2011. The objectives were to strengthen working relationships, build an understanding of OCR and Bureau systems and operations, share information, discuss challenges, and expand the technical skill base for EEO community of practice led by OCR staff members and others.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Emergency Management Council Meeting. Last week, the Office of Occupational Safety and Health attended the Emergency Management Council's off-site meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada to give a presentation on employee safety and health in an all-hazards event.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

New: Annual Public Lands Liaison Agent (PLLA) Conference. The Border Patrol PLLA program is focused on enhancing communication and sharing information between Interior land managers and Border Patrol agents regarding border issues such as infrastructure, personnel, and technology deployment. The Border Patrol designates a PLLA in each Sector to carry out these duties. Interior and the Border Patrol are jointly hosting a training conference for the agents in Tucson from June 28-30.

Update: Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. The Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion of a final rule for establishment of this population in Arizona. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed in April of 2010. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has expressed concerns over the impact of establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Pronghorns on border security operations. Regional and Washington Office staff in FWS will brief CBP leadership on March 15th on the nature of the rule. It is hoped this briefing will result in support for publication of the rule. Regulatory impacts of NEPs are significantly lower and this effort is not expected to impact border security operations significantly. The rule needs to be finalized soon to allow for construction of holding pens for release of the animals in the winter of 2011-12.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Discussion is continuing on determination of the actual impact acreage that will be included in the final Interagency Agreement amendment. There was a wide discrepancy between the FWS and CBP estimate of impact that has occurred. Meetings are scheduled for March 16th to review revised justification for mitigation acreage. Project Data Worksheets are being revised accordingly. Substantial agreement was reached on the estimated cost of mitigation acreage and the third party process to be used for acquisition. The end result of these discussions is hoped to lead to expenditure of 20 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: SBInet Program Assessment. Based on a thorough assessment of this program CBP is now reevaluating its use along the SW border. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. A briefing on the new program took place February 23. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew will be the lead for coordination with CBP who will provide contacts for exchange of information. The first step will be to assess the type, location and timing of work so that an assessment of the scope and need for environmental analysis can be accomplished. CBP has been contacted and we have

requested a summary of proposed infrastructure to allow for an assessment of the type of environmental compliance that may be needed.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. A coordination call was convened on March 10th to discuss ESA and NEPA compliance, data exchanges and next steps. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

Update: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The meeting scheduled for March 9th was postponed due to a schedule conflict with CBP. The meeting will be rescheduled as soon as possible so that alternative sites for mitigation can be evaluated.

Update: Radio Transformation. The project directors (Jim Douglas, LESEM; Russ Sveda, OCIO) briefed the Interior Radio Program Managers Council at their quarterly meeting in Las Vegas. The meeting with the USDA and USFS CIOs to develop a partnership with them on the initiative was moved to March 24. Project directors are waiting for approval of funding for the project manager so that further work can take place.

Update: Fire IT Project (was National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture). The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) held a “town hall” meeting in Boise with fire directors, fire IT program managers, fire IT project managers, and other stakeholders to discuss the project and to receive input on a variety of topics. The project directors also met to formulate a project plan and approach. Additional meetings were held to coordinate the initial inventory of all systems, applications, and projects, along with pending decisions, which is due by March 31.

Update: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is still awaiting signature by the CIO. Jim Douglas met with fire staff at NIFC to discuss tasks necessary to fully implement the Directive prior to the 2012 fire season.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. CBP convened a briefing on the status of this PEIS on January 7. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status has been delayed but is expected within the next two weeks. CBP previously issued requests for comments directly to the Bureaus. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew requested that these be directed to DOI. Bureaus will then be requested to comment with responses from each bureau consolidated by DOI. DOI

and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on April 22. Public meetings would be held in May with comment closing in early June. A final PEIS is planned to be completed in October of 2011. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. A request for photos of environmental topics was received from the contractor and we are working to provide as many images as possible. A final module is still expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. Efforts continue to obtain signatures from all bureau directors (FWS and NPS are outstanding). Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) will be briefing the Deputies Operating Group in March on the

mission and purpose of the CAC, and solicit bureau input on improving coordination with Interior.

Final: Funding of Jaguar projects in Mexico. A letter addressed to DAS Thorsen was received which indicated that DHS would not fund jaguar mitigation projects in Mexico. These funds were provisionally withheld from the initial Inter-Agency Agreement pending further discussion. Region 2 prepared a response to the letter which will be used to in turn respond to CBP. In brief, FWS is adjusting plans for expenditure of these funds within the U.S. DAS Thorsen sent a letter to CBP in response to their letter. A briefing for CBP officials on working across the border is being developed in hopes that we will be able to identify some conservation work that could be conducted in Mexico that will be acceptable to CBP.

Final: Coordination of Borderland Activities. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew is now convening a series of coordination calls with BLM and FWS on a weekly or biweekly basis. In addition the first monthly DOI-wide coordination call was conducted February 8th. Biweekly coordination calls with Project Leaders for mitigation projects funded by Customs and Border Protection will begin the week of February 14. A DOI Sharepoint site is also being developed for sharing of documents and graphics. Lastly, coordination meetings are conducted every other Monday with CBP to discuss progress, issues of concern and upcoming activities.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Deployment Push 1. The Technology Division will be initiating IMARS Deployment Push 1 on March 14, 2011. This deployment includes 500 users from the five participating DOI bureaus. This Deployment Push complies with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) recommendation that IMARS should be deployed to users in incremental rollouts in at least six month intervals until the system is fully deployed in December 2012. IMARS Release Candidate 1 took place on November 9, 2010.

New: National Fusion Center Conference. OLES will be in attendance at the National Fusion Center Conference in Denver. OLES will also be participating in a panel discussion to address information sharing with Tribal Nations.

New: OLES Security to Coordinate a Departmental Security Manager Trip to the Transportation Security Lab: Working with the United States Park Police, OLES Security is coordinating a trip to the Transportation Security Lab (TSL) for Departmental Security Managers. The TSL, affiliated with the Transportation Security Agency, is the only federal agency that certifies security equipment. TSL has agreed to allow DOI employees a behind the scenes tour of the facility.

New: USA Today FOIA Request Regarding DOI Facilities. The Solicitor's office has requested the assistance of OLES Security to review a FOIA request from USA Today. The FOIA request is regarding the location (address and descriptions) of all DOI's 46,000 facilities plus additional information. It is believed the request stems from the effort to remove unused Government property from the inventory.

Update: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On Tuesday 3/8, OLES Security participated in a conference call with the National Park Service and the United States Park Police regarding security procedures and visitor screening for Liberty and Ellis Island. In addition, a meeting between OLES and the New York Police Department was discussed.

Update: Threats to DOI Senior Leadership: During a recent Departmental Security Advisory Council meeting conducted by OLES Security, the handling and reporting of threats to Departmental employees and threat training opportunities were discussed. All Security Managers were encouraged to contact OLES Security for support in dealing with these situations.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is almost complete; work on the A ramp has begun.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** One Guard Booth has been installed on C ramp and is in the process of being tested. Additional Booth's are on schedule to be installed.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** Awaiting the contracting office to finalize and post the solicitation.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** To date, we have downloaded between 3-5 thousand OPM employee files and 5-9 thousand GSA employee files into our PACS system.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Work continues on updating the IDS and upgrading the security cameras.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** Costs for security upgrades to support the Child Care Center are in the process of being submitted to budget.

Update: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project.

The Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, provided a high level briefing on the planning of the FPA Program to the DAS on February 10, 2011. A draft of the full Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report was submitted to DAS Thorsen on March 10, 2011. An official presentation of the review findings to the DAS is scheduled for March 15, 2011 and the formal findings presentation to the project stakeholders including Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) directors and the US Forest Service (USFS) will be scheduled for the 4th week of March (a date and venue is being scheduled).

No Change: Operation Trident Surge. The final deployment of NPS, BLM, FWS, and Forest Service officers began this week. The deployment started with a safety and orientation briefing for the officers. The focus areas for the operation are Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Cabeza Prieta NWR, and nearby BLM Public Lands. The operation has yielded narcotics seizures of 20,493 pounds and 1355 apprehensions of undocumented aliens. OLES personnel continue to work with bureau incident commanders and Border Patrol to address operational planning, prosecution, and intelligence sharing procedures. Notable recent activity includes the arrest of 13 individuals and the seizure of 26 bundles of marijuana totaling over 1,200 pounds in a single incident on Organ Pipe Cactus NM. Surge officers also recovered two stolen ATV's

that were being operated off-road along with a stolen assault rifle on Organ Pipe Cactus NM. The operation continues through March 18.

No Change: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee and the Office of National Counterintelligence Executive Meetings. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. By mid-March, ten or more departments and agencies will be identified for site visits by an inter-agency team of experts who will review security policies and practices as part of an Office of Management and Budget review.

No Change: OLES Security is participating in a Departmental Personnel Security Review being conducted by OPM. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating a review of all Bureaus/Office personnel security programs. The review is conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete.

No Change: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. OLES is currently working with BOR to schedule an assessment at Glen Canyon Dam. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. Assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Arch, Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been scheduled for the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

Final: OLES Working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to Address Wireless Vulnerabilities. The National Security Agency has approved the use of networked based tools that can protect against wireless device intrusions, especially when these devices are being used out of the country. OLES is collaborating with the OCIO on a forthcoming DOI policy.

Final: OLES Participation in Interagency Project to Identify Undiscovered Marijuana Grow Sites on Public Lands in Washington State. OLES is supporting an interagency effort on behalf of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in Washington state to support area limitation analysis on public lands. This analysis will evaluate a variety of factors (terrain slope, hydrology, proximity to roads, population density, etc.) to develop predictive spatial forecasting models of future illegal growth activity. Ultimately, this project will result in a probability-based model of illegal marijuana grow sites.

Final: OLES is Seeking a Corporate Account Option to Reduce Costs for Bureau Personnel to Use Internet Search Engines in Support of Investigations. In coordination with the Intelligence Advisory Working Group, OLES is pursuing options with the major providers of internet information in an attempt to buy-down the costs.

Final: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Demonstration for FBI and IACP. On March 3rd the Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed, conducted an IMARS demo with the Indian Country representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). He demonstrated IMARS’ basic functionality and answered questions about the system. Following the demonstration, Assistant Director Ahmed met with FBI staff to get more information about the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) certification process for IMARS and incident data contribution to the FBI’s National Data Exchange (NDEx). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is expected from the FBI this week to initiate the engagement of the DOI Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) to provide incident data to the NDEx system.

Final: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Project Rebaseline Approved and IT Dashboard Updated. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the IMARS Rebaseline. The cost and schedule are now green on the Federal IT Dashboard for the first time in IMARS’ history. Old, outdated milestones that previously showed IMARS as severely under spent have been consolidated. The CIO rating for IMARS on the Federal IT Dashboard is currently yellow, but it will be changed to green because the rating has changed from a 3 to a 4.

Final: OLES Internal Affairs and Inspection Branch submits NPS assessment. OLES Internal Affairs completed and submitted the draft report on the assessment of the National Park Service, Internal Affairs Office.

Final: CBP State of the Border Conference Call. The National Drug Enforcement Coordinator has joined in the CBP weekly “State of the Border” conference call, which will be ongoing. The Arizona Surge is currently one of the main topics.

Final: Filming of OLES Intelligence Division Vignette for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). The ODNI recently completed filming, at no cost to DOI, an unclassified video describing the mission and responsibilities of the Department of the Interior and of its Intelligence Division. Deputy Assistant Secretary Thorsen presented an on-camera summary of the Department and its illustrious history. The completed video will be posted on various classified and unclassified Intelligence Community computer networks to help educate Intelligence Community analysts about other U.S. government departments and agencies.

Final: OMB Commented on the National Monuments and Icons (NM&I’s) Sector Specific Plan (SSP). OLES has been delegated the responsibility to represent the Department as the NM&I sector lead working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) following Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7. All sectors (total of 18) are periodically required by DHS to submit a SSP. OLES has completed the draft SSP and it has been reviewed and approved by DHS and reviewed by OMB. OMB has provided some comments that OLES is in the process of adjudicating. In addition, OLES commented on the charter for the creation of a National Park Service Icon Security Council. This Council consists of representatives from all of the Departments National Monuments and Icons and includes OLES.

Final: GAO Assignment #311059 “Implementation of HSPD-12”. OLES Security participated in a GAO follow-up meeting along with Judy Snoich of the DOI Access Team. It was not determined if additional meetings would be necessary before a draft report is issued.

Final: Strategy for a Common Infrastructure to Meet Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) Requirements (an OMB Initiative): OLES Security met with Ed Awni, Facilities and Property Management, to develop a coordinated assessment process to determine the compliance of the Departments facilities with physical security minimums. These minimums are required to meet the base line level of security as stated in the FICAM.

Final: Main Interior Building Law Enforcement (LE) Group: OLES is coordinating a Departmental (OLES, BIA, NPS, FWS, and BLM) group of LE Officers who are located in the Main Interior Building. The purpose of this group is to ensure a coordinated Departmental response to any LE incidents occurring in the building. Progress in this group includes:

- Creating, ordering and distributing new, color coded, HSPD 12 identification card holders signifying the holder is LE.
- Creating an MIB/LE rapid response contact list.
- Creating a LE/Security visibility vest that will be issued to all LE and Security plain clothes personnel.

Final: OLES Security Information Bulletins. OLES Security Division has issued its first security information bulletin which was distributed to all Bureau/Office Security Directors and other interested individuals. This bulletin focused on the OMB and HSPD-12 requirements for Physical Access Control Systems (PACS) for Departmental facilities. Additional security bulletins are in the process of being created.

Final: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. Approval has been granted for the workshop and a member of Senator Lieberman has expressed interest in attending. In addition, a draft announcement has been crafted, a location with housing capabilities has been located and reserved, and all cooperating agencies are engaged. This workshop provides required in-service training to meet the 40 hour annual training requirement for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation’s most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* On March 11, the fifth largest earthquake ever recorded occurred about 100 miles off the coast of northeast Japan. The earthquake triggered a massive tsunami that inundated several coastal communities in

Japan and subsequently spread across the entire Pacific basin from the Aleutian Islands to Chile. Japan received the most damage with the possibility of tens of thousands of people killed, thousands of homes and businesses destroyed, massive power outages and ruined infrastructure, including several unstable nuclear power plants. While the tsunami was felt across the Pacific, damage in U.S. and Insular Areas was limited; the most notable damage occurred in Crescent City, CA, where most docks were destroyed and several boats were either sunk or damaged. USGS continues to report earthquake data and provide technical expertise. NPS, FWS, BIA, and BOEMRE alerted units in the Pacific and along the West Coast; no injuries were reported to DOI personnel and facilities reported only minor damage as a result of the tsunami.

- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* BP has now completed the plug and abandonment of the second relief well. Several meetings were held to determine future cleanup operations and how to ascertain when a beach is considered clean. Necropsies are being done on some dead wildlife that was found to see if the deaths were related to the BP oil spill.
- *Kilauea Volcano Eruption Increases:* USGS and the NPS are reporting a slight decrease in the eruptive activity at Kilauea Volcano and have subsequently lowered the Alert Level to Watch and the Aviation Color Code to Orange. Several park roads and trails remain closed due to the possibility of further eruption activity.
- *Midwest Flooding:* Heavy rain, mixed with snowmelt, continued to cause flooding from Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and from South Carolina northward into Virginia, New Jersey and Connecticut. Most Rivers have now crested and are slowly receding.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM presented a EH 2011 update briefing to attendees of the Emergency Management Council (EMC) Off-site last week. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH11). Updated exercise plans and other planning documents developed by FEMA have been uploaded to SAFETALK for bureau and office exercise planners to review. EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. The re-configuration was discussed in detail during the Continuity of Operations break-out session at the EMC Off-site last week. OEM also met with several Bureaus and Offices (NPS, OWFC, OEPC, amongst others) to discuss their planned representation. OEM continues to work with IT staff to test and refine the new Contact Management System before loading the updated COOP team member information into CMS and Send Word Now. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning. OEM has recruited ten new Evacuation Support Team members to replace team members who have changed jobs or left DOI. Two additional training sessions have been scheduled for the new team members. OEM is reviewing the initial draft After-Action Report (AAR) on the evacuation drills conducted for the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23. Once

completed, the AAR will provide recommendations to improve the evacuation and/or sheltering of employees during building emergencies.

No Change: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI at National Infrastructure Protection Plan Food/Agriculture Sector quarterly meeting last week. The group discussed topics which address the national policy to defend the food and agriculture system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

No Change: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. As follow-on to the listening sessions in NM and Southern CA, OEM is working with BIA and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan visits in the next 2 months to Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest and those in the Dakotas.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM met with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group last week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. Significant progress was made to reach agreement on the process and timeline for loading the positions into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

No Change: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO has begun Phase III of the Contact Management System (CMS). When completed at the end of February, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel and will allow individuals to securely update their own contact information, and will automatically feed data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups, thereby ensuring alerts and other information is properly delivered and received during emergency situations.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the need of the bureaus.

Final: Annual Emergency Management Council (EMC) Off-Site Workshop. OEM hosted an annual meeting of Bureau and Office Emergency Coordinators and other DOI emergency management personnel last week. The workshop drew approximately 60 members of Interior's Emergency Management community from across the country as well as key note speakers

Regional Administrator Nancy Ward, FEMA Region IX and Bud Marshall from Nevada's Division of Emergency Management (DEM). This year's meeting was held in Clark County, NV and covered a range of topics from Strategic Priority Planning, the DOI All-Hazards Management Program Implementation, and Continuity of Operations Compliance to an orientation on emergency preparedness at Hoover Dam. The Annual EMC Off-Site Workshops provide a mechanism to facilitate subjects such as these and other Department-wide emergency management discussions in a focused environment.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Emergency Management. OWF attended and participated in the Annual Off site Emergency Management Council Meeting. Discussions centered on upcoming strategy for All Hazard position, qualifications and physical fitness, reports from ESF planners, upcoming COOP and devolution exercises, and coordination for upcoming National Level Exercise.

New: WFDSS (Wildland Fire Decision Support System) Investment Review. OWFC has been working on submissions for the WFDSS investment as part of the Capital Planning Investment Control process in preparation for the new DOI IRB. Background information and briefings for DAS Thorsen are occurring this week.

Update: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) Meeting March 10, 2011. WFLC met and approved the following reports: *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for Secretarial approval on or before Friday, March 18, 2011. The WFLC also approved a proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy and concurred with the membership recommendations for the three Regional Strategy Committees (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process.

Update: Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). The WFEC charter was filed with the Federal Register's Office on March 3, 2011. Appointment letters to the Council members are in the process of being signed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and the first meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2011.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. The analysis processes are being developed by the Interior Fuels Management Committee and the technical specialists assigned to the project – the Decision Support Sub-committee. Attributes used to determine high priority projects should be finalized by March 18. Specialists have already completed several geospatial data improvements to the HFPAS to determine the high priority treatment areas. A DOI Hazardous Fuels Reduction program of work, based on the FY 2012 President's proposed budget, should be available by June 15.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group. The FPA Oversight Group (OG) is scheduled to hold a quarterly meeting in Boise, ID March 24th and 25th. The topic of discussion

is scheduled to include the independent external review of the FPA application and the results of the latest analysis.

Update: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) last week addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-chartered to support the continued development of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1, 2011 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work associated the update of LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through third geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest. Production is on track to deliver the next geo-area which is the Southwest. For more information on LANDFIRE and the schedule see www.landfire.gov.

No Change: Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2011. The exercise is scheduled for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other federal partners to identify a course of action.

No Change: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: GAO engagement: Wildland Fires in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region (Job code: 361250). Initial meetings were conducted at NIFC on January 12 -14, 2011 to gain some understanding for fire operations near the border, what financial, fire investigation and fire occurrence data sets are available and to develop some contacts. GAO will perform a fire data analysis by mid-March. Several site visits in Arizona were conducted by the GAO.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWFC is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: 620 DM 3 – Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation. OWFC is coordinating with the Interior Burned Area Emergency Response Coordinators (IBAER) to discuss the current Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation policy and identify items that would need to be addressed for a policy revision. The IBAER completed their initial review and proposed changes were presented at the January IFEC meeting. The final recommended changes will be submitted in May.

No Change: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy with various options was distributed to the Fire Directors for review and presented during the January IFEC meeting. The draft policy statement will be developed based on discussions during the January IFEC meeting

and with the USFS. A draft policy statement will be submitted to IFEC this week for final review.

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWF co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Actions. On March 1, 2011, DOI proposed to debar James H. Barger, Barger Contracting, and Lorri Barger. DOI, by previous action, suspended Mr. Barger and Barger Contracting on November 20, 2010. DOI based the suspension of Mr. Barger on the fact of an August 13, 2009, criminal Information in the Hancock County Superior Court for County of Hancock, Indiana, charging him with seven counts of bribery and seven counts of theft under Indiana State law. The Information alleged that in 2008, Mr. Barger offered, or provided, bribes to an Indiana public official in order to obtain a contract to perform work on the exterior of the Hancock County Courthouse, in Hancock, Indiana. DOI based the suspension of Barger Contracting on imputed conduct and its affiliate relationship to Mr. Barger. Upon completion of the criminal proceedings, the Court convicted Mr. Barger on two counts of theft.

DOI based the Notice of Proposed Debarment for Mr. Barger on the fact of his criminal conviction and based the Notice for Barger Contracting on imputed conduct and affiliation. DOI issued a Notice of Proposed Debarment to Lorri Barger based upon her having provided misleading information to DOI in connection with the Barger Suspension action attempting to show, falsely, that Mr. Barger no longer controls Barger Contracting.

Office of Budget

New: 2013 Budget Formulation. The Office of Budget is preparing 2013 formulation guidance for the development of the bureaus' May budget submission to the Department.

Update: Cost of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. The Department of Justice has requested additional information on the DOI spill-related non-PRFA/non-NRDA cost data, and POB is working with the Office of the Solicitor to coordinate responses from the bureaus and offices.

Office of Financial Management

Ongoing: GAO Report. PFM received and processed the GAO report on *Indian Country Criminal Justice* (GAO-11-252). The 60-day letter including Statement of Actions addressing the one recommendation is to be prepared by Indian Affairs. It is due to Congress and GAO by May 10, 2011.

New: GAO Exit Conferences. PFM coordinated and attended the GAO Exit conference on their review of *Federal Land Data* (361162). The bureaus involved in this review are BLM, BOR, FWS, and NPS. The informational draft report will be issued on March 25 without any recommendation to the Department. PFM also coordinated and attended the GAO Exit teleconference on their review of *Monitoring Antibiotic Resistance* (290839). USGS is the only bureau involved. The draft report without any recommendation to the Department will be issued for agency comments by the end of the month.

New: Policy for Expiring/Cancelling: PFM issued policy guidance on the Wildland Fire, American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), and Allocation Transfer Appropriation to the bureaus that have a parent/child relationship with the Office of the Secretary. The guidance defines the policy for expiring/cancelling Allocation Transfer Appropriations and the special requirements related to the ARRA reporting.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. All Q1 FY2011 status information on the Priority Goals has been updated into www.performance.gov. OMB's review of this information is underway. David Hayes will begin regularly scheduled quarterly status reviews with goal owners in April with the close of the second quarter of FY 2011.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Requirement to Post Outreach Events on FedBizOpps. As of March 15, 2011, federal agencies will be required to post information about outreach events on FedBizOpps, which is the required one stop portal for business for federal contracting matters. This requirement is based on recommendations by the Interagency Task Force on Small Business Contracting. The OSDBU will be the point of contact for the Department for this requirement.

New Item: Business Breakthrough Program: The General Services Administration (GSA) has announced a new pilot program to help small and mid-size firms break into the federal marketplace and better compete for federal contracts. The program will provide training and guidance to businesses. The program will begin within the GSA in May 2011 and then be expanded throughout the government later this year.

New Item: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference: *The OSDBU will be representing the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement conference which will be held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, on April 21, 2011. The conference is the most prominent government-wide event on the small business calendar each year. Volunteers from the Department are requested to assist the OSDBU.*

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- April 1: DOI First Friday Small Business Session – registration is now open.
- June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event – registration to open by April 30.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- March 23: General Small Business
- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

Update: Deployment 6 Role Mapping Workshop. On March 8 and 9, the PMO conducted the first of two Deployment 6 (D6) workshops for OS and FWS managers responsible for assigning individuals to FBMS roles. The workshop consisted of an overview presentation of the FBMS Role Assignment and Certification Process, a presentation on the reference materials and tools used to assign individuals to FBMS roles, presentations on FBMS roles currently in production by FBMS PMO role owners, and a panel discussion with USGS managers who performed FBMS Deployment 5 role mapping activities. The workshop was a WEBEX hosted from the FBMS PMO's Sky Leshner Conference Center in Herndon, with OS and FWS managers participating from over 150 locations from across the country. The majority of the initial feedback from an online survey about the workshop has been positive. The online workshop feedback survey will close March 16.

The second D6 Role Mapping Workshop will be conducted during the week of June 6, 2011, and will focus on assigning individuals to new FBMS roles based on unique OS and FWS business process requirements. When the role mapping and certification activities are completed in early October 2011, training classes for individuals assigned FBMS roles will begin in mid October 2011 and continue until January 2012. D6 Go-live is scheduled for November 8, 2011.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

237 Days before Go Live.

Update: Organizational Impact Session. OS specific Role Mapping Workshops will be held March 15-16 and the week of April 17th where business process impacts will be presented and discussed. These sessions are intended as educational activities that will help to prepare for the overall role mapping exercises to come.

New: OS Executive Steering Committee. The next ESC meeting is being planned for March 31.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): The ONRR has begun the implementation and roll-out of work relating to the Strategic Review recommendations. Implementation Work Groups (IWG) will be formed in late March. Acting Assistant for PMB, Chris Henderson will attend a formal launching of the IWG's at an all hands meeting the week of April 4, 2011.

Joint Press Release sought on False Claims Act Settlement (New): ONRR Public Affairs forwarded a draft press release to the DOI Press Office to announce a pending settlement agreement between the United States and Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation, and OXY USA, Inc., as part of the Wright Federal False Claims Act litigation. The agreement involves the Department of Justice, ONRR, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of various individual American Indian mineral owners. Under the agreement, the Oxy Defendants will pay \$2.05 million plus interest to resolve the issue. The settlement is expected to be finalized this month. In the past, the Department of Justice has issued the release. The draft press release prepared by ONRR was patterned on former DOJ releases, and forwarded to the DOI Press Office and to the Justice Department's Press Office for review. The DOI press office is requesting that the DOJ consider a joint press release.

Financial and Program Management

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreements and equipment. A review of the Texas General Land Office is scheduled for April 5-6, 2011 in Austin, Texas.

Audit and Compliance Management

Status Update on the Solids Compliance System Tool (New): The Solids Compliance System Tool will go into production Monday, March 14, 2011, and will provide the Solid Minerals and Geothermal organization with their first automated- tool set used to make comparisons between production and royalty data reported by companies to source documentation. The comparison will assist ONRR in ensuring that mining companies properly report and pay their royalties.

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of March 14, 2011

DWH Oil Spill Matters:

Hornbeck Offshore

In early February the district court issued an interlocutory order granting plaintiff's motion for an unspecified amount of attorney's fees, finding the government in civil contempt by the "imposition of a second moratorium" on deepwater drilling. Plaintiff filed a fee petition seeking approximately \$1.2 million in fees. We filed our opposition on Wednesday, March 9, arguing that Plaintiffs were entitled to no more than \$112,000 under the Court's order.

Enesco Litigation

On March 4, the government appealed the court's two injunction orders to the Fifth Circuit and simultaneously filed a motion with the district court for a stay of the court's injunction orders and a motion for expedited hearing of the stay motion. On March 10, after having received no ruling from the district court, we filed a motion for a stay of the injunction orders with the Fifth Circuit.

The deadline for BOEMRE to act on the 5 pending permit applications to drill for which the court first issued a preliminary injunction is Saturday, March 19. The court has clarified that the deadline is Saturday and cannot be treated as a Monday deadline. The deadline for BOEMRE to act on other two ATP permits is March 31.

Supplemental administrative record materials are due to be filed on March 18. Responses to interrogatories are due March 21.

CBD Challenge to 2007-2012 OCS Leasing Program

On February 3, the government filed a motion to dismiss the Center for Biological Diversity's challenge to the 2007-2012 OCS Leasing Program. On March 4, all petitioners in the case filed a notice of non-opposition to the government's motion to dismiss. All that remains of this action is the court's dismissal of the case.

BOP Examination

The forensic examination was completed last Friday. The examiner's report is due to the JIT on March 20 and a JIT hearing will be held the first week of April.

Other Matters:

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District - Recoupment Litigation

This case, which began in 1996, involves efforts to recover water that TCID illegally diverted into the Newlands Project during the 1970s and 80s. The diversions were in excess of the limits allowed by federal regulations known as the Operating Criteria and Procedures. The Ninth Circuit remanded the case (b) (5)

(b) (5) . The district court has requested a status report for April 1 to determine how this case will proceed now that TCID's certiorari petition has been denied.

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District - Challenge to the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA)

TROA was authorized by a 1990 statute and signed in 2008. It is a 15-party operating agreement designed to resolve many of the historic water disputes surrounding the use of Lake Tahoe, Pyramid Lake, and the Truckee and Carson Rivers in Nevada. TCID opposed TROA and is attempting to block its implementation through this lawsuit. The U.S. is set to file its opening brief, in full support of the TROA, on March 14. He Solicitor's Office has been working closely with DOJ and affected Interior bureaus to review the brief.

Gila River Indian Community v. Salazar (D. Ariz.)

In July 2010, the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs issued a decision to take a 54-acre parcel (Parcel 2) into trust for the Tohono O'odham Nation (Nation) pursuant to the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Replacement Act of 1986, P.L. 99-503. This statute is mandatory and requires the Secretary to acquire the land in trust for the Nation if, among other things, it is not within the corporate boundaries of any city. The City of Glendale and the Gila River Indian Community (the Community), Terry, et al., and the Arizona Legislative Leaders filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona to prevent the Department from taking Parcel 2 into trust.

On March 3, 2011, the district court granted the United States' motions for Summary Judgment holding, among other things, that the "within corporate limits" language of the statute is ambiguous, but the Department's interpretation of that language is reasonable and therefore must be upheld. The court further held that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act did not require the Department to make an Indians land determination when it decided to acquire Parcel 2 into trust. (b) (5)

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe v. Salazar (D.D.C.)

In 1977, the ICC awarded the Western Shoshone Identifiable Group approximately \$26 million to compensate the group for the United States taking a large portion of its territory in Nevada and California. In 2004, Congress passed the Western Shoshone Distribution Act to distribute the judgment fund to individual Western Shoshone descendants who were alive on the date of the

act, possessed at least ¼ Western Shoshone blood, were not certified to receive payment from another judgment fund, and are US citizens. The BIA made a partial distribution of the fund on February 28, 2011.

A number of individual members of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe claiming to be the tribal council brought suit in the Tribe's name claiming that the Distribution Act unlawfully takes tribal property by distributing the fund to individuals instead of the tribes and violates the Equal Protection clause because it impermissibly discriminates on the basis of race by distributing the fund to a group of descendants rather than tribal members. The court granted our motion to dismiss, finding: 1) that the Plaintiff failed to state a claim because it did not establish that it had a compensable vested interest in the judgment fund; and 2) that judgment fund distribution statutes are subject to rational relation review. The court suggested that the classification within the distribution act was not racial. The court also held that BIA's recognition of a government is not necessary for the court to have jurisdiction. The Plaintiff alleged enough facts to support the court's jurisdiction when it alleged the individuals constitute the tribal council. Since the court issued its order, the Assistant Secretary resolved the leadership dispute against the Plaintiffs.

Polar Bear Litigation

On March 2, the Alaska Oil & Gas Association filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief challenging the FWS final rule designating polar bear critical habitat for violations of the APA and ESA.

Stockbridge-Munsee – Wisconsin Land into Trust

An IBIA judge upheld the BIA's decision to acquire 404 acres in trust for this tribe under a Carcieri analysis. The court found that although the Tribe did not have a reservation in 1934, it was "under federal jurisdiction" because the BIA held an IRA election for the Tribe in 1934.
(b) (5)

Google v. United States Litigation

On March 4, DOJ filed a motion to dissolve the court's preliminary injunction and resume briefing on the merits of the case. The preliminary injunction enjoined the Department's procurement activity regarding the selection of Microsoft.

Implementation of Indian Water Rights Settlements (Claim Resolution Act of 2010)

As you know the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 settled several longstanding Indian Water Rights claims. The settlement terms include the construction of several water projects by the Bureau of Reclamation. Among the funding mechanisms are several provisions for large "mandatory appropriations" to be transferred from Treasury to Interior. Solicitor's Office attorneys are working with Reclamation on interpretation and implementation of these provisions.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
March 11, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HI) – Volcanic activity and facilities closure. On the afternoon of March 5, new volcanic activity included the collapse of the Pu'u 'O'o crater floor, and a new lava outbreak in a remote area on the east rift of Kilauea Volcano. In response to the current volcanic conditions, the park has closed Chain of Craters Road, all east rift zone and coastal trails, and the Kulanaokuaiki campground.

Colorado National Monument (CO) – Bicycle race controversy. The NPS Intermountain Regional staff and park personnel will meet with the Grand Junction Local Organizing Committee (LOC) on March 18 to further discuss the proposal for a stage of the Quiznos Pro Challenge bike race to be held in the park in August 2012. In December 2010, the park denied a permit for the proposed race based on unacceptable impacts to park resources and negative impacts to park visitors. The LOC is visiting with numerous elected officials at the local, state and national levels to seek support and pressure NPS to authorize the race. In some instances, the LOC is providing draft letters to various officials and businesses to send to DOI, NPS, and elected officials.

Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Aircraft noise-impact discussion. The park will issue a news release this week to announce a schedule of public meetings to discuss and receive comment on the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the impacts of noise associated with aircraft overflights on park resources. Public meetings will be held in Phoenix and Flagstaff, AZ, and Henderson, NV, on April 6-14. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings to learn more about the Draft EIS, ask questions of park staff and submit comments. Public comment will be taken through June 20.

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (WA) – Vacation cabin draft EA. The park is evaluating the effects of issuing Special Use Permits for 26 existing private vacation cabins at the park. The Draft EA analyzes whether the use of vacation cabins within the park is compatible with the NPS mission of protecting park resources and providing for the enjoyment of the general public. Alternatives include: issuance of new 5-year permits with no new conditions; cabin removal and restoration of the areas to natural conditions; and, as the preferred alternative, issuance of 5-year permits with new terms and conditions towards improved shoreline environment, wildlife habitat, and visitor experiences. The Draft EA is now available for public comment. A formal review period ends April 8. The possible removal of cabins has drawn some media coverage.

ON THE HORIZON

Chickasaw National Recreation Area (OK) – Prospective tribal management. On March 7, representatives of the park, regional office and Solicitor’s Office met in Tulsa to continue their negotiations with the Chickasaw Nation. Prior to the meeting, the NPS had provided a letter to the Chickasaw Nation outlining the framework within which the NPS anticipates that negotiations will be conducted including the programs, functions and activities associated with resource management and interpretation, but not on aspects of park operations that involve inherently federal functions. During the March 7 meeting, the Chickasaw Nation indicated its intention to conduct all further negotiations within the terms outlined in the letter. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2011.

Haskell Indian Nations University (KS) – Recruitment event. As part of the effort to develop a robust national youth conservation corps at DOI, the NPS will participate in planning and implementation for the targeted recruitment event at Haskell in Lawrence, Kansas, on March 30 - April 1. The event will allow NPS to obtain resumes, conduct interviews and initiate hiring actions that will directly support the efforts to increase under-represented minorities and diversify the workforce.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NV) – Trespass cattle. During the week of March 21, the park, BLM’s Southern Nevada District, and the Bureau of Reclamation will conduct a count of trespass cattle in northeast Clark County via helicopter and on the ground. Since 1998, branded and unbranded cattle have been in trespass on lands administered by BLM's Southern Nevada District; these cattle have since been sighted on adjacent lands administered by the State of Nevada, the NPS, and BLM’s Arizona Strip District. Ranchers in the area have disputed federal rights to manage these trespass cattle in the past.

George Washington Memorial Parkway (VA) – Scenic easement. In 1965, the NPS obtained through condemnation a conservation easement over the 46-acre Merrywood estate. The easement was to help preserve the scenic viewshed in the Potomac River Gorge upstream from Washington, DC, by limiting development of the area. While the easement was enforced by a Federal judge in 1965, the U.S. Government failed to file the easement in the Fairfax County (Virginia) land records. As a result, DOI solicitors advise the NPS that the 1965 easement cannot be enforced. The area includes the 5-acre property owned by developer REVI, LLC. The NPS has reached a proposed agreement with REVI that would preserve some of the original intent of the 1965 easement; however, it will substantially increase the ability of REVI to develop its 5-acre property. The NPS is preparing to notify the remaining Merrywood neighbors of the decision prior to signing, as they may find it controversial. Merrywood was the childhood home of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy.

Saratoga National Historical Park (NY) – The Town of Easton, New York, directly east of the park, voted to explore the feasibility of putting a nuclear power plant within the town in reaction to Representative Chris Gibson’s call for a nuclear power plant in his district. In 1968, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation made a precedent-setting decision after a field visit to a nuclear plant under construction in Easton by recommending to the Atomic Energy Commission that the project not be permitted due to impacts to the park's viewshed and setting.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
March 7, 2011

National Academy of Sciences Study of Science Issues affecting FIFRA/ESA consultations

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson will likely announce as part of testimony before the House Agriculture Committee during the week of March 7, the intention of the four agencies (DOI, EPA, NOAA, USDA) to contract with National Academy of Sciences to examine the scientific and technical issues that have kept the agencies from reaching agreement on how to reconcile the risk assessment processes used by EPA in the pesticide registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and by FWS and NMFS in consulting on those registrations under the Endangered Species Act.

The 2010 Annual Report on wolf management and population's status and trends is scheduled for release the week of March 8

FWS is releasing this report concurrent with the State of Montana, Nez Perce Tribe, and the National Park Service. Preliminary analysis indicates that depredations on cattle and livestock have slightly decreased. Wolf population numbers and numbers of breeding pairs are down slightly while the overall number of packs is up a little. As such, the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf population appears at about same levels for approximately the last 3 years. Despite this being a fairly routine report, we are engaged with the Department's Communications, Congressional Relations, and Intergovernmental Relations to ensure notification is handled appropriately.

North and South Dakota will again experience major flood conditions in 2011

Heavy fall and winter precipitation is expected to bring major flooding to parts of North and South Dakota for the third year in a row. Areas likely to be affected are the Red River of the North and Souris Rivers in North Dakota, and the James and Missouri rivers in South Dakota, starting in late March. The FWS expects to again be tasked by FEMA to provide airboat teams to assist with search and rescue operations in the Fargo area. FWS personnel are coordinating flood response planning with the State of North Dakota and the Cass County (Fargo, ND) Sheriff's office, including training their employees in airboat operations. Most FWS buildings will not be affected by high water levels, although some FWS lands will be inundated, and other FWS assets such as roads, fences, dikes, and dams may be damaged. Devils Lake in North Dakota is expected to rise another 2 ½-3 feet to a new record level as it continues to inundate farmland, buildings, and roads, and threaten communities. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has taken over control of managing water levels at the Lake Darling Dam on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

Gila Trout Returned to Arizona Waters, First-ever Fishing Season Underway

Fishing for Gila trout in Arizona had been prohibited since the fish's listing as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act in 1973. The fish was downlisted to "threatened" in 2006, paving the path to limited fishing. On February 23, 2010, 1,300 Gila trout, including large retired broodstock, were trucked from Mora National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center in

New Mexico and stocked in Frye Mesa Reservoir and Frye Creek in southeast Arizona. Five-hundred Gila trout had been previously stocked in Frye Creek 13 months earlier and are thriving. Frye Creek, and nearby Ash and Marijilda Creeks, plan to receive Gila trout this year and next, and is a population managed to recover the species and closed to fishing. This historic event was achieved by the FWS' Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Volunteers from four angler groups helped stock the fish in Frye Mesa Reservoir and over the remote four miles of Frye Creek. In the reservoir, angler's almost immediately caught the rare trout, and this has generated media interest. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded much of the work. Fishing for Gila trout in southwest New Mexico, following decades of similar collaborative restoration work, opened in 2009.

Arkansas House and Senate Resolutions on funding for Greers Ferry and Norfolk National Fish Hatcheries (AR)

The Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate passed similar Resolutions that support the immediate and future funding of the Norfolk and Greers Ferry National Fish Hatcheries. The House Resolution states that "... the President and Congress of the United States work together to continue the immediate and future funding of the national fish hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams and allow the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality of these towns, the State of Arkansas, and the entire country" and that "Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record." This may have some mild controversy.

Conservation and Management of Sandy Point Island, CT:

A collaborative partnership between FWS Coastal Program, FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Avalonia Land Conservancy, Stonington Community Center, Stewart B. McKinney Wildlife Refuge and Save the Bay has resulted in a dramatic increase in listed and migratory shorebird and seabird nesting on Sandy Point Island in southeastern Connecticut. FWS worked to strategically increase conservation, management and outreach on the heavily used recreational beaches, which were equally important for nesting wildlife species. Instead of closing the beaches to protect vulnerable nesting species, the partnership worked to build capacity, incorporate public access and integrate and educate the public about the nesting activities taking place. In just 1 year (between 2009 and 2010), the number of nesting piping plovers has tripled (from 2-6 pairs), nesting American oystercatcher productivity was excellent (4 pairs, 7 chicks fledged), and the number of nesting least terns has increased from 9 pairs in 2009 to 443 pairs in 2010. This number is more than triple the nesting populations of least terns in the entire state of Rhode Island and in the entire state of Connecticut from 2009, now likely the largest tern colony in New England. The project serves as a great model for how FWS can work in partnership with landowners and provide assistance and expertise to manage their own lands. Not expected to be controversial.

Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (TX)

The FWS will announce in the Federal Register the availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP). As a result of this effort, the FWS may issue a 30-year incidental take permit to Hays County authorizing the incidental take of the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. The Hays County RHCP conservation measures include the establishment of a preserve system of 10,000-15,000 acres to mitigate for the incidental take of golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos. We do not expect controversy related to this announcement. Interested Texas Congressional offices – Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-25), Sen. John Cornyn and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Planning Process (TX)

The FWS will announce in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to begin drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit for the Southern Edwards Plateau draft Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (dRHCP). The dRHCP effort is being led by the City of San Antonio, TX and Bexar County, TX. The dRHCP proposes to include the following five listed species – the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, Madla Cave meshweaver, and two species of ground beetle with no common names. We expect there will be significant local interest when the NOI is published as several County Commissions have proposed or passed resolutions expressing concern about the development of a HCP.

FWS has received 33 requests to extend the public comment period and hold public hearings in New Mexico and Texas on the proposed listing for the Dunes sagebrush lizard

The FWS received 33 requests for public hearings in both New Mexico and Texas, and to extend the public comment period. Requests have been received from oil and gas companies, members of Congress (U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman (NM) Tom Udall (NM), Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX), and John Cornyn (TX)), effected counties, Texas Farm Bureau, numerous conservation districts, New Mexico Governor's office, Texas Comptroller's Office, and ranchers among others. For this reason, the FWS will schedule additional public hearings. The times and dates will be dependent on the publication date of this notice in the Federal register and announced in our news release. The FWS will re-open the comment period for an added 30 days. This notice is expected to publish in the Federal Register the last week of March.

Review finds endangered species listing may be warranted for two bat species

The FWS will announce that the eastern small-footed and northern long-eared bats may warrant federal protection as threatened or endangered species, following an initial review of a petition seeking to protect the species under the Endangered Species Act. A more thorough status review will determine whether FWS will propose adding these species to the federal list of threatened and endangered species. The continued existence of one or both of these species may be threatened by habitat destruction and degradation, disturbance of hibernation areas and maternity roosts, and impacts related to white-nose syndrome. This is a 90-day finding in response to a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity.

Increased Use of USDA Programs to Protect Endangered Bog Turtle Habitat

In Pennsylvania, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is cooperating with the FWS to substantially increase the use of the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) to protect bog turtle habitat. Revised WRP eligibility requirements and buffer standards combined with NRCS' utilizing-FWS staff for technical assistance and landowner contacts, has resulted in enrollment of eight known turtle sites totaling more than 135 acres of protection under WRP in 2010. So far in fiscal year 2011, eight more sites totaling 155 acres have been enrolled, and the program is on target to reach a goal of at least 20 landowners by the end of FY11.

Partnership Building with States for Species in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, published in May 2010 under Executive Order 13508, includes specific outcomes for eastern brook trout in headwater streams of the Chesapeake watershed and American black ducks that winter in the Chesapeake Bay's tidal marshes. FWS is working through the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture to coordinate actions under these outcomes with state and local experts. The FWS Northeast Regional Director will be engaging state fish and wildlife agency partners in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia in identifying interim targets, focus areas, and associated monitoring requirements for brook trout in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This exemplifies cooperative conservation on a landscape scale based on science and working through established regional partnerships.

Meritorious Service Award Presented to Northeast Regional Refuge Chief

On February 18, 2011, Regional Director Marvin Moriarty presented a DOI Meritorious Service Award to Anthony D. (Tony) Léger, the Regional Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, who plans to retire on April 1, 2011. Under Tony's leadership, the region has developed innovative approaches to management of the NWRS, among them: developing standard designs for facilities resulting in a Director's Order mandating the use of standard designs for NWRS facilities across the country; refuges in the Northeast employing wind and solar power generation, ground-source heating and cooling systems, and "green" facilities using sustainable materials and practices; the use of strong science to support management decisions; developing a multi-regional research program in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey. One of Tony's most enduring legacies is support of youth hiring initiatives, and the Northeast NWRS diversity internship program initiated in 2005 to recruit primarily minority and urban students to work on national wildlife refuges; this program is now a model for the Secretary of the Interior's Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative.

Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

FWS Alaska reports that the NOA for the draft revised CCP and EIS for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be submitted for Department approval in mid-to-late March. The document is scheduled for release on or about April 10, 2011 for a 90-day public review. The revised CCP will provide management direction for the refuge for the next 15 years and the draft document includes proposals for wilderness and wild-river reviews. The State of Alaska and development interests strongly object to the wilderness and wild river reviews; many individuals and conservation organizations strongly support these reviews. A high level of controversy is anticipated.

Decision on Unimak Island Wolf Control Environmental Assessment announced

FWS R7 Regional Director Geoff Haskett announced on March 7th a decision on management alternatives for the Unimak Island caribou herd in an Environmental Assessment (EA). In December, 2010, the FWS, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, prepared an EA to analyze management options for responding to the declining Unimak Island caribou herd. The EA was released to the public at that time, initiating a public comment period that extended through January 31, 2011 and produced approximately 95,000 comments. Following a thorough evaluation of pertinent refuge regulations and policy, the FWS has decided that the No Action alternative is warranted at this time. The decision will not be well received by the State of Alaska or subsistence users. It will be applauded by segments of the NGO community.

90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot Butterfly as Endangered or Threatened

The FWS conducted a 90-day review and found that this subspecies may warrant listing. With publication of this notice, the FWS will initiate a status review to determine if listing is warranted, and opens a 60 day public comment period. *Potential Issues:* This subspecies is covered by a 1998 Conservation Agreement between the FWS, U.S. Forest Service and the State of Nevada to facilitate voluntary cooperation in providing long-term protection for the rare and sensitive flora and fauna of the Spring Mountains. The Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan also covers this subspecies. Some partners may be concerned that these efforts were not sufficient to negate the need for a substantial finding. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 9, 2011.

12-Month Finding on a Petition to List 3 Montana Invertebrates

In this 12-month finding, the FWS finds that listing is not warranted for Bearmouth mountainsnail and Byrne Resort mountainsnail because they are undescribed taxa and thus not listable entities. The FWS also finds that listing the meltwater lednian stonefly is warranted, but precluded by higher priority actions, due to threats to its habitat from glacial shrinking and glacial loss resulting from climate change. *Potential Issues:* There are significant taxonomic issues with all three petitioned entities. The meltwater lednian stonefly is a monotypic genus found solely within Glacier National Park. The National Park Service likely is neutral or slightly opposed to listing from the standpoint that they are currently managing the species' habitat as wilderness and the primary threat is habitat loss and modification resulting from the well-documented shrinking of glaciers in the Park caused by global climate change. This action is not court ordered. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 6, 2011

Reopening of Comment Period on a Proposed Rule to List the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard as Endangered

The FWS received 33 requests for public hearings in both New Mexico and Texas, along with requests to extend the public comment period. Requests have been received from oil and gas companies, members of Congress, affected counties, local farm bureaus, state agencies, and ranchers. For this reason, the FWS intends to schedule public hearings in both New Mexico and Texas, and will reopen the comment period for 30 days. *Potential issues:* U.S. Senators Jeff

Bingaman (NM) Tom Udall (NM), Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX), and John Cornyn (TX), and U.S. Representatives Steve Pearce (NM), Michael Conaway (TX), Francisco Canseco (TX), and Randy Neugenbauer (TX) have requested public hearings and substantial extensions to the public comment period. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is no later than March 16, 2011.

Final Revision to the 2008 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

The FWS will announce in March scientific refinements to the existing recovery plan for the threatened northern spotted owl in response to litigation and critical scientific peer review received after the 2008 plan was released. The main recommendations in the final revision are 1) a higher standard of habitat protection, including increased conservation of the highest quality habitat and spotted owl occupied sites to the maximum extent possible and 2) a carefully applied “ecological forestry” approach to forest management in select areas to promote the overall health and resilience of the broader Northwest forest landscape (which may include fuels treatment, thinning, and habitat restoration to reduce the impacts of severe wildfire, diseases, and insect infestations). Level of controversy: High.

Revised Implementing Regulations for Requirements to Publish Textual Descriptions of Boundaries of Critical Habitat – Proposed Rule

We are jointly proposing with National Marine Fisheries Service to maintain the publication of maps of proposed and final critical habitat designations, but make optional the inclusion of any textual description of the boundaries of the designation in the *Federal Register*. Due to changing technology, such as the Internet and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) computer programs, we have found over time that the requirements of our current regulations may not be the best and most cost-effective way with which to provide the public with information about the extent and location of areas under consideration for or being designated as critical habitat.

Potential issues: This should not be controversial. However, there may be confusion on the specific revisions and that the Services are making more substantive edits to ESA regulations. Eliminating the need to publish detailed textual descriptions in the *Federal Register* and annually in the CFR will also result in significant financial savings, thereby saving Federal resources. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 15, 2011.

Columbia River Basin Hatcheries

In March, the FWS Pacific Region intends to release the final report on its scientific review of federal hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin. Five years in the making, the review looked at 24 facilities and 53 hatchery programs in Oregon, Washington and Idaho that are owned, funded or operated by the FWS. While the review validated many of the hatchery operations, it resulted in nearly 900 recommendations for improvements at the hatcheries, from easy fixes to more complex changes that will require agreement with states and tribes, who operate some of the hatcheries. About 75 percent of the recommendations for the federal hatcheries have already been completed or are being implemented. Moderately controversial.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

March 13 – March 19, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office all week.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **Update: Proposed Renewable Energy Segregation Rule:** *The rule package continues to move through the official surname process. The package received Solicitor's Office clearance on Feb. 22. The package is currently being reviewed by the Director's Office.*
- **New: Geothermal Testing on BLM-UT Lands:** *On Feb. 23, the geothermal energy development company Enel requested approval to conduct down-hole surveys and collect gas samples on two of their geothermal wells at the BLM-UT Cove Fort/Sulphurdale development site in central Utah. The surveys will provide information needed to design a proposed power plant and associated pipelines.*
- **Update: Solar Company Unable to Satisfy Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant Requirements in CA:** *On Feb. 25, BLM-CA issued show cause notices to Tessera Solar for the potential termination of right-of-way (ROW) grants for the 663-MW Calico and 709-MW Imperial Solar Energy Projects. BLM-CA notified company representatives in advance of the official notice of intent and has been in frequent contact since then. The next steps are dependent upon the response to the notice, which is not due until March 25.*
- **New: Solar PEIS Comment Period Extension:** *During public meetings on the Solar PEIS, BLM heard several request to extend the comment period. On Mar. 7, the BLM announced a 30-day extension to the comment period, which will now conclude on Apr. 16. Public meetings for the Draft PEIS concluded on Mar. 10 in Salt Lake City, UT; no additional public meetings will be held during the extended public comment period.*
- **New: Wind Testing on BLM-OR Lands:** *Oregon Community Wind is assessing the feasibility of developing a commercial wind energy facility on 1,160 acres in BLM-OR's Lakeview District near Adel, Oregon. The proposed project would consist of five wind turbines and generate 9-MW. BLM-OR is currently reviewing the proponent's Plan of Development, which outlines the proponent's plan for determining if the proposed site has sufficient wind to make the project feasible.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: BLM-WY Lander Field Office to Attend Tribal Royalty Outreach Session:** *Representatives from the BLM-WY Lander Field Office (LFO), ONRR, and the DOI Office of Special Trustee will attend a royalty outreach session at the Wind River Indian Reservation in Fort Washakie, WY hosted by the BIA to provide Indian mineral owners with mineral royalty information. BLM-WY personnel will provide information on the well-drilling and permitting process.*

- **New: Federal Rail Authority (FRA) to Release Final EIS for Desert Xpress High Speed Rail:** *On Mar. 18, FRA expects to publish the Final EIS for the Desert Xpress High Speed Rail project which would connect Las Vegas to Victorville, CA. BLM has served as a cooperating agency. If approved, the BLM would need to issue a ROW grant for the project, which would enable trains to run at speeds between 100 and 150 mph. The project includes a broad range of alternatives, and the BLM is awaiting word from the FRA regarding its preferred alternative, which will identify the public land acreage affected.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **New: Notification to Resume Previously Approved Deepwater Activities:** *On Mar. 2, BOEMRE notified nine companies that a total of 41 additional well drilling operations that were halted or suspended during the deepwater moratorium may be able to resume certain previously-approved operations without the need for a site-specific environmental assessment. Before resuming well operations, the operators must comply with BOEMRE's new safety and environmental compliance requirements. The companies include: ATP Oil & Gas Corp., Anadarko, BHP Billiton Petroleum (GOM) Inc., BP, Chevron USA Inc, Exxon Mobile Corp., Noble Energy Inc., Shell Offshore Inc., and Statoil USA E & P Inc.*
- **Update: Apache EC 278 B Platform:** *On Mar. 2, it was determined that further plugging operations cannot be completed with the available equipment and approved procedures. The wells have been secured and all surface pressures are zero. Apache personnel will continue to monitor the B015 mudline and crater sites. In 2 – 3 weeks, once BOEMRE has approved the new plugging procedures, Apache will mobilize the Blake 210 platform rig and other equipment and complete the plugging of the B013 and B015 wells.*
- **Update: Sale 193 Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS):** *On Mar. 4, 2011, the BOEMRE announced the revised schedule for completion of the Sale 193 SEIS, which will include an analysis of a Very Large Oil Spill scenario. The revised draft SEIS is scheduled to be available for public comment from late May until early July 2011.*
- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *The fourth working session between representatives from the U.S. and Mexico will occur during the week of Mar. 28 and will cover health, safety and environmental regulations, and inspections. Both countries intend to have a finalized written document, in the form of either a treaty or an executive agreement, by the end of 2011.*
- **Update: Transocean Deepwater Horizon:** *DNV completed testing of the blowout preventer on Mar. 4 and will submit a written report of the tests to the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on Mar. 20. The JIT expects to hold another round of public hearings during the week of Apr. 4 to focus on the BOP and findings from the forensic examination. BOEMRE and the USCG expect to issue a joint report on the forensic examination of the BOP by mid-Apr. The JIT has been granted an extension of the deadline for its final report, which is now due no later than Jul. 27, 2011.*
- **Update: Revised OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012:** *On Mar. 4, the petitioners in Center for Biological Diversity v. DOI filed a Motion of non-Opposition to the Government's Motion to Dismiss the litigation on the Revised OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: OSM Denies Extension of Agreement with Kentucky Regarding Emergency Abandoned Mine Land Projects:** *As of Mar. 8, OSM is no longer providing assistance to KY for any new emergencies related to abandoned mine lands in the state. In May 2010, OSM notified KY, together with all other AML programs across the Nation, that consistent with the*

President's budget proposal, it would no longer provide supplemental funding or services for AML emergencies effective Oct. 1, 2010. KY indicated that it was not ready to assume responsibility for AML emergencies and requested assistance from OSM during the transitioning of AML emergency project responsibility to the KY Division of Abandoned Mine Lands. OSM accommodated KY's request and entered into an MOA to provide additional assistance to the state during the transition. On Mar. 1, OSM denied a further extension request from KY and notified the state that it should take the necessary steps to assume full responsibility for the reclamation of emergency AML projects within the state.

WEEK AHEAD – March 13 to March 19, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, March 14:

- **No Change: BLM-ID Employee Honored as National “Agent of the Year”:** BLM-ID Special Agent Kyle Gandiaga has been named the BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security national “Agent of the Year”. Agent Gandiaga’s work ethic, character and ever-increasing investigative skills have established him as one of the top Special Agents in the BLM.

Tuesday, March 15:

- **No Change: Public Meetings for the Upper Missouri Riparian Assessment Report:** BLM-MT will host two public meetings in Big Sandy and Winifred, MT, to provide a formal report of the 2010 Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River.

Thursday, March 17:

- **New: BLM-Eastern States (ES) to Hold Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-ES will hold a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 145 parcels totaling 97,855 acres in AL, AR, KY, LA, MI and MS. Of these, 143 parcels are U.S. Forest Service surface lands. The protest period closed Mar. 2; one protest was received from a private citizen regarding watershed and wetland impacts. While the protest does not refer to one specific parcel and failed to follow appropriate protest procedures, BLM-ES plans to resolve the protest prior to the sale.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, March 15:

- **Update: Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) Workshop:** *BOEMRE will hold a SEMS Workshop in New Orleans to provide an overview and background of the final rule; review and summarize responses to frequently asked questions; accept new questions pertaining to implementation; and describe BOEMRE audit methodologies for compliance reviews.*
- **Update: Call for Information and Nominations for Lease Sales in Central and Western GOM Planning Area in the OCS Leasing Program 2012 – 2017:** *The call, which is expected*

to be published in the Federal Register on Mar. 15, covers ten lease sales in the proposed new 5-Year Program.

Tuesday-Thursday, March 15-17:

- **No Change: BOEMRE to Participate in an Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI) in Sierra Leone:** BOEMRE will conduct a 3-day State Department-sponsored workshop entitled, "Managing Offshore Oil and Gas Resources: The U.S. Model" for its counterparts in Sierra Leone. This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of the responsibilities and activities of BOEMRE in the U.S.

Wednesday, March 16:

- **No Change: BOEMRE and U.S. Coast Guard Response Workgroup Meeting:** The Workgroup will meet in Herndon to continue working on projects related to oil spill planning, preparedness, and response.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Week of March 14:

- **New: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) 2011 Tree Planting Events:** OSM's Appalachian Region, along with its state partners, will be conducting tree planting events in Dollar Branch (Mar. 9, 10 & 16), Yatesville Lake KY (Mar. 12). Volunteers will plant trees on reclaimed mine sites.
- **Update: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition:** OSM will conduct scoping meetings to obtain public input on the LUM in Huntsville (Mar. 8), Lafollette (Mar. 10), and Oak Ridge (Mar. 15).

Thursday March 17:

- **No Change: Initial Award of the FY 2011 Indiana AML grant:** OSM plans to award \$11,141,559.60 to fund the FY 2011 IN AML program grant. IN will use the money to administer its AML program and to continue reclamation and restoration activities within the state.

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, March 22:

- **New: BLM-UT Cadastral Work on the Navajo Reservation:** The BIA and the BLM will host a public meeting in Bluff, UT to review the results of BLM-BIA cadastral work conducted on the Navajo reservation. The work examined riparian ownership on the San Juan River. A follow-up cadastral survey will take place this summer. The completed

survey includes areas near Monument Valley, Red Mesa, McCracken Mesa, and Hovenweep in the southeastern corner of Utah.

Wednesday, March 23:

- **No Change: Annual MSHA-BLM Meeting:** BLM-UT will host an annual meeting with MSHA to discuss a wide variety of topics, including agency coordination, collaborative research, and training. Other attendees will include personnel from OSM and the Coal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Thursday, March 24:

- **New: BLM-CO to Hold Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-CO will hold a competitive oil and gas lease sale for one parcel totaling 1,964 acres in Routt County, northeast of Craig. Two protests were received - one from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and one from the Center for Native Ecosystems (CNE). The CDOW protest was resolved by deferring a parcel from the final sale. The CNE protest alleged that its members' interests in rare and imperiled species and ecosystems on BLM lands would be adversely affected by oil and gas leasing and that additional environmental analysis regarding imperiled species and native ecosystems is necessary. The alternatives analyzed and the environmental impacts addressed in the 1991 Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing Development FEIS adequately address current environmental concerns, interests and resource values, including sensitive species. The CNE protest is expected to be dismissed prior to the sale.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

March 2011:

- **No Change: Call for Information for New Jersey Offshore Wind Leasing:** BOEMRE anticipates issuing in the coming weeks a call for information to gauge interest in commercial wind development leases in areas offshore NJ.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 23-24:

- **New: USGS Review of BOEMRE Worst-Case-Discharge (WCD) Methodology:** *Resource Evaluation Division and GOMR staff, along with Gemini Inc., will conduct a two-day workshop in the Gulf of Mexico Region for USGS staff tasked with reviewing BOEMRE's WCD procedures.*

Wednesday, March 30:

- **Update: Change: Gulf of Mexico Region (GOMR) Workshop on Flaring and Venting:** *GOMR will hold a public workshop to obtain feedback on whether or not BOEMRE should propose regulations that would require offshore operators to flare instead of vent, when such releases are necessary, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Attendees will include oil-industry, EPA, and World Bank representatives.*

Thursday, March 31:

- **Update: BOEMRE Oregon OCS Renewable Energy Task Force:** *Federal and state agency, and local and tribal government representatives are expected to participate in the first meeting of the BOEMRE Oregon OCS Renewable Energy Task Force. This first meeting will discuss the purpose and charter of the Task Force, as well as an overview of BOEMRE's renewable energy regulatory processes*

Tuesday – Thursday, May 3-5:

- **Update: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP):** *The National CMSP Workshop will take place at Main Interior. The National Information Management System for the CMSP working group is currently developing a plan to start a prototype data and tools portal for all major federal data sets needed for CMSP, data standards, available tools, and a community of practice. The prototype will be available in Aug. 2011, and the final portal will be available in Nov. 2012.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Monday - Wednesday, March 21-23:

- **New: OSM to Participate in “State of the Region Roundtable”:** *OSM’s Charleston Field Office Director will advise the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable (ECRR) about the status of the Abandoned Mine Land Fund, the FY 2012 budget, and rulemaking procedures involving the Stream Protection Rule. About 150 people throughout Appalachia are expected to attend the forum. Partially funded by the EPA, the ECRR’s mission is to serve mine-scarred watersheds through training, capacity building, and providing a collective voice for underserved communities seeking to restore the well-being of their citizens and environment.*

Week of March 28:

- **New: OSM to Participate in Interagency Risk Assessment of Ohio Reservoir:** *OSM will participate in an interagency review of potential risks to an Ohio reservoir. The Army Corps of Engineers is concerned that pending underground mining operations conducted by the Buckingham Coal Company within the Buckingham Mine No. 7 will potentially increase the risk to the reservoir by mining under the high-water level of the reservoir. The reservoir’s normal pool is situated downstream of the proposed mining project, but under flood conditions, as much as 35 feet of water may overlie the underground mine workings.*

Tuesday – Wednesday, March 29-30:

- **New: OSM Appalachian Regional Director to Speak at the West Virginia Event for Water-related Mining Issues:** *OSM’s Appalachian Regional Director will speak at the WV Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium in Morgantown, WV. About 300 representatives from industry, environmental groups, government and academia attend this event, which is sponsored by the WV Mine Drainage Task Force, a multi-interest task group. Composed of members from the coal mining industry, regulators, consultants, and academia, the task force investigates acid mine drainage problems associated with surface mining in WV as well as other types of coal-mine-related water pollution issues. The symposium’s main topics deal with water issues related to mining, including discussions on issues such as total dissolved solids and selenium control.*

Weekly Report
March 11, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities Mar. 14-18:

Anne J. Castle – Mar. 14 - 17, in the office attending various internal meetings; Mar 18, depart for Las Vegas to provide Keynote speech at Annual Law of Colo. River Conference.

John Tubbs – Mar. 14 - 18, in the office attending various internal meetings; Keynote speaker on Mar 18, at Irrigation Association meeting, DC.

Deanna Archuleta – Mar. 14 - 18, in the office attending various internal meetings.

Marcia McNutt – 3/14-16, New Orleans, LA, With Jon Jarvis, George Wright Society, Session entitled “ *The BP Oil Spill Response: Reflections from Two Agency Directors*”; 3/17, House Appropriations, Subcommittee Interior, Hearing.

Mike Connor – Mar. 14 - 18, in the office attending various internal meetings.

Reclamation

Klamath Project Operations Meeting with Local Tribes (Oregon/California)

On March 3, Reclamation met with the Klamath, Yurok, Karuk and Hoopa tribes; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to consult on March operations of the Klamath Project. Discussion topics included: (1) the conflict that using the Water Supply Index (WSI) formula for determining river releases creates with the FWS Biological Opinion; (2) the details of Reclamation’s proposed revised March operation; and (3) the difference between the proposed revised March operation and the WSI. Reclamation agreed to consult closely with the tribes in March on any proposal that would differ from the WSI for April-September. Reclamation also indicated that initiating reconsultation on both Biological Opinions was likely, and both NMFS and FWS expressed support for that approach.

Bid Opening for Echo Dam Modification Project (Utah)

On March 8, the Provo Area Office will conduct a bid opening for the Echo Dam Modification Project dewatering contract. This is the first of three modification contracts to be awarded for the Echo Dam seismic modification project. The contract for the embankment modification will be awarded in summer 2011 and the spillway modification contract will be awarded in 2013.

International Boundary and Water Commission Meeting on Colorado River Issues

On March 16, Commissioner Mike Connor, Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee, and Deputy Regional Director Jayne Harkins will participate in a bi-national water issues meeting in San Antonio, Texas, with the United States and Mexico Commissioners of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Roosevelt Dam Centennial (Arizona)

On March 18, Secretary Salazar, Commissioner Connor, Deputy Commissioner Finkler, Lower Colorado Regional Director Gray-Lee, Deputy Regional Director Jayne Harkins, and Phoenix Area Office Manager Randy Chandler will attend the Roosevelt Dam Centennial event in Arizona.

Comments on Draft Revised Operating Criteria for Yellowtail Dam (Montana/Wyoming)

Reclamation has posted comments received from the public to their internet site at http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao/yellowtail/issues_group/2011_meetings/combined_comments.pdf

The comment period closed in January 2011. The next meeting for the collaborative Big Horn System Issues Group will be held in a few weeks and the primary agenda topic will be a discussion of these comments. All comments will be considered and the Draft Revised Operating Criteria adjusted where appropriate. Montana Area Office intends to continue the current release rate from Yellowtail Dam until reports of accumulated snowpack are considered and plans are made for handling spring runoff, in accordance with the Draft Revised Operating Criteria.

Litigation Relating to Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt Contamination (Washington)

Reclamation is one of six DOI agencies involved with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and with the Natural Resource Trustee Council in conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). In a December 14, 2010 letter, Teck stated their intent to enter into discussions regarding the first phase of a cooperative NRDA approach. On January 27, 2011, the Trustee Council sent Teck a draft funding and participation agreement that would define the first phase of a cooperative NRDA process to be conducted by the Trustees and Teck. The Trustee Council has developed a revised draft agreement based on input from Teck and plans to address procedures for finalizing an agreement at the next Trustee Council meeting, March 14-15, 2011.

Great Plains Region Hydrology Outlook (Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota)

Unusually high amounts of snow lay on the plains in the northern portion of the Great Plains Region (Region) spreading from the North Platte River basin in Wyoming to the lower portion of the Milk River Basin in Montana to the Red River Basin in North Dakota. Several areas in the Region have experienced well above average precipitation during the winter of 2010-2011. The Region continues to closely monitor the hydrology and facilities. In **Wyoming**, water stored in Reclamation's North Platte reservoir system is well above average for this time of year due to the high flood runoff in 2010. Stored water in Seminoe, Pathfinder, and Glendo reservoirs is 179, 173, and 127 percent of average respectively. Snow water equivalent in the mountain snowpack in the upper North Platte River basin is 136 percent of average and in the lower portion of this basin it is 120 percent of average. To prepare for expected high spring runoff, system storage releases were started from the North Platte system in late February, two months earlier than

normal. In **Colorado**, mountain snowpack in the Upper Colorado River basin is 129 percent of average and in the South Platte River basin it is 124 percent of average. Reclamation operates the Colorado-Big Thompson reservoir system in these two basins. In **Montana**, record snow levels in the lower Milk River Basin indicate a high potential for spring flooding. Reclamation operates Fresno and Nelson dams in the Milk River Basin upstream of the portion of the basin with record snow pack. In **South Dakota**, snowpack in the Black Hills above Reclamation's Deerfield and Pactola reservoirs is well above average for this time of year. In **North Dakota**, current snow pack conditions in the James River Basin are similar to previous high runoff years in 1997 and 2010 but lower than the record runoff year of 2009. Reclamation operates Jamestown Dam directly upstream of the city of Jamestown. Unusual high snow water content is also present in the Red River Basin in eastern North Dakota. However, Reclamation does not have any projects in this river basin.

Granby and Pueblo Dams Lease of Power Privilege (Colorado)

On September 2, 2010, America Renewables requested a lease of power privilege for Granby and Pueblo dams. Reclamation requested confirmation of jurisdiction from FERC on September 13, 2010. As of March 1, FERC has not replied on the question of jurisdiction. The draft Federal Register Notice is in Washington, DC for surnaming and approval. Proposals for the lease power are scheduled to be received by August 19.

Congressional Activity

- **3/21/11 thru 4/29/11** – Reclamation is monitoring plans for House or Senate field hearings during the next Congressional recess (3/21/11), or the following recess (4/18/11 to 4/29/11). Past spring recesses have featured field hearings, and at the 3/2/11 House subcommittee hearing, Chairman McClintock said that his subcommittee intended to hold hearings in the Central Valley of California “within the next 60 days” regarding water supplies and ecosystem issues in California.

Call with Senator Udall's Office on Public Access Across Elephant Butte Dam (New Mexico)

On March 10, Albuquerque Area Office (AAO) Manager Mike Hamman and the Upper Colorado Regional Security Officer will conduct a conference call with Anna Apodaca, field representative for Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), to discuss the reasons Reclamation has kept public access across Elephant Butte Dam closed since September 11, 2001. Reclamation has been criticized in several newspaper articles for not re-opening access to allow unrestricted foot and bicycle traffic.

Letter from Feinstein, Boxer, and Costa Re: Kettleman City (California)

Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Congressman Costa sent a letter to Commissioner Connor and California's Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird inquiring about the feasibility of an arrangement to provide a clean drinking water supply of 900 acre-feet to the small community of Kettleman City. Central Valley Project water contractor Westlands Water District approached Senator Feinstein's and Congressman Costa's offices with draft legislation to address this matter through a bill amending the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Reclamation is working with the state on a coordinated response to the letter. Kettleman City, with a population of about

1,500 people, is located in the San Joaquin Valley in Kings County about 28 miles southeast of Hanford.

U.S. Geological Survey

March 11 Japan Earthquake: *USGS scientists, as well as communications and congressional affairs staff, responding.* The March 11 earthquake (preliminary magnitude 8.9) near the east coast of Honshu, Japan, occurred as a result of thrust faulting on or near the subduction zone interface plate boundary between the Pacific and North America plates. The March 11 earthquake was preceded by a series of large foreshocks over the previous two days, beginning on March 9th with an M 7.2 event approximately 40 km from the March 11 earthquake, and continuing with a further 3 earthquakes greater than M 6 on the same day. The Japan Trench subduction zone has hosted 9 events of magnitude 7 or greater since 1973.

Kilauea Eruption Activity—Update March 9, 2010, Orange Alert: Activity Summary for past 24 hours: Kilauea Volcano is erupting at two locations: On the east rift zone, the Kamoamoia fissure eruption that started March 5 continued approximately 3.5 km WSW of Pu`u `O`o. At the summit, the lava lake level remained deep below the rim of the vent inset within the east wall of Halema`uma`u Crater. East rift zone seismicity has decreased but remained elevated; summit seismicity and sulfur dioxide emissions remained elevated. **Past 24 hours at Kilauea summit:** The lava level remained very deep (estimated more than 200 m or 655 ft) and mostly out of webcam view within the vent inset within the east wall of Halema`uma`u Crater but the presence of the lake was confirmed on this morning's overflight. The summit tiltmeter network recorded slowing deflation. Seismic tremor levels remained significantly elevated. One earthquake was strong enough to be located within Kilauea volcano on south flank faults. The summit gas plume is robust and moving to the southwest this morning. The most recent (preliminary) sulfur dioxide emission rate measurement was 800 tonnes/day on March 8, 2011. Live views of Kilauea's fissure eruption are now possible via a Webcam installed by the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO). The Webcam images, which are updated every five minutes, can be accessed at <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/cams/NCCcam/>. Daily updates about Kilauea's ongoing eruptions, recent images and videos of summit and east rift zone volcanic activity, and data about recent earthquakes are posted on the HVO Web site at <http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov>.

Climate Science Center (CSC) Webinars Planned for NE, South Central and Pacific Island: The USGS will be hosting three conference call/webinars on March 18 for prospective bidders for the Northeast, South Central and Pacific Island CSC slots. The conference call/webinar approach will be similar to the approach the USGS used during selection of previous CSC's in the spring of 2010 (Northwest, North Central, Southwest and Southeast). The purpose of these calls are to allow participants to receive some standard information about what we expect the CSC's to accomplish and to answer general questions from prospective bidders about the program announcement and the review/selection process for the final 3 CSC's. Staff from DOI, NCCWSC and USGS Office of Acquisition and Grants will participate in call. The

call is open to DOI and other Federal employees; however, we will ask that questions come from prospective bidders only.

USGS Helping Write USGCRP Strategic Plan: The USGS is helping write the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. This Strategic Plan serves as guidance for the Federal Government, and the four major components to the plan are Communicate and Educate, Advance Science, Inform Decisions, and Sustain Assessment. USGS representatives are serving on all of the teams. The first draft for each section is due in mid-April, with the final draft due in October after reviews, clearance and public comments.

USGS Scientist Receives NWF Connie Award: Virginia Burkett, USGS, will be honored on April 13 as the recipient of the 2011 National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Connie Award for Science. The "Connie" Awards were established in 1965 to recognize individuals and organizations playing a leadership role in advancing knowledge and action to protect and restore our environment. This year, the NWF celebrates 75 years of protecting wildlife for our children's future. Dr. Burkett was an early leader in the movement for addressing climate change when she began to focus on the issue in the 1990s. She has since become known as one of the most knowledgeable and accomplished scientists in the field. Her leadership in these efforts has contributed immensely to the public's understanding of the scientific basis for reducing global warming pollution. She has been tireless in her efforts to educate professional and lay audiences about climate change and its impacts on natural resources. She continues her efforts today as the USGS Senior Scientist for Climate and Land Use Change.

Department of State Inquiry - Carbon Farming and Climate Impacts to Agriculture: The State Department is working on a news series with a crew from Sierra Leone about global warming and food insecurity and asked the USGS for assistance. State Department plans to film interviews with USGS scientists in April regarding the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, USGS climate change initiatives, and the role of science in supporting decision making. They have also expressed interest in the USGS carbon farming project in California.

Southeast Climate Science Center (CSC) Publishes Fact Sheet: This fact sheet, "Department of Interior Climate Science Centers" (FS 2011-3025), was used to provide quick facts and general information, about DOI CSC's in general and the Southeast CSC more specifically, to attendees of the Southeast CSC's second roll-out meeting, held in Atlanta, GA on March 2, 2011. The Southeast CSC will use this fact sheet as a source of general information at the next scheduled roll-out meeting, May 4, 2011 in Baton Rouge, LA as well as other networking and outreach opportunities.

Delta Smelt Study Update: On March 30, Bill Bennett, University of California, Davis, with USGS co-author, Jon Burau, will present a talk on the preliminary smelt study results at the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) workshop, in Folsom, CA. This year, the IEP's Annual Workshop will be held as an all-day symposium during the 45th Annual Conference of the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. A briefing paper will be prepared for the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science highlighting the presentation. *—Previously submitted:* The USGS in coordination with other Federal and State agencies, and the University

of California, Davis, has launched a 4-year study to provide information on the extent to which water of low transparency, i.e. high turbidity, triggers the spawning migration of delta smelt in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. This study has required considerable interagency cooperation and effort, particularly with regard to review of the study design and permitting the “taking” of a number of ESA listed species (smelt, winter and spring run salmon and longfin smelt). Exports from the delta, which have historically peaked in the winter because of the large quantities of uncontrolled run-off available for export at this time of year, have been significantly curtailed by Endangered Species Act (ESA) pumping limits aimed at protecting delta smelt. This study may demonstrate a linkage between smelt migration and turbidity, and allow achievement of the ESA “no jeopardy” requirements through more targeted restrictions related to turbid water conditions rather than gross pumping limits.

Oldest known wild bird in United States returns to Midway to raise chick: USGS and FWS have documented that the oldest known wild bird in the United States has returned to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and is raising a chick. The Laysan albatross nicknamed Wisdom is now at least 59 years old; a FWS biologist spotted her a few weeks ago raising a chick on Midway Atoll in the Pacific Islands. She was first banded by USGS scientist Chandler Robbins in 1956 when she was incubating an egg. Conservative estimates are that this bird has raised 30 to 35 chicks and logged between 2 and 3 million miles in the air in the last 50-plus years. USGS is doing a feature press release on this bird and how bird banding information can be invaluable to researchers and managers. The press release is scheduled to be distributed this week.

2,000 Year-Old Deep-Sea Black Corals Call Gulf of Mexico Home: For the first time, USGS scientists have been able to validate the age of deep-sea black corals in the Gulf of Mexico. They found the Gulf is home to 2,000 year-old deep-sea black corals, many of which are only a few feet tall. These slow-growing, long-living animals thrive in very deep waters--300 meters and deeper--yet scientists say they are sensitive to what is happening in the surface ocean as well as on the sea floor. The USGS plans to issue a news release about this study in mid March.

Congressional Activities

- **House Appropriations Committee Courtesy Visits:** Other the next week, USGS Director Marcia McNutt will make courtesy visits to House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Members, including Representatives Moran, Simpson, and Lummis.
- **Hearing, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior:** USGS FY 2012, USGS Director Marcia McNutt, witness.

Media

- **Magma as Geothermal Energy Panel:** Dr. John Eichelberger, USGS, participated in a taped panel discussion for local Washington, D.C.'s ABC 7's EnergyNow program, focusing on the possibility of using magma power from volcanoes for geothermal energy. In 2009, Elders led a team of colleagues on a project to drill an exploratory geothermal well in the Krafla volcano in Iceland when they encountered an unexpected

problem: magma (molten rock or lava underground) which flowed into the well, forcing the researchers to terminate the drilling. While the magma flow interrupted their project, it gave the researchers a unique opportunity to study the magma and test a very hot geothermal system as an energy source. The producers want Dr. Eichelberger to help explain what happens when you drill near a volcano. The interview is scheduled to air on Sunday, March 13, at 11 a.m. Eastern on ABC 7 in Washington, D.C. There is a possibility that it could be also broadcast on Bloomberg TV.

- **Op-ed Submission: Could a Christchurch Earthquake Disaster Happen Here?** A USGS op-ed piece with this title has been submitted to the NYTimes, Washington Post, LATimes, Seattle Post - Intelligencer, Memphis Commercial Appeal and Charleston SC paper by USGS scientist Walter Mooney and Michael Hamburger, a seismologist and professor of Geological Sciences at Indiana University.
- **USGS Responds to North Dakota Reporter regarding the Bakken Formation and other Shale Oil Formations:** Brenda Pierce, USGS, responded to Bismarck Tribune reporter Gwen Bristol regarding the Bakken Formation and other shale oil formations. The Bismarck Tribune is publishing a 4-part series on the drilling in the Bakken Formations entitled "Bakken Breakout." This interview is for the second issue, which is to be published sometime during the second quarter of the year. The first issue was published in January.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 11, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- HPPG/ Public Safety and Justice: The HPPG initiative is still on track to meet its goals. The four scheduled meetings at each HPPG site have been concluded on schedule and the job fair recently held at the Standing Rock Tribe was highly successful. In total, 54 job offers were made in two days during the job fair. In addition, there has been a combined reduction of 11 percent in violent crime on all of the 4 targeted reservations. There are seven months left in the HPPG performance period and every effort will be made to adjust prevention strategies to further reduce crime. BIA will develop a best practices document to assist in the development of a model law enforcement program to provide throughout Indian Country; the document will focus on prevention, policing, prosecution, corrections and rehabilitation.
- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): The implementation of TLOA is on target. Efforts are continuing with the Department of Justice on scheduling the consultation sessions on long term incarceration. The new law also requires the Secretaries of DOI and HHS and the Attorney General to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by July 29, 2011; however, due to the difficulty in coordinating cabinet-level review and signature, it is expected that the MOA will be presented for review with a target signature date of mid-May or early June. The TLOA Substance Abuse MOA will be posted in the *Federal Register* and on the Indian Affairs website. The MOA will be incorporated into the report to the Congress.
- Suicide Prevention: Work continues on development of four additional Listening Sessions targeted at Indian Youth at Bureau of Indian Education-funded

high schools and colleges. This is in direct response to the concerns expressed throughout the 10 Suicide Awareness Listening Sessions held in 2010 for a youth component to be highlighted in the effort to prevent suicide in Indian Country. We are also working with IHS to set a date and location for the Suicide Prevention Summit this summer, with a similar event planned for Alaska.

- Bomb Threats/T'iis Nazbas Elementary School: The FBI and Navajo Nation Investigators continue to investigate the bomb threats received at schools on the Navajo reservation. Agents have located the individuals that were involved in making the threats. In addition, BIA law enforcement has provided recommendations to the school on protocols to follow when dealing with a bomb threat; these recommendations ranged from the receipt of the initial threat to physical security of the building to training for educators.
- Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TACG): Indian Affairs' Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) participated in the TACG monthly conference call. This month's call had representatives from 15 Federal Departments and Agencies that varied from the American Red Cross to the National Counterterrorism Center. Topics discussed included White Swan fire, potential for Midwest spring flooding, Red Cross training programs, Mental Health counseling during and after disasters and the National TACG conference in May.
- SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants: OHSES distributed information to the Tribes on SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants (SERG) program. Section 3102 of the Children's Health Act of 2000, *Public Law 106-310*, amended section 501 of the PHS Act (42 USC 290aa) to add a new subsection (m) entitled "Emergency Response." This section authorizes the HHS Secretary to utilize up to but no more than 2.5 percent of all amounts appropriated under Title V of the PHS Act, other than those appropriated under Part C, in each fiscal year to make "non-competitive grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to public entities to enable such entities to address emergency substance abuse or mental health needs in local communities." Working with officials from SAMHSA, OHSES sent out two brochures: 1) Disaster Training & Technical Assistance; and 2) Crisis Counseling Assistance & Training Program. Both programs are offered free of charge to the tribes. This information was provided in response to recent reports from the Yakama Tribe in regards to the need for mental health counselors for the victims of the White Swan fires.
- NCAI Presentation: A roundtable presentation/discussion on emergency response/ preparedness was held at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Session on March 2, 2011. The meeting included Tribal, Federal and NGO representatives. Legislative issues discussed at the meeting were as follows: Two disaster relief legislative efforts were discussed at the NCAI Homeland Security breakout session. One, an amendment to the Stafford Act to allow Tribal Governments the option to declare and request a Presidential Disaster Declaration (PDD) directly or with the cooperation of the State is now receiving more support and attention than has previously been the case. Two, a Tribal Emergency Disaster Relief Act which would give individual

Department and Agencies authority to provide a fixed maximum amount (\$200,000) per agency to provide disaster assistance in the absence of a PDD.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- **477 Program:** DOI and HHS will announce a summary of consultation regarding the P.L. 102-477 program. In March, HHS and DOI invited the tribes to comment through tribal consultation on an addendum to the current funding agreements for the 477 programs administered by Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Energy Economic Development. This proposed addendum will require tribes to utilize the terms and conditions for the three HHS programs: 1) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 2) Native Employment Works, and Child Care and Development Fund. Through face-to-face consultations, the tribes strongly objected to the terms of the amendment because they felt that the separate program audit reporting requirements conflicts with the intent of the 477 legislation, which seeks to combine and streamline reporting into a single report for all programs included in 477 agreements. The consultation will inform HHS and DOI on how the addendum may be modified, but a final addendum must be in place by July 1, 2011 in order for tribes to include these HHS funds in their new 477 funding agreements. Members of Congress and the White House are interested in how this challenge is addressed where reporting requirements for different laws are inconsistent.
- **Tribal Consultation:** Work is continuing on the development of the DOI-wide policy. March 14, 2011 will be the last day in which Tribal leaders will be asked to provide feedback on a draft policy. Then, the general public will have an opportunity to comment. The Department's joint team of tribal and Federal representatives will continue to contribute to the policy's development and meet on March 30, 2011, for a fourth and final face-to-face discussion. Also in the coming months, a process to expeditiously set out the Department's responsibility to consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Tribes will be rolled out and include the feedback of Alaska Native stakeholders. It is expected that by mid-Summer 2011, a comprehensive policy will be available for the Secretary's consideration. The policy will be the first ever DOI-wide policy on consultation, will honor the Government to Government relationship, and will enhance the quality of the Department policy to improve the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native people."
- **Federal Recognition:** Final Determinations on two Applications for Federal Acknowledgment of a Tribe – The Assistant Secretary will make his final determination on two applications from communities of Juaneno Indians. The two California communities of Indians received a proposed finding that the applications failed to meet all of the mandatory criteria to be federally recognized under the existing regulations. The Assistant Secretary is slated to make his final determination by March 16, 2011. His determination will follow an extensive opportunity for the applicants and interested parties to provide comments on the previously issued proposed findings. Under the regulations, the Assistant Secretary's final determinations may be reviewable by the Interior Board of Indian Appeals before the decisions become final agency actions. Preparation for his final determinations have included coordination with the Indian Affairs Public Affairs staff.

EDUCATION

- Let's Move in Indian Country! Initiative: Indian Affairs has been advised by the Office of the First Lady that it will be setting a date during the week of March 10, 2011, for the First Lady's visit to a Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school as part of the *Let's Move in Indian Country!* initiative. Previously, the First Lady's Office advised Indian Affairs to prepare for an April launch date. BIE has selected the school site, Isleta School, Albuquerque, NM, for the event. For the past six months, the DPC, IGA, DOI, the Department of Agriculture, the Indian Health Service, the Department of Education and the Corporation for National Service have been working together with Let's Move to develop a strong plan to launch and implement the recommendations of the Childhood Obesity Task Force Report in Indian Country.
- ESEA Authorization: BIE continues to review sections of the reauthorization of the ESEA under the legislative referral process. BIE and the AS-IA are recommending to the Department that a set-aside for Indian Juvenile Detention Centers (JDCs) be included under ESEA Title I, Part D, Programs for Neglected and Delinquent Children as it is reauthorized. Such a set-aside would provide base funding for the Indian JDCs for education services. BIE has received initial resistance from the Department of Education on its proposal but Indian Affairs hopes to hold a meeting in the near future to seek a workable compromise that would deliver education services to this underserved population.
- FACE Program: Dr. Jeff Hamley, Associate Deputy Director for the Division of Performance and Accountability, provided the key note address at the 2011 FACE National Conference. Topic of presentation, entitled *A Continuum of Learning: PK-3 and Beyond*, focused on the concept of the continuous, integrated, learning system from pre-kindergarten to grade 3, which is also linked to later elementary grades. The Conference was attended by 325 participants representing BIE's 46 FACE programs in 11 states. The Conference offered professional development activities for FACE staff, with CEUs provided by the Salish Kootenai College. One of the most poignant moments at the conference was the reading of Parent Essay winning entries submitted by FACE parents. The essays portrayed personal perspectives of what the FACE program has personally meant to each individual, their children, and their families. A total of 350 essays were submitted this year. The six winning essayists included:
 - Cassie Campbell, Enemy Swim FACE Program
 - Henry Hildreth, Wingate FACE Program
 - Desiree Larvingo, Dzilth-Na-O-Dilth-Hle FACE Program
 - Theresa Paul, Atsa Biyaazh FACE Program
 - Leah Lewis, Gila Crossing FACE Program
 - Carla Blue Eyes, Beclabito FACE Program
- Haskell University President: BIE has received the Certification of eligible applicants for the vacant Haskell Indian Nations University President position. The situation at Haskell has been highly controversial over the past year. The announcement should bring a sense of

stability to students and staff as well as the Haskell community. The Kansas Congressional delegation has also expressed strong interest in the situation.

- Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI): Juanita Keesing, Program Analyst, continues to work with SIPI to have the necessary policies drafted in process for the Higher Learning Commission's visit on March 21-23. The Administrative Handbook, Employee Handbook, and Faculty Handbook are nearly completed. In addition, staff participated in the last PIAP status call so SIPI leadership and BIE Headquarters staff are all on the same page regarding expectations and needs to complete the PIAP
- EPA Global Settlement: Indian Affairs anticipates that EPA will issue a press release simultaneous with the signature to signing of the Global settlement. The release will not be favorable to Indian Affairs due to the nature of the violations of environmental regulations and statutory requirements involving schools. Indian Affairs has requested a copy of the press release prior to announcement, however, no response has yet been received EPA.
- Recognition of Public Service: Haskell Indian Nations University honored Mr. Phil Homeratha for 40 years of service at Haskell. Mr. Homeratha has served both in the capacity of instructor and coach but is most recently well known as the Women's Basketball Coach with numerous highly competitive teams and academic All-Americans. Many former students and team members of Coach Phil's returned to Haskell for the final home game to show their appreciation and support of a Haskell legend.
- Scientific Research: Tribal Colleges, including Haskell Indian Nations University, are being recognized for their original scientific research. Daniel Wildcat, Acting Dean of Natural and Social Sciences, Haskell Indian Nations University, stated that doing research within tribal colleges allows Native Americans to "design their own research agendas," in which tribal values rather than those of outsiders determine what gets studied. Reference site: <http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110302/full>

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Leasing and Permit Regulations: March 17, 2011, Indian Affairs will be hosting tribal consultations in Las Vegas on a Proposed Rule on Leasing and Permits. The changes to the regulation include changes to the housing and business regulations. Additionally, the wind and solar resources subpart establishes procedures for obtaining BIA approval of a permit to evaluate wind and solar resources and install testing equipment to determine whether wind or solar generation is viable on Indian land. It also provides procedures for obtaining BIA approval of leasing the Indian land for wind and solar generation. While there may be objections to individual provisions in these draft subparts, Indian Affairs expects that its trust beneficiaries and those who lease or permit Indian land will generally be supportive of the transparent procedures the subparts define. These regulations mark the most substantial changes to Indian land use regulations in 50 years.
- RES 2011: The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) is a Presenting Sponsor of RES 2011, the largest annual gathering of Indian business men and women in the

nation; it is scheduled to be held March 14-17 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Its chief aim is to link prime contractors with tribal businesses from eight featured reservations: Red Lake, Crow, Colville, Oneida of Wisconsin, Ysleta del Sur, Ft. Berthold, Fond du Lac, and Metlakatla. Currently there are over 62 prime contractors who have confirmed their participation in IEED's procurement matchmaking session at RES 2011.

- Pyramid Lake Geothermal Project (Nevada): The Tribe completed what appears to be an extremely promising geothermal well that points to the presence of a potential geothermal resource that could lead to a geothermally sourced power plant. Indian Affairs provided funding and technical input as to the most efficient way to drill the well and the geophysical logging program which is providing the very best information possible to effectively calibrate the seismic. Delineation drilling will be required to substantiate the ultimate size of the geothermal resource.
- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California. IEED will have two booths at this conference to further market the Wind Atlas for all tribes seeking company and investor partners. The purpose behind attending the Conference is to assist tribes who would like to develop wind energy projects on their reservations and are actively seeking wind developer and/or investor partners.
- Labor Force Report: IEED's new management has assigned eight full-time personnel to collecting data and entering into a data system. To date, they have collected and entered into the system 66 percent of the data necessary to complete the Report: A total of 383 tribes have responded and IEED is working to collect 69 reports from the lower 48 states and 127 reports from Alaska.
- Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI): At the beginning of the fiscal year, DOI PAM issued a directive that all DOI bureaus would have a mandatory source to order office supplies from the FSSI awarded by GSA. Indian Affairs identified that there were no Tribal Nations owned companies on the vendor list. Due to this finding, Indian Affairs notified PAM that Indian Affairs would not be utilizing the list. After negotiating with PAM, Indian Affairs received authority to advertise for a DOI Strategic Office Supply contract with a set-aside for Tribal Nations owned companies. PAM stated that this contract would be mandatory for all DOI bureaus after award. There is currently a Request for Information posted for FEDBIZOPS to assemble a list of potential vendors by March 22, 2011. It is anticipated that a Blanket Purchase Agreement will be awarded to Tribal Nations owned vendors who demonstrate the ability to meet the projected workload by mid-May, 2011.

RESTORATION OF TRIBAL HOMELANDS

- Fee To Trust Decisions: It is expected that a decision letter to either approve or deny the application submitted by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees (UKB) to place 76 acres in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, in trust will be sent to the UKB and the Cherokee Nation by the Eastern Oklahoma Region, BIA, in the near future. The Cherokee Nation objects to the application within its former reservation for jurisdictional reasons. The White House and a Congressman have expressed interest in the situation.

INDIAN GAMING POLICY

- Policy: Pursuant to the Secretary's Memorandum of June 18, 2010, Indian Affairs completed a period of tribal consultation on the Department's off-reservation Indian gaming policy. The Department has reviewed the tribal comments and is working to develop the Department's policy on this area.

OUTREACH

On March 15-16, 2011, the Assistant Secretary will attend the quarterly meeting of the Tribal Interior Budget Council to update the tribes on the FY 2012 budget request and hear the Tribes priorities for FY 2013. On March 22, the Assistant Secretary and the Chief of Staff is scheduled to travel to Utah to address the Utah Tribal Leaders meeting, which will be attended by many leaders and members of the five tribes in Utah.

During the week of March 23, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to Albuquerque, NM, to participate and speak at a day and half symposium sponsored by the New Mexico School of Law and the University of New Mexico Indian Law Program. He will then travel to Madison, WI to attend meetings at the University of Wisconsin's Law School.

On March 15, 2011, the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development will provide a keynote address to the RES 2011 conference in Las Vegas, NV, where the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs office is a major sponsor of the event which draws over 2,000 participants. This is the largest annual gathering of Indian business men and women in the nation, March 14 – 17, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Its chief aim is to link prime contractors and tribal businesses from eight featured reservations: Red Lake, Crow, Colville, Oneida of Wisconsin, Ysleta del Sur, Ft. Berthold, Fond du Lac, and Metlakatla. At this writing, over 62 prime contractors have confirmed their participation in IA Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development procurement matchmaking session.

The Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, will travel to Hollywood, FL, to meet with the Seminole Tribe of Florida for a ribbon cutting event on March 21 – 23, 2011.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

BIA: Efforts are underway within Indian Affairs to respond to the FY 2012 OMB Passback language which requires by mid-March an analysis of the Bureau of Indian Affairs organization regarding consolidation of field sites and other efficiencies to produce administrative savings. During the week of March 8, 2011, the Department and Indian Affairs received the bids submitted through the solicitation process for a study of the effects of the administration consolidation resulting from the recommendations of the 1999 National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) report. Panel members are currently reviewing the submissions. Presentations will be scheduled with the contractors in the near future.

BIE: BIE continues its discussion with the Northwest Evaluation Association to discuss their forthcoming study entitled: The Bureau of Indian Education: 2009-2010 Baseline Data Report (February 2011), which examines assessment data in reading and math of students in BIE-funded schools compared to a control group of students. BIE commissioned a study of the system-wide performance for their first full school year of testing as part of the BIE-NWEA collaboration. The report is not an evaluation of BIE, but a written summary and analysis of data for BIE's first year of the NWEA Project. A meeting is scheduled for April 5-7, 2011, at NWEA's campus in Portland, Oregon. The purpose of the trip is to examine the status of BIE-funded schools in reading and math achievement in the spirit of continuous improvement that forms the basis of our approach. This will be accomplished by looking at a variety of data that basically tells the story of our efforts to implement instructional programs. A vital secondary purpose is to develop a plan of tangible strategies for implementation to improve academic achievement in BIE-funded schools. BIE will look at a range of data and state assessments. The Native American Student Information System (NASIS) will also be part of the discussion.

CONFIDENTIAL

March 11, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for March 14 to March 20, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report

March 14, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (3/14-15)
- Hearing of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding the FY 2012 budget (3/15)
- Tribal/Interior Budget Council, Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center in Washington (3/15-16)
- Travel and meetings in the Albuquerque office (3/16-18)

Review – March 7 to March 11

- **New:** The Office of Trust Records submitted a draft of its Monthly Activity Report to DOJ and SOL on March 7 for review. The draft report covers the month of February. The final report will be filed by March 15.
- **New:** On March 9, the Principal Deputy Special Trustee participated in a conference call with Treasury Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets Mary Miller. Treasury agreed to terms for a Memorandum of Understanding regarding DOI's management of ten investment accounts. Treasury is drafting the agreement.
- **New:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee attended a meeting with Solicitor Tompkins, BIA Director Mike Black, AS-IA Chief of Staff Paul Tsosie and DOJ staff members to

discuss additional strategies to accelerate the tribal settlement process (SPOA). The meeting was held March 10.

- **Update:** BIA submitted over 500 probate appraisal requests for the Nez Perce Reservation at the end of January. Review Appraisers from other regions have traveled to the Office of Appraisal Services Northwest Region to assist with writing appraisals. However, travel limitations, due to the budgetary impact of the continuing resolution, have affected progress of the project. The appraisals will be completed in the third quarter of the fiscal year.
- **Update:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) at the Warm Springs Agency conducted a series of six “Investing for the Future” financial skills training sessions for employees of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The sessions were held between February 24 and March 10. The FTO used First Nations Development Institute course materials.

Week Ahead – March 14 to March 18

- **New:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee will be a witness at the March 15 hearing of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The topic is OST’s FY 2012 budget request.
- **New:** OST’s Deputy Special Trustee for Trust Services will participate in the Tribal Settlement Proposals to the Obama Administration Trust Funds related workgroup meeting on March 15-16 in Washington, D.C.
- **New:** Starting in March and continuing for one year, the FTO at the Northern Cheyenne Agency will participate in the new Second Season program, for youth involved in the court system. Six students will participate in the inaugural season. Every two weeks, the FTO will provide one hour of financial skills training, following modules in the First Nations Development Institute workbook. The financial training is one aspect of the program, which will bring volunteers in many disciplines from across the community to work with participants.
- **No Change:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency and the FTO at the Southwest Regional Office will partner with First Nations Development Institute personnel to participate in the kickoff on March 17 and the training sessions, which are scheduled for March 30 and April 14.
- **No Change:** OST’s Trust Services will continue to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing over the next few weeks in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in

the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.

- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** The FTO at the Flathead Agency will provide financial skills training at the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority's native home buyer education class in Pablo, Montana, on March 25.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. To date, more than two dozen activities have been scheduled for March.
- **No Change:** The FTO at the Blackfeet Agency is collaborating with Browning Community Development Corporation to conduct financial skills training for elders. The training will take place March 23 in Browning, Montana.
- **No Change:** The FTO at the Winnebago Agency will partner with a Nebraska Legal Aid attorney to provide estate planning, including the topics of wills, AIPRA and gift deeds. Participants will also receive financial skills information produced by the First Nations Development Institute. The program will be held March 31 at the Macy Senior Center in Macy, Nebraska.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

March 11, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: March 11, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Ministerial Forum on Offshore Drilling Containment. Invitations were issued to the Energy Ministers and senior regulatory officials of 13 countries and the European Union seeking their participation in the Ministerial Forum on Offshore Drilling Containment at the Department of the Interior on April 14. We are working closely with the State Department through the embassies to follow up on the invitations. In addition invitations were sent to Secretaries Clinton, Napolitano and Chu as well as USCG Commandant Papp.

Youth: Streamlining Employment Processes - Targeted Recruitment - Haskell Indian Nations University. The Office of Youth is coordinating a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31, 2011 for the Department. The bureaus have identified over 55 vacancies that they will recruit for at Haskell. The objective of this effort demonstrate to all the bureaus the benefits of the target recruitment process and also introduce them to the students, staff, resources, and facilities of a postsecondary education institution operated by BIE. The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Personnel Management, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will also join Interior at Haskell for recruitment and outreach purposes.

MANAGEMENT

Coordination of Borderland Activities. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew is now convening a series of coordination calls with BLM and FWS on a weekly or biweekly basis. The second monthly DOI-wide coordination call will be convened on March 8th. Biweekly coordination calls with Project Leaders for mitigation projects funded by Customs and Border Protection will begin the week of February 14. A DOI Sharepoint site is also being developed for sharing of documents and graphics. Lastly, coordination meetings are conducted every other Monday with CBP to discuss progress, issues of concern and upcoming activities.

BUDGET

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolution. Government operations continue under the fifth continuing resolution (P.L. 112-4). It provides funding through March 18. On Wednesday, March 9 the Senate took a vote on two potential full year funding measures. The first, the House-passed H.R.1 full year continuing resolution that included reductions of \$58 billion from current 2010 funding levels, was defeated by a vote of 44 to 56. The second measure, a Senate amendment to H.R.1, provided full year funding at a higher level, \$5 billion below 2010, was defeated by a vote of 42 to 58.

The White House issued a veto threat on H.R.1, while continuing to urge negotiations between the House and Senate to resolve the 2011 impasse. Work has begun on the sixth continuing resolution to continue government operations after March 18.

The Office of Budget has issued guidance to the bureaus regarding spending levels under the current CR. The guidance directs limited spending and apportionments for programs that are cut in House-passed H.R.1. Bureaus are being asked to limit spending and grants cannot be awarded for the following programs:

- FWS State and Tribal Wildlife Grants,
- FWS North American Wetlands Conservation Fund,
- FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund,
- NPS LWCF Grants
- NPS Park Partnerships

2012 Budget and Hearings. The Secretary completed his testimony before House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees. Hearings with Bureau and Office Directors are underway.

House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearings on the budget are as follows:

- **NPS** – Wednesday, March 9 (9:30 am)
- **BLM/OSM** – Thursday, March 10 (9:30 am)
- **BOEMRE and ONRR** – Tuesday, March 15 (1 pm)
- **FWS** – Wednesday, March 16 (1 pm)
- **USGS** – Thursday, March 17 (9:30 am)
- **BIA/OST** – Wednesday, March 30 (1 pm)

House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee budget hearings:

- **Bureau of Reclamation and CUPCA** - Thursday, March 10 (10 am)

OIG/GAO Responses. This week's list of reports and their status is attached.

Small Business Plan. The Department submitted a Small Business Plan to the White House on March 9 that outlines the actions necessary to attain the 56.69 percent small business contracting goal for FY 2011.

The effort will require the efforts of bureaus and offices throughout Interior. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be assisting in this regard throughout the year.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Oil Spill Response Planning in Alaska: On March 17th, a meeting of the joint Federal/State Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) Committee will be held in Anchorage. The SCPs are joint government preparedness documents for responses to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases in Alaska. Updates are currently underway for the Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea, and Beaufort Sea areas. The DOI OEPC Anchorage Office is the lead for preparing the Sensitive Areas Section of the SCPs. Meeting participants will include, in addition to DOI, representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

New: Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH) Website. A website for ESF #11 NCH has been completed and launched. The website is designed to offer relevant information to multiple audiences, such as State, Tribal, and Local Governments, and supply them with a working knowledge of the program. The website also contains links to pages from our support agencies and partner organizations that contain information that will help cultural institutions and private citizens take steps in safeguarding their collections and heirlooms before and during a disaster. The website can be accessed at <http://www.doi.gov/ProtectNCH/>.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$92.50 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.40 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 Million. The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team is currently reviewing cost documentation packages recently received from USGS and NPS.
- OEPC has submitted its PRFA cost documentation through the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to the USCG/NPFC for \$421,081 of reimbursable costs incurred for its work on the DWH oil spill response up to September 30, 2010 under the following PRFAs: FWS, NPS, USGS, and MMS/BOEMRE.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports that the USCG/FOSC has approved the FWS PRFA Amendment #13 which increases the funding ceiling by \$3,402,100 to bring the total amount up to \$65,759,469 with an extension of the period of performance to March 31, 2011.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports that the USCG/FOSC has approved the NPS PRFA Amendment #12 increasing the funding ceiling by \$1,527,961.18 to bring the total amount up to \$17,170,101.80. The amendment operation period is from February 1-28, 2011. NPS is preparing their next PRFA amendment.
- OEPC-REO-Albuquerque reports that the Eastern States and Louisiana Shoreline Cleanup Plan Core Groups have completed the 2011 Shoreline Cleanup Plans that will govern the process for the rest of the year and have provided them to the Unified Command for signature.
- DOI has identified representative from OEPC and BOEMRE to participate on the National Response Team's Sub-Sea Dispersant Use Subcommittee that was established at the NRT's National Dispersants Conference held February 23, 2011 in Alexandria, VA.

Update: Federal Mining Dialogue/Quarterly Meeting. The Environmental Cleanup and Liability Team will participate in the quarterly Federal Mining Dialogue conference call meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 3 at 1:00pm EST. The meeting will review status of various subgroups and the issues on abandoned mine lands on Federal property. USDA is the chair for this meeting.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Presentation at the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Annual Training Workshop, March 15 - 18, Kansas City, MO. National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff will attend the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) annual training workshop and present an overview of the Department of Defense-funded Micronesia Biosecurity

Plan including an update on current development status and a discussion of next steps. The NISC staff will also attend sessions at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) meetings running concurrently.

New: 76th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. The Department's Invasive Species Coordinator will present an update on NISC and bureau invasive species accomplishments to the Invasive Species Committee at the North American Wildlife Conference on March 16. Several committee members from state fish and wildlife departments attended last week's National Invasive Species Awareness Week and met with bureau managers and staff on upcoming budget initiatives for aquatic invasive species.

New: Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Case Support. At the request of the Kansas FWS field office, Policy Analysis provided an analytical tool to evaluate the effects of salary changes in long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) estimates. The O&M is a critical cost component to ensure proper monitoring for the effectiveness of restoration projects.

New: Joint Proposal Accepted by the Society of Ecological Restoration Program Support. .

The Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) has accepted a session proposal jointly submitted by the USGS and Policy Analysis entitled “ *Win-Win Restoration: Projects that Benefit the Environment, Culture, Jobs & the Economy.*” This 4th SER International World Conference on Ecological Restoration is focused on "Re-establishing the Link between Nature and Culture," and is to be held in Mérida, Yucatán, México, on August 21-25 (<http://www.ser2011.org/en/>). The paper supports the Restoration Program.

Update: Golden Eagle Resource Equivalency Analysis. Policy Analysis prepared a draft technical update for FWS on the use of certain avoided loss projects in a resource equivalency analysis (REA) for golden eagles. Mitigation of lethal electric poles to prevent the killing of eagles is an example of an avoided loss project.

Update: Oil Market/Gulf Moratorium Information. At the request of the Deputy Assistant Secretary Policy & International Affairs, Policy Analysis compiled additional information on oil prices and the effects of the Gulf of Mexico drilling moratorium for use in Congressional testimony.

Ongoing: Arctic Policy. As a follow-up to the Department of State-led Arctic Policy Group meeting on February 24, Policy Analysis provided an updated proposal on ecosystem-based management in the Arctic that was originally circulated by the State Department. The Department of the Interior expanded the proposal from an exclusively marine focus to also include terrestrial ecosystem-based management. Following interagency review and approval, the proposal along with a proposal on oil spill response were submitted by the U.S. Senior Arctic Official (SAO) for consideration at the SAO meeting in Copenhagen, March 16-17. Policy Analysis and International Affairs will represent the Department at the SAO meeting.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy. Policy Analysis continues to implement the National Ocean Policy. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Workshop will be held May 3-5 in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for two priority areas: Coordinate and Support, and Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. Policy Analysis also provided staff support for the National Ocean Council Deputies meeting held March 9.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with the Bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Brown Bag Series. Policy Analysis will have its next Brown Bag to be held on March 14, with a presentation by Jason Riley, DOI International Technical Assistance Program, on Building CITES Capacity in Central America - Improving Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species with Our Trading Partners. The Brown Bags are held in the Rachel Carson Room at 12:15 p.m. on the second Mondays of the month and are open to everyone.

Ongoing: Economics Report. Policy Analysis is continuing to edit the text and check the facts.

Ongoing: Soda Ash Royalty. The Bureau of Land Management requested that Policy Analysis assist in drafting a report to Congress on the 5-year soda ash royalty reduction enacted in 2006. Policy Analysis participated in a March 3 conference call with BLM staff to plan for a final draft by March 15. Policy Analysis has provided data and analysis on soda ash exports to BLM and is continuing to provide input to the draft being prepared by BLM.

Completed: National Invasive Species Awareness Week 2011: The National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) (February 28 to March 4, 2011) was coordinated by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). Over 190 people from 35 states and territories attended and an additional 52 people participated in a webinar. The launch event in the Department of Interior's Yates Auditorium was followed by a series of presentations on the impacts of invasive species on American Indian Communities. Other events included a U.S. House of Representatives briefing on invasive grasses and wildland fires, a forum on international and island invasive species issues, a premier screening of "Bugged" a documentary on Asian Long-Horned Beetle, State and Regional Invasive Species Day, a brown-bag lunch with the National Coalition on Invasive Species at the Defenders of Wildlife's headquarters, and evening receptions at the National Aquarium and National Botanic Gardens. The Department's Invasive Species Coordinator presented a review of DOI grant opportunities for invasive species control and management to the state and local attendees. The NISAW was reported in a New York Times blog <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/28/americas-and-the-worlds-least-wanted/> and by National Public Radio <http://www.npr.org/2011/02/28/134054004/the-art-of-war-on-invasive-species>.

Completed: Hill briefings on the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan, February 23 – March 2. The NISC staff received separate invitations from the offices of Senator Inouye (HI), Congresswoman Bordallo (Guam), and Congressman Sablan (Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands) to discuss the current status of the development of the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan as part of broader discussions on invasive species problems and opportunities for prevention in the Pacific.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

Update: Offender Reentering American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Communities. The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations is working with the Department of Justice to develop five webinars on offenders returning to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Communities. The webinars are a follow up to the e-publication released in November "Strategies for Creating Offender Reentry Programs in Indian Country" (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/programs/reentry-indiancountry/>). The issue of offender reentry in the Native Hawaiian community is especially important when it comes to youth. According to State of Hawai'i Family Court Judge, Naunanikinau Kamalii, 85% of the offenders in Juvenile Detention are of Native Hawaiian descent.

Office of International Affairs

New: Meeting with US Pacific Command (PACOM) Staff. PACOM staff met with OIA staff on March 7th to discuss possible cooperation on technical assistance projects in countries of mutual interest in the Asia-Pacific region. It may be most appropriate to leverage existing DOI activities in the Philippines as a starting point for cooperation with PACOM. ITAP staff will explore this issue further.

New: DOI Parks Management Mentoring in Jordan. Three retired NPS managers depart on March 11th for a two month detail to Petra Archeological Park to mentor and provide on-the-job-training to rangers and senior managers in numerous protected area management themes, with a focus on visitor services. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New: DOI Participating in U.S. - Colombia High-Level Partnership Dialogue (HLPD) Work Group. The Department's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is participating in this Work Group in preparation for the second round of the U.S.-Colombia High-Level Partnership Dialogue (HLPD), to be held on Monday, March 28th in Washington, DC. Among the priority topics on which the U.S. and Colombia have agreed to collaborate are mining government restructuring and mining operations best practices, all found within the HLPD Energy Working Group. DOI ITAP is reviewing the possibility of providing technical assistance on these topics through a new program of assistance in the Andean Amazon region, which includes Colombia, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New: DOI Meetings with Government of Colombia\. DOI-ITAP and the U.S. Agency for International Development's office in Colombia will be meeting this week with a number of high level Government of Colombia representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Transportation, Petroleum, Mining, and Finance to review additional assistance opportunities through the Andean Amazon Program, as referenced above.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. The Department of State (DOS) has incorporated DOI edits into two Arctic Council project proposals and has circulated the new proposals for interagency and international consideration. OIA has offered to the Canadian Embassy to further discuss the two US Arctic Council project proposals (one dealing with oil spill response in the Arctic, and the other dealing with ecosystem-based management in the Arctic).

Update: International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment. OIA assisted with planning for this event for April 14, including coordinating with US and foreign embassies to deliver invitations from the Secretary to counterparts in key offshore oil and gas producing countries.

Update: TransPacific Partnership Trade Agreement (TPP). OIA staff attended two debrief meetings at USTR following the most recent TPP negotiating round in Chile. USTR, following objections from Interior and State, has agreed to remove a problematic clause from the proposed

text on conservation issues in the environment chapter; this clause had singled out rescue centers as priority for CITES implementation, despite the fact that rescue centers are not among the highest implementation priorities for Interior as the lead USG agency on CITES. USTR provided limited updates on the US regulatory coherence proposal, which is controversial in the interagency due to its anticipated impact on our regulatory processes. The proposal is currently undergoing White House review and will be circulated at the Assistant Secretary level for clearance this week.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

Ongoing: Leveraging Employment Resources - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) - National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Partnership. The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. NCCC will partner with up with at least five bureau field sites/offices to work on various environmental stewardship projects ranging from extensive trail work and reforestation activities to planning and creating youth advisory boards and organizing various community based projects.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Targeted Recruitment - Haskell Indian Nations University. The Office of Youth is coordinating a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31, 2011 for the Department. The bureaus have identified over 55 vacancies that they will recruit for at Haskell. The objective of this effort demonstrate to all the bureaus the benefits of the target recruitment process and also introduce them to the students, staff, resources, and facilities of a postsecondary education institution operated by BIE. The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Personnel Management, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will also join Interior at Haskell for recruitment and outreach purposes.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Public Land Service Corps Hiring Authority (PLCS). The Office of Youth is coordinating the implementation of the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority for the Department. The Office of Youth is coordinating efforts with USDA to ensure that the reporting, tracking, and certification processes are streamlined across the two Departments. Critical feedback has been obtained from USDA and partners. Next steps have been identified that will address some of the barriers associated with implementation.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Policy Guidelines Revision. After an overhaul of the policy guidelines by the Office of Youth along with the YCC Policy Task Force, composed of representatives from each bureau, the Office of the Solicitor and USDA-Forest Service, the document was reviewed by external partners from the Corps Network, and comments were accepted and discussed at a meeting on 2/14/11. Feedback from that meeting is currently being incorporated and the final draft will be sent to OMB for review on 3/18/11.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - AmeriCorps Matching Funds. The Office of Youth is preparing a memo for Secretary Salazar that provides guidance to the field on how to utilize DOI and partner resources as matching funds for AmeriCorps and related programs. This effort will allow DOI to expand youth employment programming across DOI by working collaboratively with our Federal Family and partners to ultimately decrease costs.

Ongoing: Leveraging Educational Resources - USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Partnership. The Office of Youth is working with NIFA to align DOI bureaus with NIFA's Land Grant University Funding opportunities to advance research, extension, and education in the agriculture and natural resource fields. Grant funding for these particular Universities, which include African-American Land Grant Universities, Native American Land Grant Universities, and HSIs have the potential to "pipeline" greater numbers of diverse students into careers with the Department of the Interior.

Ongoing: Expanding Engagement - America's Great Outdoors Youth Report. The Office of Youth is leading outreach for the AGO youth report. Office of Youth presented on AGO at the Volunteers in Parks Conference in Nevada last week and is spearheading efforts around the AGO youth chat and events that highlight AGO policy recommendations.

Ongoing: Let's Move Outside. The Office of Youth has formed an interagency team with the USFS and USACE to create interagency awareness around Let's Move Outside events and programs. The LMO bureau team will be working on guidance to regional and field offices describing LMO co-branding criteria for the purposes of bureau summer events and programs.

Ongoing: Let's Move in Indian Country. So far 11,000 students in our 183 BIE schools are on their way to achieving the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award by committing to participating in 60 minutes of physical activity a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. The Office of Youth is working with AS-IA, BIA and BIE, USDA, HHS, ED, and the First Lady's Let's Move team to support strategic planning for a *Let's Move in Indian Country* initiative –involving a White House/First Lady launch in April 2011. Office of Youth continues to host stakeholder meetings around this initiative and is working closely with Urban Indian Centers this week to solicit feedback on our planning documents.

Ongoing: Improving Youth Programming -Youth Programming Impact Evaluation Development. The Office of Youth has facilitated the development toolkit which would act as a resource available to program managers that are interested in piloting an assessment process for youth programs. This toolkit introduces free standardized processes for the Department to document impact, improve effectiveness and promote accountability for youth programming. A draft toolkit is being reviewed by critical offices and staff. After the final review key DOI staff will outline the roll-out strategy.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: MOU – DOI NPS Interpretation & Education/ U.S. Dept of Education. First draft of MOU developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan to develop broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America’s Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education’s “Blueprint for Reform.”

Ongoing: MOU(s) – Boy Scouts & Campfire USA. Working with SOL to complete final draft MOUs between DOI (Secretary Salazar - on behalf of Take Pride in America) with (1) Boy Scouts; and (2) Campfire USA. Final draft to include amendments to emphasize partnerships to implement AGO, Youth engagement, Let’s Move Outside and organized collection of annual metrics including number of youth volunteers/service projects, and use of public lands for recreation.

Ongoing: Initiating Regular Meetings of Bureau Partnership Coordinators. Creating new forum for "Best Practices Network" among DOI staff engaged in the development of Department-wide partnering policies including 1) all Bureau Partnership Coordinators, 2) PMB staff of the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and 3) Office of the Solicitor.

Complete: Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) MOU Revisions. 5 federal cabinet agencies and a total of 10 Bureaus (DoD, DOT, EPA, Commerce (NMFS), USDA (USFS & NRCS), and DOI (BLM, FWS, USGS, NPS) have been cooperating since 2001 on amphibian and reptile conservation via “PARC.” The MOU expires in September 2011, and includes a Federal Agency Steering Committee that provides a “framework for cooperation and coordination.”

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Upcoming Events. Coordinating conference calls were held this week to discuss the following upcoming events: April 2 - Let's G.O. event on the National Mall, in partnership with the Sierra Club and the Children and Nature Network's Natural Leaders Network; April 6 - 4-H National Conference; May 15 - Youth Service Day in San Diego in partnership with the San Diego River Foundation; June 6 River Rally Conference Presentation.

Completed: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities Policy. Draft Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities Policy is being consolidated into the DOI standard volunteer agreement.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

New: Contingency Planning. OHA has referred to the Solicitor's Office a question relating to the authority of Indian Probate Judges to conduct hearings and render decisions in the event of a lapse of appropriations. OHA expects to have sufficient carryover no-year funds to allow these judges to continue to work, but a lapse in appropriations would also result in a lapse of the FY 2006-2010 general provision that covers the authority of these judges. The question for the Solicitor's Office is whether the Secretary has authority under the probate statutes to use Indian Probate Judges, without regard to the appropriations act provision.

Office of the Chief Information Office

New: First IT Transformation Customer Input Sessions in Alaska. The OCIO conducted the first in a series of customer input sessions on the IT Transformation in four locations in Alaska the week of February 28th. In all, roughly 200 people participated in these sessions from BIA, BLM, BOEMRE, FWS, NPS, OST, OS and USGS. Alaska's harsh climate, seismic activity and other unique challenges made it an ideal location to obtain a better understanding of the most difficult work environments for DOI employees.

New: IT Transformation Planning Offsite. The IT Transformation senior leadership team participated in a four day offsite meeting the week of March 7th to plan for the IT Transformation effort. Particular emphasis was made in designing truly collaborative processes to engage bureaus in the planning effort.

Update - Networx Statement of Work. GSA and DOI completed the final version of the Request For Proposals (RFP) and submitted the solicitation package to GSA on March 7.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: Request for assistance on consultation policy for Alaska Native Corporations. CADR received a request for information and assistance on planning a new consultation policy for Alaska Native Corporations.

Update: Creative Problem-Solving Training. The Keystone Center and CADR are co-sponsoring a one day pilot training on April 6. "The Nimble Thinker" training will offer the latest in right-brained, non-linear problem solving aimed at helping you unravel the most complex problems you're trying to solve.

Completed: Information Exchange on Tribal consultations with Canadian working group on Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada invited CADR to participate by phone in a meeting of the Federal/Provincial /Territorial Working Group on March 3, to discuss the process undertaken to develop the new DOI Policy on Government-to-Government consultations.

Ongoing: Interviews for Senior CORE PLUS Coordinator position. CADR will complete interviews for the Senior CORE PLUS Coordinator position this week.

Completed: Training for BLM Eastern States. CADR delivered 4 conflict management and challenging conversations training sessions for all employees and managers in the Northern Virginia office of BLM Eastern States. The supervisory offering was completed last week.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Meeting with National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. The GIO will be meeting this week with representatives of NGA, EPA and the FGDC Secretariat to discuss options for making NGA geospatial assets available to the Geospatial Platform.

New: Upcoming National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting. Planning is underway for next week's Advisory Committee Meeting. This will be the first meeting of the Committee following the appointment of new members by the Secretary.

New: Emergency Management Council. The GIO will be participating (virtually) in the annual DOI Emergency Management Council meeting being held this week. She will discuss DOI geospatial assets that are available to the emergency management community and solicit feedback on future needs and directions.

Update: Geospatial Platform. The final version of the Modernization Roadmap has been completed and is in the process of being submitted to OMB and then will be made available to stakeholders.

National Business Center

New: Fire Alarms. NBC Administrative Operations staff participated in a conference call with Nancy Czapek, GSA ARA, and Laura Doyle, GSA Fire Safety, to discuss the GSA policy for permitting us to delay a fire-alarm notification (i.e., announcing an evacuation of the building) when senior Government officials are in the building. The GSA policy states that agency-implemented delays are permitted only when the President or Vice President are present.

New: Parking. Administrative Operations received a request from the Federal Reserve Board to meet with DOI to discuss expiration and renewal of the 1968 agreement between the agencies. The agreement includes apportionment of parking spaces, responsibilities for routine maintenance and capital improvements of the North Garage; and responsibilities regarding maintenance of the parkland.

New: Aviation Bureau Collaboration: The week of February 21st, AMD provided a pilot and aircraft to assist the BOR in maintenance of a radio site, only accessible by air.

New: EEOC transition to New Financial Management Provider. EEOC, currently a Momentum customer, has selected Global Computer Enterprises, Inc (GCE) to perform financial services beginning in FY 2012. The contract award debrief revealed that the NBC surpassed GCE in all areas except cost, which was the principle selection factor. EEOC is supported by 5.5

Federal FTE and 8 contractors, with an annual agreement amount of \$3.3 million dollars. FBD will be able to absorb the Federal FTE in other positions supporting ongoing product lines.

New: Network Services – The NBC Network Disaster Recovery Communication Pre-Test was accomplished successfully in preparation for the March disaster recovery test scheduled for March 9th and 10th.

New: Client Liaison - An effort is underway to follow up on all of the InterAgency Agreements (IAAs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the IT Directorate that still require resolution or signatures from our customers. This effort will ensure that all documentation is complete, any pending issues have been fully resolved, and that funding is provided to successfully complete all of the services for the fiscal year.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Accountability Feedback. The Accountability team provided comments and feedback to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on a corrective action plan prepared in response to the Department's review of their Headquarters Human Resources Office in FY 2010. All required actions were addressed to the Department's satisfaction. USGS reorganized its human resources organizations in October 2010 by reducing from four offices to two. The Headquarters operation was folded into the USGS Atlantic servicing human resources office. However, the improvements made based on this review should positively impact the entire bureau.

New: Accountability Review – National Business Center (NBC) East. The Department conducted an accountability review of the NBC East branch. The review team consisted of two representatives from the Accountability team plus one representative each from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The Department expects to issue a report of this review within 90 days and corrective action will be required.

New: Accountability Update. The Accountability Team released its fourth issue of the Accountability Update to bureau HR directors and accountability leads. One best practice from BOR's Lower Colorado Region was highlighted, and various tips and lessons learned were identified from bureau reports issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service and BOR.

New: New Career Transition Assistance Policy. The Office of Human Resources is reviewing new regulations on the career transition assistance program and the reemployment priority list from the Office of Personnel Management and will be issuing an updated Personnel Bulletin. These programs are in place to provide placement assistance for DOI employees who have received a notice of expected separation or who have been separated from DOI as a result of reduction in force.

Update: Accountability team upcoming reviews. The Accountability team continues to prepare upcoming reviews at the USGS Central region, the FWS's Region 3, and BLM's Nevada Office. The National Park Service review of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park is being delayed until July because the team lead was called away in order to personally facilitate the rollout of the HROC II migration.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has scheduled reviews of its Bureau of Indian Education to take place in July, and its office in Anadarko in October 2011.

Office of Civil Rights

New: OCR/EEO Officers Offsite. During March 8-10, 2011, OCR Director Sharon D. Eller, and her senior leadership team will conduct and participate with Bureau EEO Officers at the USGS in Reston, Virginia. The agenda includes various workshops, teambuilding, facilitated discussions, and presentations by OCR staff members and others.

New: U.S. Access Board Quarterly Meeting. During March 7-9, 2011, Public Civil Rights Division Chief Jack Andre will attend the U.S. Access Board's Quarterly meeting located in Northwest Washington, D.C. He will attend presentations on research results of the anthropometry wheeled mobility project; airport terminal access; outdoor developed areas; shared use paths; and information and communication technologies.

New: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II and Title III Training. On March 10, 2011, Public Civil Rights Division Chief Jack Andre and Equal Opportunity Specialist Michael Zimmerman will attend the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center's ADA Title II: Revised Regulations training in Silver Spring, Maryland. The training will cover the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, along with the programmatic changes to Title II & Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Topics for discussion will include safe harbor, service animals, and effective communication.

Update: National Women's History Month. The Department of the Interior proudly joins the Nation in celebrating National Women's History Month. Throughout the month of March, the Nation honors the achievements of women across the country. The National theme is "Our History is Our Strength." In observance of Women's History Month, the Office of Surface Mining is hosting a presentation from Dr. Edna Green Medford, Professor and Chairperson for the Department of History, Howard University, on March 23, 2011, in the South Interior Building (SIB), Room 220. Dr. Medford will speak on the role of women in the Civil War.

Update: Minority Serving Institutions Community of Partners Council (COPC). On March 8, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is participating in the quarterly meeting of the Minority Serving Institutions COPC, in Washington, D.C. The COPC focuses on strengthening existing and developing new strategies to maximize government-wide collaborative efforts directed towards minority serving institutions.

Complete: National Federal Women Program Managers Council. On March 3, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights participated in an inter-agency meeting of the National Federal Women

Program Managers Council. During the meeting best practices were shared and plans were initiated for the Council's participation in the Federal Women's Program National Training Program in July 2011.

Office of Strategic Employee Development

New: Interior Training Directors' Council: Sandy Wells, Director, OSEOD, met with bureau training directors in Reston, VA to discuss training and development initiatives across the Department.

New: Web Conferencing Services: The Learning Technology Solutions Division provided Web conferencing services through WebEx to the Office of Civil Rights staff for their iComplaints training session.

New: Fed-CEL Development: The Learning Technology Solutions Division is establishing the Federal Collaborative e-Learning Laboratory (Fed-CEL), an online community of federal instructional designers, graphic designers, Web developers, and subject matter experts to collaborate and create efficiencies across the federal government in course development.

New: OSMIP Interns : The Office of the Secretary Management Intern Program (OSMIP) interns were converted to a permanent appointment March 1, 2011, to comply with Executive Order 13562 that eliminated the Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP). The 2010 OSMIP class continues in their developmental assignments throughout Office of the Secretary (OS) until November 2012.

Update: DOI Learn Program: The Federal Information System Security Awareness (FISSA) deployment planned for last week was delayed due to some new technical issues within DOI Learn. Those issues have been resolved; deployment of the FISSA course was resumed Friday, March 4, 2011.

Department of Interior University (DOIU):

Updates: Washington Learning Center: The Washington Learning Center provided registration and coordination support to Chief Diversity Officer John Burden and the "Championing Diversity and Working at the Speed of Trust for Supervisors and Managers Workshops."

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: Experimental Nonessential Population Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion of a final rule for establishment of

this population in Arizona. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed in April of 2010. Customs and Border Protection has expressed concerns over the impact of establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Pronghorns on border security operations. Regional and Field Office staff in FWS have briefed CBP on the nature of the rule. CBP is requesting written clarification of the impact of the rule on their operational activities. FWS-Regional Staff are assessing to what extent they can provide this. There is some urgency to resolving this issue since 2 year old antelope would be released in December of this year and a holding pen still needs to be constructed prior to release. Regulatory impacts of NEPs are significantly lower and this effort is not expected to impact border security operations significantly.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. The internal Acquisition Plan that Customs and Border Protection is required to prepare was completed and signed the week of February 28th. The next step in obligating this second round of funding requires revision of the Project Data Worksheets and signing of an amendment to the Interagency Agreement. Draft revisions of these documents will be shared with CBP this week and it is hoped agreement can be reached on interim mitigation acreage estimates for the projects as built. There was a substantial difference in the estimated actual impact acreage prepared by FWS and CBP. In addition to the FWS revised project descriptions we will include a rationale for the FWS supported mitigation acreage estimate. If agreement can be reached CBP would obligate as much as 20 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. A follow-up to the scoping meeting convened at Cabeza Prieta NWR headquarters on January 27th was convened on March 3 in Ajo. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site although the NEPA analysis or scoping will assess other options. The plan is to obligate funding for this project by the end of the FY. This will require close coordination in completing NEPA and Section 7 consultations as well as review and agreement on site location and design.

Update: OTIA (Office of Technology, Innovation and Acquisition, formerly SBInet) Border Security. Based on a thorough assessment of this program CBP has reevaluated its plans for security infrastructure along the SW border. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the needs along each section of the border. A briefing on the new program took place February 23. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew will be the lead for coordination with CBP who will provide contacts for exchange of information. The first step will be to assess the type, location and timing of work so that the scope and need for environmental analysis can be accomplished. OTIA staff are conducting this assessment now. A meeting to specifically describe the type of environmental compliance and permitting that will be needed is expected in the next few weeks.

Update: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. CBP convened a briefing on the status of this PEIS on January 7. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status has been delayed but is expected within the next two weeks. CBP previously issued requests for comments directly to the Bureaus. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew requested that these be directed to DOI. Bureaus will then be requested to comment with responses from each bureau consolidated by DOI. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on April 22. Public meetings would be held in May with comment closing in early June. A final PEIS is planned to be completed in October of 2011. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status.

Update: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. This scope includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

Update: Coordination of Borderland Activities. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew is now convening a series of coordination calls with BLM and FWS on a weekly or biweekly basis. The second monthly DOI-wide coordination call will be convened on March 8th. Biweekly coordination calls with Project Leaders for mitigation projects funded by Customs and Border Protection will begin the week of February 14. A DOI Sharepoint site is also being developed for sharing of documents and graphics. Lastly, coordination meetings are conducted every other Monday with CBP to discuss progress, issues of concern and upcoming activities.

Update: Radio Transformation (was Radio Program Improvement). The Deputies Operating Group was briefed on March 2; the DOG concurred with moving forward on this initiative. LESEM and the OCIO will meet with the USDA and USFS CIOs next week to develop a partnership with them on the initiative. A project charter and request for a project manager are being completed. Outreach to various groups such as bureau radio managers and facilities managers will begin next week.

Update: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. Efforts continue to obtain signatures from all bureau directors (FWS and NPS are outstanding). Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Funding of Jaguar projects in Mexico. A letter addressed to DAS Thorsen was received which indicated that DHS would not fund jaguar mitigation projects in Mexico. These funds were provisionally withheld from the initial Inter-Agency Agreement pending further discussion. Region 2 prepared a response to the letter which will be used to in turn respond to CBP. In brief, FWS is adjusting plans for expenditure of these funds within the U.S. A briefing for CBP officials on working across the border is being developed in hopes that we will be able

to identify some conservation work that could be conducted in Mexico that will be acceptable to CBP.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. There will be a meeting of all concerned on March 9th to look at alternative sites for mitigation so that the project can move forward.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. A request for photos of environmental topics was received from the contractor and we are working to provide as many images as possible. A final module is still expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Management and the USFS Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry have signed a memo assigning Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS) to lead an effort to develop options for implementation of the interagency National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture (NWFEA). Their report is due by June 1. An initial inventory of all systems, applications, and projects, along with pending decisions, is due by March 31. A kick-off “town hall” meeting with fire directors and fire IT staffs is scheduled for March 8 in Boise. As part of their effort the team leaders will be working closely with DOI and USFS OCIO’s to coordinate procedures for managing investment decisions and portfolios.

No Change: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. Current Coast Guard planning calls for continuation of the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team through the fall of 2011. This will require DOI to have an incident commander, and perhaps 2-3 other positions, in New Orleans for that period. National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service are exploring options for a filling the incident commander position with a long-term appointment (term, detail, etc.) to minimize the disruption from turnover of staffing every 2-3 weeks. Meanwhile the Park Service is finalizing its staffing plan for implementing Stage 4 (maintenance and monitoring) operations to be implemented in early March. Using the Park Service plan the Fish and Wildlife Service are developing a similar plan, but implementation will occur sometime later based on conditions. The DOI incident commander reviewed these plans with the Coast Guard leadership on the spill

and received concurrence with the approach. Future funding agreements with the Coast Guard will reflect these new staffing plans.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is awaiting signature by the CIO.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) will be briefing the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC, and solicit bureau input on improving coordination with Interior.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Filming of OLES Intelligence Division Vignette for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). The ODNI recently completed filming, at no cost to DOI, an unclassified video describing the mission and responsibilities of the Department of the Interior and of its Intelligence Division. Deputy Assistant Secretary Thorsen presented an on-camera summary of the Department and its illustrious history. The completed video will be posted on various classified and unclassified Intelligence Community computer networks to help educate Intelligence Community analysts about other U.S. government departments and agencies.

New: OLES Security is participating in a Departmental Personnel Security Review being conducted by OPM. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating a review of all Bureaus/Office personnel security programs. The review is conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete.

New: GAO Assignment #311059 “Implementation of HSPD-12”. OLES Security participated in a GAO follow-up meeting along with Judy Snoich of the DOI Access Team. It was not determined if additional meetings would be necessary before a draft report is issued.

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Demonstration for FBI and IACP. On March 3rd the Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed,

conducted an IMARS demo with the Indian Country representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). He demonstrated IMARS' basic functionality and answered questions about the system. Following the demonstration, Assistant Director Ahmed met with FBI staff to get more information about the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) certification process for IMARS and incident data contribution to the FBI's National Data Exchange (NDEx). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is expected from the FBI this week to initiate the engagement of the DOI Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) to provide incident data to the NDEx system.

New: OLES Internal Affairs and Inspection Branch submits NPS assessment. OLES Internal Affairs completed and submitted the draft report on the assessment of the National Park Service, Internal Affairs Office.

New: DOI Drug Information Tracking System. The National Drug Enforcement Coordinator trained and provided access to the DOI Drug Information Tracking system for five Bureau of Indian Affairs 1811 supervisors for use in their bureau.

New: CBP State of the Border Conference Call. The National Drug Enforcement Coordinator has joined in the CBP weekly "State of the Border" conference call, which will be ongoing. The Arizona Surge is currently one of the main topics.

Update: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Project Rebaseline Approved and IT Dashboard Updated. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the IMARS Rebaseline. The cost and schedule are now green on the Federal IT Dashboard for the first time in IMARS' history. Old, outdated milestones that previously showed IMARS as severely under spent have been consolidated. The CIO rating for IMARS on the Federal IT Dashboard is currently yellow, but it will be changed to green because the rating has changed from a 3 to a 4.

Update: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On Friday 3/4, OLES Security participated in a conference call with the United States Coast Guard regarding security procedures for the ferries that service the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. It was determined that DOI is current compliant with federal requirements.

Update: Operation Trident Surge. The final deployment of NPS, BLM, FWS, and Forest Service officers began this week. The deployment started with a safety and orientation briefing for the officers. The focus areas for the operation are Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Cabeza Prieta NWR, and nearby BLM Public Lands. The operation has yielded narcotics seizures of 20,493 pounds and 1355 apprehensions of undocumented aliens. OLES personnel continue to work with bureau incident commanders and Border Patrol to address operational planning, prosecution, and intelligence sharing procedures. Notable recent activity includes the arrest of 13 individuals and the seizure of 26 bundles of marijuana totaling over 1,200 pounds in a single incident on Organ Pipe Cactus NM. Surge officers also recovered two stolen ATV's that were being operated off-road along with a stolen assault rifle on Organ Pipe Cactus NM. The operation continues through March 18.

No Change: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee and the Office of National Counterintelligence Executive Meetings. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. By mid-March, ten or more departments and agencies will be identified for site visits by an inter-agency team of experts who will review security policies and practices as part of an Office of Management and Budget review.

No Change: OLES Working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to Address Wireless Vulnerabilities. The National Security Agency has approved the use of networked based tools that can protect against wireless device intrusions, especially when these devices are being used out of the country. OLES is collaborating with the OCIO on a forthcoming DOI policy.

No Change: OLES Participation in Interagency Project to Identify Undiscovered Marijuana Grow Sites on Public Lands in Washington State. OLES is supporting an interagency effort on behalf of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in Washington state to support area limitation analysis on public lands. This analysis will evaluate a variety of factors (terrain slope, hydrology, proximity to roads, population density, etc.) to develop predictive spatial forecasting models of future illegal growth activity. Ultimately, this project will result in a probability-based model of illegal marijuana grow sites.

No Change: Threats to DOI Senior Leadership: OLES Security continues to coordinate threats to Senior Leadership with the appropriate agencies including the Federal Protective Service, the affected Bureau/Office Security Manager, and in some cases the local police and FBI.

No Change: Strategy for a Common Infrastructure to Meet Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) Requirements (an OMB Initiative): OLES Security met with Ed Awni, Facilities and Property Management, to develop a coordinated assessment process to determine the compliance of the Departments facilities with physical security minimums. These minimums are required to meet the base line level of security as stated in the FICAM.

No Change: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is almost complete; work on the A ramp has begun.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** One Guard Booth has been installed on C ramp and is in the process of being tested. Additional Booth's are on schedule to be installed.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** Awaiting the contracting office to finalize and post the solicitation.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** To date, we have downloaded between 3-5 thousand OPM employee files and 5-9 thousand GSA employee files into our PACS system.

- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Work continues on updating the IDS and upgrading the security cameras.

No Change: Main Interior Building Law Enforcement (LE) Group: OLES is coordinating a Departmental (OLES, BIA, NPS, FWS, and BLM) group of LE Officers who are located in the Main Interior Building. The purpose of this group is to ensure a coordinated Departmental response to any LE incidents occurring in the building. Progress in this group includes:

- Creating, ordering and distributing new, color coded, HSPD 12 identification card holders signifying the holder is LE.
- Creating an MIB/LE rapid response contact list.
- Creating a LE/Security visibility vest that will be issued to all LE and Security plain clothes personnel.

No Change: OLES Security Information Bulletins. OLES Security Division has issued its first security information bulletin which was distributed to all Bureau/Office Security Directors and other interested individuals. This bulletin focused on the OMB and HSPD-12 requirements for Physical Access Control Systems (PACS) for Departmental facilities. Additional security bulletins are in the process of being created.

No Change: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. Approval has been granted for the workshop and a member of Senator Lieberman has expressed interest in attending. In addition, a draft announcement has been crafted, a location with housing capabilities has been located and reserved, and all cooperating agencies are engaged. This workshop provides required in-service training to meet the 40 hour annual training requirement for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge.

No Change: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. OLES is currently working with BOR to schedule an assessment at Glen Canyon Dam. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. Assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Arch, Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been scheduled for the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

No Change: OMB Commented on the National Monuments and Icons (NM&I's) Sector Specific Plan (SSP). OLES has been delegated the responsibility to represent the Department as the NM&I sector lead working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) following Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7. All sectors (total of 18) are periodically required by DHS to submit a SSP. OLES has completed the draft SSP and it has been reviewed and approved

by DHS and reviewed by OMB. OMB has provided some comments that OLES is in the process of adjudicating. In addition, OLES commented on the charter for the creation of a National Park Service Icon Security Council. This Council consists of representatives from all of the Departments National Monuments and Icons and includes OLES.

No Change: OLES is Seeking a Corporate Account Option to Reduce Costs for Bureau Personnel to Use Internet Search Engines in Support of Investigations. In coordination with the Intelligence Advisory Working Group, OLES is pursuing options with the major providers of internet information in an attempt to buy-down the costs.

No Change: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, provided a high level briefing on the planning of the FPA Program to the DAS on February 10, 2011. The full Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report is scheduled to be completed for submission to DAS Thorsen by March 4, 2011. An official presentation of the review findings to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) directors will be scheduled following the report (date TBD).

Final: DOI Inspector General (IG) Access to IMARS. The DOI IG contacted the Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed, and expressed interest in getting IMARS access in order for IG staff members to query the system for conviction information. Faisal and the DAS agreed to provide access as long as the IMARS Governance Council agrees to this request. The IMARS Governance Council will determine what role based level of access will be granted to IG staff members.

Final: Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) Victim Specialist in Phoenix Expands Services. Pursuant to approval from the US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, the OLES Victim Specialist in Phoenix is expanding services to the Gila River Reservation. In addition to offering services to San Carlos, White River, Hopi, Supai and Colorado River, the Victim Specialist will now include services to victims of serious crimes at the Gila River Reservation.

Final: POTUS Visit to MIB: On Sunday 2/27, POTUS conducted an “off the record” visit to the MIB. OLES Security assisted the White House and the U.S. Secret Service during this visit.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

New: Annual Emergency Management Council (EMC) Off-Site Workshop. OEM is hosting an annual meeting of Bureau and Office Emergency Coordinators and other DOI emergency management personnel this week. This year’s meeting is being held in Clark County, NV and the topics to be discussed include Strategic Priority Planning, Deepwater Horizon After-Action Corrective Action Recommendations, the DOI All-Hazards Management Program Implementation, Continuity of Operations Compliance and an orientation on emergency preparedness at Hoover Dam. The Annual EMC Off-Site Workshops provide a mechanism to facilitate subjects such as these and other Department-wide emergency management discussions in a focused environment.

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* BP expects to complete the plug and abandonment procedures for the second relief well the second week of March. Due to migratory waterfowl nesting, the cleanup of nesting areas was halted on March 1 and will be resumed once the birds have left the area. State-owned Bay Jimmy continues to have serious oiling issues and oiled birds were observed in the area last week. One hundred DOI personnel continue to be fully engaged with cleanup and planning operations.
- *Burning Oil Platform in the Gulf of Mexico:* The Arena Offshore LLC Platform GI 102 caught fire on March 5, requiring the evacuation of two crewmen. The platform controls seven wells and was “shut in” when the fire occurred. No pollution has been sighted in the area and the fire was extinguished, with the exception of some smoldering in the area.
- *Leaking Gas Well in the Gulf of Mexico:* Apache Corporation halted operations to permanently plug and abandon the B-015 well until needed equipment can be repaired. No seepage is visible in the vicinity of the well, and no natural gas has been detected through air monitoring.
- *Blackfeet Reservation Snow Emergency:* The Blackfeet Reservation in northwestern Montana has experienced continual heavy snow this winter. The accumulated snow, coupled with heavy winds has left snowdrifts as high as 12-16 feet across the reservations, shutting down roads and exhausting the tribe’s budget. The tribe has declared a snow emergency and is requesting further assistance for snow removal.
- *Kilauea Volcano Eruption Increases:* USGS and the NPS are monitoring the impacts of a heightened state of volcanic activity at Kilauea Volcano. The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park closed several sections of the park where volcanic activity could become dangerous to visitors. USGS scientists at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory raised the Alert Level to Warning and the Aviation Color Code to Red.
- *Florida’s Iron Horse Fire brought under control:* After burning almost 17,000 acres west of Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the Iron Horse Fire has been 100% contained.
- *Texas Wildfires:* Critical fire conditions caused by high winds, low relative humidity and warmer temperatures sparked a series of wildfires in Texas last week that burned a total of more than 132,000 acres. All the fires were brought under control by the end of the week.
- *Midwest Flooding:* Continued heavy rain and snowfall from a series of storms has been causing moderate flooding of Midwestern streams and rivers. The primary impact of the storms has been to agricultural lands and small towns in Ohio, Indiana and Missouri. There have been no reports of significant impact to DOI lands as a result of the flooding

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH11). Updated exercise plans and other planning documents developed by FEMA have been uploaded to SAFETALK for bureau and office exercise planners to review. EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning. OEM is reviewing the initial draft After-Action Report (AAR) on the evacuation drills conducted for the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23. Over 60 feedback responses were received from building occupants and evacuation support teams and incorporated into the report. Once completed, the AAR will provide recommendations to improve the evacuation and/or sheltering of employees during building emergencies.

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI at National Infrastructure Protection Plan Food/Agriculture Sector quarterly meeting last week. The group discussed topics which address the national policy to defend the food and agriculture system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

No Change: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. As follow-on to the listening sessions in NM and Southern CA, OEM is working with BIA and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan visits in the next 2 months to Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest and those in the Dakotas.

No Update: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM met with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group last week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. Significant progress was made to reach agreement on the process and timeline for loading the positions into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

No Change: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO has begun Phase III of the Contact Management System (CMS). When completed at the end of February, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel and will allow individuals to securely update their own contact information, and will automatically feed data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups, thereby ensuring alerts and other information is properly delivered and received during emergency situations.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to review bureau and office roster submissions and is working with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM continues to work with IT staff to test and refine the new

Contact Management System before loading the updated COOP team member information into CMS and Send Word Now. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the need of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWF co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

Update: Wildland Fire Leadership Council Meeting March 10, 2011. WFLC will address the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and a proposed process for Phase II implementation. The WFLC will be updated on the status of the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). The advisory council charter was filed on March 3, 2011. The invitation letters to the participants are in the process of being signed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and the first meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2011. The Council will also consider the re-chartering of LANDFIRE, and discuss stakeholder involvement in wildland fire management issues.

Update: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy. Both Phase I Cohesive Strategy documents have received OMB clearance and will be presented to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) on this Thursday (March 10th). It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for the Secretarial approval on Friday, March 11, 2011. The first document is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the second is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. The Department has also begun development of a collaborative planning and analysis process for Phase II and Phase III of the Cohesive Strategy, under the oversight of the WFLC. A prototype of the proposed planning and analysis process was conducted February 7-11, 2011 in Asheville, NC. The prototype considered wildland fire management in AL, GA, NC, and SC. The proposed process, including prototype outcomes, will be presented by the Cohesive Strategy Oversight Committee (CSOC) to the WFLC. A proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II nationally will also be presented to WFLC on Thursday. A Regional Strategy Committee will be designated for each of three regions (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process within their respective region.

Agency nominations for the each of the three Committees for Phase II have been received and will be recommended to the WFLC.

Update: Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2011. The exercise is scheduled for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other federal partners to identify a course of action.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. The analysis processes are being developed by the Interior Fuels Management Committee and the technical specialists assigned to the project – the Decision Support Sub-committee. Attributes used to determine high priority projects should be finalized by March 18. Specialists have already completed several geospatial data improvements to the HFPAS to determine the high priority treatment areas. A DOI Hazardous Fuels Reduction program of work, based on the FY 2012 President’s proposed budget, should be available by June 15.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group. The FPA Oversight Group (OG) is scheduled to hold a quarterly meeting in Boise, ID March 24th and 25th. The topic of discussion is scheduled to include the independent external review of the FPA application and the results of the latest analysis.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter / WFLC. As a result of the LANDFIRE Leadership Futures Forum that was conducted in the fall of 2010, leaders of that session supported re-chartering the LANDFIRE Program to meet the needs of the wildland fire management community targeting the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) once again as the sponsor. A briefing paper for the March 10, 2011 WFLC meeting describing the need for re-chartering outlines how LANDFIRE data products are being used and supporting key initiatives, including: Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation System.

No Change: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: GAO engagement: Wildland Fires in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region (Job code: 361250). Initial meetings were conducted at NIFC on January 12 -14, 2011 to gain some understanding for fire operations near the border, what financial, fire investigation and fire occurrence data sets are available and to develop some contacts. GAO will perform a fire data analysis by mid-March. Several site visits in Arizona were conducted by the GAO.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWFC is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: All Hazard Position Development and NIMS/DHS Coordination. OWFC participated in a multi-agency working group meeting to discuss development of All Hazard qualifications, positions, and governance structure. The groups included the NIMS Incident Management Working Group, the NIMS Core Competency Working Group, and the NWCG Operations and Workforce Development Committee. Discussion focused on inter group coordination, NIMS compliance, the development Task Books for command and general staff, the potential for inclusion of intelligence and investigation functions in the ICS organization, and the training requirements for qualification of individuals. FEMA pledged approximately \$75,000 to conduct a training review to establish training equivalency for NWCG courses.

No Change: DOI All Hazard Position Qualifications. OWFC, OEM and the NWCG position naming board met to review the DOI All Hazard positions and how they related to existing NWCG and NIMS requirements. Effort was given to combine existing NWCG and proposed All Hazard positions and to ensure their compliance with existing NIMS standards.

No Change: 620 DM 3 – Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation. OWFC is coordinating with the Interior Burned Area Emergency Response Coordinators (IBAER) to discuss the current Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation policy and identify items that would need to be addressed for a policy revision. The IBAER completed their initial review and proposed changes were presented at the January IFEC meeting. The final recommended changes will be submitted in May.

No Change: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and

Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy with various options was distributed to the Fire Directors for review and presented during the January IFEC meeting. The draft policy statement will be developed based on discussions during the January IFEC meeting and with the USFS. A draft policy statement will be submitted to IFEC this week for final review.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Actions. On March 1, 2011, DOI proposed to debar James H. Barger, Barger Contracting, and Lorri Barger. DOI, by previous action, suspended Mr. Barger and Barger Contracting on November 20, 2010. DOI based the suspension of Mr. Barger on the fact of an August 13, 2009, criminal Information in the Hancock County Superior Court for County of Hancock, Indiana, charging him with seven counts of bribery and seven counts of theft under Indiana State law. The Information alleged that in 2008, Mr. Barger offered, or provided, bribes to an Indiana public official in order to obtain a contract to perform work on the exterior of the Hancock County Courthouse, in Hancock, Indiana. DOI based the suspension of Barger Contracting on imputed conduct and its affiliate relationship to Mr. Barger. Upon completion of the criminal proceedings, the Court convicted Mr. Barger on two counts of theft.

DOI based the Notice of Proposed Debarment for Mr. Barger on the fact of his criminal conviction and based the Notice for Barger Contracting on imputed conduct and affiliation. DOI issued a Notice of Proposed Debarment to Lorri Barger based upon her having provided misleading information to DOI in connection with the Barger Suspension action attempting to show, falsely, that Mr. Barger no longer controls Barger Contracting.

Office of Budget/Office of Financial Management

Update: Cost of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. The Department of Justice has requested additional information on the DOI spill-related non-PRFA/non-NRDA cost data, and POB will work with bureaus and offices – particularly the Office of the Solicitor – to provide the requested information

The Office of Financial Management submitted additional information in response to inquiries received from the General Accountability Office on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill recovery efforts. The GAO requested examples of the Form 1080, which is used to submit cost reimbursements requests to the U.S. Coast Guard, narratives of the indirect cost methodologies applied by each bureau, and documented Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance procedural or guidance manuals on the Department's review of the cost reimbursement packages.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

No change: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. All Q1 FY2011 status information on the Priority Goals has been updated into www.performance.gov. OMB's review of this information is underway. David Hayes will be meeting with goal owners on quarterly progress.

Update: FY 2010 Annual Performance Report. The FY 2010 Annual Performance Report is cleared and posted on the web.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

No change: Major Revision to the 8(a) Business Development Program. The Small Business Administration published a final rule on the 8(a) Business Development Program on February 11. The regulations become effective on March 14, 2011. Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) will be required to report on benefits to their communities which result from profits on sole source contracts. The rules regarding joint ventures are changed and an 8(a) partner in a joint venture will be required to perform at least forty percent of the work. Other proposed changes clarify the size, income and familial determinations needed to be eligible for the 8(a) program and allow owners of 8(a) firms called to active military status to elect to be temporarily suspended rather than lose any of their nine-year term in the program. SBA is now authorized to early graduate a firm that exceeds the size standard for its primary NAICS code, as adjusted, for three successive program years and the SBA's Inspector General will be allowed to request a formal size determination.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- April 1: DOI First Friday Small Business Session – registration is now open.
- June 21: Intermountain Region Outreach Event – registration to open by April 30.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- March 23: General Small Business
- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: DOI FBMS Monthly OMB Briefing. On March 4, OMB was provided updates on DOI's actions in response to recommendations made by the Financial Systems Advisory Board in 2010. The briefing focused on FBMS performance metrics, FY 2011 milestones, critical DOI

business needs, the adoption of FBMS as a shared initiative across DOI organizations, the FBMS Program Management Office's delivery of the system, system governance, and FBMS project implementation costs. The next monthly briefing will be in April.

New: Deployment 6 Role Mapping Workshop. On March 8 and 9 the FBMS PMO will conduct the first of two Deployment 6 (D6) workshops for OS and FWS managers responsible for assigning individuals to FBMS roles. The first workshop will consist of an overview presentation of the FBMS Role Assignment and Certification Process, a presentation on the reference materials and tools used to assign individuals to FBMS roles, presentations on FBMS roles currently in production by FBMS PMO role owners, and a panel discussion with USGS managers who performed FBMS Deployment 5 role mapping activities. The workshop will be presented via WEBEX and hosted from the FBMS PMO's Sky Leshner Conference Center in Herndon, with OS and FWS managers participating from over 100 locations from across the country. The second D6 Role Mapping Workshop will be conducted during the week of June 6, 2011, and will focus on assigning individuals to new FBMS roles based on unique OS and FWS business process requirements. After the role mapping and certification activities are completed in early October 2011, training classes for individuals assigned FBMS roles will begin in mid October 2011 and continue until January 2012. D6 Go-live is scheduled for November 8, 2011.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

Update: Functional Design Specifications. Currently there are 180 Functional Design Specifications, of which, 126 have been completely approved.

Update: Organizational Impact Session. Data collection for the first round of the Organizational Impact Session has been completed and preliminary results have been compiled. All OS DAS/Offices have responded. We are currently collecting information and analyzing the data from select OS offices for the second round.

Update: Business Process Requirements. OS has prepared Business Process Impact (BPI) presentations by FBMS functional area to support the role mapping process. BPI presentations are intended to be used as informational tools for stakeholders/end users during the transition to FBMS.

Update: Data Conversion. The OS Implementation Management Office continues to deliver data to the Program Management Office to test in preparation for conversion activities. Data cleansing will continue as required.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): The ONRR has begun the implementation and roll-out of work relating to the Strategic Review recommendations. Several meetings were held in January 2011 to discuss 1) sponsorship and management of priority initiatives, 2) communications, and

3) the implementation management process. In February, communication efforts included a gallery walk (in Denver and the field offices), individual office meetings with staff, several brown bag lunches, and a Strategic Review Road Show for ONRR field offices. Implementation Work Groups (IWG) will be formed in early March.

Press Release Issued on New eCommerce Reporting Web Site (New): ONRR Public Affairs issued a press release March 1 related to ONRR streamlining its electronic reporting web site that companies use to electronically report production and royalty data. The new eCommerce Reporting Web Site went “live” on March 1. In addition to reducing costs, the new website improves how royalties, rents and production data are collected and reported to ONRR. It also provides more efficiency and helps ensure the accuracy of data reported by companies. Energy companies have been receiving notifications about the pending change since November 2010, with instructions on how to complete new user access forms required for the companies to access the system. The new system will initially be available to producers from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday to ensure security features are effective.

Oil IT Journal interested in New eCommerce System (New): Neil McNaughton, editor of the international Oil IT Journal, has expressed interest in conducting interviews and doing a story on the new eCommerce web site. Financial Management is preparing some written background information concerning the new system, which will be forwarded to the editor before any interviews are scheduled.

Financial and Program Management

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreements and equipment. A review of the Texas General Land Office is scheduled for April 5-6, 2011 in Austin, Texas.

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): The ONRR continues its various forms of outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. The outreach is designed to resolve a mineral owner’s royalty-related problems and to let them know how to contact us. These meetings enable us to listen to their concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. Our goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners of the Kauley Settlement in Anadarko, OK on March 16, 2011. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners of the Wind River Agency in Fort Washakie, WY on March 17, 2011

Asset Management

Update to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases Related to Index Zones (New): The Economic and Market Analysis Office (EMAO) is proposing changes to the Indian gas valuation regulations that will remove certain illiquid natural gas index prices from the Indian Index Zone calculation. These changes will impact Oklahoma Zone 1, Oklahoma Zone 2, and the Central Rocky Mountain Zone. EMAO is working with State and Indian Coordination to conduct outreach to Indians affected by these regulatory changes. EMAO is also in process of drafting a FR notice to publish the changes to the calculation.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
March 4, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Tobacco Warehouse lawsuit, Brooklyn, NY. On March 1, the Brooklyn Heights Association amended their original suit against the NPS regarding the boundary of a Land and Water Conservation Fund-assisted project. The suit pertains to the removal of the 1860 warehouse from the recognized area of the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park (now known as Brooklyn Bridge Park) based upon the perception that this was not an allowable outdoor recreation use. The NPS decision was affirmed February 14 in a letter to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Association.

Washington (DC) – Historic preservation meeting. The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers holds its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., March 7-9. Some media attention is anticipated.

ON THE HORIZON

Mount Rainier National Park (WA) – Climbing fee increase. After months of public engagement on a proposed increase in the cost-recovery climbing fee that supports climber services and management of climbing activities on Mount Rainier, the park seeks approval of an annual climbing fee increase from \$30 to \$43. Public support and opposition varied, but feedback and suggestions from the public were used to improve program efficiency and cost effectiveness, including a "youth" climbing pass, increasing the use of volunteers and increasing the franchise-fee allocation. The Access Fund, American Mountaineering Guides Association, and American Alpine Club conditionally support the increase. The park aims to implement the new fee by March 15.

Big Bend National Park (TX) – Boquillas border crossing. The Department of Homeland Security is planning to re-open an international border crossing at Boquillas on the Rio Grande within the park. The NPS is exploring issues associated with establishing and constructing the **Boquillas Station** Port of Entry contact station. The public comment period ends on March 16.

Mammoth Cave National Park (KY) – Naturalization ceremony inside Mammoth Cave. Park staff is working with the Louisville (KY) Field Office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on planning a naturalization ceremony to be held inside the cave on March 18. Representative Brett Guthrie (KY-2) is scheduled to speak. USCIS expects 40 candidates to be sworn in as U.S. citizens; candidates are predominantly Bosnian natives, now living in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Including guests and family members, the total group is estimated at 80-100 people. Media is expected.

National Mall and Tidal Basin (DC) – Cherry Blossom Festival. The 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival takes place March 26-April 10. The Lantern Lighting Ceremony will be April

3 and include dignitaries from Japan, the U.S., and the District of Columbia. The associated festival parade will take place April 9. Peak blossom time is estimated between March 29 and April 3.

Point Reyes National Seashore (CA) – Science paper publication. The article "Evidence for long-term spatial displacement of breeding and pupping harbor seals by shellfish aquaculture over three decades," authored by park scientists, has been accepted for publication in the international journal *Aquatic Conservation*. The paper addresses many of the research suggestions made by the National Research Council in its 2009 review of mariculture in Drakes Estero.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
February 28, 2011

Revised Critical Habitat Proposed for Pacific Coast Population of Western Snowy Plover

During the week of March 7, FWS will propose to revise the critical habitat designation for the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover, a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The proposal includes 68 critical habitat units totaling 28,261 acres along the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington. Public comments will be accepted for the next 60 days. Of the proposed units, 51 are in California, 13 are in Oregon, and 4 are in Washington. Of the total acreage, 9,040 acres are on federal lands; 12,740 acres are owned by states or local agencies; and 6,145 acres are located on private lands. In addition, 336 acres are Tribal lands in Washington State.

Bighead Carp Listed as Injurious - Final Rule

President Obama signed Senate Bill 1421 "Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act" on December 14. This Act lists bighead carp as injurious under the Lacey Act. The final rule is in review now, with intended delivery to the Federal Register in early March. We do not anticipate the final rule to be controversial because it is merely codifying Congressional instructions.

Petition to list African Lion under ESA

On March 1, a coalition of wildlife groups filed a petition with the Department of Interior to list African lions as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The petition documents that international trade in African lions and their parts, including trophy hunting, is playing a role in the reduction of the population. According to the suit, from 1998 through 2008, at least 7,445 wild lions were traded internationally with the United States importing a minimum of 4,021. Additionally, 64 percent of the 5,663 wild lions traded internationally for recreational trophy hunting purposes were imported to the United States.

First charge made regarding last year's investigation on illegal sale of salmon

The first charge stemming from a FWS Alaska Law Enforcement operation investigating the illegal sale of subsistence caught salmon was announced by the United States attorney's office this week and has drawn media attention. Other charges are likely in the months to come. There is potential for controversy, particularly within the state. Thus far media inquiries have been referred to the U.S. attorney's office, which issued the press release.

Endangered Species Recovery at Mora National Fish Hatchery in New Mexico

In mid-February, FWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Department led an important excursion in the mountains of southern Arizona for endangered species recovery. The objective of the trip was to stock 1,300 threatened Gila trout that had been produced at the Mora National Fish Hatchery in New Mexico into two native areas - one for recreational fishing purposes and the other for contribution to Recovery objectives. This stocking effort was an example of a beneficial partnership between multiple federal agencies, the State of Arizona and several

NGO's. Furthermore, it is a highlight of one of the positive conservation values made possible by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which funded a large portion of this project. Overall, this is a true success story that can be used a model were FWS and our partners have been able to take a species that was on the brink of extinction, and restore it to a point where we can now have legal fishing opportunities while continuing to improve the overall status of the species in the wild.

Neosho National Fish Hatchery (MO) Awarded LEED Gold Certification:

The Neosho National Fish Hatchery Visitor Center has achieved Gold Certification according to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system. The Neosho National Fish Hatchery Visitor Center is the first facility in FWS to receive this prestigious rating. The building is designed in the architectural style of the original hatchery and headquarters that opened in 1888. Located in southwest Missouri, Neosho is the oldest operating Federal fish hatchery in the country, and raises pallid sturgeon (Federally-endangered) for recovery efforts in the lower Missouri River, and rainbow trout for stocking in Lake Taneycomo. The hatchery also supports conservation of the Federally-endangered Ozark cavefish and restoration of native mussels.

Partnership efforts result in increases in beach-nesting birds in Rhode Island

During the 2009 and 2010 nesting season, Sandy Point Island, a barrier island in Rhode Island, was managed in partnership between the Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. (landowners) and the FWS Coastal Program and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. In 2010, increases in staffing and public outreach resulted in higher numbers of nesting shorebirds and seabirds and increased productivity. Results included triple the number of nesting pairs of piping plover; an increase from 9 to 443 pairs of nesting least terns; first-time nesting of one pair of common terns; and increased American oystercatcher productivity.

The Northern Forest Land Management Research and Demonstration

The FWS Northeast Region is excited to have initiated the Northern Forest Land Management Research and Demonstration (Northern Forest LMRD) project recently, which adds 3 forester positions to focus on northern forest ecosystem management in the Northeast. This project is a landscape-level alliance between northern forest refuges (Umbagog, Moosehorn, Petit Manan, Silvio O. Conte, and Missisquoi) and partners that focuses on testing, identifying and implementing best forest management practices for wildlife in the northeast. This project will provide small and large landowners with economically viable management tools for managing healthy forest ecosystems in the face of climate change. This group of foresters will work closely in coordination with partners as well as with staff from the newly created Landscape Conservation Cooperative and Refuge Inventory and Monitoring initiatives.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers honors refuge manager

Dean Rhine has been chosen to receive The Commander's Award for Public Service. The Commander's Award for Public Service is the fourth highest honor the United States Department of the Army can bestow upon a civilian. Dean will be awarded the medal and plaque on Thursday February 24th at the Ohio River Islands NWR headquarters in Williamstown, West Virginia. Rhine is being recognized for his exemplary contributions to

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, while serving as Refuge Manager of Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The Huntington District greatly appreciates the strong partnership that has flourished between the Corps and the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, due in large part to Dean Rhine's leadership and commitment to enhance the natural resources of the refuge area.

FWS concludes eastern cougar is extinct; will propose delisting

FWS has completed a five-year status review of all available information about the endangered eastern cougar and has found no information supporting the continued existence of an eastern cougar subspecies population. Biologists believe the species has likely been extinct for 70 years. Many people have reported wild cougar sightings in the historical range of the eastern cougar; but evidence of these sightings suggests these animals are other subspecies, often of South American origin, and either escaped or were released from captivity, or are dispersed from growing western populations. The Service intends to prepare a proposal to delist the eastern cougar.

Longfin Smelt (CA): Reopening of Comment Period and Initiation of Status Review

On February 1, 2011, the FWS settled with the Center for Biological Diversity and agreed to conduct a new twelve month finding on the entire range of the longfin smelt, to be completed by September 30, 2011. We are opening an information collection period of 30 days to allow the public to provide comments and information relative to this action. *Potential issues:* The Center for Biological Diversity, The Bay Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council are supportive of listing the Bay-Delta population of longfin smelt as endangered. Water exporters and irrigation interests have traditionally been against the listing of species that have the potential to impact how the water system is managed. Export pumping has been restricted in recent biological opinions for the delta smelt and salmon species to reduce entrainment. Interaction between populations of longfin smelt in the Bay Delta and other areas is largely unknown. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is March 16, 2011.

Okaloosa Darter (fish) (FL): Final Rule to Downlist to Threatened and Special 4(d) Rule.

Approximately 90 percent of the watersheds containing Okaloosa darters are under the management of Eglin Air Force Base (AFB). Due to a substantial reduction in threats to the species, significant habitat restoration in most of the species' range, and a stable or increasing trend of darters in all darter stream systems, the FWS is downlisting the Okaloosa darter to threatened. The FWS is also establishing a special rule under section 4(d) of the ESA that will allow Eglin AFB to continue activities with a reduced regulatory burden and will provide a net benefit to the Okaloosa darter. *Potential Issues:* We do not foresee any potential issues arising from this final regulation. We have an eager partner in Eglin AFB, who is anxiously awaiting this rule's launch. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission supports this action. We expect only local media interest and little to no controversy. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is March 31, 2011.

Scoping Meetings for Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)

CEQ, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies are in the process of conducting a series of public scoping meetings for GLMRIS throughout states in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basin. DOI/FWS are not directly involved in these meetings, but as FWS plays a

central role in the activities of the Asian Carp Regional Coordination Committee these scoping meetings are of importance to the work on aquatic nuisance species the bureau/department is engaged in. More information on the GLMRIS scoping meetings can be found at the following URL: <http://glmr.is.anl.gov/involve/pubschedule/index.cfm>

Canada Lynx Incidental Take Permit in Maine

The Northeast Regional Director received a letter from Governor Paul LePage of Maine concerning the state's request for a Canada lynx incidental take permit, which the governor says is critical to Maine's regulated trapping program. The region has discussed this issue with the new Director of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and is preparing a response describing the additional information needs as well as the next steps and expected timeframe for completing the processing of the application.

Release of Draft Environmental Assessment of State Sport Fish Stocking Program (AZ):

On March 8th, the FWS Southwest region will release for public comment a final Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) Sport Fish Stocking Program. This draft EA is part of a 2-year+ ESA section 7 consultation with Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and the Arizona Game and Fish Department on the effects of AZGFD's Sport Fish Restoration Grants-supported hatchery, stocking, research programs on threatened and endangered species. The draft EA has been jointly prepared by FWS and the state. Comments will be accepted until April 8, 2011. At this point no public hearings are planned and a final Biological Opinion will follow during the summer of 2011. This is the first such evaluation of a statewide fish stocking program (under the Sport Fish Restoration Program). Moderate controversy among some regional angling groups is expected.

90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Texas Kangaroo Rat as Endangered or Threatened

The FWS received a petition from the WildEarth Guardians, on January 15, 2010, requesting the FWS to list the Texas kangaroo rat, as endangered or threatened and to designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS conducted a 90 day review and found that the listing may be warranted. With the publication of this notice, the FWS will initiate a status review to determine if listing the Texas kangaroo rat is warranted, and open a 60 day public comment period. The present extent of the Texas kangaroo rat's distribution is largely unknown. Of the 11 Texas counties that once contained Texas kangaroo rats, it has been suggested that only 5 were known to support them in 2002 and may be extirpated from Oklahoma. This is anticipated to be controversial with the agricultural and livestock industries.

Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog

The FWS will propose to designate critical habitat for the Chiricahua leopard frog under the Endangered Species Act, and begin a 60 day public comment period with publication of this notice. In total, we are proposing to designate approximately 11,136 acres as critical habitat. The proposed critical habitat is located in New Mexico. In addition, because of a taxonomic revision, we are reassessing the status of and threats and proposing the listing as threatened. The level of controversy is anticipated to be high regionally.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Expo:

On March 5, 2011, FWS staff will attend the Spring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Expo at the University of Maryland Campus in College Park, MD. The Expo is hosted by the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. and the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering. At this time, over 500 youth are registered for the Expo, ranging from grades 3 through 12. The purpose of the Expo is to explain to students what FWS does and, for the older grades, peak their interest in a career in one of the STEM fields. FWS has two sessions at the Expo; one for the Fisheries Program and the other for the Junior Duck Stamp/Environmental Contaminants Program. U.S. Congresswoman Donna Edwards will open the Expo (D-4th, MD). This event is not expected to be controversial.

Grants

New Grants under Wildlife Without Borders Programs

Under various International Affairs' Wildlife Without Borders Programs, FWS intends to award 33 grants totaling \$1,439,107 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$2,356,867), to assist with conservation of rhinos, African and Asian elephants, and marine turtles as well as capacity building efforts in Africa and promotion of environmental legislation in Mexico. The estimated award date for all grants is March 7, 2011. Not expected to be controversial.

Weekly Report

March 4, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities Mar. 7-11:

Anne J. Castle – March 7-8, personal leave; March 9, CU Law School event, Denver, CO; March 10-11, working from CO.

John Tubbs – March 7-10 in DC, attending various meetings; March 11, personal leave.

Deanna Archuleta – March 7-11 in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – Mar. 8, Courtesy visit with House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson; Mar. 10, Talk at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership Annual Public Policy Forum, Capitol Visitor Center; testify at the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy & Minerals Oversight Hearing for FY12 budget; Mar. 11, Wildland Fire Leadership Council meeting, National Association of Counties; Mar. 12, Courtesy visits with Rep. Moran and Lummis.

Mike Connor – Mar. 7 - 11, in the office attending various internal meetings, and testifying at the House Energy & Water Development Appropriations Hearing on March 10th.

Reclamation

Meeting on Recoupment Settlement Options for Truckee Carson Irrigation District by Interior, Department of Justice, TCID (Nevada)

Representatives of Reclamation and the Departments of the Interior and Justice are scheduled to meet on March 2 with Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) to discuss recoupment settlement options. This is an action to recoup water that TCID unlawfully diverted from the Truckee River into the federal Newlands Reclamation Project in Nevada between 1973 and 1987. The unlawful diversions reduced flows to the lower Truckee and Pyramid Lake, home of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and two species of *Ecological Society of America* (ESA) listed fish. The district court held that TCID had diverted more water than allowed, but awarded far less water than the United States sought. In this cross-appeal case, the Ninth Circuit rejected TCID's multiple challenges to the district court's rulings allowing the United States to recover water, based primarily on a congressional statute directing the Secretary to seek such recovery. Judge McKibben, Federal District Court of Nevada, has directed the parties to report back to him no later than March 7, whether they have been able to reach agreement or, if not, on a proposed briefing schedule for those issues that remain in dispute.

Interim Court Settlement Reached on Central Valley Project Operations for Delta Smelt Through June 30, 2011 (California)

An interim court settlement was reached on February 24 on Central Valley Project Operations for Delta Smelt and is in effect through June 30. In December 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) and Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) for the continued long-term operation of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) and the California's State Water Project (SWP) for the protection of the threatened delta smelt. Several water user organizations challenged the BO and RPA in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California (collectively referred to the Delta Smelt Cases). In December 2010, the court "remanded the BO without vacatur" to the FWS. In January 2011, plaintiffs sought an injunction from implementing the RPA. The settlement governs how CVP and SWP operations will be managed for the protection of delta smelt. The water users, environmental community and federal and state officials collaborated to resolve operational issues through the end of June. The parties have requested the Court set a status conference in early June 2011 to address the timeframe within which FWS will complete consultation to issue a new BO and to set forth a schedule to determine criteria for interim operations pending completion of that BO.

Preparations for signing the Record of Decision for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (California)

Preparations are underway to sign the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project located in Contra Costa County, Calif. The project would expand the existing reservoir from 100,000 to 160,000 acre-feet. Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir will develop reliable dry-year water supplies, provide additional water quality improvement for Contra Costa Water District customers, and provide additional emergency water supply for the San Francisco Bay Area. Los Vaqueros is the first surface storage expansion project to move forward under the CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act of 2004.

Meeting of the Glen Canyon Technical Work Group (Arizona)

The Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group (TWG) will meet in Phoenix March 8 – 9, to cover key agenda items including: 2012 hydrograph development, 2012 budget and work plan, and the general core monitoring plan workshop approach. The TWG is a subcommittee of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group.

Congressional Activity

- **3/4/11:** House resources committee minority staff (Jeff Duncan, Camille Calimlim-Touton) this week requested a briefing on Reclamation's Site Security Program. Reclamation Congressional Affairs and Office of Security, Safety and Law Enforcement will provide the briefing via phone on Friday, March 11.
- **3/10/11:** Reclamation representatives, including the regional Security Officer, will conduct a conference call with Anna Apodaca, field representative for Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) on March 10 to discuss the reasons Reclamation has kept public access across Elephant Butte Dam closed since Sept. 11, 2001. Reclamation has been criticized in several newspaper articles for not re-opening access to allow unrestricted foot and bicycle traffic.

- **3/10/11:** Commissioner Mike Connor will testify at the House Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing on March 10. Reed Murray, CUPCA Program Director, will also attend and will testify on the FY 2012 Central Utah Project Completion Act budget request.
- **3/11/11:** The monthly phone briefing for congressional staff on the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) will be provided on Friday, March 11. Typical topics include restoration flows, seepage impacts, landowner concerns and progress with studies to correct capacity issues on the Friant-Kern and Madera canals.
- **3/21/11 thru 4/29/11** – Reclamation is monitoring any plans for field hearings during the next congressional recess (3/21/11) and the following (4/18/11 to 4/29/11). Past spring recesses have featured field hearings.

U.S. Geological Survey

USGS Presents Information on Afghanistan Mineral Resources at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Meeting, Toronto: The USGS will give presentations on Afghanistan's mineral resources at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) meeting March 6-9 in Toronto, Canada. The USGS will also sponsor an exhibit providing information on USGS's recent assessments of porphyry copper in Mexico, rare earth elements deposits of the United States, mineral deposit models, and other research. PDAC attracts over 20,000 attendees from more than 100 countries.

Flooding Update: Moderate to major flooding in the Ohio River basin along with minor flooding in Massachusetts and Rhode Island has resulted in deployment of several USGS field crews currently and over the past week. These crews are conducting streamflow measurements and repairing damaged streamgages at numerous locations. USGS staff has also spent numerous office hours verifying, revising, and/or extending stage-discharge ratings in support of numerous USGS cooperators including the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service held a briefing on March 3 to update the outlook for flood potential. An active weather pattern is expected over the next two weeks. This weather pattern will add additional snow to the already large snowpack in the upper Midwest/northern Plains, but produce little to no flooding because of the below freezing temperatures. The active weather pattern has a high probability of producing major flooding over the Ohio River basin in the near term as the precipitation in that area will fall in the form of rain on already saturated soils, producing rapid runoff into already swollen streams and rivers. The USGS has field crews deployed in the flood areas of the Ohio River basin, with additional field crews prepared for deployment in the coming days if the expected precipitation does occur in this area. In the upper Midwest/northern Plains, the heavy snowpack has greatly increased the probability of major flooding in Missouri River, Red/Souris Rivers, and upper Mississippi River basin once the melt begins in earnest in the mid-March to early-April time frame. At present, the USGS has field crews deployed in North Dakota and Minnesota installing temporary streamgages and stage-sensing instruments at numerous locations at the request of USGS cooperators, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Weather Service. USGS office staff is assisting National Weather Service River Forecast Centers with assessing stage-discharge rating extensions at USGS streamgages that expect record flooding in these areas. Field crews throughout the Midwest and Great Plains are

ready for deployment to the flooded area, with additional crews on standby in USGS offices outside the flood area. [Note: Any flooding currently reported in North Dakota is from either the high levels at Devil's Lake or releases from reservoirs that are being drawn down in anticipation of the major flooding that is anticipated in these areas.]

Upcoming report on Arsenic and Uranium in private wells in East Central Massachusetts:

A USGS report addressing arsenic and uranium concentrations in the water of private wells in East Central Massachusetts is scheduled to be released on March 10, with Massachusetts Departments of Environmental Protection and Public Health (cooperators in the study) planning a media event the following week. The study sampled 478 randomly selected private wells, and found 13 percent contained water with greater concentrations than the EPA drinking water standard for arsenic, and 3.5 percent exceeded the standard for uranium. The EPA updated the arsenic standard in 2006 (the uranium standards was set in 2003). The report, "Arsenic and Uranium in Water from Private Wells Completed in Bedrock of East-Central Massachusetts: Concentrations, Correlations with Bedrock Units, and Estimated Probability Maps," was completed by John Coleman from the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Water Science Center. The USGS is working on a joint press release with the State of Massachusetts, issue date TBD.

Arkansas Earthquake Swarm – Update: A magnitude 4.7 earthquake occurred near the town of Greenbrier in central Arkansas on Sunday night, February 27, 2011 at about 11:01 PM CST. The main shock was followed by magnitude 3.8 and 3.4 aftershocks at 11:18 PM and 2:46 AM. This was the largest to earthquake to date, in the continuing earthquake swarm in the Guy-Greenbrier area known as the Guy earthquake swarm. This swarm includes thousands of small earthquakes between Guy and Greenbrier, AR, which began in June, 2010. Central Arkansas has a history of earthquake activity with a swarm of thousands of earthquakes smaller than magnitude 4.5 to 4.7 in the early 1980s and another swarm in 2001 (known as the Enola earthquake swarms), so the current earthquake-rate increase may simply be due to a natural cycle. Researchers at the University of Memphis, Center for Earthquake Research and Information have partnered with the USGS and the Arkansas Geological Survey to investigate the source of these earthquakes and their possible relationship to natural gas production. Deep waste water injection, one aspect of natural gas production practice in the Greenbrier/Guy, AR, area, has been shown to cause earthquakes in two well-documented cases in Colorado.

New Zealand Earthquake – Update: According to the USGS National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), the number of large aftershocks has dwindled. Collaboration continues with New Zealand counterparts. The NEIC will soon update its estimate of the main shock magnitude to 6.1, to be consistent with the authoritative “moment tensor” solutions; the timing of the update will be done to minimize confusion. The engineering community has noted with concern that many structures in Christchurch that were retrofitted to resist earthquake shaking have been badly damaged. With respect to broader U.S. response efforts, the Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering Response [GEER] team deployment is underway. They will be meeting with New Zealand colleagues, and providing shear-wave velocity profiling at strong-motion stations and liquefaction sites. The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute [EERI] is moving ahead with its reconnaissance team, the first wave of which could leave as early as March 9 (there is a small EERI group there already). The EERI is coordinating with New Zealand colleagues to identify critical buildings to evaluate.

GSN Input to Holdren-Fursenko Meetings Week of Feb 1: The USGS provided the Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP) a summary of issues related to cooperation with the Russians on the operation of 12 Global Seismographic Network [GSN] stations in Russia. The goal is to engage the Russians (multiple institutes) to finalize a new Memorandum of Understanding supporting the GSN partnership. This includes the provision of real-time data (which has been interrupted twice because of MOU expiration) and reduction of customs duties (a more general problem for U.S. science efforts).

State Department to Sponsor Visiting Scientist from Colombia: The U.S. State Department sponsors Climate Change Fellows through their Partners of the Americas Program. The USGS has agreed to host Ms. Adriana Duque from Colombia during the month of May. Ms. Duque works for the Government in Quindio State and is a Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Quindio. During the past several years, this part of Colombia has been hit by major storms causing serious landslides and floods. Ms. Duque will work with USGS scientists to learn the latest in hazard monitoring, assessments and climate modeling during her stay. The State Department will sponsor a USGS scientist to visit Colombia for two weeks this summer.

BLM Hosts Public Workshops on Grand Canyon Draft EIS: During the week of March 7, the BLM will host a series of public workshops related to the draft EIS dealing with uranium mining lands withdrawal in the Grand Canyon region. USGS scientists and managers will attend the meetings to respond to technical questions related to the 2010 USGS Scientific Investigations Report "Breccia-Pipe Uranium Mining in Northern Arizona—Estimate of Resources and Assessment of Historical Effects." Meeting dates and locations are: March 7, Phoenix, AZ; March 8, Flagstaff, AZ; March 9, Fredonia, AZ; March 10, Salt Lake City, UT. Details on the EIS are available at:

Marcellus Shale Estimated Ultimate Recovery Analyses: The USGS made a presentation on March 3 at the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (PTTC) regarding probabilistic estimated ultimate recovery (EUR) analyses of gas wells in the Marcellus Shale, in preparation for the upcoming USGS assessment of gas resources in the Marcellus. The Marcellus Formation (also known simply as Marcellus Shale) is a unit of marine sedimentary rock found in eastern North America. Named for a distinctive outcrop near the village of Marcellus, New York, in the United States, it extends throughout much of the Appalachian Basin. The shale contains largely untapped natural gas reserves, and its proximity to the high-demand markets along the East Coast of the United States makes it an attractive target for energy development. The PTTC is a national not-for-profit organization led by an independent Board of Directors and managed by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Congressional Activity:

- **Budget Oversight Hearing:** On March 9, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy & Minerals has scheduled an oversight hearing on the USGS FY 2012 budget proposal. Director Marcia McNutt is scheduled to testify.

- **Hill Briefing on Rare Earths and Critical Minerals:** The office of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has invited the USGS to take part in a panel briefing for congressional staff on Rare Earth Elements and critical minerals, tentatively scheduled for March 11. Other panelists include Department of Energy and private industry. The USGS presentation would focus on its role in compiling domestic and international minerals information.

Media

- **USGS responds to Platts re: Libyan Oil Information Request:** USGS Scientist Chris Schenk responded to Platts reporter Leslie Moore regarding Libya's oil and gas resources. Schenk discussed the methodology and results of the 2000 assessment, which was part of the 2000 World Petroleum Assessment. Platts is a division of McGraw Hill and publishes news, research, commentary, market data and analysis on energy and metals. The article's publication date is unknown.
- **CNN Interviews USGS on U.S. Earthquake Threats:** Dr. David Applegate will be interviewed for a segment on CNN's American Morning live for 5-6 minutes about the U.S. threat to earthquakes. Topics to be covered may include the Arkansas earthquake swarm; places at risk in the United States -- from California to the New Madrid Seismic Zone; and comparisons about earthquake damages in New Zealand, Chile and Haiti to what could happen in the United States. CNN also said they will be tweeting about the interview ahead of time so this will be covered in the traditional and social media realms. Interview pending.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff
From: Chief of Staff
Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS: Indian Affairs is continuing its outreach to finalize the AI/AN Task Force for the National Action Alliance on Suicide Prevention. Work continues on planning for a youth outreach initiative which will incorporate the strategies and best practices recommended at the 10 listening sessions held on Suicide Prevention efforts.

HPPG/ PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE: The HPPG initiative is still on track to meet its goals. The four scheduled meetings at each HPPG site have been concluded on schedule. The Office of Justice Services (OJS) in coordination with the Tribes and our Federal family has achieved a combined reduction of 11 percent of violent crime on all four reservations. There are seven (7) months left in the HPPG performance period and every effort will be made to adjust prevention strategies to reduce crime further. The OJS will develop best practices document to assist in the development of a model law enforcement program that will focus on; prevention, policing, prosecution, corrections and rehabilitation to provide throughout Indian Country.

TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT (TLOA): The implementation of TLOA is on target. Efforts are underway with the Department of Justice on scheduling the consultation sessions on long term incarceration.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: Comments are continuing to be received prior to the March 14, 2011 Federal Register deadline for Tribal Leaders to provide comments on the Department Consultation Policy. Indian Affairs is still on target for the tentative deadline of August 2011 to finalize the Department Consultation Policy.

WESTERN SHOSHONE JUDGMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION: The Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region is on target for partial payments to be issued to those eligible elders 65 years old or older and to those eligible applicants from whom applications were received on or before October 5, 2007. This week, the Region submitted the final check file to the Treasury that

represents 2,323 checks at \$22,013 for a total of \$51,136,199. During this effort to issue payments, problems were encountered with the Direct Deposit (ACH) file that represents 427 accounts at \$22,013 for a total of \$9,399,551. This was cleared up on March 1; the Treasury will run the final ACH payments on March 2.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is in the process of hiring a Climate Change Coordinator whose duties will include serving as the Indian Affairs Scientific Integrity Officer (covering all offices under the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Indian Education.) Additionally, with regard to bureau-level scientific and scholarly integrity policies, Indian Affairs finalized its policies in July 2009 addressing scientific integrity, scientific conduct, and peer review as chapters in its Indian Affairs Manual (IAM).

TIMBISHA SHOSHONE TRIBAL DISPUTE: The Assistant Secretary has signed an Order that is a final agency decision on an appeal that was filed by members of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe challenging a decision made by the Regional Director, Pacific Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, on February 14, 2009. The Order affirms the Regional Director's decision. In 2007, the Tribe's government split into factions, neither of which merited Federal recognition. Both of the two competing tribal factions held elections in November 2010. The Order signed by the Assistant Secretary utilizes aspects of the November elections to resolve the tribal government dispute. The Order identifies a tribal government that will be recognized by the Federal Government for a limited time (120 days) in order to conduct a special tribal election. If a valid special election is held, the Federal Government will accord unrestricted recognition to the tribal government put in office by that election.

FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Indian Affairs Office of Federal Acknowledgement is finalizing action on three petitions for presentation/discussion with the Assistant Secretary's office:

- *Juaneno Band of Missions Indians, Acjachemen Nation (Petitioner #84A) and the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians (Petitioner #84B):* Two Federal Register notices are undergoing internal review; the targeted date for issuance of these notices is no later than March 16, 2011.
- *Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalup (Petitioner #5:* An extension for the Proposed Finding (PF) was effected for 45 days beyond the March 4, 2011, deadline to allow continued internal review. Targeted date for the issuance of this PF is no later than April 6, 2011.
- *Choctaw Nation of Florida (Petitioner #288):* The starting date for active consideration was February 22, 2011. Target date for the issuance of the notice is no later than April 25, 2011.

OUTREACH: The Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to the homelands of the Havasupai Tribe (located in the Grand Canyon) and the Hualapai Tribe (located near the edge of the Grand Canyon) for Tribal meetings on March 9. On March 15-16, the Assistant Secretary will attend the quarterly meeting of the Tribal Interior Budget Council to update the tribes on the FY 2012 budget request and hear the Tribes priorities for FY 2013. On March 22, the Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to Utah to address the Utah Tribal Leaders meeting, which will be attended by many leaders and members of the five tribes in Utah.

During the week of March 23, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to Albuquerque, NM, to participate and speak at a day and half symposium sponsored by the New Mexico School of Law and the University of New Mexico Indian Law Program. He will then travel to Madison, WI to attend meetings at the University of Wisconsin's Law School.

EDUCATION

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is continuing its review on sections of the reauthorization of the ESEA under the legislative referral process, including a formal request from the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to provide its views on the reauthorization.

FACILITIES: Weather is still a huge factor in Cheyenne River. School days have been cancelled or "late start" schedule has been used due to snow, ice drifting snow, and hazardous road conditionals on rural roads.

SUMMER INSTITUTE: Preparations continue for BIE Summer Institute the week of June 20, 2011, in Reno, Nevada.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

BIA: Efforts are underway within Indian Affairs to respond to the FY 2012 OMB Passback language which requires by mid-March an analysis of the Bureau of Indian Affairs organization regarding consolidation of field sites and other efficiencies to produce administrative savings.

BIE: BIE staff held a conference call with the Northwest Evaluation Association to discuss their forthcoming study entitled: The Bureau of Indian Education: 2009-2010 Baseline Data Report, which examines assessment data in reading and math of students in BIE-funded schools compared to a control group of students. The report is scheduled to be released the week of March 3. This will provide BIE with an opportunity to examine the BIE's approach to reading and math instruction. To this end, a meeting is scheduled for April 5-7, 2011, at NWEA in Portland, Oregon, to examine all available achievement data for students in BIE-funded schools, to assess strengths and weaknesses of the BIE's instructional approaches in reading and math, and to define recommendations to revision instruction with the goal of improving academic achievement. A contract is in place to provide this work with NWEA.

CONFIDENTIAL

March 4, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for March 7 to March 13, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report

March 7, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (3/7-11)
- Hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs regarding the FY 2012 budget (3/8)
- Field personnel brown bag *Office Communicator* online session (3/9)

Review – February 28 to March 4

- **New:** OST participated with SOL and BIA in the analysis and discussion process to finalize a settlement recommendation for the Sokaogon Chippewa tribal litigation. The settlement agreement was approved and authorized by DOJ on February 28. DOJ is moving forward with the tribe's attorney to file the agreement with the Court.
- **Update:** OST and BIA collaborated to effect a partial per capita payment to approximately 3,600 Western Shoshone tribal members. Checks were mailed on March 1. Each check was for just over \$22,000; a total of approximately \$51 million. BIA experienced a delay correcting and certifying the automated clearing house file (direct deposit), therefore, those payments were made on March 2.
- **Update:** Two Review Appraisers traveled to the Office of Appraisal Services Northwest Region to assist with writing appraisals for 417 probate appraisal requests for the Nez Perce Reservation. Over 500 requests were received from BIA at the end of January. The goal is to have the appraisals completed in March.

Week Ahead –March 7 to March 11

- **New:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee will be a witness at the March 8 hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs. The topic is OST's FY 2012 budget request and the effectiveness of spending on Native American programs.
- **New:** OST's Deputy Special Trustee for Trust Services and attorneys from SOL and DOJ will participate in the Quapaw mediation session on March 10 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- **No Change:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) at the Warm Springs Agency is conducting a series of six "Investing for the Future" financial skills training sessions for employees of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The sessions are being held between February 24 and March 10. The FTO is using First Nations Development Institute course materials.
- **No Change:** OST's Trust Services will continue to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing over the next few weeks in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** The FTO at the Blackfeet Agency is collaborating with Browning Community Development Corporation to conduct financial skills training for elders. The training will take place March 23 in Browning, Montana.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. To date, eight activities have been scheduled for March.
- **Update:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency and the FTO at the Southwest Regional Office will partner with First Nations Development Institute personnel to participate in the kickoff on March 17 and the training sessions, which are scheduled for March 30 and April 14.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

March 4, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: March 4, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Diversity. Chief Diversity Officer John Burden has arranged for and is attending regional diversity training workshops for DOI managers and supervisors at several sites across the country. These workshops have been very well attended and, based on participant evaluations, are unquestionably providing our managers and supervisors with knowledge of the distinction between EEO programs and the inclusive workplace initiative, a much deeper understanding of strategic diversity management, and clearer definition regarding their leadership role in instituting the Department's Inclusive Workplace Strategy and bureau diversity implementation plans. We have gotten very positive feedback from bureau attendees who want to expand the training to others in their offices. We are beginning to schedule meetings with the Secretary to discuss bureau plans and next steps for implementing the Department's Inclusive Workplace Strategy.

Youth: Leveraging Employment Resources - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) - National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Partnership. The Office of Youth is bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. NCCC will partner with up with at least five bureau field sites/offices to work on various environmental stewardship projects ranging from extensive trail work and reforestation activities to planning and creating youth advisory boards and organizing various community based projects.

ONRR- False Claims Act Settlement: ONRR is preparing to announce a settlement agreement between the United States and Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation, and OXY USA, Inc., as part of the Wright Federal False Claims Act litigation. The agreement involves the Department of Justice, ONRR, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of various individual American Indian mineral owners. Under the agreement, the Oxy Defendants will pay \$2.05 million plus interest to resolve issues related to natural gas valuation. The settlement is expected to be finalized in March. ONRR Public Affairs will work with the DOJ in preparation of the press release.

MANAGEMENT

Valley Complex/Smith Run Fire (VA). The Smith Run Fire in Shenandoah National Park is now fully contained and conditions are not conducive for re-ignition. At this time, the fire appears to have been caused by the improper disposal of ashes from a residential woodstove. The final total of acreage burned was set at 1,712 acres.

DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. PMB headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans.

Staffing. Current Coast Guard planning calls for continuation of the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team through the fall of 2011. This will require DOI to have an incident commander, and perhaps 2-3 other positions, in New Orleans for that period. National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service are exploring options for a filling the incident commander position with a long-term appointment (term, detail, etc.) to minimize the disruption from turnover of staffing every 2-3 weeks. Meanwhile the Park Service is finalizing its staffing plan for implementing Stage 4 (maintenance and monitoring) operations to be implemented in early March. Using the Park Service plan the Fish and Wildlife Service are developing a similar plan, but implementation will occur sometime later based on conditions. The DOI incident commander reviewed these plans with the Coast Guard leadership on the spill and received concurrence with the approach. Future funding agreements with the Coast Guard will reflect these new staffing plans.

Costs. To date, the Department has \$87.6 million in reimbursable budget authority through PRFA agreements with the U.S. Coast Guard for oil spill response. The Department has submitted approximately \$47 million in claims to the National Pollution Funds Center, of which \$10.2 million has been reimbursed.

BUDGET

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolution. The President signed a two-week continuing resolution on Wednesday, March 2 that extends funding for ongoing Federal government operations through March 18. The two-week CR includes \$4 billion in reductions in earmarks and specified reductions.

- The CR includes \$913.6 million for the Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources Account, which is \$37.6 million below the 2010 level. The measure also

reduces the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund, which is \$15 million below the FY 2011 President's Budget request.

- The CR funds the balance of Interior programs at the 2010 level. Earmarks cannot be funded within these levels. No additional funding is provided for BOEMRE, BLM or USGS.
- Discussions continue among the House, Senate and White House on a path forward on funding for the remainder of FY 2011.

2012 Budget and Hearings.

House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearings on the budget are as follows:

- **GAO and DOI IG** Management Challenges and High Risk Programs – Tuesday, March 1 (9:30 am)
- **Secretary Salazar** – Tuesday, March 8 (1 pm)
- **NPS** – Wednesday, March 9 (9:30 am)
- **BLM/OSM** – Thursday, March 10 (9:30 am)
- **BOEMRE and ONRR** – Tuesday, March 15 (1 pm)
- **FWS** – Wednesday, March 16 (1 pm)
- **USGS** – Thursday, March 17 (9:30 am)
- **BIA/OST** – Wednesday, March 30 (1 pm)

Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has scheduled the following hearing:

- **Secretary Salazar** – Wednesday, March 9 (3 pm)

House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee budget hearings:

- **Bureau of Reclamation and CUPCA** - Thursday, March 10 (10 am)

Authorizing Committees hearings on the budget:

- Senate Energy and Natural Resources – Wednesday, March 2 (10 am)
- House Natural Resources Committee – Thursday, March 3 (10 am)

OIG/GAO Responses. The attached charts provide due dates for pending responses to OIG and GAO draft reports and closure of open referrals for high priority OIG recommendations. There are no overdue reports at this time!

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

**Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
March 3, 2011**

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Bureau/Office Senior Sustainability Officer's Meeting. The monthly meeting of the bureau/office SSO's will be held March 10, from 2:00 to 3:00 in MIB 7000 A. Topics to be discussed include the Green House Gas Inventory and baseline results and the final OMB Sustainability/Energy Scorecard results.

New: State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference. OEPC is working with the Interagency Working Group in the planning of the upcoming conference "Building the Clean Energy Economy with Equity". DOI is a sponsor for this year's conference and the OEPC and BIA are working to develop a track for Native American issues such as "Renewable Energy on Reservations" and the new "Tribal Consultation Policy".

New: DOI Disaster Response Plan for Alaska, Fairbanks Earthquake Annex. The OEPC Alaska Office is taking the lead in preparing and holding an annual exercise in Fairbanks on March 15. The exercise will provide Fairbanks-based DOI Damage Assessment Evaluators, Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment Team Members, Radio Dispatchers, Communications Technicians, Bureau Liaison Chiefs, and DOI Coordinating Officers with the opportunity to become more familiar with their roles and responsibilities following a major earthquake in the Fairbanks area. The exercise will include use of the dedicated emergency response handheld radio communication system in the building in Fairbanks where approximately 600 DOI Bureau employees work and where equipment and materials useful in disaster response are stored. The OEPC Alaska Office is the lead for the Alaska-based DOI disaster preparedness and response program.

New: Emergency Management Council Offsite. OEPC will be participating in the Emergency Management Council Offsite Meeting taking place March 7 – 10 in Las Vegas, NV. OEPC will provide presentations on the Oil Pollution Act, Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration and co-facilitate a Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Lessons Learned session with the Officer of Emergency Management.

Update: Environmental Memoranda Series. OEPC has revised its list of effective memorandums which include Environmental Review Memorandums (ERMs), Environmental Statement Memorandums (ESMs), and Environmental Compliance Memorandums (ECMs). These memorandums provide information and guidance to bureaus and offices related to NEPA and general environmental compliance responsibilities of the Department. The memorandums are available on the OEPC web site at: <http://www.doi.gov/oepec/ememoranda.html>.

Completed: Participation in Institute of the North Arctic Policy Forum. The OEPC Alaska Office participated in a February 24th Arctic Policy Forum, sponsored by the Alaska-based Institute of the North. The forum highlighted Canada-U.S. Collaboration, focusing on Arctic marine shipping and the environment. The OEPC Alaska Office moderated a session entitled “Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity,” which will include speakers from Environmental Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

No change: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The next phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the winter.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices’ reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$87.57 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$47.05 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 Million.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque has submitted FWS PRFA Amendment #13 requesting a funding ceiling increase of \$3,402,100 to a total of \$65,759,469 with an extension of the period of performance to March 31.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque has been told by BOEMRE that they have ended response activities that would be covered by the PRFA and that they will be requesting no more PRFA Amendments.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque indicates that the development of Stage IV Shoreline Treatment Plans for the Eastern States and Louisiana by the Core Groups is continuing and nearing completion.
- The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team met with GAO auditors on February 11 and is following up to provide materials requested by GAO, including DOI bureaus’ “old” and current indirect cost rates and methodology (POB to respond); PRFA Cost Documentation Team and OEPC procedures, guidance, cover letters for packages and reimbursement requests submitted to USCG/NPFC; electronic files of all PRFAs and related amendments; and DOI purchase card policies and procedures.

Update: Federal Mining Dialogue/Quarterly Meeting. The Environmental Cleanup and Liability Team will participate in the quarterly Federal Mining Dialogue conference call meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 at 1:00pm EST. The meeting will review status of various subgroups and the issues on abandoned mine lands on Federal property. USDA is the chair for this meeting.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Oil Market/Gulf Moratorium Information. At the request of the Deputy Assistant Secretary Policy & International Affairs, Policy Analysis compiled information on oil prices and the effects of the Gulf of Mexico moratorium.

Update: Arctic Policy. As a follow-up to the State-led Arctic Policy Group meeting on February 24, Policy Analysis provided an updated proposal on ecosystem-based management in the Arctic that was originally circulated by the State Department. The Department of the Interior is expanding the proposal from an exclusively marine focus to also include terrestrial ecosystem-based management. Following interagency review and approval, the proposal along with a proposal on oil spill response will be submitted by the U.S. Senior Arctic Official (SAO) for consideration at the SAO meeting in Copenhagen, March 16-17. Policy Analysis and International Affairs will represent the Department at the SAO meeting.

Update: Arctic Strategic Action Plan for the National Ocean Policy. Policy Analysis continues to participate in the drafting of the National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan. Policy Analysis represented the Department at an interagency drafting meeting on February 25. The drafting team reviewed strategic actions proposed by each agency and came to an agreement on seven actions to forward to the National Ocean Council by March 7.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy. Policy Analysis continues to implement the National Ocean Policy. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Workshop will be held May 3-5 in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for two priority areas: Coordinate and Support, and Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. On March 2, DOI's Senior Ocean Policy Team met and discussed the CMSP Workshop, the Coastal Zone 2011 Conference that DOI is co-hosting, and the Ocean and Coastal Working Capital Fund. Policy Analysis is also providing staff support for the National Ocean Council Deputies meeting scheduled for March 9.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with the Bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Brown Bag Series. Policy Analysis is sponsoring a monthly Brown Bag Series. The next Brown Bag will be a presentation by Jason Riley, DOI International Technical Assistance Program, on Building CITES Capacity in Central America - Improving Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species with our Trading Partners. The Brown Bags are held in the Rachel Carson Room on the second Mondays of the month around noon and are open to everyone.

Ongoing: Economics Report. Policy Analysis is continuing to edit the text and check the facts.

Ongoing: Soda Ash Royalty. The Bureau of Land Management requested that Policy Analysis assist in drafting a report to Congress on the 5-year soda ash royalty reduction enacted in 2006. Policy Analysis participated in a February 9 conference call with BLM economics staff to plan for a final draft by March 3. Policy Analysis has provided data and analysis on soda ash exports to BLM and is continuing to provide input to the draft being prepared by BLM.

Ongoing: Databases for Invasive Species Information Sharing. On March 3, the Department's Invasive Species Coordinator co-led an interagency discussion of the Federal agency needs for data sharing to enhance invasive species prevention; and control and research for management. Participants were from FWS, NPS, NOAA, USGS, and EPA.

Completed: National Invasive Species Awareness Week Kickoff and Tribal Government Presentations. The Department hosted the kickoff for the National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) 2011. The Keynote Address was delivered by Honorable David Hayes, Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Opening remarks were made by Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Members of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (Michigan), Metlakatla Indian Community (Alaska), Nez Perce Tribe (Idaho), and Leech Lake Band Ojibwe (Minnesota) were present. This event was open to the public. A discussion of tribal issues and coordination next steps followed the presentations. This was part of a wide range of events associated with NISAW.

Completed: State and Regional Invasive Species Workshop during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW 2011). Asian Carp Director John Goss was the featured luncheon speaker at State and Regional Invasive Species Day on March 1, and the workshop included a panel discussion on Asian carp and regional coordination. Representatives from DOI and other federal agencies, as well as many state officials, attended. The Department's Invasive Species Coordinator presented a review of DOI grants and other funding opportunities available for invasive species work by state, tribal, and private citizens at the NISAW State and Regional Panel on Tuesday, March 1. Over 100 state employees, interested citizens, and representatives of non-governmental organizations attended the workshop.

Office of International Affairs

New: International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment. OIA began assisting with planning for this event for April 14, including developing a list of contacts and potential invitees.

New: DOI - Tanzania Partners Planning Meeting. As part of the USAID-funded Financial Crisis Initiative (FCI) in Tanzania, Department's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) will participate in a FCI implementing partner's annual progress meeting. DOI-ITAP will also conduct separate planning meetings with in-country partners. DOI-ITAP has been active in Tanzania since 1998

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff worked closely with the Office of Policy Analysis and the State Department to suggest changes

to two US Arctic Council project proposals: one dealing with oil spill response in the Arctic, and the other dealing with ecosystem-based management in the Arctic. After further bureau feedback, these edited proposals will go back to State Department for their further consideration.

Update: Devil’s Lake and Meeting with Premier Selinger. OIA staff prepared background material for and attended the Secretary’s meeting with Premier Selinger of Manitoba on February 28. During the meeting the Premier agreed that an April workshop is appropriate for a bilateral risk analysis of Devils Lake species transfer.

Update: Rio+20 Planning. OIA continues to track interagency preparations for the Rio +20 Conference. The United Nations will host a preparatory conference (“PrepCon”) the week of March 7 in New York. OIA staff covered an interagency working group meeting on February 25 to discuss one of three main emerging thematic foci for the Brazil conference: “Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication”, and will cover a final interagency coordination meeting on March 1 in advance of the PrepCon.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

NEW: Hawai‘i Public Land Corp Reserve Ranger Program. The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations is working with the Maui Economic Organization, the Student Conservation Association, Maui Community College, and Haleakala National Park to develop a Reserve Ranger demonstration project. The demonstration project will seek to prepare youth ages 16-25 for service in the U.S. National Park Service or in the resource management field. Applicants, recruited by the Maui Economic Organization, will apply for positions to the Student Conservation Association with the Haleakala National Park Superintendent having final approval on the candidates. During their first summer, the youth candidates will undergo a 12 week basic training program at Haleakala National Park. Upon successful graduation from basic training they will serve as a Ranger Reserve (RR) one weekend a month during the school year for a period of three years. The second summer the RRs will serve full time in the Park, which will provide further training in cultural and natural resource management. During the third summer the RRs will be dedicated to the training of the new youth participants.

NEW: Placement of Native Hawaiian Legal Intern with Department of Justice. The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations placed our first Native Hawaiian Legal Intern with the U.S. Department of Justice Indian Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division. This Division conducts litigation for the United States as trustee for the protection of the resources and rights of federally recognized Indian tribes and members of such tribes. In general, Legal Intern will assist the Division’s trial lawyers in preparing cases for filing and supporting the litigation effort post-filing, and assist the Division’s appellate lawyers in researching issues on appeal. Lehua Kauhane is the first Native Hawaiian placed with the Indian Resources Section in at least 10 years.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

Ongoing: Leveraging Employment Resources - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) - National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Partnership. The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. NCCC will partner with up with at least five bureau field sites/offices to work on various environmental stewardship projects ranging from extensive trail work and reforestation activities to planning and creating youth advisory boards and organizing various community based projects.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Targeted Recruitment - Haskell Indian Nations University. The Office of Youth is coordinating a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31, 2011 for the Department. The bureaus have identified over 55 vacancies that they will recruit for at Haskell. The objective of this effort demonstrate to all the bureaus the benefits of the target recruitment process and also introduce them to the students, staff, resources, and facilities of a postsecondary education institution operated by BIE. The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Personnel Management, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will also join Interior at Haskell for recruitment and outreach purposes.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Public Land Service Corps Hiring Authority (PLCS). The Office of Youth is coordinating the implementation of the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority for the Department. The Office of Youth is coordinating efforts with USDA to ensure that the reporting, tracking, and certification processes are streamlined across the two Departments. Critical feedback was obtained from USDA and partners. Next steps have been identified that will address some of the barriers associated with implementation.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Policy Guidelines Revision. After an overhaul of the policy guidelines by the Office of Youth along with the YCC Policy Task Force, composed of representatives from each bureau, the Office of the Solicitor and USDA-Forest Service, the document was reviewed by external partners from the Corps Network, and comments were accepted and discussed at a meeting on 2/14/11. Feedback from that meeting is currently being incorporated into the guidelines.

Ongoing: Streamlining Employment Processes - AmeriCorps Matching Funds. The Office of Youth is preparing a memo for Secretary Salazar that provides guidance to the field on how to utilize DOI and partner resources as matching funds for AmeriCorps and related programs. This effort will allow DOI to expand youth employment programming across DOI by working collaboratively with our Federal Family and partners to ultimately decrease costs.

Ongoing: Leveraging Educational Resources - USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Partnership. The Office of Youth is working with NIFA to align DOI bureaus with NIFA's Land Grant University Funding opportunities to advance research, extension, and education in the agriculture and natural resource fields. Grant funding for these particular Universities, which include African-American Land Grant Universities, Native

American Land Grant Universities, and HSIs have the potential to “pipeline” greater numbers of diverse students into careers with the Department of the Interior.

Ongoing: Expanding Engagement - America’s Great Outdoors Youth Report.

The Office of Youth is leading outreach for the AGO youth report. Office of Youth presented on AGO and LMO at the Association of Partners for Public Lands conference in Dallas, TX last week and is spearheading efforts around the AGO youth chat and events that highlight AGO policy recommendations

Ongoing: Let’s Move in Indian Country. The Office of Youth and BIE launched the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Challenge in 186 BIE Schools last week and have 11,000 students committed to participating in 60 minutes of physical activity a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. The Office of Youth is working with AS-IA, BIA and BIE, USDA, HHS, ED, and the First Lady's Let's Move team to support strategic planning for a *Let’s Move in Indian Country* initiative –involving a White House/First Lady launch in April 2011. Office of Youth continues to host stakeholder meetings around this initiative and presented at the National Congress of American Indians to solicit feedback from tribal leaders.

Ongoing: Improving Youth Programming -Youth Programming Impact Evaluation Development. The Office of Youth is developing standardized processes for the Department to document impact, improve effectiveness and promote accountability for youth programming. A draft toolkit is under final review which will act as a resource to program. A roll-out strategy is currently being developed by key DOI staff.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: MOU – Boy Scouts & Campfire USA. Working with SOL to complete final draft MOUs between DOI (Secretary Salazar - on behalf of Take Pride in America) with (1) Boy Scouts; and (2) Campfire USA. Final draft to include amendments to emphasize partnerships to implement AGO and Youth engagement.

Ongoing: Initiating Regular Meetings of Bureau Partnership Coordinators. Creating new forum for "Best Practices Network" among DOI staff engaged in the development of Department-wide partnering policies including 1) all Bureau Partnership Coordinators, 2) PMB staff of the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and 3) Office of the Solicitor.

Ongoing: Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) MOU Revisions. Revise, with 7 federal agencies cooperating with PARC, a 2001 (amended 2007) MOU, including DOI natural resource Bureaus and other federal agencies including DoD, US DOT, US EPA, USFS, US Dept of Commerce NMFS, USDA NRCS for a Federal Agency Steering Committee that provides a “framework for cooperation and coordination.” The existing MOU expires September 30, 2011.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: NPS Advanced Volunteer Management Training. This week preparations were made for Take Pride in America's participation in the NPS's Pacific Region Advanced Volunteer Management Training meeting that will take place March 1-3 in Boulder City, NV.

Ongoing: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities Policy. Draft Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities Policy is being consolidated into the DOI standard volunteer agreement.

Completed: NPS Advanced Volunteer Management Training. The Director of Take Pride in America and the Director of the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors participated in the NPS's Pacific Region Advanced Volunteer Management Training meeting that took place March 1-3 in Boulder City, NV.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

New: Docket Attorney Retirement. Interior Board of Land Appeals Docket Attorney Margaret Walsh is retiring on March 3, after 38 years with the Department. Ms. Walsh was a staff attorney with the Board for 18 years before she was promoted to Docket Attorney in 2001. Over the last 10 years, she has docketed thousands of cases, assigned them to judges and staff attorneys, tracked all case-related documents received or issued by the Board, and drafted hundreds of decisions. OHA has submitted a request to backfill her vacancy.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

- The CIO will travel this week to Denver and Rolla, MO to visit the USGS facilities in support of the IT Transformation initiative.
- Sylvia Burns, ADCIO for Customer Service Management, is travelling this week to Alaska to conduct IT Transformation initiative outreach to Bureaus and offices in the Alaska area.

New: Blue Coat Secure Web Gateway implementation: In the spirit of the IT Transformation initiative, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has provided OCIO with a dedicated BLM engineer to support the Blue Coat Secure Web Gateway implementation project. The new Blue Coat Web Gateway will allow for more tailored control of access to external websites.

New - OMB FY 2012 Exhibit 300 Passback Submission: OCIO completed the submission of 51 FY2012 Exhibit 300s, meeting passback requirements.

Update: IT Transformation Briefings to Human Resources Directors and Fish and Wildlife Regional IT staff: OCIO staff conducted IT Transformation briefings for Bureau and Office Human Resource officers and FWS Regional IT staff. The IT Transformation team assured participants that they will work collaboratively on issues related to IT Transformation.

The video-teleconference briefing was attended by nine regional IT organizations, including Alaska. There was general agreement that the business case for the IT Transformation is merited.

and reactions to the session were positive. The briefings were a result of FWS staff acknowledging that their organization had not been keeping them informed about IT Transformation. .

Update: IT Transformation Planning for Field Input Sessions: The IT Transformation team worked collaboratively with Bureau and Office leadership to identify field locations where OCIO staff can meet with end users to better understand their needs and mission requirements. The site visits leverage a combination of face-to-face meetings and video-teleconferencing, which has proved to be effective in extending the participation of our geographically dispersed staff. Senior IT officials within the Bureaus and Offices support these events through local sponsorship, including identifying presentation and coordination teams that include OCIO and Bureau/Office staff (from headquarters and the field) to expand the exposure of key stakeholders and build a unified front .

Office of Valuation Services

Update: New OVS Director. New OVS Director, John Ross, reported for duty on February 28. Mr. Ross brings a wealth of executive management experience and a long and well regarded history with the appraisal field.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: Pilot training on the “*Nimble Thinker*” with Keystone Center. CADR is partnering with the Keystone Center to deliver a new training module on the latest information on creative problem-solving for DOI managers and employees. This free training will explore the implications of quantum physics, chaos theory, and globalism and their connection to right-brain problem-solving skills, essential capabilities for those tackling the most complex problems we are facing today.

Ongoing: Joint Memorandum on CORE PLUS and EEO ADR. The Director of CADR, Senior counsel for CADR, and the Director of the Office of Civil Rights will issue a joint memorandum about the operation of CORE PLUS as the Department’s EEO Alternative Dispute Resolution program to address policy and procedural issues raised by bureau EEO staff and CORE PLUS practitioners.

Update: Conflict Management and Challenging Conversations Training for Bureaus and Offices. CADR is delivering CORE PLUS training for managers and employees on request in DC, Northern Virginia, and Denver, with 6 sessions scheduled through the end of March.

Ongoing: Open Government Working Group. The final planning meeting for the kick off meeting on the Open Government working group will be on March 7. The Working group meeting will be on March 23 – 24.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Tribal Lands Dataset. The GIO will be meeting with representatives from EPA to discuss the need for one authoritative source of geospatial data about tribal lands that can be used by all Federal agencies and their partners.

National Business Center

New: NBC Director. Joseph Ward officially reported for duty as NBC's Director on February 28.

New: African American History Program. NBC Denver hosted its 5th Annual African American History Luncheon and Diversity Program. Approximately 130 personnel attended the program. The keynote speaker was Army Major General (Retired) Elder Granger who was an instant hit and spoke to this year's national theme "African Americans and the Civil War." The Greater Denver Colorado Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers as well as several performances by the NBC Denver Ensemble also participated. All attendees will receive diversity credit for their attendance.

New: Internal Control Review. The NBC Audit Liaison Office finalized an OMB A-123 alternative internal control review (AICR) on the AQD Award and Obligate assessable unit and found 9 control deficiencies and 1 recommended process improvement.

New: BOR Mission Support. The Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) provided a helicopter and pilot for two projects this week in support of the Bureau of Reclamation by transporting 4 hydrologists to a remote site to work on water flow measurement. AMD will also transport 4 bureau personnel to conduct site work and survey a remote area for a suitable location for a microwave relay.

New: Aircraft Sale/Purchase. An online auction initiated through Federal Asset Sales (eFAS) by the AMD Sale Center resulted in the sale of a 1967 DC-9 jet airplane on behalf of the Department of Energy's (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). NNSA has also entered into an agreement with AMD to procure 3 aircraft to support the transportation of nuclear material, and is in the process of closing on the first airplane. AMD has sold 4 aircraft to NNSA for a total of \$6,560M.

New: Computers for Learning. Staff from Acquisitions and IT Directorates worked together to excess unneeded information technology items for the Aviation Management Directorate through the GSA Computers for Learning (CFL) program. The Principal from Meridian Middle School accepted 17 laptops, 18 desktops, 9 monitors, and miscellaneous accessories and peripherals. Total acquisition value of items donated is approximately \$69,000.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Indian Preference in recruitment and merit promotion. The Office of Human Resources (OHR) is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on issues concerning the correct application of Indian Preference in recruitment and merit promotion. Historically, proper application of Indian Preference has been very complex and problematic.

New: Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Eastern States Office in Springfield, VA Accountability Review. A representative from the Accountability team participated on a review of BLM Eastern States Office in Springfield, VA. While the review team found no significant violations of law, regulation, or the merit system principles, the team did find numerous processing errors which will require corrective action. The BLM Eastern States Office has undergone significant turnover in its leadership over the last year. Their State Director, a senior executive, was reassigned to the Utah State Office in July 2010 and a series of senior level managers have been rotating into the position in an acting capacity since that time. As a result, no major decisions on issues such as workforce planning, succession planning, knowledge management, leadership development, staffing and other HR issues have been made and the HR office is simply maintaining the status quo. BLM hopes to fill this position shortly.

New: Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Inquiry. The Accountability team responded to an inquiry from OPM regarding the filing of position descriptions for Fire Fighter and Law Enforcement Officers (FF/LEO). The question came up during an OPM review of the Fish and Wildlife Service. OPM questioned why these position descriptions were filed on the permanent side of the employees' Official Personnel Folders (OPF), however, the Accountability team correctly pointed out that according to OPM's Guide to Personnel Recordkeeping, position descriptions pertaining to coverage determinations made under the FF/LEO Special Retirement Program are to be filed on the permanent side. In addition, the Department issues DOI Certification Sheets to document FF/LEO coverage determinations. This document should also be filed on the permanent side of the OPF and when the employee retires, it should be forwarded to OPM along with the retirement application. Documentation of coverage determinations may also include decision letters issued by OPM, DOI or other Departments. To eliminate confusion, the Department recommends that the bureaus review FF/LEO records to ensure appropriate documentation is maintained and filed properly. Coverage may be verified at <https://flert.nifc.gov/>.

Office of Civil Rights

New: National Women's History Month. The Department of the Interior proudly joins the Nation in celebrating National Women's History Month. Throughout the month of March, the Nation honors the achievements of women across the country. The National theme is "Our History is Our Strength." The stories of women's achievements are integral to the fabric of our history. Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength. Bureaus and Offices are encouraged to conduct activities across the country in observance of National Women's History Month.

New: National Federal Women Program Managers Council. On March 3, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is participating in an inter-agency meeting of the National Federal Women Program Managers Council. The purposes of the meeting are to: share information and best

practices; strategically plan participation at the Federal Women's Program National Training Program in July 2011; and provide opportunities for mentoring and networking among Federal Women Program Managers. The meeting is being hosted by a Federal agency in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

New: Minority Serving Institutions Community of Partners Council (COPC). On March 8, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is participating in the quarterly meeting of the Minority Serving Institutions COPC, in Washington, D.C. The COPC focuses on strengthening existing and developing new strategies to maximize government-wide collaborative efforts directed towards minority serving institutions.

Completed: On February 22, 2011, Public Civil Rights Division staff members attended the Department of Justice, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Working Group meeting located in Washington, DC. U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Director Michael L. Alston, Office of Civil Rights, from the Office of Justice Programs introduced Assistant (DOJ) Attorney General Thomas E. Perez, who spoke to the inter-agency groups on shared learning regarding guidance for individuals with LEP to accessibility of programs and services offered.

Completed: icomplaints User Training. On February 24, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights presented icomplaints User Training for DOI EEO Practitioners. The training was conducted at the National Capital Training Center, NPS, in Washington, D.C. The training will also be provided as a Webinar for DOI EEO Practitioners located in Atlanta, Boise, Denver, and New Orleans. The training provided instruction on efficiently using icomplaints and hands-on experience inputting data in icomplaints.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: National Conference and Training Center. Safety Manager David R. Schuller attended an interagency meeting of federal agencies to discuss agency dive programs. Each agency and/or bureau gave a presentation on their respective dive program that outlined their current work processes; regulatory authority; current program challenges; future program plans; and future budgetary restrictions which will likely energize agencies to fully consider resource sharing opportunities. Expected deliverables from the meeting discussions will culminate in Snorkeling and Free-Dive guidelines and Alternate Work Standard request by National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is in the final stages of creating a package to formally request alternate work standards for commercial and scientific dive work based on their current work practices. Moreover, NOAA will consider routing the package to all interested agencies to co-sponsor or surname as a single formal request to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) versus multiple submittals from other agencies focusing potentially on the same criteria. There will be more to come on NOAA's alternate work standards and the potential sharing of their work.

New: Safety and Health Awareness Week. The Proclamation for the Safety and Health Awareness week was delivered to Office of Solicitor (General Law) for review on Friday, February 26, 2011.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) Victim Specialist in Phoenix Expands Services. Pursuant to approval from the US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, the OLES Victim Specialist in Phoenix is expanding services to the Gila River Reservation. In addition to offering services to San Carlos, White River, Hopi, Supai and Colorado River, the Victim Specialist will now include services to victims of serious crimes at the Gila River Reservation.

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture. The DAS and the USFS Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry have signed a memo assigning Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS) to lead an effort to develop options for implementation of the interagency National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture (NWFEA). Their report is due by June 1. An initial inventory of all systems, applications, and projects, along with pending decisions, is due by March 31. A kick-off “town hall” meeting with fire directors and fire IT staffs is scheduled for March 8 in Boise. As part of their effort the team leaders will be working closely with DOI and USFS OCIO’s to coordinate procedures for managing investment decisions and portfolios.

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. Current Coast Guard planning calls for continuation of the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team through the fall of 2011. This will require DOI to have an incident commander, and perhaps 2-3 other positions, in New Orleans for that period. National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service are exploring options for a filling the incident commander position with a long-term appointment (term, detail, etc.) to minimize the disruption from turnover of staffing every 2-3 weeks. Meanwhile the Park Service is finalizing its staffing plan for implementing Stage 4 (maintenance and monitoring) operations to be implemented in early March. Using the Park Service plan the Fish and Wildlife Service are developing a similar plan, but implementation will occur sometime later based on conditions. The DOI incident commander reviewed these plans with the Coast Guard leadership on the spill and received concurrence with the approach. Future funding agreements with the Coast Guard will reflect these new staffing plans.

Update: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is awaiting signature by the CIO.

Update: Radio Program Improvement. Final plans for briefing the Deputies Operating Group on March 2 have been completed. A project charter and organization are in progress. Efforts continue to schedule a meeting with the Department of Agriculture to invite them to join in the project.

Update: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) will briefing the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC, and solicit bureau input on improving coordination with Interior.

Update: Experimental Nonessential Population Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion of a final rule for establishment of this population in Arizona. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed in April of 2010. Customs and Border Protection has expressed concerns over the impact of establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Pronghorns on border security operations. Regional and Field Office staff in FWS have briefed CBP on the nature of the rule and briefings by CBP Tucson Sector personnel will take place the week of February 28 in Washington, D.C. It is hoped these briefings will result in support for publication of the rule. Regulatory impacts of NEPs are significantly lower and this effort is not expected to impact border security operations significantly.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Two days of meetings with Customs and Border Protection took place on February 24-25. The objective of these meetings was to reconcile mitigation acreage estimates with the impacts of the projects as built. Unfortunately, CBP provided the final reports from their contractor just before the meeting so there was inadequate time to analyze the reports completely in advance. There was substantial discussion on determination of the actual impact acreage and a wide discrepancy between the FWS and CBP estimate of impact that has occurred. Discussion is continuing. Project Data Worksheets are being revised and a rationale for the FWS supported mitigation acreage is being prepared which hopefully will lead to resolution. Substantial agreement was reached on the estimated cost of mitigation acreage and the third party process to be used for acquisition. The end result of these discussions is hoped to lead to expenditure of 20 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: SBInet Program Assessment. Based on a thorough assessment of this program CBP is now reevaluating its use along the SW border. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. A briefing on the new program took place February 23. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew will be the lead for coordination with CBP who will provide contacts for exchange of information. The first step will be to assess the type, location and timing of work so that an assessment of the scope and need for environmental analysis can be accomplished.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. This is a follow-up to the scoping meeting convened at Cabeza Prieta NWR headquarters on January 27th. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. A meeting to discuss next steps is planned for March 3 in Ajo, Arizona.

Update: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and

seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. There will be a meeting of all concerned on March 9th to look at alternative sites for mitigation so that the project can move forward.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the DAS on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. During the week of January 11 there was an initial meeting of the teams that will be conducting in-depth review of dispatch functions, requirements, and program issues in the Southwest and in California. Over the next 18 months these interagency teams will develop solution options for optimizing dispatch services through consolidation of facilities, improving technology, establish governance, and other issues. A national “bridge” team will oversee the efforts to ensure consistency of approach and delivery of national-level recommendations for program improvement.

No Change: Funding of Jaguar projects in Mexico. A letter addressed to DAS Thorsen was received which indicated that DHS would not fund jaguar mitigation projects in Mexico. These funds were provisionally withheld from the initial Inter-Agency Agreement pending further discussion. Region 2 prepared a response to the letter which will be used to in turn respond to CBP. In brief, FWS is adjusting plans for expenditure of these funds within the U.S. A briefing for CBP officials on working across the border is being developed in hopes that we will be able to identify some conservation work that could be conducted in Mexico that will be acceptable to CBP.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. A request for photos of environmental topics was received from the contractor and we are working to provide as many images as possible. A final module is still expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. CBP convened a briefing on the status of this PEIS on January 7. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status will be issued by CBP within the next several weeks. CBP previously issued requests for comments directly to the Bureaus. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew requested that these be directed to DOI. Bureaus will then be requested to comment with responses from each bureau consolidated by DOI. A

Notice of Availability of the Draft PEIS is expected at the end of March 2011. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A communications and outreach plan for broader, public scoping is being developed at CBP. Initial scope includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Coordination of Borderland Activities. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew is now convening a series of coordination calls with BLM and FWS on a weekly or biweekly basis. In addition the first monthly DOI-wide coordination call was conducted February 8th. Biweekly coordination calls with Project Leaders for mitigation projects funded by Customs and Border Protection will begin the week of February 14. A DOI Sharepoint site is also being developed for sharing of documents and graphics. Lastly, coordination meetings are conducted every other Monday with CBP to discuss progress, issues of concern and upcoming activities.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: POTUS Visit to MIB: On Sunday 2/27, POTUS conducted an “off the record” visit to the MIB. OLES Security assisted the White House and the U.S. Secret Service during this visit.

New: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee and the Office of National Counterintelligence Executive Meetings. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. By mid-March, ten or more departments and agencies will be identified for site visits by an inter-agency team of experts who will review security policies and practices as part of an Office of Management and Budget review.

New: OLES Working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to Address Wireless Vulnerabilities. The National Security Agency has approved the use of networked based tools that can protect against wireless device intrusions, especially when these devices are being used out of the country. OLES is collaborating with the OCIO on a forthcoming DOI policy.

New: Threats to DOI Senior Leadership: OLES Security continues to coordinate threats to Senior Leadership with the appropriate agencies including the Federal Protective Service, the affected Bureau/Office Security Manager, and in some cases the local police and FBI.

New: Strategy for a Common Infrastructure to Meet Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) Requirements (an OMB Initiative): OLES Security met with Ed Awani, Facilities and Property Management, to develop a coordinated assessment process to

determine the compliance of the Departments facilities with physical security minimums. These minimums are required to meet the base line level of security as stated in the FICAM.

Update: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Project Rebaseline Submitted. The Technology Division resubmitted the IMARS Project Rebaseline to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) after receiving feedback and comments from OMB. The Rebaseline is based on OMB directives and guidance from the 2010 TechStat sessions.

Update: Operation Trident Surge. The final deployment began this week and runs through Friday, March 18. The focus areas for the operation are Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, nearby BLM Public Lands, and Coronado National Forest. The operation has yielded narcotics seizures of over 19,850 pounds and 872 apprehensions of undocumented aliens the first month. OLES personnel continue to work with bureau incident commanders and Border Patrol to address operational planning, prosecution, and intelligence sharing procedures. Other notable activity this week included the arrest of a “RIP Crew” on the Sonoran Desert National Monument. “RIP Crews” are criminal groups that rob from narcotic and human smugglers. They typically are heavily armed and well organized. Surge officers also assisted in rescuing two illegal aliens from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Unfortunately, another Mexican National died from dehydration before officers located the group.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is almost complete; work on the A ramp has begun.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** One Guard Booth has been installed on C ramp and is in the process of being tested. Additional Booth’s are on schedule to be installed.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** Awaiting the contracting office to finalize and post the solicitation.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** To date, we have downloaded between 3-5 thousand OPM employee files and 5-9 thousand GSA employee files into our PACS system.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Work continues on updating the IDS and upgrading the security cameras.

Update: Main Interior Building Law Enforcement (LE) Group: OLES is coordinating a Departmental (OLES, BIA, NPS, FWS, and BLM) group of LE Officers who are located in the Main Interior Building. The purpose of this group is to ensure a coordinated Departmental response to any LE incidents occurring in the building. Progress in this group includes:

- Creating, ordering and distributing new, color coded, HSPD 12 identification card holders signifying the holder is LE.
- Creating an MIB/LE rapid response contact list.
- Creating a LE/Security visibility vest that will be issued to all LE and Security plain clothes personnel.

On Wednesday, during a fire drill in the MIB, a response drill for this group was tested.

Update: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On Friday 2/25, DAS Thorsen participated on a conference call regarding security procedures at the Statue and Ellis Island. Additional meetings are being scheduled in an attempt to make a final determination.

Update: OLES Security Information Bulletins. OLES Security Division has issued its first security information bulletin which was distributed to all Bureau/Office Security Directors and other interested individuals. This bulletin focused on the OMB and HSPD-12 requirements for Physical Access Control Systems (PACS) for Departmental facilities. Additional security bulletins are in the process of being created.

Update: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. Approval has been granted for the workshop and a member of Senator Lieberman has expressed interest in attending. In addition, a draft announcement has been crafted, a location with housing capabilities has been located and reserved, and all cooperating agencies are engaged. This workshop provides required in-service training to meet the 40 hour annual training requirement for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge.

No Change: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. OLES is currently working with BOR to schedule an assessment at Glen Canyon Dam. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. Assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Arch, Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been scheduled for the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

No Change: OLES Participation in Interagency Project to Identify Undiscovered Marijuana Grow Sites on Public Lands in Washington State. OLES is supporting an interagency effort on behalf of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in Washington state to support area limitation analysis on public lands. This analysis will evaluate a variety of factors (terrain slope, hydrology, proximity to roads, population density, etc.) to develop predictive spatial forecasting models of future illegal growth activity. Ultimately, this project will result in a probability-based model of illegal marijuana grow sites.

No Change: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, provided a high level briefing on the planning of the FPA Program to the DAS on February 10, 2011. The full Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report is scheduled to be completed for submission to DAS Thorsen by March 4, 2011. An official presentation of the review findings to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) directors will be scheduled following the report (date TBD).

No Change: OMB Commented on the National Monuments and Icons (NM&I's) Sector Specific Plan (SSP). OLES has been delegated the responsibility to represent the Department as the NM&I sector lead working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) following Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7. All sectors (total of 18) are periodically required by DHS to submit a SSP. OLES has completed the draft SSP and it has been reviewed and approved by DHS and reviewed by OMB. OMB has provided some comments that OLES is in the process of adjudicating. In addition, OLES commented on the charter for the creation of a National Park Service Icon Security Council. This Council consists of representatives from all of the Departments National Monuments and Icons and includes OLES.

No Change: OLES is Seeking a Corporate Account Option to Reduce Costs for Bureau Personnel to Use Internet Search Engines in Support of Investigations. In coordination with the Intelligence Advisory Working Group, OLES is pursuing options with the major providers of internet information in an attempt to buy-down the costs.

No Change: DOI Inspector General (IG) Access to IMARS. The DOI IG contacted the Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed, and expressed interest in getting IMARS access in order for IG staff members to query the system for conviction information. Faisal and the DAS agreed to provide access as long as the IMARS Governance Council agrees to this request. The IMARS Governance Council will determine what role based level of access will be granted to IG staff members.

Final: OLES National Drug Enforcement Coordinator Teams With the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC). The National Drug Enforcement Coordinator is evaluating 2010 marijuana related statistics received from the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) .

Final: BIA Victim Specialist Provides Training in Albuquerque, NM. On February 14-17, 2011, the BIA Victim Specialist provided a two-week basic introduction of victim services to seven new BIA Victim Specialist in Albuquerque, NM. Over 20 subject matter experts delivered cutting edge material during the training. The overall participant evaluation score was 4.6 out of 5. Staff from the FBI, the US Attorney's Office, BIA Law Enforcement, BIA Social Workers, and Tribal Law Enforcement attended various components of the training. This training was funded by a Department of Justice inter-agency agreement.

Final: Classified Intelligence Overview to Deputy Assistant Secretary-Level Audience. OLES is continuing its initiative to inform our senior leadership and to provide a base-line awareness of threats to the Homeland--and specifically DOI interests. OLES provided a classified intelligence overview that both summarized the capabilities of the Intelligence Division to support senior decision-makers and outlined the current Homeland threat landscape with an emphasis on DOI interests. These intelligence overviews are intended to institutionalize a dialogue between OLES and senior decision-makers in order to inform and support their decision-making processes.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Shenandoah National Park – Smith Run Fire:* The Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park from Front Royal to Route 211 has reopened after the week-long closure due to the Smith Run Fire. The fire has been fully contained.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* BP continues the plug and abandonment procedures for the second relief well; it is anticipated that the well will be permanently abandoned by the second week of March. Cleanup crews continue to collect oil from Gulf Islands National Seashore's Ft. Pickens beach segments. Plans call for a halt of cleanup operations as soon as migratory waterfowl begin nesting.
- *The White Swan Fire:* The fire that occurred on the Yakama Indian Reservation in the state of Washington on February 12-13 burned a total of 225 acres, a lumber mill log deck and destroyed 21 homes. Sixty additional homes were damaged in the fire. Tribal, county, state, and Federal agencies responded and assisted the Tribe and affected Tribal members.
- *New Zealand Earthquake:* The magnitude 6.3 earthquake that occurred on February 21 near Christchurch, New Zealand is considered an aftershock of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that occurred nearby on September 3, 2010. Authorities report the death toll is currently at 145 with more than 200 persons still missing.
- *Arkansas Earthquake Swarm:* There have been over 120 earthquakes that have occurred in the central Arkansas region over the past two weeks that are part of a continuing pattern that has been occurring since August 2010. The latest significant earthquake (M 4.7) occurred on the morning of February 28.
- *Leaking Gas Well in the Gulf of Mexico:* Apache Corporation continues operations to permanently plug and abandon the B-015 well. No sheen is visible in the vicinity of the well, and no natural gas has been detected through air monitoring. Minor bubbling continues from the crater.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. As follow-on to the listening sessions in NM and Southern CA, OEM is working with BIA and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan visits in the next 2 months to Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest and those in the Dakotas.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM attended the Interagency Continuity Working Group meeting on February 23. Participants were briefed on updated exercise plans, evaluation strategy, available training and orientation that will take place prior to the exercise. EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM met with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group last week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. Significant progress was made to reach agreement on the process and timeline for loading the positions into the

qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning. Evacuation drills were conducted for the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building (MIB) and the South Interior Building (SIB) on February 23. Data collected during the drill indicated that the MIB was evacuated in 15 minutes and the SIB was evacuated in 8 minutes. An after-action survey was sent to the Evacuation Support Team and to the occupants. Over 60 responses have been received and are being incorporated into an after-action report and corrective action plan.

No Change: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO has begun Phase III of the Contact Management System (CMS). When completed at the end of February, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel and will allow individuals to securely update their own contact information, and will automatically feed data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups, thereby ensuring alerts and other information is properly delivered and received during emergency situations.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to review bureau and office roster submissions and is working with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM continues to work with IT staff to test and refine the new Contact Management System before loading the updated COOP team member information into CMS and Send Word Now. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

No Change: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, represented DOI at the Final Planning Conference for the Health and Human Services (HHS) Dark Zephyr exercise. The latest draft of the National Security Staff's Biodefense sub-IPC "Biological Assessment and Threat Response" (BATR) document includes DOI as a member, along with other Federal agencies. As a BATR member, DOI will play an active role in the interagency process to achieve consistent situational awareness, immediate coordinated action and positive outcomes that protect the Nation against high consequence bioterrorism and biosecurity threats. This membership will enable the Department, and its expertise in wildlife health, to further support interagency efforts.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be

revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the need of the bureaus.

Final: Senior Officials Exercise 1-11. On February 23, Deputy Assistant Secretary Thorsen attended the Senior Officials Exercise 1-11 which examined senior Federal-level decision-making issues related to critical transportation needs and requirements following a major earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). At the conclusion of the exercise, participants identified eight key issues and agreed that “white papers” would be drafted by responsible agencies to further develop resolution options.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: All Hazard Position Development and NIMS/DHS Coordination. OWFC participated in a multi-agency working group meeting to discuss development of All Hazard qualifications, positions, and governance structure. The groups included the NIMS Incident Management Working Group, the NIMS Core Competency Working Group, and the NWCG Operations and Workforce Development Committee. Discussion focused on inter group coordination, NIMS compliance, the development of Type 1 and Type 2 Position Task Books for command and general staff, potential for inclusion of intelligence and investigation functions in the ICS organization, and the training requirements for qualification of individuals. FEMA pledged approx \$75,000 to conduct a training review to establish training equivalency for NWCG courses.

New: DOI All Hazard Position Qualifications : OWFC, OEM and the NWCG position naming board met to review the DOI All Hazard positions and how they related to existing NWCG and NIMS requirements. Effort was given to combine existing NWCG and proposed All Hazard positions where ever possible and to ensure their compliance with existing NIMS standards.

Update: Wildland Fire Leadership Council Meeting March 10, 2011. WFLC will address the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and a proposed process for Phase II implementation. The Council will also consider the re-chartering of LANDFIRE.

Update: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy. Phase I of the Cohesive Strategy effort is nearing completion, with two documents having just been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget: the first is A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the second document is the Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009. OWF, in coordination with the USDA Forest Service, is in the process of resolving the OMB feedback and edits. It is anticipated that these documents could be available for the Secretarial approval within the next 30 days. The Department has also begun development of a collaborative planning and analysis process for Phase II and Phase III of the Cohesive Strategy, under the oversight of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC). A prototype of the proposed planning and analysis process was conducted February 7-11, 2011 in Asheville, NC. The prototype considered wildland fire management in AL, GA, NC, and SC. Input from the Southeast prototype is being analyzed, and the results will be synthesized and presented back to the Cohesive Strategy Oversight Committee (CSOC) on March 4. The proposed process, including prototype outcomes, will be presented by

the CSOC to WFLC at the March 10 WFLC meeting. A proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II nationally will also be presented to WFLC at the March meeting. A Regional Strategy Committee will be designated for each of three regions (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process within their respective region. Agency nominations for the each of the three Committees for Phase II have been received and will be recommended to the WFLC in March.

Update: Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2011. The exercise is scheduled for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other federal partners to identify a course of action.

Update: DOI International Fire Program. OWFC is coordinating with, DOI’s International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review

Update: 620 DM 3 – Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation. OWFC is coordinating with the Interior Burned Area Emergency Response Coordinators (IBAER) to discuss the current Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation policy and identify items that would need to be addressed for a policy revision. The IBAER completed their initial review and proposed changes were presented at the January IFEC meeting. The final recommended changes will be submitted in May.

Update: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

Update: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy with various options was distributed to the Fire Directors for review and presented during the January IFEC meeting. The draft policy statement will be developed based on discussions during the January IFEC meeting and with the USFS. A draft policy statement will be submitted to IFEC this week for final review.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter / WFLC As a result of the LANDFIRE Leadership Futures Forum that was conducted in the fall of 2010, leaders of that session supported re-chartering the LANDFIRE Program to meet the needs of the wildland fire management community targeting the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) once again as the sponsor. A briefing paper for the March 10, 2011 WFLC meeting describing the need for re-chartering outlines how LANDFIRE data products are being used and supporting key initiatives like; Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation.

No Change: EPA's Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA's goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: GAO engagement: Wildland Fires in the Arizona-Mexico Border Region (Job code: 361250). Initial meetings were conducted at NIFC on January 12 -14, 2011 to gain some understanding for fire operations near the border, what financial, fire investigation and fire occurrence data sets are available and to develop some contacts. GAO will perform a fire data analysis in approximately 2 months. Several site visits in Arizona were conducted by the GAO team the week of February 6th.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

Final: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work associated the update of LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through third geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest. Production is on track to deliver the next geo-area which is the Southwest. For more information on LANDFIRE and the schedule see www.landfire.gov.

Final: LANDFIRE – Review and Feedback meeting / AAR. OWFC conducted a review and feedback meeting under the style of an After Action Review (AAR) on the LANDFIRE data products February 2 & 3 in Boise, ID at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). Meeting focused on the use and application of data products in National efforts such as; Fire Program Analysis (FPA), Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS), Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS), Fuel Management Committee, (FMC), and Geo-spatial Task Group (GTG). Questions evaluated included: How are the LANDFIRE data layers working?, what elements of the LANDFIRE data products have worked well?, what data layers are you not using and why are they not being used?, areas of consistent problems or issues? The group discussed the magnitude and implication of issues or problems with the data, and

identified program data needs for the future (i.e. what data product or data enhancements would be beneficial?) Meeting outcomes are being documented listing the specific technical issues and system requirements, short-term improvements vs. long-term Research and Development needs, and areas of future data needs and requirements.

Final: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team: The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) will meet in Boise, ID on February 23rd – 25th. The IST is scheduled to discuss system improvement feasibility and impacts. They will also discuss the progress that has been made by the group in developing and testing the improvements.

Final: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) held a conference call Thursday February 17th, 2011. The topic of discussion was to agree on the objectives and protocols for the independent external review of the FPA application. The draft mission, goals, and objectives document was shared with the OG for comments back to the FPA Executive Director for incorporation.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Meeting on Real Property Asset Management. On March 9, 2011, representatives from PAM will meet with Mr. Aaron Joachim of OMB's Office of Federal Financial Management. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an orientation to DOI's Real Property Asset Management program. Topics of discussion will include an overview of DOI's real property assets and the DOI Real Property Cost Savings and Innovation Plan. A site visit to the World War II Memorial will follow the meeting.

Office of Budget/Office of Financial Management

No Change: Cost of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. To date, the Department has \$87.6 million in reimbursable budget authority through PRFA agreements with the U.S. Coast Guard for oil spill response. The Department has submitted approximately \$47 million in claims to the National Pollution Funds Center, of which \$10.2 million has been reimbursed.

The Office of Financial Management (PFM) received the 8th Pollution Removal Funding Authority (PRFA) cost reimbursement request from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) totaling \$5,205. The PRFA Cost Team reviewed the BOEMRE package and transmitted it to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Office of Budget is coordinating regular reporting by bureaus of PRFA and non-PRFA/non-NRDA costs, and this data is being used to respond to USCG and OMB data calls, respectively. POB will continue to coordinate with OMB and DOJ as they review the Department's non-PRFA/non-NRDA spill-related cost data.

PFM submitted data in response to a number of inquiries requested by the General Accountability Office (GAO) on the review cost reimbursement review methodology performed

by the PRFA Cost Team. The GAO also requested examples of cost documentation packages, PRFA and PRFA amendment documents, and input on the types of guidance and authorities utilized by the Cost Team.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. All Q1 FY2011 status information on the Priority Goals has been updated into www.performance.gov. OMB's review of this information is underway. David Hayes will be meeting with goal owners on quarterly progress.

Update: FY 2010 Annual Performance Report. The FY 2010 Annual Performance Report is pending sign-off. The report is expected to be released along with other materials supporting the FY 2012 President's Budget Request.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Bill Introduced in Senate to Require Notification to Small Business. Senator Casey of Pennsylvania has introduced legislation to require a contractor to notify a small business if the contractor intends to identify that small business as a potential subcontractor in their offer for a negotiated procurement. The contractor will be required to include a written acknowledgement by the small business that they received the notice as part of their offer. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

New Item: Upcoming Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Changes. The FAR will be amended to implement the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 to provide parity between the various socioeconomic programs. The Jobs Act has clarified that a contracting opportunity may be awarded to qualified Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB Zone) small businesses if a contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that at least two HUB Zone small businesses will submit offers and that contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price. The use of the word "may" has established that there is not an order of priority between the 8(a) Business Development Program, the HUB Zone Program, the Service-Disabled Women-Owned Small Business Program or the Women-Owned Small Business Program. The change to the FAR will become effective in early April 2011.

Update: Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Anomaly Report. The Department has received the SBA Small Business Anomaly Report for FY 2010. The anomalies in the report cover size discrepancies, missing size data and general errors of coding businesses as listed in the Federal Procurement Data System. The report has been forwarded to contracting officers throughout the Department for appropriate actions with a due date of March 31 for completion and verification of actions taken.

Update: SBA Scorecard Actual Plan Progress. The OSDDBU recently submitted the Actual Plan Progress document to the SBA for Fiscal Year 2010 as part of the Department's yearly SBA Small Business Scorecard submission. The results of the evaluation will be published in SBA's Small Business Scorecard which is published annually. SBA plans to publish the results by May 2011. The SBA has requested a Fiscal Year 2011 plan endorsed by a Deputy Secretary.

Update: Major Revision to the 8(a) Business Development Program. The Small Business Administration published a final rule on the 8(a) Business Development Program on February 11. The regulations become effective on March 14, 2011. Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) will be required to report on benefits to their communities which result from profits on sole source contracts. The rules regarding joint ventures are changed and an 8(a) partner in a joint venture will be required to perform at least forty percent of the work. Other proposed changes clarify the size, income and familial determinations needed to be eligible for the 8(a) program and allow owners of 8(a) firms called to active military status to elect to be temporarily suspended rather than lose any of their nine-year term in the program. SBA is now authorized to early graduate a firm that exceeds the size standard for its primary NAICS code, as adjusted, for three successive program years and the SBA's Inspector General will be allowed to request a formal size determination.

Update: DOI OSDBU Pacific West Region Small Business Outreach Event. More than 200 small businesses attended the DOI OSDBU Pacific West Small Business Outreach held at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California, on February 24. Representatives from the Procurement Technical Assistance Center and the Small Business Administration along with Department of the Interior staff addressed the attendees on a wide range of small business matters. The OSDBU is considering hosting a series of webinars for businesses that were unable to attend and as a follow-up for those that did attend.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- April 1: DOI First Friday Small Business Session – registration is now open.
- June 21: Intermountain Region Outreach Event – registration to open by April 30.

No Change: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- March 3: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, Puerto Rico
- March 23: General Small Business
- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: FBMS Deployment 7 Project Preparation. The FBMS Program Management Office began Deployment 7 (D7) project preparation the week of February 28, 2011. D7 will add the National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the FBMS deployed bureaus in November 2012. D7 project preparation activities will identify interfaces to bureau systems and

bureau systems that will be retired. Project preparation activities will also identify changes to FBMS expected due to regulatory or other legal requirements specific to NPS and BIA. D7 project preparation is scheduled to conclude on April 28, 2011, with the deployment baseline review.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

No change: Organizational Change Management. An analysis by all the Offices is under way to determine the level of impact FBMS will have on each organization. Business process impact assessments are currently being developed and vetted with subject matter experts. As the process impacts are completed, they will be presented to the OS FBMS Advisory Group. Process impacts should be complete before role mapping begins, which is scheduled for March 8 and 9, 2011 in Herndon, VA and Lakewood, CO.

No change: Data Conversion. Data cleansing and conversion activities are on schedule. Several conversion object data have been delivered for testing. Data cleansing, conversion, and testing will continue through August 2011.

No change: Functional Design Specifications (FDS). OS Implementation Team and subject matter experts continue to review and provide comments as required.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): The ONRR has begun the implementation and roll-out of work relating to the Strategic Review recommendations. Several meetings were held in January 2011 to discuss 1) sponsorship and management of priority initiatives, 2) communications, and 3) the implementation management process. In February, communication efforts included a gallery walk (in Denver and the field offices), individual office meetings with staff, several brown bag lunches, and a Strategic Review Road Show for ONRR field offices. Implementation Work Groups (IWG) will be formed in early March.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreements and equipment. A review of the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector's Office is scheduled for March 8-9, 2011 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): The ONRR continues its various forms of outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. The outreach is designed to resolve a mineral owner's royalty-related problems and to let them know how to contact us. These meetings enable us to listen to their concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. Our goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners of the Choctaw Nation in community meetings held in Ardmore, OK on March 8, 2011.

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of April 11, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Matters:

Ensco Litigation

The parties' cross-motions for summary judgment and "undue delay" are due April 12, with responses due on April 25, 2011.

On April 6, we received a favorable opinion from the district court. The opinion resolves the parties cross-motions for summary judgment on the issue of whether the Development Operations Coordination Documents (DOCDs) are not authorized under OCSLA and whether APDs are authorized by OCSLA except for exploratory wells. The court held that BOEMRE's interpretation of OCSLA to require drilling permits for both exploration and development is not unreasonable. The order requires, however, that "more factual development is necessary" to determine whether plaintiffs' allegations are correct that BOEMRE has created and used the DOCD requirement as a way of intentionally delaying drilling in the Gulf.

JIT Hearings on BOP Forensic Investigation

The Joint Investigation Team began its week of hearings on the blowout preventer (BOP) and subsea engineering relative to the Deepwater Horizon accident. On Monday, BOP forensic examiners on behalf of BOEMRE's contractor, DNV, testified about the findings in their report, which was released to the public on March 23. Counsel for BP and Cameron, the BOP manufacturer, attempted to discredit the report and the examiners' methods,^{(b) (5)}

(b) (5) (b) (5)

Other witnesses scheduled to testify later this week include subsea witnesses for BP, Cameron and Transocean.

We also attended a meeting on the initial coordination of the court-ordered additional testing to be led by BP. The government's role is expected to be minimal and only that which is necessary to assure appropriate compliance with the site access and operation rules, and evidentiary protection requirements.

Multi-District Litigation

On April 4, BP filed its Answer to the complaint of the United States wherein the United States sought declaratory relief and damages pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), and admiralty law. As typical in an answer, BP admits undeniable questions of facts and to procedural allegations such as venue, but asserts denials to allegations of liability. Among the more interesting components of the Answer, BP suggests that number of days rather than barrels of oil released can be measure of CWA damages. BP admits to being an OPA responsible party and admits that it waived the OPA cap on damages. But BP denies that such waiver is an admission of gross negligence or violation of regulation. In its affirmative defenses, BP alleges that the design and/or maintenance of the BOP is superseding cause that severs

liability, and alleges that claims of the United States are precluded to the extent that they were caused by the “action or inaction” of the United States (but unlike Transocean, BP did not make direct third-party claims against the United States or tender the United States as defendant to the plaintiffs). BP also denies joint and several liability in favor of divisibility (apportionment based on share of fault), and urges that speculative damages are unconstitutional.

Also on Monday, Anadarko/Moex filed a motion to dismiss the allegations against it filed by the United States for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. In the motion, Anadarko/Moex alleges that it does not qualify as a lessee or permittee under OPA and is therefore not subject to OPA claims. Similarly, Anadarko/Moex argues that it was not an owner, operator, or person-in-charge, as allegedly required to support claims under the CWA.

Depositions are continuing this week in New Orleans with BP Vice President for drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico, David Sims.

Other Matters:

Solicitor’s Office Support of Department during Shutdown Preparations

We are spending considerable time advising the client agencies on shut down requirements, and coordinating shut down issues with other federal agencies such as DOJ and USDA. We will have lawyers in the office as excepted employees to ensure compliance with the shut down, to give advice as needed, and to address emergency situations.

Camp Rock Road IBLA Decision

The IBLA has issued a decision affirming the BLM’s denial of San Bernardino County’s application for a recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI), which the county sought as a means of recognizing an alleged R.S. 2477 right-of-way in Camp Rock Road. BLM-CA had denied the RDI on the grounds that issuance of an RDI is discretionary and that it was currently exercising its discretion not to grant an RDI for R.S 2477 claims. The decision acknowledges that, in light of the complex history and uncertainty of surrounding use of the RDI process to acknowledge an R.S. 2477 ROW, BLM’s decision not to use that process in this case was rational. The County now has the opportunity to appeal to federal district court.

Nevada State Legislative Action

Three bills pending before the Nevada legislature would have profound impact on the Department if enacted. First, AB 186 (introduced on February 17, 2011) allows the state, a county, or an individual to take Federal property by eminent domain if the property is being used to construct or maintain a renewable energy project or any other project if the project is using renewable energy to transmit electricity. This law is similar to a provision passed by the Utah legislature last year. Second, AB 410 (introduced on March 21, 2011), if enacted, requires the Secretary to personally verify by affidavit any water right protest filed by BLM or FWS against an application for the appropriation of water or to change the place or manner of use or for a permit for the recharge, storage, and recovery of water filed in front of the state engineer. NPS is exempted under the current language. Third, AB 329 (introduced on March 21, 2011) would

exclude wild horses and burros from the definition of “wildlife” for purposes of Nevada water rights, thereby prohibiting issuance of water rights to water those animals. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

The Solicitor’s Office is following developments in Nevada and will keep you apprised. (b) (5)

Sage Grouse

Plaintiff challenges sixteen BLM land use plans for failing to consider and adequately protect the greater sage grouse and its habitat. Two plans are scheduled to be litigated first: Craters of the Moon National Monument (Idaho) and Pinedale (Wyoming). (b) (5)

(b) (5)

California Water Litigation

On April 8, the United States will be filing a motion for reconsideration of the court’s recent ruling that set a date for FWS to complete a new biological opinion on the Central Valley Project and a date for BLM to complete a new NEPA analysis on project operations. (b) (5)

Oregon Timber

The Solicitor’s Office continues to work with BLM to provide guidance on the effects of the recent decision vacating the Department’s withdrawal of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) and the effects of the recent decision on other pending cases.

Wind River Reservation Land Status Litigation

The Office of the Solicitor affirmatively has encouraged the assistance of the Department of Justice in mediating a settlement of issues pertaining to the Wind River Reservation and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes’ authority over lands within that Reservation. Pending litigation raises issues concerning the status of the Wind River Reservation and the court has appointed a mediator to assemble principle stakeholders and to assess settlement options in this dispute. (b) (5)

Resolution of Environmental Violations at Indian Schools

The proposed global settlement with EPA, BIA, and BIE over environmental violations at 165 BIE schools and 34 BIA water systems is scheduled to be finalized on April 15. Settlement terms include (b) (5)

Adverse Ruling Challenging Trust Acquisition

In *Patchak v. Salazar* (D.C. Cir.), in which the Secretary approved a trust acquisition of 146 acres in Michigan on behalf of the Gun Lake Band, the court found that a private citizen has standing under the Indian Reorganization Act to challenge the Secretary's actions due to his interest as a member of the community located near the casino and that the Quiet Title Act does not apply to this suit and thus the QTA's Indian lands exception immunity does not bar this action. (b) (5)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
April 8, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

National Mall and Memorial Parks (DC) – Constitution Avenue reconstruction and 17th Street levee. Construction will begin on both projects the week of April 11. Major rehabilitation of Constitution Avenue, between 15th and 23rd St., NW, may close up to two lanes in each direction at one time. The work will start from 23rd Street and move eastward toward 15th Street. Work will occur in rush hour and up to 24 hours a day. Completion is planned for early 2012. The levee project is estimated to last through late 2011, with traffic impacts through late summer.

Fort Sumter National Monument (SC) – Civil War commemoration. On April 12, the park will mark the 150th anniversary of the opening shots of the Civil War, which were fired at the historic fort.

Rocky Mountain National Park (CO) - Elk and vegetation management plan upheld by U.S. District Court. In *WildEarth Guardians v. National Park Service*, the Court found that the NPS complied with NEPA when eliminating a natural wolf population as a reasonable alternative from the EIS and that the alternative that incorporates the culling of elk by public volunteers does not contravene either the NPS Organic Act or the Rocky Mountain National Park Act. The NPS's decision to use authorized agents to cull elk in the park was not arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise contrary to law.

Gettysburg National Military Park (PA) – Advisory Commission. The park's Advisory Commission will meet on April 14 at the park Museum and Visitor Center. The meeting agenda includes an operational update on park activities including a proposal by the Gettysburg Foundation to increase fees in the Museum and Visitor Center.

Hubbell Trading Post (AZ) – Book release. The University of New Mexico Press has announced publication of *The Case of the Indian Trader: Billy Malone and the National Park Service Investigation at Hubbell Trading Post* by Paul Berkowitz. In 2004, an investigation into the operation of the trading post at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site was launched following allegations that Indian trader Billy Malone was embezzling from the trading post. The charges were not substantiated; U.S. Attorney's Office declined prosecution. The initial NPS investigation was followed by a second one led by the DOI Office of Inspector General. The author is a retired NPS criminal investigator, who worked as a supervisory special agent on the Navajo Reservation. The investigation remains a significant issue for the Navajo community, which views the case as a conflict in cultural values, rather than legal standards. The local community reacted strongly to Malone's removal from the trading post, which has dramatically affected trade at the post.

ON THE HORIZON

Chesapeake Bay. On April 27, the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay will meet on land conservation, public access and citizen stewardship. This meeting will also discuss how participating agencies can further the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage meeting. As required by program regulations, the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage will meet in late April or early May to review public comments regarding which property from the U.S. Tentative List of Future World Heritage Nominations should be recommended to be the next U.S. site nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The panel includes representatives of seven Federal agencies: the State Department, NPS, FWS, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Council on Environmental Quality, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Smithsonian Institution. It is chaired by the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, or designee. The panel makes a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary who decides which property will be nominated and submitted to UNESCO in early 2013.

Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Backcountry management. The park will soon publish a Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) announcing the start of a process to prepare an EIS for a revised Backcountry Management Plan. The park's existing backcountry plan was completed in 1988 and needs to be revised to comply with the 1995 General Management Plan and current National Park Service policies. The EIS and plan are to provide a framework to identify appropriate types and levels of visitor use while protecting natural and cultural resources and wilderness values in over 1.1 million acres of the park's backcountry. A 60-day public scoping period will begin when the NOI is published. In addition, public meetings are planned for May in Arizona and Utah. High interest is expected from backcountry hikers, recreational groups, wilderness advocates, environmental groups, and others.

Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trails and Star Spangled Banner Scenic Byway (MD) – Planning. Public workshops are scheduled from April 18-21 in various Maryland locations. These events will seek input on management alternatives for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trails and Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway. Alternative concepts for the trails and byway will propose management objectives, policies, and actions that could guide development for the next 15 to 20 years.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
April 4, 2011

Proposed Rule to Remove the Western Great Lakes Population of the Gray Wolf from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

The FWS is proposing to delist gray wolves within the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment (DPS). We also are proposing to revise the historical range of the gray wolf (the species *C. lupus*) by removing all or parts of 28 States, because these areas are outside the historical range of the gray wolf as we now understand it. The preamble to the proposed rule will also initiate a status review of wolves in the Pacific Northwest to determine if there is a valid DPS in that area and whether that DPS warrants protection under the ESA. In a letter to Senator Klobuchar dated December 9, 2010, DOI committed to proposing the delisting of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes by April. We expect the States to largely support a delisting, although North Dakota and South Dakota may express concern over the potential for a split listing. We expect environmental community to largely oppose the proposed delisting and removal of the northeast. The target date for submission to the Federal Register is April 15, 2011.

Final Revision to the 2008 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

The Fish and Wildlife Service will announce in April a reopening of the public comment period on Appendix C of the Draft Revised Recovery Plan which describes in detail the development of a habitat modeling framework. Although we originally planned to issue the final Revised Recovery Plan this month, we have decided to reopen a comment period to respond to public and peer-review requesting additional opportunity to review and comment on the modeling process. Therefore, we are proposing to open a 30-day public comment period on this portion of the draft Revised Recovery Plan starting mid-April through mid-May. Once we have considered all comments received, we will finalize the Plan. We do not expect this 30-day reopening of the public comment period to affect our schedule for the proposed critical habitat rule. Acting Director Rowan Gould is currently scheduling a discussion regarding the recovery plan revisions and the reopening of the comment period with Congressman Hastings.

Final Listing Determination for the Mountain Plover

The FWS has determined that the mountain plover does not merit listing under the ESA. Our 2002 proposal to list the mountain plover is therefore withdrawn. The FWS agreed to submit this final listing decision to the *Federal Register* by May 1, 2011. *Potential Issues:* The litigants and some other environmental organizations favor listing under the ESA. States, agricultural interests, and the oil and gas industry generally oppose listing. A significant decline in mountain plover has occurred from historical numbers; however, few data are available to support any recent trend in populations. Concerns have been expressed regarding the potential effects of energy development (oil and gas, wind, solar) and overall loss of wintering habitat in California. We do not believe that any of these pose a significant threat to the mountain plover such that listing as threatened or endangered would be warranted at this time.

Proposed Rule to Revise the 4(d) Rule for the Utah Prairie Dog

This proposed rule to amend the existing special rule proposes to establish direct take limitations including: limitations on where permitted take can occur; the amount of take that can be permitted; and methods of take that can be permitted. This proposed rule also includes a new incidental take exemption. *Potential Issues:* WildEarth Guardians will likely litigate this proposal. They believe the 1991 rule was illegal. They support a repeal of the existing 4(d) rule. For the most part, this proposed rule institutionalizes existing Utah Division of Wildlife Resources practice. Local agricultural users should not be harmed by the 4(d) amendment. Local government officials are likely to appreciate the new incidental take allowances. The proposed rule requests comments on current use of lead munitions in permitted take of Utah prairie dog, and indicates that the FWS might consider restrictions on the type of munitions allowed. It is possible gun rights groups could take notice of our request for comments on this issue. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 2, 2011.

North and South Dakota 2011 Flood Update

A new flood forecast released by NOAA last week shows that major flooding is virtually assured all along the Red River. Fargo has a 30% probability that the flood crest will be a foot higher than the previous record crest set in 2009. The FWS flood response team has been coordinating with the Cass County (Fargo) Sheriff's office, and have been told our responders will definitely be needed when the water rises. Response preparations have been made, but the next steps won't be taken until snow pack melting resumes in earnest and the timing of the flooding onset becomes evident.

Proposed Rule to Establish Manatee Protection Area in Citrus County, Florida

FWS published an emergency rule to designate Kings Bay (located in Citrus County, FL) as a manatee refuge. The emergency rule is effective from March 15, 2010, through March 15, 2011. The refuge designation provides a means to address concerns regarding manatee harassment, adequacy of current protection measures, and negative impacts (taking) from waterborne activities known to occur in this area. In follow-up to the emergency rule, FWS intends to establish a permanent manatee refuge in this area. However, we anticipate transmittal to the Washington office for formal review in April. The Florida manatee is a highly-visible species; we expect public, congressional, and media interest to be high and, therefore, do anticipate associated controversy.

The National Bison Range Inspector General Report

Report includes two recommendations with one corrective action that will be tracked until fully implemented. The corrective action involves filling a vacant position at the National Bison Range. The report is in response to a complaint from Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) alleging that specific operational and management deficiencies involving law enforcement, bison containment, pesticide application, work planning, and management activities existed at NBR.

Midwest Region Farming Environmental Assessment on the Use of GMGT Crops Complete and Pending Approval by Regional Director

The FWS Midwest Region has recently completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the use of row crop farming and genetically-modified, glyphosate-tolerant (GMGT) corn and soybeans on National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts within the Midwest

Region. Under the EA, which is pending review and approval by the regional director, GMGT crops will only be allowed for the purposes of habitat restoration (beginning in 2012) and will require eligibility approval by the Regional Chief of Refuges, in addition to standard compatibility determination processes.

First Meeting of Technical Teams Drafting the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy

Over 80 staff from 13 Federal, 14 state, and five tribal agencies convened in Alexandria the week of March 31 to begin drafting the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy. Staff with backgrounds spanning research to management are organized in teams around five major ecosystem types: forests, grasslands/shrublands, freshwater, coastal, and marine. The Tech Teams are on an ambitious schedule to produce a review draft of the strategy by the end of July. Two more meetings are planned: one for early May and one for late June. More details and progress updates are available on the Adaptation Strategy webpage: <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>

Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST).

Mike Hayden, former Governor of Kansas, Assistant Secretary of Interior and Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has been selected as the Executive Director of MoRAST. MoRAST is a regional interstate organization formed by joint resolution of the Governors of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas and the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition. It was formed to help resolve issues of concern to the basin states and tribes, to serve as a forum to foster communication and information exchange among the member states, tribes and various other governmental units, and to facilitate the management of the natural resources of the Missouri River Basin, including water resources, fish and wildlife while considering the impacts to the economic, historical, cultural, and social resources.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Benton Lake NWR

FWS has been working on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Benton Lake NWR Complex since 2008. The planning team has conducted extensive outreach with stakeholder groups, and there is general support for proposed action on most refuges in the Complex. Recently, we received communications from Ducks Unlimited, Russell County Sportsmen, National Wildlife Federation, Montana Audubon, and Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, expressing concern over the alternatives under consideration for managing Benton Lake NWR. We continue to engage these stakeholders and are planning a selenium/water management workshop in late April to exchange information with them and further develop draft alternatives.

Snake Conservation and Trade Management Meeting in Asia

During the week of April 11, 2011, FWS will participate in a 4-day workshop in Guangzhou, China, on the conservation and trade management of snakes in Asia. The global trade in snakes may be the largest under-regulated terrestrial wildlife trade in the world and, consequently, was a high-priority issue for FWS at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in March 2010. The workshop will bring together wildlife managers, biologists, and law

enforcement personnel from across South and East Asia and has been primarily funded by a grant from FWS, with additional funding and in-kind support from the Government of China. The United States is a large consumer of snakeskin products in the fashion industry, though the primary threat to these species is the consumption of snakes in Asia for food and medicinal purposes.

Tribal ESA Training to be held (AZ/NM)

In conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Arizona Workgroup and the New Mexico Tribal ESA Workgroup, the Southwest Region of the FWS will host two training sessions on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for tribal members. The sessions will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 26-28, and in Phoenix, Arizona, May 10-12. The purpose of the training is to provide tribal members, managers and leaders with basic information about programs under the ESA that are most likely to affect tribes as well as to discuss specific ESA-related topics of interest. Also during the training the FWS will provide tribal representatives the opportunity to consult/comment on two documents currently in an open comment period; the *Draft Voluntary, Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines* and the *Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance*.

Visit from Norwegian Delegation

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011, representatives from Norway will meet with FWS' Environmental Contaminants Program and International Affairs. The purpose of the visit is for representatives of the Norwegian government to meet with organizations that were involved in the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Approximately 15 representatives from the Norwegian Coastal Administration (the government authority responsible for coordinating oil spill preparedness and response), the Institute of Marine Research (a research institute responsible for advising the Norwegian government on scientific research such as the environmental effects of marine spills), the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, and the Royal Norwegian Embassy of Washington, D.C. This visit is not expected to be controversial.

Grants

New Grants under African Elephant Conservation Fund

Under the AFECF, FWS intends to award one grant totaling \$64,930 (with matching resources from partners totaling \$202,137). These funds will assist in field projects to conserve elephants in Zambia. The estimated award date is April 11, 2011. Not expected to be controversial.

America's Great Outdoors

75th Anniversary Event of National Wildlife Federation and Patuxent Research Refuge

As part of the 75th anniversary celebration of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Patuxent Research Refuge and U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center will host a conservation restoration work day on Saturday, April 16. About 300 NWF volunteers including children, family and youth, as well as NWF board members and NWF President and CEO Larry Schweiger, will restore wildlife habitat, improve facilities for whooping cranes, and assist with monitoring wildlife such as frogs, turtles, and bees. Senator Cardin and Congressman Sarbanes will speak at a 2:30 p.m. ceremony dedicating the "*Ding*" *Darling Conservation Heritage Trail*, honoring 40 of history's conservation heroes. The event comes on the one-year anniversary of President Obama's Memorandum establishing the *America's Great Outdoors Initiative*. Patuxent was America's

first wildlife experiment station and has a unique historical connection with NWF. Patuxent was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936 at the request of Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling, the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey (forerunner of the FWS) and later founder of NWF.

Educating Current and Future Generations About Safe and Responsible Hunting

The Service’s Northeast Regional Office annually hosts a series of courses to educate future hunter conservationists about natural resource stewardship. In March, they hosted 60 students at two basic hunter education courses as part of the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program administered by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The class included 16 students between the ages of 10 to 17, 6 minorities (Hispanic, Asian, and Native American), and 17 women. The instructors are comprised primarily of Service staff that volunteer their time to conduct the course on nights and weekends. The course includes outdoor field exercises in topics such as tracking, stalking, tree stand safety, and firearms safety with field obstacles. Other courses offered at the Regional Office under the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program include Trapper Education, Bowhunter Education, and Waterfowl Hunting and Identification.

TogetherGreen Youth

FWS San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center has been selected as the only Fisheries Program facility to participate in a new national leadership pilot project, *TogetherGreen Youth*. The project will offer college students, from under-served communities, hands-on, real-world opportunities to learn about environmental issues, develop leadership skills, and become mentors through a 7-month career Fellowship Program. The Fellows in turn will mentor high school students who will assist in teaching an environmental education program or community conservation project to elementary and middle school students. Updates will be provided periodically regarding this project. This pilot project is a joint effort between the National Audubon Society and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, in cooperation with FWS and the National Conservation Training Center. We do not anticipate controversy.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

April 10 – April 16, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office all week.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: BLM-NV Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project Construction Delay:** *The BLM Southern NV District Office was recently notified by the project developer that construction for the 500 MW Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project will be delayed until next year, due to the project developer's inability to secure a power purchase agreement from NV Energy.*
- **New: BLM-CA Desert Sunlight Solar Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** *The Final EIS for the 550-MW Desert Sunlight Solar project located in Riverside County, CA is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 15.*
- **New: Gateway South Transmission Line:** *The NOI to prepare a Draft EIS for the Gateway South Transmission Line Project was published in the Federal Register on Apr. The NOI initiates a 90-day public scoping period on the Draft EIS. The 400-mile, 500-kV project in WY, CO and UT and may require amendments to BLM and Forest Service land use plans.*
- **New: Renewable Energy 2012 Priority List:** *The BLM, NPS and FWS are collaborating to prepare the proposed 2012 priority renewable energy projects list. The DOI Renewable Energy Strike Team will meet to review the list on Apr.13.*
- **New: BLM-OR Steens Transmission Line:** *The NOA of the Final EIS for the North Steens Transmission Line project is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register by Apr. 15. The proposed project consists of a 29-mile 230-kV transmission line in southeastern OR crossing nine miles of BLM administered lands and 1.7 miles of FWS-administered lands.*
- **Update: Proposed Renewable Energy Segregation Rule:** *The rule package has been approved by the ASLM and has been submitted to the Executive Secretary to be submitted*

to OMB. The BLM will simultaneously publish two rules in the Federal Register in 2011—the proposed rule and the temporary interim final rule—amending regulations to enable the BLM to segregate lands included in a wind or solar energy ROW application and lands offered for wind or solar energy lease. The proposed rule is scheduled for completion within two years.

Wild Horse and Burro

- **New: Congressional Briefing on Wild Horse & Burro Ecosanctuaries:** *Minority staff from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee have requested a briefing on Apr. 8 from BLM on efforts to establish eco-sanctuaries for the care of unadopted wild horses. BLM Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning Ed Roberson, and staff from the Divisions of Wild Horse and Burro Management and Legislative Affairs will participate in the briefing.*

Coal

- **New: BLM-WY West Antelope II South Coal Lease:** *The West Antelope II South Coal Lease Sale cleared Departmental review and was published in the Federal Register on Apr. 1. The project is located in the Powder River Basin, WY. The tract contains an estimated 53,356,000 tons of recoverable coal.*

Oil Shale

- **New: Oil Shale Programmatic EIS:** *The NOI to prepare the PEIS for oil shale and tar sands resources is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 8. The PEIS will allow the BLM to determine which lands in CO, UT, and WY should be open for potential oil-shale and tar sands leasing.*

Oil & Gas

- **New: Royalty Rate Increase Proposed Rule:** *Enegis, LLC was contracted by the BLM to do a cost-benefit and economic impact analyses for raising the onshore royalty rates associated with new competitive Federal oil and gas leases. The Federal Steering Committee comprised of staff from the BLM, BOEMRE, DOI and DOE submitted recommendations to Enegis. A revised royalty model and updated analysis was completed on Apr. 4. The analysis shows that state and Federal revenues are expected to be positive under two scenarios: flat rate increases and a sliding scale with new royalty rates triggered by future commodity price thresholds.*

Litigation

- **New: California Solar Projects:** *A group of Native American advocates — La Cuna de Aztlan, et. al. — has filed litigation in the Central District Court of CA challenging the approval of the Imperial Valley, Ivanpah, Genesis, Lucerne Valley, Calico and Blythe Solar projects in CA. A Hearing date has been set for Apr. 7 to determine the process and schedule for the various cases.*
- **New: BLM-WY Green Mountain Common Allotment Hearing for Preliminary Injunction:** *On Apr. 13, a hearing will take place on a motion for a preliminary injunction of livestock use on the Green Mountain Common Allotment (GMCA). The WWP, Wildearth Guardians and others filed a complaint and petition for judicial review in United States District Court against the BLM-WY Lander Field Office (LFO), claiming*

the BLM failed to take appropriate action to address the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health violations. The complaint requests that the judge grant the plaintiffs preliminary relief from authorizing livestock use on the GMCA until the BLM can address the “legal violations and protect the public lands and resources of the GMCA from further degradation.”

Timber

- **New: BLM-OR Timber Sale:** *On Mar. 31, the decision records and newspaper notices were posted for the Holy Foley density management and McLee CT timber sales. The Holy Foley project will produce 2089 MBF of timber. The McLee commercial thinning project will produce 854 MBF. The sales are scheduled for Apr. 29. The projects are not expected to be controversial.*
- **New: Border Security on Public Lands Hearing:** *On Apr. 15, the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, will hold a hearing on securing Federal lands along the northern and southern borders to examine how environmental laws and regulations impact the U.S. Border Patrol’s authority and access to monitor Federal lands on the border. The Deputy Assistant Secretary, Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Management, is scheduled to testify on behalf of the Department.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: Cape Wind Energy Project:** *The EA is currently under review by the SOL’s office. Approximately 160 comments have been received, several comments requesting an extension of the comment period to 60 days. Other issues raised include high electricity cost, airport safety construction, microclimate impacts, and the location of the staging area. The Record of Decision is scheduled to be completed and ready for signature by Apr. 15.*
- **Update: BOEMRE’s Role in the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Process:** *BOEMRE has accepted an invitation by the NMFS to participate as a cooperating agency for the preparation of a PEIS to support development of preferred restoration alternatives for natural resource damages injuries resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The NOI to begin scoping and preparation of the PEIS was published in the Federal Register on Feb. 17.*
- **New: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Revised Applications for Permit to Drill (RPDs):** *BOEMRE is currently preparing Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) on RPDs related to previously-approved plans. The most recent DNAs completed are listed below:*

<i>DNA for Statoil RPD; AC918, Well 001</i>	<i>March 25, 2011</i>
<i>DNA for Chevron RPD; KC736, Well 001</i>	<i>March 23, 2011</i>
<i>DNA for ExxonMobil RPD; KC919, Well 003</i>	<i>March 17, 2011</i>
<i>DNA for ATP RPD; MC491, Well 004</i>	<i>March 17, 2011</i>

DNA for BHP Billiton RPD; GC653, Well SB002
DNA for Noble Energy RPD; MC519, Well 002

March 11, 2011
March 11, 2011

- **Update: Final Safety Measures Rule:** BOEMRE is preparing a Federal Register notice to reopen the public comment period on the Safety Measures Rule, due to the receipt of extensive comments from industry after the first comment period closed. BOEMRE is also preparing the Final Rule, which will reflect revisions to certain requirements that were changed as a result of the public comments and reaffirm those that remained unchanged.
- **Update: Supplemental Pay for Certain Career Fields in BOEMRE:** The Department submitted a request to OPM earlier this year to authorize higher pay for certain career fields to remain competitive with industry. Last week, OPM denied the request because the President announced a pay freeze for all Federal workers. OPM elected not to use their authority to override the President's policy; however, OPM agreed to revisit this issue if BOEMRE has difficulty hiring qualified individuals.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: House Committee on Natural Resources Launches Investigation into Stream Protection Rule EIS:** On Apr. 1, House Natural Resources Committee Chair Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) notified Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that the committee is launching an oversight investigation into issues surrounding OSM's Stream Protection Rule (SPR). In a letter to the Secretary, the Chairman requests by Apr. 15 "information and cooperation regarding communication between the Department and Polu Kai Services, LLC, (Contractor) and any of its subcontractors" pertaining to the SPR's EIS.
- **New: Virginia Mine Blowout:** On Mar. 28, OSM declined the VA Division of Mined Land Reclamation's (DMLR) request to declare an emergency due to several factors, including that the State had terminated its jurisdiction after the site had been successfully reclaimed in 1991. OSM suggested that DMLR consider reasserting jurisdiction if it believes the seals around the mine's portal were not constructed properly, and/or to request civil penalty funds from OSM to address the issue.
- **New: Western Fuels Colorado, New Horizon Mine, Permit C-008-81, Citizen's complaint referral/Ten-Day Notice:** On Mar. 30, OSM's Western Regional Director responded to a request to review, a Ten-Day Notice issued by OSM's Denver Field office. A citizen's complaint from Mar. 2010 raised concerns about Colorado's permit revision procedures, as well as the State's approved soil salvaging and redistribution plans and practices related to the mining and subsequent reclamation of prime farmland on private leased property. OSM's subsequent review found that while the OSM Field office had recognized permit deficiencies, the on-the-ground relevance of those deficiencies was not factored into the final decision and resulted in an incomplete consideration of the citizen's complaint. Consequently, OSM both reversed and withdrew the bureau's earlier determination. OSM is now conducting a technical evaluation of the State's revised permit findings.

WEEK AHEAD – April 10 to April 16, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 13:

- **New: Wyoming Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *The BLM-WY State Director and BLM Legislative Affairs staff will meet with members and staff of the WY congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in WY.*

Thursday, April 14:

- **No Change: BLM-AK Subsistence Advisory Meeting:** BLM-AK will hold a National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Subsistence Advisory Meeting at the Community Center in Wainwright, AK to discuss the following: 1) BLM Arctic Field Office projects; 2) the BLM Wild Lands policy; 3) an update by Conoco Phillips AK and Fex LP on well plugging efforts; an update on cleanup efforts at the Wainwright DEW site; and 4) a review of community concerns. The NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel is comprised of eight representatives from Native AK communities on the North Slope.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday, April 13:

- **No Change: BOEMRE and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Response Workgroup:** The Workgroup will meet at USCG headquarters to review the status of twelve tasks related to oil spill planning, preparedness, and response. The Workgroup was convened by Rear Admiral Bryan Salerno and Associate Director Bob LaBelle by charter on Jan. 13, and is co-chaired by Captain John Caplis (USCG) and David M. Moore (BOEMRE).

Thursday, April 14:

- **No Change: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Meeting:** BOEMRE's Alternative Energy Programs staff will give a presentation on Smart from the Start and leasing activities offshore specific to Mid-Atlantic States at the Apr. MAFMC council meeting in Annapolis, MD.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Friday-Saturday, April 15 -16:

- **No Change: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) 2011 Tree-Planting Events:** OSM's Appalachian Region, along with its state partners, continues to conduct tree-planting activities throughout the Region this spring in support of ARRI. The events are as follows: Apr. 15--VA Department of Mines Minerals and Energy, with three elementary schools and other partners, in Dickenson County, VA; Apr. 16--OH Department of Natural Resources with Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation and other

partners, near Lisbon, OH; and Apr. 16--OH Department of Natural Resources and Barnesville Area Reforestation Committee, in Belmont County, OH.

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Wednesday, April 20:

- **New: BLM-NM Coal Leases:** *BLM-NM will offer 27 parcels for lease, covering 11,229 acres in NM, OK, and TX. The majority of nominated lease parcels occur in two traditional oil and gas producing basins: the San Juan Basin in northwestern New Mexico near Farmington and the Permian Basin in southeast New Mexico near Carlsbad. The protest period ended Feb. 18.*

Thursday-Friday, April 28- 29:

- **New: BLM-CA Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting:** *BLM-CA will host a meeting for the Northwest CA RAC to discuss the following: 1) the status of the proposed Walker Ridge wind energy development project; 2) reports on management of public lands along the Sacramento River near Red Bluff; 3) BLM requests for CA OHV management grant funds; 4) an update on trail development in the Redding area; and 5) the status reports from BLM Arcata, Redding, and Ukiah Field Offices.*

Friday, April 29:

- **New: BLM-NV Expenditures Public Comment Period Ends:** *The public comment period for the preliminary recommendations on SNPLMA Round 12 \$8 million expenditures closes on Apr. 29. The SNPLMA Executive Committee, which is comprised of the regional directors of the NPS, FWS, FS Regional Forester, and the BLM-NV State Director, will review the comments, and forward its final recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for approval, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, April 18:

- **No Change: Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee:** *The first meeting of the Committee will be held in Washington, DC. The Federal Register notice was published on Apr. 1.*

Tuesday, April 26:

- **New: NC Sustainable Energy Conference (NCSEC):** *BOEMRE staff are scheduled to give a presentation on offshore wind energy activities energy to the NCSEC at the annual meeting in Raleigh, NC.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

April 28 – 30:

- **New: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) 2011 Tree-Planting Events:** *OSM's Appalachian Region, along with its state partners, continues to conduct tree-planting activities throughout the Region this spring in support of ARRI. The following tree-planting events are upcoming: Apr. 26--Arbor Day planting at a two-acre site in Claiborne County, TN, with the Cold Creek Watershed Foundation and students from local elementary schools; Apr. 28--planting two acres in Nicholas County, WV with ICG Eastern Coal Company, a local school, and other partners; Apr. 29--Premier Elkhorn Coal Company Arbor Day Celebration, at a two acre site in Letcher County, KY; Apr. 29-30--Arbor Day events at a four-acre site near Harrisburg, PA, with Mountaintop Anthracite Coal Company, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, local high schools, and other partners; Apr. 30-- 90 acres planted in Randolph County, WV, at USFS Monongalia National Forest Red Spruce restoration project, with National Civilian Conservation Corps, Oakbrook Church in Reston, VA, and other partners.*

Weekly Report
April 8, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities April 11-15:

Anne J. Castle – April 11-14 in DC, attending various meetings and testifying at the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on April 13; April 15 in Cambridge, MD at W&S leadership meeting.

John Tubbs – April 11-14 in DC, attending various meetings; April 15 at W&S leadership meeting.

Deanna Archuleta – April 11-14 in DC, attending various meetings; April 15 at W&S leadership meeting.

Marcia McNutt – April 13, National Wildlife Federation's 75th Anniversary Event (Dr. Virginia Burkett, USGS, will receive the "Connie" award for Science), Wash., D.C.; April 14-15, W&S leadership meeting, Cambridge, MD.

Mike Connor – April 11, testifying before the House Subcommittee on Water and Power at field hearing in Fresno, CA, and on April 12, will tour San Joaquin area; April-14-15, attending the W&S leadership meeting in Cambridge, MD.

Reclamation

9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Decisions Rendered on Central Valley Project Issues (California)

In Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for California issued two court decisions on March 25. The court granted the government's petition for a rehearing on a breach of contract case. The plaintiffs were the Stockton East Water District and the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Central Valley Project contractors for supplies from New Melones Reservoir. The plaintiffs sued and the trial court found plaintiffs had not met their burden of proof that the United States had breached the contracts by failing to deliver certain quantities of water. On appeal, the circuit court reversed holding that the United States had breached the contracts. The circuit court remanded the case back to the trial court for a determination of damages. The United States petitioned for a rehearing, challenging the remand for damages and asserting that the circuit court should have remanded to allow the United States an opportunity to put on evidence of its relevant defenses. Upon reconsideration of its initial decision, the circuit court found that it had ample evidence before it to conclude that the United

States' sole defense was the shortage provision found in Article 9(a) of the contract, which provided valid defense only on account of a hydrologic drought.

Also on March 25, 2011, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the U.S. District Court's holding that the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applied to the delta smelt, does not violate the commerce clause in the United States Constitution. The plaintiffs argued that federal protection for delta smelt violates the commerce clause because the fish has no link to interstate commerce. Unlike the district court, however, the Ninth Circuit held that the plaintiffs had standing to challenge section 9 (prohibited acts) of the ESA, and that such a challenge was ripe. The district court had considered the merits of only the section 7 (interagency cooperation) challenges.

District Court Issues Final Judgment in the Delta Smelt Consolidated Cases (California)

On March 28, 2011, Judge Oliver Wanger issued a final judgment order remanding without vacatur the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) delta smelt Biological Opinion (BO) and Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) and Reclamation's provisional acceptance of the RPA. The order requires the USFWS to complete a new BO by October 11, 2011, with directions to make express written findings in either the BO or the Administrative Record as to the first three factors of the four-part regulatory definition of an RPA (can be implemented in a manner consistent with the proposed action; can be implemented consistent with the scope of the Federal agency's legal authority and jurisdiction; and is economically and technologically feasible), which must be completed by November 30, 2011. In addition, the order requires Reclamation to complete review of the RPA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act by December 15, 2011.

District Court Preliminary Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order Ruling in the Consolidated Salmon Cases (California)

There was an evidentiary hearing March 23 through March 25 on the motion for Preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order on action IV.2.1 (San Joaquin Export to Inflow ratio) from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Reasonable and Prudent Alternative. Although Plaintiffs initially requested Judge Wanger rule from the bench at the end of the hearing, they indicated they would not suffer prejudice if he ruled by Wednesday (March 30th). On March 29, Judge Wanger issued an order indicating that the Plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order was moot obviating the need for judicial intervention. Plaintiffs Westlands Water District and the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority agreed with the judge's order and reserved the right to seek a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction should conditions change. Other plaintiffs have yet to respond to the judge's order.

Reclamation Files Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Integrated Water Management Plan, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (Washington)

On April 5, 2011, a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register describing Reclamation's plans to prepare a combined planning report and programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan) in the Yakima River basin. Reclamation is partnering with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on this effort, which is an element of the Yakima River Basin Water

Enhancement Project (YRBWEP). Scoping meetings will be held in Ellensburg, Washington on May 3 and in Yakima, Washington on May 5. A proposal developed by the YRBWEP Workgroup as part of the Yakima River Basin Study will be one of the alternatives addressed in the planning report and programmatic EIS. The Yakima River Basin Study was funded by Reclamation's WaterSMART initiative in a cost-share partnership with Ecology. The Integrated Plan will be a comprehensive plan for water management and ecosystem restoration, addressing basin-wide issues and incorporating broad stakeholder involvement.

Elevations at Lake Nighthorse (Animas-La Plata Project) (Colorado)

The 2011 pumping season for the Animas-La Plata Project began on March 17, 2011. The average pumping rate from the Animas River has been approximately 172 cubic feet per second (cfs), with a maximum rate of 208 cfs. A total of 1,943 acre-feet has been pumped since operations began on March 17th, raising the reservoir elevation of Lake Nighthorse to approximately 6,850.7. Total storage in Lake Nighthorse is approximately 81,381 acre-feet. Pumping is scheduled to continue with the maximum rate the Animas River will allow while honoring minimum bypass requirements. Cooler weather has reduced river flows steadily requiring pumping rates to follow that trend. It is anticipated that Lake Nighthorse will be filled by the end of July 2011.

Open House to Review Draft Recreation Plan for Lake Nighthorse (Animas-La Plata Project) (Colorado)

On **April 11, 2011**, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office and the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District will conduct a public presentation and open house to review the draft recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse (part of the Animas-La Plata Project located near Durango, Colorado) and address community questions and comments. Currently, the area in and around Lake Nighthorse remains closed to public use due to construction and will remain closed until Reclamation finds a recreation manager and appropriate recreation facilities are in place to provide for public safety and protect land and water resources from damage due to uncontrolled use.

Public Grand Opening for Dinosaur Exhibit on Display at Glen Canyon Dam (Arizona)

On **April 13, 2011**, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region will participate with the National Park Service Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to host the public grand opening of the Therizinosaur exhibit at the Carl B. Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam. Reclamation, in partnership with the National Park Service Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and local community partners, brought the Museum of Northern Arizona's "Therizinosaur: Mystery of the Sickle-Claw Dinosaur" exhibit to the visitor center where it will remain for one year. The free-standing skeleton of the 93-million-year-old dinosaur was discovered in Big Water, Utah, approximately 16 miles from Glen Canyon Dam near the shores of Lake Powell.

Congressional Activity

- **April 11** – the House Water and Power Subcommittee plans to hold a field hearing in Fresno, CA, titled "Creating Jobs by Overcoming Man-Made Drought: Time for Congress to Listen and Act."
- **April 13** – the Senate Energy and Water Development Subcommittee is holding an appropriations hearing.

- **April 27** – the Senate Full Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a field hearing in Santa Fe, NM, on “Climate Change and Western Water Supplies.” Details are TBA.

U.S. Geological Survey

Global Land Survey 2010 Processing Begins: In the past, the USGS and NASA have collaborated on the creation of four global land datasets using cloud free Landsat images: one from the 1970s, and one each from circa 1990, 2000, and 2005. To extend this multi-decadal Landsat data collection, the USGS and NASA have again partnered to develop a new global land dataset, the Global Land Survey 2010 (GLS2010). The dataset will consist of images from both the Landsat Thematic Mapper on board Landsat 5 and the Enhanced Thematic Mapper on board Landsat 7. Around 2,000 scenes are now available on EarthExplorer for download. Processing will continue through next fall for the remaining areas.

Mercury Sampling on Great Lakes: From April 1 to 29, the USGS will participate in a sampling effort of all five of the Great Lakes. The voyage takes place aboard the U.S. EPA research vessel, the Lake Guardian. This is the second research cruise the USGS Mercury Research Team has participated in as part of their project entitled Mercury Cycling and Bioaccumulation in the Great Lakes.

Flooding Update: USGS crews are active in the northern Plains/upper Midwest, making measurements of streamflow on flooded streams and rivers in support of our many local, State, and Federal partners including the National Weather Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Currently, the USGS is most active in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana. In Eastern North Dakota, spring snowmelt has begun in earnest, with 14 streamgages in the Red River Valley reporting minor or significant flooding. The Red River at Fargo is forecast to peak on April 10 or 11 at a level approximating the third highest peak in 110 years. The Red River at Grand Forks is forecast to peak at mid-month near a level that would make it the second highest flood stage in 129 years. Twenty new streamgages were installed in the Fargo area to support flood-fighting efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the proposed Moorhead Diversion project. Areas in Central and Northwestern North Dakota are still snow covered. Snowmelt is expected to begin late this week. Flooding in Western and Southwestern North Dakota has been minimal. Moderate to major flooding continues in Minnesota. South Dakota continues to experience minor to major flooding in the James and Big Sioux River Basins. The large snowpack and near normal temperatures in northeastern Montana are causing rivers and streams in Northeastern Montana to approach flood stage. A web-based, overview map displaying the locations of streamgages in the northern plains States where stages are exceeding flood level is available. Current information also may be found at USGS Water Science Center Flood Page web sites.

Continued Japan Earthquake Work: The USGS National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) continues to report on aftershocks that have rattled Japan since the magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck off the east coast of Honshu on March 11th. To date, NEIC has recorded more than 375 aftershocks over magnitude-5, 44 over magnitude-6, and 3 over magnitude-7. The vast majority of these earthquakes are in the offshore area ruptured by the magnitude-9 mainshock, but there also have been magnitude-6+ earthquakes in western and southern Honshu. These events are a reminder that damaging earthquakes can occur anywhere on the island. The frequency but not the magnitude of aftershocks will tend to decrease with time, and the general decrease of activity may be punctuated by episodes of higher activity. The USGS Earthquake Program Office is holding regular calls to coordinate post-earthquake investigations with the four National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program agencies (FEMA, NIST, NSF and USGS) and their government and academic partners. USGS scientists continue to provide media interviews, brief Congress, and participate in White House coordination meetings.

Lessons from Japan: An Earthquake Early Warning System: As the invited 2010-11 Caswell Silver Distinguished Lecturer, USGS Director McNutt will make an address to a general audience at the University of New Mexico on April 21. Her remarks, "Lessons from Japan: Advancing Earthquake Awareness" will be based largely on the briefing presented to Congressional staff in March 2011 by Dr. David Applegate, USGS Natural Hazards Program Coordinator .

USGS Volcano Collaboration in Iceland and Belgium: USGS scientists will travel to Iceland and Belgium, April 6-14. In Reykjavik, USGS scientists will meet with counterparts at the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the Nordic Volcanological Center, and the Icelandic Air Traffic Control Facility to discuss opportunities for future collaboration on scientific and operational aspects of managing volcanic ash and aviation hazards. In Brussels, USGS scientists will visit the EuroControl's Central Flow Management facility and serve as the U.S. Observer for a 2-day eruption exercise that will simulate a large explosive event in Iceland that impacts continental Europe. EuroControl is the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation, an intergovernmental organization made up of 39 Member States and the European Community.

USGS Builds Tool To Access Data for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan: The USGS provides science and information that supports the partnership of State and Federal agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, academia, and industry that have joined together to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The Plan is an attempt to help reverse the decline of America's fish habitats. The USGS Biological Informatics Program has developed a Web tool to visualize and access the results and data developed through this partnership effort, which will be publicly available on April 14, 2011. The tool allows for broad access of the national assessment of the condition of fish habitats across the Nation. The national assessment is the first step toward facilitating nationally coordinated science-based decisions to direct more effective aquatic habitat conservation activities.

New Study to Model Biological Impacts of California Solar Energy Development: As more renewable energy projects are approved in the California desert and elsewhere, concern about the tradeoffs associated with potential negative impacts to biological resources is also increasing. To assist the California Energy Commission in examining these issues, the USGS, together with University of California, Santa Barbara, and Conservation International (a nonprofit organization which seeks to ensure the health of humanity by protecting Earth's ecosystems and biodiversity) will collaborate to develop a cumulative biological impacts framework for solar energy projects in the California desert. The project team will use a variety of data and modeling techniques to analyze potential impacts, allowing the comparison of development-specific marginal impacts versus the cumulative impacts expected from the combined threats affecting the region's biological resources.

Chile 2010 Earthquake Press Conference: On April 8, Dr. Lucy Jones, USGS, will join officials from the Red Cross and the City of Los Angeles for a press conference in Los Angeles to discuss the findings of a new USGS Open-File Report (2011-1053) on the magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Chile in 2010 and the implications for Los Angeles. Dr. Lucy Jones was part of a team that traveled to Chile. The LA Times will run an editorial by Dr. Jones on the report on either April 8 or April 10.

Congressional Activities:

- **House Oversight Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Relations Hearing:** The Subcommittee has invited the USGS, NOAA, and FEMA to a hearing on April 14 to discuss "the status of Tsunami warning and preparedness generally, and on related matters such as Federal organization, collaboration with State and Local disaster response agencies, and so on." Dr. William Leith, USGS Acting Associate Director for Natural Hazards will testify for USGS.
- **Scientific Integrity Briefing:** Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse has requested a briefing from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the USGS on the implementation of OSTP's scientific integrity policy. DOI is coordinating a joint briefing. Linda Gundersen, USGS Director Office of Science Quality and Integrity, will represent the USGS. A hearing may follow at a later date.
- **USGS Geomagnetism Program at Congressional Electric Infrastructure Security Summit:** The USGS will participate in the Electric Infrastructure Security Summit on April 11 in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. This is the 2nd annual world summit on infrastructure protection and is being held by Representative Trent Franks and co-Chairs Representative Clarke and Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot MP (UK Defense Select Committee Chair). The objective of the Summit is to review the threat, projected impact, and infrastructure protection options associated with electromagnetic threats to critical infrastructure.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- HPPG/ Public Safety and Justice: The Office of Justice Services-OJS in coordination with the Tribes and our federal family has achieved a combined reduction of 11% of violent crime on all four reservations.
- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): The first of four DOJ/BIA/NCAI webinars titled-Overhauling the System: A Long Term Plan to Address Detention in Indian Country was held March 30, 2011. The BIA and Department of Justice (DOJ) are collaborating on the detention plan required by TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from the BIA Office of Indian Services and the Bureau of Indian Education will be asked to participate in sub-committees appropriate for their discipline.

The Indian Affairs review team comprised of IA, BIA and the SOL have made the initial review of the draft MOA. These comments will be provided to TLOA workgroup for revisions.

- Homeland Security: FEMA online Active Shoot Course was sent out to BIE school officials. The Emergency Manager for BIE will participate in the training and also forward the training information to their Associate Deputy Directors, Education Line Officers, School Administrators and fellow School Safety Specialists. Information will also be presented through BIE monthly School Safety Teleconference and monthly Residential Safety Teleconferences.
- Joint Effort: The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) is working with the DOI OLESEM regarding surface mapping. OHSES has a request from the BIA drug unit to create a map for the Santee, Winnebago and Omaha reservations. The map is the result of predictive surface analysis (hydrology, climate, ground slope, proximity to urban

areas, availability of road structure, etc.) to predict the location of large marijuana grow sites.

- **Tribal ID Card:** OHSES is assisting the Tulalip tribe to obtain a copy of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's MOU with DHS regarding the Tribe's enhanced Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant Tribal Enrollment Card. The Tulalip tribe is interested in trying to implement a WHTI Tribal ID card for their members.
- **Completed OIG Review:** The OIG recently conducted an IT assessment of the BIA I & II buildings and had expressed security concerns regarding certain issues. While conducting a three (3) year re-assessment of BIA I & II last week, the OHSES inspector found that all OIG concerns had been addressed and resolved (i.e., broken doors repaired and secured.) This information along with photographs will be included in a full report which will be issue later this month.
- **Tribal Disaster Assistance Request:** Yakama Tribe continues to ask ASIA/BIA, the Washington State Governor, and, FEMA for assistance in the form of the \$830,000. The Governor of Washington State has signed a "Proclamation" acknowledging the Tribes "Declaration" of a disaster, but remains uncertain as to what additional assistance the State can provide, if any. Reports indicate that the BIA Central and Regional Offices are still considering what portion, if any, requested by the Tribe can/will be provided given current budget constraints and ongoing needs of other Tribes due to earlier, ongoing and predicted flooding nationwide.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- **Tribal Consultation:** On March 31, a Dear Leader Letter went to Alaska Tribes and Corporations. The letter announced a call for nominations for Alaska Native leaders to serve on a team and represent an Alaska Tribe or ANC. The team will develop an ANC consultation policy for the Department to consider. The Alaska team's work will be more expedited than the large Tribal Consultation Team's work. But it is likely that the Alaska team will not be done in time for the anticipated late summer announcement of the TCT policy; work is anticipated to be completed in 2011.
- **Internal Tribal Disputes:**
Southern Ute Indian Tribe (CO): There are five candidates that are currently running for the position of Tribal Chairman in the upcoming special election. The candidates include Matthew Box, the former chairman who resigned on February 11, 2011. The election is scheduled for April 12, 2011. Bureau of Indian Affairs officials will observe the proceedings. The Tribal Council has appointed an Interim Chairman that will serve until the Special Election.

EDUCATION

- **ESEA Reauthorization:** BIE continues its discussion efforts with the Department of the Education.

- Let's Move! In Indian Country (LMIC): A target date has been selected by the White House for the launch day for LMIC, however, alternate dates will be offered as BIE schools will not be in session during the targeted time period. The BIE has over 13, 060 PALA participants completing the PALA challenge, with 69 PALA Coordinators and 58 registered schools.
- ***ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION***
Partnership: BIE is moving forward to become federal partners with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in an effort to promote National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

Student Highlights

- Ahfachkee Day School had 3 students qualify for the National Indian Science Fair and 2 students placed in the botanical division.
- The Cherokee Central Schools girls' basketball team qualified for regional play.
- The Choctaw girls' basketball team qualified for state tournament play.
- The Ahfachkee Day School had its first ever competitive softball team.

Professional Development:

- The Environmental Management System training on *Waste Management* is scheduled for the Crow Creek/Lower Brule Line Office the week of April 4, 2011.
- A Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) training session for Education Line Officers, school administrators and the school safety points of contact is scheduled for April 28 from 10:00-12:00 CST during the Associate Deputy Director's (East) teleconference with the Education Line Officers.
- The Minneapolis Education Line Office conducted a two-day regional conference for school year 10/11 of its BIE-funded Grant Schools, board members, parents, teachers, and school administrators – a combination of external presenters, NWEA, Infinite Campus, and Native Language Research, ELO/ADD, and school presentations (8), were provided.
 - The cover of the rather extensive manual for the training was selected from a drawing submitted from the students at the Minneapolis Education Line Offices schools. Destiny, a 5th grade student at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School in Hayward, Wisconsin was the winner of the drawing competition, with an American Indian cultural design.
- ***POSTSECONDARY***
Tribal College: Mr. Allen Urban from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation of California and Aurene Martin visited BIE on Thursday, March 31 regarding a potential new Tribal College in California. Several California tribes have passed resolutions supporting the creation of the California Tribal College (CTC). Mr. Chris Redman has provided Mr. Urban and Ms. Martin with the emerging institutions form to use in preparing the CTC's feasibility study which is required under Public Law 95-471. Once CTC's feasibility study and supporting

documentation are received in BIE, a validation team will visit CTC to verify all information in the feasibility study.

Tribal Colleges and Universities: The White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities report was completed in the Post Secondary office and sent to Central Office for final review on Monday, March 28th. The final document was forwarded to Mr. Steve Shaffron within the Department to ensure that information is compiled for the overall Departmental report to WHITCU. Highlights of BIE's report include:

- On February 14, 2011, the Department of the Interior (DOI) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). The MOU includes a partnership initiative intended to develop and enhance partnerships between the DOI and American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) as well as strengthen the DOI's relationship and collaboration with TCUs and stakeholders in Indian education.
 - Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa C. C. in Baraga, MI was approved by the Bureau in 2011 under Pub. L. 95-471 provisions. This TCU will receive initial funding beginning FY 2012
 - For 2010, a total of 29,998 (cumulative) Indian students were served by the 26 Pub. L. 95-471 BIA-funded TCUs. Of the degrees granted above, there were 1,166 from TCUs, and the remaining 221 were Bureau-run Haskell and SIPI Colleges. While the goal is to increase degrees awarded, it is important to note that there are many variables between degrees awarded and how many students attend a particular college from one semester to another.
- Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
 - On March 31, 2011, amendments to SIPI's Title III applications were submitted to the U.S. Department of Education:
 - Building Institutional Capacity: award amount \$863,856.00
 - Comprehensive Plan for Student Services: award amount \$1,370,583.00

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. Oral presentations from the contractors have begun to assist in the selection of a contractor out of the possible 8 proposals.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: Indian Affairs has notified the Department of its need for an extension to the March 15 due date to OMB for its passback directive to address consolidation of its field sites. BIA has been working feverishly on the analysis as directed

by the OMB passback language, however, due to the complexity and size of the BIA organization itself, additional time is required to complete the work.

- BIE Organization Reassessment: Due to missteps in the contracting process, the BIE will have to re-bid the project. BIE is working with the OCFO acquisition staff to ensure all steps are followed so that a contractor may be chosen for this reassessment.
- Performance Based Acquisition Standards: Met with Acquisitions office to finalize language for a request for proposal to secure short-term expertise for the BIE Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA) staff to develop performance work statements in accordance with Performance Based Service Acquisitions standards. This activity supports the recent training on Writing Performance Based Work Statements. After this second activity, DPA staff will be prepared to submit all work statements conforming to Performance Based Service Acquisitions standards.
- Co-Location with sister Federal Agency: The Indian Health Service (IHS) has completed relocating its Albuquerque data center systems into the BIA Albuquerque data center on April 2, 2011. The move provides IHS with a new facility. For Indian Affairs, the IHS systems help fill unused data center space and help to offset operating costs. The Indian Affairs CIO and the IHS CIO are committed to pursuing other mutually beneficial opportunities.

OUTREACH

- NCA Fall Conference: BIE will also participate in the NCA Fall Conference on October 3 to 4, 2011 in Flagstaff, Arizona to provide information regarding the School Improvement Grant process, NATIVE Star alignment with NCA tool and participate as needed in planning activities.
- National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) is a grassroots initiative designed to demonstrate that children with emotional health needs can thrive in their communities. The BIE is listed as a federal partner on this endeavor. This year's national focus is on communities. Awareness Day will include community events, youth rallies, social media campaigns, and activities with children to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health. The Awareness Day national event complements activities occurring across the country. This year's national event will be held at the Shakespeare Theatre—Harman Center for the Arts, in Washington, D.C., on May 3, 2011. A joint award from the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts will be presented. The BIE is expected to attend this activity and reinforce the commitment to the total wellness of children and youth. We will highlight BIE participation in collaboration with other national organizations and federal agencies addressing children's mental health needs; promotes BIE organization or company brand in Awareness Day materials, and provide BIE with access to SAMHSA's social marketing tools to support awareness-raising efforts.

- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- The Navajo Nation is hosting a Tri-State Data Meeting for state Indian education directors from New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. The BIE will participate at the event by presenting data related to Navajo students within BIE schools. The meeting is scheduled for the week of May 19, 2011.

- **Planned Events:**

- *Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:*

- *May 2 – 6, 2011:*

- Palm Springs, CA: Attend the 2011 National Self Governance Conference.

- Artesia, NM: Provide the keynote speech at the annual BIA Law Enforcement Memorial.

- *May 16 – 20, 2011:* Attend the USET session in Tunica – Biloxi, MS and meet with individual member Tribes.

- *June 13 – 16, 2011:* Attend the National Congress of American Indians session in Milwaukee, WI.

- *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs:*

- *May 15 – 16, 2011:* Attending the session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, New York.

- *Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development:*

- *April 17, 2011:* Presenting a speech at the 2011 American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference in Bismarck, ND.

- *Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:*

- *April 27 – 29, 2011:* Serving as a panelist on the tribal consultation panel at the DOI-cosponsored *State of Environmental Justice in America* conference in Washington, DC.

- *Director, Bureau of Indian Education:*

- *March 31 – April 1:* Participation in a roundtable discussion at the Society for Applied Anthropology.

- *April 27 – 29:* Participate in the *No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee* meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL

April 8, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for April 11 to April 17, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report April 11, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (4/11-15)

Review – April 4 to April 8

- **New:** OHTA is delivering to SOL approximately 5000 imaged documents relative to the Kaw Nation tribal litigation. Since the litigating parties are engaged in mediated settlement talks, SOL has requested additional time for OHTA to search for documents, beyond the Court's April 30 deadline.
- **No Change:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee met with attorneys from SOL's Indian Trust Litigation Office on March 28 regarding litigation with the Osage Nation of Oklahoma. The Court has awarded more than \$330 million in damages; nearly 90 percent constitutes interest. Additional claims date back to the late 1800s and the potential liability could exceed \$1 billion under the interest calculation previously applied by the Court. Efforts are underway to craft a settlement offer before April 11, when briefs are due to the Court regarding a final judgment.

Week Ahead – April 11 to April 15

- **New:** The *Status Report to the Court Number Forty-Four* is for the period January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. The purpose of the report is to inform the Court of actions taken since the issuance of the preceding quarterly report, including delays in and obstacles to trust reform activities. OST senior managers and attorneys from SOL and DOJ have begun interviewing program managers from BIA, BLM, BOEMRE, OCIO, OHTA and OST. The managers submit reports on the status of their respective Indian trust activities.
- **New:** Fiduciary Trust Officers at the Papago Agency and the Pima Agency will conduct a financial skills training session on April 12 for Arizona residents who live in and around

the Gila Bend are, the San Lucy District of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Gila River Indian Community.

- **Update:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, is detailed to the OAS office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 21 to April 8 to develop the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews. On March 29, he met with OST’s IT personnel regarding their requirements and assistance with deployment. Issues raised that may impact development of OASIS include certification, independent of OST’s blanket certification, and submitting a “technical paper” that includes intended use, users, program flow, application objects, and database table design. IT indicated they prefer a web-based application, which has hindered development and increased costs of the Appraisal Request and Review Tracking System. The Review Appraiser is identifying alternatives for consideration by the OAS Director.
- **Update:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency and the FTO at the Southwest Regional Office partnered with First Nations Development Institute personnel to participate in the kickoff on March 17 and training sessions on March 30 and April 14.
- **No Change:** Trust Services continues to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **Update:** OST’s Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than fifteen activities have been scheduled to date to occur during April.
- **No Change:** Plaintiffs’ counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). Parties are considering the week of May 23 for a mediation session.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

April 8, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: April 8, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Arctic Policy. We have provided the State Department with a revised proposal on Ecosystem-based Management (EBM). This proposal will be discussed at a Senior Arctic Officials meeting on April 12-14, for approval and submission to the Arctic Council Ministerial on May 12. If approved, the proposal would call for a meeting of EBM experts in the fall of 2011, to be hosted by the United States to discuss Arctic-wide EBM principles and to make recommendations for next steps on an Arctic EBM framework. It is expected that Interior will play a leadership role in the meeting of EBM experts and the follow-up steps.

International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment/April 14. To date, there are confirmed 30 participants from 9 countries (Angola, Australia, Canada, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia and UK) and the EU.

Youth: Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group. The Youth Office convened the first Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group this week to support implementation of AGO recommendations related to Youth, Jobs, and Service. Work group members include staff from DOI, USDA, EPA, USACE, HHS, DOL, OMB, and CEQ.

MANAGEMENT

Gulf Coast Response Staffing. Transition to Stage 4 continues on all levels with an emphasis on submerged oil mats (SOMs), orphan anchors, sign-off processes, communications with external stakeholders, equipment decontamination, and “rightsizing” personnel, equipment, schedules, and costs. An assessment of the need for Section 7 representatives and Resources at Risk personnel in each state is underway. Options for a long term Incident Commander are being explored by FWS and NPS. Portions of the draft of U.S. Coast Guard On Scene Commander report were reviewed and comments provided to the Coast Guard. The Gulf Coast Incident Management Team is supporting Coast Guard plans for a one-year anniversary event in April.

IT Issues. Representatives from American Samoa met with the CIO & Deputy CIO recently, and provided an assessment of challenges the government faces with infrastructure, telecommunications, and software service providers. The representatives were interested in obtaining information and or guidance in using DOI Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA’s) to obtain IT services and or products. The representatives extended an invitation to the CIO to visit America Samoa and requested a continuation of the dialogue.

BUDGET

Negotiations on the 2011 Full Year Appropriation. At the time of this report, House and Senate leadership are negotiating with the White House on a full year continuing resolution that would include total reductions of \$33 billion. The negotiations center on the identification of reductions that are not as large as were contained in House passed H.R.1 that cut over \$60 billion from discretionary appropriations and a series of language provisions that impact Health Care, Planned Parenthood, and EPA Greenhouse gas regulation.

The sixth continuing resolution (P.L. 112-6), continues government operations through midnight Friday, April 8. A total of \$10 billion in reductions from the 2010 enacted level have been incorporated into the continuing resolutions enacted thus far.

For Interior, these reductions include \$196.0 million from programs funded in the Interior bill \$37.6 million from programs in the Bureau of Reclamation. The reductions included in the CR are primarily the result of eliminating earmarks from the 2010 level and elimination of a limited number of other programs as proposed in the 2011 President’s budget request.

2012 Budget and Hearings. On April 13, the Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Director of the Central Utah Project Completion Act will testify before the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

IG/GAO Reports. The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:

PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
April 8, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Update: Arctic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) Workshop Held. The OEPC Alaska Office participated in an April 5-6, 2011, intergovernmental, tribal, and stakeholder Arctic ERMA Workshop to design data sets for a geospatial decision support tool for oil spill response, assessment, and restoration in the Arctic region of Alaska. The ERMA tool was first developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is being used in the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.

Update: Non-Traditional Response Projects Workshop. OEPC is continuing to follow-up after the first steering committee conference call for the Deepwater Horizon Supplemental-funded Non-Traditional Response Project lessons learned workshop. The workshop will focus on establishing direction to improve guidance for funding and authorities relating to response projects that seek to protect sensitive natural resources. Current efforts include establishing facilitation support, availability of participants and meeting logistics. OEPC will host a 3 day workshop in Washington, DC either May 10-12 or May 17-19. Expected participants include the US Coast Guard, NPFC, EPA, USDA, NOAA, FWS, NPS, BIA and a State representative.

Update: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Status for Deepwater Horizon. Monitoring of clean-up activities and site surveys are ongoing. Four stakeholders' meetings are planned for the first two weeks of April: Pensacola, April 5; Gulf Shores, April 7; Biloxi, April 12 and New Orleans, April 14. Unified Command is still securing venues. These meetings will target all local stakeholders, including state recognized tribes to allow them involvement in the Section 106 process. An upcoming Section 106 issue pertains to the "orphan anchors" left from boom deployment. These anchors may cause little environmental impact if left in place; however, they constitute considerable "noise" that will hamper future Trustee submerged historic site inventories based on shallow water magnetometer survey. Section 106 team is recommending and pursuing removal of orphan anchors.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$92.50 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.40 million and the USCG has

processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 million. The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team is currently reviewing cost documentation packages recently received from USGS and NPS.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque previously provided notice to FWS and USGS that a request would be coming to Regional Response Team 6 (RRT 6) to allow the use of natural sorbents such as sugar cane bagasse, kenaf, or peat moss on oiled shorelines in Barataria Bay, Louisiana, that have been extremely difficult to clean. Normally the National Contingency Plan requires sorbent materials to be collected after they are applied. An exemption to that requirement is being requested. At the current time, RRT 6 is being polled to find an agreeable time to discuss the issue. A formal proposal has not as yet been submitted for review. However, early coordination with FWS indicates there is no objection to going forward.
- Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA) Amendment 14 for the National Park Service has been approved. The Amendment is for an extension of the performance period only to June 30, 2011, and leaves the funding ceiling at \$17,170,101.80. PRFA Amendments for USGS and for FWS are currently awaiting approval.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Departmental Federal Advisory Committee Policy. Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Federal Advisory Committee Policy, in collaboration with the Department's Committee Management Officer. The new chapter will update the 1975 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

New: Office of Surface Mining Stream Protection Rule. Policy Analysis reviewed a draft statement of work (SOW) for the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) being prepared in support of OSM's Stream Protection Rulemaking. This rulemaking would provide increased levels of protection to watersheds impacted by coal mining. Policy Analysis' review focused on the tasks in the SOW addressing the economic analysis required for the RIA.

New: Principles and Guidelines. Policy Analysis reviewed and commented on proposed revisions to the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies" (P&Gs). The P&Gs are used by federal water resource agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, during project planning to conduct economic analysis of potential water resource projects. The revisions were developed by the Council for Environmental Quality.

New: Economics Report. The draft report has been submitted to OMB for their review.

Update: Brown Bag on April 11. On April 11, the Policy Analysis next Brown Bag session will include a presentation by Sarah Cline, Economic Analysis staff, on Measuring the Economic Impact of Invasive Species on Ecosystem Services. The monthly Brown Bag sessions are held on the second Monday, at 12:15 pm in the Rachel Carson Room and are open to everyone.

Update: Arctic Policy. On April 2, Policy Analysis provided the Senior Arctic Official at State Department with a revised proposal on Ecosystem-based Management (EBM). This proposal will be discussed at a SAO meeting on April 12-14, for approval and submission to the Arctic Council Ministerial on May 12. Secretary Salazar will attend. If approved, the proposal

would call for a meeting of EBM experts in the fall of 2011, to be hosted by the United States to discuss Arctic-wide EBM principles and to make recommendations for next steps on an Arctic EBM framework. It is expected that Interior will play a leadership role in the meeting of EBM experts and the follow-up steps.

Update: National Ocean Policy. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) - Coordinate and Support; and FWS is chairing the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration team. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC) and the National Ocean Committee staff provided initial feedback last week on SAP content outlines and will ask for full outlines by April 8, to be released for public comment in May after additional review. The next ORM IPC meeting will be on April 27 at the Department of Commerce.

Update: Chesapeake Bay Federal Agency Market Survey. At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Ecosystem Markets, Policy Analysis is helping coordinate Interior's response to a Federal agency survey designed to identify potential Federal roles and opportunities in environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay. These markets, designed to reduce environmental impacts, are called for in the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Action Plan. Policy Analysis and USFWS emailed the Federal Surveys to DOI bureaus on March 31. Responses to USDA are due April 27.

Ongoing: Brown Tree Snake Technical Committee Meeting. The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff will attend and present at the Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Technical Committee on Guam, April 12-15. Goals of this meeting will be to update partners on research and policy development and to work on the BTS Strategic Plan. The NISC will present on the status of the BTS Memorandum of Agreement and the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

Ongoing: Klamath. Policy Analysis reviewed and prepared responses to comments received on the revised non-use valuation survey.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers, is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Public Call for Nominations to Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The National Invasive Species Council has announced the open submission period for nominations to Class 7 of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee in the Federal Register. The 60-day submission period to fill 13 open seats on the committee will run from April 4 to June 2, 2011.

Completed: Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council Strategic Action Plan Meeting. The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) participated in the development of a new strategic action plan for the Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC), April 4-8, on Guam. The NISC is a non-voting member of RISC. While in Guam, NISC staff also met with local,

regional, and federal staff to discuss the current status and next steps for the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

Completed: Oil and Gas Leasing Information. In response to a request received by the Department from the White House, Policy Analysis worked with BOEMRE and BLM to prepare a report on federal oil and gas leasing. The report was released by DOI and quickly generated national media attention, including front-page headlines and talk radio material. Policy Analysis assisted staff from the White House Center for Domestic Policy in preparing a blog entry for the White House website and the President used material directly from the report in his energy address the following day.

Completed: DOI Restoration Program Support. At the DOI Restoration Workshop, Policy Analysis presented at a strategic planning session for Federal, tribal and State Trustees entitled, “Economic Contribution to the ‘Pre-Everything’ Phase of NRDAR Cases.” On the Open Day with Trustees, academics, NGOs, and industry practitioners, the Office planned a session on carbon sequestration and presented, “Win-Win Restoration: Investing in Carbon Sequestration.” For the third straight year, Policy Analysis also provided a half-day economic training session for natural resource damage assessment and restoration practitioners.

Completed: National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan. Policy Analysis continues to support the co-chairs of the National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan (SAP) writing team and is acting as one of the primary coordinators and drafters of the Arctic SAP. Policy Analysis coordinated DOI input for the Arctic SAP and assisted with the integration of Interagency Policy Committee and OMB feedback for the SAP meeting on April 4.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

UPDATE: Native Hawaiian Federal Interagency Working Group. The Native Hawaiian Federal Interagency Working Group met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to discuss the development of strategies for consulting with the Native Hawaiian community. There is general desire by the working group and HHS to add HHS to the working group. We will be meeting the week of April 11, 2011, to discuss what HHS hopes to achieve by joining working group.

NEW: Introduction of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2011 - U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) introduced the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2011 (S.675). S. 675 is textually the same as H.R. 2314, as amended, which the Secretary previously signed a letter of support for during the last session of Congress. The bill would establish a process for organizing a Native Hawaiian governing entity akin to an American Indian tribe, thus establishing a formal “government to government” relationship. Under the legislation, the Department of the Interior would first appoint a Commission to oversee the process for organizing the Native Hawaiian governing entity and electing its leaders. Subsequent to recognition of the governing entity, the Department of the Interior would be responsible for coordinating the special political relationship between the Native Hawaiian governing entity and the United States, through the Office of Hawaiian Relations within Policy, Management and Budget.

Office of International Affairs

New: Interagency Meetings on United Nations Sustainable Development and Climate

Meetings: OIA attended meetings at the White House/NSC and State Department concerning planning for next year's Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, and a briefing at State for this month's negotiations in Bangkok on the UN climate change treaty.

Update: Secretary's Trip to Brazil and Mexico. OIA continued its work coordinating for the trip to Brazil and Mexico on March 30 – April 5.

Update: International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment will be held on April 14. To date, we have confirmed 30 participants from 9 countries (Angola, Australia, Canada, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia and UK) and the EU.

Update: Signage Design, Fabrication and Installation in Tanzania. Ten DOI-ITAP signage design, fabrication and installation specialists traveled to community-managed Wildlife Management Areas on March 23-April 8. They evaluated existing sign programs and trained/assisted community members in the design, development, and implementation of a cost effective, uniform, durable, directional, and orientation sign system, as a cash-for-work activity for rural communities under the USAID-funded Financial Crisis Initiative.

Update: Park Ranger Mentoring in Jordan. Three DOI-ITAP ranger training specialists are on travel to Jordan's Petra Archaeological Park March 11-April 28 to continue training on a number of relevant park management and tourism-related issues, including: cooperation with law enforcement, ranger corps discipline, and interaction with local communities. Successful maintenance of this critical cultural asset requires the continued development of management and park policies, with which DOI-ITAP has assisted in past training programs.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff worked with PPA to submit an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach concept paper to the State Department for further consideration by Arctic Council members. The State Department will share this with interagency partners before presenting it to the Council members at the Ministerial meeting on May 12. OIA also began detailed logistical planning for the Secretary's attendance at the Ministerial meeting.

Update: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The CEC has selected the US proposal for a transboundary conservation project in the Big Bend area of the US-Mexico border to appear in the draft operational plan that will be open for public review in April. OIA staff participated in an interagency conference call on March 31 to outline the immediate next step (30-day public review) and discuss interagency cooperation on future CEC efforts.

Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

Update: 2011 Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration Program, 11th Annual Workshop, Phoenix, AZ. March 28 to April 1, over 200 people attended the 11th Annual Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Program Workshop, hosted by the Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix. The Workshop featured 38 presentations in 12 plenary sessions with Friday, April 1, being set aside for “training” sessions in economic tools, NEPA and an 8-hour HAZWOPR refresher all underscoring their application to NRDAR.

New: COSCO BUSAN Spill Incident reaches settlement in principle. The November 2007, M/V COSCO BUSAN spill of 58,000 gallons of fuel oil into San Francisco Bay has reached a settlement in principle between the natural resource trustees M/V COSCO BUSAN. The Oil Spill incident in San Francisco Bay was a cooperative damage assessment funded by the Responsible Party (RP) and the natural resource Trustees (United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the California State Lands Commission (CSLC). Since much of the cost of the natural resource damage assessment was funded as the trustees conducted assessment studies, the Trustees and the Responsible Parties have settled the case for a total of \$ 31.3 million allocated in the amounts to the resource categories indicated below:

- Birds: \$5.0Million
- Shoreline Habitat: \$4.0 Million
- Fisheries and Eel Grass: \$2.5 Million
- All Recreational Use losses (general shoreline uses, recreational fishing, and boating): \$18.8 Million [the NPS allocated share is approximately \$9,750,000]
- Implementation of the Restoration Plan and any un recovered assessment costs: \$ 1.0M

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America’s Great Outdoors Implementation

New: Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group.

The Youth Office convened the first Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group this week to support implementation of AGO recommendations related to Youth, Jobs, and Service. Work group members include staff from DOI, USDA, EPA, USACE, HHS, DOL, OMB, and CEQ.

New: FI-STEM Education (Federal Inventory of STEM Education): The Youth Office is representing DOI on a Federal Inventory task force. The work of FI-STEM will inform a strategic planning task force as part of the new White House OSTP Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM). CoSTEM, and the strategic planning task force, are represented by USGS Director Marica McNutt. Our approach is to filter STEM ed programs , pre-populate the inventory, and verify the data with Bureau contacts. Data entry will take place mid-April through mid-May. We are also coordinating efforts with a similar GAO STEM education inventory that is getting underway.

New: Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group.

The Youth Office convened the first Inter-Agency AGO Youth, Jobs, Service Work Group this week to support implementation of AGO recommendations related to Youth, Jobs, and Service. Work group members include staff from DOI, USDA, EPA, USACE, HHS, DOL, OMB, and CEQ.

Ongoing: Let's Move in Indian Country.

Let's Move in Indian Country will be launched on June 14th. FLOTUS will be announcing the initiative along with the other three Secretaries. The Office of Youth is working on a plan to engage Tribal Leaders before the announcement with a Call to Action. To date over 14,000 students in 183 BIE schools are working towards the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) by committing 60 minutes of physical activity a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. We have already received numbers from several schools who have had over 90% participation in PALA!

Ongoing: YouthGo.gov Web Portal.

The YouthGo.gov web portal continues to be a one stop shop for young people looking for employment opportunities and fun events, as well as educational resources. The portal allows us improve access to federal resources through an easy-to-use format that matches young people with DOI and partner resources to create a new generation of citizen stewards. It continues to provide alignment with the Let's Move Outside initiative and support the priorities of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The Golden Gate Conservancy is providing feedback from 100 youth who will be monitored while using the YouthGO.gov Web Portal.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

New: National Youth Employment Coalition Annual Members Forum. The Director of the Office of Youth gave an inspiring plenary address at the annual forum, highlighting the Department's efforts and support around the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The Director conducted a roundtable discussion with the students to reengage them and outline their priorities, as well as to identify and address their concerns.

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership.

The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. Several

grant applications have been submitted to supports summer, veteran and year-long employment programs.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: Reconvened DOI Partners Team. Bureau Partnership Coordinators met March 31, and monthly thereafter, in a forum to (1) discuss shared partnership opportunities among bureaus; (2) develop guidance for partnership legal instruments (i.e. MOU, CAs); (3) develop training for staff on donations policy, grants, contracts; (4) revise and convert existing PMB public website to DOI.GOV website to publicize DOI Partnerships.

New: Letter of Intent drafted between DOI & The Corps Network (TCN) to implement MOU. Specific tasks outlined are to organize a working group to develop a “Bureau by Bureau” guide for youth employment at DOI, cross-sharing of key contacts between DOI & TCN and to compile a database of youth employment programs and training on Public Land Corps hiring authority.

New: Draft FACA Charter drafted - Advisory Committee for 21 Century Conservation Service Corps (AC - 21CSC). Charter for FACA Committee for 21 CSC drafted and distributed among Bureaus for review, GSA approval prior to Secretary’s approval.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: AGO. Take Pride in America met with the NPS bureau volunteer coordinator and the NPS’s new Chief of Interpretation to discuss AGO implementation, along with website integration and their participation in upcoming days of service. This meeting is one in a series of meetings that the TPIA office is holding with each of the bureau volunteer coordinator’s to discuss the volunteer piece of AGO implementation.

Complete: Keep America Beautiful Event. Take Pride in America participated in the Keep America Beautiful – Great American Clean Up event in Philadelphia, PA on Thursday. TPIA recognized outstanding volunteers for their service to their communities.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Indian Probate Rule. Only one public comment was received on the interim final probate rule, and it was non-substantive. The rule revises a number of BIA and OHA probate regulations to reflect statutory changes enacted in December 2008.

Update: Hydropower Licensing Rule. The Solicitor’s Office is preparing a memorandum concluding that the Federal Power Act requires the Department to provide an equal consideration statement, documenting its evaluation of a condition or prescription for a hydropower license with respect to a list of factors, only if a license party has proposed an alternative condition or

prescription. Once the memorandum is received, OHA will prepare an options paper for the Assistant Secretary on how to revise the draft rule in light of the legal conclusion.

Office of the Chief Information Office

New: OIG Reports on a Criminal Case. The Office of the Inspector General Computer Crimes Unit (OIG CCU) informed OCIO about the results of a year long criminal case involving illegal activities with minors. The Advance Security Operations Center (ASOC) had discovered traffic on the Enterprise Services Network indicating that a DOI employee was conducting illegal activities with minors. On January 2010, after receiving the incident reports from the ASOC, the OIG CCU began an investigation that concluded with the guilty pleas and indictment of a couple on 45 counts of child abuse.

Update: Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V). IV&V participated in the March 30, 2011, GAO conference that addressed *Federal Agency Use of Commercially-Provided Social Media Services*. Social media services Facebook, Twitter and YouTube were addressed, as well as the status of policies, privacy impact assessments and security risk assessments. In May 2011, GAO will provide a draft report to the Department for formal agency comment.

New: Highlights from the IT Transformation Outreach Sessions in California. The OCIO IT Transformation team has completed the third series of outreach sessions in the west with stops in California, Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco, Menlo Park, and San Diego. A special teleconference and webex session was conducted in Menlo Park with the USGS and BOEMRE staff in Hawaii. Sessions at each location included both IT and Program staff across all DOI Bureaus and Offices located in these areas.

Some of the important points from the IT staff and program customer feedback during the listening sessions in California include the following:

- Principal questions asked by Bureau personnel centered on impact to the existing IT staff and their customers. The listening sessions revealed a continued need to ensure that ongoing communications with the field continue throughout the life of the IT Transformation.
- Bandwidth challenges are persistent in urban locations with dense concentrations of DOI staff. In locations including Sacramento and Oakland, IT and program staff expressed problems with network responsiveness.
- Program customers are concerned that the local IT support they depend on to work effectively will be hurt by the IT Transformation.
- Departmental and Bureau/Office IT Security policies that have constrained the use of modern tools should be reassessed. California meeting participants expressed the need for wireless computing, robust video-teleconferencing (including at the desktop level), Skype, social media tools, cloud-based information storage solutions and other tools like this that give them the needed flexibility to do their jobs better.

- The IT Transformation meetings in California included discussions about new ways to handle old problems, such as providing adequate local IT support for DOI Bureaus/Offices located in close geographic proximity.

Update: IT Transformation Planning for Field Input Sessions. The IT Transformation team's next engagements will commence on April 4th in the Washington metropolitan area with several sessions in DC, Arlington, Herndon, and Reston with special sessions requested by the National Parks Service (NPS) Law Enforcement customers. OCIO will also engage IT and Program customers in the Pacific Northwest in Boise, Idaho (NIFC) on April 6th and the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State on April 7th. The CIO will facilitate the sessions in Boise and DAS Jackson will join him at Grand Coulee Dam to meet with BOR staff, visit the facility and observe the operations of one of BOR's most important dam management IT systems.

New: Andrew Havelly Joins OCIO as Head of Service Design and Development. Mr. Andrew Havelly has joined the OCIO as the head of the new Service Design and Development group within Service Planning and Management. Mr. Havelly has previously served as the Chief Technology Officer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

New: Interim Approach to Unified Messaging. Bill Corrington and Andrew Havelly briefed DAS Jackson on an interim approach to Unified Messaging. This approach will utilize internally operated systems to create a single, virtual email environment. This approach will allow DOI to continue momentum with Unified Messaging and to get end users migrated to the Outlook email client this year. OCIO will be reaching out to the ADIRs to communicate the interim approach and the expectations on their respective organizations.

Office of Valuation Services

New: Appointments. DAS Jackson announced the appointments of Tanya Henderson, Deputy Director/Chief Appraiser; Sylvia Menifee, Chief of the Business Administration and Management Division, and the Client Service Managers and Team Lead Appraisers. They join Director John Ross and the head of the Office of Minerals Evaluation, Robert Davidoff, along with a soon-to-be-named Quality Assurance Officer in forming the Management Team for the Office of Valuation Services.

New: Meeting with Director and Chief Appraiser. Director John Ross and Chief Appraiser Tanya Henderson met with the Client Service Managers and Team Lead Appraisers to establish appraisal policy and continue growth of the Office of Valuation Services. DAS Jackson participated in the meeting as well.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

Update: Negotiated Rulemaking for Indian Oil Valuation Regulations. CADR is working with the Office of the Solicitor and the Committee Management Officer to advise the Office of Natural Resource Revenue in planning for a negotiated rulemaking process to engage Tribal

representatives and other stakeholders in revising existing rules. ONRR is currently interviewing private professional facilitators to assist all parties with the negotiation process.

Ongoing: Open Government Action Plan. CADR serves as a co-lead on the initiative to advance the Open Government efforts throughout DOI along with the OCIO, Office of the Solicitor, Regulatory Affairs, and the Geospatial Information Officer. The steering committee met on April 1, to commit to sustainable projects to be accomplished over the next 18 months.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Emergency Management Web Mapping. The GIO will be meeting this week with representatives of Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss collaborative development of a web mapping capability to provide geospatial information to emergency management staff in the field.

Update: Geospatial Platform. The core team for the Geospatial Platform developed a communications plan that outlines strategic directions for on-going communications with partners and customers.

Update: National Geospatial Advisory Committee. A work plan is being developed to accomplish the requests in the Committee Guidance from DOI presented at the March meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Update: Geospatial Information and Tools for Open Government. The GIO continues to work with the Open Government Steering Committee to identify ways the Department's OG Initiative can be supported with geospatial capabilities. One alternative is to use the lessons learned from preparation of the report to the President on used oil and gas leases as a driver for geospatially-based Integrated Energy Information. The committee also is considering a publically accessible inventory of trails managed by DOI.

National Business Center

NEW: DOI Policy regarding Undelivered Orders. The Financial Management Directorate (FMD), Accounting Operations Division participated in a working session with PFM and Bureau Finance Offices to rewrite the DOI policy regarding undelivered orders.

NEW: Vendor Payments. FMD Accounting Operations Division met with Fish and Wildlife finance managers to discuss potential for NBC performing all vendor payments for them upon FBMS implementation in FY 2012. Currently FMD provides travel payment support, and in an enhancement to our DOI support, FWS is proposing that NBC takes over all vendor payments this fall.

NEW: American Battle Monument Commission Oracle Federal Financials Implementation. FMD, Financial Systems Division is actively working on the American Battle Monument Commission Oracle Federal Financials implementation. The current focus relates to obtaining connections to GSA for their payroll files. A successful connection with GSA may aid connections for FPPS customers.

NEW: EEOC Transition Plan. FMD met with EEOC to work with them to establish a departure plan on their move from Momentum to an externally supported system. We are

working to ensure a smooth transition, as EEOC is a long term NBC customer and will remain a Human Resources customer on the Federal Personnel and Payroll System.

NEW: Passport and Visa Issuance Assessable Unit. The NBC Audit Liaison Office finalized an Alternative Internal Control Review (AICR) over the Administrative Operations Directorate Passport and Visa Issuance assessable unit (AU). In this review, the business processes were documented. This documentation included both narrative and work flow descriptions of the AU's 3 business processes. All controls were identified and tested resulting in 2 control deficiencies and 2 recommended process improvements. The control deficiencies will be added to the Corrective Action Plan for mitigation. Also, these results will be included in the annual Assurance Statement to be dated September 30, 2011.

NEW: Momentum Financial Services Product Line. Interior is moving forward collaboratively with OMB and four customers to terminate the Momentum financial services product line to provide both Interior and our customers cost savings. Meetings were held with OMB, Denver American Federation of Government Employees representatives and NBC employees. NBC is preparing to meet with all four customers in April for further discussions. NBC also attended an OMB-sponsored Momentum users meeting at OMB's request. This is an ongoing monthly meeting for all large agencies who run Momentum. This will allow more strategic focus on DOI and other customers by the NBC.

NEW: Unmanned Aerial System. AMD recently supported a first-ever operational mission using an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) to conduct a joint USGS and FWS wildlife bird survey in Southern Colorado. The mission involved counting and observing an estimated 18,000 Sandhill Cranes on the Monte Verde Wildlife Refuge using a small 4.2 pound UAS with remote sensing capabilities. The flight was flown 100-400' over the roosts without flushing the birds. Valuable IR footage was captured. The Refuge Manager and other biologists rated the mission as a major success. This is an important first step in applying technology that will mitigate significant risks, reduce environmental impact, capture valuable scientific data, and reduce costs associated with low level surveys in conventional aircraft. Links to access pictures and video: (http://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/outgoing/UAS/Project_monte_vista/Raven_Data/Quick_Samples/) (http://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/outgoing/UAS/Project_monte_vista/Ops_photos/Mark/)

Update: Bureau Training Collaboration FWS & NPS. On March 24, 2011, AMD Training Division, working in collaboration with the Alaska FWS and Alaska NPS telecom managers, delivered the Aviation Management for Supervisors course via video teleconferencing (VTC). Twenty four (24) students at six remote FWS refuges and three NPS sites participated in the course. Mean student rating for "Overall Effectiveness of Instruction" and "Accomplishment of Course Objectives" was scored 4.0 on 5.0 Likert scale. There was a 45% reduction in the cost per student day of training delivered.

NEW: Critical Thinking Skills for Federal IT Professionals Workshop. The Department of Interior's Federal Consulting Directorate will conduct the first in a series of three workshops entitled "Critical Thinking Skills for Federal IT Professionals". The first workshop takes place on April 26, 2011 from 8:30-4:00 PM, and will be held at the Ronald Reagan Conference Center. The use of various experiential learning concepts coupled with multi-dimensional problem

solving methods will enable attendees to improve problem solving techniques that will ensure accurate, collaborative, and timely solutions that deliver the right results.

Update: Strategic Contract Award. OS Special Services supplies specialized Audio Visual and Telecommunication services to the Secretary of the Interior, a contract for these services was awarded on 3/1/11. This consolidated contract will provide cost savings and increased efficiencies in contractor management to NBC and DOI alike.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Project SEARCH. An informational presentation by Project SEARCH is scheduled for April 14, 2011, for Interior leaders/managers. Project Search facilitates the partnership of employers, schools and support organizations to provide internship opportunities for youth / students with developmental/intellectual disabilities, ages 18-22. The Project SEARCH program is a total workplace immersion program for students during their last year of high school. The goal is to prepare each student for successful employment through integrated classroom development and real-life work-place experience. Susie Rutkowski, Co-Director, of Project SEARCH will provide the presentation that will take place at the MIB North Penthouse. Immediately following the presentation there will be a follow-on discussion about how DOI will move forward and the type of internship opportunities we may be able to offer. Participating in this program supports DOI's strategic plan and our ability to build a more inclusive workforce – becoming a model employer.

New: Accountability Reports Issued in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 and 2010. The Accountability team is reviewing accountability reports issued in FY 2009 and 2010 to identify common findings and issues. These findings will be publicized as indices on the Accountability *SharePoint* site so that bureaus can see how their reviews compare.

New: Federal Personnel and Payroll System (FPPS) / Datamart. Beres Muschett, Human Capital Systems Manager, is working directly with the Department of the Interior Chief Information Officer (CIO) to develop analytical reports of all IT occupations and organizations. He also prepared a new Change Request to modify FPPS to require that all employees use their full legal names in the system, particularly their middle names, to facilitate the informational flow between FPPS and DOI Access. He is working with NBC to acquire the appropriate signatures on FPPS Weakness Completion Verification Forms (WCVFs) and the FPPS System Security Plan.

New: Personnel Security/Secured Portal Administration. Beres Muschett, Human Capital Systems Manager, met with the first of two vendors that have developed software that meets the Federal Government's requirements for e-Delivery of personnel security related data and also provides an e-Adjudication solution. Six new agency personnel were approved for access to the Secured Portal. In addition, he is working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding between OPM and DOI on the use of e-Delivery.

Update: National Park Service (NPS) Accountability Program. Lin Cord, Accountability Program Manager, continues to work with the NPS to determine how they can best meet their accountability program obligations. NPS is in the middle of transitioning their human resources (HR) offices to their new Servicing Human Resources Office (SHRO) structure, and consequently, they are having a difficult time finding team members for their FY 2011 reviews. In addition, because of the transition many of the parks and offices are overloaded and cannot spare employees to work on the review teams. The travel ceiling is also a barrier. As a result, NPS may have to postpone most of its FY 2011 reviews, however, is looking into ways in which they can streamline the process and use tools such as surveys instead of interviews, and electronic media such as eOPF to enable them to conduct reviews, at least in part, remotely. While this helps with the travel ceiling concern, finding review participants still remains an issue. The SHRO transition is expected to be completed by September 30, 2011.

Update: Upcoming Accountability Reviews. The Accountability team continues to prepare upcoming reviews at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 3, the Bureau of Land Management's Nevada Office, and the Bureau of Indian Education in Albuquerque, NM.

Update: Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Denver Human Resources Office. The Accountability team is in the process of finalizing a report on its review of the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Denver Office. The Department led this review in November with representatives from the Office of Personnel Management along with human resources specialists from across BOR's headquarters and regions. The report is expected to be released to BOR within the next couple of weeks. The review team found no major issues, or illegal appointments, but did identify a number of best practices which will be highlighted in the report. These best practices will also be shared with other bureaus via the Accountability Program's quarterly newsletter as well as through the *SharePoint* site. Once the report is issued, BOR will be expected to develop a corrective action plan to address all required and recommended actions.

Update: National Business Center East Accountability Review. The Accountability team has begun writing a report on its review of the National Business Center's East Office. This report should be issued within 90 days.

Office of Civil Rights

New: EEO Counselor Training. During April 11-15, 2011, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), is providing EEO Counselor Training at the NPS Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado. A Basic EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted during April 11-15, 2011. An Advanced EEO Counselor Training course will be conducted during April 13-15, 2011. Tuition for each course is \$500.00. Training will be provided by staff members of OCR, NPS, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Additionally, a presentation will be made to each class by two Administrative Judges of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

New: Federal Women Program Managers (FWPM) Meeting. On April 7, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights is representing the DOI at the Federal Women Program Managers Meeting. The meeting is taking place in the Washington, D.C, area and will entail a discussion of the workshop that the FWPM is sponsoring at the Federally Employed Women's Conference in July 2011.

New: EEO Compliance Training. During April 5-7, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, will conduct EEO Compliance Training for managers, supervisors, and employees of the National Park Service, National Park Police, Battery Park, New York Region, following a Finding of Discrimination. The training will be held at Ellis Island and Staten Island, New York.

Completed: National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS) and OPM Diversity Summit. Michael Zimmerman, Equal Employment Specialist with the Public Civil Rights Division, attended the NCEPS and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Diversity Summit on April 1, 2011, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel located in Washington, D.C. The meeting included best practices on diversity initiatives, anticipated mandates for the federal government, training for diversity, and inclusion.

Completed: Access Issues In The Main Interior Building (MIB) and South Interior Building (SIB). Members of the Public Civil Rights Division met with the NBC and the Office of Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, and Security staff members to complete a walk-through inspection regarding access issues at the Main Interior Building (MIB) & the South Interior Building (SIB) on March 31, 2011. The discussion involved proper signage at all assigned and unassigned designated accessible spaces, including plans for directional signage near emergency telephones.

Completed: National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS) Diversity Conference. During March 31- April 1, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights participated in the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service Diversity Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference provided a venue for the exchange of strategies and initiatives around diversity, special emphasis programs, and inclusion in the Federal workforce. It also afforded participants the opportunity to engage in conversations with senior level officials from some of the policy-making agencies such as the Office of Personnel Management, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Merit Systems Protection Board. The conference was supported by NCEPS members, Blacks in Government, Federal Asian Pacific American Council, Federally Employed Women, Hispanic Government Employees, and the Society of American Indian Government Employees.

Completed: Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Training Conference. During March 31- April 2, 2011, the Department participated in the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) 26th Annual Career and Training Conference at the Sheraton Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas. On behalf of DOI, the Office of Surface Mining sponsored a workshop, **"The DOI: Careers that Count - Natural and Environmental Resources,"** on April 2, 2011, at the conference. The workshop consisted of presentations from the Office of Surface Mining, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation that introduced students to

careers in science, engineering, technology, law enforcement, and other careers within the Department.

Completed: EEO Compliance Training. During March 29-31, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, conducted EEO Compliance Training for managers, supervisors, and employees of BIA, Central California Agency, following a Finding of Discrimination. The training was held in Sacramento, CA.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

New: Rotation Two for the Office of the Secretary Management Interns (OSMIP). The OSMIP interns started rotation two on Monday, March 28, 2011. Rotations include four-month assignments in the following offices: Occupational Health and Safety, Acquisition and Property Management, Chief Information Officer, Civil Rights, and Youth in the Great Outdoors.

New: Upcoming Forums and Speaker Events.

- On April 7, 2011 the Government wide Senior Executive Service Forum will feature Dr. Rick Brandon, author of “Survival of the Savvy: High-Integrity Political Tactics for Career and Company Success.” The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington, D.C. This forum will be available on Webinar.
- On April 18, 2011 the Department of the Interior Leadership Forum will feature Dr. Michael O’Malley, author of “The Wisdom of Bees: What the Hive Can Teach Business about Leadership, Efficiency, and Growth.” The forum will be held in the South Interior Building for DOI executives.
- On April 19, 2011 the Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum will feature Dr. Michael O’Malley, author of “The Wisdom of Bees: What the Hive Can Teach Business about Leadership, Efficiency, and Growth.” The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center for DOI and other federal employees.

Update: Tribal Consultation Training. OSEOD is working with Office of Collaborative Action Dispute Resolution (CADR) and the DOI Tribal Consultation team to develop training on this initiative. Sandy Wells, Director of the Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development, attended last week’s Tribal Consultation team meeting in Suquamish, WA to begin preparations for this training.

Update: Pathways to Leadership. This week, the core session, “Transforming Public Organizations” of the Pathways to Leadership class is being held in Washington, D.C. Pathways to Leadership is a Department of the Interior University course tailored specifically to emerging leaders in Indian Affairs and the Office of the Special Trustee.

Update: Safety Authorities, Roles and Responsibilities for Executives. The Learning Technology Solutions Division created the course template, continued work on the course script, and is waiting for the client to respond to some clarification questions on course content

Update: Federal Collaborative e-Learning Laboratory (Fed-CEL). During April 5-7, 2011, OSEOD will be hosting the inaugural meeting of the Federal Collaborative e-Learning Laboratory (Fed-CEL) in the Rachel Carson room of the Main Interior Building. The Fed-CEL is an online community of instructional designers, graphic designers, Web developers, and subject matter experts that will collaboratively develop federal-wide e-learning courses and content, share instructional design, and e-learning development best practices

Completed: Career, Diversity and Leadership Event. On March 30, 2011 the Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum featured Dr. Michael A. Roberto, author of “Know What You Don’t Know: How Great Leaders Prevent Problems Before They Happen.” The forum was held at National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington, D.C. The new venue was an overwhelming success. The event attracted more than 200 federal employees, where 32 were from the DOI.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: 2011 American Occupational Health Conference in Washington D.C. Diane Schmitz, Director of the Office of Occupational Health and Safety, attended the Conference, sponsored by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

New: Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Safety and Health Program Evaluation Report Draft. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Programs, met with the OSM Safety Manager to review their draft evaluation report and hear his comments and concerns. His initial opinion of the report was that it was accurate and captured the situation at OSM well. He will be vetting it through several other program managers before sending final comments.

New: Teleconference with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Division of Enforcement Programs. OSHA’s Division of Enforcement Programs is updating their internal instruction for the *Enforcement Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment in General Industry*. OHS reviewed the document and provided comments on the content from a Federal agency standpoint.

New: Meeting with U.S. Forest Service Safety Program Staff on Wildland Fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Purchase. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Programs, met with Gary Helmer, the acting head of the U.S. Forest Service’s (FS) safety program, and his staff to discuss the OSHA PPE interpretation requiring the purchase of wildland firefighter boots. Also discussed the Wildland Fire/OSHA Training Project, and Mr. Helmer is very interested in participating as well.

Updated: Wildland Fire Safety Training. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Programs, held a teleconference with OSHA and wildland fire to outline the technical parameters for the development of a wildland fire safety training course for OSHA Compliance Officers. The course will likely be three days long with six hour instruction days and developed in PowerPoint with additional teaching aids. The goal is to have a course ready to beta test by the end of the fiscal year. The first content meeting will be next week.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Gulf Coast Response Staffing. Transition to Stage 4 continues on all levels with an emphasis on submerged oil mats (SOMs), orphan anchors, sign-off processes, communications with external stakeholders, equipment decontamination, and “rightsizing” personnel, equipment, schedules, and costs. An assessment of the need for Section 7 representatives and Resources at Risk personnel in each state is underway. Options for a long term Incident Commander are being explored by FWS and NPS. Portions of the draft of U.S. Coast Guard On Scene Commander report were reviewed and comments provided to the Coast Guard. The Gulf Coast Incident Management Team is supporting Coast Guard plans for a one-year anniversary event in April.

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Discussions are continuing on the final language to be contained in the amendment. New concerns were expressed by CBP over the basis for the mitigation acreage in Texas which had been previously addressed. Meetings with CBP leadership are planned for this week and it is hoped a final agreement can be reached soon. This amendment could result in making available approximately \$22 million to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: OTIA (Office of Technology, Innovation, and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Based on a thorough assessment of the SBInet program CBP has modified its direction significantly. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew convened a meeting between DOI bureau personnel and OTIA on March 25 to scope the work that is expected to be undertaken by CBP and subsequently connected OTIA staff and FWS field staff to coordinate field work. Site visits in the Sonoita/Nogales area are scheduled for the week of April 11th to review tower locations that had been identified and evaluated as part of SBInet planning. A substantial amount of environmental assessment work had been done for these sites previously. This review will look at the sites to determine if anything has changed since the previous work was done. Contracts will be let this fall for work to be conducted through next winter. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be centered in the Douglas, AZ area.

Update: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with

an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on May 13th. Public meetings will be held from May 30 to June 17 with comment closing in July. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. Draft storyboards were received from CBP March 22. Comments are being finalized for submittal on April 8, 2011. A final module is still expected to be completed in the summer of 2011.

Update: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The meeting originally scheduled for March 9th was postponed due to a schedule conflict with CBP and is now being planned for the week of April 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

No Change: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. Coordination on NEPA and ESA compliance is continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

No Change: Radio Transformation. Project directors are waiting for approval of funding for the project manager so that further work can take place.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is being coordinated with the M-11-11 policy document on HSPD-12 implementation before signature by the CIO.

No Change: Fire IT Project. The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) will meet with focus groups in Boise the week of April 18. Jim Douglas briefed Ronnie Levine in BLM.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

Final: Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. The Fish and Wildlife Service will be publishing a final rule for the establishment of this population in Arizona in two locations. Kofa National Wildlife Refuge will be the initial release site and in later years, estimated to be at least 5 years from now, the eastern portion of Barry M. Goldwater Range may be used. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed in April of 2010. Customs and Border Protection had expressed concerns over the impact of establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Pronghorns on border security operations. Regional and Washington Office staff in FWS modified the rule and provided CBP with new language which affords relief from take of the NEP animals. These changes satisfied CBP concerns and the go ahead was given to publish the final rule. This proposal is not expected to impact border security operations significantly. The next phase of this project will consist of construction of holding pens for release of the animals in the winter of 2011-12.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Incident Management Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) Case Study. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Federal CIO conducted a case study of IMARS. The case study was reviewed by the e-Gov Board and others (CIO Council Best Practices Committee, Partnership for Public Service) for recommendations to strengthen the study. Once completed, the case study will be published on CIO.gov.

New: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires that all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities must undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years. Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individuals in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

Update: OLES Responded to the Office of the Director of National Counterintelligence (DNI) Regarding Non-Compliance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004. The DNI had requested a response from DOI on why adjudications of background investigations were taking an average of forty two days instead of a mandated twenty days. The OLES Security Division met with the Office of Personnel Management and coordinated a response from all Bureaus/Offices regarding the DNI request. A final draft response is under reviewed by the DAS Thorsen.

Update: USA Today FOIA Request Regarding DOI Facilities. The Solicitor's office has requested the assistance of OLES Security to review a FOIA request from USA Today. The FOIA request is regarding the location (address and descriptions) of all DOI's 46,000 facilities. It is believed that the request stems from an effort to remove unused Government property from the inventory. OLES Security continues to review and comment on the draft data fields associated with this request. Additional review is pending Bureau/Office comment.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and official turn over to OLES is pending. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** The C ramp guard booth (frame) has been delivered and installed. Façade and internal wiring work is scheduled to be completed by the third week in April.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation will be posted on the GSA schedule the week of April 4th. DAS Andrew Jackson has vetted and provided comments.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed within the next two months.

- **MIB Child Care Center:** The OLES Director and the DAS were briefed on the estimated (\$472,095) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative. Talking points were prepared for follow-up.

Update: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. A Deputies Committee meeting was held on April 1 that resulted in several action items that need to be addressed.

No Change: 444 DM 1 “Physical Protection and Building Security” Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled “Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities”. The new draft 444 DM 1 has been vetted through all Bureau/Office Security Director’s and is pending a second review. OLES Security hopes to issue the updated version as interim guidance in June of 2011.

No Change: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating a review of all Bureaus/Office personnel security programs. The review is conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. Reviews have been scheduled for the Office of the Secretary (April 11), USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

No Change: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments in accordance with 444 DM 2 on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam the week of June 20th. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. An assessment is being conducted at the St. Louis Arch during the week of April 3. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. Security assessments have been scheduled for a BOEMRE facility in New Orleans in April and the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

No Change: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On March 8, OLES Security participated in a conference call with the National Park Service and the United States Park Police regarding security procedures and visitor screening for Liberty and Ellis Island. In addition, a meeting between OLES and the New York Police Department was discussed.

No Change: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Initiative. Per a request from the Executive Steering Council and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices to compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function and designate the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request is due by April 29.

No Change: Federal Chief Information Officer’s 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Assistant Director—Technology Division has written a Statement of Objectives (SOO) for inclusion in a Request for Information (RFI) to vendors. The Technology Division will issue this RFI in order to learn more about the cloud computing capabilities of the vendors.

No Change: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The final Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report for the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project, written by Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, was submitted to the FPA Board of Directors on March 23.

No Change: OLES Visit to the Southwest Border. In early April, Intelligence Division representatives will travel to Tucson, AZ and El Paso, TX to determine how best to develop and institutionalize intelligence sharing protocols within the various USG organizations and interagency forums on behalf of OLES, our various bureaus, and our Department’s senior leadership. Representatives from the Intelligence Division will engage several interagency offices and local DOI Bureau representatives to understand their requirements and to determine how best to meet their needs. Also, the Intelligence Division will review existing support activities, identify gaps in intelligence support, and develop roles and responsibilities for an intelligence analyst that complements existing DOI and Bureau efforts, leverage fully the available intelligence resources in the Southwest, and provide appropriate intelligence support to senior decision makers on issues related to the Southwest border.

Final: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Achieves Green on the Federal IT Dashboard. For the first time in IMARS’ history, IMARS has achieved a “green” rating for all elements on the Federal IT Dashboard: Cost, Schedule, and Evaluation by Agency CIO. This increased rating came after the Department of the Interior’s Chief Information Officer changed the IMARS rating from a 3 to a 4. With increased IMARS usage, this rating should reach a 5.

Final: Departmental Security Manager Trip to the Transportation Security Lab. Working with the United States Park Police, OLES Security coordinated a trip to the Transportation Security Lab (TSL) for Departmental Security Managers on March 31st. The TSL is associated with the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). TSA is the only federal agency that certifies security equipment. TSL allowed DOI employees a behind the scenes tour of the facility.

Final: Operation Trident Surge. The final deployment of NPS, BLM, FWS and Forest Service officers ended on Friday, March 18. The focus areas for the last rotation were Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Cabeza Prieta NWR, and nearby BLM Public Lands. The operation yielded narcotics seizures of over 26,600 pounds and over 2,100 apprehensions of undocumented aliens. The After Action Report is pending.

Final: OLES Coordination Meeting with Members of the Intelligence Community. This week, the Intelligence Division will meet with a liaison officer from one of the Intelligence Community agencies to discuss intelligence support for the Department’s Priority Intelligence Requirements and to develop Standing Intelligence Needs across the range of DOI mission areas.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* Japanese authorities now report that there are 12,157 confirmed deaths and 15,496 missing following the earthquake and tsunami. U.S. scientists and engineers continue to work with the Japanese power plant operators to try to stabilize the reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Many bodies cannot be recovered in the vicinity of the nuclear power plant due to high levels of radiation. Radioactive water that had been used to cool nuclear fuel is leaking into the ground and the ocean. EPA has been measuring radiation levels in Guam and the CNMI, but has not yet detected unhealthy levels of contamination.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Sixty-three DOI personnel continue to work full-time on the Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. Cleanup operations continue, albeit at a slower pace due to migratory bird nesting. More emphasis has been placed on the removal and mitigation of Submerged Oil Mats which continue to foul beaches. Stakeholder meetings have been scheduled at various locations through April to explain the new cleaning strategies. Last week, a dredge contracted to the Corps of Engineers broke a high pressure gas pipeline in the Calcasieu Channel. No significant pollution occurred and the pipeline was plugged within 24 hours.
- *Yosemite National Park Damage:* Most of Yosemite National Park has reopened following the severe weather that occurred in mid-March. High snow levels, downed trees and poor conditions had caused rangers to close access to the Park and remove most visitors.
- *Flooding in the Midwest:* Heavy snowpack, rain and warming temperatures continue to cause high water levels in rivers and streams throughout the Midwest and raise flood alerts. A few dam safety issues have occurred, but there have been no significant threats of dam failures.
- *Fire Activity – Colorado:* Over the weekend a large fire, the Crystal Wildland Fire, began west of Ft. Collins, CO. As of the morning of April 4, the Colorado fire was uncontained.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). OEM has developed the 2011 update draft of the Occupant Emergency Employee Guide and has begun an internal review before coordination with OEP planning partners. OEM participated in a walk-through of MIB with the Office of Civil Rights and NBC Facilities to review the equipment and procedures for the evacuation of people with disabilities. Information packets for self-identification of individuals who require assistance during a building emergency have been developed for the Office of Accessible Technology. OEM is finalizing the initial draft After-Action Report on the evacuation drills conducted in the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23.

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, represented DOI in the Emerging Pandemic Threats and Biodefense National Security Staff sub-Interagency Policy Committees (sub-IPCs). This week, she will be participating in the Chemical sub-IPC and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan Food and

Agriculture Sector monthly teleconference. Through additional teleconferences, she has been keeping DOI informed about the public health related activities the Federal interagency community is engaged in related to the Japanese earthquake/tsunami/nuclear situation.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM is visiting the BIA regional office in Portland, OR and FEMA's Region X office in Bothell, WA this week. This visit will include the Indian Health Service as well as FEMA Region X Administrator Ken Murphy and may also include discussions with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council. In addition to this trip, OEM is working with BIA and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan visits to Tribal Nations in the Dakotas.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. Testing of the Contact Management System (CMS) continues as enhancements are implemented. Group reports and rosters are in review and requirements for the most complex reports have been provided to the development team. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups. OEM is also coordinating with OCIO and OLES to enhance readiness of secure systems to support operations on a reliable 24/7 basis. Partial funding is being provided to OCIO to dedicate a staff position to provide communications security functions and related management of classified systems.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH11) and will participate in the Interagency EH 2011 Final Planning Conference on Tuesday April 5. The agenda includes discussion on exercise staff training events as well as finalizing plans for exercise execution. Exercise EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

No Change: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM continued to work with OCIO and OHS last week. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM met with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group last week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. Significant progress was made to reach agreement on the process and timeline for loading the positions into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security

Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the needs of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Wildland Fire Training Course Proposal for OSHA. OWFC is coordinating with the Office of Occupational Safety and Health and Bureau Fire Safety Program Managers on the development of a proposed wildland fire safety training course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Officers.

Update: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy (Cohesive Strategy).

On March 25, 2011, Secretary Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack jointly signed and transmitted to Congress two documents: the first is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy)* and the second is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. Together, these important documents provide the foundation for the entire wildland fire management cohesive strategy effort. A joint press release was issued on Monday March 28, 2011 at 11am, officially announcing the public availability of these documents on www.forestsandrangelands.gov. The release of these documents concludes Phase I, and effort is underway to implement the direction of the Cohesive Strategy in phases two and three.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. All of the attributes for the Project Priority System (PPS) have been completed, including their weights, definitions, and business rules. Formal approval from IFEC was received on March 28. The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD) is complete and been through several reviews. It will be presented and discussed with the DOI Bureau Fire Directors this week. It contains that information most important for field units to be able to provide information about their projects to be evaluated in PPS. Four phases of the TGD are anticipated, as specific HFPAS details are finalized are approved. PPS remains the highest priority task for the Fuels Decision Support Sub-committee (FDSSC). Simultaneous improvement of Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) data and information will continue, but the resources of the FDSSC are directed toward PPS, primarily. A preliminary DOI Hazardous Fuels Reduction program of work, based on the FY 2012 President's proposed budget, should be available by June 15.

Update: Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). The WFEC charter was filed with the Federal Register's Office on March 3, 2011. Appointment letters to the Council members were signed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and the first meeting was held on April 1, 2011.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

No Change: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) held their quarterly meeting in Boise March 24-25. The topics of discussion include FY 2010/2011 budgets and staffing; Status update from the standing FPA teams; FPA communications framework; internal DOI review; 2011 independent external review of the FPA application; and 2013 FPA inputs to budget formulation.

No Change: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Management Advisory Team (MAT): The interagency FPA MAT is meeting in Phoenix, AZ on March 29-30. Topics include briefing on the status of FPA application, communication framework. The primary purpose of the meeting is the configuration of and future engagement of the MAT.

No Change: Federal Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2011. The exercise is scheduled for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other federal partners to identify a course of action. DOI, USFA, and USFS fire leadership are reviewing the updated exercise components to determine a final by April 01.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work on updating LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as but not limited to wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 states have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through fourth geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and Southwest. The next geo-area, North Central will be delivered by March 31 with production on track for the remaining geo-areas (South Central, Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii).

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

No Change: WFDSS (Wildland Fire Decision Support System) Investment Review. OWFC has been working on submissions for the WFDSS investment as part of the Capital Planning Investment Control process in preparation for the new DOI IRB. Background information and briefings for DAS Thorsen are occurring this week.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC

LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-chartered to support the continued refinement of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1, 2011 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

No Change: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the

viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWF is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team: The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) is scheduled to meet in Boise, ID on April 14 - 15. The IST will have a discussion with the FPA Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) regarding the outputs from the latest analysis. They will also discuss the progress that has been made by the group in developing and testing system improvements.

No Change: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan. OWF is coordinating with the FS to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

Final: Biomass – Woody BUG meeting. As part of the wildland fire fuels program, OWFC participates on the Woody BUG (Woody Biomass Utilization Group). The Office of Wildland Fire will be attending the WBUG quarterly meeting March 29-30 at the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Final: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) Meeting March 10. WFLC met and approved the following reports: *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for Secretarial approval on or before Friday, March 18, 2011. The WFLC also approved a proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy and concurred with the membership recommendations for the three Regional Strategy Committees (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: GSA Meeting on BIA Fleet Pricing. On April 8, 2011, representatives from the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and BIA will meet with the Director of the GSA Office of Motor Vehicle Management to discuss a proposed rate increase to the fleet of

buses leased by BIA for student transportation. On March 1, GSA notified DOI of its intent to increase its bus rental and mileage rates for the BIA fleet by 15 percent effective May 1; and by an additional 31 and 33 percent annually in FY 2012 and 2013, respectively. The goal of the April 8 meeting is to collaborate to develop an acceptable solution to this issue.

New: DOI Property Management Workshop. PAM is facilitating a DOI Property Management Workshop on April 14, 2011, at the FWS offices in Arlington, VA. Agenda items for the workshop include: GSA Agency Asset Management System (AAMS); Review of AAMS Whitepaper and Discussion; DOI Property Electronic Forms Update; Review and Update of the Interior Property Management Directives; Personal Property Report Reviews; and Firearms Physical Inventory with Accountability and Roles Strategy.

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program - Multi-Agency Workgroup for Excluded Parties List System. DOI is a participant and playing a leading role on a GSA workgroup to streamline the Cause and Treatment Codes within the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). The EPLS workgroup will conclude the week of April 4, and will propose reducing the number of EPLS ineligibility codes from 74 to 4. The recommendation is anticipated to be accepted. The EPLS provides a single comprehensive list of individuals and firms excluded by Federal Government agencies from receiving Federal contracts or federally approved subcontracts, and from certain types of Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits. EPLS was established to ensure that agencies solicit offers from, and award contracts, grants or assistance to, responsible entities; and not allow parties to participate in any affected program if any Executive Branch department or agency has debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded that party from participation in an affected program.

Office of Budget

No Change: 2013 Budget Formulation. The Office of Budget is preparing 2013 formulation guidance for the development of the bureaus' May budget submission to the Department. The Office of Budget issued "Attachment G" guidance regarding the development of the 2013-2017 Five Year Plans for Construction and Deferred Maintenance.

Office of Financial Management

New: Consolidated Financial Statement Audit. PFM met with KPMG to discuss planning for the FY 2011 Consolidated Financial Statement Audit. The audit entrance conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 14 at 3:00 EST.

New: Hierarchical Naming Convention of Funds Center/Cost Center. PFM formalized the standard naming convention recommended for Funds Center/Cost Center for the Office of the Secretary FBMS deployment in November 2011 to mimic the organizational structure of the Bureau/Organization. PFM's recommendation was approved by the bureaus on March 10, 2011.

On-going: GAO Exit Meeting: PFM coordinated and attended the GAO Exit meeting on:

- Review of the OMB IT Dashboard (Job code 311244).

- Review of Federal Agency Use of Commercially-Provided Social Media (Job code 311048). Draft report with one potential recommendation to be issued in early May.
- PFM received and processed the GAO Draft report on Federal Land Management (GAO-11-377). This review involved BLM, BOR, NPS, and FWS; however no recommendations are issued by GAO. The Department's comments are due to GAO on April 13th.
- PFM tasked the relevant bureaus identified in GAO's report on Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue, with providing information to respond to Senator Pryor's letter to the Secretary requesting the Department's short and long-term plans of achieving cost savings. Draft responses are due on April 5 to PFM.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

No change: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. Interior received the report from OMB on the review of priority goal status, which reported positive responses to the progress made thus far with follow-up actions needed on climate change, renewable energy, and Safe Indian Communities. David Hayes will begin regularly scheduled quarterly status reviews with goal owners in April with the close of the second quarter of FY 2011.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Government Accountability Office (GAO) Review of OSDBU Management Practices. On March 29, the OSDBU participated in an exit conference with GAO as part of GAO's review of OSDBU practices for carrying out the Small Business Act at federal agencies with major contracting activity. A draft report will be circulated to the agencies for comment in mid-April. GAO expects to release the final report to Congress and to the public on May 26.

New Item: Gold Star Award. Mark Oliver, the Director of OSDBU received notification from SBA that he will be receiving a 2011 Gold Star Award from SBA during Small Business Week (May 18-20) for his achievements in promoting small business.

New Item: Women-Owned Small Business Program. Effective with the publication of Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2005-51 on April 1, 2011 the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) has been amended to include the Women-Owned Small Business Program which will assist Federal agencies in achieving the 5 percent statutory goal for contracting with women-owned small business concerns.

Update: Small Business Administration to Review Small Business Regulations. The Small Business Administration published a notice in the Federal Register on March 14, requesting public input on the impact of their regulations and the best way in which to improve them. Public comments will be accepted through April 13. The Federal Register notice stated that "comments should focus on regulations that have demonstrated deficiencies" and focus on the economic burden on small business.

Update: Small Business Administration Outreach Events. The Small Business Administration is conducting a number of Jobs Act Tours that will allow small businesses to meet with leaders from SBA, give input on new regulations, and learn how to take advantage of new tools coming out of the Small Business Jobs Act. As part of the outreach efforts, SBA will focus on loan opportunities, competing for federal contracts, finding training and counseling resources, and starting or increasing exports. The events are taking place around the nation between March 28 and April 15.

Update: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be representing the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement conference that will be held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, on April 21, 2011. The conference is the most prominent government-wide event on the small business calendar each year. Volunteers from the Department are requested to assist the OSDBU. A senior advisor to the President of the United States will be the White House representative at the conference.

Update: DOI First Friday Small Business Session. More than 200 small businesses attended the DOI OSDBU First Friday Small Business Session held at the Yates Auditorium on April 1. Larry Gross, DOI Deputy CIO was the main presenter at the event and his remarks focused on the DOI IT Transformation.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars for small businesses to participate in:

- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business
- TBA: University of Guam – Economic Development Webinar

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: Third Party Review of FBMS. On March 30, 2011, the FBMS third party review kick off meeting was held. The contractor, McKinsey and Company, met with the FBMS sponsor and owners, the PMO and others to discuss the timing and content of the review. The review will be conducted from April to June 2011.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

Update: Business Process Requirements. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office reviewed and compiled end user role mapping worksheets and core role profiles received from the OS Offices. The first role mapping “check-in” conference call was held March 30. This conference call provided a forum for reporting on the status of the assigned role mapping exercise and to discuss any issues or problems encountered along the way. The next role mapping “check in” will be held on May 4.

Update: Aviation Management Directorate Business Process Impact. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office will hold meetings with the Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) of NBC to draft the initial working version of Business Process Impact (BPI) on April 5 and 6 in Boise, ID. These meetings will capture AMD “as-is” processes and FBMS impacts. The BPI documentation will also serve as the basis for beginning to document AMD’s requirements for the next deployment.

Update: Organizational Change Management. OS continues to prepare for OS role mapping workshops 2 and 3 to be held April 19-21 and May 17-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently.

Update: OS Executive Steering Committee Meeting. The DAS-BFPA and the OS FBMS IMO met with Office of the Secretary stakeholders in an Executive Steering Committee on March 31.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): ONRR has begun the implementation of the Strategic Review recommendations. We have formed Implementation Work Groups (IWG) for the seven initiatives that are scheduled to begin in FY 2011. Acting Assistant Secretary for PMB, Chris Henderson, attended a formal launching of the IWG’s on April 6, 2011, in Denver, Colorado.

All-Agency Congressional Briefing Scheduled on May 4 (New): ONRR is participating in an all-agency Congressional Briefing sponsored by the Colorado Federal Executive Board and scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, at the Denver Federal Center. The All-Agency Briefing will include round-table discussions with various federal agencies, tabletop displays from the agencies, and a briefing notebook that will include high-level information about each of the agencies participating. To date, approximately 20 Federal agencies have agreed to participate, including ONRR, BLM, HUD, Department of Commerce, the IRS, Social Security Administration, the VA, and the Department of Homeland Security. The Colorado Federal Executive Board sent out invitations electronically on April 1, with a RSVP deadline of April 22. The CFEB tentatively identified Congressional offices in 24 states to receive invitations, as well as some state elected officials in Colorado including Denver-area mayors.

Response to Inquiry, Qs & As Prepared Concerning Allottee Overpayment (New): ONRR Public Affairs prepared a response to inquiry and potential questions and answers related to an

overpayment to 18 individual American Indian mineral owners attributed to a lease balance transfer. ONRR, upon discovering the overpayment, immediately notified the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) to alert those agencies of the overpayment, and began a review to prevent any such overpayment from occurring in the future. The overpayment occurred when a company attempted to move a recoupable balance between two leases that BIA recently consolidated. When the company made its report, it erroneously used the wrong coding in the computerized reporting document, which resulted in the overpayment of \$106,722.39 to 18 individual Indian mineral owners. After ONRR discovered the overpayment, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued Kennerly letters (on March 29, 2011) by both regular and certified mail, to restrict the accounts. The Indian mineral owners cashed some of the erroneous checks, but others did not. ONRR sent an expert team to the Southwest Regional BIA office on Thursday, March 31, to meet with the individual mineral owners, along with a representative of the OST, to explain the situation to those impacted. ONRR is beginning the process to recoup the overpayments.

Pending Shell settlement (Updated): ONRR Public Affairs is preparing for an announcement of a pending settlement agreement with Shell Oil Company and various Shell affiliates. The settlement will pay the United States \$2.2 million plus interest to resolve claims that the companies violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from Federal leases. The settlement is part of the Wright Federal False Claims Act litigation, which has resulted in several settlements in recent years. DOI and the Solicitor's Office have finalized the settlement, and we are awaiting signature by the Department of Justice. DOJ has historically issued its own release in these cases; DOI will coordinate with Justice on the timing of this release.

Financial and Program Management

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its various forms of outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. ONRR designs the outreach to resolve a mineral owner's royalty-related problems and to let them know how to contact us. These meetings enable us to listen to their concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. Our goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- The Trenton Indian Service Center, Trenton, ND, the morning of April 12, 2011
- Ft. Peck Agency, in Poplar, MT, the afternoon of April 12, 2011
- Mineral Owners, Nageezi, New Mexico, on April 12, 2011
- Ft. Berthold Agency, New Town, ND, on April 13, 2011
- Ft. Totten Agency, Ft. Totten, ND, on April 14, 2011
- Mineral Owners, Huerfano, New Mexico, on April 14, 2011

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of April 4, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Issues:

JIT Hearings on BOP

On March 20, 2011, the Joint Investigation Team accepted and publicly released the forensic report of the BOP prepared by, Det Norske Veritas (DNV). Among other conclusions, the report found that the blind sheer ram did fire (most likely on April 22, 2010) but instead of cutting and sealing the drill pipe as designed, the shear ram was only able to partially cut and crimp the pipe, allowing hydrocarbons to flow for months until a relief well allowed complete shut-in. The JIT has scheduled hearings for the first week of April to receive the examiner's testimony and that of other subsea witnesses. The JIT plans to release a BOP report concurrent with the one-year anniversary of the accident.

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

Depositions are continuing in the New Orleans in the multi-district litigation with witnesses from BP, Transocean, and Halliburton. Testimony from Halliburton witnesses has indicated, for the first time, that the normal battery of laboratory tests on a well's particular cement design had not been performed for the Macondo well after a change was made to the design with respect to retardant. Since this testimony, a subsequent Halliburton witness scheduled to testify has asserted a Fifth Amendment right to decline to testify. On March 25, the MDL Judge issued his order on BP's motion for additional testing and left it to the parties, including the government, to come to agreement on how the additional testing will be conducted. BP is proposing to use the JIT's third-party examiner, Det Norske Veritas, and will involve the other parties in a manner similar to the JIT's use of the Technical Working Group. The Judge has imposed a strict testing schedule to be completed by June 17, 2011. (b) (5)

EnSCO Litigation

Count IV (Undue Delay)—The parties' cross-motions for summary judgment are due April 12. Responses to cross-motions are due on April 25. The government's opening brief in the Fifth Circuit is due May 5.

Other Issues:

Certiorari denied in National Parks Conservation Association v. BLM and Kaiser Eagle Mountain, Inc.

The United States Supreme Court has denied Kaiser Eagle Mountain's petition for certiorari in this BLM land exchange case. The land exchange proposal involved exchanging approximately 2846 acres of private lands for 3481 acres of public land for use as a landfill. In 2009, the Ninth Circuit upheld BLM on several aspects of its decision, but affirmed the district court's decision

setting aside the exchange, finding that the appraisal and NEPA analysis were flawed. The Solicitor's Office will coordinate with BLM as it considers its next steps.

Douglas Timber Operators et al. v. Salazar

The District Court for the District of Columbia issued its decision March 31, on the challenge to the withdrawal of the 2008 Records of Decision (RODs) adopting the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). The court concluded that the Secretary, acting through the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, lacked the authority to withdraw the RODs without following the procedural requirements for land use planning under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. As a result, the court vacated and remanded the decision to withdraw the RODs. The court dismissed plaintiffs' claim that argued the WOPR withdrawal violated a 2003 settlement agreement, finding that such a contract claim was not properly before the court.

Eagle Feather Religious Freedom Restoration Act Decision

This week, the Tenth Circuit issued a decision in a case that has been pending for over a decade involving a Religious Freedom Restoration Act challenge to the Bald and Golden Eagle Act's regulatory permitting scheme for distribution of eagle feathers. The case grew out of a prosecution of a non-Indian adherent to an Indian religion for possession of eagle feathers. In deciding whether the Eagle Act restrictions improperly restrict the religious freedom of a non-tribal practitioner of an Indian religion, the court evaluated the validity of the Eagle Act under RFRA with reference to two compelling governmental interests: protecting bald and golden eagles, and fostering the culture and religion of federally-recognized Indian tribes. The court declined to adopt as a compelling government interest a more general interest in fostering Native American culture among individuals. After balancing the compelling government interests, the court concluded that the Eagle Act permitting scheme was the least restrictive means of meeting both compelling government interests.

Tuba City Uranium Ruling

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has granted the United States' motion to dismiss most of the claims filed by intervener-plaintiff Navajo Nation in relation to a dump site managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Tuba City, Arizona. The Navajo claims were filed pursuant to the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA), the American Indian Agriculture Resources Management Act, the Indian Lands Open Dump Cleanup Act, the Clean Water Act, various Navajo Nation laws, and the United States' trust responsibilities to the Navajo Nation. The court held that the Navajo Nation waived its right to sue under UMTRCA; that none of the federal statutes at issue create a right of action or waive sovereign immunity; that no final agency action was alleged under the APA; and that no specific trust responsibility was identified. The U.S. has filed a motion to dismiss the remaining Resource Conservation and Recovery Act claims in this matter and awaits disposition of that motion.

Cortez Hills Expansion Project

On March 15, 2011, BLM signed the Record of Decision for the Cortez Hills Expansion Project Supplemental EIS. The Cortez Hills project is a gold mine on mining claims on the public lands. BLM had elected to prepare the SEIS after the Ninth Circuit found that the plaintiffs were likely to succeed on the merits of their challenge with respect to two areas of BLM's original environmental analysis. The plaintiffs challenging the original EIS have informed the Justice Department that they intend to amend their complaint to challenge the SEIS, and have stipulated to a briefing schedule whereby BLM will produce the administrative record for the SEIS by April 8, 2011, and the plaintiffs will file their amended complaint by April 22, 2011.

Yellowstone Snowmobiles

On March 29, DOJ will file our brief in the Tenth Circuit opposing the appeal by the State of Wyoming and Park County of the September 2010 decision dismissing their challenge to the 2009 winter use plans and rules. The district court found that that the state and county lack standing to pursue their claims. The court began from the principle that a state or county may not sue the United States on behalf of its citizens as *parens patriae*. The district court found that the various economic and sovereign interests alleged by the state and county were speculative, not fairly traceable to the NPS regulation at issue, and would not be redressed by a decision from the court. Our brief will argue that the district court's reasoning was correct and should be affirmed. We also will argue that the litigation is now moot as to Yellowstone National Park, because the 2010-11 winter use season has ended, and with it end the authorizations for motorized oversnow use in the 2009 interim rule. It is not moot as to Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, for which the 2009 rules will continue to be in effect (b) (5)

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. Salazar

After over one year of negotiations, on March 25, 2011, the parties to this case, known as "Rock House," executed a settlement agreement and filed a joint motion to dismiss the case pursuant to the agreement. The case was a challenge to a BLM decision and EA approving a natural gas project in the Uinta Basin and lifting the suspension on a lease within the project area. Most of the project area and all of the subject leasehold are within lands that BLM found have wilderness character during its recently completed land use plan revision process for the Vernal Field Office area and that are proposed for wilderness designation in the citizen-sponsored Red Rock Wilderness Bill. However, BLM in the resulting Vernal RMP decided not to manage the subject lands for wilderness values. The challenged decision approves on a programmatic basis the drilling of up to 60 wells from 24 well pads and associated development. The lease was suspended as a result of *SUWA v. Norton*, 457 F. Supp.3d (D. Utah 2006) where the court held that BLM had a duty to supplement existing NEPA documents to support oil and gas leasing decisions where, subsequent to the issuance of the NEPA documents, BLM had found that wilderness characteristics exist on the subject lands. In this suit, plaintiffs contend that BLM in approving the project violated NEPA and FLPMA.

Navajo Generating Station BART Determination

EPA will soon make a decision about the pollution control devices—defined as the Best Available Retrofit Technology or BART--that must be installed at the Navajo Generating Station to reduce emissions that are contributing to the regional haze problem in the Four Corners Area, including in Grand Canyon National Park.(b) (5)

FWS Delisting of West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel Vacated

On March 25, Judge Sullivan vacated FWS' delisting of the West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel, reinstating its 1985 endangered listing. The court held that the plain meaning of ESA section 4(f) required FWS to meet the letter of all its published recovery criteria, not just the ESA's five listing factors. FWS was required to do a notice-and-comment rulemaking to amend its recovery plan criteria before doing its rulemaking to delist the species. (In a footnote, the court also ordered FWS to consider listing factor D separately on remand, even though it is logically linked to the other four ESA factors).(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Idaho Water Adjudication

The Presiding Judge for the General Adjudication of the Coeur D'Alene-Spokane River Basin Water System has set December 15, 2012 as the filing deadline for all claims by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as trustee, on behalf of Indian tribes and for all claims filed by Indian tribes on their own behalf. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Navajo Coal Company Permit Challenge

On January 31, 2011, plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity, Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, and San Juan Citizens Alliance filed a complaint against the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) in U.S. District Court, Colorado. The complaint alleges that OSM's Western Region violated section 7 of the ESA by failing to consult with the FWS prior to approving a renewal of BHP Navajo Coal Company's permit to conduct surface

mining operations at the Navajo Mine, New Mexico. OSM approved renewal of the permit on September 7, 2010. That action is currently subject of an administrative appeal (by Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, and San Juan Citizens Alliance IBLA-2011-0085).

Global Settlement of EPA Enforcement at BIE Schools

EPA and Indian Affairs (IA) are currently seeking resolution of the 200 violations of environmental law at BIE schools cited by EPA, with the civil penalty amount of \$1,219,193.85. EPA and IA are executing a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement. As part of the settlement terms, (b) (5)

The Tolling Agreement was extended to March 31, 2011, to allow time for review and signature of the settlement documents.

Court Orders Bay Mills Casino Closed

On March 29, 2011, a federal district court in Michigan issued a preliminary injunction to immediately close the Bay Mills Indian Community's new gaming facility in Vanderbilt, Michigan. The United States is not a party to this litigation, but in December 2010, the Solicitor issued an opinion letter to the National Indian Gaming Commission concluding that the site was not on Indian lands as defined under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The State and a nearby tribe sued Bay Mills, introducing the Solicitor's opinion into the litigation through a motion for preliminary injunction. In issuing its preliminary injunction, the court stated that it was not resorting to the Solicitor's opinion. However, the court based its decision on one of the same factors relied upon by the Solicitor that under the Michigan Indian Lands Claim Settlement Act, the Tribe's land purchases must both consolidate and enhance tribal landholdings, and because the Vanderbilt purchase cannot possibly be said to consolidate tribal landholdings, the purchase was not properly made under the MILCSA and therefore cannot be Indian lands under any interpretation of the statute.

City of Birmingham, Alabama v. USFWS

The City filed a FOIA request in June 2010 in response to a Notice of Violations by FWS proposing a large civil penalty for a mass take of an endangered species. FWS initially denied the request because the City requested a fee waiver without presenting any of the required justifications. Then, the FWS Chief of Law Enforcement also denied the request on the grounds of Exemption 7, which was not warranted. The City filed an appeal. The FOIA Appeals Officer failed to decide the appeal, but sent a letter to the City on October 1, 2010, saying the appeal could not be decided within 20 days due to a crush of appeals, but that the City could sue FWS in federal court. On February 23, 2011, after SOL sent a Notice of Assessment to the City for the civil penalty, the City filed this lawsuit. (b) (5)

On March 25, 2011, upon an unopposed motion by the AUSA, the district court granted an extension of time to file an Answer to April 8, 2011. SOL and the AUSA are negotiating with Plaintiff's counsel in an attempt to reach a settlement a^(b) (5)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
April 1, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

USS Olympia National Historic Landmark, Philadelphia (PA) – Preservation funding issues. The NPS is participating in a Preservation Summit to be held March 30-April 1, on the prospective future of Admiral Dewey’s flagship from the Spanish-American War. Key partners include the Independence Seaport Museum (owner of the ship), the U.S. Navy, and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. The Museum has concluded that it cannot raise the estimated \$10 - \$20 million necessary to dry-dock, repair, and continue to preserve the ship and is seeking a transfer to a new steward by January 2013, or they will pursue reefing or scrapping options.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (GA) – Day of Remembrance. On April 4, the park is hosting a day of remembrance, wreath-laying ceremony, and exhibit opening in observance of the 43rd anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination. The exhibit, *From Memphis to Atlanta: The Drum Major Returns Home*, examines the final days of Dr. King’s life as he journeyed to Memphis, campaigning on behalf of poor sanitation workers up until his final return to Atlanta for the funeral held April 9, 1968, where thousands mourned his death.

President’s Park (DC) – Public scoping begun for EA for E Street and President’s Park South. NPS has initiated planning and environmental review of E Street and President’s Park South. NPS and the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) are working jointly on the EA, which will analyze the closure of roadways to public vehicular traffic and evaluate designs for more durable and better integrated security infrastructure while preserving the character of the historic cultural landscape south of the White House. The EA will tier off the approved *Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President’s Park* (2000).

ON THE HORIZON

Great Basin National Park (NV) – Groundwater Development Project. The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is seeking a BLM right-of-way permit for a pipeline from Las Vegas to Snake and Spring Valleys (adjacent to the park) and Delamar, Dry Lake, and Cave Valleys (up-gradient from Lake Mead National Recreation Area). The BLM’s EIS does not address the full magnitude of future adverse effects to NPS resources. If BLM selects its preferred alternative, groundwater declines ranging from 10 to 100 feet will occur within the park, resulting in impairment of NPS resources. A meeting is scheduled for April 18 to resolve concerns associated with the selection of a preferred alternative for the project prior to public release of the EIS.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IN) - New Healthy Parks, Healthy People Initiative. On April 21, the park, teaming with Porter Health System, will launch “Park Prescriptions”, an initiative under which health care professionals actually write prescriptions for their patients to

take a walk, bicycle, paddle, or otherwise use the park as a place for improved health and physical fitness. Five park trails have been identified for use in the initial phase of the program. Park management envisions widening this program to more health care providers in the region and to other parks.

Haleakala National Park (HI) – Air Tour Management Planning. The park is required by the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000 to prepare an Air Tour Plan. That Act designates the FAA as the lead agency and NPS as a cooperating agency and requires both agencies to sign the NEPA decision document. The NPS and FAA have agreed on six preliminary alternatives which will be disseminated, via a newsletter, for public review and comment in spring of 2011.

Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park (VA) – Future use plans. The Wilderness Battlefield Coalition announced last week the beginning of a study to determine what type of low-impact, compatible development might be appropriate for the battlefield gateway at Routes 3 and 20. A 50-acre site in this area had been the center of a now-ended controversy as the proposed location for a Super Walmart, but its future use is still undetermined. The Coalition is composed of the Civil War Trust, the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, the Piedmont Environmental Council, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The park is cooperating with the Coalition.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (GA) – Ebenezer Baptist Church reopening. On April 15, the park will have the grand reopening ceremony at Heritage Sanctuary in the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. For the first time since the post-1970 modifications, visitors will be able to experience the heritage sanctuary and fellowship hall as they appeared when Dr. King was co-pastor.

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site (AR) – Dedication. On April 16, Secretary Salazar and the NPS Director will join former President Clinton to host a dedication ceremony for the park in Hope, Arkansas that includes the home where the former president spent the first four years of his life with his newly-widowed mother and grandparents; NPS assumed operational responsibilities in January. Elected officials, community leaders, and others are expected to attend.

Virgin Islands National Park (U.S.V.I.) –Minor boundary revision. A Federal Register notice is pending to incorporate within park boundaries the Estate Beverhourdtsberg on the Island of St. John, U.S.V.I. This land includes much of the upper watershed of the Fish Bay drainage system that ultimately drains into national park waters. In addition, it contains numerous historic sites related to the plantation era on St. John.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
March 28, 2011

Final Revision to the 2008 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

The Fish and Wildlife Service will announce in April scientific refinements to the existing recovery plan for the threatened northern spotted owl in response to litigation and critical scientific peer review received after the 2008 plan was released. The main recommendations in the final revision are 1) a higher standard of habitat protection, including increased conservation of the highest quality habitat and spotted owl occupied sites to the maximum extent possible and 2) a carefully applied “ecological forestry” approach to forest management in select areas to promote the overall health and resilience of the broader Northwest forest landscape (which may include fuels treatment, thinning, and habitat restoration to reduce the impacts of severe wildfire, diseases, and insect infestations). Level of controversy: High.

Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf

The Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf program is currently working on an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating impacts expected from a wolf control proposal we received from the State of Montana. The proposal involves lethal control of wolves in one hunting unit in western Montana with the objective of increasing elk numbers and calf recruitment. The notice published in the *Federal Register* on March 29. The comment period will be for 14 days after which the FWS will make a decision on Montana's proposal.

Release of draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and opening of comment period for Border Mitigation Projects (AZ)

No later than April 8, 2011 the Southwest Region of the FWS will release for public comment a draft Environmental Assessment on proposed mitigation projects in the San Bernardino Valley on and adjacent to the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. The mitigation projects are intended to help compensate for adverse impacts to environmental resources caused, and anticipated, by infrastructure constructed under the authority of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) along the southwest border of the United States. The draft EA identifies a Proposed Alternative that provides for, among others, construction of fish barriers, erosion control measures, limited all-weather roads, and wetland restoration. The seven projects being analyzed are part of the \$50 million mitigation package previously approved by DHS and DOI staff. The comment period on the draft EA will be open for 30 days. Given the documents relation to general border activities, moderate controversy is anticipated.

Final Rule Establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population of Sonoran Pronghorn in Arizona

Fewer than 600 of the Sonoran subspecies of pronghorn remain in the wild. These occur in three separate populations; two in Mexico and one in Arizona. The Sonoran pronghorn Recovery Plan calls for the Service to, among other things, establish and monitor a new, separate herd(s) to guard against catastrophes decimating the core population. This rule will facilitate reintroduction of captive bred Sonoran pronghorn into historical habitat An Interdisciplinary

Team consisting of agency representatives from FWS, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Army identified these locations for the establishment of the new population(s). The use of the non-essential option under 10(j) alleviated most concerns on the part of the military. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) expressed concern with reintroducing Sonoran pronghorn into BMGR-E due to potential conflict with their activities in that area. Based on discussions with CBP, we have added language to the text of the special regulation clarifying the ongoing enforcement activities inside the experimental population area would be exempt from the ESA's take prohibitions. Only 4 of 28 comments submitted during the public comment period opposed the rule. This action is not court-ordered. Target for submitting to the Federal Register is April 15 in order to facilitate construction of the release pens in order to release pronghorn in the 2011-12 winter.

Utah Letter regarding Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery

FWS Mountain Prairie Region received a letter from the State of Utah, expressing concern over the impact of the FY 2012 President's Budget on mitigation responsibilities at Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery. The State maintains that the responsibilities to mitigate losses from the Colorado River Storage project fall under the Secretary of the Interior, through Section 8 of 43 U.S.C. § 620g. FWS Mountain Prairie Region is currently working on a response. We anticipate this issue to be controversial.

Release of draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Opening of Comment Period for Refuge Farming Program (OK)

No later than April 8, 2011 the Southwest Region of the FWS will release for public comment a draft EA addressing continued use of three Genetically Modified Crops as part of the cooperative farming program on Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge. In the draft EA, the FWS identifies continued use of three GMC's as a preferred alternative. Further, the Refuge is in the process of developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (expected to be distributed for public review in summer 2011). The CCP, and its corresponding EA, will further evaluate the farming program as a whole, considering acreage and operations. Limited controversy on this draft Farming EA is expected.

Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for Two Springsnails (AZ)

The FWS will propose to list two springsnail species in Arizona that are currently candidates. The proposal includes critical habitat at two Apache County spring complexes occupied by the Three Forks springsnail, and at three occupied springs and an unoccupied renovated spring for the San Bernardino springsnail in southern Cochise County. We do not anticipate controversy resulting from this proposal. If a hearing is requested for either species, enhanced local awareness may increase level of controversy. The landowner of the privately owned site has expressed concern that listing the San Bernardino springsnail may put constraints on activities on the land. The Forest Service has been actively involved in research and conservation discussions.

12-Month Finding on a Petition to List 5 Wyoming Plants

On July 30, 2007, Forest Guardians (now WildEarth Guardians) petitioned the FWS to consider 206 species for listing. The FWS published a positive 90-day finding for 29 Mountain-Prairie

Region species on August 18, 2009. This 12-month finding addresses five of these species: *Abronia ammophila*, *Agrostis rossiae*, *Astragalus proimanthus*, *Boechera pusilla*, and *Penstemon gibbensii*. The draft finding determines that listing *A. ammophila*, *A. rossiae*, *A. proimanthus*, and *P. gibbensii* under the ESA is not warranted at this time. The draft also determines that listing *Boechera pusilla* is warranted but precluded by higher priority actions. *Potential issue:* BLM manages the majority of land containing occupied habitat for *Boechera pusilla*. Previously, *Boechera pusilla* was identified as a candidate species under the ESA. *Boechera pusilla* was removed from the candidate list in 2000 due to actions implemented by the BLM to alleviate the known threats at that time. As evidenced by recent population counts, these implemented actions have not removed all threats to the species. This action is not court ordered. FWS expects to publish the 12-month finding for these species in the *Federal Register* by April 28, 2011.

90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Smooth Billed Ani

On April 5, 2005, the FWS received a petition dated March 23, 2005, from Robert Showler of Homestead, Florida, to list the bird smooth-billed ani (*Crotophaga ani*) as an endangered species. On October 17, 2006, we received a 60-day notice of intent to file a citizen suit against the FWS from the Institute for Wildlife Protection alleging our failure to issue a 90-day finding on the petition to list the smooth-billed ani and other species. To date, they have not filed suit. Based on our review, the FWS finds that the petition does not present substantial information indicating that listing the species may be warranted. *Potential Issues:* This finding is not expected to generate controversy. The smooth-billed ani is not considered imperiled in Florida. The species is considered common in Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the Caribbean. We anticipate delivering this finding to the *Federal Register* around April 30, 2011.

90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Spot-tailed Earless Lizard

On January 13, 2010, WildEarth Guardians petitioned the FWS to list the spot-tailed earless lizard (*Holbrookia lacerata*). The FWS finds substantial information indicating that listing the species may be warranted due to threats from predation by nonnative red fire ants. This action is not court ordered. *Potential Issues:* The FWS does not anticipate that there will be issues with this finding. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 4, 2011.

FWS and Chesapeake Bay Program meet with new EPA Senior Advisor on Chesapeake Bay

FWS and counterpart DOI Federal Office Directors of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership met with and briefed incoming EPA Senior Advisor on the Chesapeake Bay Jeff Corbin on Tuesday March 22nd. Mr. Corbin is particularly interested in devoting more attention on the CBP agenda to the fish, wildlife and habitat conservation and restoration commitments that are priorities in the Executive Order strategy and action plan. This is significant, as habitat restoration and living resources have so far been overshadowed on the agenda by total maximum daily loads and watershed implementation plan (WIP) priorities.

Alaska Federal Subsistence Board to discuss Rural Determination process

The Alaska Federal Subsistence Board will hold a work session on April 6 to begin preparation for the upcoming review of rural status of Alaska communities. The work session will focus on a review of the regulations that govern the rural determination process and the methods that were used to make determinations following the 2000 Census. Federal subsistence regulations require

that the rural status of Alaska communities be reviewed every 10 years with the availability of census data. The public has been invited to this work session.

Alaska LCCs provide outreach to Native groups

On March 17th, 2011, the fledgling Western Alaska LCC sent out email update letters to 139 addresses for Village and Tribal Councils within western Alaska. The update provided information that the Western Alaska LCC has made during its early initiation/pilot year, and invited participation in a teleconference call between the LCC Staff, several Steering Committee members and Tribal Leaders. The hope is to use this outreach to help develop a strategy to best inform the Tribal Councils about opportunities to engage with the LCC and provide updates on LCC progress.

U.S.-China Joint Committee Meeting

On April 7-8, 2011, FWS will meet with counterparts from the P.R.C. State Forestry Administration and Ministry of Agriculture to review bilateral exchanges conducted in 2008-2010 under the U.S.-P.R.C. Nature Conservation Protocol and agree on activities for 2011-2013. Topics for cooperation include: refuges, wetlands, fisheries, migratory birds, conservation education, and ecotourism.

Batten Kill restoration effort nominated as one of “10 Waters to Watch”

On April 15th at the Jim Range National Casting Call event in Washington, D.C., the Batten Kill restoration partnership will be honored by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan Board as one of the nation’s most promising aquatic habitat projects demonstrating the results of conservation efforts under the NFHAP. FWS staff in Vermont and New York are working collaboratively with Federal, State, and local organizations and landowners to inventory, assess, and restore habitat for Eastern brook trout. To date, 27 projects have restored 10.5 miles of riparian and stream habitat. Monitoring shows a 400 percent increase in the number of yearling trout in the affected pools and a 100 percent increase in affected riffles.

First annual Atlantic salmon framework public meeting on March 30th

The FWS, National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources and Penobscot Indian Nation have been working together for the past few years to coordinate and prioritize efforts on behalf of wild Atlantic salmon. These partners share a strong interest in ensuring that individual and combined resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner to maximize the collective ability to successfully protect and recover endangered Atlantic salmon. The result of those collaborations is an Atlantic Salmon Recovery Framework. The partners are very interested in seeking public comments on activities and hearing about complementary activities being undertaken by others on behalf of salmon. To facilitate this information exchange, the partners intend to hold annual meetings during which they will describe the activities they have undertaken over the past year, the status of wild salmon, and the plans for the coming year.

Vieques Sustainability Task Force Meeting

Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 Administrator has established a Vieques Sustainability Task Force (VSTF), and invited members to attend the first meeting in Vieques on April 6, 2011. The main objective of the VSTF is to coordinate and accelerate the Superfund

remediation efforts, and to promote sustainable economic development. The purpose of the meeting is to identify short and intermediate term priorities, and actions and objectives that will benefit residents of the island. Currently, Anthony Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, will represent the Department of the Interior at this meeting.

Office of Surface Mining GeoMine Prototype

Office of Surface Mining (OSM) GeoMine prototype is available for agency review. GeoMine is an interagency effort to create a searchable database and GIS viewer for all coal mining activities, including surface and underground mining. Office of Surface Mining, Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers, and the Appalachian states have provided various data layers. FWS has provided the platform, as well as data layers through the National Wetland Inventory and Endangered Species programs. GeoMine will be linked to IPaC as soon as it is ready. As noted by OSM and the other agencies, FWS is using the most up-to-date technologies, and is leading the way for the most effective and efficient manner to display and access the information. The data layers will be used by field offices and permit reviewers to reduce impacts to aquatic resources and improve cumulative impact analyses. This is an impressive example of how multiple agencies and programs can work together to provide critical landscape level information to the field. We do not anticipate controversy.

Grants

Clean Vessel Act Grants Help Recreational Boaters Keep Waters Clean

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will announce in April that over \$11.7 million will be awarded to 25 states under the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant program in 2011. The first Clean Vessel Act awards were made in 1993. Since that time FWS and Sport Fish Restoration Program has awarded over \$187 million to States for projects that fund construction, replacement, renovation, and maintenance of facilities that assist recreational boaters properly dispose of on-board septic waste, and provide information and education on the importance, benefits, and availability of pumpouts.

America's Great Outdoors

FWS Alaska Youth Activities at Alaska Forum on the Environment

The Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) is a statewide gathering of environmental professionals from government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, community leaders, Alaskan youth, conservationists, biologists and community elders. More than 1200 people attended the February, 2011 event. The Fairbanks and Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Field Offices developed two days of activities that brought more than 50 youth and adult chaperones together to learn more about natural resource careers more.

Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative

The FWS Midwest Region is currently preparing to welcome a new cohort of cross-programatic youth hires through the Career Discovery Intern Program (CDIP), meeting the FWS conservation mission across the region with qualified and talented FY11 field season staff from diverse backgrounds. Meeting the goals defined by the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative the Midwest Region is partnering with Region 5 and NCTC to host the annual CDIP orientation the week of May 30, 2011.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

April 3 – April 9, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – On annual leave all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office all week.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: BLM-ID China Mountain Wind Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Clears Departmental Review:** *A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS for the 425-MW China Mountain Wind Project in ID and NV is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 8. The 425 MW project would be located on 30,700 acres of public, state, and private lands in the Jarbidge Foothills of southern ID and in northern NV.*
- **New: BLM-CA Casa Diablo IV Notice of Intent (NOI) for EIS:** *The NOI to prepare an EIS for the Casa Diablo IV-Mammoth Lakes Geothermal Development Project in Mono County, CA, was published in the Federal Register on Mar. 25. The public comment period will end on Apr. 25. The proposed 33-MW geothermal power facility would be located on three Federal geothermal leases near Mammoth Lakes, CA, on the Inyo National Forest and adjacent private lands.*
- **New: BLM-NV One Nevada Transmission Line Project NOA:** *The NOA for the Record of Decision (ROD) for the One Nevada Transmission Line Project was published in the Federal Register on Mar. 18. The public comment period closes on Apr. 18. The project is a 236-mile-long, 500-kV transmission line connecting the approved Southwest Intertie Project transmission line to the north and existing lines to the south.*
- **New: BLM-CO Potential Transmission Line Relocation and Release of Wilderness Study Area (WSA):** *The FAA determined that nine poles of a transmission line located between the Blake Field Airport in Delta, CO, and the BLM Adobe Badlands WSA potentially conflict with air navigation. Delta County officials and Cong. Scott Tipton (D-CO) are discussing releasing the Adobe Badlands WSA to allow the line to be rerouted through a corner of the WSA in order to avert the potential conflict.*

Oil & Gas

- **Update: Hydraulic Fracturing Forums:** *The BLM plans to conduct three community forums on hydraulic fracturing in locations that have experienced significant recent increases in natural gas development on Federal lands and leases issued by the BLM topic to be covered will include to best management practices, disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluids, well construction and integrity, production wastewater management and other techniques for protecting drinking water resources.*

The locations and tentative dates include: Little Rock, AR (Apr. 22); Bismarck, ND (Apr. 20); and Denver, CO (Apr. 25).

Timber

- **New: Public Comment Period Begins for BLM-OR Deer North Vegetation Management Treatments Environmental Assessment (EA):** *The BLM-OR will accept public comments on a commercial timber harvest and density management treatments proposed in the Deer North Vegetation Management Project EA during a 30-day public comment period began the last week of March 2011. Approximately 750 to 800 acres (varying by alternative) would be harvested through a combination of commercial thinning, regeneration harvest and group selection prescriptions.*
- **New: BLM-AK Annual Tribal Consultation Meetings:** *In Mar. and Apr., the BLM-AK will conduct consultation meetings with federally recognized Tribes in the East AK planning area. The agenda items will include: Federal subsistence, America's Great Outdoors, protection of cultural resources, implementation-level planning under the East Alaska Resource Management Plan, and education and management of the highway-accessible AK Native Claims Settlement Act 17(b) easements that have heavy public use.*
- **New: BLM-OR Farout Project (EA):** *The BLM-OR Glendale Resource Area will solicit public comments for the Farout Project (EA). The EA is anticipated to be open for a 30-day public comment period starting on Mar. 31. The Glendale Resource Area proposes to offer a timber sale on OR and CA lands by commercial thinning and density management on 745 acres. A subset of road maintenance work would occur on selected road segments where vegetation is inhibiting road maintenance.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **New: BOEMRE Issued Deepwater Guidance Document:** *On Mar. 28, BOEMRE issued additional guidance summarizing and clarifying previously issued offshore deepwater drilling safety requirements. The guidance document also highlights BOEMRE's process for reviewing subsea containment plans for deepwater operations.*
- **New: Eighth Deepwater Drilling Permit Approved:** *On Mar. 30, BOEMRE approved its eighth deepwater drilling permit in the Gulf of Mexico on Shell's Cardamom prospect. This is the first new deepwater well permit under a new exploration plan requiring an EA approved since the drilling suspension.*
- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *The fourth working session occurred on Mar. 29-30 at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., and covered operating agreements and a mechanism for dispute resolution, health, safety and environmental regulations, and inspections. Both parties seek to have a finalized, written document created by the end of 2011. We are exploring the possibility of a meeting between PEMEX, National Hydrocarbons Commission, Oil and Gas Industry, and U.S. Government, in Mexico City on the mechanics of unit operating agreements. The final working group meetings are scheduled for Apr. 27-28 to develop the counter-proposal to Mexico's proposal. Formal negotiations with Mexico are scheduled to begin in May.*
- **Update: Extensions of MA Comment Period:** *The notice, Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on OCS Offshore MA – Request for Interest; Reopening of the Comment*

Period, was published in the Federal Register on Mar. 17. The new deadline for comments and nominations is Apr. 18.

- **New: Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC) Draft Application:** *AWC has submitted a draft application for the development of an offshore High Voltage Direct Current transmission line serving prospective offshore wind projects off Mid-Atlantic coastal states. BOEMRE is currently reviewing the draft application and will share comments with the company within a few days. AWC anticipates submitting a “non-draft application” and qualifications application during the week of Mar. 28-Apr. 1.*
- **New: 8(g) Revenue Disbursement Adjustments:** *Meetings with LA and TX were held during the week of Mar. 17, to explain and discuss the resolution of disbursement issue on OCS Section 8(g) Leases. LA received an over-payment of approximately \$4 million, and TX an under-payment of approximately \$9.2 million of oil and gas revenue. The next scheduled meeting is with AL on Apr. 4. A meeting with MS has not yet been scheduled.*
- **New: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Additional Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf:** *This ANPR addresses recommendations from the “Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf” report that were not included in the Interim Final Rule BOEMRE, published on Oct. 14, 2010. The safety measures recommendations include additional requirements for blowout preventers, remotely operated vehicles, secondary control systems, and cement evaluation techniques. Detailed responses to the questions and ideas posed in this advanced notice of proposed rulemaking would allow BOEMRE to develop more comprehensive regulations, if needed, and have a better understanding of the impacts. The ANPR is expected to complete the Department’s surnaming process early in the week of Apr. 3, and then be sent to OMB for review.*
- **Update: Proposed Rulemaking on Renewable Energy Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf–Acquire a Lease Noncompetitively:** *Under the current regulations the process for acquiring a lease noncompetitively that is initiated by an unsolicited request is inconsistent with the process for acquiring a lease noncompetitively that is initiated by BOEMRE. To remedy this inconsistency, BOEMRE published a proposed rule on Feb.16, and received a total of 76 comments. After reviewing the comments on the proposed rule, BOEMRE concluded that there is no compelling reason for publishing the final rule. The rule package is scheduled to be submitted for the Departmental review and approval next week.*
- **No Change: Western Planning Area (WPA) Sale 218:** *The NOA is scheduled to be submitted to the Federal Register on Apr. 19. Public meetings are expected to be held in May.*
- **New: New GAO Engagement: Use of Chemical Dispersants:** *At the requests of Reps. Miller and Markey, GAO is starting a multi-agency review of the use of chemical dispersants following the Deepwater Horizon spill. Key issues include the decision-making process for use of dispersants; the process for developing and maintaining the approved list of dispersants, how this process considers potential environmental risk; and the state of research on dispersants. An entrance conference with BOEMRE has been scheduled for Apr. 5.*

- **New: Development & Production Plan (DPP) for Carpinteria Field Offshore CA:** *BOEMRE plans to deem the Carpinteria Field DPP submitted and complete this week. The DPP proposes development of the State portion of the Carpinteria Field. BOEMRE will be preparing a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement with the CA State Lands Commission (SLC) on this project.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **No Change: OSM Director to Testify on Bureau's FY 2012 Proposed Budget to Subcommittee of House Natural Resources Committee:** Director Pizarchik will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, on the BLM's Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Minerals Budget request.

WEEK AHEAD – April 3 to April 9, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, April 4

- **New: Colorado Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *BLM CO State Director Hankins, and BLM Legislative Affairs staff will meet with members and staff of the CO Congressional delegation during the week of Apr. 3 to discuss public land management issues in CO.*
- **New: Meeting Scheduled for BLM-OR Advisory Council:** *BLM-OR will host a meeting of the Steens Mountain Advisory Council at the Burns District Office to discuss the following: 1) Field Manager updates; 2) the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative; 3) the Steens Mountain Comprehensive Recreation plan and vision statement; 4) the District Road Maintenance Policy and planned road work in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area; 5) sage-grouse and Candidate Conservation Agreement and Assurances; 6) a review of the BLM Opportunities Map pertaining to sage-grouse; and 7) the Conservation Easement Plan.*

Tuesday, April 5:

- **No Change: FY 2012 BLM Budget Request Oversight Hearing:** BLM Director Abbey will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, on the BLM's Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Minerals Budget request.

Wednesday, April 6:

- **New: BLM-WY Sand Hills/JO Ranch ACEC Management Plan Meeting:** *The BLM-WY Rawlins Field Office will host a public meeting to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in drafting the Sand Hills/JO Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Management Plan. The event marks the beginning of a 30-day public comment period. The Sand Hills/JO Ranch encompasses nearly 12,700 acres between Rawlins and Baggs, WY.*

Friday-Saturday, April 8-9:

- **New: Meeting Scheduled for BLM-CA Advisory Council:** *The BLM-CA Central California Advisory Council will meet to discuss the Clear Creek Management Area closing, the Bodie Hills Wilderness Study Area, and community planning in the Konica Valley.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Week of April 4:

- **No Change: Deepwater Horizon Investigation:** The Joint Investigation Team, which is examining the Deepwater Horizon explosion and the resulting oil spill, will hold a seventh session of public hearings beginning Apr. 4. The hearings will focus specifically on the forensic examination of the Deepwater Horizon blowout preventer.

Wednesday, April 6:

- **New: Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) National Schedule Coordinating Committee (NSCC):** *Members of PREP NSCC, including BOEMRE staff, will meet at U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) headquarters to assess the need for revision of PREP guidelines, evaluate PREP credit requests, review the national exercise schedule, and discuss exercise coordination. The NSCC is comprised of representatives from BOEMRE, EPA, MSHA, and the USCG.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Environmental Groups Sue West Virginia Coal Company Over Alleged Selenium Discharges:** *On Mar. 23, the Sierra Club, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, and the WV Highlands Conservancy filed a complaint in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of WV against ICG Eastern, LLC, for violations of the CWA and SMCRA at the company's Knight-Ink No. 1 Surface Mine in Webster County. The plaintiffs allege that the mine continues to discharge selenium into waters of the US, violating Section 301 of the CWA and the conditions of the company's NPDES permit. The plaintiffs further allege that these discharges violate the performance standards under SMCRA and the terms and conditions of ICG's surface mining permit. The lawsuit is the latest development with regard to this issue, which began when the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issued an order in 2007 requiring ICG to install selenium treatment facilities by Apr. 2010*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Thursday, April 14

- **No Change: BLM-AK Subsistence Advisory Meeting:** The BLM-AK will hold a National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Subsistence Advisory Meeting at the Community Center in Wainwright, AK. The discussion topics include a review of BLM Arctic Field Office projects, the BLM Wild Lands policy, an update by Conoco Phillips AK and Fex LP on well plugging efforts, an update on cleanup efforts at the Wainwright

DEW site, and a review of community concerns. The NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel is comprised of eight representatives from Native AK communities on the North Slope.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, April 12:

- **Update: BOEMRE/NC Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The second Task Force meeting has been tentatively rescheduled to Apr. 12. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the preliminary Call area.*

Wednesday, Apr. 13:

- **Update: BOEMRE and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Response Workgroup:** *The Workgroup will meet at USCG headquarters to review the status of twelve tasks related to oil spill planning, preparedness, and response. Emphasis is currently being placed on developing of a scope of work for a research project to establish new standards for the effective daily recovery capacity of skimming systems, creating and testing of a Job Aid for USCG review of worst case discharge (WCD) scenarios of oil spill response plans OSRPs, and reviewing Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) to ensure that OSRP WCDs and appropriate response strategies are incorporated into the ACPs.*

Thursday, Apr. 14:

- **New: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Meeting:** *BOEMRE's Alternative Energy Programs staff will give a presentation to the MAFMC at their Apr. council meeting in Annapolis, MD to discuss recent DOI offshore wind energy initiatives such as Smart from the Start and leasing activities offshore specific Mid-Atlantic States. MAFMC is comprised of _____.*

Mid-Apr.:

- **Update: The Atlantic Wind Energy Science Technology Workshop:** *To assist in the environmental review and evaluation of sites for new offshore wind projects under the Secretary's "Smart from the Start" wind energy initiative, BOEMRE is planning a 3-day workshop in the D.C. area to provide a summary of recent and ongoing environmental, socioeconomic and technological/safety studies that are relevant to the development of wind energy areas and will identify information needs and gaps.*

Monday, Apr. 18:

- **No Change: Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee:** *The first meeting of the Committee will be held in Washington, DC. A Federal Register notice was published on Apr. 1.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Update: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) 2011 Tree-Planting Events:** *OSM's Appalachian Region, along with its state partners, continues to conduct tree-planting activities throughout the Region this spring in support of ARRI. The events*

are as follows: Apr. 15--VA Department of Mines Minerals and Energy; Apr. 16--OH Department of Natural Resources with Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation; and Apr. 16--OH Department of Natural Resources and Barnesville Area Reforestation Committee, in Belmont County, OH.

Weekly Report
April 1, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities April 4-8:

Anne J. Castle – April 4-8 in DC, attending various meetings.

John Tubbs – April 4-5 in Traverse City, MI, as keynote speaker and panelist at USGS Great Lakes Science Center; April 6-7 in DC, attending various meetings; April 8 personal leave.

Deanna Archuleta – April 4-8 in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – April 3-5, Bi-National meeting of the Mexico Geological Survey and the USGS, Acapulco, Mexico; April 6, Federal Coordination of STEM Education Task Force Meeting, Wash., D.C.

Mike Connor – April 4 in DC; April 5-6 participating in IBWC Bi-National meeting in El Paso, TX; April 7, attending meeting in Denver with Reclamation Managers; April 8, in DC.

Reclamation

- **Rural Water Podcast (Great Plains)**
On April 4, the Great Plains Region will post a podcast on the topic of rural water. The podcast focuses on the general overview of rural water, with a theme of “Transporting Water from Where There is Too Much or it is not needed to Where There is not enough.”
- **Palisades Dam Security Enhancement EA/FONSI (Idaho)**
The Pacific Northwest Region has completed a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of no Significant Impact for the Palisades Dam Security Enhancement Project. The project is designed to correct security vulnerabilities related to motor vehicles traveling across the top of the dam. A bridge alternative was selected as the preferred action alternative. The planned construction period for implementing the bridge alternative is October 2011 through May 2012. Palisades Dam, a zoned earth-fill structure, is located on the upper end of the Snake River about seven miles southeast of Irwin, Idaho. The dam was constructed by Reclamation in 1957 as part of the Palisades Project. It is a multipurpose facility that provides irrigation, flood control, hydropower, and recreation benefits.

- **Potential Schedule Delay on Folsom Dam and Reservoir Joint Federal Project**
 On January 15, 2011, Reclamation completed the second of two assigned phases for the Joint Federal Project (JFP) at Folsom Dam and Reservoir (Folsom). JFP Phases I and II were completed according to schedule and approximately \$100 million under budget. On March 3, 2011, the Corps of Engineers (Corps) informed Representative Doris Matsui that the completion date of JFP will be delayed by at least 3 years. According to the Corps, the main reasons for the delay are site access by their contractor(s), Reclamation security requirements, reservoir operations and mitigation of air, noise and traffic impacts. A preliminary assessment by Reclamation, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and the State of California Reclamation Board (State) generally concludes that (1) the reasons presented by the Corps for the delay can all be addressed in the short-term and do not present any significant impediment to the project schedule; and (2) the delay can be minimized or eliminated assuming decisive action by the Corps in partnership with Reclamation. All involved agencies, including the Corps, have agreed to convene a value planning process the week of April 4, 2011, to develop a comprehensive plan of action for getting the JFP back on schedule for completion by 2015. Reclamation is also preparing a Technical Memorandum in coordination with the Corps to document the increased dam safety risk resulting from the potential delay. Folsom is already rated as the highest dam safety priority of any facility in Reclamation.

- **Klamath Project Draft Operational Strategy Undergoing Review (Oregon/California)**
 Reclamation has presented a draft operational strategy to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the four Klamath Basin Tribes for consideration. The objective of the strategy is to comply with the NMFS Biological Opinion in a manner that will have less impact to Upper Klamath Lake elevations and project deliveries throughout the year when compared to the previous operations strategy, known as the Water Supply Index. This new operational strategy has also been presented to the Klamath Water Users Association for comment before it is finalized in the operations plan the first week of April. Upper Klamath Lake is currently full and the snowpack is 136 percent of average. Conditions at Gerber Reservoir and Clear Lake are also positive and the probability of full deliveries to Klamath contractors and refuges is promising. On April 1, 2011, local irrigation districts plan to begin charging the canals.

- **Releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead (Arizona)** Snowpack conditions above Lake Powell have remained above average since late December 2010 (105 percent of average). The March 2011 24-Month Study, with the Most Probable water year unregulated inflow projection, projects a 97 percent probability that equalization releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead will occur in 2011. The amount released is the amount necessary to get Lake Mead to elevation 1105' MSL as of October 1, 2011 (it was at 1082' in November 2010), which is currently estimated at approximately 11.3 million acre feet (8.23 MAF is the normal release).

- **Bi-National Meeting on Minute 319 to the Mexican Water Treaty (Texas)**
On April 6, Reclamation's Commissioner Michael Connor, Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak, Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee and Deputy Regional Director Jayne Harkins will participate in a bi-national meeting in El Paso, Texas, and International Boundary and Water Commission Commissioner Drusina (U.S.) and Commissioner Salmon (Mexico) to discuss ongoing Colorado River issues.
- **Reclamation Issues a Final Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Palisades Dam Security Enhancement (Idaho)**
The Snake River Area Office of Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region has completed a Final EA and FONSI for the Palisades Dam Security Enhancement Project. The Project is designed to correct security vulnerabilities related to motor vehicles traveling across the top of the dam, and the Draft EA analyzed the impacts of five alternatives including a no action alternative. After reviewing public and agency comments on the Draft EA, and considering all of the potential security and environmental impacts, a bridge alternative has been selected as the preferred action alternative. The overall construction period for implementing the selected bridge alternative is planned for October 2011 through May 2012.

Congressional Activity

- **April 5** – the House Water and Power Subcommittee will hold a hearing in Washington titled “Creating Abundant Water and Power Supplies and Job Growth.” No Federal witnesses are invited.
- **April 11** – the House Water and Power Subcommittee has announced plans to hold a field hearing in Fresno, CA, titled “Creating Jobs by Overcoming Man-Made Drought: Time for Congress to Listen and Act.” Reclamation testimony is in surname.
- **April 13** – the Senate Energy and Water Development Subcommittee is holding an appropriations hearing.
- **April 27** – the Senate Full Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a field hearing in Santa Fe, NM, on “Climate Change and Western Water Supplies.” Details are TBA.

U.S. Geological Survey

EMBARGOED: New Publication Updates Status of Polar Bears in the Northern Beaufort Sea. In 2007, the USGS and an international team of collaborators conducted an intensive effort to analyze existing data and then forecast the future status of polar bears worldwide under rapidly declining sea ice conditions. This effort produced 9 administrative reports used by the Department of the Interior in reaching its decision to list the polar bear in 2008 as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. One of the reports analyzed long-term data for the Northern Beaufort (NB) population, located in the Convergent Sea Ice ecoregion of Canada, adjacent to Alaska, and one of 19 polar bear populations worldwide. This study, led by Ian Stirling of the Canadian Wildlife Service, will be published online during April 2011 (exact date unknown) in the journal Ecological Applications. The study concluded that survival of polar

bears varied by age class and with changes in sea ice habitat. The NB population appeared to have been stable or increasing over the course of the study, 1971-2006. Although sea ice has declined in this region, sea ice still occurred over the continental shelf during most of the year. This situation contrasts with changes observed in other ecoregions where the sea ice has retreated completely off the shelf during summer and fall, associated with declines in polar bear survival and population size. The stability of the NB polar bear population likely reflects that sea ice has remained suitable and that harvest has not exceeded sustainable levels.

Visit by Georgia and South Carolina Governor's Committee for the Savannah River Basin to Field Site: On April 7, a USGS team of geologists drilling a 1,000-foot core hole and test well on Hilton Head Island, SC, will be visited by the Georgia and South Carolina Governor's Committee for the Savannah River Basin, a subcommittee created to address saltwater intrusion issues. The test well and core samples will be used to gain knowledge about the Floridan aquifer, an important source of groundwater in the Hilton Head area. During the April 7 visit, the South Carolina State Geologist, a representative from the SC Department of Health and Environment, and USGS geologist Art Schultz will address the subcommittee.

USGS Landsat Program Highlighted at Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting: More than 70 USGS scientists will make presentations at the world's largest gathering of geographers, the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, April 12-16, in Seattle, WA. USGS science topics will range from natural hazards research to specialized applications of remote sensing to historical maps and historical land use. USGS organized sessions include the range of USGS Historical Data and Land Cover Trends in the United States. Matt Larson, USGS Associate Director for Climate and Land Use Change, will lead an expert panel discussion on the expanded role of the Landsat program under the President's National Space Policy.

Volcano Hazards: UNESCO has agreed to publish the report "Best Practices in Short-Term Eruption Forecasting" that will result from a forthcoming international meeting of volcano observatory scientists in Erice, Italy. This first-ever globally inclusive meeting specifically for exchange of experiences among volcano monitoring practitioners is being co-convened by USGS and Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV). INGV monitors Italy's active volcanoes including Vesuvius, Stromboli, and Etna.

National Research Council report on NEHRP roadmap: The National Research Council released a report this week entitled "*National Earthquake Resilience: Research, Implementation and Outreach.*" The report uses the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) strategic plan to recommend a roadmap of national needs in research, knowledge transfer, implementation, and outreach to provide the tools to make the United States more earthquakes resilient. The report assesses the activities and the costs that would be required for the Nation to achieve earthquake resilience in 20 years. The report was funded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as the NEHRP lead agency.

Ongoing USGS response to Japan earthquake: The USGS National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) continues to report on aftershocks that have rattled Japan ever since the magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck off the east coast of Honshu on March 11. To date, NEIC has

recorded more than 375 aftershocks over magnitude 5; 44 over magnitude 6; and 2 over magnitude 7. The vast majority of these earthquakes are in the offshore area ruptured by the magnitude-9 mainshock, but there also have been magnitude-6+ earthquakes in western and southern Honshu. These events are a reminder that damaging earthquakes can occur anywhere on the island. The frequency but not the magnitude of aftershocks will tend to decrease with time, and the general decrease of activity may be punctuated by episodes of higher activity. The USGS is holding regular calls to coordinate post earthquake investigations by the four NEHRP agencies and their government and academic partners. USGS scientists continue to provide media interviews, brief Congress, and participate in White House coordination meetings.

Equus Beds Aquifer in Kansas Recovers 65 Percent of Water Resources: The Kansas *Equus* Beds aquifer recovered about 65 percent of its water storage volume that was lost from 1940 through 1992, according to a USGS and City of Wichita cooperative study. The *Equus* Beds aquifer and Cheney reservoir provide water to the City of Wichita, which was not expected to meet projected city water needs into the 21st century. Major factors that aided the aquifer's recovery include: a 46-percent decrease in municipal water withdrawal from the City of Wichita between 1993 and 2009, a greater reliance on Cheney Reservoir, and increased annual precipitation. To help meet future water demands, the Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery project is using water from the Little Arkansas River to artificially recharge the *Equus* Beds aquifer. The report and news release are expected to be released in the next week.

USGS to Participate in Media Tabletop for FEMA's National Level Exercise: USGS will be the subject matter expert providing a presentation and answering media's questions about the risk of a New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake at FEMA's media tabletop exercise, currently scheduled for April 8, 2011. FEMA is conducting the tabletop exercise for the media to provide background information and awareness of the upcoming National Level Exercise around a New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquake scheduled for May 16-20, 2011. The date is subject to change per FEMA's direction.

USGS to host the National Wildlife Federation: USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and US Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Refuge will host the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) on April 16, 2011. The National Wildlife Federation will be holding their 75th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 12-16, 2011. As part of all their annual meetings, they plan a conservation work day near the meeting location, and they have chosen Patuxent to be this year's site. Approximately 300 National Wildlife Federation members and their families will restore habitat areas in the refuge by planting 6,000 plants, removing invasive plants and restoring USGS pens used by endangered species, do several citizen science projects for USGS, and develop and dedicate the Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling Conservation Heritage Trail at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. The NWF has invited the press, congressional leaders, and officials of the Federal government to participate in this event.

Losses of Bats to Agriculture Could Reach Billions Annually: New analyses published in *Science* on April 1 suggest that loss of insect-eating bats in North America because of white-nose syndrome and increased development of wind-power facilities could lead to agricultural losses estimated at 3.7 billion a year. White-nose syndrome has likely killed more than one million bats already, and several species of migratory tree-dwelling bats are being killed in unprecedented

numbers at wind turbines across the country--by 2020 an estimated 33,000 to more than 100,000 bats may be killed annually across just the Mid-Atlantic Highlands. The mortality from these two factors is likely to have long-term effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and on agricultural systems. The authors, from the USGS, University of Pretoria (South Africa), and University of Tennessee, note that bats are among the most overlooked, yet economically important, non-domesticated animals in North America, and their conservation is important for the integrity of ecosystems and in the best interest of both national and international economies.

Congressional Activities

- **Senate Staff Educational Opportunity:** On April 8, the USGS has been invited, along with the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to brief Senate staff on USGS oil and gas assessments. Brenda Pierce, USGS Energy Resources Program Coordinator, will discuss, geology, oil and gas formation, resources versus reserves, how we do assessments, what they mean, how resources change over time (conventional, unconventional, etc.). Gene Whitney, CRS, will talk about reserves, what the Securities and Exchange Commission does the economics of petroleum, etc.
- **House Oversight Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Relations Hearing:** The Subcommittee has invited the USGS, NOAA, and FEMA to a hearing on April 14 to discuss "the status of Tsunami warning and preparedness generally, and on related matters such as Federal organization, collaboration with State and Local disaster response agencies, and so on."

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- HPPG/ Public Safety and Justice: The Office of Justice Services-OJS in coordination with the Tribes and our federal family has achieved a combined reduction of 11% of violent crime on all four reservations.
- TLOA: The first of four DOJ/BIA/NCAI webinars titled- Overhauling the System: A Long Term Plan to Address Detention in Indian Country was held March 30, 2011. The OJS and DOJ are collaborating on the detention plan required by TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from BIA's Office of Indian Services and the Bureau of Indian Education will be asked to participate in sub-committees appropriate for their discipline.
- Suicide Prevention Conference: Efforts are underway with the Indian Health Service on scheduling a date to hold the joint Conference.
- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): On target to meet all milestones for the initiative. Efforts continue on many external fronts with partnership work ongoing with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services and internally with the Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services and the Office of Indian Services.
- Homeland Security: Indian Affairs Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) continues to partner with the Office of National Director Intelligence (ODNI) on its survey to Tribal Nations. The ONDI survey is focused on determining which Tribal Nations receive aviation security intelligence/information from any level of government and/or someone who provides the same information to any level of government and/or someone who should be receiving or providing aviation security intelligence/information to any level of government. The survey is expected to be sent out within the next 30 days.

- Disaster Behavioral Health: OHSES, in partnership with SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center, will be working on a needs assessment survey on disaster behavioral health issues for tribal communities. Both agencies are working on an assessment that can be sent to the tribes to assess their needs for behavioral health as a part of long term recovery goal to a disaster situation.

RESTORATION OF TRIBAL HOMELANDS

- The BIA has accepted **10,424** acres into trust on behalf of the Department during the first three months of 2011 calendar reporting year. The collective efforts of regional and agency staff have resulted in **101,693** acres being accepted into trust for the benefit of Tribal Nations from 2009 to 2011.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Tribal Consultation: The final meeting of the joint team of Tribal and Federal representatives (for DOI's policy) was held on March 30, 2011.
- Water Settlements: A Dear Tribal Leaders letter was sent on March 17, 2011, signed by the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs giving advance notice to the Tribes that a Tribal Listening Session would be held in Arizona within the next 60 days. In partnership with BoR, efforts are underway to finalize details for the Session. The Session seeks to hold discussions with the Tribes on the status and future implementation of the provisions in the Arizona Water Settlement Act regarding the water and funding allocations from the Central Arizona Project and the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund as enacted by the Congress.
- Internal Tribal Disputes:
 - *Southern Ute Indian Tribe (CO):* There are five candidates that are currently running for the position of Tribal Chairman in the upcoming special election. The candidates include Matthew Box, the former chairman who resigned on February 11, 2011. The election is scheduled for April 12, 2011. Bureau of Indian Affairs officials will observe the proceedings. The Tribal Council has appointed an Interim Chairman that will serve until the Special Election.
 - Western Shoshone Judgment Fund Distribution: The Congress has directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Western Shoshone Judgment Roll consisting of individuals who (a) possess at least ¼ degree of Western Shoshone blood; (b) are citizens of the United States; and, (c) were living on July 7, 2004. The deadline for application to be considered eligible was extended to January 3, 2011. The Western Regional Office completed the first partial payment of approximately \$ 60 million dollars to 2751 eligible Western Shoshones. The Regional Office met the target deadline to make a partial payment with elders as the top priority and all approved applications for adults.

EDUCATION

- SIPI: BIE is anticipating the formal report from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) stating that the institution has met the eligibility requirements for continued candidacy.

- ESEA Reauthorization: BIE has provided a paper on aspects of the reauthorization measure. Further internal discussion will be forthcoming in this area.
- Let's Move! In Indian Country (LMIC): A target date of June 14 has been selected by the White House for the launch day for LMIC. However, as BIE schools will not be in session, an alternative launch date is being planned.
 - The BIE has over 12,668 PALA participants completing the PALA challenge, with 68 PALA Coordinators and 57 registered schools.
 - Pre-school populations will now be included in the LMIC efforts. Brandi Sweet and Shaun McCarty are working with the Indian Health Services, Center for Disease Control and Domestic Policy Council to develop metrics for this population under LMIC. BIE is looking at develop metrics for the FACE program.
 - LMIC Toolkit is in the final stages. Graphics and supplemental documents are being reviewed and added.
 - The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has volunteered to host and manage the LMIC website, however the White House has indicated that they would like the center of Indian Affairs, DOI, to host the website. Due to limited staff, DOI is unable to host the LMIC website. This issue is still under discussion.
 - The BIE Wellness Policy document is in the comment stage. Comments from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, the Indian Health Service, Center for Disease Control, BIE Field Offices and the USDA have been received. Drafts have also been submitted to BIE Management and the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs office. Tribal consultation dates have been scheduled for May 12, 19, and 26, 2011.
- Elementary and Secondary Education:
 - The Sherman Indian High School faces severe reductions in funding based on the established three year Average Daily Membership (ADM) formula. BIE is in the process of reviewing several options to address the funding levels and maintain the quality of the education experience for our students. Some of the options discussed, thus far, include implementing a Reduction in Force (RIF) of staff, and contracting out the food and residential services. The School Board is aware and unanimously decided to attempt to apply for the conversion of the school from BIE operated to a tribal grant school. This will require the approval, through Tribal Resolutions, from the tribes representing 80 percent of the students, and is considered a viable solution.
 - The recent closure of the San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School (BIE Operated) by the San Felipe Pueblo Tribal Council was resolved by the Deputy Director School Operations. BIE Senior Management will establish a mechanism for handling tribal decisions impacting instruction time in BIE operated schools.
 - BIE is moving forward to become Federal partners with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in an effort to promote National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.
- Safety/Facilities:

- The Red Rock Day school experienced a propane leak that was quickly isolated and resolved. A contractor/vendor was used to make the necessary repairs. Students and staff were not in danger and an evacuation was not necessary.
- DOI, ED and OMB participated in a conference call regarding possible funding for the Tribal and BIA operated Juvenile Detention Centers (JDCs). According to ED, JDCs are not eligible for the Title III-Part D, Neglects and Delinquent Children program according. ED would consider some language in the reauthorization which would make them eligible under Title I-Part A programs, but DOI would have to use existing monies to fund the new students in JDCs.
- Professional Development:
 - School Improvement Grant Work Sessions, Phoenix Arizona, March 22-24
 1. The Department of Education's School Improvement Grant process addresses schools in the bottom 5 percent in student achievement. Significant changes will be made within these schools in an effort to improve student proficiency in math and reading.
 2. Follow-up work sessions will be scheduled to complete the applications.
 - A Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) training session for Education Line Officers, school administrators and the school safety points of contact is scheduled for April 28 from 10:00-12:00 CST during the Associate Deputy Director's (East) teleconference with the Education Line Officers.
- PostSecondary:
 - Leadership Panel: The memorandum for the Secretary's signature which asks other DOI bureaus and offices to submit names of representatives for a leadership panel to work with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) is in the surname process as of March 30, 2011. The leadership panel is part of an agreement signed by BIE and AIHEC last month.
 - Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI):
 - A comprehensive onsite visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) was conducted on March 21-23, 2011. An official report will be forthcoming in approximately six weeks. Unofficially, the visiting team found:
 - SIPI meets the eligibility requirements for continued candidacy.
 - SIPI met all expectations regarding the issues identified in the July 2, 2010 final letter.
 - SIPI assembled and provided evidence to demonstrate they could apply for accreditation; however, HLC is in the process of establishing procedures that will determine the timeline for this to happen. SIPI is building an infrastructure and implementing a strategic plan, however, HLC feels that more time to implement proposed processes will be necessary to measure success.
 - HLC commended the "remarkable" progress made in a very short time frame. HLC was impressed that SIPI had completed its strategic plan and recently hired Institutional Effectiveness Specialist.

- A community meeting was held on March 23, 2011, to debrief community members about the HLC visit.
- Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU):
 - The Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors has organized a targeted youth recruitment event at the HINU Career Fair, March 31-April 1, 2011. Various DOI Bureaus have been advertising employment opportunities to Haskell students for the past several weeks and will travel to HINU to interview students. HINU Staff has worked closely with the Youth Office in preparation for this event.
- Legislative Language: Dr. Jim Martin and Juanita Keesing continue to work with the Department's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, as well as representatives from the Solicitor's office on legislative language which could assist the BIE in providing funds to juveniles in detention facilities. The development came following a review of proposed language amending the ESEA that was specific to the States and was adding language to include a percentage of funds for Puerto Rico. BIE, by MOA with the Department of Education, is considered a 51st State, and is working on a change to the Title III language. As of this writing, the Department of Education has suggested that BIE use the funding it receives in Title I and the Department of Education will develop language to allow the BIE to use funding for the education of incarcerated juveniles. The meetings continue.
- Bill of Collections: The Bill of Collections for Lac Courte Oreilles School, and most probably the offset (Garnishment of grant funds), have been put on hold by Treasury at the request of Minneapolis Education Line Officer, through NBC, pending follow up by the Education Line officer after settlement negotiations.
- Cooperative Agreement: The Cooperative Agreement for Turtle Mountain Middle and Turtle Mountain Elementary School were forwarded to the Twin Cities Field Solicitor's office for review and comment on Monday, March 21, 2011.
- Labor Relations: BIE continues to work with the BIE's Human Resources office regarding school issues reported to the Union. This process has been clearly identified by all parties involved with follow up and technical assistance continuing to be provided to BIE Bargaining unit employees.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California. IEED will have two booths at this conference to further market the Wind Atlas for all tribes seeking company and investor partners. The purpose behind attending the Conference is to assist tribes who would like to develop wind energy projects on their reservations and are actively seeking wind developer and/or investor partners.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY **IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION**

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. A total of 20 solicitations were received by the Department to conduct the follow-up study; 8 solicitations were agreed upon by the selecting panel to hold oral presentations. The Chief of Staff has taken an active, leadership role in these proceedings on behalf of Indian Affairs. Presentations are scheduled to begin the week of April 6 to assist in the selection of a contractor out of the possible 8 proposals.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: Indian Affairs has notified the Department of its need for an extension to the March 15 due date to OMB for its passback directive to address consolidation of its field sites. BIA has been working feverishly on the analysis as directed by the OMB passback language, however, due to the complexity and size of the BIA organization itself, additional time is required to complete the work.

OUTREACH

- The Haskell Career Fair, Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, is scheduled for March 31 to April 1, 2011.
- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs is scheduled to travel throughout Indian Country to meet with Tribal Leaders:

April 1 – 14, 2011:

Wind River, WY: Meet with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribal Councils; meet on law enforcement issues with judicial officials at the HPPG site; and hold an All Employees meeting at the BIA Wind River Agency.

Billings, MT: Give the Keynote speech at the Working Together – Building Partnerships for Indian Children Conference on Indian Children; meet with the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council; and visit the BIA District I law enforcement office (HPPG site).

Browning, MT: Meet with the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council; visit a local BIE funded school; and hold an All Employees meeting at the BIA Blackfeet Agency.

Rocky Boy, MT: Meet with the Rocky Boy Business Council and the Ft. Belknap Community Council; and visit the BIA law enforcement officials (HPPG site); and hold an All Employees meeting at the BIA Fort Belknap Agency.

Lame Deer, MT: Meet with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council; tour the Tribal Court and Prosecution facilities; and visit the (BIE) Busby Elementary School.

Ft. Peck, MT: Meet with the Ft. Peck Tribal Council.

April 25 – 29, 2011:

California: Meet with Northern California Tribes at their request (first trip to meet specifically with the Northern California tribes).

May 2 – 6, 2011:

Palm Springs, CA: Attend the 2011 National Self Governance Conference.

Artesia, NM: Provide the keynote speech at the annual BIA Law Enforcement Memorial.

May 16 – 20, 2011: Attend the USET session in Tunica – Biloxi, MS and meet with individual member Tribes.

June 13 – 16, 2011: Attend the National Congress of American Indians session in Milwaukee, WI.

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs:

April 3 – 5, 2011: Presenting speech at the National Indian Gaming Association meeting, Phoenix, AZ.

April 6 – 8, 2011:

Albuquerque, NM: Attending the Tribal Consultation meetings.

Santa Fe, NM: Attending the 36th Annual Indian Law Conference.

May 15 – 16, 2011: Attending the session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, New York.

- Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development:

March 31: Attend the Tribal consultation meeting in Suquamish, WA.

April 4, 2011: Tentatively scheduled to travel to the Rocky Mountain Region (Montana) with the BIA Director for discussion on the Titling process.

April 17, 2011: Presenting a speech at the 2011 American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference in Bismarck, ND.

- Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

April 27 – 29, 2011: Serving as a panelist on the tribal consultation panel at the DOI-cosponsored *State of Environmental Justice in America* conference in Washington, DC.

- Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

- *Week of April 4, 2011:* Attending the BIA Rocky Mountain Region Transportation Symposium.

- *Week of April 11, 2011:* Scheduled to be in the office the week of April 11, 2011.

- Director, Bureau of Indian Education:

- *March 31 – April 1:* Participation in a roundtable discussion at the Society for Applied Anthropology.

- *April 27 – 29:* Participate in the *No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee* meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL

April 1, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for April 4 to April 10, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report April 4, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (4/4-8)
- Panelist for the Pathways to Leadership Class 2011 Washington session (4/4)

Review – March 28 to April 1

- **New:** The Principal Deputy Special Trustee met with attorneys from SOL's Indian Trust Litigation Office on March 28 regarding litigation with the Osage Nation of Oklahoma. The Court has awarded more than \$330 million in damages; nearly 90 percent constitutes interest. Additional claims date back to the late 1800s and the potential liability could exceed \$1 billion under the interest calculation previously applied by the Court. Efforts are underway to craft a settlement offer before April 11, when briefs are due to the Court regarding a final judgment.
- **New:** The Supervisory Regional Appraiser in the Western Regional Office was advised by the BIA Superintendent at the Pima Agency that the Gila River Indian Community may ask to compact or contract the duties of the appraisal program.
- **New:** OAS personnel met in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from March 14-17 to discuss plans to implement the Mass Appraisal Program System or MAPS, a reference to the Standard 6 Mass Appraisals in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). MAPS will expedite valuations of Indian trust lands cost effectively and in compliance with USPAP. When the system is ready, it will be tested by a third party, such as the Appraisal Institute or the International Association of Assessing Officers. Currently, OAS personnel are working to obtain USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) data to test the system. Unavailable FSA data will require manual entry of tract data (land characteristics) or analysis of TAAMS lease data for compatibility and accuracy of leased acreage.

- **New:** Trust Accountability is working on a project to provide IIM beneficiaries with Internet access to their account data. A Request for Information was issued in FedBizOps on March 21. Responses are due April 11. After the responses are reviewed, OST plans to award a contract.
- **Update:** The Quechan tribal litigation settlement calculations were developed using the government's Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method. OST, DOJ and SOL personnel continue to evaluate the new methodology to determine if it will deliver desired results *and* protect government interests. A status conference with the Judge took place by phone on March 31.
- **Update:** The FTO at the Winnebago Agency partnered with a Nebraska Legal Aid attorney to provide estate planning, including the topics of wills, AIPRA and gift deeds. Participants received financial skills information produced by the First Nations Development Institute. The program was held March 31 at the Macy Senior Center in Macy, Nebraska.

Week Ahead –April 4 to April 8

- **Update:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, is detailed to the OAS office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 21 to April 8. He will continue to develop the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews. Future versions of the system may also provide performance metrics, appraisal analytical tools and appraisal reports.
- **No Change:** Trust Services continues to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.
- **No Change:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency and the FTO at the Southwest Regional Office will partner with First Nations Development Institute personnel to participate in the kickoff on March 17 and the training sessions, which are scheduled for March 30 and April 14.
- **No Change:** Starting in March and continuing for one year, the FTO at the Northern Cheyenne Agency will participate in the new Second Season program, for youth involved in the court system. Six students will participate in the inaugural season. Every two weeks, the FTO will provide one hour of financial skills training, following modules in the First Nations Development Institute workbook. The financial training is one aspect of

the program, which will bring volunteers in many disciplines from across the community to work with participants.

- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than two dozen activities took place in March. Ten have been scheduled to date in April.
- **Update:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). On March 21, the attorneys held a conference call with the Judge. Parties are considering the week of May 23 for a mediation session.

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
April 1, 2011**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY BABAUTA

April 4 – AS-IN Babauta has been invited to meet with President Obama at the Roosevelt Room. The meeting will include AS's from around the federal government and it will be an opportunity to convey how the Administration can ensure it is paying attention to all issues. AS-IN Babauta will speak about job creation, renewable energy, and economic development in the territories.

April 6-8 - AS-IN Babauta and staff will be traveling to St. Thomas, VI. While on island, the AS-IN will be meeting with Governor John deJongh and hosting a press conference regarding the commencement of the *Insular Schools: Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (Insular A, B, C's) Initiative*. AS-IN Babauta will also be attending the the USVI Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN) quarterly meeting as well as meet with Federal partners and local officials regarding the trafficking and smuggling of persons, arms, and drugs into the territory.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

April 1, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: April 1, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Arctic Policy. As a follow-up to the meeting of the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) in Copenhagen, March 16-17, and the interagency Arctic Policy Group on March 24, we are drafting an updated proposal for an Arctic Council Ecosystem-based Management framework. If approved, the updated proposal would call for a meeting of Ecosystem-based Management Experts to be hosted by the United States in the Fall of 2011. This proposal will be discussed at a SAO meeting in mid-April for approval and submission to the May Arctic Council Ministerial.

International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment. We are continuing to plan for this April 14 event. To date, 17 invitees from the EU and 9 countries (Angola, Australia, Canada, India, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia and UK) have confirmed their plans to attend the forum.

Youth: Let's Move Outside. DOI Intranet posted the LMO Toolkit for bureaus to reference as they plan for their LMO summer events and programs. A reporting structure has been developed to collect the number of programs and youth engaged in outdoor activity on our public lands.

Youth: Let's Move in Indian Country. Let's Move in Indian Country will be launched on June 14th. FLOTUS will be announcing the initiative along with the other three Secretaries. The Office of Youth is working on a plan to engage Tribal Leaders before the announcement with a

Call to Action. To date over 13,000 students in 183 BIE schools are working towards the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) by committing 60 minutes of physical activity a day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks.

MANAGEMENT

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations. ONRR is preparing to publish two *Federal Register* Notices (1) an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Federal Gas Valuation Regulations and (2) an ANPR for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Regulations, along with a communications plan and press release to announce their publication. Publication of the ANPRs is anticipated in April 2011.

Indian Oil Negotiated Rulemaking. ONRR is coordinating with the Executive Secretariat and the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee. The Department issued a Federal Register Notice on January 31, 2011 seeking comments and nominees to sit on the committee. Once the comments are analyzed and members approved, the Department will publish Federal Register Notices to announce the members and establish the Committee, and a signed Charter will be filed with Congress. The current estimated timeframe for holding the first meeting of the Committee is May/June 2011.

BUDGET

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolutions. The government continues to operate under terms of the sixth continuing resolution for FY 2011. P.L. 112-6, signed by the President on Friday, March 18 provides appropriations through April 8. The Act includes reductions of \$196.0 million from the 2010 enacted level for Interior programs and continues reductions of \$38 million for Bureau of Reclamation. The reductions included in the CR are primarily the result of eliminating earmarks from the 2010 level and elimination of programs as proposed in the 2011 President's budget request. Reductions in P.L. 112-6 include:

- NPS: -\$125.8 million including Preserve America (-\$4.6 million); Save America's Treasures (-\$25.0 million); Statutory Aid (-\$5.9 million); Construction (-\$72.9 million); and Land Acquisition (-\$17.4 million).
- FWS: -\$45 million including Resource Management (-\$12.1 million); Construction (-\$10.3 million); and Land Acquisition (-\$22.5 million).
- Bureau of Land Management: -\$6.6 million including Management of Lands and Resources (-\$600,000); Construction (-\$2.0 million); and Land Acquisition (-\$3.0 million).
- USGS: -\$17.4 million including earmarks (-\$6.9 million) and Climate Effects Network (-\$10.5 million).
- Bureau of Indian Affairs -\$1.45 million; and
- Insular Areas -\$900,000.

OMB guidance directs that funding availability under a CR be limited through the apportionment process to the lowest of prior year or current year House or Senate passed funding levels. This affects apportionments for accounts zeroed out in H.R.1, (NPS Park Partnerships, FWS North

American Wetlands Conservation Fund and FWS State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program) or funded at a specific rate in P.L. 112-6.

2012 Budget and Hearings. Last week, Congress was in recess. This week, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will hold the final 2012 budget hearing for DOI with BIA/ scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, at 1pm. The House Appropriations Committee will be holding hearings for outside witnesses and Indian Tribes in the coming weeks.

GAO/IG Reports. The list of pending reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
April 1, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Sustainability Council Review of Departmental Objectives and Targets, EMIT. The DOI Sustainability Council initiated the review of the departmental Environmental Management System's Goals, Objectives and Targets. The objectives and targets are used to establish department-wide activities and milestones that will be used to achieve the program area goals in the SSPP and other Secretarial directives. Review of the objectives and targets are open to all Sustainability Council members until April 8, 2011.

New: Navajo Mine, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, New Permit Actions. OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports were approached by a representative of BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal, the current operators of the Navajo Mine, with a request for assistance in organizing DOI bureau/office participation in the development of the draft environmental impact statement. The document will address Federal agency actions necessary before issuance of a new permit extending mining activities into new areas of the existing lease. Depending on bureau decisions on actions that will be necessary, the EIS could be non-delegated because of potential participation by OSM, BIA, BLM and possibly FWS. BHP Billiton's representative requested assistance with organizing an initial meeting of potentially-involved agencies in order to facilitate early decision-making regarding the determination of Federal and DOI leads, agency actions to be addressed in the document, and delegated versus non-delegated status. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers will also be invited along with the Navajo Nation. Significant OEPC involvement will be necessary if it is determined that this will be a non-delegated EIS.

New: Non-Traditional Response Workshop Meeting. On Tuesday, March 22, OEPC hosted the first steering committee conference call for the Deepwater Horizon supplemental funded Non-Traditional Response Project workshop. Participants included representatives from: DOI Office of Collaborative Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR); National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC); Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and USDA. The meeting focused on logistics and refining the scope and deliverables of the workshop, with the group proposing to host a 3 day workshop in DC either May 10-12 or May 17-19. Expected participants include the US Coast Guard, NPFC, FWS, USDA, NPS, NOAA, BIA, a State representative, and EPA.

New: MV Bethesda-Barge MMI-612, Helena, AR at Helena Bridge on Mississippi River. March 17, 2011, the Barge tank contained approximately 2,950 barrels of aviation alkylates and an unknown amount was released. All but 111 barrels were lightered from the damaged cargo tank. NOAA ERD provided scientific support to the USCG Sector Lower Mississippi for safety and environmental issues.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$92.50 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.40 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 Million. The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team is currently reviewing cost documentation packages recently received from USGS and NPS.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque reports that starting April 1, 2011, the FWS and NPS PRFA amendments will be negotiated to include 90-day performance periods through June 30.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque provided notice to FWS and USGS that a request will be coming to Regional Response Team 6 to allow the use of natural sorbents such as sugar cane bagasse, kenaf, or peat moss on oiled shorelines in Barataria Bay, Louisiana, that have been extremely difficult to clean. Normally the National Contingency Plan requires sorbent materials to be collected after they are applied. An exemption to that requirement is being requested.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan. Policy Analysis continues to support the co-chairs of the National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan (SAP) writing team and is acting as one of the primary coordinators and drafters of the Arctic SAP. Policy Analysis coordinated DOI input for the Arctic SAP and assisted with the integration of Interagency Policy Committee and OMB feedback in preparation for the next SAP meeting on April 4.

New: Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council Strategic Action Plan Meeting. The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) will participate in the development of a new strategic action plan for the Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC), April 4-8, on Guam. The NISC is a non-voting member of RISC. While in Guam, NISC staff will also meet with local, regional, and federal staff to discuss the current status and next steps for the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

New: Brown Tree Snake Technical Committee Meeting. The NISC staff will attend and present at the Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Technical Committee on Guam, April 12-15. Goals of this meeting will be to update partners on research and policy development and to work on the BTS Strategic Plan. The NISC will present on the status of the BTS Memorandum of Agreement and the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

New: Klamath. Policy Analysis reviewed and prepared responses to comments received on the revised non-use valuation survey.

Update: Chesapeake Bay Federal Agency Market Survey. At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Ecosystem Markets, Policy Analysis has been asked to help coordinate Interior's response to a Federal agency survey designed to identify potential Federal roles and opportunities in environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay. These markets, designed to reduce environmental impacts, are called for in the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Action Plan. Policy Analysis will work with the USFWS to coordinate DOI bureau and office responses.

Update: National Ocean Policy Meetings Changed. Policy Analysis continues to coordinate implementation of the National Ocean Policy for DOI. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) - Coordinate and Support; and FWS is chairing the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration team. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC) and the National Ocean Committee staff provided initial feedback last week on SAP content outlines and will ask for full outlines by April 8, to be released for public comment in May after additional review. The next ORM IPC meeting will be on April 27 at the Department of Commerce.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Economics Report. Policy Analysis is continuing to edit the draft report.

Ongoing: Public Call for Nominations to Invasive Species Advisory Committee. In early April, the National Invasive Species Committee intends to announce the open submission period for nominations to Class 7 of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee in the Federal Register. The 60-day submission period to fill 13 open seats on the committee will run from April 4 to June 2, 2011.

Completed: Oil and Gas Leasing Information. Policy Analysis assisted in preparing information on federal oil and gas leasing, including information on how the various elements of the fiscal regime might impact industry decisions on leasing and production.

Completed: DOI Restoration Program National Workshop. Policy Analysis helped plan and develop the National Workshop, held March 28 - April 1, 2011, at BLM's National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The workshop provided a forum for Federal, tribal and State Trustees, as well as industry practitioners, to meet and stay informed on issues related to restoration. Policy Analysis provided support staff and session presenters for the week-long program, including a half-day economic training session for natural resource damage assessment and restoration practitioners.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

UPDATE: Native Hawaiian Federal Interagency Working Group – The Native Hawaiian Federal Interagency Working Group held their first meeting on March 25, 2011. Representatives from the three founding agencies (DOD, DOI, and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation) were all in attendance. The first purpose of this Working Group is to establish a process to assist federal agencies with the identification of impediments to meaningful, regular, and appropriate consultation with Native Hawaiian Organizations as required by law, regulation, and policy; and to develop information and recommendations to assist federal agencies with their consultation with Native Hawaiian Organizations. The second purpose of the Working Group is to assist Federal agencies with their compliance activities associated with the administration of federal programs that directly and/or uniquely affect the Native Hawaiian community. The current order of business for the Working group is to develop a web based cultural competency training for Federal officials doing business in Hawaii.

NEW: Hawaiian Home Lands Land Exchange Review - The State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is requesting the review and approval of a revised exchange deed between their Department and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Revision of the deed was necessary because the State of Hawaii Attorney General's description for the Coast Guard site in Lualualei did not meet the requirements for registration of the deed with the Hawaii Land Court. Approval or disapproval of the revised exchange deed by the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget is also required under the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act of 1995 (HHLRA), Public Law 104-42, 109 Stat. 357. The Assistant Secretary has 120 days to review the revised deed starting from the date of the submission of the completed packet (The last document needed for the exchange was received on March 25, 2011). Accordingly, this exchange must be approved or disapproved by July 23, 2011.

Office of International Affairs

Update: Secretary's Trip to Brazil and Mexico. OIA continues to coordinate with Embassies in Mexico and Brasilia, the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro, and DOI bureaus in scheduling meetings and preparing briefing materials for the trip to Brazil and Mexico on March 30 – April 5, including developing the trip agenda, compiling briefing materials, and providing guidance to travelers regarding travel logistics.

Update: Signage Design, Fabrication and Installation in Tanzania. Consistent with previously reported plans, ten DOI-ITAP signage design, fabrication and installation specialists are travelling to community-managed Wildlife Management Areas March 23-April 8 to evaluate existing sign programs and to train and assist community members in the design, development, and implementation of a cost effective, uniform, durable, directional and orientation sign system, as a cash-for-work activity for rural communities under the USAID-funded Financial Crisis Initiative..

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff are working with PPA as well as interagency and international partners to update the US proposal for the Arctic Council to codify its Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approach.

Update: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The CEC has selected the US proposal for a transboundary conservation project in the Big Bend area of the US-Mexico border to appear in the draft operational plan that will be open for public review in April. The CEC chose to combine this project with another one focused on combating invasive species. OIA staff participated in an interagency conference call on March 22 to outline broad conservation goals and US activities in anticipation of future CEC funding opportunities.

Update: World Water Day Preparations. OIA, along with USGS and BOR, facilitated high-level DOI participation in a high-profile signing on World Water Day, March 22, of a new MOU between the USG and the World Bank to increase collaboration on water issues. The MOU was signed by Secretary of State Clinton, Secretary of Treasury Geithner, and World Bank President Zoellick. OIA briefed the AS-W/S, who represented DOI. OIA attended the event. OIA previously worked to ensure that the MOU included appropriate reference to DOI.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

Ongoing: 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. In response to the first recommendation from the America's Great Outdoor Initiative the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors is taking the lead on the implementation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to build upon and leverage the experience and expertise of existing Federal and non-profit programs to facilitate conservation service work/service opportunities on public lands and to encourage a new generation of natural resource managers and environmental scientists. An interagency working group led by the Office of Youth will set priorities and develop an action plan towards implementation.

Ongoing: YouthGo.gov Web Portal. The YouthGo.gov web portal continues to be a one stop shop for young people looking for employment opportunities and fun events, as well as educational resources. The portal allows us improve access to federal resources through an easy-to-use format that matches young people with DOI and partner resources to create a new generation of citizen stewards. It continues to provide alignment with the Let's Move Outside initiative and support the priorities of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership.

The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI's Youth Initiative. Several grant applications have been submitted to support summer, veteran and year-long employment programs.

Youth Diversity/Inclusion

Completed: Targeted Recruitment - Haskell Indian Nations University.

The Office of Youth coordinated a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31 - April 1, for the Department. This event was supported by NPS, BOR, USGS, FWS, BIA, and BIE were they recruited for over 55 positions that were available for students. Bureau leadership established strong relationships with the Haskell student groups and faculty that will become institutionalized via MOUs and cooperative Agreements. This effort demonstrated and will institutionalize the benefits of the target recruitment process for DOI. In addition, the Office of Youth also invited and led OPM, EPA, and HUD towards performing targeted recruit activities and facilitated discussions on partnering with Haskell.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

Ongoing: MOU – DOI NPS Interpretation & Education/ U.S. Dept of Education. First draft of MOU has been developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America's Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education's "Blueprint for Reform."

Ongoing: Initiating Regular Meetings of Bureau Partnership Coordinators. Creating new forum for "Best Practices Network" among DOI staff engaged in the development of Department-wide partnering policies including 1) all Bureau Partnership Coordinators, 2) PMB staff of the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and 3) Office of the Solicitor.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Keep America Beautiful Event. Take Pride in America participated in the Keep America Beautiful – Great American Clean Up event in Philadelphia, PA on Thursday. TPIA recognized outstanding volunteers for their service to their communities.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

New: IT Transformation planning. On March 29, the CIO and DAS Jackson held the first all day planning session with bureau Assistant Directors for Information Resources (ADIRs). The focus of the meeting was on greater collaboration between bureaus and the OCIO in order to ensure robust and thoughtful planning for the IT Transformation initiative.

Update. OIG Migration to ESN. As a part of the IT Transformation initiative, on March 19, OCIO successfully migrated OIG's internet and intranet connections in Denver from their isolated circuit to the Department's network. The same work was completed in Reston on March 5. Future work to migrate the OIG Active Directory to DOI is pending.

Update: IT Transformation Planning for Field Input Sessions. The OCIO IT Transformation team has completed a second series of information gathering / listening sessions in the Pacific Northwest, specifically in Portland, Vancouver, Washington, and Boise. Sessions included both IT and Program staff across all DOI Bureaus and Offices in these areas. The next series of meetings will be held on March 28th through April 1st.

New: Identity management and Access Control (FICAM). OMB issued a new directive in February 2011, requiring agencies to issue a new policy to mandate use of the HSPD12 cards for physical and logical access no later than March 31, 2011. OMB noted that failing to promulgate their policy on or before this date will be highlighted at the PMC council meeting. The OCIO provided a draft policy to PMB for review and approval to meet this requirement.

Office of Valuation Services

Update: Additional Leadership Positions Filled. Offers were made and accepted for the Special Projects Manager and Quality Assurance Officer positions. Both will report within 30 days.

New: OVS Client and Leadership Meeting. OVS will hold its first client management and leadership meeting with OVS's new Director, Deputy Director, client team leads, and bureau reality chiefs next week, April 5th through 7th..

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

Update: Open Government Working Group. The newly expanded Open Government working group met and agreed on priority projects for the next 18 months, focusing on sustainable initiatives to further the goals of making DOI more open, transparent, participatory and collaborative to better support our mission. In addition to the key ongoing projects, including DOI's flagship initiative on climate change and the release of high value data sets for data.gov, new projects to be delivered by the working group members and their partners include: FOIA Improvements; expanded and improved use of social networking and technology tools for engagement; updated DOI policies, education and training on collaboration and participation; increased use of geospatial data to improve existing and new applications; and integration of open government principles and practices into significant departmental initiatives as demonstration projects and opportunities to test innovations.

Update: New DOI policy on Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribes. CADR continues to provide process guidance and support for the ongoing negotiations between DOI representatives and Tribal leaders to develop a new department-wide policy on consultations with Tribes. The final negotiating meeting is taking place this week in Suquamish, Washington. The federal team is led by Jodi Gillette of ASIA.

New: Satellite broadcast on CORE PLUS operating procedures. CADR is delivering an educational satellite broadcast on March 29 for all CORE PLUS roster members and coordinators as a follow up to the CORE PLUS annual workshop held last month. This is the first of several planned educational events to be held via satellite and webinar and other technology tools to identify cost effective and efficient means of ongoing dialogue for CORE PLUS network.

National Business Center

New: Support for Electronic Records. The NBC's Customer Support Center (CSC) participated with the DOI OCIO regarding the Electronic Records and Document Management System. The CSC is planning on providing limited Tier 1 support for this new system.

Update: FBMS Customer Support Performance. The CSC continues to improve service to the FBMS deployed Bureaus and to the FBMS PMO. The CSC started a project in August 2010 to improve First Contact Resolution (FCR) for FBMS. The FCR has improved to 16% in February from 2%. The CSC continues ongoing training and close management oversight in preparation for D6 in November.

New: Aviation Training. AMD Training Division began work on joint NPS/AMD aviation safety video project this week. The video highlights the importance of the NPS/AMD partnership in achieving aviation safety goals.

New: BOEMRE Aviation Support. AMD Safety & Program Evaluations Division participated in a BOEMRE aviation contract proposal assessment valued at \$200M in support of BOEMRE's increased inspection requirements resulting from Deep Water Horizon. The team assessed three aviation contract proposals that will significantly increase inspection capabilities via contracted helicopter services. The assessment encompassed an evaluation from financial, service, and safety perspectives.

New: Unmanned Aerial Systems Success. AMD Safety & Program Evaluations Division Chief and Alaska Regional Director participated in the evaluation of DOI's first operational Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) mission. The joint USGS and FWS mission will observe Sand Hill Crane behavior in Southern Colorado from both an aviation operation and scientific research perspective. Lessons learned and best practices will be developed and applied to other DOI missions in order to advance this technology.

Update: Remote Training. On March 24, 2011, AMD Training Division will deliver the Aviation Management for Supervisors course to remote USFWS refuges and NPS sites in AK via video teleconferencing (VTC). Working in collaboration with the AK USFWS and AK NPS

telecom managers, AMD is leveraging existing USFWS/NPS VTC networks to deliver the course in a cost effective manner.

New: Critical Thinking Training. The Department of Interior's Federal Consulting Directorate will conduct the first in a series of three workshops entitled "Critical Thinking Skills for Federal IT Professionals". The first workshop takes place on April 26th. The workshop uses various experiential learning concepts coupled with multi-dimensional problem solving methods to improve problem solving techniques for accurate, collaborative, and timely solutions that deliver the right results.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: National Park Service (NPS) Accountability Program. Accountability Program Manager Lin Cord is working with the NPS to determine how they can best meet their accountability program obligations. NPS is in the middle of transitioning their human resources (HR) offices to their new Servicing Human Resources Office (SHRO) structure, and consequently, they are having a difficult time finding team members for their FY 2011 reviews. Many of the parks and offices are overloaded and cannot spare employees to work on the review teams because of this transition. The travel ceiling is also a barrier. As a result, NPS may have to postpone most of its FY 2011 reviews, however, is looking into ways in which they can streamline the process and use tools such as surveys instead of interviews, and electronic media such as eOPF to enable them to conduct reviews, at least in part, remotely. While this helps with the travel ceiling concern, finding review participants still remains an issue. The SHRO transition is expected to be completed by September 30, 2011.

Update: Fish and Wildlife Accountability Review. The Accountability team continues to prepare upcoming reviews at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 3, and the Bureau of Land Management's Nevada Office.

Office of Civil Rights

New: National Coalition for Equity in Public Service Diversity Conference. During March 31- April 1, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is participating in the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service Diversity Conference, in Washington, D.C. The conference agenda covers such topics as diversity initiatives, special emphasis programs, and inclusion in the Federal workforce. The conference is co-sponsored by Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) supported by the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS) members of Blacks in Government, Federal Asian Pacific American Council, Federally Employed Women, Hispanic Government Employees, and the Society of American Indian Government Employees.

New: Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Training Conference. During March 31- April 2, 2011, the Department is participating in the Minorities

in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) 26th Annual Career and Training Conference, at the Sheraton Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas. On behalf of DOI, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is also spearheading a workshop, titled **“The DOI: Careers that Count - Natural and Environmental Resources,” on April 2, 2011.** The seminar will consist of presentations from OSM, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation who will introduce students to available careers in science, engineering, technology, law enforcement, and many other professions within the Department.

New: EEO Compliance Training. During March 29-31, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor of OCR will conduct EEO Compliance Training for managers, supervisors, and employees of BIA, Central California Agency, following a finding of discrimination. The training will be held in Sacramento, CA.

Complete: National Women’s History Month. The Department of the Interior proudly joined the Nation in celebrating National Women’s History Month. Throughout the month of March, the Nation honored the achievements of women across the country. The National theme was “Our History is Our Strength.” In observance of Women’s History Month, the Office of Surface Mining hosted a presentation from Dr. Edna Green Medford, Professor and Chairperson for the Department of History, Howard University, on March 23, 2011, in the South Interior Building. Dr. Medford provided a dynamic and very interactive presentation on the role of women in the Civil War.

Complete. Access Issues with MIB & SIB. On March 24, 2011, the Public Civil Rights Division attended a meeting with Program Manager Paul Donnelly from Department of the Interior’s Modernization Program Office, representatives from NBC, and Office of Law Enforcement, Security (OLES, Emergency Management Specialist Dave VanderWeele, and Chief of Internal Security Steve T. Hargrave regarding accessibility issues pertaining to the Main Interior Building (MIB) and South Interior Building (SIB).

Complete: EEO Compliance Training. During March 23-24, 2011, Alvin Dillings, of OCR, conducted EEO Compliance Training for 19 managers/supervisors, and 50 non-supervisory employees of BIA, Colville Agency, following a finding of discrimination. The training was held in Nespelem, WA.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

New: PMB Mentoring Program. The Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development (OSEOD) has currently developed a mentoring program for Policy, Management and Budget (PMB) and is preparing to brief Deputy Assistant Secretary Pam Malam on the program.

New: Tribal Consultation Training. This week, we are working with the Office of Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CADR) and the DOI Consultation team to develop training on this initiative.

New: Office Relocation. We are working with NBC on relocating out of the MIB due to the ongoing modernization. We are currently evaluating potential office sites and developing a budget for the move. We believe the move will occur in the next 10 months.

New: Federal Collaborative e-Learning Laboratory (Fed-CEL). OSEOD is hosting the inaugural meeting of the Federal Collaborative e-Learning Laboratory (Fed-CEL), an online community of instructional designers, graphic designers, Web developers, and subject matter experts that will collaboratively develop federal-wide e-learning courses and content, and share instructional design and e-learning development best practices. The first meeting of Fed-CEL will occur April 5 – 7, 2011, in the Rachel Carson room of the Main Interior Building.

New: Upcoming Career, Balance and Diversity Leadership Forums. On March 30, 2011, the Career, Balance and Diversity Leadership Forum will feature Author Dr. Michael Roberto, who will discuss his book titled “Know What You Don’t Know: How Great Leaders Prevent Problems Before They Happen.” This will provide managers with hands-on recommendations and practical tools on how to avoid falling into decision-making traps applicable to any arena at National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) located in Washington, DC.

New: Scientific Integrity Training. Discussions to develop the mandatory scientific integrity training that support the new policy are now underway.

New: Learning Management System. We reviewed demo from the Department of Energy of an Open Source system as part of a departmental exploration to uncover cost-effective potential replacement for our current Learning Management System (DOI Learn). In addition, OSEOD Director Sandy Wells and Pat Houghton from DOI Learn attended the Learning Solutions conference and expo in Orlando, Florida to begin the process of market research for a future LMS solution

Update: Pathways to Leadership. During the week of April 4, 2011, we are hosting the next core session, Transforming Public Organizations, of the Pathways to Leadership class in Washington, DC. Pathways to Leadership is a DOIU course tailored specifically to emerging leaders in Indian Affairs and the Office of the Special Trustee.

Update: Presidential Management Fellows. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced that the upcoming 2011 Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Finalist Job Fair and Graduation Ceremony will be held the week of April 18, 2011. This year, there were over 800 finalists who were selected from a candidate pool of close to 11,000 high-achieving graduate students.

Update: Skillsoft Open Season now open. The Employees’ skillsoft open season licenses are now available until April 29, 2011. Each license is \$15 which provides access to over 4,000 online courses. Visit www.doiu.nbc.gov/skillsoft for additional information.

Update: On-Line Safety Training. Recently, OSEOD course developers met with the DOI Safety Council to review the curriculum for the executive level online safety course in development. It was well received.

Update: Acquisition Institute: This week, DOIU developed a proposal for an Interior Acquisition Institute (IAI). The proposed structure will include: Recent Graduates Programs (Entry Level); Mid-Level Acquisition Management Development Program (Entry Level-GS-9); GAM Cousins- (Entry Level developmental program for DOI employee only); Federal Acquisition Certification for COTRs (FAC-COTR); Provide certifications in FAC-P/PM training (Entry level, mid-level, and senior level); Partner with GW School of Business to offer Master's Certificate in Project Management.

Completed: BIE Administrative Conference. On March 22-24, 2011 The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) hosted their third Annual Administrative Training Conference at the National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC). Keynote speakers were Mr. Keith Moore, Director of BIE and Vicki Forrest, CFO, BIA. There were approximately 185 participants in attendance with 68 sessions over the three day conference.

Completed: Chief Learning Officers Council. OSEOD Director Sandy Wells and Bureau of OSEOD Deputy Director Jerry Gidner attended the monthly Chief Learning Officers Council meeting. The Patent and Trademark Office presented their Leadership Development program and website, which is Federal government property and available to be adopted free of charge by other Federal agencies. We will review the program in more detail for applicability to DOI.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Safety Management Information System (SMIS). The safety staff has been in Reston, VA working on selecting a contractor to provide SMIS help desk and short term programming assistance.

New: Ergonomics. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protection Programs met with NBC and Department of Labor to review the operation of their Ergonomics Assistance Room.

New: The Division of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protection Programs. The Office of Occupational Health and Safety's Chief of Safety Barry Noll held the BLM Safety and Health Program Evaluation opening conference with the BLM Designated Agency Safety and Health Officials (DASHO) and Safety Manager.

New: Wildland Fire Safety Training. We met with representatives from the OSHA Training Institute on the development of a wildland fire safety training course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Officers.

New: Safety and Health Program Evaluation. The Office of Occupational Safety and Health staffers met with BIA/BIE to discuss their pending Safety and Health Program Evaluation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: Radio Transformation. Jim Douglas, LESEM, briefed the Asset Management Team and participated in a phone call the USDA and USFS CIOs to develop a partnership with them. That effort is continuing. The current portfolio of radio projects in the department was reviewed and an assessment/recommendation on those projects is being prepared for the executive sponsors. Project directors are waiting for approval of funding for the project manager so that further work can take place.

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. The draft of U.S. Coast Guard On-Scene Commander report is being reviewed by those that submitted input. The Gulf Coast Incident Management Team is supporting Coast Guard plans for a one-year anniversary event in April.

Update: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. The revised version of OCIO Directive 2011-001 is being coordinated with the M-11-11 policy document on HSPD-12 implementation before signature by the CIO.

Update: Fire IT Project. The project leaders [Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)] will meet with focus groups in Boise the week of April 18. Jim Douglas briefed Ronnie Levine in BLM.

Update: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

Update: Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. The Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion of a final rule for establishment of this population in Arizona. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed in April 2010. Customs and Border Protection has expressed concerns over the impact of establishing a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Pronghorns on border security operations. Regional and Washington Office staff in FWS have modified the rule and provided CBP with the new language which provides relief from take of the NEP animals. CBP is reviewing this language and additional coordination will take place this week. This proposal is not expected to impact border security operations significantly. The rule needs to be finalized soon to allow for construction of holding pens for release of the animals in the winter of 2011-2012.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Discussions are continuing on the final language to be contained in the amendment. New concerns were expressed by CBP late last week over the basis for the mitigation acreage in Texas which had been previously addressed. Additional meetings are planned for this week and it is hoped a final agreement can be reached by the end of the month. This amendment will result in making available approximately \$22 million to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Based on a thorough assessment of the SBInet program, CBP has modified its direction significantly. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew convened a meeting between DOI bureau personnel and OTIA on March 25 to scope the work that is expected to be undertaken by CBP. It was learned that the immediate next steps will include site visits in Arizona in April to review new tower locations. It is hoped contracts will let this fall for work to be conducted through next winter. The first phase of work will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. A coordination call with FWS and USFS biologists is scheduled for March 29.

Update: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. CBP convened a briefing on the status of this PEIS on January 7. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames, etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on April 22. Public meetings would be held in May with comment closing in early June. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two-hour online, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. Draft storyboards were received from CBP March 22. These will be reviewed by selected DOI personnel and comments provided back to the contractor by April 8. A final module is still expected to be completed in the early summer of 2011.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use three acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. Coordination on NEPA and ESA compliance is continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The meeting originally scheduled for March 9 was postponed due to a schedule conflict with CBP. The meeting will be rescheduled as soon as possible so that alternative sites for mitigation can be evaluated. CBP has indicated that alternate sites may be workable for them.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28 - 30.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004. OLES crafted a response to the Office of the Director of National Counterintelligence (DNI) regarding non-compliance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004. The DNI had requested a response from DOI on why adjudications of background investigations were taking an average of 42 days instead of a mandated 20 days. The OLES Security Division met with the Office of Personnel Management and coordinated a response from all Bureaus/Offices regarding the DNI request.

New: OLES Coordination Meeting with Members of the Intelligence Community. This week, the Intelligence Division will meet with a liaison officer from one of the Intelligence

Community agencies to discuss intelligence support for the Department's Priority Intelligence Requirements and to develop Standing Intelligence Needs across the range of DOI mission areas.

New: OLES Visit to the Southwest Border. In early April, Intelligence Division representatives will be traveling to Tucson, AZ and El Paso, TX to determine how best to develop and institutionalize intelligence sharing protocols within the various USG organizations and interagency forums on behalf of OLES, our various bureaus, and our Department senior leadership. Representatives from the Intelligence Division will engage with several interagency offices and local DOI Bureau representatives to understand their requirements and to determine how best to meet their needs. Also, the Intelligence Division will review existing support activities, identify gaps in intelligence support, and develop roles and responsibilities for an intelligence analyst that complement existing DOI and Bureau efforts, leverage fully the available intelligence resources in the Southwest, and provide appropriate intelligence support to senior decision makers on issues related to the Southwest border.

New: 444 DM 1 "Physical Protection and Building Security" Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled "Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities". The new draft 444 DM 1 has been vetted through all Bureau/Office security directors and is pending a second review. OLES Security plans to provide interim guidance by June, 2011.

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Achieves Green on the Federal IT Dashboard. For the first time in IMARS' history, IMARS has achieved a "green" rating for all elements on the Federal IT Dashboard: Cost, Schedule, and Evaluation by Agency CIO. This increased rating came after the Department of the Interior's Chief Information Officer changed the IMARS rating from a 3 to a 4. With increased IMARS usage, this rating should reach a 5.

Update: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating a review of all Bureaus/Office personnel security programs. The review is conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. Reviews have been scheduled for the Office of the Secretary (April 11), USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

Update: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. An assessment has been scheduled for the St. Louis Arch during the week of April 3. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. Security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 1) have been scheduled for a BOEMRE facility in New Orleans in April and the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

Update: Departmental Security Manager Trip to the Transportation Security Lab.

Working with the United States Park Police, OLES Security Division is coordinating a trip to the Transportation Security Lab (TSL) for Departmental Security Managers on March 31. The TSL, affiliated with the Transportation Security Agency, is the only Federal agency that certifies security equipment. TSL has agreed to allow DOI employees a behind the scenes tour of the facility.

Update: USA Today FOIA Request Regarding DOI Facilities. The Solicitor's office has requested the assistance of OLES Security Division to review a FOIA request from USA Today. The FOIA request is regarding the location (address and descriptions) of all DOI's 46,000 facilities. It is believe the request stems from the effort to remove unused Government property from the inventory. OLES has reviewed and comments on the draft data fields associated with this request. Additional review is pending Bureau/Office comment.

Update: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On March 8, OLES Security Division participated in a conference call with the National Park Service and the United States Park Police regarding security procedures and visitor screening for Liberty and Ellis Island. In addition, a meeting between OLES and the New York Police Department was discussed. To date no additional meetings have been scheduled.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and official turn over to OLES is pending. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** C ramp guard booth (frame) has been delivered and installed. Façade and internal wiring work is scheduled to be completed 2nd/3rd week in April.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation will be posted on the GSA schedule the week of April 4. DAS Andrew Jackson has vetted and provided comments.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed w/in the next two months.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated (\$200,000-\$250,000) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative. A talking points paper was submitted for follow-up.

Update: Federal Chief Information Officer's 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Assistant Director—Technology Division has written a Statement of Objectives (SOO) include in a Request for Information (RFI) to vendors. The Technology Division will issue this RFI in order to learn more about the cloud computing capabilities of the vendors.

Update: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The final Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report for the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project, written by Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, was submitted to the FPA Board of Directors on March 23.

Update: Operation Trident Surge. The final deployment of NPS, BLM, FWS and Forest Service officers ended on Friday, March 18. The focus areas for the last rotation were Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Cabeza Prieta NWR, and nearby BLM Public Lands. The operation yielded narcotics seizures of over 26,600 pounds and over 2,100 apprehensions of undocumented aliens. The After Action Report will be in the next few weeks.

Update: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. There is a Deputies Committee meeting scheduled for April 4 to discuss governance of classified computer systems access.

No Change: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. Per a request from the Executive Steering Council and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices to compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request is due by April 29.

Final: National Fusion Center Conference. OLES attended the National Fusion Center Conference in Denver, participated in a panel discussion to address information sharing with Tribal Nations and conducted an interview with Tribal News Today – click on link: <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/03/indian-lands-key-in-security/>

Final: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Deployment Push
The Technology Division initiated IMARS Deployment Push 1 on March 14. This deployment includes 500 users from the five participating DOI bureaus. This Deployment Push complies with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) recommendation that IMARS should be deployed to users in incremental rollouts in at least six month intervals until the system is fully deployed in December, 2012. The bureaus will deploy IMARS to the 500 users in this Deployment Push by April 29.

Final: Intelligence Community Arctic Working Group Conference. OLES attended a one-day Intelligence Community Arctic Working Group Conference. The conference focused on geospatial issues and human activity in the region. OLES has initiated collaborative relationships with various members of the Working Group associated with key Arctic topics.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* Japanese authorities now report 10,872 confirmed deaths and 16,244 missing following the earthquake and tsunami. International aid continues to support Japan's recovery efforts. In addition, nuclear scientists and engineers continue the attempt to stabilize the damaged nuclear reactors at

the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Radioactive contamination is being closely monitored throughout Japan and the Pacific Basin, but currently no dangerous contamination levels have been detected outside of Japan. EPA has provided radiation monitoring devices to DOI's insular areas. FWS researchers in the Midway Island group report that tens of thousands of Laysan Albatross adults and chicks were lost when the tsunami inundated the islands. NPS reports damage to Pu'uhonua o Hônaunau NHP and Kaloko Honokôhau NHP with additional assessments being performed.

- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Despite several reported oil sheens along the Louisiana Gulf coastline last week, sampling has not connected them to the Deepwater Horizon spill. The DOI Incident Commander on the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team reports that progress is being made on the DOI Transition and Staffing Plan proposals.
- *Yosemite National Park Damage:* A severe late winter storm closed Yosemite NP last week due to heavy snow, downed trees and road closures. Park staff made considerable headway this past weekend to reopen most of the closed areas and services.
- *Flooding in the Midwest:* North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana continue to flood due to heavy precipitation and snowmelt. USGS continues to monitor stream gages in coordination with the National Weather Service to assist with flood forecasts for the area. As a result of the high water levels and flow rates, BOR declared a "Response Level 1" monitoring watch for the Dickinson Dam in North Dakota. BIA is monitoring impact of these floods on tribes.
- *Fire Activity – Hawaii:* The Napua Fire that was sparked by the lava flows from the recent increased eruptive activity of Kilauea Volcano has now burned more than 2,000 acres and is threatening the east rift Special Ecological Area that is habitat for several endangered species.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM continued to work with OCIO and OHS last week. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning. OEM is working with the Office of Civil Rights to improve the self-identification process for people with disabilities. Information packets were developed to distribute to employees who need assistance during building evacuations. OEM continues to review the initial draft After-Action Report (AAR) on the evacuation drills conducted in the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23. Once completed, the AAR will provide recommendations to improve the evacuation and/or sheltering of employees during building emergencies.

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, will be representing DOI in the Emerging Pandemic Threats, Biodefense and Chemical National Security Staff sub-Interagency Policy Committees next week. Through listening to multiple teleconferences, she has been keeping informed about the public

health related activities the Federal interagency community is engaged in related to the Japanese earthquake/tsunami/nuclear situation.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. Last week, OEM met with the Deputy Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Robert Holden, to discuss lessons learned from NCAI involvement with Tribal emergency management. Information gathered will be incorporated into the final expert study. In addition, plans to visit the BIA regional office in Portland, OR and FEMA's Region X office in Bothell, WA are progressing with an anticipated visit next week. This visit will include the Indian Health Service as well as Regional Administrator Ken Murphy, for FEMA's Region X and may also include discussions with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council. In addition to this trip, OEM is working with BIA and the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan visits to Tribal Nations in the Dakotas.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. Assessment of the Contact Management System (CMS) continues with select personnel testing the ability to verify or update contact information and OEM staff examining the group management capabilities. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel and will allow individuals to securely update their own contact information, and will automatically feed data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups, thereby ensuring alerts and other information is properly delivered and received during emergency situations. OEM is also coordinating with OCIO and OLES to enhance readiness of secure systems to support operations on a reliable 24/7 basis; partial funding is being provided to OCIO to dedicate a staff position to provide communications security functions and related management of classified systems.

No Change: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH11). Based on feedback from the continuity and devolution break out session at the Emergency Management Council Off-Site, OEM is working with OS offices to define their devolution concept of operations. OEM is currently working on a template to document OS Office devolution plans in a standardized manner and facilitate planning for EH11. Exercise EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM met with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group last week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. Significant progress was made to reach agreement on the process and timeline for loading the positions into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security

Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the needs of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy (Cohesive Strategy).

Both Phase I Cohesive Strategy documents have been signed by both Secretary Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and transmitted to Congress on Friday March 25, 2011. The first document is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy*, and the second document is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. A joint press release announced the public availability of these documents on www.forestsandrangelands.gov. The release of these documents concludes Phase I, and effort is underway to implement the direction of the Cohesive Strategy in Phases II and III.

New: Biomass – Woody BUG meeting. As part of the wildland fire fuels program, OWFC participates on the Woody BUG (Woody Biomass Utilization Group). The Office of Wildland Fire will be attending the WBUG quarterly meeting March 29-30 at the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

New: DOI International Fire Program. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) held their quarterly meeting in Boise March 24-25. The topics of discussion include FY 2010/2011 budgets and staffing; Status update from the standing FPA teams; FPA communications framework; internal DOI review; 2011 independent external review of the FPA application; and 2013 FPA inputs to budget formulation.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Management Advisory Team (MAT): The interagency FPA MAT is meeting in Phoenix, AZ on March 29-30. Topics include briefing on the status of FPA application, communication framework. The primary purpose of the meeting is the configuration of and future engagement of the MAT.

Update: Federal Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise April 12. The exercise is scheduled for two hours and will provide an opportunity to explore some of the issues senior executives may face and work with other Federal partners to identify a course of

action. DOI, USFA and USFS fire leadership are reviewing the updated exercise components to determine a final by April 1.

Update: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work on updating LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as but not limited to wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 states have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through fourth geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and Southwest. The next geo-area, North Central will be delivered by March 31 with production on track for the remaining geo-areas (South Central, Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii).

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. All of the attributes for the Project Priority System (PPS) have been completed. The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document is complete and being reviewed; it contains that information most important for field units to be able to provide information about their projects to be evaluated in PPS. PPS remains the highest priority task for the Fuels Decision Support Sub-committee (FDSSC). Simultaneous improvement of Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) data and information will continue, but the resources of the FDSSC are directed toward PPS, primarily. A preliminary DOI Hazardous Fuels Reduction program of work, based on the FY 2012 President's proposed budget, should be available by June 15.

No Change: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) Meeting March 10. WFLC met and approved the following reports: *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for Secretarial approval on or before Friday, March 18, 2011. The WFLC also approved a proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy and concurred with the membership recommendations for the three Regional Strategy Committees (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process.

No Change: Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). The WFEC charter was filed with the Federal Register's Office on March 3, 2011. Appointment letters to the Council members are in the process of being signed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and the first meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2011.

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWF co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

No Change: WFDSS (Wildland Fire Decision Support System) Investment Review. OWFC has been working on submissions for the WFDSS investment as part of the Capital Planning Investment Control process in preparation for the new DOI IRB. Background information and briefings for DAS Thorsen are occurring this week.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC

LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-charted to support the continued refinement of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1, 2011 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

No Change: EPA's Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA's goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting

to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWF is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team: The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) is scheduled to meet in Boise, ID on April 14 - 15. The IST will have a discussion with the FPA Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) regarding the outputs from the latest analysis. They will also discuss the progress that has been made by the group in developing and testing system improvements.

No Change: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The DOI Fire Directors submitted the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22. DAS LESEM and Office Directors will meet with the DAS HR to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan. OWF is coordinating with the FS to discuss the proposed 2011 AD Pay Plan.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Suspension and Debarment Program. On March 25, 2011, DOI acted under the nonprocurement suspension and debarment rule at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 to suspend Richard E. Gauger, the former Executive Director of the West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT). DOI based the suspension on a February 1, 2011, criminal complaint against Gauger in Wisconsin State court charging him with illegal use of the WWLT corporate credit card for personal purposes to obtain title to WWLT property in an amount exceeding \$10,000, by deceit and false representations with intent to defraud WWLT. Between 2006 and 2009, WWLT received Federal funds through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a \$1,000,000 assistance agreement awarded under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

New: Webinar on Green Procurement Fundamentals. On March 31, 2011, the Office of Acquisition and Property Management will conduct a webinar on the Fundamentals of Green Procurement. The web-based training will focus on Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, and the DOI Green Purchasing Plan, which promotes environmentally conscious acquisition practices by incorporating key environmental factors with traditional price and performance guidance.

New: E.O. 13514 - Proposed Guidance for Water Goals. On March 29, representatives from the Office of Acquisition and Property Management will meet with the Solicitor's Office to discuss the potential impacts of proposed Guidance for Water Goals in Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economical Performance*, on water subject to Federal or State water right laws and other mission critical uses of water.

Office of Budget

No Change: 2013 Budget Formulation. The Office of Budget is preparing 2013 formulation guidance for the development of May budget submissions to the Department.

Office of Financial Management

New: Undelivered Orders (UDO) Workshop. PFM and the Finance Officers Partnership (FOP) sponsored a two-day UDO workshop in Washington, DC on March 22 and 23. The objective of the workshop was to develop a framework for revising and updating Interior's Departmental policy guidance on UDOs. Representatives from the finance and acquisitions communities from all bureaus, departmental offices and the NBC as well as the PAM Office were present. PFM will circulate updated draft policy guidance to the finance and acquisitions communities for review and comment shortly.

New: Open Government Implementation Team Workshop. PFM attended a two-day Open Government Implementation Team Workshop. The goal of the workshop was to push the Open Government initiative throughout DOI. PFM participated in a team focused on developing ways of making existing DOI data more available to both the public and DOI employees. There will be subsequent team meetings to execute this effort. In addition, participants are encouraged to stay active via SharePoint and other methods. Each participant committed to spend 10 hours per month on the initiative.

New: Government-wide Chief Financial Officer Council (CFOC). PFM is actively engaged in the Government-wide Chief Financial Officer Council's (CFOC) benchmarking initiatives in the areas of accounts receivable, direct loans, and temporary duty (TDY) travel. PFM is currently evaluating the feasibility of collecting the proposed data through a data call to the bureaus. PFM recommended to reduce the number of benchmarking metrics in its response to the CFOC as obtaining some of the data will be equally as difficult and the value of which is uncertain in the bureaus.

On-going: GAO Exit Meeting. PFM attended the GAO Exit meeting on the review of *Minimum Wage Increases 2011* (Job code: 320803). This review relates to the 2007 law that incrementally applies the U.S. minimum wages to American Samoa and the Commonwealth of

Northern Mariana Island (CNMI). The draft report is expected next month without any recommendations.

Ongoing: Pollution Removal Funding Authority (PRFA) Costs. PFM was informed by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) that the National Park Service was paid \$493,768 on the Pollution Removal Funding Authority (PRFA) cost documentation package for bill #7. In addition, PFM submitted to the USCG bill #9 totaling \$5,205 for the Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

No change: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. OMB's review of status information through the first quarter of FY2 011 in www.performance.gov is underway. David Hayes will begin regularly scheduled quarterly status reviews with goal owners in April with the close of the second quarter of FY 2011.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Small Business Procurement Goaling Report and Scorecard Process. A memorandum was forwarded on March 21 to Deputy Secretaries, Chief Acquisition Officers and Senior Procurement Executives by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration and the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget regarding the importance of the Small Business Procurement Goaling and Scorecard process. The memo provides an explanation of the processes. Copies of the memorandum are available from the OSDBU.

New Item: Small Business Administration to Review Small Business Regulations. The Small Business Administration published a notice in the Federal Register on March 14, requesting public input on the impact of their regulations and the best way in which to improve them. Public comments will be accepted through April 13. The Federal Register notice stated that "comments should focus on regulations that have demonstrated deficiencies" and focus on the economic burden on small business.

New Item: 8(a) Contract Awards Greater than \$20 million to Require Justification. An interim rule was published in the Federal Register on March 16 requiring that contract awards greater than \$20 million issued to businesses in the 8(a) Business Development Program include a written justification and approval by a senior agency official. The approval will be available to the public and must include a description of agency needs, a determination that the contract is in the government's best interest and verification that the contract price is fair and reasonable.

Update: Small Business Administration Outreach Events. The Small Business Administration has planned a number of Jobs Act tours that will allow small businesses to meet with leaders from SBA, give input on new regulations, and learn how to take advantage of new tools coming out of the Small Business Jobs Act. As part of the outreach efforts, SBA will focus on loan opportunities, competing for federal contracts, finding training and counseling resources,

and starting or increasing exports. The events are expected to take place around the nation between March 28 and April 15.

Update: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be representing the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement conference that will be held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, on April 21, 2011. The conference is the most prominent government-wide event on the small business calendar each year. Volunteers from the Department are requested to assist the OSDBU. A senior advisor to the President of the United States will be the White House representative at the conference.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **April 1: DOI First Friday Small Business Session, Yates Auditorium** – Over 300 small businesses have registered for this event. Larry Gross, DOI Deputy CIO, will be the main presenter at the event. The event will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business
- TBA: University of Guam – Economic Development Webinar

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: Deployment 6 Training Kick-off Meeting. On March 24, 2011, the FBMS PMO hosted the Deployment 6 (D6) Training Kick-off Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of D6's training scope, activities, and timeline; discuss the responsibilities of both the members of the PMO's training team and the members of the OS and FWS's training teams; and highlight changes to D6 Training based on D5 lessons learned. The D6 Training kick-off meeting was a WEBEX hosted from the Herndon PMO with representatives from OS and FWS participating from the Main Interior Building, the Denver PMO, and a number of other locations. Representatives from bureaus using FBMS attended the meeting to share their FBMS training experiences, and representatives from and FBMS out-year bureaus also attended to gain insights on what to expect during their FBMS deployment.

OS and FWS employees assigned FBMS roles must successfully complete their role training requirements before being granted system access. The scheduling of OS and FWS employees for FBMS training classes will be accomplished during the July – September timeframe. FBMS

PMO instructors and OS and FWS assistant instructors will conduct the final review of the training materials and rehearsals of the instructor led classes in September. D6 instructor led and computer based training classes will be held from October 2011 through January 2012. D6 go-live is scheduled for November 7, 2011. The majority of the OS and FWS employees assigned FBMS roles will receive their training after D6 Go-live.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

New: Aviation Management Directorate Business Process Impact. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office is working with the Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) of NBC to draft an initial working version of a specific Business Process Impact presentation. The will be used as an educational tool as well as customers of AMD. The documentation will also serve as the basis for beginning to document AMD's requirements for the next deployment.

Update: Business Process Requirements. The Implementation Management Office updated business process impacts based on stakeholder feedback from a role mapping workshop held March 16-17. These will continue throughout the deployment. The Implementation Management Office participated in the PMO separation of duties (SOD) review session and training kickoff held on March 24.

Update: Organizational Change Management. The Implementation Management Office will host role mapping "check-in" conference calls March 30 and May 4. These conference calls provide a forum for reporting on the status of the assigned role mapping exercise and to discuss any issues or problems encountered along the way. OS continues to prepare for OS role mapping Workshops 2 and 3 to be held April 19-21 and May 17-19 in Herndon, VA, Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently.

No change: OS Executive Steering Committee Meeting. The next meeting is being planned for March 31.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): ONRR has begun the implementation of the Strategic Review recommendations. We have formed Implementation Work Groups (IWG) for the seven initiatives that are schedule to begin in FY 2011. Acting Assistant Secretary for PMB, Chris Henderson, will attend a formal launching of the IWG's on April 6, 2011, in Denver, Colorado.

Draft Press Release Prepared on Pending Shell Settlement (New): A draft press release has been prepared to announce a pending settlement agreement with Shell Oil Company and various Shell affiliates. Under the settlement, Shell will pay the United States \$2.2 million plus interest to resolve claims that the companies violated the False Claims Act by knowingly underpaying royalties owed on natural gas produced from Federal leases. The settlement is also part of the

Wright Federal False Claims Act litigation. We will forward the draft press release to the DOI press office once internal review is complete.

Financial and Program Management

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): The State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with the terms and conditions of the 202/205 Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreements, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreements and equipment. A review of the Texas General Land Office is scheduled for April 5-6, 2011 in Austin, Texas.

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): The ONRR continues its various forms of outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. The ONRR designs the outreach to resolve a mineral owner's royalty-related problems and to let them know how to contact us. These meetings enable us to listen to their concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. Our goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- The Trenton Indian Service Center, Trenton, ND, the morning of April 12, 2011
- Ft. Peck Agency, in Poplar, MT, the afternoon of April 12, 2011
- Mineral Owners, Nageezi, New Mexico, on April 12, 2011
- Ft. Berthold Agency, New Town, ND, on April 13, 2011
- Ft. Totten Agency, Ft. Totten, ND, on April 14, 2011
- Mineral Owners, Huerfano, New Mexico, on April 14, 2011
- Turtle Mountain Agency, Belcourt, ND, on April 15, 2011

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of February 21, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Matters

Ensco Litigation

On February 1, Ensco filed a motion for partial summary judgment on Counts V and VI (challenging the DOCD and APD regulations as exceeding statutory authority under OCSLA). We filed our opposition on February 18. On February 17, the Court issued a preliminary injunction as to 5 pending permit applications to drill in deepwater and stated that “BOEM is required to act on the five pending permit applications within thirty days of this Order and simultaneously report to the Court its compliance.” We are preparing an appeal recommendation to transmit to DOJ this week. ATP is also seeking to have its permits added to the Court’s Preliminary Injunction decision and have BOEM act on them with 30 days. Our opposition to that motion is due February 28.

BOP Forensic Testing

(b) (5)

MDL Litigation

Last week in the multi-district (MDL) civil litigation in New Orleans, Transocean named the United States as a third-party defendant. This action marks the first oil spill litigation in the MDL that names the United States as a defendant. In its third-party complaint, Transocean infers that Government negligence on the part of the Minerals Management Service caused or contributed to the accident. (b) (5)

Other Matters

Klamath Irrigation District v. US (Klamath Takings case)

This case is part of the ongoing litigation associated with the 2001 shutdown of water in the Klamath Basin. Fourteen districts and thirteen landowners in California and Oregon filed suit in

the Court of Federal Claims (CFC) asserting breach of contract and 5th Amendment takings claims after that 2001 shutdown. The CFC dismissed all of the claims. Plaintiffs appealed. In 2008, the Federal Circuit certified questions about the nature of the property interest held by the water users and districts to the Oregon Supreme Court. Last week, the Federal Circuit remanded the decision back to the district court for further findings in light of the answers provided from the Oregon Supreme Court on the nature of the beneficial interest in the water held by the plaintiffs. We are working closely with DOJ and BOR to prepare for remand proceedings.

California Water (State Court Litigation on the Quantification Settlement Agreement)

In 2010, a California trial court “invalidated” a number of key federal agreements reached in 2003 regarding California’s use of Colorado River water. The United States entered a special appearance with the trial court setting out the US interest and indicating that the state court was without jurisdiction to invalidate federal agreements. The case is now on appeal. The appellate court granted a stay of the “invalidation” ruling while the appeal is pending. (b) (5)

ur appellate brief was filed on February 24.

BLM Missouri Break National Monument litigation

The RMP Record of Decision was signed for the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument in December of 2008. Plaintiffs filed suit alleging violations of NEPA, FLPMS, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the presidential proclamation establishing the Monument. The U.S. summary judgment brief is due on March 4. Our Washington and Regional offices have been working with closely with BLM and DOJ.

Center for Biological Diversity v. BLM (WEMO remedy decision)

On September 28, 2009 Judge Illston issued an order on summary judgment in a case challenging the West Mojave (“WEMO”) Land Use Plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (“CDCA”) Plan of 1980, its biological opinion, and the biological opinion for the Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert (“NEMO”), and Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (“NECO”) land use plans, also amendments to the CDCA Plan. The court held for plaintiffs on all of the FLPMA claims and some of the NEPA claims, and held for federal defendants on some of the NEPA claims and all of the ESA claims. On January 28, 2011 Judge Illston issued her remedy. The court retained the environmentally beneficial portions of the West Mojave Plan. The remainder of the ROD was vacated. BLM must complete revisions to the West Mojave Plan by March 31, 2014. The court ordered the BLM to reconsider OHV route designation and the route network in conformance with the regulatory minimization criteria at 43 CFR 8342.1. The court did not limit existing routes to “street legal” vehicles only because the harm identified by plaintiff was caused primarily by unauthorized vehicle use, not whether vehicles are or are not street legal. The court ordered that BLM impose specific measures to mitigate environmental damage caused by OHV use, completing the signing of all routes within the West Mojave Plan area by July 28, 2011. BLM was further ordered to prepare new maps which are to state that use off designated routes “will result” in a fine or criminal prosecution. BLM is to provide the court

with a “statistically significant” monitoring plan to determine usage compliance, and whether new illegal routes are being created. Among a variety of other things, BLM is to provide a plan for route network maintenance and kiosk installation at “all major OHV access points”, and provide a plan for additional enforcement capability (b) (5)

Denial of Petitions for Certiorari in ESA Critical Habitat Cases

On Monday, the Supreme Court denied petitions for certiorari in two cases challenging how the FWS balances the economic impacts of designating critical habitat against the benefits to species of such designations. Unlike rules to list species, where economic considerations may not be considered, the ESA requires FWS to designate critical habitat based on the best scientific data available after taking into consideration the economic impact, the impact on national security, and any other relevant impact of designating a particular area as critical habitat. For years, FWS has been involved in litigation over how to quantify the economic impacts in critical habitat designations. The petitions for certiorari arose from challenges to the critical habitat designations for the Mexican spotted owl and 15 vernal pool species. In both cases, the Ninth Circuit rejected the claims of property owners that FWS should expand its economic analysis to include broader factors, including the impact of the ESA listing in itself, the general economic climate, and other regulations that businesses are required to follow. The Supreme Court's failure to intervene means the government can maintain its current approach. The Mexican spotted owl designation encompasses around 8.6 million acres in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The vernal pool species critical habitat includes almost 860,000 acres in 34 California counties and one in Oregon. In light of the denial of certiorari, these designations will remain in effect.

California-Bay Delta Litigation

In December 2010, plaintiff water users prevailed on their motion for summary judgment challenging the FWS biological opinion on the effects of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) on the delta smelt. A remedy hearing was scheduled begin on Friday, February 25, 2011. On Thursday evening the United States finally reached a settlement with the water contractors, environmental intervenors, and the State of California on interim operations. After receiving the settlement, the Court vacated the remedy hearing and in its place set a status conference to review the terms of the proposed settlement. Under the proposed settlement, the parties have agreed to a preliminary flow range and an enhanced coordination process that will (b) (5)

Still pending before the district court is the water contractors' motion seeking a preliminary injunction of the requirements of the NOAA biological opinion. NOAA's biological opinion sets operational restrictions to protect several subspecies of salmon. The hearing on this motion is scheduled to run March 8 through March 10.

Northern Rocky Mountain Wolves

This week the Ninth Circuit granted a 30-day stay of litigation to allow the parties to resume settlement discussions in this case involving FWS' 2009 rule to delist wolves in Idaho and Montana. Deputy Secretary Hayes^{(b) (5)}

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
February 25, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC) – Bodie Island Light line item construction project.

In FY 2009, funding was appropriated to restore the Bodie Island Lighthouse including correction of structural and safety issues as well as to renovate the park's headquarters. Unforeseen structural integrity issues were identified in the summer of 2010 that require additional funds. The NPS has the funds available; however, appropriations bill language specifically prohibits reprogramming project dollars. The North Carolina Congressional delegation is working on including language in the budget plan to take effect after March 4 that would authorize the NPS to utilize available federal funds to complete the project in FY2011. If the language is not included and approved, the NPS will necessarily shut down the project the week of March 8 and await future funding for completion.

Cape Lookout National Seashore (NC) – Draft ferry departure site environmental assessment/assessment of effect.

On March 1, the park will release its EA for a departure site for ferry service primarily to Shackleford Banks, and to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse area of South Core Banks. A long-term public ferry system operating from either Morehead City or Beaufort will create a park gateway, better orient visitors to park resources and facilities, improve access to the park by meeting accessibility standards, and facilitate other improvements. The NPS hopes to develop a partnership with other public or government entities as an alternative to federal acquisition of a departure site. A public meeting will be held on March 8 with comments due no later than March 31.

Everglades National Park (FL) – USAID Russian visit. On February 28, a USAID-sponsored group of 35 Russian park and natural reserve managers, relevant policy makers, and others will visit Everglades National Park for an all-day orientation to park and wildlife management. The workshop in the U.S. will include public outreach, legal measures, environmental education, wildlife management, balancing habitat conservation and public access, as well as protected-area management.

ON THE HORIZON

Badlands National Park (SD) – South Unit GMP/EIS. The final GMP/EIS for Badlands National Park-South Unit is nearly complete and will soon be routed for clearance. The GMP/EIS contains two preferred actions: creation of the first Tribal National Park and management of the South Unit's resources and visitor use by the Oglala Sioux. After approval, a notice of availability of the final document will be placed in the Federal Register. The Record of Decision is anticipated to be signed by the Midwest Regional Director later this spring.

San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA) – Draft EIS for extension of historic streetcar service. Previously ratified by SF

Bay Area voters on several occasions, the proposed streetcar extension would provide park visitors and San Francisco city residents with improved rail transit, enhancing transportation access and mobility between the existing historic streetcar service along the city's northern waterfront and San Francisco Maritime NHP and the Fort Mason Center in Golden Gate NRA. The streetcar service would connect these two parks with the regional transit rail services while respecting the cultural settings, historical context, and recreational resources of these parks, and avoiding or minimizing adverse effects to historic properties. The Draft EIS is slated to be released during March 2011 for a 60-day public review. This project ties into the America's Great Outdoors initiative for connecting people in urban areas to parks.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (MA) – EPA/Army Corps of Engineers harbor-dredging project. A federal dredging project to remove PCBs from the New Bedford harbor pulled up a shipwreck from the 1700s. The project site is outside park boundaries, but the artifacts encountered are directly relevant to the mission and purpose of the park. The park has concerns about its tribal consultation process, and potential Native American underwater sites in the area. The park is drafting a letter to the EPA and the Corps requesting Consulting Party status under Section 106 of the NHPA, and seeking additional survey work to be done in advance of additional dredging. The discovery of the ship has generated local and regional news coverage.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park (Guam), American Memorial Park (Saipan), and the North Field Historic District of the Tinian National Historic Landmark on Tinian (CNMI) – Signing of programmatic agreement for the Guam-CNMI military relocation. In early March, the NPS will sign the DOD Programmatic Agreement (as an invited signatory) for the Guam-CNMI Military Relocation to relocate 8,600 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa to Guam. This undertaking has the potential to impact the two parks and national historic landmark district.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
February 22, 2011

Decision on Unimak Island Wolf Control Environmental Assessment

FWS Alaska Regional Director Geoff Haskett will early in the week of February 28th decision on an Environmental Assessment (EA) of management alternatives for the Unimak Island caribou herd . In December, 2010, the Service, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game prepared an EA to analyze management options for responding to the declining Unimak Island caribou herd. The EA was released to the public at that time, initiating a public comment period that extended through January 31, 2011 and produced approximately 95,000 comments. In consideration of the public comments received, and following a thorough evaluation of pertinent refuge regulations and policy, the Service has decided that the No Action alternative is warranted at this time.

Caney River Wind Project

In November, 2010, the FWS Kansas Ecological Services Field Office commented on the Tennessee Valley Authority's draft Environmental Analysis (EA) for the 13,618-acre Caney River Wind Project. TVA proposes to purchase power from the 200-MW, 133-turbine project, which is proposed for development by TradeWind Energy. The comments recommended that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared because impacts to native prairie and grassland birds had not been adequately addressed and because of deficiencies in the cumulative impacts analysis. Since that time, TradeWind Energy has requested that FWS accept the promise of a 10,000-acre conservation easement (which was proposed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks), in addition to earlier funding commitments for habitat restoration as being satisfactory mitigation for NEPA purposes. FWS has also been asked to rescind its recommendation for TVA to develop an EIS to correct deficiencies in the draft EA. Newly elected Kansas Governor Sam Brownback supports the project and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has agreed to the proposed mitigation. The project is opposed by the Nature Conservancy in Kansas, other NGO's, and various ranching interests and groups within the Flint Hills, which is largest remaining block of contiguous tallgrass prairie left in North America.

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Non-federal partners of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are scheduling briefing meetings with members of Congress and their staffs and Department of Interior Officials in D.C. for March 16-22, 2011. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an update on progress being made by both programs toward recovery of Colorado River endangered fishes.

Federal Agency Heads to Meet on Fish Habitat Plan

On February 22, 2011, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Fish Habitat Board convened a meeting of Federal agency heads to enhance inter-agency collaboration through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Attendees included FWS, U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA Fisheries Service, Forest Service, and Natural Resources

Conservation Service. Participants heard a summary of achievements during the first 5 years of the plan, and how the plan aligns with Administration priorities, including America's Great Outdoors and the National Ocean Policy. The meeting and follow-up actions offer opportunities for the Department of the Interior to increase its engagement with a national partnership that have broad support among States, conservation organizations, and the sporting community. We do not expect controversy.

Coral Reef Survey, Puerto Rico

The February 2011 newsletter for the Partnership for the Guánica Bay Watershed contained an article on a recent coral reef survey in Puerto Rico. This survey was conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dive Team from November 27 to December 15, 2010. The dive team consists of divers from several EPA regions, as well as Rich Henry of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Rich works as FWS' Liaison to the EPA's Environmental Response Team in Edison, NJ, and in addition to the dive team, Rich provides technical support to EPA regarding hazardous waste site issues. Rich is also the Department of the Interior's Project Manager for the munitions clean-up efforts on the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of this survey was to determine the impacts of sediment and other environmental stressors on coral reef communities, and the dive team completed 432 dives at 73 stations to assess these impacts. This item is not expected to be controversial.

Southern Sea Otter Translocation Program – Evaluation

The Otter Project and Environmental Defense Center filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of California in 2009 that challenged the FWS' delay in finalizing a determination that the southern sea otter translocation program has failed thus, withdrawing the rule promulgated in 1987. A Settlement Agreement was finalized on November 23, 2010, that stipulates deadlines for specific actions between now and completion of the final determination by December 7, 2012. In order to meet the deadlines, the Pacific Southwest Regional Office has prepared a timeline for the administrative process. The first item to be completed is the Revised Draft Translocation Evaluation, which has undergone initial Washington office review, and is expected to be provided through the Regional Director to the Director for concurrence in February 2011. There is potential for controversy based on a recent FOIA request from the Environmental Defense Center.

FWS and Department of Agriculture Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative Endangered Species Act Section 7 Conference

FWS and the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have initiated a conferencing process under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), to assess conservation practices being implemented by landowners in the states of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to benefit the lesser prairie-chicken and its habitat. The goal of the conference is to provide landowners reasonable certainty, that should the lesser-prairie chicken be listed at a future date, they can continue implementing those NRCS conservation practices and associated conservation measures designed to benefit the species within their NRCS conservation plan, since those actions will be in compliance with the ESA. The conference is expected to be completed in late summer. Not expected to be controversial.

FWS - Briefing State of Alaska's Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas on Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Selawik NWR

FWS-Alaska announced that the Selawik Refuge Manager and Chief of the Division of Policy and Planning will brief the State of Alaska's Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas on the draft refuge comprehensive conservation plan (plan). Two issues likely to be raised include proposed management of outfitter guide permits and the role of tribal government representatives on our planning team. The preferred alternative would not allow commercial operations in areas of the refuge near the village of Selawik where private lands are intermingled with refuge lands to avoid conflicts with private land owners and subsistence use by local rural residents. The public comment period on the draft plan is open until March 15, 2011. We do not expect major controversy on the issues.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

February 27 – March 5, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday travel to San Diego, CA to DOD lands and Ironwood Forest National Monument.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office Monday and Tuesday. On travel Wednesday through Friday to conduct Atlantic Wind meetings with Governor's staff from ME, RI, and MA; and with stakeholders.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: Solar Company Unable to Satisfy Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant Requirements in CA:** *The BLM has determined that Tessera Solar Inc. is unable to satisfy BLM ROW requirements for the recently approved 663-MW Calico and 709-MW Imperial Solar Energy Projects. BLM regulations require proof of technical and financial capability to hold issued authorizations. The plans of development and the grants for both of these projects specify the use of Stirling Suncatcher technology, which is no longer viable from a production standpoint. BLM-CA has drafted a "notice of intent to terminate a ROW grant and opportunity to correct noncompliance." BLM-CA expects to sign and issue the letter next week.*

Mining

- **New: BLM-WY Coal Sale Notice:** *On Mar. 1, The BLM will publish a Notice of Competitive Coal Lease Sale for the West Antelope II North Coal Tract in the Federal Register. The sale which is scheduled for May 11, will offer an estimated 430 million tons of coal. Several environmental groups filed suit in Federal Court against BLM-WY's in Mar. 2010 contesting the coal sale. A decision has not been rendered in the District Court litigation, and final resolution is not expected to occur for some time. BLM-WY is moving forward with the sale as planned. Moderate controversy is expected.*
- **New: Availability of Record of Decision to Be Published:** *In early Mar., BLM-WY anticipates publishing a NOA for the ROD for the Wright Area South Hilight Field Coal Lease-by-Application (LBA) EIS in the Federal Register. The Wright area LBA tracts cover 18,022 acres in the BLM-WY High Plains District and are estimated to contain 2.6 billion tons of coal. Moderate controversy is expected.*

Forestry

- **New: BLM-OR/WA Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project:** *The BLM-OR/WA Medford District is continuing field analysis and inventory of the northern spotted owl habitat as part of the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project, a forestry restoration project conducted in conjunction with the BLM, the Applegate Partnership, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and other partners. BLM-OR/WA is planning to publicly rollout the pilot Mar. 1-2. Public meeting times and location are currently under development.*

Timber

- **New: BLM-OR/WA Sutherlin Crossing Project:** *The Sutherlin Crossing Project EA is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Mar.1, initiating a 30-day public comment period. The Sutherlin Crossing Project would provide Douglas County with access to county-owned lands by constructing a 135-foot road across BLM-administered lands through an old growth stand of trees. A draft FONSI will also be issued on Mar. 1. The project is anticipated to generate controversy due to the felling of 140-year-old trees.*

AGO:

- **New: BLM-ID Acquires Land on the Teton River:** *On Feb. 10, with assistance from the Teton Regional Land Trust, the BLM-ID purchased a conservation easement on the North Fork of the Teton River. The easement is located on a 275-acre privately owned ranch within the Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The easement will help to protect wildlife habitat and substantial wetlands.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: ENSCO v Salazar:** *On Feb. 17, the District Court for the Eastern District of LA issued a mandatory injunction requiring BOEMRE to process five APDs within the next 30 days. On Feb. 18, ATP filed a motion seeking to “expand” the injunction to include two additional permits. BOEMRE has until Feb. 28 to respond.*
- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *The U.S. and Mexico continue discussions regarding transboundary reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. Representatives of both countries are engaged in monthly working sessions, which will continue until formal negotiations begin in May. The Mar. 1-2 working session will focus on unitization, operating agreements, apportionment of reserves, and facility access, while dispute settlement and unitization will be addressed later in Mar.*
- **Update: Atlantic State Renewable Energy Status:**
 - *DE Request for Competitive Interest—No expressions of competing commercial interest were received. BOEMRE is preparing the Notice of Determination of No Competitive Interest. The notice is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register by Mid-Mar. BOEMRE plans to schedule a DE Renewable Energy Task Force meeting to coincide with the Notice to discuss next steps.*
 - *MA Request for Interest—The comment period closes on Feb. 28. The Governor of MA, fishermen, and Rep. Frank have requested an extension of the comment period. BOEMRE plans to announce the 30-day extension before Feb. 25.*
 - *NJ and VA Calls for Information (“Calls”)—Both Calls were sent to the respective Renewable Energy Task Forces for review and comment, and are scheduled to be published in Federal Register in Mar.*
- **New: National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), et al. 60 Day Notice of Intent to Sue:** *On Feb. 11, NRDC, Center for Biological Diversity, Gulf Restoration Network, and Sierra Club filed a formal notice of intent to file suit against the Department, alleging a failure to comply with Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) when it approved 10 offshore oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico since Oct. 15, 2010.*

- **Update: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Geological and Geophysical (G&G) and Drilling Activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas:** This NEPA document will cover all G&G and drilling activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas and will be used to support requests for “take” authorizations under the MMPA and ESA. The NOAA and BOEMRE are working jointly on this document with NOAA serving as the primary agency. The draft EIS is expected to be published in the Federal Register in spring 2011, with public hearings shortly to follow.
- **Update: Four Gulf States Notified of Revenue Adjustments:** On Feb. 18, the Governors and staff of the congressional delegations of TX, MS, LA, and AL were notified of the need to adjust revenue distributions for certain OCS oil and gas leases.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Update: Stream Protection Rule Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** On Feb. 23, the contractor submitted the revised preliminary draft EIS and Regulatory Impact Analysis. OSM will evaluate the revised documents to determine whether the contractor has complied with the terms of the contract and cure notice. After OSM’s review, which is likely to take three weeks, the bureau will develop a revised schedule for completion of the draft EIS and publication of the proposed rule.
- **New: OSM Issues Ten Day Notice for Permit Defects on West Virginia Mine:** On Feb. 15, three citizens groups submitted a complaint to OSM concerning alleged inadequacies in the permit and the State’s processing of the permit related to Patriot Coal’s New Hill Mine. The primary focus of the 40-page complaint is the protection of surface and groundwater with specific concerns about the planned use of coal combustion byproducts to prevent the formation of acid mine drainage. On Feb. 23, OSM’s Charleston Field Office issued a Ten Day Notice (TDN) to the WV Department of Environmental. The State has until Mar. 7 to respond.

WEEK AHEAD – February 27 to March 5, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, March 1:

- **Update: Solar PEIS Public Meetings Begin:** Additional public meetings for the Draft Solar Programmatic EIS are scheduled for Mar. 1-3 in Phoenix and Tucson, AZ and Las Cruces, NM.

Wednesday, March 2:

- **New: BLM-OR/WA Recreation Plan Public Meeting:** The BLM will hold a public meeting on Mar. 2 for the BLM-OR/WA Bastendorff Beach Draft Cooperative Management Plan. BLM-OR/WA Coos Bay District developed the plan cooperatively with OR State Parks and Coos County, OR, to address sanitation, unauthorized vehicle access, and long term squatting issues at the popular beach. The draft plan may generate slight controversy, as it proposes to close some existing OHV routes to the beach. The comment period for the draft plan closes on Mar. 16.
- **New: BLM-WY Annual Oil and Gas Industry Conference:** The BLM-WY Rawlins Field Office—designated as a pilot energy office under the EPAct of 2005—will host its

annual Industry Conference. Conference meetings will focus on roads and access, policy updates, reclamation, and innovative ideas.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Week of Monday, February 28:

- **New: Call for Information and Nominations for Lease Sales in Central and Western GOM Planning Area in the OCS Leasing Program 2012 – 2017:** *The Call is expected to publish in the Federal Register during the first week of March and will cover ten lease sales in the proposed new 5-Year Program. There will be a 30-day public comment period associated with the announcement.*
- **Update: Cancellation of Cook Inlet Sale 219:** *The Cancellation Notice for Sale 219 is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register during the week of Feb 28.*

Tuesday, March 1:

- **New: Briefing on Potential Renewable Wind Lease Area Offshore NC:** *BOEMRE staff will the NPS Superintendents of Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras National Seashores to provide background information on potential lease areas.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Tuesday, March 1

- **Update : OSM to Receive Update on Kentucky's Efforts to Address Deficiencies in Calculating Reclamation Bond Amounts:** *In response to OSM's report on bonding released on Jan. 5, the KY Department for Natural Resources (KYDNR) will provide OSM with an interim report describing the Commonwealth's efforts to update how it calculates the amount of bonds to ensure that surface coal mines are reclaimed after mining.*

Wednesday, March 2

- **New: OSM to Meet with USFWS and Kentucky to Discuss ESA Issue at Permitted Mine:** *On Feb. 9, the FWS requested that OSM's Lexington Field Office conduct oversight of a mine operated by Nally & Hamilton Enterprises. The FWS alleges that KYDNR recently issued a surface mining permit despite the unresolved endangered species issues and procedural inconsistencies in KYDR's correspondence. OSM, USFWS, and the KYDNR are scheduled to meet discuss these issues.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, March 8

- **New: BLM-NV Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *The BLM-NV will offer one parcel in the Elko District covering 2,392 acres for sale. The protest period ended Jan. 3, 2011 and no protests were received.*
- **No Change: TransWest Express Transmission Line Public Scoping Meetings:** *Three public scoping meetings for the proposed TransWest Express Transmission Line will be held in Rawlins, WY (Mar. 8); in Rock Springs, WY (Mar. 9); and; Baggs, WY (Mar. 10). A total of 23 public scoping meetings are being held in WY, UT, NV, and CO regarding the 600kV, overhead, direct current transmission line along the 700-plus mile projected route. If approved, the extra-high*

voltage line is expected to carry 3,000-MW of renewable energy generated in central WY to densely-populated areas south of Las Vegas.

Wednesday, March 9

- **New: BLM-CA Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *The BLM-CA will offer for sale six parcels covering 2,878 acres in Kern County, CA for sale. Approximately 2,339 acres are split estate. No protests were received. Please confirm.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, March 15

- **Update: Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) Workshop:** *BOEMRE will hold a SEMS Workshop to provide an overview and background of the final rule, review and summarize responses to frequently asked questions, accept new questions pertaining to implementation, and describe BOEMRE audit methodologies for compliance reviews. The workshop will be held in New Orleans, LA. A notice announcing the Workshop will be published in the Federal Register the week of Feb. 20.*

Wednesday, March 23

- **Update: BOEMRE/NC Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The second Task Force meeting will be held to discuss the preliminary Call area and request review and comment.*

Thursday, March 31

- **Update: BOEMRE/OR Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The first Task Force meeting will be held in Portland, OR. The state is interested in working with BOEMRE as it develops its Territorial Sea Plan for activities in state waters and for potential wave and wind energy projects on the OCS.*

March, 2011:

- **No Change: Proposed Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) Rule II:** *BOEMRE staff from the Safety and Enforcement Branch and the Regulatory Standards Branch met with district production engineers from the GOM, Pacific and AK regions and staff from Field Operations to finalize the regulatory text for the second Proposed SEMS Rule. This rulemaking will require operators to develop and implement a stop work authority (SWA), ultimate work authority (UWA), and an employee participation program. In addition, this rulemaking will allow only an independent third party to conduct a SEMS audit and will provide additional requirements for conducting job safety analyses (JSA) for job activities identified in an operator's SEMS program.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Mining Plan Decision for Coteau Properties Company's Freedom Mine:** *DOI's Regional Solicitors have reviewed and concurred with a Mining Plan Decision for Coteau Properties Company's Freedom Mine in Beulah, ND. Once approved by the Department, the Mining Plan Modification will allow the Freedom Mine to recover approximately 42.9 million tons of Federal coal.*
- **New: Proposed Change to Maryland Program to Regulate Coal Combustion Residues:** *On Feb. 14, the Sierra Club responded to an OSM Federal Register Notice asking for comments on a proposed change to the MD Regulatory Program to regulate the placement, storage or use of coal combustion residues on surface coal mine sites. The Sierra Club has requested an extension to the public comment period and a public hearing. In response, OSM is extending the comment period by 30 days, which will now end Mar. 28. OSM will also hold a public hearing on Mar. 21 in Annapolis, MD.*

Weekly Report
February 25, 2010

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities Feb. 28-Mar.4:

Anne J. Castle – Feb. 28-March 4, personal leave.

John Tubbs – Feb. 28-March 4, in DC, attending various meetings.

Deanna Archuleta – Feb. 28-March 4, in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – Feb. 28-March 1, National Geohazards Workshop, Menlo Park, CA; Mar. 4, National Science and Technology Council, Committee on STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Wash., D.C. (EEOB; attending for the AS/WS).

Mike Connor – Feb. 28-March 3, in the office attending various internal meetings; on leave March 4.

Reclamation

Formal Petitions Filed by Concerned Parties on Klamath River TMDL's (Oregon)

The week of February 14, 2011, a group representing several parties in the Upper Klamath Basin filed formal Petitions for Reconsideration with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) regarding the Klamath River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The City of Klamath Falls, Klamath County, South Suburban Sanitary District, Columbia Forest Products, PacifiCorp and the Klamath Water Users Association separately filed petitions with the ODEQ emphasizing common concerns in addition to identifying each party's individual concerns. A common concern is that constituents will incur substantial increased costs to meet pollution control allocations under the TMDLs. The parties assert that the pollution control measures will accomplish only minimal improvements to water quality unless Upper Klamath Lake water quality conditions are first improved. The Petitioners claim they are not opposed to implementing reasonable and proportional actions to improve water quality, but that setting realistic water quality goals and strategies in a collaborative and cost-effective manner is needed. The group has been meeting regularly to discuss the ramifications of the TMDL and how to approach a potential solution. In December 2010, ODEQ adopted the TMDLs pursuant to its authority under the federal Clean Water Act. The TMDLs are pollutant budgets for the Klamath Basin which were set at levels that ODEQ deemed necessary to meet water quality targets within the Upper Klamath River and Lost River in Oregon.

Reclamation Negotiations on Details of Klamath Project 2010 Biological Opinions with National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Oregon)

Reclamation has determined that adhering to the 2010 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BO) for threatened coho salmon on the Klamath River may negatively impact Reclamation's ability to meet requirements of the 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service) BO for endangered suckers in Upper Klamath Lake (UKL). Failure to meet the requirements of either BO may cause a reduction or cessation of releases to Klamath Project contractors. Reclamation is currently in discussions with both agencies to resolve the matter. At issue is a Water Supply Index (WSI) developed to meet the reasonable and prudent alternative flow requirements contained in the NMFS BO. The WSI utilizes current UKL levels and forecasted inflows to determine the amount of flow to be released on the Klamath River at Iron Gate Dam. Using the WSI and current conditions, releases from Iron Gate will increase from 1,300 cubic feet per second (cfs) to approximately 3,300 cfs on March 1. The WSI uses the same formula throughout the irrigation season and releases from Iron Gate are expected to remain above historical levels. Irrigators, who monitor releases from Iron Gate closely, will likely be alarmed by the increase and can be expected to voice their concerns. This increase may cause many of the irrigators who have supported the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement to reconsider their support.

Southern Delivery System (SDS) Long term contracts for the use of excess capacity within Reclamation's Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Colorado)

The Southern Delivery System is a nearly billion dollar effort by the Coloradan communities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo West, Fountain, and Security to construct pumping stations, pipeline, and water treatment facilities to provide potable water. Although the communities will be exercising their own water rights, they wish to contract with Reclamation for the use of excess capacity in Federal facilities (principally Pueblo Dam of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project) to facilitate the storage and conveyance of their water. Most of the issues concerning the SDS Project were resolved in contract negotiations in the fall of 2010, but 2 issues remained. Those were: (1) how to structure a potential re-opening of the negotiated water rate in the event that Reclamation undertake a broader process to establish criteria for development of a market-based rate structure for the use of Fry-Ark facilities; and, (2) how the termination clause should be structured without harming the interests of the United States. Both issues are being worked to resolution with the SDS Project participants this week. At the request of Colorado Springs, Reclamation is holding the release of the draft contract pending their final review and the resolution of the outstanding issues for all participants. It is anticipated that the contracts will be available for public review soon.

Reclamation Extends Comment Period for Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Aspinall Unit Operations

Cooperating agencies were provided the preliminary draft EIS in December 2010 and following a cooperating agency meeting in January 2011, several cooperators, including the State of Colorado, requested additional review time. The major review topic is the relation of the Black Canyon water right to endangered fish operations. The review period for cooperators has been

extended from the end of February to April 1, 2011, with a cooperating agency meeting scheduled for March 14, 2011. The Aspinall Unit Operations EIS addresses re-operation plans to assist in meeting downstream flow recommendations for endangered fish in the Gunnison River of western Colorado. The preliminary final EIS addresses two significant changes since the draft EIS was printed: (1) quantification of the downstream senior reserved water right for the Black Canyon and (2) completion of a programmatic biological opinion.

Reclamation to Hold First Repayment Contract Negotiation Meeting for Animas-La Plata Project

On February 25, 2011, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office will conduct the first repayment contract negotiation meeting for the Animas-La Plata Project with the State of Colorado for all or a portion of the state's statutory allocation of project water. The contract will provide for storage and delivery of project water, identify the amount of project construction costs to be paid to the Federal Government by the state, and provide for operation and maintenance of the project.

Meeting with 7 Colorado River Basin States

Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak, and Assistant Regional Director Ann Gold will meet with representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin states in Las Vegas on March 1, to discuss issues associated with the Glen Canyon Dam environmental assessments addressing development of a protocol for high-flow experimental releases and for non-native fish control in the Colorado River below the dam.

Discussions to Revoke Reclamation-withdrawn Lands (Wyoming)

Representatives of the Provo Area Office will meet with the Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on March 3, regarding Reclamation's intent to revoke lands withdrawn for agricultural purposes at Fontenelle Dam and Reservoir. FWS would like a portion of the land to be added to the wildlife management area associated with the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed wildlife management area expansion is opposed by local ranchers.

Congressional Activity

- **2/18/11:** Congressional Affairs worked with DOI OCL to provide legislative language on 2/18/11 per request of Senator Baucus' office to authorize construction of the Dry Redwater rural water project. The legislation, if introduced, would be in conflict with the rural water process established pursuant to PL 109-451.
- **2/25/11:** Congressional Affairs is working with BOR Budget office to accommodate house majority staff request for a FY 2012 briefing on Friday, 2/25/11.
- **2/25/11:** New Mexico Representative Martin Heinrich and his NM staffer Matt Zidovsky will meet with Albuquerque Area Manager Mike Hamman at the Rep's Albuquerque office. Rep. Heinrich requested the meeting to get acquainted with Mike Hamman and to get an update on the status of the biological assessment and biological opinion for the Middle Rio Grande and on habitat restoration activities on the Middle Rio Grande.

- **3/2/11:** Reclamation's Congressional Affairs office is working with the Budget office to help prepare for the scheduled **3/2/11 House Water & Power Subcommittee hearing** on Reclamation's FY 2012 budget request. The USGS budget request will also feature in the hearing.
- **No Date:** CRS is compiling a report on the effects of the House-passed 2011 CR. CRS also recently published a report (2/18/10) on the effect of government shutdown.
- **No Date:** Congressional Affairs is working with Rep. Matheson's office (D-UT) on a potential drafting service relative to trespass issues at Scofield Reservoir in Utah.

US Geological Survey

Call for Proposals to Host the South Central, Northeast, and Pacific Island Climate Science Centers

On or before March 1, the USGS plans to publish a call for proposals to host the South Central, Northeast, and Pacific Island Climate Science Centers (CSCs). Proposals will be due in May 2011, with a decision on selection scheduled for September 2011. The Technical Review Panel for this selection, as with previous CSC competitions, will be chaired by the USGS and include representative from DOI bureaus, the U.S. Forest Service, and NOAA.

The Threat of Feral Cats to Hawaiian Wildlife

On March 10, 2011, an article titled "The Widespread Threat of Feral Cats on Hawai'i's Native Wildlife," by USGS author Steven C. Hess, will be published in *The Wildlife Professional*, a quarterly journal of The Wildlife Society. Feral cats are notorious predators of wildlife throughout the world, but are particularly devastating to the endemic wildlife found on remote oceanic islands. More than half of the native birds of the Hawaiian Islands have gone extinct since westerners arrived and brought cats and other small predatory mammals to the islands with them. Half of the remaining native bird species are in severe decline or are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Researchers and wildlife managers in Hawai'i want to find more effective ways to protect remaining native and endangered birds and other native wildlife from predation and diseases caused by feral cats. The USGS studied the effects of feral cats on native wildlife in Hawai'i, to document the ecology and population genetics of feral cats, and to develop adaptive strategies for trapping feral cats. No press release is planned at this time.

Walrus Report on Projected Population Status

The USGS has developed a model integrating potential effects of changing environmental conditions and human stressors on the future status of the Pacific walrus. Probabilities of walrus population outcomes by the end of the century are expected to shift from robust to less robust categories. Sea ice habitat, particularly in summer/fall, and harvest levels had the greatest influence on future population outcomes. These findings were used by the USFWS in reaching their recent decision (announced Feb. 8, 2011) that listing of the walrus under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded by higher priorities. These USGS research findings will be published online in the journal *Polar Biology* on or about March 3, 2011. The USGS is preparing appropriate messaging (because there was limited media interest in the recent USFWS walrus listing decision, extensive media interest in the new USGS product is not expected).

New Zealand Earthquake

Current news reports indicate that the M6.3 earthquake has resulted in at least 75 deaths with hundreds more injured, and significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. As many as 100 people may remain trapped in collapsed buildings. Water is out to 80 percent of Christchurch. The USGS National Earthquake Information Center's PAGER system issued a Red Alert for earthquake shaking impacts, including a Yellow Alert for fatalities (1-100) and Red Alert for economic losses (\$1-100 billion). Preliminary cost estimates being reported in the news are \$12 billion. Estimates being given by the New Zealand government for the Sept. 3, 2010 magnitude-7 quake in nearby Darfield are \$4.5 to \$6 billion (converted to U.S. dollars). The earthquake has affected the value of the currency (Kiwi), the stock market and interest rates.

Potential for Flooding in the Midwest (Update)

The National Weather Service flood outlook continues to list a very high probability of major flooding in numerous watersheds in the upper Midwest and northern Plains because of the very large snowpack in these areas. Major rivers of particular concern are the Red River of the North, Souris River, James River (North and South Dakota), Big Sioux River (South Dakota), Minnesota River, and Mississippi River as far downstream as the Illinois/Missouri border. Over the past week, additional snow accumulation of more than 12 inches has occurred in many of the drainages where already there are large amounts of snow. Although there was a warm-up of surface temperatures over the past two weeks, melting of snow only occurred on the fringes of the southern parts of this snowpack. USGS Science Center Directors in ND, SD, and MN, and staff are coordinating and working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, National Weather Service, and the North-Central River Forecast Center, as well as with personnel from local, State and Federal agencies in preparation for flood flood surveillance and data collection once melt occurs and the flooding starts in earnest (typically anytime from mid-March to early April). Glen Dacy, Chicago-based producer for ABC Network News, spoke with USGS flood hazards coordinator Bob Holmes regarding interest in developing a story about the use of USGS science in preparing for potential Midwest floods this spring. Dacy expressed interest in developing the story within the next 2 weeks.

Mt. Hood Eruption Could Cause Sediment Load Downstream

A recent USGS paper states that even a minor eruption from Mount Hood, a volcano and the tallest mountain in Oregon, could cause a large sediment load in the Sandy River downstream. A news release will be issued, with tentative release date sometime in early-mid March.

USGS Provides Expertise to Upgrade Monitoring of Northern Mariana Islands Volcanoes

USGS geophysicists will be working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in March to upgrade existing networks with new seismic, acoustic and deformation instruments for volcano monitoring on Saipan Island, and nearby Anatahan and Sarigan volcanoes. This American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supported project, to upgrade instrumentation and monitoring capabilities on Anatahan and Sarigan volcanoes, will help provide forecasting of potential hazardous ash fall and gas emissions to the neighboring islands of Saipan and Guam. The upgraded equipment will help the CNMI Emergency Management

Office and the USGS issue appropriate volcanic advisories to residents, the U.S. military, and marine and aviation traffic, in a timely manner.

Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) collection is being added to

Earth Explore: Customers will soon be able to search and download the MODIS global data set using Earth and provide data from the MODIS instruments operating on NASA's TERRA and AQUA spacecraft. Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) data is currently available under this category.

USGS Study Projects Future Distributions of Joshua Trees

In the January/February issue of *Ecological Applications*, USGS scientist Kenneth Cole, who collaborated with scientists at Northern Arizona University, NOAA, and other institutions, will report his findings on the future distribution of Joshua tree populations using simulations of future climates. The results suggest that only the most northerly populations will be sustainable 60 to 90 years from now. The study demonstrates how information from paleoecology and modern ecology can be integrated to understand ongoing processes and future distribution.

Salton Sea Imaging Project

Eighteen USGS scientists, led by Gary Fuis of the USGS Earthquake Science Center, are in the midst of a large seismic imaging effort that will provide crucial new information on the seismic hazard in southern California, in a region of high seismic hazard. The USGS plays an essential role in this planning, preparation, and conduct of this investigation, involving nearly 100 participants. Collaborators include Virginia Tech, Caltech, the University of California San Diego, the Southern California Earthquake Center, and the University of Southern California. USGS participation in the experiment should end on March 15.

Congressional activities

- **Water & Power Budget Oversight Hearing:** The House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water & Power, has scheduled a budget oversight hearing "*Examining the Spending, Priorities and the Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources program*" for Wednesday, March 2, 2011. They have invited Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, and William Werkheiser, Associate Director for Water, USGS, to testify.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff
From: Chief of Staff – Indian Affairs
Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS: Indian Affairs is conducting outreach to finalize the AI/AN Task Force for the National Action Alliance on Suicide Prevention. Work continues on planning for a youth outreach initiative which will incorporate the strategies and best practices recommended at the 10 listening sessions held on Suicide Prevention efforts.

HPPG/ PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE: The initiative is still on track to meet its goals. Meetings have been scheduled at each HPPG site where Tribal leadership, community members, key staff from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, and other Federal and local service providers will meet to discuss initiatives that have been implemented and to update strategies. Scheduled dates are as follows: Mescalero (February 24-25, 2011); and Rocky Boys (February 24-25, 2011 *tentative*.) Additionally, a police and detention officer job recruitment fair is scheduled for March, 2011 at the Standing Rock Reservation.

TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT (TLOA): The implementation of TLOA is currently on target. The standards for Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLECs), BIA Interim SLEC Protocol and Core Jail Standards were published in January 2011. Indian Affairs is continuing collaboration efforts with HHS on Section 241, which amends the 1986 Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Section 241 specifically directs the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Attorney General to develop a Memorandum of Agreement by July 29, 2011. Indian Affairs is coordinating the next round of Tribal Consultations on long term incarceration under TLOA. These consultation sessions will be held jointly with the Department of Justice.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) cosponsored, with the Native American Development Corporation "Industry Day" on February 17 as a first in a series of Industry Days IEED plans to orchestrate to bring together prime contractors (buyers) with tribal businesses. Historically, Federal contractors have used Industry Days to evaluate capabilities of companies, address concerns, and examine current business standards before solicitations are publicly posted. They are also used to insure that the Federal Government has the ability to maintain a competitive industrial base for contracting purposes. The Federal Acquisition Regulations allow tribal businesses sole-source contracts. This, combined with the DoD five percent incentive program, offer tribal businesses significant opportunities to profit from procurement. Thirteen (13) Prime Contractors that participated in this first "Industry Day" and 21 Native suppliers participated which included tribal light manufacturing plants and machine shops located at Ft. Berthold, Standing Rock, Rosebud Sioux, Blackfeet, Ft. Peck, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Red Lake, and Poarch Creek tribal sites.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: There was a full Team conference call on February 23 to plan for a full-Team meeting in March. The March meeting will be the last face-to-face meeting for the Team. Comments are continuing to be received prior to the March 14, 2011 Federal Register deadline for Tribal Leaders to provide comments on the Department Consultation Policy. The tentative deadline is August 2011 to finalize the Department Consultation Policy; thus far, the Policy development is on schedule.

WESTERN SHOSHONE JUDGMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Western Region anticipates that it is still on target for a partial payment to be made on February 28, 2011 to those eligible elders 65 years old or older and to those eligible applicants from whom applications were received on or before October 5, 2007. The estimated number of payments is between 3,000 to 3,400 to be distributed the week of February 28.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The BIA continues to work collaboratively with the Department and the other DOI Bureaus in the implementation of the DOI Climate Change Initiative. Meetings have been held that: 1) continue to refine the Climate Science Center (CSC) and Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Implementation Policy Guidance Document; 2) explore the core structures of the CSCs and LCCs and determine whether FACA applies to their governing process; 3) determine the realistic performance milestones of the Initiative and their measurability. The BIA's Office of Trust Services has developed a draft Tribal Engagement Strategy intended to provide a framework to encourage substantive participation by Tribes and Alaska Villages in the DOI Climate Change Initiative, and other climate change efforts led by other government entities. This draft was presented to the BIA Regional Directors last week and is currently undergoing review and comment.

OUTREACH: The Assistant Secretary is tentatively scheduled to attend the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council session to be held in Washington, DC, the week of February 28. In early March, the Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to the Crow Reservation and the Northern Cheyenne Reservation where he plans to meet with Tribal Leaders, encourage the Crow Tribe to vote to accept its historic water settlement, and tour the respective homelands. He is also scheduled to travel to the homelands of the Havasupai Tribe (located in the Grand Canyon) and the Hualapai Tribe (located near the edge of the Grand Canyon) for Tribal meetings on March 9. On March 15-16, the Assistant Secretary will attend the quarterly meeting of the Tribal Interior Budget Council to update the tribes on the FY 2012 budget request and hear the Tribes priorities for FY 2013. On March 22, the Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to Utah to address the Utah Tribal Leaders meeting, which will be attended by many leaders and members of the five tribes in Utah.

During the week of March 23, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary is scheduled to travel to Albuquerque, NM, to participate and speak at a day and half symposium sponsored by the New Mexico School of Law and the University of New Mexico Indian Law Program. He will then travel to Madison, WI to attend meetings at the University of Wisconsin's Law School.

EDUCATION

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is continuing its review on sections of the reauthorization of the ESEA under the legislative referral process as well as on additional potential legislative items that could be addressed in the reauthorization.

NATIVE LANGUAGE RESTORATION AND REVITALIZATION: A conference call was held with the top Native language restoration and revitalization experts throughout the country to begin planning a Native language initiative. Native languages restoration and revitalization was emphasized to Indian educators to the Secretary and to the Secretary of Education; it was a consistent theme at last year's ED/BIE consultations. On February 25, a policy options memorandum will be completed outlining the BIE's options regarding the development of an alternative definition of Adequate Yearly Progress and BIE specific Standards and Assessments.

SUMMER INSTITUTE: Preparations are continuing for the 2011 BIE Summer Institute scheduled for June 21-24, 2011 in Reno, NV. The effort to improve communities through a variety of professional development activities includes the following: successful students, parent involvement, language and culture, school improvement, school safety, immersion program, anti bullying, accountability, suicide prevention, Native Star, reading/math, Special Education, NASIS, community support, NWEA, best instructional practices, delivery of instruction techniques, FACE, continuity, data, continuum of learning, assessment, learning, leadership, and service.

SUICIDE AND BULLYING: The second round of Suicide prevention and anti-Bullying coaching-level training took place February 14 - 15 in Rapid City, SD. Approximately 45 individuals from the Dakotas attended. The intent of the training is to build capacity at the schools and BIE to sustain ongoing suicide prevention and anti-bullying training in the future. Eight more train-the-trainer coaching-level sessions will be offered regionally through September 30, 2011.

OUTREACH: The Annual Chemawa Health and Education Fair will be held on Friday, February 25, 2011, and is hosted by the Chemawa Indian High School in Salem, Oregon. The goal of the fair is to promote student well-being, respect for education, and the development of healthy lifestyles. The Chemawa Indian High School is an off-reservation boarding school for high school aged American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Students represent a diverse background and come from over 20 states and 65 different tribes to attend school at Chemawa.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

Efforts are underway within Indian Affairs to respond to the FY 2012 OMB Passback language which requires by mid-March an analysis of the Bureau of Indian Affairs organization regarding consolidation of field sites and other efficiencies to produce administrative savings.

February 25, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for February 28 to March 6, 2011

**Office of the Special Trustee (OST)
Assistant Secretary Weekly Report**

February 28, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in the Washington office (2/28-3/4)
- National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C. (2/28)
- Non-career SES Training at the White House (3/3)

Review – February 21 to February 27

- **Update:** The FTO at the Laguna Agency represented OST at the symposium on Financial Literacy and College Success at Minority-Serving Institutions: *Institutionalizing Approaches to Student Success*. The symposium, sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education Policy and USA Funds, was held in Dallas, Texas, February 22-25. The FTO worked with officials from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), who also attended, to implement a financial education program at their school.

Week Ahead – February 28 to March 4

- **New:** Late last month, the Office of Appraisal Services Northwest Region received from BIA over 500 probate appraisal requests for the Nez Perce Reservation. The goal is to complete the appraisals by the end of March. Two Review Appraisers are traveling to the area to assist with writing appraisals for the 417 remaining requests. They will arrive on February 28 and have planned their return travel March 3, cognizant of the potential expiration of the continuing resolution on March 4. When work resumes, additional personnel will assist with completing the workload.
- **New:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) at the Warm Springs Agency is conducting a series of six “Investing for the Future” financial skills training sessions for employees of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The sessions are being held between February 24 and March 10. The FTO is using First Nations Development Institute course materials.

- **Update:** OST's Trust Services will continue to conduct Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) testing over the next few weeks in a TFAS test environment. The tests include approximately \$600 million simulated assets representing more than 2000 tribal accounts and large cash additions and withdrawals with daily and monthly interest calculations and allocations. The STIF will provide sufficient liquidity to meet individual tribal account needs and an opportunity to invest a major portion of the fund in longer-term securities, which are expected to provide higher income than the cash balances currently invested in the U.S. Treasury Overnighter. The Overnighter rate reflects short-term Treasury interest rates.
- **Update:** OST and BIA are collaborating to effect a partial per capita payment to approximately 3,600 Western Shoshone tribal members. This project will result in a partial payment of about \$20,000 per member; a total of \$72 million. OST is working with BIA to establish restricted accounts, when needed, and testing with Treasury to provide for direct deposits to members' accounts. The partial payment target date is February 28.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** New Mexico State University Grants campus is offering two sessions of financial skills training. The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Eastern Navajo Agency will participate in the kickoff on March 17 and the training sessions, which are scheduled for March 30 and April 14.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than two dozen activities occurred in February.

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
February 25, 2011**

Next week, in Washington, DC, the chief executives and Congressional representatives from each of the US insular areas will gather with senior-level officials from more than 20 Federal agencies to discuss issues of importance to American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S Virgin Islands. The 2011 Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) meeting will be held at the South Interior Building on Tuesday, March 1.

On April 14, 2010, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13537 that strengthens and reestablishes the White House as Co-Chair of the IGIA. This will be the first meeting since the signing of the E.O. where Ms. Cecilia Muñoz, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs will preside as an official co-chair along with Assistant Secretary Anthony M. Babauta, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's designee.

The meeting will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 from 1 to 4 p.m. A toast to welcome the new co-chair and the newly elected Governor of Guam, Eddie Calvo, will be held immediately following the meeting.



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

February 25, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: February 25, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference. OEPC is working with the Interagency Working Group in the planning of the upcoming conference “Building the Clean Energy Economy with Equity” scheduled for April 27-29. DOI is a sponsor for this year’s conference and the OEPC and BIA are working to develop a track for Native American issues such as “Renewable Energy on Reservations” and the new “Tribal Consultation Policy”.

Youth: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Partnership. The Office of Youth is working with NIFA to align DOI bureaus with NIFA’s Land Grant University Funding opportunities to advance research, extension, and education in the agriculture and natural resource fields. Grant funding for these particular Universities, which include African-American Land Grant Universities, Native American Land Grant Universities, and HSIs have the potential to “pipeline” greater numbers of diverse students into careers with the Department of the Interior.

ONRR Participates in Notifications to 8(g) States (New): On Friday, February 18, ONRR personnel participated in notifications to the gulf states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas of changes to the methodology used to determine revenue sharing from Federal offshore oil and gas leases in areas adjacent to state waters. The changes are the result of extensive legal reviews of the way the Department of Interior had previously determined the states’ seaward boundaries when those boundaries were ambulatory. As a result, two states (Mississippi and Texas) were underpaid, and two states (Alabama and Louisiana) were overpaid. ONRR will pay the amounts owed to the two states as the overpayments to the other two states are recovered.

MANAGEMENT

Valley Complex Fire (VA) Situation Report: The fires of the Valley Complex are being managed under a Unified Command with the participating agencies of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Virginia Department of Forestry and Rockingham County Fire & Rescue (only fires in Rockingham County). There are a total of 4 fires in the Valley Complex: Coffman Fire, Chestnut Ridge Fire, Pickle Branch Fire and Smith Run Fire. The Coffman, Chestnut Ridge, and Pickle Branch fires are located on U.S. Forest Service lands west of Harrisonburg, VA and near Roanoke in southwest Virginia while the Smith Run fire is located within Shenandoah National Park. Firefighting resources from participating agencies are being assigned to fires within the complex as needed. At this time the entire length of Skyline Drive remains closed due to snow and ice. The Smith Run Fire has also caused several trail closures within the Park.

BUDGET

Update: 2011 Budget and Continuing Resolution. The current continuing resolution funds government operations through March 4, 2011. In the early hours of February 19, after five days of debate, the House passed H.R. 1, a Continuing Resolution that would fund the Federal government for the last seven months of the fiscal year while cutting spending by over \$100 billion from the President's fiscal year 2011 request.

Interior-wide, H.R. 1 is \$924 million below 2010 enacted and \$904 million below the 2012 President's budget request. The significant reductions are in land acquisition, LWCF State grants, FWS grant accounts, and construction. Operating programs are generally reduced for climate change, challenge cost share, and efficiencies. The bill includes increased funding for BOEMRE, ONRR, Landsat, and Wild Horses and Burros.

The House-passed Continuing Resolution now moves to the Senate. The Senate is in recess this week, but they will take up the CR when they return on March 1. On February 18, House Minority Leader Pelosi offered – as a contingency in case H.R. 1 fails in the Senate – a short-term CR that would extend government operations through March 31. The White House has issued a Statement of Administration Policy, in which the President threatens to veto H.R. 1 should it pass the Senate unchanged.

Update: 2012 Budget Hearings. The Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs and PMB are working together to schedule the Secretary's and bureau hearings.

House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearings on the budget are as follows:

- **GAO and DOI IG** Management Challenges and High Risk Programs – Tuesday, March 1 (9:30 am)
- **Secretary Salazar** – Tuesday, March 8 (1 pm)
- **NPS** – Wednesday, March 9 (9:30 am)
- **BLM/OSM** – Thursday, March 10 (9:30 am)
- **BOEMRE** – Tuesday, March 15 (1 pm)

- **FWS and maybe NRDA** – Wednesday, March 16 (1 pm)
- **USGS** – Thursday, March 17 (9:30 am)
- **BIA/OST** – Wednesday, March 30 (1 pm)

Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has scheduled the following hearing:

- **Secretary Salazar** – Wednesday, March 9 (TBD)

House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee budget hearings:

- **Bureau of Reclamation and CUPCA** - Thursday, March 10 (10 am)

Authorizing Committees hearings on the budget:

- Senate Energy and Natural Resources – Wednesday, March 2 (10 am)
- House Natural Resources Committee – Thursday, March 3 (10 am)

Update: OIG/GAO Responses. The attached charts provide due dates for pending responses to OIG and GAO draft reports and closure of open referrals for high priority OIG recommendations.

Overdue

- **Fish and Wildlife Service response to the OIG evaluation of grants and cooperative agreements in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands.**
- **Fish and Wildlife Service response to the OIG audit report on the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009**
- **Fish and Wildlife Service response to the OIG audit report on the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants Awarded to the State of West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009.**
- **Fish and Wildlife Service response to the Independent Auditors' Report on the Administration of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 and Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010.**

Status

- BIA submitted the responses to the OIG evaluation of coordination of efforts to address Indian land fractionation and the OIG evaluation of BIA detention facilities. Correct
- PFM submitted the response to the GAO audit report—*Energy-Water Nexus (GAO-11-35)*. Correct
- PFM submitted the response to the GAO audit report—*Oil and Gas Bonds (GAO-11-292)*.
- PFM submitted technical comments to GAO on their draft report—*Federal Oil and Gas (GAO-11-319)*.

Update: 2010 Combined Federal Campaign. Interior's CFC National Capital Area (CFCNCA) campaign staff attended the governmentwide closing event for the 2010 CFCNCA held on February 16. Interior was honored along with several other agencies with an award for having increased our level of electronic giving over the 2009 level. Donations made electronically for the CFCNCA as a whole averaged 27% of total donations, while Interior

averaged 72%. The total amount Interior has raised for the 2010 CFCNCA is \$637,786, or 106% of our goal of \$600,000.

New: GAO 2011 High Risk List. GAO has designated one new area in its 2011 High-Risk List—Interior’s Management of Federal Oil and Gas Resources. GAO found that Interior does not have reasonable assurance of collecting the federal government’s share of revenue from oil and gas produced on federal lands, and problems remain in hiring, training, and retaining sufficient staff to provide oversight and management of oil and gas operations on federal lands and waters. GAO also questions whether Interior has the capacity to undertake the reorganization in the oil and gas program while carrying out its range of responsibilities with constrained resources.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Agency Senior Sustainability Officer's Meeting. On February 22, OMB and CEQ hosted a meeting of the agency Senior Sustainability Officer's. The purpose of the meeting is to distribute the January 2011 Sustainability/Energy Scorecard's and discuss any issues the agencies have with the meeting the goals. The scorecards are distributed twice a year in January and July. DOI rated green in all measures except sustainable buildings (SB). DOI rated red in SB. OEPC is working with bureaus on examining ways to address this issue.

New: Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan – Narrative Request. The Department's 2011 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) will be due to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) by June 2. SSPP narrative guidance will be sent to bureaus and offices this week to get a jump start on collecting bureau and office FY 2010 accomplishments, FY 2011 activities, and FY 2012 and beyond planned actions for each of the SSPP goals. This information will be used to help the Department update the narrative portions of the SSPP, including the Accomplishments and Milestones Sections, provide progress and/or planned actions for the Department's Sustainability Scorecard. Narratives are due back to OEPC by March 25.

New: Environmental Memoranda Series. OEPC has revised its list of effective memorandums which include Environmental Review Memorandums (ERMs), Environmental Statement Memorandums, and Environmental Review Memorandums (ERMs). These memorandums provide information and guidance to bureaus and offices related to NEPA and general environmental compliance responsibilities of the Department. The memorandums will be made available on the OEPC web site this week at:
<http://www.doi.gov/oepec/ememoranda.html>.

New: State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference. OEPC is working with the Interagency Working Group in the planning of the upcoming conference "Building the Clean Energy Economy with Equity". DOI is a sponsor for this year's conference and the OEPC and BIA are working to develop a track for Native American issues such as "Renewable Energy on Reservations" and the new "Tribal Consultation Policy".

New: Review of Categorical Exclusions (CEs). BOEM met with CEQ on February 24, to continue discussions on the review of their CEs. OEPC participated in the meeting and in providing staff support related to the four policy oriented categorical exclusions including the topics of easements, right of way, production measures and off lease storage.

New: Munitions Legacy Sites Working Group. On February 10, OEPC held a webinar meeting with NPS, BLM, BIA, and FWS to discuss their data requirements for the DOI-wide Military Legacy Sites (MLS) Database. The meeting reviewed the data fields previously proposed and collected by the bureaus for the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) on their managed lands and the data available for download from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE) FUDS Management Information System (FUDSMIS). The bureaus need more time, until the end of March, to complete this data field identification process, which is the first critical step for the database design and development. The MLS database, once completed, will help the Department and its bureaus better track the FUDS sites on DOI lands and prioritize the sites for cleanup based on the DOI's unique interests.

New: Participation in Institute of the North Arctic Policy Forum. The OEPC Alaska Office will participate in a February 24th Arctic Policy Forum, sponsored by the Alaska-based Institute of the North. The forum will spotlight Canada-U.S. Collaboration, focusing on Arctic marine shipping and the environment. The OEPC Alaska Office will moderate a session entitled "Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity," which will include speakers from Environmental Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

New: DM Updates for Real Property Pre-Acquisition and Disposal. OEPC with the assistance of the Office of Solicitors has completed draft 602 DM 2 - Real Property Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessments and 602 DM 3 - Environmental Site Assessments Prior to Real Property Disposal and sent to all bureaus and field offices for comments. As the comments were received, OEPC started to review and address some of the comments. On February 15, OEPC met with BIA and the office of SOL to discuss BIA's concerns on 602 DM 2 and possible resolutions.

New: National and Regional Dispersants Policy Conference. On February 23, the National Response Team is held a one day conference in Alexandria VA, to formulate a national dispersants policy and subsequent guidance to the thirteen Regional Response Teams which will develop their tiered dispersants policies and protocols. OEPC is participating for DOI, and FWS will provide a presentation on the Endangered Species Act. OEPC stressed the following needs: 1) improved scientific research on dispersants and monitoring for related environmental impacts; 2) consultations requirements to engage Tribal governments in the development of such policies; 3) consideration of the human health effects, especially for subsistence users; 4) compliance requirements of the Endangered Species Act and other environmental statutes; 5) a transparent, public process and engagement for policy formulation; and 6) involvement of DOI and its bureaus in the RRTs' policy-making processes.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The next phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the winter.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$87.57 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost

documentation packages totaling \$47.05 Million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$10.24 Million.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque has submitted FWS PRFA Amendment #13 requesting a funding ceiling increase of \$3,402,100 to a total of \$65,759,469 with an extension of the period of performance to March 31, 2011.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque has been told by BOEMRE that they have ended response activities that would be covered by the PRFA and that they will be requesting no more PRFA Amendments.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque indicates that the development of Stage IV Shoreline Treatment Plans for the Eastern States and Louisiana by the Core Groups is continuing and nearing completion.
- The DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team met with GAO auditors on February 11 and is following up to provide materials requested by GAO, including DOI bureaus' "old" and current indirect cost rates and methodology (POB to respond); PRFA Cost Documentation Team and OEPC procedures, guidance, cover letters for packages and reimbursement requests submitted to USCG/NPFC; electronic files of all PRFAs and related amendments; and DOI purchase card policies and procedures.
- On February 17, OEPC provided OEM with its final revisions to the draft DOI DWH Oil Spill Preparedness and Response After Action Report and is awaiting OEM's response. The draft report will subsequently go through a review process to elicit input and priorities from DOI senior management officials and will also be reviewed by the participants of the October 19, 2010 After Action Conference.
- **COMPLETED: Development of an Arctic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA):** The OEPC Alaska Office participated in a February 15th interagency ERMA Organizing Committee meeting, which is helping design Arctic data sets for ERMA, a geospatial decision support tool for oil spill response, assessment, and restoration in the Arctic region of Alaska. This tool was first developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is being used in the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill response. An April 5-6, 2011, workshop in Anchorage is being planned to involve additional stakeholders in further development of the data base.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Coral Reef Task Force. The Department hosted the 25th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) from February 22-25 in Washington, D.C. Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Fish, Wildlife and Parks, represented the Department as the co-chair of the meeting. Key topics of discussion included the role of the USCRTF given the National Ocean Policy and the USCRTF Partnership Initiatives.

New: Multi-lateral Invasive Species Cooperation. At the request of All Islands Committee (AIC) members of the USCRTF, the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff provided an overview of inter-island cooperation on invasive species in Micronesia and the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan during the week of the CRTF meetings. The AIC members hope to use the Micronesia example as a template to address shared marine invasive species problems such as the Lionfish infestation in the Caribbean. The NISC will provide follow-up consultations.

New: Oil and Gas Information. At the request of DAS Lori Faeth, Policy Analysis has completed updating material on oil and gas markets and onshore leasing activities.

New: Brown Bag Series. Policy Analysis kicked off their monthly Brown Bag Series with a presentation Defending Biodiversity in Micronesia – The Micronesia Biosecurity Plan, by Phil Andreozzi, staff member of the NISC. Phil spoke on the efforts by Federal/local/regional players to proactively address invasive species damages by the brown tree snake, the coconut Rhinoceros beetle, and the cycad scale to an area of the globe larger than the U.S. The islands have low species diversity, but higher percentage endemism than continents. The next Brown Bag presentation will be by Jason Riley, DOI International Technical Assistance Program, and will be on Building CITES Capacity in Central America - Improving Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species with our Trading Partners. The Brown Bags are held in the Rachel Carson Room on the second Mondays of the month and are open to everyone.

Update: Arctic Policy. Policy Analysis continues to work closely with the Office of International Affairs to provide information to the Deputy Assistant Secretary - Policy and International Affairs, on DOI equities and engagement in the Arctic. On February 23, Policy Analysis and International Affairs facilitated a meeting of the Interior Arctic Coordination Group, attended by DAS Lori Faeth who briefed the group on Secretary Salazar's priorities for the May Arctic Council Ministerial. The Department also attended the State-led Arctic Policy Group meeting on February 24 and represented the Department's views on two U.S. proposals for the May Ministerial. Policy Analysis continues to participate in the drafting of the National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Plan with the latest writing meeting on February 25.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with the Bureau public affairs officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: State and Regional Invasive Species Workshop during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW 2011). Asian Carp Director John Goss will be the featured luncheon speaker at State and Regional Invasive Species Day on March 1, and the workshop will include a panel discussion on Asian carp and regional coordination. Representatives from DOI and other federal agencies, as well as many state officials, plan to attend.

Ongoing: Scientific Integrity DM Chapter. Policy Analysis participated in a conference call on February 17 with the Union of Concerned Scientists and on February 22 with the Council on Governmental Relations to answer their questions and concerns regarding implementation of Interior's new Departmental Manual Chapter on Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities (305 DM 3).

Ongoing: Economics Report. Policy Analysis is continuing to edit the text and check the facts and follow up on topics raised during the February 23 meeting with the Secretary.

Ongoing: Soda Ash Royalty. The Bureau of Land Management requested that Policy Analysis assist in drafting a report to Congress on the 5-year soda ash royalty reduction enacted in 2006. Policy Analysis participated in a February 9 conference call with BLM economics staff to plan for a final draft by March 3. Policy Analysis has gathered data on exports and has done some preliminary analysis of the data in preparation for a conference call held with BLM staff on February 23.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy. Policy Analysis continues to implement the National Ocean Policy. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held May 3-5 in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior.

Office of International Affairs

New: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff arranged for a briefing from outside sources concerning (i) Russia's interests in the Arctic and (ii) the United Nations Environment Program's interests in the Arctic.

New: OIA Staff to Present at the U.S. Agency for International Development. OIA staff will present on February 23 on lessons learned from its 15 years of providing natural and cultural resource management technical assistance overseas.

New: Environmental Law Workshop in the Philippines – International Technical Assistance. The Philippines Supreme Court Program Management Office and the Department's International Technical Assistance Program will co-sponsor a Capacity-Building Train-the-Trainer Seminar on environmental law and the "New Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases," to be held on February 24-25, 2011 in Manila. Funding for this activity is provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New: Workshop in Costa Rica on the Legal Framework for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – International Technical Assistance. The Department's International Technical Assistance Program's Regional Coordinator will hold a workshop in Costa Rica on updating that country's legal framework for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The purpose of the workshop is to present a diagnostic analysis of the existing laws to government officials, and receive their feedback on possible improvements. Participants will include approximately 25 CITES Authorities, customs officials, environmental prosecutors, police, and representatives

from the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the National System of Conservation Areas. The workshop is funded by the State Department under the Central America – Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

Update: Devil’s Lake. The State Department expressed concern that FWS may not be available to complete a bilateral risk assessment of Devil’s Lake species transfer by March 31st. FWS is prepared to address the issue, but it appears now that our Canadian counterparts may require a delay. OIA staff are working with State Department, FWS, and PMB staff to either postpone the deadline or arrange for FWS participation without disrupting other activities.

Update: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Funding for Big Bend Clears Major Hurdle. The CEC’s General Steering Committee (GSC) reported to OIA that DOI’s landscape conservation project in the Big Bend area has trilateral approval at the GSC level. The Crown of the Continent portion of our proposal did not receive Canadian support, but may be eligible for future funding. OIA staff worked with several bureaus to develop our proposal, and coordinated with EPA, the Mexican and Canadian Embassies in D.C., the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and Environment Canada counterparts in order to garner support for DOI’s proposal. The proposals will shortly be shared with the CEC’s Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC, a trilateral advisory board) for comment, and then to the CEC Council for approval.

Update: Rio+20 Planning. OIA continues to track interagency preparations for the Rio +20 Conference. The United Nations will host a preparatory conference (“PrepCon”) the week of March 7 in New York. OIA staff will cover an interagency working group meeting on February 25 to discuss one of three main emerging thematic foci for the Brazil conference: “Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication”, and a final interagency coordination meeting on March 1 in advance of the PrepCon.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

NEW: Proposed Regulations for the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, State of Hawai‘i Admissions Act and Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act - The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations is working with interested parties in developing new regulations implementing the administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, the State of Hawai‘i Admission Act of 1959, and the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act of 1995. The regulations will allow the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the U.S. Department of the Interior to more rapidly and completely satisfy their statutory obligations under these acts. The proposed regulations do this by providing a bright-line process that clarifies the ambiguous roles of the interested parties and the statutory provisions that must be followed. Part 47 of the new regulations will clarify the land exchange process, the documents required, and the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and other entities engaged in land exchanges of Hawaiian Home Lands. Part 48 of the new regulations will clarify the approval process, the documents required, and the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior, and the State of Hawai‘i for amending the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended. Part 49 of the new regulations will clarify when the United States is required to act to ensure the trust obligations for Hawaiian Home Lands transferred to

the State of Hawai‘i under the State of Hawai‘i Admission Act have been breached and establishes procedures to carry out the Act.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

New: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Partnership. The Office of Youth is working with NIFA to align DOI bureaus with NIFA’s Land Grant University Funding opportunities to advance research, extension, and education in the agriculture and natural resource fields. Grant funding for these particular Universities, which include African-American Land Grant Universities, Native American Land Grant Universities, and HSIs have the potential to “pipeline” greater numbers of diverse students into careers with the Department of the Interior.

New: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) - National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Partnership. The Office of Youth has taken the lead in bringing together the resources of DOI and CNCS to provide a cost-effective way to build capacity that supports DOI’s Youth Initiative. NCCC will partner with up with at least five bureau field sites/offices to work on various environmental stewardship projects ranging from extensive trail work and reforestation activities to planning and creating youth advisory boards and organizing various community based projects.

Ongoing: Haskell Indian Nations University Target Recruitment Effort. The Office of Youth is coordinating a targeted recruitment event at Haskell on March 31, 2011 for the Department. The bureaus have identified over 55 vacancies that they will recruit for at Haskell. The objective of this effort demonstrate to all the bureaus the benefits of the target recruitment process and also introduce them to the students, staff, resources, and facilities of a postsecondary education institution operated by BIE. The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Personnel Management, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will also join Interior at Haskell for recruitment and outreach purposes.

Ongoing: AmeriCorps Matching Funds. The Office of Youth is preparing a memo for Secretary Salazar that provides guidance to the field on how to utilize DOI and partner resources as matching funds for AmeriCorps and related programs. This effort will allow DOI to expand youth employment programming across DOI by working collaboratively with our Federal Family and partners to ultimately decrease costs.

Ongoing: America’s Great Outdoors Youth Report.

The Office of Youth is leading outreach for the AGO youth report. There will be several discussions with DOI Leadership and staff on how to strategically support AGO across our Department and with the broader federal family. A multimedia presentation has been produced to highlight the AGO Youth listening sessions, including this video:

<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/youth/>

Ongoing: Let's Move in Indian Country. The Office of Youth and BIE launched the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Challenge in 186 BIE Schools as the first step to getting native youth active for 60 minutes a day. The Office of Youth is working with AS-IA, BIA and BIE, USDA, HHS, ED, and the First Lady's Let's Move team to support strategic planning for a Let's Move in Indian Country initiative –involving a White House/First Lady launch in March 2011.

Ongoing: Youth Programming Impact Evaluation Development. The Office of Youth is developing standardized processes for the Department to document impact, improve effectiveness and promote accountability for youth programming. A draft toolkit has been developed for program managers and is currently being reviewed by bureau staff. The roll-out of the toolkit and potential pilot programs will be discussed on 2/24.

Ongoing: Public Land Service Corps Hiring Authority (PLCS). The Office of Youth is coordinating the implementation of the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority for the Department. The Office of Youth is coordinating efforts with USDA to ensure that the reporting, tracking, and certification processes are streamlined across the two Departments. Critical feedback was obtained from USDA and partners. Next steps have been identified that will address some of the barriers associated with implementation.

Ongoing: Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Policy Guidelines Revision. After an overhaul of the policy guidelines by the Office of Youth along with the YCC Policy Task Force, composed of representatives from each bureau, the Office of the Solicitor and USDA-Forest Service, the document was reviewed by external partners from the Corps Network, and comments were accepted and discussed at a meeting on 2/14/11. Feedback from that meeting is currently being incorporated into the guidelines.

Completed: America's Great Outdoors Youth Report. On 2/16/11, President Obama announced the America's Great Outdoors report – Including the America's Great Outdoors Youth Report. The Youth Report included a multimedia presentation which consisted of a video of the Youth recommendations from 21 Youth Listening sessions. As the White House released the report the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors utilized several social media tools to send the video and access to the Report to the general public via YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and www.YouthGO.gov. The Office will be working with the Youth Task Force for the next steps in retaining momentum of the AGO Report. With the Task Force, the Office will continue outreach through consistent event and job updates on www.YouthGO.gov.

Partnerships Program

New: Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) MOU Revisions. Revise, with 7 federal agencies cooperating with PARC, a 2001 (amended 2007) MOU, including DOI natural resource Bureaus and other federal agencies including DoD, US DOT, US EPA, USFS, US Dept of Commerce NMFS, USDA NRCS for a Federal Agency Steering Committee that

provides a “framework for cooperation and coordination.” The existing MOU expires September 30, 2011.

Ongoing: DOI Partnership Program Framework. Introductory meetings with DOI staff engaged in the development of Department-wide partnering policies, including 1) all Bureau Partnership Coordinators, 2) PMB staff of the Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and 3) Office of the Solicitor

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: NPS Advanced Volunteer Management Training. This week preparations were made for Take Pride in America’s participation in the NPS’s Pacific Region Advanced Volunteer Management Training meeting that will take place March 1-3 in Boulder City, NV.

Ongoing: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities Policy. Draft Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities Policy is being consolidated into the DOI standard volunteer agreement.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

New: IT Transformation Plan. The framework for the IT Transformation Plan is complete. Consultants are engaged in assisting with the development of the plan, development and execution of the communications plan, project management support, a technical architecture and technical specifications for the data center consolidation.

Update: IT Transformation Planning for Field Input Sessions. Field input sessions on the IT Transformation in Alaska are planned for the week of February 28th and are designed to gather input from non-IT staff on their work and technology needs.

New: IT Transformation Briefings in Lakewood, Colorado. DAS Jackson and the CIO addressed hundreds of IT-staff in the Lakewood, Colorado region during the week of February 14th as the first in a series of field IT workforce briefings about the IT Transformation. Non-IT staff from the National Business Center were present for the briefings on February 16th. The most prevalent concerns expressed during these meetings included IT staff job security, the impending IT hiring restrictions, the approval process for IT procurements above the \$3,000 micro-purchase level and fears that IT Transformation consolidation activities could disrupt mission-critical activities

Update: Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). The draft Federal CUI Directive was received Thursday, February 17 from the Federal CUI Working Group (National Archive and Records Administration, NARA) for agencies’ comments due Wednesday, March 2.

New: IT Reform Best Practices Case Study. As a follow up to the submission to the best practices case study submissions, DOI has been asked to participate in a Center for American Progress event on March 10, 2011 to present the case study submitted for the February 15, 2011 deadline. OCIO is preparing a presentation for the event.

Office of Valuation Services

New: Director of OVS. OVS Director John Ross reports on Monday, February 28.

Update: Supervisory Contract Specialist. Plans to hire contract specialists to concentrate on OVS contracting needs proceed as planned. OVS received the certificate of qualified applicants on February 17 for the Supervisory Contract Specialist, GS-14 position.

Update: Appraisal Request & Review Tracking System (ARRTS). The Migration Team met to map the ARRTS business process details and to plan training and roll-out timeframes.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: Information Exchange with Canada Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

CADR will present, via teleconference, the process approach used by DOI's Tribal Consultation team to representatives of the Canadian working group who are interested in exchanging views as they develop best practices for aboriginal consultations in Canada.

Completed: Annual CORE PLUS Training Workshop. The 3-day training workshop for in-house mediators, facilitators, and coaches from all bureaus and offices was held on February 15-17. The workshop evaluations are being compiled and will be shared with the designated dispute resolution specialists for each bureau and all workshop participants.

Completed: Annual Report on Environment Conflict Resolution. CADR submitted DOI's Annual Report on Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem-Solving (ECR) to the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality. The report reflects a steady increase in the use of ECR processes throughout DOI's bureaus and offices, along with continued efforts to educate and train employees on the effective use of public engagement and collaborative processes.

Update: Requests for Facilitation Assistance and Process Design. CADR is responding to several new requests for impartial process planning and assistance, including the design of a facilitated interagency workshop on the lessons learned from Deepwater Horizon with the Office of Environmental Policy; and a request to assist the Office of Financial Management with a cross-department and bureau team to make decisions about Activity Based Costing.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Federal Geographic Data Committee Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday in the Main Interior Building. The

primary agenda items are the Geospatial Platform and the implementation of the Supplemental Guidance to OMB Circular A-16.

Update: Next Steps on GeoCircle Collaboration Site. The informal steering committee for the web-based collaboration site for geospatial tribal issues will meet via teleconference to plan the next steps for rolling out the capability to more tribes and DOI tribal liaisons.

Update: National Geospatial Advisory Committee Leadership. Dr. David Cowen (Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina) has agreed to chair the Advisory Committee and Dr. Jerry Johnston (Geospatial Information Officer, EPA) has agreed to serve as vice-chair.

National Business Center

New: FWS Consulting Services for PCS. The Financial Management Directorate's Accounting Operations Division will perform additional Permanent Change of Station (PCS) consulting services for FWS.

New: RFP Response to Millennium Challenge Corporation. The Financial Management Directorate, Finance & Procurement Systems Division, recently responded to a RFP to provide additional services to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). MCC awarded the work to the NBC to increase their Oracle Federal Financials services and has signed an IAA modification.

New: Inventory and Review Plan for LoB. NBC successfully prepared and transmitted A-123 Component Inventory and Review Plan that discloses current risk ratings of assessable units and the future planned internal control reviews for a three year cycle (FY2011 through FY2013) for all NBC Lines of Business.

New: Bureau Collaboration – NPS: The AMD Safety & Program Evaluations Division will be participating in the NPS Board of Review for 3 Alaska aviation mishaps that claimed 4 lives last year. This will conclude the NPS and AMD joint mishap investigation process that's been geared to identify best practices, reduce redundancies, and leverage individual subject matter expertise within each organization. A best practices evaluation will be conducted at the conclusion of each process in order to improve investigation processes, capitalize on synergistic opportunities, and improve communication/coordination that will ultimately lead to implementing targeted proactive mishap prevention measures; saving lives and reducing costs.

New: Discussion with DoD: The AMD is currently participating in discussions with DoD that will explore the possibilities of acquiring Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) platforms at low or no cost. These UAS platforms and sensors will eventually enhance DOI's ability to perform a variety of missions more safely and at reduced costs.

New: Water Fountains in MIB. The water fountains in wings 3-6 of the Main Interior Building were turned back on and a LAN message was distributed to all occupants informing

them about the service and inviting their participation in a forum to answer any questions or concerns.

New: NBC provided Logistical and IT support for the Departmental visit by General Services Administration, Administrator Martha Johnson in celebration of Telework Week.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: USGS Corrective Action Plan Review. The Accountability team is reviewing a Corrective Action Plan developed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in response to the Department's review of their Headquarters human resources office in FY 2010. During that review, the team found very few significant errors or deficiencies, however, identified a number of areas where improvement could be made. USGS has addressed all required actions and is adopting many of the actions recommended.

New: FWS Review and Comments. The Accountability team reviewed and provided comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service on a report of their review of Regions 1 and 8. The report identified no violations and very few serious errors but recognized several noteworthy practices in the areas of performance management, and leadership and employee development.

New: Bureau Access to eOPF. The Accountability team worked with the HR Systems team to obtain access to eOPFs at the following bureaus: the USGS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the National Park Service (NPS), the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of the Inspector General, and the National Business Center (NBC). Access to the remaining bureaus and equivalent offices will be granted once those organizations have converted to eOPF. Access to eOPF will facilitate the Department's role in future accountability reviews.

Office of Civil Rights

New: Limited English Proficiency Working Group. On February 22, 2011, the Public Civil Rights Division will attend the Department of Justice Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Working Group meeting in Washington, D.C. The agenda will focus on improving access to federally conducted and federally assisted programs under Title VI and activities for individuals who, as a result of national origin, are limited in their English proficiency.

New: icomplaints User Training. On February 24, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights will present icomplaints User Training for DOI EEO Practitioners. The training will be conducted at the National Capital Training Center, NPS, in Washington, D.C. The training will also be provided as a Webinar for DOI EEO Practitioners located outside of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

Completed: Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) Conference. During the week of February 14-18, 2011, Office of Civil Rights Director, Sharon D. Eller, attended, and participated in the CADR Conference. The CADR Conference was conducted in Portland, Oregon.

Completed: American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Memorandum of Understanding. On February 14, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights and the Bureau of Indian Education hosted the DOI and AIHEC Memorandum of Agreement Signing Ceremony. The ceremony was incorporated into the AIHEC Special Executive Branch Session of American Indian College and University Presidents in Washington, D.C. The Bureau of Indian Education is the lead bureau for implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MOU). The purposes of the MOU are to establish a collaborative partnership with AIHEC in fulfilling the DOI mission and the mandate of Executive Order 13270, entitled "Tribal Colleges and Universities," which recognizes the role of tribal colleges and reaffirms the federal government's commitment to tribal colleges.

Completed: National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. On February 16, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights participated in the Federal Inter-agency meeting of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. The meeting focused on developing strategies to implement both the mandated responsibilities of Federal agencies and Executive Order 13555, entitled "White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics." The meeting took place at the Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C.

Completed: Public Civil Rights Coordinators Meeting. On February 17, 2011, staff members of the Public Civil Rights Division, and Bureau EEO Staff Members, attended the Public Civil Rights Coordinators Meeting led by Jack Andre, Chief, Public Civil Rights Division. Topics included the 2011 three-team status reports update and Civil Rights Directive 2011-01 and Civil Rights Directive 2011-02. Additionally, there was webinar training information, and an External Officers Association briefing by U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff member Doug Gentile.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Emergency Management Training. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protection Program and Armando Galindo, Safety Management Information System Manager attended the Emergency Management Training in Shepherdstown, WV during the week of February 14-18, 2011.

New: Bureau of Land Management Safety and Health Evaluation Letter. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Safety and Health Evaluation letter was signed by Pamela Malam, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital and Diversity, on February 14, 2011.

New: Safety and Health Awareness Week. Proclamation for Safety and Health Awareness week, which focuses management attention on the safety and health of their employees while managing risks throughout the year, was taken to Pamela Malam, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital and Diversity, for review on February 16, 2011.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture. Final changes to memos charting a process to guide implementation of the interagency National Wildland Fire Enterprise Architecture (NWFEA) by Interior and Forest Service have been made. Expect signature the week of February 22.

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. There will be a conference call the week of February 22 to discuss options for continued staffing of the incident management organization through the summer. The goal is to downsize as much as possible.

Update: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) will be briefing the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC, and solicit bureau input on improving coordination with Interior.

Update: Experimental Nonessential Population Proposal for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion of a final rule for establishment of this population in Arizona. Establishment of the population is in furtherance of the Recovery Plan for this species and was proposed almost a year ago. Customs and Border Protection has expressed concerns over the impact of establishing an NEP of Pronghorns on border security operations. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew will discuss the proposed rule with CBP at the regularly scheduled biweekly coordination meeting on February 22. Additional briefings may be needed on the issue from FWS. Regulatory impacts of NEPs are significantly lower and this effort is not expected to impact border security operations significantly.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. Meetings with Customs and Border Protection are scheduled for February 24-25 to reconcile mitigation acreage estimates with the impacts of the projects as built. In addition, discussions to amend the current Interagency Agreement will continue. The end result of these discussions is hoped to lead to expenditure of 20 million dollars to purchase a portion of the parcels approved using a third party as the buyer. Discussions with CBP for an amendment to the agreement to provide for land acquisition in Texas (South Texas National Wildlife Refuge Complex) and California (San Diego NWR) are ongoing.

Update: Funding of Jaguar projects in Mexico. A letter addressed to DAS Thorsen was received which indicated that DHS would not fund jaguar mitigation projects in Mexico. These funds were provisionally withheld from the initial Inter-Agency Agreement pending further discussion. Region 2 prepared a response to the letter which will be used to in turn respond to CBP. In brief, FWS is adjusting plans for expenditure of these funds within the U.S. A briefing for CBP officials on working across the border is being developed in hopes that we will be able

to identify some conservation work that could be conducted in Mexico that will be acceptable to CBP.

Update: SBInet Program Assessment. Based on thorough assessment of this program CBP is now reevaluating its use along the SW border. The new approach will involve solutions tailored to meet the terrain and other challenges along each section of the border. A briefing is scheduled for February 23 with CBP who will provide the most current information on the status and plans for the SBInet program. Interagency Borderlands Coordinator Andrew has notified resource representatives from DOI bureaus and the Department of Agriculture and invited their attendance.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. This is a follow-up to the scoping meeting convened at Cabeza Prieta NWR headquarters on January 27th. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the recently changed position previously located at Bates Wells on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The expanded facility is expected to require 3 acres of land on Organ Pipe National Monument adjacent to an already disturbed tower site. A tentative meeting to discuss next steps is planned for early March in Ajo, Arizona.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. A small team from OCIO, OHR, and wildland fire worked to update the wording and clarity of OCIO Directive 2011-001. Their final draft is in circulation for review.

No Change: Radio Program Improvement. The relevant PMB Deputy Assistant Secretaries reviewed the proposed framework for implementing a Departmental approach to improving radio program management that is consistent with the overall IT Transformation. Key project team members were identified. Next steps are to brief the Deputies Operating Group on March 2 and to meet with the Department of Agriculture to invite them to join in the project.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. During the week of January 11 there was an initial meeting of the teams that will be conducting in-depth review of dispatch functions, requirements, and program issues in the Southwest and in California. Over the next 18 months these interagency teams will develop solution options for optimizing dispatch services through

consolidation of facilities, improving technology, establish governance, and other issues. A national “bridge” team will oversee the efforts to ensure consistency of approach and delivery of national-level recommendations for program improvement.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. A request for photos of environmental topics was received from the contractor and we are working to provide as many images as possible. A final module is still expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. CBP convened a briefing on the status of this PEIS on January 7. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status will be issued by CBP within the next several weeks. CBP previously issued requests for comments directly to the Bureaus. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew requested that these be directed to DOI. Bureaus will then be requested to comment with responses from each bureau consolidated by DOI. A Notice of Availability of the Draft PEIS is expected at the end of March 2011. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A communications and outreach plan for broader, public scoping is being developed at CBP. Initial scope includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Coordination of Borderland Activities. Borderlands Coordinator Andrew is now convening a series of coordination calls with BLM and FWS on a weekly or biweekly basis. In addition the first monthly DOI-wide coordination call was conducted February 8th. Biweekly coordination calls with Project Leaders for mitigation projects funded by Customs and Border Protection will begin the week of February 14. A DOI Sharepoint site is also being developed

for sharing of documents and graphics. Lastly, coordination meetings are conducted every other Monday with CBP to discuss progress, issues of concern and upcoming activities.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: OLES Participation in Interagency Project to Identify Undiscovered Marijuana Grow Sites on Public Lands in Washington State. OLES is supporting an interagency effort on behalf of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in Washington state to support area limitation analysis on public lands. This analysis will evaluate a variety of factors (terrain slope, hydrology, proximity to roads, population density, etc.) to develop predictive spatial forecasting models of future illegal growth activity. Ultimately, this project will result in a probability-based model of illegal marijuana grow sites.

New: BIA Victim Specialist Provides Training in Albuquerque, NM. On February 14-17, 2011, the BIA Victim Specialist provided a two-week basic introduction of victim services to seven new BIA Victim Specialist in Albuquerque, NM. Over 20 subject matter experts delivered cutting edge material during the training. The overall participant evaluation score was 4.6 out of 5. Staff from the FBI, the US Attorney's Office, BIA Law Enforcement, BIA Social Workers, and Tribal Law Enforcement attended various components of the training. This training was funded by a Department of Justice inter-agency agreement.

New: Classified Intelligence Overview to Deputy Assistant Secretary-Level Audience. OLES is continuing its initiative to inform our senior leadership and to provide a base-line awareness of threats to the Homeland--and specifically DOI interests. OLES provided a classified intelligence overview that both summarized the capabilities of the Intelligence Division to support senior decision-makers and outlined the current Homeland threat landscape with an emphasis on DOI interests. These intelligence overviews are intended to institutionalize a dialogue between OLES and senior decision-makers in order to inform and support their decision-making processes.

New: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. OLES is currently working with BOR to schedule an assessment at Glen Canyon Dam. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall and the Statue. Assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Arch, Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been scheduled for the USGS EROS Data Center in May.

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Project Rebaseline Submitted. A Project Rebaseline of IMARS was submitted to the DOI Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). The OCIO reviewed the Rebaseline and submitted it to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. The Rebaseline is based on OMB directives and guidance from the 2010 TechStat sessions.

Update: DOI Inspector General (IG) Access to IMARS. The DOI IG contacted the Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed, and expressed interest in getting IMARS access in order for IG staff members to query the system for conviction information. Faisal and the DAS agreed to provide access as long as the IMARS Governance Council agrees to this request. The IMARS Governance Council will determine what role based level of access will be granted to IG staff members.

Update: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, provided a high level briefing on the planning of the FPA Program to the DAS on February 10, 2011. The full Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report is scheduled to be completed for submission to DAS Thorsen by March 4, 2011. An official presentation of the review findings to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC) directors will be scheduled following the report (date TBD).

Update: Operation Trident Surge. The third deployment of NPS, BLM, FWS, and Forest Service officers began this week. The deployment began with an orientation and safety briefing for officers. The focus areas for the operation are now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and nearby BLM Public Lands. The operation has yielded narcotics seizures of over 13,400 pounds and apprehensions of 476 undocumented aliens during the first two rotations. OLES personnel continue to work with bureau incident commanders and Border Patrol to address operational planning, prosecution, and intelligence sharing procedures. A news release was sent out by Customs and Border Protection highlighting the joint efforts of DHS, Interior, and USDA in Operation Trident. The final rotation of officers is scheduled to begin on February 28, 2011. The two week rotations of increased personnel will continue through the middle of March, 2011.

Update: OLES Security Information Bulletins. OLES Security Division has issued its first security information bulletin which was distributed to all Bureau/Office Security Directors and other interested individuals. This bulletin focused on the OMB and HSPD-12 requirements for Physical Access Control Systems (PACS) for Departmental facilities. Additional security bulletins are in the process of being created.

No Change: OMB Commented on the National Monuments and Icons (NM&I's) Sector Specific Plan (SSP). OLES has been delegated the responsibility to represent the Department as the NM&I sector lead working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) following Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7. All sectors (total of 18) are periodically required by DHS to submit a SSP. OLES has completed the draft SSP and it has been reviewed and approved by DHS and reviewed by OMB. OMB has provided some comments that OLES is in the process of adjudicating. In addition, OLES commented on the charter for the creation of a National Park Service Icon Security Council. This Council consists of representatives from all of the Departments National Monuments and Icons and includes OLES.

No Change: OLES is Seeking a Corporate Account Option to Reduce Costs for Bureau Personnel to Use Internet Search Engines in Support of Investigations. In coordination with the Intelligence Advisory Working Group, OLES is pursuing options with the major providers of internet information in an attempt to buy-down the costs.

No Change: Main Interior Building Law Enforcement (LE) Group: OLES is coordinating a Departmental (OLES, BIA, NPS, FWS, and BLM) group of LE Officers who are located in the Main Interior Building. The purpose of this group is to ensure a coordinated Departmental response to any LE incidents occurring in the building. Progress in this group includes:

- Creating, ordering and distributing new, color coded, HSPD 12 identification card holders signifying the holder is LE.
- Creating an MIB/LE rapid response contact list.
- Creating a LE/Security visibility vest that will be issued to all LE and Security plain clothes personnel.

No Change: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. OLES reviewed and commented on an options paper created by the National Park Service and the United States Park Police of the possible security screening locations at the Statue of Liberty. This paper was the direct result of a review conducted by the National Park Service, United States Park Police and OLES of the Park's security program.

No Change: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **New Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is almost complete; work on the A ramp has begun.
- **New Exterior Guard Booths:** The current Guard Booths are in disrepair and do not have sufficient security infrastructure. New booths have been designed and initial delivery is scheduled for mid-February.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The Statement of Work is completed and we are waiting for the contracting office to post the solicitation.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** To date, we have downloaded between 3-5 thousand OPM employee files and 5-9 thousand GSA employee files into our PACS system.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Work continues on updating the IDS and upgrading the security cameras.

No Change: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. Planning for the 2011 OLES Departmental Security/Intelligence Workshop continues. A draft announcement has been crafted, a location with housing capabilities has been located and reserved, and all cooperating agencies are engaged. This workshop provides required in-service training to meet the 40 hour annual training requirement for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge.

No Change: OLES National Drug Enforcement Coordinator Teams With the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC). The National Drug Enforcement Coordinator is working with the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) in collecting marijuana related statistics on DOI land for 2010.

Final: OLES Review the United States Park Police (USPP) Icon Protection Plan. OLES Security reviewed and commented on a security plan created by the USPP for the National Mall.

Final: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Governance Council Lowers One High Issue. One High Issue for the IMARS Project was Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) inability to connect to the network. That risk was created when BIA wasn't on any network. In light of the recent development and mitigation of the Cobell vs. Salazar litigation, BIA is establishing a definitive network presence eliminating this risk. BIA will use a Virtual Private Networking (VPN) to access the IMARS. The IMARS Governance Council voted to make this issue a Low Issue and register the record of this decision in the IMARS Risk and Issues Register.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Shenandoah National Park – Smith Run Fire:* On February 19, a fire was detected in the Shenandoah National Park which has consumed nearly 2,000 acres by February 21. Skyline Drive between Front Royal and Virginia State Route 211 remains closed to traffic. No structures within park boundaries are threatened at this time.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Oil continues to be collected from Gulf Islands National Seashore; during the past week, over 1,000 pounds of oil was removed from beaches near the eastern boundary of the Ft. Pickens area. The second relief well is now expected to be permanently abandoned by the second week of March 2011. The Coast Guard has authorized DOI a total of \$87.57 million in Pollution Removal Funding Authorities (PRFA); offices and bureaus have submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$47.05 million and the Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed a total of \$10.24 million. On February 25, the DOI Incident Commander, Mark Lewis will be relieved by David Schultz.
- *Leaking Gas Well in the Gulf of Mexico:* The Apache Corporation continued operations to permanently plug and abandon the leaking B015 well. Over-flights and observations confirm that no sheen is present.
- *School Bus Overturns en route to BIA School:* On February 17, a school bus carrying thirteen grade school students and their driver overturned while taking the students to morning classes at Wide Runs Community School in Chambers, AZ. All bus occupants were treated for minor injuries.
- *Hazardous Materials Fire in South Carolina:* On February 14, a fire started at the Agrium Fertilizer Plant near Hartsville, SC spreading hazardous materials into a nearby lake and the town of Hartsville. DOI's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the EPA team in an advisory capacity.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM Director Larry Broun, LCDR Elaine Wolff, and our contractor team last week kicked-off the first round of field visits for the expert study. The first “listening session” was hosted by the Navajo Nation and attended by the Navajo Nation President Ben Shelley, representatives of Navajo tribal emergency management and other tribal offices, BIA Regional Director Omar Bradley, and State and county representatives from Arizona; the session was also attended by the Hopi tribal emergency coordinator. On the following day, the State of New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management participated in interviews with our team and hosted a teleconference with emergency managers from four pueblos. In California, the team met with BIA staff and attended a “listening session” sponsored by the BIA Southern California Agency and hosted by the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Participants included FEMA Region IV Administrator Nancy Ward, CalEMA’s Regional Director Scott Frizzie, Adam Geisler from the Inter Tribal Long Term Recovery Foundation, and tribal representatives. The team met separately with Pechanga and Pala representatives, and toured flood damage with the La Jolla tribal chair. Future planning includes site visits with Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest and those in the Dakotas to be scheduled in the late winter/early spring timeframe.

Update: Senior Officials Exercise 1-11. On February 23, Deputy Assistant Secretary Thorsen and OEM Director Larry Broun will attend the Senior Officials Exercise 1-11 which will examine senior Federal-level decision-making issues related to critical transportation (e.g. roads, highways, ports, airports, pipelines, etc) needs and requirements following a major earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). The exercise will take the form of a three hour simulated Domestic Resilience Group meeting occurring two hours after the first catastrophic earthquake in the NMSZ.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM hosted the DOI Mid-Planning Conference for Eagle Horizon 2011 (EH11) on February 16. OEM and Site E personnel briefed exercise planners on the evaluation strategy, discussed training and orientation that will take place prior to the exercise, and identified possible agenda items for the exercise execution. EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM will meet with members of the Emergency Management Council, the US Forest Service, and representatives from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and National Incident Management System working group this week to coordinate the new approved set of all-hazard response positions. The intent of the meeting will be to ensure that the approved positions are loaded into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for responder positions.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning. OEM has worked with offices to reorganize current team membership after several recent office moves within the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building. 97% of the evacuation support team members have been assigned and 77% have been trained. An evacuation drill has been scheduled for the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OCIO has begun Phase III of the Contact Management System (CMS). When completed at the end of February, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel and will allow individuals to securely update their own contact information, and will automatically feed data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups, thereby ensuring alerts and other information is properly delivered and received during emergency situations.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to review bureau and office roster submissions and is working with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM continues to work with IT staff to test and refine the new Contact Management System before loading the updated COOP team member information into CMS and Send Word Now. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

No Change: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, represented DOI at the Final Planning Conference for the Health and Human Services (HHS) Dark Zephyr exercise. The latest draft of the National Security Staff's Biodefense sub-IPC "Biological Assessment and Threat Response" (BATR) document includes DOI as a member, along with other Federal agencies. As a BATR member, DOI will play an active role in the interagency process to achieve consistent situational awareness, immediate coordinated action and positive outcomes that protect the Nation against high consequence bioterrorism and biosecurity threats. This membership will enable the Department, and its expertise in wildlife health, to further support interagency efforts.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the need of the bureaus.

Final: Occupant Emergency Plan Activation. The Occupant Emergency Plan was successfully implemented and the occupants evacuated the Main Interior Building due to a fire alarm on Wednesday, February 9 at approximately 8:44 a.m. The responding officials determined the alarm was triggered by construction work in the North Penthouse cooling tower. OEM successfully utilized the Send Word Now alert system to convey an "All Clear" message to Evacuation Support Team members at 8:54 a.m. to allow personnel to return to the

building. Communication and other evacuation issues were documented and corrective actions are being implemented.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Wildland Fire Leadership Council Meeting March 10, 2011. WFLC will address the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and a proposed process for Phase II implementation. They will also be briefed on the re-chartering of LANDFIRE.

New: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter / WFLC As a result of the LANDFIRE Leadership Futures Forum that was conducted in the fall of 2010, leaders of that session supported re-chartering the LANDFIRE Program to meet the needs of the wildland fire management community targeting the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) once again as the sponsor. A briefing paper for the March 10, 2011 WFLC meeting describing the need for re-chartering outlines how LANDFIRE data products are being used and supporting key initiatives like; Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation.

New: Wildland Fire Situation Update. The National Preparedness Level is at PL 1 (on a scale of 1-5 – 5 being the highest level of fire activity). Heavy initial attack activity was reported last week due to the increase in wildland fires in the southern states. Twenty-six new large fires were reported. Eighteen large fires were contained.

Rain and snow is predicted for the northeastern states. Cooler and wetter conditions is expected in the central US. Warm weather, along with possible dry and windy conditions, is forecast for the Southern Plains and southeastern states. Rain and snow will continue from the West Coast to the Rockies.

Update: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy. Nominations for the Regional Strategy Committees for Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy have been received and will be recommended to the WFLC at the March 10-11th WFLC meeting. A prototype of the proposed planning and analysis process was conducted February 7-11, 2011 in Asheville, NC. The prototype considered wildland fire management in AL, GA, NC, and SC. Input from the Southeast prototype is being analyzed, and the results will be synthesized and presented to Cohesive Strategy Oversight Committee (CSOC) on March 4. The proposed process, including prototype outcomes, will be presented by the CSOC to WFLC at their March meeting. A proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II nationally will also be presented to WFLC in March.

Update: Fire Policy Council – “Wildfire of National Significance” Exercise is scheduled for April 12, 2011. A coordination meeting with representatives of the Department of Homeland Security’s US Fire Administration, Department of Agriculture’s US Forest Service, Department of the Interior’s Office of Wildland Fire is scheduled in February to finalize the exercise for 2011.

Update: GAO engagement: Wildland Fires in the Arizona-Mexico border region (Job code: 361250). Initial meetings were conducted at NIFC on January 12 -14, 2011 to gain some understanding for fire operations near the border, what financial, fire investigation and fire

occurrence data sets are available and to develop some contacts. GAO will perform a fire data analysis in approximately 2 months. Several site visits in Arizona were conducted by the GAO team the week of February 6th.

Update: 620 DM 3 – Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation. OWFC is coordinating with the Interior Burned Area Emergency Response Coordinators (IBAER) to discuss the current Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation policy and identify items that would need to be addressed for a policy revision. The IBAER completed their initial review and proposed changes were presented at the January IFEC meeting.

Update: 2011 Administratively Determined Pay Plan for Emergency Workers. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Incident Business Committee (IBC) presented a final draft to the NWCG Executive Board Wednesday, November 17, 2010. The Executive Board agreed to endorse one AD Pay Plan with the inclusion of all-hazard positions. The DOI Fire Directors will submit the pay plan to the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination and Office of Emergency Management for review the week of February 22.

Update: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy with various options was distributed to the Fire Directors for review and presented during the January IFEC meeting. The draft policy statement will be developed based on discussions during the January IFEC meeting and with the USFS. A draft policy statement will be submitted to IFEC the week of February 27.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) held a conference call Thursday February 17th, 2011. The topic of discussion was to agree on the objectives and protocols for the independent external review of the FPA application. The draft mission, goals, and objectives document was shared with the OG for comments back to the FPA Executive Director for incorporation.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team: The FPA Interagency Science Team (IST) will meet in Boise, ID on February 23rd – 25th. The IST is scheduled to discuss system improvement feasibility and impacts. They will also discuss the progress that has been made by the group in developing and testing the improvements.

No Change: EPA's Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA's goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the

2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work associated the update of LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through third geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest. Production is on track to deliver the next geo-area which is the Southwest. For more information on LANDFIRE and the schedule see www.landfire.gov.

No Change: LANDFIRE – Review and Feedback meeting / AAR. OWFC conducted a review and feedback meeting under the style of an After Action Review (AAR) on the LANDFIRE data products February 2 & 3 in Boise, ID at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). Meeting focused on the use and application of data products in National efforts such as; Fire Program Analysis (FPA), Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS), Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS), Fuel Management Committee, (FMC), and Geo-spatial Task Group (GTG). Questions evaluated included: How are the LANDFIRE data layers working?, what elements of the LANDFIRE data products have worked well?, what data layers are you not using and why are they not being used?, areas of consistent problems or issues? The group discussed the magnitude and implication of issues or problems with the data, and identified program data needs for the future (i.e. what data product or data enhancements would be beneficial?) Meeting outcomes are being documented listing the specific technical issues and system requirements, short-term improvements vs. long-term Research and Development needs, and areas of future data needs and requirements.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWFC is coordinating with, DOI's International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Meeting on DOI Grants Program. On February 22, 2011, the PAM Director and staff met with representatives of the OMB Office of

Federal Financial Management (OFFM) to provide information on DOI's financial assistance programs. The purpose of the meeting was to better acquaint OFFM with DOI's grant making programs as part of an OMB effort to craft future policy and directives in a way that is most effective for Federal agencies to implement. Specific topics of discussion included DOI's financial assistance pre-award review and selection process; ARRA reporting and monitoring; single audit follow-up, including monitoring and resolution; and Open Government/transparency.

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program. During the week of February 14, the DOI Suspension and Debarment Program Manager provided input to Dan Blalock, Chair of the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee (ISDC), to assist in Mr. Blalock's preparation to appear as ISDC Chair at a February 28 hearing with the Commission on Wartime Contracting.

PAM is currently participating in weekly Tuesday meetings of the General Services Administration Excluded Parties Listing System (EPLS) Cause and Treatment Code streamlining workgroup, designed to reduce and clarify the explanatory identification text associated with EPLS listings.

Office of Budget

No Change: Cost of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. To date, the Department has \$87.5 million in reimbursable budget authority through PRFA agreements with the U.S. Coast Guard for oil spill response. The Department has submitted approximately \$47 million in claims to the National Pollution Funds Center, of which \$10.2 million has been reimbursed. The Office of Budget is coordinating regular reporting by bureaus of PRFA and non-PRFA/non-NRDA costs, and this data is being used to respond to USCG and OMB datacalls, respectively. POB will continue to coordinate with OMB and DOJ as they review the Department's non-PRFA/non-NRDA spill-related cost data. In addition, the Office of Budget is working with OEPC and PFM to provide responses to the GAO on spill-related costs and activities.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. All Q1 FY2011 status information on the Priority Goals has been updated into www.performance.gov. OMB's review of this information is scheduled to begin this week. David Hayes will be briefed on quarterly progress.

Update: FY 2010 Annual Performance Report. The FY 2010 Annual Performance Report is still undergoing surnaming. The report is expected to be released along with the other materials supporting the FY 2012 President's Budget Request.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Anomaly Report. The Department has received the SBA Small Business Anomaly Report for FY 2010. The anomalies

in the report cover size discrepancies, missing size data and general errors of coding businesses as listed in the Federal Procurement Data System. The report will be forwarded to contracting officers throughout the Department for appropriate actions with a due date of March 31 for completion and verification of actions taken.

New Item: SBA Scorecard Actual Plan Progress. The OSDBU recently submitted the Actual Plan Progress document to the SBA for Fiscal Year 2010 as part of the Department's yearly SBA Small Business Scorecard submission. The document will be evaluated by an SBA review team. The results of the evaluation will be published in SBA's Small Business Scorecard which is published annually. SBA plans to publish the results by May 2011. The OSDBU is in the process of submitting the Plan Progress Success Factors for Fiscal Year 2011 to SBA. The plan will be compared against the Actual Plan Progress document which will be submitted following the end of Fiscal Year 2011.

Update: Major Revision to the 8(a) Business Development Program. The Small Business Administration published a final rule on the 8(a) Business Development Program on February 11. The regulations become effective on March 14, 2011. Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) will be required to report on benefits to their communities which result from profits on sole source contracts. The rules regarding joint ventures are changed and an 8(a) partner in a joint venture will be required to perform at least forty percent of the work. Other proposed changes clarify the size, income and familial determinations needed to be eligible for the 8(a) program and allow owners of 8(a) firms called to active military status to elect to be temporarily suspended rather than lose any of their nine-year term in the program.

Update: DOI OSDBU Pacific West Region Small Business Outreach Event Interest Exceeds Registration. The registration for the February 24 DOI Small Business Event scheduled in Sacramento, California, has exceeded its registration. As of February 22, 2011, a number of interested small businesses continue to request that OSDBU reopen the registration. This demonstrates a need for this type of event for the West Coast. To address this interest, the OSDBU is considering hosting a series of webinars.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- April 1: DOI First Friday Small Business Session – registration is now open.
- June 21: Intermountain Region Outreach Event – registration to open by April 30.

No Change: Webinars Scheduled. OSDBU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- March 3: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, Puerto Rico
- March 23: General Small Business
- April 6: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business

- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business

FBMS/Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

Update: Organizational Change Management. An analysis by all the Offices is under way to determine the level of impact FBMS will have on each organization. Business process impact assessments are currently being developed and vetted with subject matter experts. As the process impacts are completed, they will be presented to the OS FBMS Advisory Group. Process impacts should be complete before role mapping begins, which is scheduled for March 8 and 9, 2011 in Herndon, VA and Lakewood, CO.

Update: Data Conversion. Data cleansing and conversion activities are on schedule. Several conversion object data have been delivered for testing. Data cleansing, conversion, and testing will continue through August 2011.

Update: Functional Design Specifications (FDS). OS Implementation Team and subject matter experts continue to review and provide comments as required.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Contract Audit of Final Costs Incurred by Accenture, LLP (New): Per standard procedures as part of a close-out of a former contract, the Western Administrative Service Center (WASC) Chief of Procurement, operating under the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, requested the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to conduct a final cost audit of Accenture, LLP. The Chief of Procurement received the OIG's Audit Report on February 16, which indicated there was approximately \$10.3 million in unsupported costs charged under the contract, which expired on Sept. 30, 2008. The Office of Natural Resources Revenue will work closely with the WASC Procurement Branch as they develop their response to the OIG report, ensuring the development of communication materials as necessary.

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): The ONRR has begun the implementation and roll-out of work relating to the Strategic Review recommendations. Several meetings were held in January 2011 to discuss 1) sponsorship and management of priority initiatives, 2) communications, and 3) the implementation management process. In February, communication efforts included a gallery walk (in Denver and the field offices), individual office meetings with staff, several brown bag lunches, and a Strategic Review Road Show for ONRR field offices. Implementation Work Groups (IWG) will be formed in early March.

ONRR Converting to New eCommerce Reporting Web Site (Ongoing): ONRR Public Affairs has prepared a press release and Qs & As related to ONRR streamlining its electronic reporting web site that companies use to electronically report production and royalty data. The new eCommerce Reporting Web Site is scheduled to “go live” on March 1, 2011. In addition to

reducing costs, the new website will improve how royalties, rents and production data are collected and reported to ONRR. It will also provide more efficiency and help ensure the accuracy of data reported by companies. Energy companies have been receiving notifications about the pending change since November 2010, with instructions on how to complete new user access forms that will be required for the companies to access the system. The new web site will initially be available to producers from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday to ensure security features are effective.

Financial and Program Management

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreements and equipment. A review of the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector's Office is scheduled for March 8-9, 2011 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): The ONRR continues its various forms of outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. The outreach is designed to resolve a mineral owner's royalty-related problems and to let them know how to contact us. These meetings enable us to listen to their concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. Our goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners of the Choctaw Nation in community meetings held in Ardmore, OK on March 8, 2011.

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

Office of the Solicitor Weekly Report for the Week of April 25, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Matters

Early Restoration Agreement

Today we announced an agreement with BP and the Natural Resource Trustees (Five Gulf States, DOI, and NOAA) setting framework for early restoration. Under the agreement, BP will pay \$1 billion for early restoration projects that are intended to accelerate recovery. For each project, BP will work with the Trustees to define expected ecosystem benefits from the projects and enter into stipulations to memorialize the agreements on expected benefits. The early restoration framework agreement does not release BP from liability for natural resource damages, and the Trustees will continue with the ongoing damage assessment effort that BP is funding.

BOP Examination

The MDL-ordered testing of the BOP is scheduled to begin this week. In accordance with the order, BP contracted with DNV to accomplish the court-approved protocol (order to be issued April 19 to allow testing to commence thereafter) to which various parties contributed in development (b) (5)

The Joint Investigation Team remains custodian of the BOP and will control access and evidentiary matters at the BOP site. The JIT, however, will not be an active participant in the testing but reserves its option to request DNV to update its report based on any findings in the additional testing. The MDL judge has ordered that all additional testing be complete by June 15, 2011.

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

The BOP testing has been the focus of proceedings in the MDL. In other areas, the parties are working to jointly submit a scope of trial for the trial of “test cases on liability” desired by the MDL judge to begin in February 2012. Under the judiciary’s centralization order that created the MDL, Judge Barbier has wide latitude to employ measures he believes will make the vast litigation more efficient or expedient. Depositions continue at a brisk pace in the MDL and though no DOI witnesses have been scheduled at this time, it is anticipated that BOEMRE witnesses will be deposed sometime this summer.

Other Matters:

Colorado River Matters: Glen Canyon Dam

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011 the Department issued an updated projected operational forecast for Glen Canyon Dam operations for the remainder of Water Year 2011. Under the terms of an historic agreement reached in 2007 between the Department of the Interior and the seven Colorado River Basin States, over the next six months the Bureau of Reclamation will release additional water from Lake Powell in Utah and Arizona to Lake Mead in Nevada. The additional releases, currently projected at approximately 3.33 million acre-feet (maf) above a previously projected release of 8.23 maf, will happen this year because of significant snowpack in the Upper Basin of the Colorado River. Drought conditions over the past 11 years had raised the possibility of water shortages occurring in the Lower Basin in 2012, and that possibility has now been averted.

Ivanpah Solar Electric Generation Facility

On April 15, 2011, BLM issued an immediate temporary suspension of construction activity to Bright Source Energy Inc. ordering it to stop work on certain units of the Ivanpah Solar facility. The temporary suspension order was issued because the company was at or had exceeded certain categories of take under the Biological Opinion for the project. The temporary suspension order is effective until the FWS issues a revised Biological Opinion and the BLM authorizes the company to resume construction. Certain other units of the Ivanpah project had been cleared of desert tortoise, had been fenced, and construction activity was underway. BLM conducted a 7(d) analysis under the ESA for those units and determined those units could continue with construction activities.

Indian alcohol and substance abuse Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOI, DOJ, and HHS.

The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) requires that the Secretary of the Interior, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services develop and enter into a MOA relating to Indian alcohol and substance abuse. Such an MOA was initially promulgated under the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1986. The federal partners are to determine the scope of Indian alcohol and substance abuse problems, identify and delineate resources each entity can bring to bear on the problems, set minimum standards for applying resources to the problems, and coordinate existing programs with those established under the 1986 Act.

(b) (5)

Google, Inc. v. United States, Court of Federal Claims No. 10-743 (Braden)

On Friday, April 22, the Government will file a response in further support of its motion to dissolve preliminary injunction and request to implement interim email infrastructure solutions.

(b) (5)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
April 22, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Yellowstone National Park (WY, MT, ID) – Winter Use Plan/EIS. Yellowstone NP will brief DOI staff on the status of the park's Winter Use Plan/EIS during the week of April 25. Approval is being sought for release of the draft EIS on May 6.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC-TN), Mammoth Cave National Park (KY) – EPA and Tennessee Valley Authority Clean Air Act Settlement. EPA announced a settlement with TVA to resolve alleged Clean Air Act violations at 11 of its coal-fired power plants in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The settlement requires TVA to invest in new and upgraded pollution controls at its plants, to retire 18 older units at three power plants, and to spend \$350M on environmental mitigation projects. The NPS will receive \$1M of these funds to improve, protect, or rehabilitate park lands, including Great Smoky Mountains and Mammoth Cave National Parks, which have been injured by emissions from TVA's plants. The NPS headquarters will work with EPA to obtain the funds, and will coordinate with the parks to develop a plan on how best to utilize the funds.

New River Gorge National River (WV) – White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) Found. Scientists have confirmed the presence of deadly WNS among bats within the park, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Monday. The state Division of Natural Resources confirmed the presence of WNS last winter in counties just east of the park and elsewhere in West Virginia.

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) MOA Signing. Following several years of negotiations and consultation, a Service-wide Memorandum of Agreement with the USACE will be signed on April 26 at the Stewart Udall Interior Building. It establishes a framework for cooperation between NPS and USACE, streamlining awards of specific project agreements at regional and park levels. It will facilitate transfer of funds as defined in specific project statements of work. A renewable energy project at Fort Sumter National Monument, SC, is expected to be the first to utilize this MOA.

ON THE HORIZON

Big Bend National Park (TX) – Boquillas Border Crossing. The park, in conjunction with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), is considering re-opening a historic Texas/Mexico crossing at the Boquillas area. The Boquillas Crossing Class B Port of Entry (POE) building would be on NPS land, and document scanning equipment would be operated remotely by CBP from their El Paso Sector office. A vast majority of comments received during the public scoping period for the EA supported the project. The EA is expected to be released for formal public review on May 3.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (PA) – Shale Gas Pipeline Proposal. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is going through an Environmental Assessment for a new looping pipeline proposed by Tennessee Gas to transmit Marcellus Shale Gas. The leading proposal is outside of NPS lands and waters, but two alternatives would cross Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The preferred alternative would not require an Act of Congress.

Blue Ridge Parkway (NC) – Environmental Assessment for Progress Energy Carolinas (PEC) Right-of-Way Permit. On April 28, the park will release for public review an EA for PEC to design, build, and operate a new 115kV overhead electric transmission line crossing the Parkway south of Asheville, near Milepost 393. The proposed line would run parallel and adjacent to an existing PEC transmission line on park property. This proposed addition is required to ensure continued reliability of the transmission system, which is experiencing growing demand for power by the citizens, businesses, and industries of the region. The public review period will run through May 31.

Grand Canyon National Park (AZ) – Jack Hanna and Celebrate Wildlife Day. Television host and wildlife expert Jack Hanna will provide two special programs at this year's Celebrate Wildlife Day event, on May 7, in Grand Canyon National Park. Hanna is Director Emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, host of an Emmy-Award winning television series, and author of numerous children's books about animals and where they live. Celebrate Wildlife Day is an annual event that provides park visitors and residents with an opportunity to learn about the wildlife of northern Arizona and the work of wildlife biologists.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
April 18, 2011

White-nose Syndrome in Bats

Several new white-nose syndrome (WNS) sites have been confirmed this week; the disease is now present in 16 states and 3 Canadian provinces. The FWS Northeast Region announced the availability of approximately \$200,000 in a request for proposals for WNS grants to states to be announced in late May. The annual WNS Symposium will be held May 17 to 19, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and will advance WNS research and management through communication, facilitated discussion and collaboration. Attendees and presenters will include scientists (state and federal agency, university, and independent researchers), state and federal biologists and response staff, international research partners and non-government organization partners. The Secretary has been invited to attend.

Small Business Administration Review of Final Rule to List Large Constrictor Snakes as Injurious

FWS prepared a final rule to list nine species of large constrictor snakes (including the Burmese python) as injurious wildlife. The rule and supporting documents (environmental assessment, FONSI, economic analysis, regulatory flexibility analysis) were signed by the Acting Assistant Secretary on March 29 and delivered to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review on March 30. OMB forwarded the rule to the Small Business Administration, which submitted comments on April 11. FWS is reviewing Small Business Administration's comments promptly. We expect to make unsubstantial clarifications to the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and we will reply to OMB. We anticipate the economic analysis of the final rule to be controversial.

Meeting with Senator Mark Pryor on FY12 Budget for Mitigation Fish Hatchery Operations

FWS recently met with Senator Pryor (D-AR) and other members of the Arkansas delegation regarding the FY 2012 budget request for mitigation fish hatchery operations. Senator Pryor's office has requested drafting assistance regarding the mitigation fish hatcheries. Members of the Arkansas delegation have expressed their concern with the reduction in FWS' FY 2012 budget request for mitigation fish hatchery operations. We expect this to be a highly controversial issue.

Delaware Governor Letter Regarding Prime Hook NWR Dune Restoration

The FWS prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) last November approving a dune restoration project at Prime Hook NWR, on the Delaware Bay. The Corps of Engineers' permit conditions and the FWS' EA prohibit the proposed work between March 1 and August 15 to protect nesting migratory birds, but Delaware Governor Markell has asked FWS to allow dune work prior to August 15 due to serious concerns about the safety of residents and emergency personnel should the state experience a strong weather event. Senator Carper's office has requested that FWS consider whether this is an emergency situation, which would invoke processes through Environmental Statement Memorandum No. ESM 10-1 (NEPA Compliance in Emergency Situations). FWS is coordinating with the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance to possibly elevate the

governor's request for considerations. Litigation on the proposed project has been filed by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Delaware Audubon.

New Hampshire and FWS Sign a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) on Restoration of New England Cottontail Habitat

A CCAA between FWS and the State of New Hampshire will help restore habitat on private and state-owned lands for the New England cottontail, a candidate for Endangered Species Act protection since 2006. Under this agreement, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will work with private landowners on restoration plans for the next 50 years. The department's goal is to enroll 3,000 to 5,000 acres to be managed as cottontail habitat in the southern part of the state. This is the first CCAA for the New England cottontail and the first agreement of this kind for the FWS Northeast Region.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

April 24 – April 30, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – On travel Monday evening to Mystic, CT to attend the New England Fisheries Meeting on Tuesday. On personal leave on Wednesday, returning to the Washington, DC on Thursday. On travel Thursday evening to Duck, NC to attend the Advanced Energy Board Meeting on Friday.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: Renewable Energy Priority Projects List, 2011 and 2012:** *The Priority Project list now includes 10 solar projects, 5 wind projects and 5 geothermal projects, with a total capacity of 4,536-MWs. The 2012 Priority Projects list, which includes 13 solar projects, 11 wind projects, and 4 geothermal projects, with a total capacity of 7,650 MWs was presented by representatives from the BLM, FWS and NPS to the DOI Renewable Energy Strike Team on Apr. 13. The Strike Team will present these projects to the Secretary in the near future.*
- **Update: Draft Solar Programmatic EIS Comment Period Extended:** *Due to numerous requests, the BLM has extended the public comment period for the Draft Solar PEIS to May 2.*
- **New: Comment Period Extended for BLM-CA Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Project:** *BLM-CA has extended the public comment period for the proposed Casa Diablo Geothermal Project to May 10. The 33-MW proposed project is located near Mammoth Lakes in Mono County, CA.*
- **No Change: Proposed Renewable Energy Segregation Rule:** *The Proposed Rule and Notice of Interim Temporary Final Rule for Segregation of Lands for Renewable Energy cleared OMB and are scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Apr. 26.*

Minerals

- **New: BLM-NM Potash In-Situ Solution Mining:** *The public comment period for the Draft EIS for the proposed 38,453 acres potash in-situ solution mining project near Carlsbad, NM closes on June 13. The project is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Carlsbad in Eddy County, NM.*

Forestry

- **New: BLM-OR Timber Sales:** *On Apr. 28, the Siuslaw Resource area will offer two density management thinnings: the Kelly Creek Sale of 634 MBF on 227 acres and the No Bounds Sale of 992 MBF on 91 acres. The Siuslaw Resource area will also offer a resale of the Nutmeg Commercial Thinning sale of 3,379 MBF on 168 acres. These sale are not expected to be controversial.*
- **New: BLM-OR Decision Record for Timber Sale:** *On Apr. 21, the BLM-OR Umpqua Field Office will post decision records and a newspaper notice for the Burchard Creek CT, Wells Creek DM and Green Chain CT timber sales. The Burchard Creek project is a commercial thinning on 338 acres in the General Forest Management Area land use allocation and will produce just over 7,050 MBF. The Wells Creek DM project is commercial thinning on 68 acres within the Late Successional Reserve land use allocation and will produce 1,189 MBF. These projects are not expected to be controversial.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: Capitol Hill Visits:** *Several BLM State Directors will be meeting with Congressional staff during the month of May to discuss public land management issues in their states. The following meetings are scheduled: 1) The BLM-AZ State Director will meet with members and staff of the AZ congressional delegation during the week of May 9; 2) The BLM-CA Acting State Director will meet with members and staff of the CA congressional delegation during the week of May 9; and, 3) The BLM-ID State Director will meet with members and staff of the ID Congressional delegation on May 23-25. Staff from BLM Legislative Affairs will attend these meetings.*
- **New: BLM-ID Blackfoot Bridge Public Comment Period Ends:** *The public comment period for the Blackfoot Bridge Phosphate Mine proposed final EIS closed on Apr. 11. Comments were received from six entities expressing concern about the agency preferred alternative, the extent of environmental monitoring, and impacts to wetlands. Surface disturbance resulting from the proposed action would total approximately 739 acres. Reclamation would take place over the life of the mine, with approximately 674 total acres eventually being reclaimed. The project area is located in Caribou County, approximately 10 miles northeast of Soda Springs, ID.*
- **New: Wild Horse and Burro Strategy:** *The BLM expects to finalize and circulate for review its strategy for the long-term management of wild horses and burros by Apr. 30. Director Abbey plans to release the final strategy publicly via a live broadcast tentatively scheduled for early May.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **No change: “Smart from the Start” (NJ, DE, MD and VA):** BOEMRE is preparing a regional Environmental Assessment (EA) and conducting consultations for lease issuance and site assessment activities for areas on the OCS, offshore NJ, DE, MD and VA. The

NOI announcing a 30-day public scoping period closed on Mar. 11. BOEMRE received a total of 38 comments in response to the NOI. Endangered Species Act and 106 consultations were initiated in Mar.

- **Update: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Meeting:** *On Apr. 14, BOEMRE and DOI delivered a presentation to the Council on renewable energy leasing activities on the Atlantic OCS. Staff presented information on “Smart from the Start” and the leasing process. The Council express concern regarding what they perceived their lack of involvement during the planning process.*
- **Update: Fair Return Study:** *The contractor submitted the draft final on Apr. 15. BOEMRE is determining if the draft report is complete and will subsequently distribute it for review and comment.*
- **Update: Final Rulemaking on Renewable Energy Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf–Acquire a Lease Noncompetitively:** *The final rule is under review within the Director’s office. The Department will then complete its review of the rule. The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register in early to mid-May.*
- **Update: Western Gulf of Mexico (WGOM) Sale 218 (Dec. 2011):** *The NOA for the Draft SEIS for Sale 218 was published in the Federal Register on Apr. 20. The target Sale date is Dec. 14, 2011.*

WEEK AHEAD – April 24 to April 30, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, April 25:

- **New: BLM-CA Congressional Field Visit:** *On Apr. 25, BLM-CA will host Rep. Mike Thompson for a tour of the proposed Walker Ridge Wind Energy Project, a 70-MW wind development project on 8,157 acres of public lands in Lake and Colusa Counties. Rep. Thompson has also expressed concerns about the cultivation of illegal drugs on public lands. He will visit former marijuana grow sites that are being rehabilitated by BLM and partner organizations.*

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 26-27:

- **New: BLM-AK Resource Advisory Council (RAC) to meet in Anchorage:** *The BLM-AK will host a RAC meeting in Anchorage to discuss the Red Devil Mine work plan and a fish tissue sampling program.*

Wednesday, April 27:

- **New: BLM-CO Front Range RAC Meeting:** *The Front Range RAC will meet at the Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City, CO to discuss the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the recreation fee determination process, rules related to camping and*

occupancy of public lands, and issues concerning the Guffey Gorge recreation site in Park County.

Thursday, April 28-29:

- **No Change: BLM-CA RAC Meeting:** BLM-CA will host a meeting of the Northwest CA RAC to discuss the status of a wind energy development project proposed for Walker Ridge; reports on management of public lands along the Sacramento River near Red Bluff; BLM requests for California off-highway vehicle management grant funds; an update on trail development in the Redding area; and a status reports from the BLM Arcata, Redding, and Ukiah Field Offices.

Friday, April 29:

- **No Change: BLM-NV Expenditures Public Comment Period Ends:** The public comment period will end for the preliminary project recommendations for SNPLMA Round 12 expenditures. The SNPLMA Executive Committee will review the comments and forward its final project recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for approval in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, April 26:

- **No Change: NC Sustainable Energy Conference (NCSEC):** BOEMRE staff are scheduled to give a presentation on recent offshore NC wind energy activities energy in NC to the NCSEC at the annual meeting in Raleigh.
- **No Change: New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) Meeting:** BOEMRE staff are scheduled to give a presentation on “Smart from the Start” and other leasing activities offshore MA, ME, NY and RI to the NEFMC at the council meeting in Mystic, CT.

Wednesday, April 27:

- **No Change: BOEMRE/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Quarterly Meeting:** The quarterly meeting will be held at USCG headquarters in Washington, DC. Agenda topics will include status reports on activities of the Response Workgroup, including development of a job aid for USCG review of Oil Spill Response Plans; assessment of worst case discharge scenarios in Area Contingency Plans; and plans for researching and updating the effective daily recovery capacity planning standard. Director Bromwich, Rear Admiral Bryan Salerno, Deputy Commandant for Operations, and support staff from both agencies are scheduled to attend.
- **New: Mariners Advisory Committee for the Bay and River DE’s (MAC) Wind Energy Working Group Meeting:** *BOEMRE Alternative Energy Program staff will deliver a presentation at the first MAC Wind Energy Working Group meeting in Philadelphia to discuss how the wind energy generation and maritime industries can coordinate regarding potential renewable energy development on the OCS to help ensure navigational safety. Other Federal and State agencies, maritime professionals, and wind energy representatives will be in attendance.*

- **Update: U.S. - Mexico Transboundary Issues:** *Representatives of both countries have been engaged in monthly working sessions since Jan. 2011 and will continue until formal negotiations begin in May. The next meeting will be held in DC on Apr. 27-28, and will focus on inspections and health and environmental regulations.*

Thursday - Friday, April 28-29:

- **No Change: Global Marine Renewable Energy Conference (GMREC):** BOEMRE is co-sponsoring the 4th annual GMREC in D.C. This international event is organized by the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition and Foundation for Ocean Renewables and attended by top leaders from government, non-government organizations, environmental advocates, academics, and industry. The program is focused on the opportunities and challenges associated with deploying marine renewable energy technologies.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Week of April 25:

- **No Change: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) 2011 Tree-Planting Events:** OSM's Appalachian Region, along with its state partners, continues to conduct tree-planting activities throughout the Region this spring in support of ARRI. The following tree-planting events are upcoming: Apr. 26--Arbor Day planting at a two-acre site in Claiborne County, TN, with the Cold Creek Watershed Foundation and students from local elementary schools; Apr. 28--planting two acres in Nicholas County, WV with ICG Eastern Coal Company, a local school, and other partners; Apr. 29--Premier Elkhorn Coal Company Arbor Day Celebration, at a two acre site in Letcher County, KY; Apr. 29-30--Arbor Day events at a four-acre site near Harrisburg, PA, with Mountaintop Anthracite Coal Company, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, local high schools, and other partners; Apr. 30--90 acres planted in Randolph County, WV, at USFS Monongalia National Forest Red Spruce restoration project, with National Civilian Conservation Corps, Oakbrook Church in Reston, VA, and other partners.

Saturday, April 30:

- **New: OSM Director attends the Barton Bench Volunteer Tree Planting Event in Elkins, WVA:** *Director Pizarchik will attend the Barton Bench Volunteer Tree Planting Event in Elkins, WV. This event is one of OSM's "Let's Move Outside" activities, undertaken in coordination with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), which has sponsored tree-planted events across Appalachia this spring.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, May 3:

- **No Change: BLM-WY Oil and Gas Sales:** BLM-WY will offer 14 parcels encompassing 16,082 acres in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta

counties. The sale is being offered under BLM leasing reform policy. The protest period ended on Mar. 3 and BLM received two protests covering seven parcels. The protests concern big game, sage grouse, and the master leasing plan, and have not been resolved. The BLM is continuing to analyze the protests.

Tuesday, May 3-4:

- **New: BLM-MT Central MT RAC Meeting:** *The Central MT RAC will meet in Shelby, MT to discuss a report on early season sage-grouse, review the National Riparian Service Team's assessment along the Upper Missouri River, view an amenity fee presentation, and tour a wind farm.*

Tuesday, May 10:

- **New: BLM-MT Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-MT will offer 25 parcels totaling 14,458 acres at a competitive oil and gas lease sale, primarily located near the Miles City Field Office. The protest period ended Mar. 11. One protest was received; it concerns climate change and oil and gas production operations. The BLM is continuing to analyze the protests.*

Thursday, May 12:

- **New: BLM-CO Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-CO will offer 12 parcels totaling 7,046 acres at a competitive oil and gas sale. The parcels are located in northwestern CO. The protest period ended on Mar. 14. Two protests were received; they concern impacts to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and sage grouse habitat. The BLM is continuing to analyze the protests.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Week of May 2:

- **New: Offshore Technology Conference (OTC):** *BOEMRE will participate in the annual OTC in Houston, which is the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection.*

Monday, May 2:

- **New: Joint BOEMRE/RI and MA Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting:** *BOEMRE will convene a joint meeting of the Task force to present and discuss a draft Call for Information and Nominations within the Area of Mutual Interest on the OCS offshore RI and MA. A public question and answer session will follow the intergovernmental meeting.*

Wednesday, May 11:

- **Update: BOEMRE/NC Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The second Task Force meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for May 11. BOEMRE will be working with Task Force members to identify an area to be used in the Call for Information which is expected to be published in May.*

Weekly Report
April 22, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities April 25-29:

Anne Castle – April 25-29 in DC, attending various meetings.

Deanna Archuleta – April 25-29 in DC, attending various meetings

John Tubbs – April 25-29 in DC, attending various meetings.

Marcia McNutt – April 26, Dinner Speaker, American Meteorological Society Washington Forum; April 28-May 2, Personal time.

Mike Connor – April 25-26 in DC, attending various meetings; on April 27, testifying before Full Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources field hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico; April 28-29, in DC.

Reclamation

High Runoff in the Green River Basin (Wyoming)

Forecasted high runoff in the Green River Basin, including the lower tributaries of the Yampa and Duchesne, is causing concern that there may be high flows once the runoff begins. The Yampa River runoff is currently projected at 157 percent of average, which is comparable to 1984 levels, and the projected Duchesne River runoff is at 200 percent of average, a record high for the last thirty years. A fast warming trend could result in high runoff in both the Green River and Duchesne River basins. Reclamation is evacuating space in Flaming Gorge Reservoir, above these tributaries, in order to reduce contributions from the upper Green River.

Public Meeting on Annual Operating Plan for the Middle Rio Grande Project (New Mexico)

On April 14, 2011, Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office hosted the second public meeting to release its annual operating plan for the Middle Rio Grande Project. Snowpack conditions in the Rio Grande Basin are at less than half of average and steadily getting worse. Reclamation is already releasing water to supplement river flows to remain in compliance with the 2003 Biological Opinion, and is in the process of leasing any available water this summer in anticipation of depletion of stored water. The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is also releasing storage water to augment irrigation flows. A separate meeting will be conducted with

the pueblos along the Middle Rio Grande prior to the public meeting to discuss plans for storing “prior and paramount” water.

Release of San Joaquin River Restoration Program Environment Documents on Cumulative Effects and First-Tier Analysis of Range of Alternatives (California)

Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Region and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are releasing the Draft Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/R) on Friday, April 22 for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), and holding public hearings to solicit input the week of May 23. A Notice of Availability for the Draft PEIS/R is anticipated to be published in the Federal Register on Friday, April 22. The draft document evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of implementing the Stipulation of Settlement consistent with the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act and presents the program-level or “first tier” of analysis for a reasonable range of alternatives by considering the broad environmental effects of the SJRRP. The draft document also evaluates the release of flows under the Settlement at a project-level or “detailed” analysis and will support Reclamation's request to the California State Water Resources Control Board for a permanent change in the water rights necessary to implement the SJRRP. The restoration area covers 153 miles along the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam, near Fresno, to the confluence of the Merced River.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Hosting Public Meeting (California)

On Monday, April 25, California Natural Resources Secretary, John Laird, and Deputy Secretary David Hayes, will be hosting a public BDCP meeting to discuss the challenges and process for meeting the BDCP's dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability, and commitment to completing a habitat conservation plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that achieves these goals. This public forum will provide an update on the BDCP since the November 18, 2010, Working Draft of the BDCP, the process for resolution of key features of the draft plan, and important environmental analysis needed before a final BDCP may be approved. This public meeting will be held in Sacramento on April 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Tsakapolous Library Galleria. The meeting announcement and the agenda are posted on the BDCP website at: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Home.aspx>

Annual Meeting of the Pecos River Compact Commission (New Mexico)

On April 19, 2011, the Pecos River Compact Commission will hold its annual meeting at the Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Roswell, New Mexico. Reclamation will again present a report on last year’s water situation and on the forecast for the upcoming year. It appears that the snowpack for the Pecos is completely gone and there is very little inflow to reservoirs. There is a possibility that Santa Rosa and Sumner Reservoirs will be drawn down very low. One issue that may cause some concern is the decision to cut all funding to the Pecos Water Salvage Project. That project funds mowing along portions of the river to keep it clear of salt cedar and other non-native species.

Public Scoping Meeting on Proposed Hydropower Project at Ridgway Dam (Colorado)

On April 26, 2011, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office will conduct a public scoping meeting to provide information and answer questions regarding a proposed hydropower project at Ridgway Dam in Ouray County, Colorado. The project, proposed by the Tri-County Water Conservancy District, would generate electricity using the existing releases from Ridgway Dam throughout the year. Reclamation will prepare an environmental assessment on the proposed project. A news release on the public meeting will be issued on April 18, 2011.

Briefing for Delegation from Pakistan (California)

On Wednesday, April 27, representatives from Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region will brief a 9-member delegation from Pakistan. The delegation is in the United States under the auspices of the Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program and is interested in learning about water resources management techniques. The visitors have specifically requested a briefing on water allocation, particularly as it pertains to farmers and agriculture.

Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) Litigation (Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

Judge Redden scheduled summary judgment oral argument for May 9 following completion of all briefings. This Judge typically sends a letter prior to the hearing. Judge Redden issued an Order on spring fish operations on March 29, 2011, that accepted the Corps' spring fish operations plan. As a result, the agencies are currently operating under Court Order, which has been the case for the past several years. The Action Agencies will continue to coordinate with the region on 2011 operations, especially on summer fish operations; summer fish operations are expected to be controversial and may be a factor in the litigation. Plaintiffs, the State of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe filed motions for summary judgment on October 29, 2010. The NWF et al. motion argues that habitat implementation is behind schedule and ineffective and therefore is not certain to occur (i.e., the mitigation isn't working). The state of Oregon's argument is highly technical and focuses on NOAA's 2010 data analysis that they argue is flawed especially as it relates to the jeopardy standard. The Nez Perce tribe's amicus brief makes legal arguments on the jeopardy standard and mentions removal of the lower Snake River dams. The Spokane tribe's amicus brief focuses on the status of the Upper Columbia species and how this shows that a non-jeopardy decision is arbitrary for these species.

Meetings

- April 27-28: Lower Colorado Region staff members will attend the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.
- April 27-28: The Lower Colorado Region is hosting a Reclamation-wide Diversity Council meeting. About 25 participants are anticipated, of which 11 are from other Regions, as well as the Denver Office. In addition to diversity, discussion topics will include progress reports on action items within the realm of MD 715, review of action item results, targeted disabilities employment goals, and pre-recruitment consultations.

Congressional Activity

- 4/27/11 – Reclamation will provide testimony at the 4/27/11 field hearing of the Full Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee regarding the reports authorized under sections 9503 and 9506 of the SECURE Water Act. The hearing will also feature discussion of current hydrology in New Mexico, particularly on the Rio Grande and Colorado rivers.
- 5/3/11 – 5/5/11 – Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee will conduct annual congressional visits in Washington, assisted by Reclamation congressional affairs.
- 5/12/11 – Reclamation is preparing for an expected House Water & Power Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 489 and H.R. 818, legislation relating to the CC Cragin Dam in Arizona (H.R. 489), and the early repayment of contracts with the Uintah water conservancy district in Utah (H.R. 818). Reclamation has testified on these bills in prior congresses, and that testimony is being updated for carryover clearance.

U.S. Geological Survey

North Dakota Flood Response:

- **USGS Provides FEMA with Red River Flooding Data:** USGS is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and State emergency operations centers to assist in planning operations for Red River and upper Midwest flooding. Through assistance from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Natural Resources Canada, the USGS is posting numerous datasets to the Hazards Data Distribution System, including Landsat, high-resolution commercial, COSMO SkyMed, aerial photography, and RADARSAT derived flood extent polygons.
- **2011 Fargo, ND Flood Media Summary:** Dave Ozman and Marisa Lubeck traveled to Fargo, ND on April 8-11 to work on media response to the Red River floods. The following TV news outlets filmed USGS scientists working at the Red River of the North at Fargo streamgage: The Weather Channel/NBC News, CBS Evening News, WCCO-TV, CBS in Minneapolis, KVLV-TV, NBC in Fargo, KXJB-TV, CBS in Fargo, WDAY-TV, ABC in Fargo, National FOX News Channel. The USGS also tweeted from the daily City Council meetings and press conferences and posted flood updates to the USGS Facebook page. Select images can be viewed in the USGS Multimedia Gallery.

USGS Scientist Receives Fulbright Specialist Grant Relevant to Protection of Migratory Birds: USGS wildlife biologist Susan Haig was awarded a Fulbright Specialist grant to conduct seminars and trainings, consult on conservation issues, and visit field sites, May 6-June 13, in Nairobi, Kenya. The U.S. embassy in Kenya has requested that Haig help establish an avian ecology program at the University of Nairobi, teach a course about studying movements of migratory animals, and work with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in

Nairobi to launch a Migratory Connectivity Specialist Group. Most migratory birds in the United States spend about 75 percent of their lives outside this country.

USGS Accompanied by National Geographic on Polar Bear Research: During the week of April 11, National Geographic Television accompanied USGS polar bear research capture operations in Prudhoe Bay for an upcoming National Geographic Society production "Big Five" about the top predators within North America. USGS scientist George Durner was also interviewed about adaptations of polar bears to the Arctic marine environment.

Clinton Lake Filling with Sediment Faster than Expected: Clinton Lake, near Lawrence, Kansas, is filling up with sediment about 70 percent faster than expected when the reservoir was completed in 1977. Increased sediment reduces the ability for Clinton Lake to serve several purposes including flood control, water supply, and recreation. Scientists also found evidence of blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, in the bottom sediment, indicating that Clinton Lake may be experiencing increased algal blooms. Effective reservoir management requires an understanding of the amount of sediment being deposited and what contaminants are present. This USGS study, done in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, will be completed on May 3. A press release will be distributed.

"Mashathon" Announced: *The National Map* Users Conference 2011 will feature a 'mashathon' for developers, managers, users, etc. to showcase *The National Map* data, products, services, and viewers in use. A geospatial 'mashathon' is similar to "map galleries," using multiple data sources. Submission is open and free, with the winners announced during the Conference, May 13. For rules and more information, see the Conference website.

Congressional Activities: Budget Briefing Follow-up with Congressman John Sarbanes: USGS will conduct a phone briefing with the office of Rep. John Sarbanes to follow up on questions the Congressman asked at the March 9 USGS budget oversight hearing before House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals. This phone briefing has yet to be scheduled.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Suicide Prevention: The BIE continues to be a part of meetings with the Suicide Prevention committee (BIA, BIE, IHS, SAMHSA) in the development of a national suicide prevention conference. Tentative dates under consideration for the conference are July 11, 2011 through August 12, 2011 in either Denver, Colorado or Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Homeland Security:
Survey: Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES) officials met with individuals from Office Director National Intelligence regarding Aviation Security Information Sharing and Intelligence Integration Survey. We discussed survey questions and made recommendation for changes.

State of the Border: OHSES official s participated in the weekly STATE OF THE BORDER TELECONFERENCE call on April 14, 2011. Updates were providing by various federal agencies and the “State of the Border and Effects of the Arizona Surge” PowerPoint, Talking Points and Nexus reports are disturbed. These documents were shared with the southern border tribes.

Tribal Partners: The OHSES provided a list of Tribal partners to SAMHSA who are willing to participate with SAMHSA on its Disaster Behavioral Health Tribal Needs Assessment for preparedness and response. SAMHSA will be contacting the Tribes to start this project. This is an area which has been overlooked since OHSES tried to put “non-native” Behavior Health models into Indian Country. Tribal program have reported that they have seen an increase in the number of Tribal member with BH issues that our Tribal HHS services can’t provide services for.

All-Hazards: Meetings were held between the Office of Emergency Services (OEM), the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), and ASIA-OHSES regarding the development of new All-Hazards Positions and integration of All-Hazards resources/personnel into the existing NIFC Resource Ordering and Supply System (ROSS). OHSES National Emergency Manager was asked by OEM to establish a HazMat working group to advise in the establishment of HazMat positions into the new All-Hazards ROSS [system].

FEMA: OHSES met with the new Tribal/Interagency Governmental Affairs Liaison for FEMA Region 10. We discussed transition into new FEMA organizational structure as it affects Tribes, and ongoing flood fighting efforts in FEMA R-10 (BIA NW and Alaska Regions).

BIA Field Support: Meetings were held with in support of BIA NW Regional Office's upcoming Agency Superintendents meeting to coordinate and present interagency training in emergency resources available to Tribes, and procedures for Tribes, and Superintendents to request/secure assistance. IHS, FEMA, and other offices are to make presentations. OHSES Emergency Manager continues to meet/work with IHS/FEMA/COE and other agencies to develop presentations for upcoming Regional Offices' similar presentations; this interagency presentation is being used as a prototype for those Regional Emergency Management Team/Emergency Relocation Group (EMT/ERG) – Tribal Leaders and Emergency Managers 'Listening/Learning' Sessions. The focus is to enhance response capabilities/readiness for a NOAA/USGS predicted West Coast Ark-Storm event, the predicted "Big One" Quake event in California, and the predicted Oregon/ Washington States' Cascadia Subduction Zone series of quakes (magnitude 8-9) and resulting tsunamis.

InterAgency Participation: Meetings were held with the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) in support of BIA Northwest Regional Office's upcoming interagency Continuity/Emergency Exercise jointly sponsored by the Portland, OR, Federal Executive Board (FEM) and FEMA. OST offices are one of the COOP Alternate (Relocation) Work Sites (AWS) for continuity of operations. OHSES Emergency Manager continues to meet/work with FEB/FEMA to develop and present the upcoming Rose Guardian-2011 "Willamette Washout" exercise, to enhance response capabilities/readiness for a NOAA/USGS predicted West Coast Ark-Storm event which is predicted /modeled to cause three-five times the damage of the predicted "Big One" Quake event in California. These exercises are being used as models for an upcoming series of Emergency Management/Services-COOP Exercises in the BIA Regional Offices.

Faith-Based Initiative: A meeting was held on Monday April 18, 2010 with the Director of DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships. We discuss their role in support of tribal nations and how our two offices can work together to support (ESF) 15. We will be working with DHS to meet the following objectives:

- A. Foster Interreligious dialogue and collections (connect minority faith based and community leaders with government emergency management systems and voluntary organizations active in disaster)

- B. Transform DHS's image with faith-based and community organizations (Provide representation in interagency cross cutting initiatives where faith-based and community groups have vested interests)
- C. Advance the Whole Community approach to emergency management (Increase resources devoted to state and tribal voluntary agency liaisons to leverage existing resources toward disaster preparedness, response, and recovery)

Physical Site Inspections: The Physical Security Inspection Programs Pre-Assessment Checklist (PAC) Survey deadline is extended through April 22. To date, 68% (128 out of 188) of all BIE schools have completed the PAC Survey. OHSES is continuing to encourage the remaining 32% (60 out of 188) of facilities to complete the survey.

- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): The third of four DOJ/BIA/NCAI webinars titled- Detention: Construction, Operations and Pre-release Reentry Issues is scheduled for the week of April 26. The OJS and Department of Justice (DOJ) are collaborating on the detention plan required by TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from BIA Office of Indian Services and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) are participating in workgroups specific to their respective program(s.)

The BIE is an active participant in the TLOA Workgroup subcommittee on Education Services and has discussed proposals to secure funding for summer youth programs that will take place in BIE-funded schools. In addition, BIE discussed options to access the base funding for education services within tribal and BIA operated juvenile detention centers.

To date, BIE schools do not have an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in place. Research is being conducted to identify existing BIE summer programs to determine if these programs fit the requirements in TLOA.

- High Priority Performance Goal: The BIA Office of Justice Services in coordination with the Tribes and its sister Federal agencies has achieved a combined reduction of 11 percent of violent crime on all four target reservations. The OJS is reviewing crime reduction strategies and crime statistics at all four sites.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Muscogee Nation of Florida (Petitioner #32) Friday, April 15, 2011 - the Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment and the Director of Congressional Legislative Affairs provided a briefing for Representative Jeff Miller and his staff, Diane Cihota, regarding the Federal acknowledgment process (25 CFR Part 83) and this group's current status.
- Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of the San Juan de Guadalupe (Petitioner #5) Monday, April 18, 2011 - The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs requested a 90-day extension. The new due date is on or before July 18, 2011 in order to take action on the proposed finding.

- **Choctaw Nation of Florida (Petitioner #288)** The Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) provided the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs with a recommended final determination. The Department issued a negative proposed finding and the final determination is due on or before April 25, 2011.

EDUCATION

- **ESEA Reauthorization:** Internal discussions as well as those with the Department of Education continue on potential provisions to the reauthorization bill. In one area, Indian Affairs has submitted language to be included in the reauthorization for education services at juvenile detention centers. The language is currently being vetted through the Department of Education. Additionally, the BIE will participate in a roundtable discussion on the issue with the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on April 28.

- **Elementary and Secondary Education**

School Improvement: The Oglala Sioux Tribe's Education Committee Director, after consulting with multiple tribal education committees, will replace all school staff at Crazy Horse School in preparation for the 2011-2012 School Year. Roxanne Brown, BIE Associate Deputy Director, East (ADD-East) and the Pine Ridge education line office will continue to partner with the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Education Committee to support the actual *turnaround* of Crazy Horse School, utilizing a research-based model supported by the Department of Education.

Professional Development: The ADD-East office conducted an Education Line Office webinar entitled "Unpacking the Indicators...." and how that translates into the planning and development of tasks in the Native Star tool. There was a lot of dialogue on working with the schools and supporting a data analysis workshop for Education Line Officers, ADDs, and Principals in Minneapolis.

- **BIE PALA Challenge:** The BIE has over 12,910 PALA participants completing the PALA challenge, with 68 PALA Coordinators and 57 registered schools. Part one of the PALA challenge ended with 547 individuals having completed the program. We are waiting for the end of Part two expected within the next few weeks. Levi Horn of the Chicago Bears and NikeN7 will present the awards to the winning school on May 17.

- **Post Secondary Education**

Outreach: Chris Redman and Alicia Henson, with the BIE Higher Education Division in Oklahoma City, attended the spring 2011 American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) board of directors meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota. Chris and Alicia had the opportunity to meet/connect with the college presidents they work with on a regular basis. They were able to explain the on-site monitoring visits and ease some fears about the overall process. AIHEC discussed the budget and the overall TCU funding process.

Death at Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell): Mr. Justin McGee, a 20 year old Chickasaw Indian student from Ardmore, Oklahoma, passed away late Friday afternoon in Lawrence, Kansas. Mr. McGee was participating in a club sponsored basketball tournament

in Tecumseh Hall when he experienced difficulty in breathing. He was transported to Lawrence Memorial Hospital and was treated by Emergency Room personnel. An ER physician later reported that Justin had expired. A memorial service for Justin will be held at Haskell on Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

President Appointment: BIE management has requested an extension on the certificate of eligibles for the Haskell President's position. A committee consisting of a mix of Senior Managers within Indian Affairs will review the candidates, schedule interviews and then make the recommendation to the Director. The announcement is still expected to be made in June 2011.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. Oral presentations from the contractors is progressing to its final phase: 7 of the 8 oral presentations will have been completed by April 21, 2011. All oral presentations are targeted to be completed by the week of May 9.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: Indian Affairs has notified the Department of its need for an extension to the March 15 due date to OMB for its passback directive to address consolidation of its field sites. BIA has been working feverishly on the analysis as directed by the OMB passback language, however, due to the complexity and size of the BIA organization itself, additional time is required to complete the work. A meeting with OMB to discuss the progress of the realignment is scheduled for May 18.
- BIE Organization Reassessment: The BIE continues the acquisition process to obtain the services of a contractor to conduct this assessment.
- Construction-in-Progress (CIP): The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (Financial Reporting and Analysis Division) conducted a two-day training on CIP to about 25 project managers in Phoenix, Arizona. The projects managers were from the Division of Water and Power and the Office of Facilities Management and Construction (OFMC). The training was focused on topics such as proper recognition of costs that should be capitalized versus expensed, timely review and validation of quarterly CAPERS to include BIA versus Tribal ownership, and timeline for transferring of completed construction projects to fixed assets. Previous audit findings as well as lessons learned from the annual financial audits were shared to facilitate everyone's understanding of "successful" project management from both programmatic and financial reporting aspects. Another training is being planned for mid-May timeframe to the rest of OFMC project managers in Albuquerque, NM.

- **FBMS:** The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is working with the Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) on preparing ASIA workstations for connectivity to FBMS prior to going online in November. Items addressed were the need for workstations to be configured and the firewall opened. In addition, OCFO staff briefed officials from the Bureau of Indian Education FBMS progress and upcoming events. OCFO will present the FBMS status at each of their upcoming administrative calls to keep the field informed of the forthcoming changes. To assist in the conversion effort, OCFO asked for change agents from BIA ELOs and schools.

OUTREACH

- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- The Navajo Nation is hosting a Tri-State Data Meeting for state Indian education directors from New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. The BIE will participate at the event by presenting data related to Navajo students within BIE schools. The meeting is scheduled for the week of May 19, 2011.

- Planned Events:

Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

April 25 – 28, 2011, the Assistant Secretary (accompanied by the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary) will travel to Northern California to meet with Tribes at their request (first trip to meet specifically with the Northern California tribes).

May 2 – 6, 2011:

Kingman, AZ: Meet with the Havasupai Tribal Council and tour flood damaged area

Palm Springs, CA: Attend the 2011 National Self Governance Conference.

Artesia, NM: Provide the keynote speech at the annual BIA Law Enforcement Memorial.

May 16 – 20, 2011: Attend the USET session in Tunica – Biloxi, MS and meet with individual member Tribes.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs:

April 25 – 29, 2011, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary will accompany the Assistant Secretary to Northern California to meet with Tribes at their request (first trip to meet specifically with the Northern California tribes).

Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

April 27 – 29, 2011: Serving as a panelist on the tribal consultation panel at the DOI-cosponsored *State of Environmental Justice in America* conference in Washington, DC.

Director, Bureau of Indian Education:

April 27 – 29: Scheduled to participate in the *No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee* meeting.

Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs:

May 2 – 6, 2011: Accompanying the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Arizona and New Mexico to meet with the Havasupai Tribe, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and attend the Indian Law Enforcement Memorial in Artesia, NM.

CONFIDENTIAL

April 22, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for April 25 to May 1, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report

April 25, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in Washington (4/25)
- Brief House committee on Appropriations regarding tribal litigation (4/26)
- Management and InterTribal Monitoring Association (ITMA) meetings and National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC) anniversary ceremony in Albuquerque (4/27)
- Special Trustee's Advisory Board meeting in Albuquerque (4/28)
- Travel (4/26 and 4/29)

Review – April 18 to April 22

- **New:** The Office of Appraisal Services (OAS) has initiated an appraiser trainee program to formally mentor program participants who will become state certified appraisers with a specialization in Indian trust lands. The goal is to augment the pool of people who will be eligible for OAS positions in support of succession planning efforts. A trainee and supervising appraiser traveled April 18-21 to Glacier County on the Blackfeet Reservation. They inspected more than 40 allotments assigned to the appraiser trainee.
- **New:** The Office of Trust Records status report for activity in March 2011 was forwarded by SOL to DOJ on April 15. DOJ filed it that day with the Court.

- **New:** The Deputy Special Trustee for Trust Services participated April 20 in the Pembina Settlement discussions in Bismarck, North Dakota.
- **No Change:** The Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) delivered to SOL approximately 5000 imaged documents relative to the Kaw Nation tribal litigation. Since the litigating parties are engaged in mediated settlement talks, SOL has requested additional time for OHTA to search for documents, beyond the Court's April 30 deadline.
- **No Change:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, was detailed to the OAS office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 21 to April 8 to develop the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews. On March 29, he met with OST's IT personnel regarding their requirements and assistance with deployment. Issues raised that may impact development of OASIS include certification, independent of OST's blanket certification, and submitting a "technical paper" that includes intended use, users, program flow, application objects, and database table design. IT indicated they prefer a web-based application, which has hindered development and increased costs of the Appraisal Request and Review Tracking System. The Review Appraiser is identifying alternatives for consideration by the OAS Director.

Week Ahead – April 25 to April 29

- **New:** On April 27, the Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Northern Cheyenne Agency will conduct the first session of financial skills courses for participants in the Second Season program. Participants are boys between the ages of 12 and 18 who are first time offenders. These one hour sessions will be held twice a month until the financial skills course material is completed. The first topic will be *Building a Healthy Economy*.
- **Update:** The *Status Report to the Court Number Forty-Four* is for the period January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. The purpose of the report is to inform the Court of actions taken since the issuance of the preceding quarterly report, including delays in and obstacles to trust reform activities. Program managers submit reports on the status of their respective Indian trust activities. OST senior managers and attorneys from SOL and DOJ are interviewing program managers from BIA, BLM, BOEMRE, OCIO, OHTA and OST. The report and transmittal letter, which is signed by the Secretary, are scheduled to go to the executive secretariat no later than April 26.
- **No Change:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Tulsa Urban Office will attend an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) hearing in the Eastern District Federal Court on litigation between the Seminole Tribe and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Also attending the hearing on April 26 will be SOL and DOJ attorneys, the BIA Superintendent for the Wewoka Agency and tribal leaders of the Seminole Tribe. Issues to be considered were outlined in the March ADR hearing.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **No Change:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. Almost three dozen activities have been scheduled to date to occur during April.
- **No Change:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). Parties are considering the week of May 23 for a mediation session.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

April 22, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: April 22, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Tribal Consultation Letter. ONRR is inviting tribal leaders to three meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could affect the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. These meetings will take place in May in Colorado and New Mexico and in June in Oklahoma City. The consultation meetings will open dialogue with Indian Tribes on potential changes including valuing crude oil produced from Indian leases, removing certain natural gas index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal valuation regulations.

Joint Committee Oversight Hearings. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations and the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a joint oversight hearing last week. Witnesses included DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Management Kim Thorsen, Jay Jensen from the US Forest Service and Chief Ron Vitiello from Customs and Border Protection. The thrust of the committees' approach focused on the assertion that border security was being impeded by environmental regulations, which was countered by the witnesses. Mr. Bishop, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands has proposed legislation that would prevent DOI from implementing environmental regulations along the border. Senators McCain and Kyl have also submitted a bill with similar, but less sweeping, provisions.

MANAGEMENT

Protests at the Main Interior Building. On Monday April 18, 2010, at approximately 1:00 pm, demonstrators from the Gulf Coast and Appalachia joined students and climate activists to protest offshore oil drilling, coal mining, natural gas fracking and tar sands extraction.

Approximately 100 demonstrators obstructed the entrances to and lobby of the C Street side of Main Interior Building and disrupted official business within the building. DOI law enforcement and security personnel ensured that employees and visitors could access the building from the E Street entrance and worked with the Federal Protective Service and Metropolitan Police Department to encourage many of the demonstrators to leave the premises to avoid arrest. After numerous requests were made to the group to leave the building, 21 demonstrators were taken in to custody by the Federal Protective Service for trespassing/unlawful entry.

Earth Week. This week, NBC and OEPC are coordinating Earth Week activities for employees, including recycling and composting demonstrations in the Bison Bistro, free recycling of personal electronics (old computers, TVs, etc.), and signing up volunteers for the organic garden at South Interior. Each day, a new feature article is posted on oneINTERIOR with helpful information and tools for employees looking to save energy and reduce their environmental footprint. This robust employee engagement is part of our effort to make the Department's sustainability program more than just an exercise in compliance with applicable laws and Executive Orders. In our drive to become a federal leader in sustainability, we are working to make sure all employees feel invested in sustainability and see the value of making greener, more efficient choices that save money as well as natural resources.

Recruiting Diverse Talent. The Office of Human Resources, in cooperation with the Youth Office, will conduct several one day seminars in May and June in Portland, Sacramento, Boise, Denver, Phoenix, Boston, Reston and New Orleans. These seminars will review DOI hiring goals and employment objectives; educate hiring managers and human capital professionals on special / non-competitive hiring authorities; assist managers to develop an understanding of why and how to engage local resources and partners to enhance inclusion, diversity and targeted recruitment; and provide a networking opportunity between our managers, HR professionals and local, state and Federal agencies that provide assistance in locating talent.

Ivy League Project White House Youth Round Table. Julie Rodriguez facilitated a roundtable discussion with 55 Latino students from California and Arizona to identify opportunities to connect youth to America's Great Outdoors and other Administration Latino engagement efforts, including immigration, education, and food and nutrition. The Round Table was co-hosted by the White House Office of Public Engagement and included participation from Stephanie Valencia, White House OPE; Monica Ramirez, Office of Civil Rights at DOJ, and Lisa Pino Food and Nutrition Services at USDA.

Meeting with Government Accountability Office. On Monday, May 2, 2011, Greg Gould will meet with Frank Rusco, Director of the Natural Resources and Environment Team, to discuss the GAO High Risk Series list published in February 2011, updates to ONRR's progress in closing recommendations from previous GAO reports, and ONRR's strategic review process.

BUDGET

DOI Wins Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Award. We learned this week that DOI received the very prestigious CEAR Award from the Association of Government Accountants for the DOI Annual Financial Report. The Office of Financial

Management, Office of Planning and Performance, and all of the bureaus played a significant role in making this come to fruition. Particularly noteworthy were Don Geiger's efforts (assisted by Scott Mabry, Esther Horst, and Ed King) to work collaboratively with the Office of Inspector General and KPMG, and Don's work with the AGA to generate a better report.

2011 Budget and Continuing Resolutions. The DOD and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10), was passed by the House and Senate on April 14 and signed by the President on Friday, April 15. The Act cuts current-year spending by \$38 billion from both discretionary and mandatory programs. The Act includes two legislative provisions that impact Interior:

- Section 1713 directs the reissuance of the final rule published in April 2, 2009 that deals with the delisting of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf; and
- Section 1769 directs that no funds may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order No. 3310, on wildlands.

The Act requires submission of Operating Plans to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days of enactment or May 15. The Office of Budget issued guidance on April 15 to bureaus and offices on operating plans with a due date of April 26 for review and OMB clearance.

2012 Budget Resolution. On April 15, before departing for recess, the House adopted House Continuing Resolution 34, the FY 2012 budget resolution. Although it passed 235-193 in the House, the resolution will likely face significant debate and opposition in the Senate. Among the many proposals included in the resolution, the following are most relevant to DOI:

- Return non-security discretionary spending to below 2008 levels and freeze it there for five years
- Continue the fiscal 2011 earmark ban in fiscal 2021
- Reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent and freeze federal pay through 2015
- Reduce the federal auto fleet by 20 percent by selling unneeded inventory
- Streamline process for disposal of federal real property and assets

Accountable Government Initiative and GPRA Modernization Act of 2010. On April 14, 2011, the OMB Director and Deputy Director for Management and Chief Performance Office issued a memo on "Delivering on the Accountable Government Initiative and Implementing the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010." The memo identifies several key near-term requirements of the Act, including identifying the agency's Chief Operating Officer and the agency's Performance Improvement Officer, beginning data-driven progress reviews on near-term High Performance Priority Performance Goals, and reducing reporting by ten percent.

Attachments:

PMB Office Reports
IG/GAO Reports Status

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
April 22, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: Chemform Site in Broward County, Florida. Joyce Stanley, Regional Environmental Protection Assistant (REPA), notified FWS, BIA, and NPS of the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at the Chemform Site, Broward County, Florida. REPA, also informed the bureaus that EPA will begin negotiating an Administrative Order on Consent for Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to determine the extent of contamination and evaluate alternative ground water remedies.

New/Complete: Region VIII Oil and Hazardous Substances Regional Response Team (RRT). On April 19 and 20, OEPC Regional Environmental Officer Robert Stewart represented the Department at the semiannual RRT meeting in Golden, CO. In addition to the customary Federal and State member and On-Scene Coordinator reports and updates, principal agenda items included “refresher training” on standing and incident-specific RRT roles/responsibilities, updates on SubArea Contingency Plans and the Salt Lake Earthquake emergency operations plan, discussion of lax spill reporting by responsible parties, and a round-table (with Bureau participation) on Oil Pollution Act authorities and limitations on Federal lands. Participation in these meetings and interaction with other Federal and State emergency response personnel is a crucial part of ensuring full consideration of the Department's natural, cultural, and historic resources during responses to oil and hazardous substances spills.

Update: Veolia Water Treatment Plant Sewage Facility in Gatlinburg. The Office of Infrastructure Protection National Infrastructure Coordinating Center reported that at least three investigative efforts are underway to discover the cause of structural failure that caused the spill. Although not yet officially determined, a higher than normal rainfall amount over several weeks prior to the failure is the suspected cause. A complete determination of the cause of the failure is expected in two weeks.

Update: Non-Traditional Response Projects Workshop. OEPC is hosting a three-day Deepwater Horizon Supplemental-funded Non-Traditional Response Project lessons learned workshop in Washington, DC May 17-19. The workshop will focus on establishing a direction to improve guidance for funding and authorities relating to nontraditional response projects that seek to protect sensitive natural resources. Current efforts include establishing facilitation support, availability of participants and meeting logistics. Expected participants include the US Coast Guard, NPFC, EPA, USDA, NOAA, FWS, NPS, BIA and possibly a state and tribal representative.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Recreation Fees. On April 20, Policy Analysis participated in a briefing for the DAS – Policy and International Affairs on the recreation fee program and the online reservation system, Recreation.gov.

Update: National Ocean Policy Arctic Strategic Action Plan. Policy Analysis continues to support the co-chairs of the National Ocean Policy Changing Conditions in the Arctic Strategic Action Plan (SAP). On April 19th the Arctic SAP held a webinar through the University of Alaska Anchorage to discuss the National Ocean Policy and its implications for Arctic Communities. Participants were provided an overview of the Arctic SAP and were encouraged to provide feedback to the drafting team.

Update: Arctic Policy. The Office of Policy Analysis continues to work with the Office of International Affairs to support the Secretary for his upcoming participation in the Arctic Council Ministerial on May 12th in Nuuk, Greenland. In addition, the Office of Policy Analysis is also representing the Department at the staff-level Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC). The first Principal-level IARPC meeting will take place on April 26th to discuss high-priority Arctic research issues across the Federal government.

Ongoing: Pechanga Indian Water Settlement. Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office and provided comments on how elements of the Settlement were being valued. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy Implementation. Policy Analysis continues to coordinate implementation of the National Ocean Policy for DOI. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) “Coordinate and Support,” and is providing support for another “Changing Conditions in the Arctic;” FWS is chairing the “Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration” SAP writing team. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC), co-chaired by Eileen Sobeck DAS-FW, and the National Ocean Committee staff are now reviewing full content outlines of all SAPs prior to the outlines being released for public comment in May. The next ORM IPC meeting will be April 27 at the Department of Commerce.

Ongoing: Departmental Federal Advisory Committee Policy. Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Federal Advisory Committee Policy, in collaboration with the Department’s Committee Management Officer. The new chapter will update the 1975 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Economic Report. The report is currently being reviewed at OMB.

Ongoing: Chesapeake Bay Federal Agency Market Survey. At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Ecosystem Markets, Policy Analysis is helping coordinate Interior’s response to a Federal agency survey designed to identify potential Federal roles and

opportunities in environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay. These markets, designed to reduce environmental impacts, are called for in the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Action Plan. Policy Analysis and USFWS emailed the Federal Surveys to DOI bureaus on March 31. Responses to USDA are due April 27.

Ongoing: Klamath. The pilot test for the non-use valuation survey has been approved by OMB. Implementation was anticipated to begin by April 22. Policy Analysis is also reviewing the draft Klamath Environmental Impact Statement.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Ongoing: Public Call for Nominations to Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The National Invasive Species Council has announced the open submission period for nominations to Class 7 of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee in the Federal Register. The 60-day submission period to fill 13 open seats on the committee will run from April 4 to June 2, 2011.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

NEW: Screening of the Documentary “Under a Jarvis Moon” On Thursday, May 12, 2011, in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Month, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations will be showing the documentary titled “*Under a Jarvis Moon*” in the Yates Auditorium. This documentary tells the story of over 130 young men employed by the Department of the Interior – many recent graduates of the Native Hawaiian School, Kamehameha Schools – that were sent to occupy Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands during 1935-1942. While their public mission was to take weather readings and collect specimens and records of the wildlife on and around the islands, the United States secretly recruited these young men to colonize the islands to keep them out of the hands of other countries. Living for months at a time in teams of four, the colonist collected specimens; mapped the islands; cultivated coconuts and vegetables; and even prepared a landing field for Amelia Earhart, who was expected to make Howland Island one of her last stops on her round-the-world flight. Through it all, they endured rats, sharks, isolation, and ultimately, enemy fire with grace and aloha for each other.

Office of International Affairs

New: USAID Financial Crisis Initiative Meetings in Tanzania. ITAP Project Manager Levi White will travel April 18-20 to Dares Salaam, Tanzania to attend program meetings relating to the USAID Financial Crisis Initiative (FCI). Mr. White will attend an implementing partners meeting with USAID, all NGO implementing partners for the FCI program, community organizations from Tanzania Wildlife Management Areas, and construction firms charged to build DOI-designed infrastructure. He will also attend monitoring and evaluation and planning meetings for future projects.

New: CEC Coordination. OIA hosted a meeting with Dolores Wesson of the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC), FWS and NPS staff in the Big Bend region, DOI's liaison to the National Invasives Species Council, and EPA staff responsible for CEC Work Program oversight, to discuss next steps to ensure efficient implementation of the CEC project to support binational cooperation in the Big Bend - Rio Bravo region and the development of a North American Invasive Species Network. The project, which will provide a total of approximately \$500,000 to support both efforts, during the two-year period in 2011 and 2012 is nearing final approval stages by the CEC. Wesson will be responsible for coordinating with DOI, and Mexican and Canadian counterparts, in the implementation of this two-pronged project.

New: AS/PMB Participation at Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization Meetings. OIA staff is supporting participation by Rhea Suh, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget in a meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Mining Task Force in Big Sky, Montana on May 6 – 9, 2011. OIA is coordinating with BLM, the Department of Commerce, USG lead for the Mining Task Force, and the Department of State to review the meeting agenda, coordinate the USG approach across agencies, and draft briefing materials.

Update: Big Bend Border Crossing. On April 18, OIA staff participated in a meeting convened by DAS Lori Faeth with Mexican counterparts and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials to continue conversations regarding the opening of a border crossing in Big Bend National Park. Mexican government representatives included officials from the Mexican Embassy in the U.S., the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, and the Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources. The parties committed to regular meetings in order to ensure progress towards the March 2012 deadline set by Presidents Obama and Calderon for the opening of the crossing.

Update: April 14 International Forum on Offshore Oil and Gas Spill Containment. Several OIA staff volunteered to serve as international liaisons and provide other on-site support for the Ministerial Forum, concluding an intensive effort by the office to support this initiative. During the week before the meeting, OIA continued to support communication between U.S. and foreign embassies and other foreign government agencies and invitees.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff continued to coordinate logistics necessary for this meeting. OIA staff also drafted a Table of Contents for the Secretary's briefing book, requested info items from five bureaus (FWS, USGS, BOEMRE, BIA, NPS), and began preparing necessary materials.

Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

New: Consent Decree Lodged for settlement of Natural Resource Damage claims at Commencement Bay, Tacoma, WA. On April 6, 2011, a proposed Consent Decree was lodged on behalf of the natural resource trustees (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the State of Washington, Department of Ecology; Muckleshoot Indian Tribe; and, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians) v. Foss Maritime

Company and Maritime Industries Northwest, Inc. for natural resource damages under Superfund, the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act. The affected environment is the Middle Waterway of the Commencement Bay/Nearshore Tidelands Superfund site in Tacoma, Washington. The Defendants have agreed to preserve the site of a former marine dock at the mouth of Middle Waterway in perpetuity for use as a habitat restoration site, and will pay \$7,802,081.29 in cash. In addition, the Defendants will pay \$300,000 toward the Trustees' long-term restoration project oversight and stewardship activities and \$700,000 to reimburse Trustee damage assessment costs. Monies for restoration will be deposited into a previously established Court Registry (CRIS) Account. The money recovered as past assessment costs will be deposited in the Department's Restoration Fund.

New: Partial Settlement of Natural Resource Damages at Portland Harbor Superfund Site, OR. The Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, and its co-trustees (NOAA, the State of Oregon, & six tribes) reached a bankruptcy settlement with Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, Inc. that resolves the company's environmental liabilities at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Oregon. In the settlement, DOI and its co-trustees were allowed a \$3 million dollar general unsecured claim. Recently, the trustees received nearly 97,000 shares of Smurfit Stone Container stock. At its current trading price, the stock is valued at more than \$3.7 million. The Portland Harbor Superfund Site is located in lower reach of the Willamette River, which has been extensively dredged to maintain a 40-foot deep navigation channel, and also contains a highly industrialized area which contains multitudes of facilities and private and municipal wastewater outfalls. Numerous former and current industrial operations, including the Smurfit-Stone Container facility, have been identified as potentially responsible sources of contamination. Portland Harbor sediments contain chemicals from the following classes of contaminants of concern: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), insecticides (including DDT and its breakdown products DDD and DDE), dioxins, furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, semi-volatile organics, and herbicides. DOI Trust resources potentially affected by the release of hazardous chemicals at the Portland Harbor site include migratory birds (bald eagle, osprey, mergansers, swallows, and sandpipers), anadromous fish, including a species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The river provides a critical migratory corridor for both juvenile and adult steelhead and chinook salmon. The area also holds significant importance for the involved tribes as a natural and historic cultural resource. The Fish and Wildlife Service and other NRD trustees continue their assessment activities through funding provided by the Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment and also through an ongoing cooperative assessment agreement with many of the potentially responsible parties.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

New: Office of the Secretary Internship Program.

Wednesday the Secretary met with the 14 Spring OS Interns who have been working here for the past four months. They represent a diverse group of individuals from five outstanding universities in the DC metro area and beyond. The interns have greatly contributed to the

mission of the Department as well as assisted in the many events that have taken place this spring, including the ministerial forum last week.

New: STEM Education Inventory – GAO: The Office of Youth is now the point-of-contact for a GAO STEM Education inventory. Beginning in January, GAO has been communicating with DOI's GAO/OIG Audit Liaison in preparing for this inventory, including assembling a preliminary list of STEM Education programs to be included in this inventory. The Youth Office is continuing the preparation and will facilitate the inventory upon arrival in early May.

Ongoing: STEM Education Inventory – FI-STEM Education (Federal Inventory of STEM Education): The Office of Youth is representing DOI on a Federal Inventory task force. The work of FI-STEM will inform a strategic planning task force as part of the new White House OSTP Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM). CoSTEM, and the strategic planning task force, are represented by USGS Director Marcia McNutt. We are also coordinating efforts with a similar GAO STEM education inventory.

Complete: Ivy League Project White House Youth Round Table. The Youth Office Director facilitated a roundtable discussion with 55 Latino students from California and Arizona to identify opportunities to connect youth to America's Great Outdoors and other Administration Latino engagement efforts, including immigration, education, and food and nutrition. The Round Table was co-hosted by the White House Office of Public Engagement and included participation from Stephanie Valencia, White House OPE; Monica Ramirez, Office of Civil Rights at DOJ, and Lisa Pino Food and Nutrition Services at USDA.

New: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership.

The Office of Youth is working with the Budget and Contracts/Agreements Office to develop Bureau guidance and a system for streamlining funding for the AmeriCorps Summer Internship Program.

New: CNCS Partnership - AmeriCorps Matching Funds Guidance

Recently, the CNCS has requested that agencies affirm that their funds may be used as matching funds for AmeriCorps grants and awards to service and conservation corps partners. The Office of Youth is finalizing guidance to inform the field that financial assistance provided through partnerships with DOI and its component bureaus may be used as required matching funds for the AmeriCorps grants and awards.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: Partnerships Office Organized Special Briefing on Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) for conservation Leaders on emerging science products of LCCs April 21 event, co-hosted by the National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

New: Draft "Call for 2011 Nominations for the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award" sent to Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management & Budget for review and surname

process. Interior Bureau/Office nominations due June 17, 2011 and potential Departmental Award Ceremony in the fall of 2011.

Ongoing: Partnership Coordinator delegated to participate in OS “Organizational Impact Assessment” for FBMS for the Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service. Coordinator is tasked with being the information liaison for DOI to external partners on new processes on internal reporting, tracking, monitoring and affect on agreements, partnership processes.

Ongoing: FACA Charter drafted - Advisory Committee for 21 Century Conservation Service Corps (AC - 21CSC). Charter and call for nominations - FACA Committee for 21 CSC drafted and distributed among AGO Inter-Agency Jobs & Youth Workgroup for review, prior to GSA concurrence, and prior to Secretary’s approval.

Complete: Letter of Intent drafted between DOI & The Corps Network (TCN) to implement MOU. Specific tasks outlined are to organize a working group to develop a “Bureau by Bureau” guide for youth employment at DOI, cross-sharing of key contacts between DOI & TCN and to compile a database of youth employment programs and training on Public Land Corps hiring authority.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Blue Star Families. This week Take Pride in America meet with a representative from Blue Star Families, a veteran’s organization focused on volunteerism. The partnership with Take Pride in America will allow us to share public lands volunteer opportunities through their website.

Complete: National Volunteer Week. In conjunction with National Volunteer Week, Take Pride in America will participated in the Keep America Beautiful Times Square awards event, by recognizing two public lands volunteers with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Take Pride in America also participated in a volunteer event along the Charles River in Boston, MA in partnership with The Mission Continues – a veteran service organization.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

New: Burden of Proof in Surface Coal Mining Cases. The U.S. District Court has upheld OHA’s regulations allocating the burden of proof in surface coal mining cases, rejecting a challenge filed by the National Mining Association over 7 years ago. The court held that OHA reasonably concluded that the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act imposes the burden of proof on the operator, rather than on OSM, in five types of administrative proceedings involving OSM enforcement actions. The plaintiff is expected to appeal the decision.

Update: Hydropower Licensing Rule. OHA received a legal opinion from the Solicitor’s Office on the major remaining issue in this rulemaking. Deputy Solicitor Russell concluded that

the Department is not required to provide an equal consideration statement regarding a condition or prescription for a hydropower license if no license party has proposed an alternative condition or prescription. OHA will prepare an options paper for the Assistant Secretary on how to revise the draft rule in light of the legal opinion.

Update: Headquarters Space. OHA was informed by the Budget Office that it is authorized to extend its current lease at Quincy Crossing in Arlington for another 10 years. OHA notified NBC, which has handled the negotiations with the building owners. The current lease expires at the end of January 2012.

Office of the Chief Information Office

Update: Google protest of Unified Email Contracting. Microsoft's General Counsel wrote a scathing blog post on April 11th, commenting on information included in DOJ's response to Google's brief from December, 2010. In DOJ's response, DOJ noted that Google had not, in fact, achieved FISMA certification for its Google Apps for Government product, a point that Google had asserted as a central issue in their case. The DOJ pleading became unsealed on Monday, and Microsoft appears to have elected to use the now-public DOJ comments to draw attention to Google's misstatement. There has been a fair amount of publicity about the issue, and Vivek Kundra and GSA officials were asked to comment on the Microsoft allegations at recent Senate hearing on IT. In lieu of a hearing on the issue, Judge Braden has asked to GSA to provide written testimony on the subject.

Update: OIG review of BIA IT security. The Office of Inspector General conducted an exit conference for their field work at Indian Affairs (IA), Herdon, VA. They expect a report on their evaluation of IA to be released around the end of May. They reported no significant information security issues, but they are concerned with the organizational structure of IA.

Update: IT Transformation Field Outreach Sessions. Field outreach sessions for the IT Transformation continued in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The DOI OCIO IT Transformation team held two sessions in the USGS, Reston, VA, facility with IT and Program staff. These sessions were led and facilitated by Larry Gross, the Deputy CIO. The IT Transformation outreach meetings planned for the week of April 18th will include Lafayette, LA, Jefferson, LA, and Rolla, MO. These meetings will be led by Deputy CIO Larry Gross. BOEMRE, NPS, and USGS will be hosting these events supported by the Assistant Directors for Information Resources (ADIRs), Bob Brown (BOEMRE), and Karen Baker (USGS).

New: Access for Short-Term Emergency Response Personnel. On April 14, 2011, the DOI CIO issued a new directive to allow short-term emergency response personnel for emergency response functions to have controlled access to DOI's information systems in the performance of their duties.

New: Federal IT Dashboard: DOI's official March status. As of March 31st, DOI's IT investment dashboard indicated 37 major IT investments with a green status (73%), 12 with a yellow status (23%), and two with a red status (4%).

Update: Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Introduction to DOI Bureaus. ERA is an automated electronic system for scheduling and transferring records with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). OS/NBC Records Management has completed the initial on-line ERA training with the first DOI OS/NBC customer identified. OS/NBC has contacted the first customer and will start completing the electronic paperwork next week.

Update: Deepwater Horizon BP Oil Spill (DWHZ) Discovery Project. LABAT, DOJ litigation support contractor, is providing discovery support for the Deepwater Horizon (DWHZ) BP Oil Spill. OCIO continues the ongoing weekly meetings with LABAT and DOJ. LABAT is currently collecting documents from identified BOEMRE custodians for DWHZ documents within the Washington, DC area with expected completion by the end of April 2011. On April 7, 2011, BP Oil served DOJ and DOI with litigation documents. SOL and DOJ are preparing a response.

Update: Department of Justice (DOJ) Section 508 Survey. On February 17, 2011, the Attorney General signed a memorandum informing all federal departments and agencies that DOJ will be conducting a survey regarding the state of all federal department and agency compliance with the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Section 508 survey website will close on April 29, 2011.

New: Denver Federal Center (DFC) Power Outage. During a GSA scheduled 36-hour power outage at the DFC on April 9-10, the DOI Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) was out of service for two periods. The April 9th outage lasted approximately 5 hours, and the April 10th outage lasted approximately 13 hours. The CIO conducted two meetings with the ADIRs and bureau representatives to develop a corrective action plan. A problem management report is being finalized and testing of the generator and circuit breaker has been ordered. Additionally, OCIO Executives are scheduling a meeting with GSA to discuss the short notice notification of a DFC extended power outage.

New: National Park Service Network Optimization. The Enterprise Services Network (ESN) is working with the NPS to maximize its network efficiency. Latency and saturation have been identified as a problem impacting a large number of users at the Pacific Northwest Regional Office in Oakland, California. ESN hopes to help NPS make adjustments to make better use of existing network resources.

Update: Data at Rest (DAR). The OCIO DAR project reports that the department has DAR encryption on over 20,000 laptops. Overall, the department has installed the DAR encryption software on 77% of the non-exempted laptops.

Update: Data Center Consolidation (DCC) Data Call. The DCC team reports that the following 6 sites have completed their consolidation: BIA, Phoenix, AZ; BIA, Anadarko, OK; BIA, Muskogee, OK; FWS, Denver, CO; BIA hosting IHS in Albuquerque; and BIA, Washington, DC. The team also conducted focused meetings with NIGC, NPS, USGS, and FWS regarding their consolidation plans and supported request from budget office regarding Bureau/Office out-year planning worksheets. The DCC team will provide a briefing to IT Transformation Leaders on April 25, 2011, to go over status, risks, and any issues.

Update: Interagency Interoperability Operating Group (IIOG) Meeting. The IIOG met Wednesday, April 13, 2011. The IIOG agreed to begin working on changes that will allow users from different agencies to log on to the Internet, and eventually intranets, regardless of which agency they work for and which agency owns the computer.

Office of Valuation Services

New: Meetings with OIG and BLM. Tanya Henderson, Chief Appraiser/Deputy Director, will be participating in meetings with the Office of Inspector General and the BLM national program realty leads. The meetings are in conjunction with the on-going audit of BLM's linear right-of-way and communication site fee schedules.

New: Name Change for the Appraisal Request & Review Tracking System (ARRTS). ARRTS has a new name--Interior Valuation Information System (IVIS). Along with the new look and feel, we have selected a new name which is inclusive of our client base as well.

New: Interior Valuation Information System Testing. Testing continues in the "sandbox" for Force.com with both Client and OVS staff. The go-live date is now targeted for May 23, 2011.

Geospatial Information Officer

New: Geospatial Assessment for Office of Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Management. The GIO is concluding an assessment of geospatial needs for OLESEM and will be presenting recommendations to the DAS/OLESEM in the next few weeks.

New: ESRI International User Conference. The annual conference will be held in San Diego July 11-15. DOI has "without payment" registrations as a part of the Enterprise License Agreement. If anyone from Office of the Secretary wishes for assistance in making plans to attend, please contact the GIO (Karen Siderelis, 202-208-6318). Secretary Salazar is tentatively identified as a speaker on the draft agenda for the pre-conference Executive Session.

Update: Geospatial Information and Tools for Open Government. The GIO continues to work with the Open Government Steering Committee to identify ways the OG Initiative can be supported with geospatial capabilities. A work plan and business case for consolidated trails information is under development.

Update: Tribal Geospatial Collaboration Website. The SharePoint site, *GeoCircle*, developed for tribal issues has been upgraded to include a mapping application. Now any SharePoint list with geographic tags can be viewed on a web map. If other SharePoint users are interested, the GIO will arrange a briefing.

National Business Center

New: Power Loss at Data Center. NBC responded to a catastrophic loss of power and electrical fire at the ESC Data Center in Herndon, VA the evening of April 6-7 and worked through the night to restore applications and services prior to the start of business the following

day. The event was triggered by a power outage that caused an automatic switch to generator power, followed by a small fire when power was restored..

New: Communication Cabling Completed at the SIB. The NBC-ITD Network Services and Telecommunications staff finalized the communication cabling infrastructure for the South Interior Building (SIB). The SIB cabling infrastructure was modernized to the same communication standards as the MIB building.

New: Department of Homeland Security Requests Information on Oracle Federal Financials. The National Business Center Financial Management Directorate has held information meetings with the Department of Homeland Safety regarding its financial management system. DHS is conducting market research regarding utilizing a Federal Shared Service Provider for a replacement financial management system. The annual DHS financial management system contract is anticipated to be roughly \$400 million.

New: Fish and Wildlife Service Taps NBC for Financial Management Services. NBC currently provides travel payment support for FWS, and FWS has expressed interest in using NBC financial management services for processing all vendor payments once they deploy on FBMS.

New: NBC Demos Oracle Federal Financials for NTSB. NBC held a third Oracle Federal Financials demonstration for the National Transportation Safety Board, focusing on contracts and procurement.

New: NBC Meets with GSA. The quarterly meeting with GSA Public Buildings Service was conducted on April 13. The meeting focused on modernization activities, updates on the organic garden (volunteers from GSA, OPM & DOI), space utilization, Alternative Workplace Strategies, and capital improvements for the SIB (e.g., windows, bathroom renovations, gutter replacements).

New: Bike Share Program Gains Traction at DOI. Administrative Operations is Scheduled to meet with DC DOT on April 14 to discuss implementation of the Capital Bikeshare Program.

Update: SIB Improvements Identified. Mike Cyr and Gary Peacock met with Joseph Pizarchik, LSM Director on April 8 to discuss SIB facilities issues and potential improvements to the building. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

Update: Parking Open Season: NBC continues to work on updating the parking database based on feedback received from Bureaus & Offices. On April 11, met with Bureau/Office Fleet Managers to discuss the possibility of moving official vehicles to the FRB as well as utilizing tandem spaces in the MIB (for vehicles that must remain in the MIB) so parking spaces can be maximized.

Update: Organic Garden – Compost delivery (mulch) is planned for this week which achieves our goal of full-cycle composting. DOI, OPM and GSA have begun soliciting volunteers for maintaining the organic garden; initial planting scheduled for first week of May.

New: Upcoming Special Events Include the Following:

MIB Auditorium

April 26, 11:30am - 2:30pm
Close Up Foundation - Civic Education Seminar
Participants: 250

April 28, 7:00am - 10:00am
Office of Youth Partnerships - Take Your Child to Work Day
Participants: 75

SIB Auditorium

April 26, 8:30am - 4:30pm
National Park Service - Executive Retreat
Participants: 80

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: Recruiting Diverse Talent (Using Non-competitive Hiring Authorities). Several one day seminars will be conducted in May and June in Portland, Sacramento, Boise, Denver, Phoenix, Boston, Reston and New Orleans. These seminars will review DOI hiring goals and employment objectives; educate hiring managers and human capital professionals on special / non-competitive hiring authorities; assist managers to develop an understanding of why and how to engage local resources and partners to enhance inclusion, diversity and targeted recruitment; and provide a networking opportunity between our managers, hr professionals and local, state and Federal agencies that provide assistance in locating talent.

New: Project Search. A partnership with Project Search is being forged to provide internship opportunities to youth / students with developmental/intellectual disabilities, ages 18-22. The Project SEARCH program is a total workplace immersion program for students during their last year of high school. The goal is to prepare each student for successful employment through integrated classroom development and real-life work-place experience. An initial presentation was held on April 14, 2011.

New: Certification for SES Performance Appraisal System. We are finalizing our 2011 request to OPM for certification of our SES Performance Appraisal System. We are completing a 50% review of FY-2011 SES performance plans. A representative sample of these plans will be included in our 2011 SES Performance Appraisal Assessment Tool (PAAT). OPM and OMB will review these plans to ensure that each SES performance appraisal includes goals that are strongly linked to DOI's mission and are results oriented.

Completed: POWER Initiative Meeting. The Office of Human Resources coordinated a meeting with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Workers Compensation to discuss the status of the POWER Initiative.

Completed: Financial Obligation of DOI Employees. The Office of Human Resources released an All Employees Memorandum reminding employees of the April 18, 2011 deadline to file their taxes and of their responsibility to pay their taxes.

Completed: National Partnerships Council Metrics. The Office of Human Resources has completed the surname process for the National Partnerships Council metrics. The metrics are ready for field distribution.

Completed: Telework and Hours of Duty Policies. The Office of Human submitted a National Consultation Rights notice to national unions on Telework and Hours of Duty.

Completed: Federal Long Term Care Insurance (FLTCI). The Office of Human Resources sponsored a Federal Long Term Care Insurance Seminar in the Main Interior Building Auditorium on Wednesday afternoon April 20, 2011, for employees.

Office of Civil Rights

New: Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership. On April 21, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) represented the Department of the Interior (DOI) at the Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership meeting held at the National Archives, in Washington, D.C. Agenda topics included best practices for diversity, OPM diversity initiatives, and the annual Diversity Summit.

New: Rescheduled EEO Counselor Training. OCR, in partnership with the National Park Service, will provide EEO Counselor Training at the NPS Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado. A Basic EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted June 27, thru July 1, 2011. An Advanced EEO Counselor Training Course will be conducted from June 29, thru July 1, 2011. Tuition for each course is \$500.00. Training will be provided by staff members of OCR, NPS, and USGS. Additionally, a presentation will be made to each class by two Administrative Judges of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

New: EEO Compliance Training. During April 20-21, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor of OCR, will conduct EEO Compliance Training for managers, supervisors, and employees of the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Park Police, Battery Park, New York Region, following a Finding of Discrimination. The training will be held at Ellis Island, New York.

Complete: Federal Women Program Managers Meeting. On April 7, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights represented the DOI at the Federal Women Program Managers Meeting. The meeting agenda included a discussion of the workshop that the FWPM is sponsoring at the Federally Employed Women's Conference in July 2011.

Office of Occupational Safety and Health

New: Meeting with OSHA on Fire Boots. Last week, the Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) had a meeting with the OSHA Federal Agency Program team to discuss the wildland fire boot issue. Among the topics discussed was the applicability of the NFPA 1977 standard, and how they plan on communicating their requirements to the industry.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Joint Committee Oversight Hearings. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Committee on Natural Resources, held a joint oversight hearing. Witnesses included Kim Thorsen from DOI, Jay Jensen from the US Forest Service and Chief Ron Vitiello from CBP. The thrust of the committees approach focused on the assertion that border security was being impeded by environmental regulations. This assertion was countered by the witnesses. Mr. Bishop, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands has proposed legislation that would remove these controls. Senators McCain and Kyl have also submitted a bill with similar but less sweeping provisions.

Immediate Office of the DAS

New: Interagency Interoperability. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (comprised of Interior and Agriculture executives in information technology, fire, and law enforcement) met to discuss priorities, projects, and organization. The group agreed to pursue a Secretarial level charter and to re-configure the group to make it more agile and strategic. Two major sets of initiatives are underway. First is interconnectivity of networks and cross-recognition of credentials. A large interagency conference call took place this week among USDA, FS, and DOI CIO offices, with LESEM, to coordinate and prioritize a number of activities in this area. This work also involves the DOI and USDA Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) program offices. The second initiative is radio program improvement including interoperability, infrastructure consolidation, and use of new technologies. This initiative is being handled through the DOI Radio Transformation Project in partnership with USDA and Forest Service.

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. Work by DOI staff in the IC has centered on gathering information to write the FWS Stage four staffing plan and the DOI Stage 4 staffing plan. Stage 4 STRs for the Eastern states have been signed by FOOSC and BP and most returned from the states. The STRs for stage 4 in Louisiana have been signed by FOOSC and BP but they have not been signed by the State. If oil from the BP MC252 is later found during the monitoring stage the impacted area will revert back to stage 3 for cleanup. A final Stage 5 plan will be developed to end the response after final inspections conducted after the end of hurricane season.

Update: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. OCIO Directive 2011-005 was signed and issued. Initial planning on interagency (between Interior and Agriculture) is underway. Next week all parties will meet to compare best practices and develop a project plan for implementation.

Update: Radio Transformation. Project directors will meet the week of April 25 to develop a formal project plan and present to executive sponsors. Discussions on partnership with Forest Service continue.

Update: OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Site visits in the Sonoita/Nogales area are scheduled for the week of April 25. These visits were postponed due to uncertainty over passage of this year's budget. Field work will involve review of tower locations that had been identified and evaluated as part of SBInet planning and which are now being updated. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be centered in the Douglas, AZ area.

No Change: Fire IT Project. The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) will meet with focus groups in Boise the week of April 18. Additional meetings with fire executives and agency chief information offices are being arranged.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a "summit meeting" of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

No Change: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. Draft storyboards were received from CBP March 22. Comments were consolidated for DOI and submitted to CBP on April 8, 2011. A final module is still expected to be completed in the summer of 2011.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates

issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on May 13th. Public meetings will be held from May 30 to June 17 with comment closing in July following a 45 day public comment period. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

No Change: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The meeting originally scheduled for March 9th was postponed due to a schedule conflict with CBP and is now being planned for the week of April 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

No Change: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. Coordination on NEPA and ESA compliance is continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in April. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis includes non-waiver activities, “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Updates Provided to the Program Manager’s Office, Information Sharing Environment (ISE), for Report to Congress.

OLES, together with the OCIO, provided written updates on DOI’s progress toward implementing numerous ISE initiatives. The Department is progressing well and will have an

automated method of reporting Suspicious Activity Reports once the Incident Management, Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) is fully deployed and operational.

New: Release of the 2010 National Monument and Icon (NM&I) Sector Specific Plan (SSP) by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). OLES is designated as the Sector Specific Agency in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 for NM&I's and as such has to produce on a reoccurring basis a sector plan as an annex to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. OLES completed the plan in mid 2010 and it was just released by DHS on April 14, 2011.

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Governance Council Closes Issue. On April 13, 2011, the IMARS Governance Council voted to close the medium-level issue that various bureaus and networks may not be secure. This issue was closed after DAS Thorsen signed the IMARS Authorization to Operate (ATO) and IMARS received its Certification and Accreditation (C&A).

New: Acting Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Project Manager. The Assistant Director—Technology Division, Faisal Ahmed, will be attending the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University from April 18th-May 15th. During that time, Danielle Smith will be the Acting Assistant Director—Technology Division and the Acting IMARS Project Manager.

Update: Federal Chief Information Officer's 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Assistant Director—Technology Division wrote a Statement of Objectives (SOO) for inclusion in a Request for Information (RFI) to vendors. The purposed of the SOO is to learn more about the cloud computing capabilities of the vendors. The Contracting Officer posted the RFI to FedBizOpps.gov on April 6th and the RFI closes on April 22nd.

Update: OLES Visit to the Southwest Border. Last week members from the Intelligence Division met with DOI stakeholders along the SW Border in an effort to better understand their information/intelligence needs and requirements. The trip involved personnel from the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. A visit was also paid to the El Paso Intelligence Center. A draft trip report on the findings has been completed with a more detailed report, with recommendations, to follow.

Update: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. Specific White House guidance to departments and agencies is forthcoming; a Deputy-level meeting will be scheduled during the first half of May. Tentatively, the DOI has not been selected as a department/agency that will be audited this calendar year but should anticipate such an audit in 2012.

Update: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop November 14-17, 2011. (Please Note: this is an update of a previous submission but was not located in the submission dated 4/11) This workshop provides required in-service training to meet the 40 hour annual training requirement for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the

workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge. The Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection from the Department of Homeland Security, Todd Keil, has confirmed his participation as the keynote speaker.

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and official turn over to OLES is pending. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun and work on G ramp is scheduled to begin on April 18th.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** C ramp guard booth (frame) has been delivered and installed. Façade and internal wiring work is scheduled to be completed the third week in April.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation has been posted on the GSA schedule and a contractor "walk through" was completed on April 14th.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed w/in the next two months.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated (\$472,095) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative. Talking points were submitted for follow-up.
- **MIB Entrance Re-design:** DAS Andrew Jackson commissioned a study to re-design the C and E street entrances into the MIB. OLES has been invited to review and comment on this plan during the week of April 18th.

Update: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating reviews of all bureaus/office personnel security programs. The reviews are conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. The review of the BOEMRE program supporting the Office of the Secretary was completed this past week. Additional reviews have been scheduled for the USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

No Change: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12. Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request is due by April 29. In addition, OLES is attempting to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management in support of the initiative.

No Change: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On March 8, OLES Security participated in a conference call with the National Park Service and the United States Park Police regarding security procedures and visitor screening for Liberty and Ellis

Island. A decision from the NPS on the security screening procedures at Ellis and Liberty Island has not been finalized.

No Change: Internal Readiness Review of the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project. The final Internal Readiness Review (IRR) report for the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project, written by Assistant Director, Faisal Ahmed, was submitted to the FPA Board of Directors on March 23. The US Forest Service (USFS) and DOI stakeholders are currently in discussion to strategize a path forward to execute the corrective actions recommended in the report.

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Unfortunately, per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years. Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individual in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 National Monuments & Icons Sector Annual Report. OLES Security is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Infrastructure Protection Division and the National Monuments and Icons security managers in the development of the 2011 annual report. Currently, the document is in the data collections stage with a first draft due to DHS by June 6, 2011.

Final: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20th. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall, St Louis Arch, and the Statue. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. Security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 1) have been scheduled for a BOEMRE facility in New Orleans in April and the USGS EROS Data Center in May. In addition, in May OLES will conduct a progress visit, based on the recommendations listed in the 2009 assessment.

Final: 444 DM 1 “Physical Protection and Building Security” Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is currently non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled “Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities”. The new draft 444 DM is pending a second review from all bureau/office Security Managers. OLES Security hopes to issue the updated version as interim guidance in June of 2011.

Final: Graduation of Land Management Investigator Training Program (LMITP), March 14-April 14, 2011. The LMITP is a new five-week basic training course designed to bridge current uniformed officers to investigator positions, without attending the 12-week FLETC Criminal Investigator Training Program (CITP). Twenty-two participants in the pilot class

graduated on April 14, representing Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal agencies, National Park Service, US Park Police, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Law Enforcement and Security. The OLES National Law Enforcement Training Office leveraged assistance from FLETC to provide the required investigator competencies and to ensure the success of the pilot class.

This shorter course provides investigative skills comparable to the FLETC-CITP, achieving a shorter, less expensive training by eliminating firearms, driving, and other training the participants received in the uniformed basic training. This saves the bureaus \$3,282 per student, and \$72,222 for this class. The savings are even higher for the taxpayers, since FLETC absorbs a significant portion of the training, a total of \$148,500 savings. It cost an estimated \$11,000 to bring in DOI instructors, but is still a sound investment.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami:* Japanese authorities now report that there are 13,802 confirmed deaths and 14,129 missing following the earthquake and tsunami. Power plant operators at the Fukushima Daiichi plant have issued a containment schedule for the power plant, which is expected to take 6-9 months to complete. EPA continues to check radiation levels for U.S. mainland and insular areas and have found no radiation levels that pose a health risk.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Approximately one-hundred DOI personnel continue to work full-time on Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. Much of the cleanup efforts are focused on Submerged Oil Mats and finalizing staffing plans for continuation of DOI cleanup efforts. Ken Litzenberger has assumed the position of the DOI Incident Commander for the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team.
- *Flooding in the Midwest – BOR and BIA Dams Threatened:* Record flooding continues in the Midwest with many rivers in North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota are all experiencing near record flooding that has been fueled by warming temperatures, snowmelt, ice jams and rainstorms. Several dams were threatened, including Heart Butte, Jamestown and BR-12, but all dams have been stabilized and there are currently no dam safety issues. USFWS accepted two FEMA Mission Assignments to provide Search and Rescue personnel and air boats near Fargo, ND. USGS is installing, maintaining and reading gages on all the impacted rivers.
- *Ft. Davis National Historic Site and Big Thicket National Preserve Closed due to Wildland Fire:* About 60 acres of the Ft. Davis NHP burned due to the Rock House Fire in Texas. Power was lost and the home of the retired superintendent burned to the ground. The Fire moved away on Friday and the Park was re-opened. Fire also burned into the Big Thicket National Preserve causing the Park to close last weekend. One residence and a radio tower were threatened
- *Severe Weather in Southeast:* More than 100 tornadoes were reported in Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Virginia and Alabama since last Thursday. There were 48 confirmed fatalities from the storms and hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed.

Update: National Level Exercise (NLE) 11. A letter of instruction regarding DOI participation in NLE 11 has been submitted to the Assistant Secretary, PMB for final approval and issuance to bureau and office directors. NLE 11 will take place the week of May 16, 2011 and the scenario will consist of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (Midwest US).

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, reviewed the Senate Bill 357 *Wildlife Disease Emergency Act of 2011*. This Act would “authorize the Secretary of the Interior to identify and declare wildlife disease emergencies and to coordinate rapid response to those emergencies and for other purposes” if passed. LCDR Wolff is assisting USGS develop talking points that support the Bill and why DOI and the Secretary of the Interior should be the lead on this Act.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. Office of the Secretary organizational data has been collected and will be loaded into the CMS database to provide better sorted roster reports or contact information. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups. OEM is also coordinating with OCIO and OLES to enhance readiness of secure systems to support operations on a reliable 24/7 basis. Partial funding is being provided to OCIO to dedicate a staff position to provide communications security functions and related management of classified systems.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM continues to monitor interagency planning for Eagle Horizon-2011 (EH11) and participated in the Interagency EH 2011 Data Collector Training on April 12. The agenda included discussion on methods to collect information and lessons learned during the exercise execution. Exercise EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration: OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM will meet with BOEMRE and ONRR representatives this week to discuss their evolving COOP responsibilities during their on-going re-organization. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

No Change: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). Last week, OEM coordinated with the Office of Civil Rights and NBC to ensure that self-identified, hearing-impaired individuals have been added to the building emergency alert systems. OEM staff has met with each person who has self-identified as needing evacuation assistance to provide them with emergency information and specific evacuation instructions. OEM is finalizing the initial draft After-Action Report on the evacuation drills conducted in the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building and the South Interior Building on February 23.

No Change: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM conducted a visit last week with BIA Regional Director Stanley Speaks and his staff, Matthew Ellis from the Indian Health Service, and representatives from the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council in Portland, OR to discuss emergency management issues. Additionally, OEM met with FEMA Region X Administrator Ken Murphy, his Deputy and other FEMA Region X staff in Bothell, WA. OEM is now working with BIA and emergency management staff within the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs office to plan a visit to Montana possibly the week of May 2. OEM will then conclude interviews with additional DC-based staff to complete the data gathering stage of the expert study.

No Change: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM has received a new submission of positions from the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance for review and approval to cover the Department's role in response and recovery related to Natural, Cultural, and Historic Properties. As a result, OEM will be coordinating a subject matter expert review across the bureaus to analyze and review the positions prior to submitting the package to the Emergency Management Council for formal approval. The next iteration of the Guide is slated to be released within the next 60 days and under the new agreements, will be loaded into the qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system so that Interior responders can begin qualifying for all-hazard responder positions.

No Change: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee did not meet last week. Members of the National Security Professional Development sub-IPC continue to discuss the development of a cadre of personnel to perform duties involving interagency coordination of national security issues.

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the needs of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Management Advisory Team (MAT): The interagency FPA MAT held their monthly conference call on Wednesday April 13th. During the call they finalized comments to a final draft version of their Guiding Principles document. The Guiding Principles document will be presented to the FPA oversight group during a webinar scheduled on April 22, 2011.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Interagency Science Team (IST): The FPA IST had a discussion with the FPA Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) regarding the outputs from the latest analysis on Friday April 15th, 2011.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group: The FPA Oversight Group (OG) is scheduled to hold a webinar/conference call Friday April 22nd, 2011. The topics of the webinar are an update on the progress of FPA 2011 Technical and Business review, discussion of the

latest analysis the Interagency Analysis Team (IAT) has completed, and an update from the FPA Management Advisory Team (MAT) regarding their future engagement in support of FPA.

Update: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft. A final NIFC draft was submitted on April 15, 2011 to OWFC and FS Fire and Aviation offices.

Update: International Support. OWFC continues to provide support and coordination to the DOI Office of International Affairs and USAID for the potential deployment of DOI resources should they be required to assist Mexico.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. All of the attributes for the Project Priority System (PPS) have been completed, including their weights, definitions, and business rules. Formal approval from IFEC was received on March 28. The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD) is complete, and will be submitted for formal approval by the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) at their meeting during the week of April 25. Work on Phase 2, determining the process for integration of results of the PPS and the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) will commence soon.

No Change: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). On March 25, 2011, Secretary Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack jointly signed and transmitted to Congress two documents: the first is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy)* and the second is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. Together, these important documents provide the foundation for the entire wildland fire management cohesive strategy effort. A joint press release was issued on Monday March 28, 2011 at 11am, officially announcing the public availability of these documents on www.forestsandrangelands.gov. The release of these documents concludes Phase I, and effort is underway to implement the direction of the Cohesive Strategy in phases two and three. A Regional Strategy Committee (RSC) has been established for each region of the country – Northeast, Southeast, and West – to provide executive leadership and oversight for implementing phases II and III. The RSC meetings are scheduled as follows: West RSC, May 2-3 in Denver; Northeast RSC, May 9-10 in Minneapolis; and Southeast RSC, May 16-17 in Atlanta.

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

No Change: Biomass – Feasibility Studies meeting: As part of the wildland fire fuels program, OWFC participates on the Woody BUG (Woody Biomass Utilization Group). In cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Energy (DOE) conducted feasibility studies to determine if a proposed project can reduce the use of fossil fuels and convert all or part of the current facility energy use to renewable energy.

There were 48 feasibility studies assessed in 2010 and of the 48 studies, 15 of them were DOI locations. DOI/OWFC hosted a meeting on April 11, 2011 with DOI contracting and engineering managers to discuss the status of the reports, Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), and possible next steps for these studies.

No Change: EPA’s Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA’s goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. Production work on updating LANDFIRE data products continues on schedule with the Refresh project focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as but not limited to wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters. The first through fourth geo-areas have been delivered; namely the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and Southwest. The next geo-area, North Central will be delivered by March 31, 2011 with production on track for the remaining geo-areas (South Central, Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii).

No Change: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-chartered to support the continued refinement of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1, 2011 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

No Change: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as

members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries, Agriculture soon.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

No Change: DOI International Fire Program. OWF is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

No Change: Wildland Fire Training Course Proposal for OSHA. OWFC is coordinating with the Office of Occupational Safety and Health and Bureau Fire Safety Program Managers on the development of a proposed wildland fire safety training course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Officers.

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Earth Day Activities. On April 19, PAM staff will be participating in Earth Day activities at the Bison Bistro. PAM will be offering information on Green Procurement and recycled and environmentally friendly products currently being used throughout DOI, and promoting recycling and composting. PAM has prepared an Earth Day statement which is

scheduled to be posted on the OneInterior web site on Wednesday, April 20. The statement reiterates DOI's commitment to purchasing green products and services and provides links to informative sites where employees can learn more about purchasing environmentally friendly products and services. On April 20, representatives from PAM will participate in the Earth Day celebration in Rawlins Park. PAM staff will provide information on products used by DOI that are made from recycled and environmentally friendly materials, and promote ways to be green at work and at home.

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program. On April 11, 2011, DOI proposed to debar Daylight Tree Service also operating as Daylight Trade Services & Equipment, LLC, Daylight Tree Service and Equip, LLC, and Daylight Tree Service and Equipment, LLC (DTS), and owner Scott G. Muir, under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 C.F.R. Subpart 9.4. DOI based the actions on information about DTS's history of poor performance on a contract awarded by the United States Forest Service for work to be performed in the Stanislaus National Forest in California. DTS's serious violation of the terms of its contract included: failure to make adequate progress toward contract completion; failure to meet contract specifications; utilization of equipment poorly maintained or incapable of contract compliant performance; damage to forest resources; use of unauthorized equipment at or proximate to the job site; and attempted concealment of the unauthorized equipment use.

On April 11, 2011, DOI debarred James H. Barger, Barger Contracting, and Lorri Barger under FAR Subpart 9.4. DOI initially suspended Mr. Barger and Barger Contracting in 2009, based upon the fact of Mr. Barger's August 13, 2009, criminal Information in Indiana State court charging him with bribery of an Indiana public official and theft of public funds in connection with efforts to obtain a contract to perform work on the exterior of the Hancock County Courthouse, in Hancock, Indiana. The suspension precluded Barger, the low bidder, from award of a Federal contract under the U.S. Geological Survey's solicitation number 09WRSS0022 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Mr. Barger did not contest the suspension and remained suspended without further proceedings. Barger Contracting contested its suspension. On July 6, 2010, a contested case determination was issued, continuing the suspension of Barger Contracting. Subsequently, on March 1, 2011, DOI proposed Barger for debarment. Mr. Barger was subsequently convicted on the theft of public funds charges. On March 1, 2011, DOI proposed the debarment of Mr. Barger and Barger Contracting. On that date DOI also proposed the debarment of Lorri Barger based upon false and misleading statements made by her regarding Mr. Barger's relationship to Barger Contracting in an effort to terminate the Barger Contracting suspension. The Bargers and Barger Contracting did not contest their respective Notices of Proposed Debarment.

Office of Budget

No Change: 2013 Budget Formulation. On Monday, April 11, the DAS for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition presented to the Principals Operating Group strategic issues to consider during the formulation of the 2013 budget. Using these decisions, POB continues to refine the 2013 formulation guidance for the development of the bureaus' May budget submission to the Department. On April 5, POB issued "Attachment G" guidance regarding the development of the 2013-2017 Five Year Plans for Construction and Deferred Maintenance.

Office of Financial Management

New: OMB Circular A-123 Training. On April 11, 2011, PFM provided training on DOI's A-123 Internal Control Program (OMB Circular A-123, *Management's Responsibility for Internal Control*) to the Deputy's Operations Group.

New: Assessment of the Financial and Business Management System. PFM and the FBMS 3rd Party Review Executive Steering Committee reviewed the draft of the Task 2 deliverable "Maximizing Efficiency Gains Assessment" on Thursday and received the "Final" Task 2 deliverable on Friday per the Project Plan. The first draft of Task 3 deliverable "Program Schedule Feasibility Assessment" was received Friday per the Project Plan. Daily status calls were held at the Herndon PMO with extended sessions on Thursday for deliverable review. McKinsey and Company, the contractor conducting the review, provided a walkthrough of Task 2 to the Sponsors at the weekly meeting on Friday (April 15).

On-going: GAO/OIG Audits. PFM provided consolidated technical comments on the GAO Draft report on *Federal Land Management (GAO-11-377)*.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

No Change: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. OMB follow-up actions to our first quarter status data in www.performance.gov have been provided to the bureaus to discuss during the next set of quarterly status reviews that have been scheduled with David Hayes in early May. In accordance with the direction distributed in the March 28, 2011 memo, data as of the close of the second quarter of FY 2011 is due to PPP by April 22.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

Update: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will be co-host of this year's conference and represent the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement conference that will be held at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, on April 21, 2011. The conference is the most prominent government-wide event on the small business calendar each year. A senior advisor to the President of the United States will be the White House representative at the conference along with other congressional representatives.

New Item: Small Business Jobs Act Listening Tour. The nation-wide Small Business Jobs Act Listening Tour will be held in Washington DC on April 27, 2011, from 9:00 a.m., to 4:15 p.m., at the Department of Transportation Headquarters located at 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC. Items to be discussed include size standards, regional contract environment, Jobs Act provisions, set asides and bundling.

New Item: National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo. The Department of Veterans Affairs is holding the event, August 15-18 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. This is the largest nationwide conference of its kind, and it allows veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses the opportunity to learn, network

and market their businesses. The conference website is now live and conference and hotel registration are available.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 3 (tentative): Construction Outreach Event:** Event will be held at the Yates Auditorium during the evening hours. Further details to be provided when finalized.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.
- **September 15 (tentative) New Mexico Outreach Event in Albuquerque, NM.** Further details to be provided when finalized.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSBDU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- April 20: Women-Owned Small Business
- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions
- June 29: General Small Business

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: FBMS Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting. On April 12, 2011, the ESC held its monthly meeting. In addition to receiving updates on program activities, the deployment status of DO and FWS, and an update on the BOEM / BSEE split and the status of BSEE's FBMS implementation were given. Presentations were also made by IA, NPS and BOR on the organization of the FBMS implementation teams they have established to manage their FBMS deployments.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

Update: Organizational Change Management. OS will hold the OS role mapping workshop 2 on April 19-21 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office will be holding the second role mapping "check-in" conference call on May 4. This conference call will provide a forum for reporting on the status of the assigned role mapping exercise and to discuss any issues or problems encountered along the way. The final role mapping workshop 3 will be held on May 17-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): Following the Implementation Work Group's (IWG) kick-off on April 6, 2011, the teams met independently during the past two weeks. The seven IWGs launching in 2011 include: 1) Institutionalize SR/Enhance Measures, 2) Improve Internal/External Communication, 3) Data Mining Enhancements, 4) Company Analytics Pilot, 5) Collaboration Culture with BOEMRE, 6) Communication/Data Sharing w/BLM/BIA/OST/Forest Svc., 7) Align Operational Goals of WASC/ONRR. These IWGs are in the process of framing the scope of the tasks ahead and formalizing work plans to implement the Strategic Review recommendations. The Implementation Support Team (IST) attended and offered support along with Acting Assistant Secretary for PMB, Chris Henderson, who engaged in and supported several of the meetings.

All-Agency Congressional Briefing Scheduled on May 4 (No Change): ONRR is participating in an all-agency Congressional Briefing sponsored by the Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) on Wednesday, May 4, at the Denver Federal Center. The All-Agency Briefing will include round-table discussions, tabletop displays, and a briefing notebook of high-level information about each of the agencies participating.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers and records developed under the Agreement and equipment.

- Navajo review, May 11-13, 2011
- New Mexico review, May 31-June 2, 2011

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR's goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Crow Reservation, Crow Agency, MT, on April 26, 2011
- Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow, Albuquerque, NM, on April 28-30, 2011
- Ft. Belknap Senior Center, Harlem, MT, on May 3, 2011
- Blackfeet Agency, Browning, MT, on morning of May 4, 2011
- New Eagle Shield Senior Center, Browning, MT, on afternoon of May 4, 2011

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

SOL Weekly Bureau Report for the Week Beginning May 2, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Matters:

EnSCO Litigation

Counts IV and V (Undue Delay and Development Plans (DOCDS)) – Briefing on the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment on Count IV (undue delay) continued with the filing of responses on April 25. Although trial had been scheduled to begin on May 16, 2011, at the pretrial conference held on April 28th the Court postponed the trial to allow for further briefing on jurisdictional and certain merits issues. A new trial date has not been set, but a trial is unlikely to begin before the end of July. Meanwhile, in the Fifth Circuit appeal challenging the district court's issuance of a preliminary injunction requiring action on the permits, our opening brief is due May 5.

BOP Examination

On April 21, the MDL magistrate judge approved the final testing protocol of the BOP and the DNV contract to accomplish the testing. Preliminary procedures have begun and actual testing is scheduled to begin this week (b) (5)

The Joint Investigation Team remains custodian of the BOP and will control access and evidentiary matters at the BOP site. A BOEMRE technical representative will also observe the testing. The MDL judge has ordered that all additional testing be completed by June 15, 2011.

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

Discovery is ongoing in the MDL with depositions and the BOP testing underway. Last week, the parties, including the Government, attended a conference to better define the scope of the first "test" trial of liability scheduled for February 2012. In the meantime, the Department is working to provide responses to a BP document request vast in both scope and content.

Challenges to Gulf of Mexico Exploration Plans

On Tuesday, April 26, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in NEPA challenges to several exploration and development plans approved in April and May 2010 in reliance on categorical exclusions. The Government argued that the environmental organization plaintiffs lacked standing because they did not file comments during the agency's review. DOJ also argued that it was too soon in the first days and weeks after the Deepwater Horizon event for BOEMRE to have considered information about that incident as presenting extraordinary circumstances requiring an EA or EIS to be prepared.

Supreme Court Cases

Tohono O’Odham Supreme Court Decision

By a vote of 7-1 (J. Ginsberg dissenting), the Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a favorable opinion for the United States in *U.S. v. Tohono O’Odham Nation*. Justice Kennedy, writing for five of the Justices in the majority, found that 28 U.S.C. 1500 deprived the Court of Federal Claims (CFC) of jurisdiction over the Tribe’s suit. Section 1500 deprives the CFC of jurisdiction whenever a plaintiff has another suit pending against the United States “for or in respect to the same claim.” The Tribe argued that section 1500 applies only if the two suits involve both the same operative facts and seek overlapping relief. In its opinion, the Supreme Court rejected this argument and clarified that section 1500 applies whenever the two suits “are based on substantially the same operative facts, regardless of the relief sought in each suit.”

Peabody Western Coal Co v. EEOC

In this matter the Circuit Court found that the Secretary of the Interior could be brought into litigation over a long-standing lease between the Navajo Nation and Peabody that allowed for tribal preference. The United States must respond to the *certiorari* petitions by Navajo Nation and Peabody Western Coal by May 4.

Daugaard v. Yankton Sioux Tribe

This matter challenges the status of the Reservation. The State of South Dakota, Charles Mix County, and the local waste water treatment facility requested the Supreme Court’s review of an Eight Circuit decision that found the reservation diminished but not disestablished. The Solicitor’s response supported the Tribe’s position that the Reservation has not been disestablished but opposed the Tribe’s cross-petition for *certiorari* review on the grounds that it did not present *certiorari*-worthy issues.

Patchak v. Salazar

(b) (5)

Osage v. Irby

The Supreme Court invited the Solicitor General to express the views of the United States in this matter involving the reservation status of the Osage Reservation in Oklahoma. The matter is before the Court on a petition for *certiorari* filed by the Tribe, which contests the authority of the Oklahoma Tax Commission to impose income taxes on individual tribal members who reside within the Osage Reservation. The OTC asserts that the Reservation has been disestablished and that it has the requisite taxing authority (b) (5)

Miccosukee Tribe v. Kraus-Anderson Construction Co.

The Supreme Court invited the Solicitor General to express its views on this matter involving whether a Tribal court order can be enforced in Federal Court in all instances. The case involves a dispute regarding work Kraus-Anderson did on the Miccosukee reservation. The contract for the work specifically provided for tribal court jurisdiction to resolve disputes. A dispute arose that was tried in tribal court. The tribal court found for the tribe. The Tribe then sued Kraus-Anderson in federal court to enforce the order. The Circuit Court found no federal court jurisdiction. Both Kraus-Anderson and the Tribe petitioned for certiorari. (b) (5)

Brown v. Rincon

The Supreme Court invited the Solicitor General to express its views on this matter regarding a challenge by the Rincon Band to the State of California's actions in negotiating a gaming compact pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Under IGRA a tribe may sue the state if the tribe believes that the state acted in bad faith. Most states assert an 11th Amendment immunity to these types of suits but California has waived its immunity. The Ninth Circuit agreed with the lower court that the States negotiating position was bad faith because it demanded revenue sharing that the court found was without a meaningful concession. The State petitioned for Supreme Court review. (b) (5)

Other Matters:

Cobell Settlement

The deadline for objections and opt outs in the Cobell class-notice process recently closed on April 20. To date, there were approximately 1,000 opt outs (800 of which is for members of the Quapaw Tribe). This number may change if there is a lag in receipt of mailings. Objections were filed that consist of general questions about preparation to implement the land consolidation program, challenges to eligibility criteria for the scholarship fund, alleged conversion of the remedy for the historical accounting claims from injunctive relief to monetary relief, and constitutional due process challenges regarding the trust administration class on issues of typicality and commonality of trust mismanagement claims. The Department of Justice, on behalf of the Department of the Interior, will file a response to the objections next week on May 5. The fairness hearing on the settlement is scheduled for June 20. We continue to hold monthly tribal leader calls to answer questions and keep them informed of new developments.

Delta Smelt Consolidated Cases

(b) (5)

. The court also ruled that the Bureau of Reclamation failed to comply with NEPA when it implemented the BiOp, notwithstanding the United States' arguments that there was no major federal action triggering NEPA and no change in the historical operational range of the CVP. The court ordered Reclamation to complete its NEPA analysis by December, 2011, which does not provide enough time to complete the review. The court also ruled that the FWS complete a new biological opinion by October 1, 2011. DOJ has already filed a motion seeking to alter this timetable, or in the alternative, a stay pending appeal.

Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) Litigation [Douglas Timber/Pacific Rivers Cases]

On December 30, 2008, the BLM completed revisions to six Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in Western Oregon to address timber management and remove the BLM from the Northwest Forest Plan. On July 16, 2009, the Department withdrew the WOPR Records of Decision. On March 31, 2011, in *Douglas Timber Operators v. Salazar*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia vacated and remanded the decision to withdraw the WOPR RODs.
(b) (5)

Notice of appeal in *Douglas Timber Operators* is due by May 31, 2011, and SOL is preparing a recommendation on whether to appeal. SOL is working with BLM and ASLM on a response to the re-filed complaint challenging WOPR in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon (*Pacific Rivers Council v. Shepard*). While stating in their complaint that the March 31 order did not "explicitly re-instate the WOPR RODs," plaintiffs reinstitute their ESA, NEPA, APA, and O&C Act challenges of the WOPR.

Sage Grouse Litigation

Plaintiff challenges sixteen BLM land use plans for failing to consider and adequately protect the greater sage grouse and its habitat. Two plans are scheduled to be litigated first: Craters of the Moon National Monument (Idaho) and Pinedale (Wyoming). We still expect to file our motion for summary judgment with respect to the Pinedale (Wyoming) plan on May 9.

Utah Resource Management Plan Challenges

In two lawsuits known as *SUWA v. Lewis I* and *SUWA v. Lewis II*, environmental plaintiffs challenge, collectively, six Utah Resource Management Plans. As of April 28, 2011, answers have been filed in both cases. Plaintiffs allege that the plans violate the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Claims include allegations that the plans' decisions are flawed due to inadequate analysis of lands with wilderness characteristics, air quality, and off-highway vehicle impacts.

Review of the Internal Administrative Draft for the KHSA

(b) (5)

Global Settlement of EPA Enforcement at Bureau of Indian Education Schools

The Solicitor's Office has concluded a Global Settlement with EPA for environmental violations at 165 BIE schools and 34 BIA water systems (b) (5)

Consultation will be undertaken before a public announcement is made of the settlement.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
April 29, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study (AZ and CA) – Notice of Scoping. The special resource study of sites in Arizona, California, and other states that are significant to the life of Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States is beginning. The NPS-led study will determine the appropriate methods for preserving and interpreting the sites, and which sites meet criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designation as a National Historic Landmark. The study also will help determine if designation of a unit of the National Park System is desirable and appropriate. The public scoping period will conclude 30 days after the publication of a scoping notice in the *Federal Register*, or May 27, whichever is later. Public meetings are scheduled in Arizona and California. The study is generating media interest.

Manzanar National Historic Site (CA) – 42nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. The annual Manzanar Pilgrimage will be held on April 30 at the park, to remember the past, honor those who were imprisoned there and vow that such a dark chapter in American History will never be repeated. Hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former internees are expected to attend the Pilgrimage.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA) – Dog Management Plan. On April 26, the Board of Supervisors passed a non-binding resolution opposing the preferred alternative in the park's Draft Dog Management Plan. The Mayor's office does support the resolution and has indicated he will not sign it. The dog management plan has been a continuing topic of extensive media and public attention.

Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks (WA) – Reasonably Attributable Visibility Impairment Certification. The State of Washington submitted its Regional Haze Plan to EPA on January 6, 2011. The NPS considers the plan inadequate to protect visibility in three Class I parks. The NPS is drafting a reasonably attributable visibility impairment (RAVI) certification package for Alcoa's Intalco works, an aluminum smelter near Ferndale, WA, for signature by the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. The Washington plan was deficient for two facilities, but the state legislature just passed a bill addressing Trans-Alta's coal-fired Centralia power plant only.

ON THE HORIZON

Mount Rainier National Park (WA) – Public Meetings Regarding Air Tour Management Plan/EIS. The park and the FAA have made a draft Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) and EIS available for public comment through May 16. Four alternatives for dealing with sightseeing flights are being considered, ranging from banning all flights below 5,000 feet above ground level to keeping them frozen at the current rate of 114 flights a year.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (CA) – Public Scoping for Wilderness Stewardship Plan/EIS. The NPS is seeking public input in development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) and EIS for the adjoining Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. More than 96 percent of the parks' land is managed as wilderness. Potential issues that may be addressed in the plan include: day and overnight use; wilderness permitting; stock use; meadow management; research activities; wildlife management in wilderness; and cultural resources in wilderness. The public scoping ends on September 1, 2011.

Dry Tortugas National Park (FL) – Major Structural Issue with Fort Jefferson's Front Three Wall. A recent report on the instability of the Front Three Wall of the historic Fort Jefferson on Garden Key indicated that this side of the fort could collapse at any time. The park is planning to relocate park employees out of residences and shops located in that area by May 15. Eight of the park's 15 housing units, all of the park's maintenance shops, the employee laundry and the park clinic are affected.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
April 25, 2011

Release of National Wolf Strategy and Associated Actions

On or about May 4, FWS will announce a series of actions designed to account for the latest scientific information about the taxonomy and distribution of wolves in the continental United States, as well as to keep the agency's commitment to science-based management of wolves and other threatened and endangered species across the country. These actions are being taken within the context of a National Wolf Strategy designed to address wolf conservation needs in the lower 48 states and Mexico. This announcement will incorporate two separate rules:

- The Western Great Lakes proposed delisting, eastern wolf status assessment, status reviews of Pacific Northwest and Southwest wolves, five-year wolf review and comprehensive wolf strategy. This action was submitted to the *Federal Register* on April 15, 2011.
- The reinstatement of the April 2, 2009, delisting rule of the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment. This action is targeted to be sent to the *Federal Register* on May 4, 2011.

As part of the Northern Rocky Mountains rule, FWS will announce other actions, including withdrawal of a September 2007 Department of the Interior Solicitors M-Opinion interpreting the meaning of the phrase "significant portion of its range" under the ESA. In addition, FWS will also implement a post-delisting monitoring plan under which the states will monitor the Northern Rocky Mountain DPS and gather population data for at least five years, and seek an independent scientific assessment of post-delisting wolf management after three years. This announcement will generate national and regional news, as it affects the status of wolves across the nation.

State of the Birds 2011 Report on Public Lands and Waters

On May 3, Secretary Salazar will join representatives from the scientific and conservation community to release the 2011 "State of the Birds Report" at a press conference in Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. This year's report focuses on the vital role our public lands and waters play in the health and welfare of America's birds. Prior to the press conference, Secretary Salazar will participate in a Bird Walk with students from Brent Elementary School.

Update: North and South Dakota 2011 Flood

The Rocky Mountain Prairie Regional office still has ten airboats/crews deployed in the Sheyenne/Red River valleys in eastern North Dakota. The airboats/crews are working in interagency teams (Coast Guard, Cass County, and FWS) and have rescued a total of 14 people and 3 animals over the past two weeks.

Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for Slickspot Peppergrass

FWS is proposing to designate 58,000 acres of critical habitat for slickspot peppergrass in Ada, Elmore, Payette, and Owyhee Counties in Idaho. *Potential Issues:* The State of Idaho filed a lawsuit on November 16, 2009, challenging the listing of slickspot peppergrass as threatened under the ESA. No court date has been set. Permittees may be concerned that additional restrictions or requirements may result from critical habitat designation on Federal and State

lands. Private landowners may view the proposed designation of critical habitat on their lands as a “takings,” and oppose such designation. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 29.

Final Rule to Establish an Experimental Population of the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope

An Interdisciplinary Team comprising representatives from FWS, Arizona Game and Fish Department, BLM, NPS, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Army identified locations for the establishment of the new population(s). The use of the non-essential option under section 10(j) of the ESA alleviated most concerns on the part of the military. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) expressed concern that reintroducing the Sonoran pronghorn might conflict with its activities in that area. Based on discussions with CBP, we added language to the special regulation clarifying the ongoing enforcement activities inside the experimental population area would be exempt from the ESA's take prohibitions. This action is not court-ordered. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is April 29 to facilitate construction of the release pens needed to ensure the release pronghorn in the winter of 2011-12.

Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Planning Process

The Service will announce in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to begin drafting an Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit for the Southern Edwards Plateau draft Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (dRHCP). The dRHCP effort is being led by the City of San Antonio and Bexar County, Texas. It proposes to include five listed species: golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, Madla Cave meshweaver, and two species of ground beetle with no common names. Texas Congressional offices have expressed interest.

Implementation of CCP measure for ATV use of non-wilderness roads at Cabeza Prieta NWR

No later than May 13, Cabeza Prieta NWR, in southwestern Arizona, will begin implementing an objective identified in the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan allowing street-legal, state-licensed motorcycles and ATVs on refuge public access roads not within designated wilderness areas, where pickup trucks and SUVs are currently allowed. Public notification will be made. Moderate controversy from wilderness advocates and environmental NGOs is anticipated.

Consent Decree in United States v. Hecla Limited Mining Company

For the past several months, the natural resource Trustees and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been engaged in court-ordered settlement negotiations with Hecla Limited to resolve cleanup and natural resource damage claim resulting from more than a century of mining in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The terms of the settlement include payments over time totaling \$197.5 million to EPA for cleanup costs and \$65.8 million to the Trustees for past costs and natural resource restoration. The Trustees are the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Land Management and FWS; the Department of Agriculture, including the Forest Service; the State of Idaho; and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. After reviewing Hecla's financial information, the United States represented by the Department of Justice, determined that the company qualified for a reduction in settlement amount. The Tribe concurred with this determination. Level of controversy is moderate

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge CCP

Briefings are scheduled May 25 and May 26 with DOI and FWS officials and members of the Idaho Congressional delegation on four preliminary alternatives for charting the future management of Deer Flat NWR. The briefings are in advance of sharing the draft CCP and preliminary alternatives with the public. Level of controversy is high (locally).

Reinstatement of Final Rule for the Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel

In compliance with a March 25 court order, FWS is issuing a final rule reinstating the endangered status for the Virginia northern flying squirrel. We do not anticipate any major issues with this final rule. Issuing this final rule does not undermine the potential for appealing the court's decision. The appeal process, should FWS and the Department of Justice pursue an appeal, will likely be lengthy and this rule is necessary to correct the species' ESA listing status in the CFR. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 13.

New Peer-Reviewed Science on Wind Siting

A study published on April 13 in PLoS ONE, a peer-reviewed, open-access, online publication of the Public Library of Science, outlines an approach to energy independence by recommending siting wind energy in areas across the United States already impacted by human activities such as agriculture and oil and gas development. The Department of Energy estimates it will take 241 Gigawatts (GW) of terrestrial wind development to reach the nation's goal of 20 percent electricity production by 2030. The authors documented some 3,500 GW of potential wind energy available on disturbed lands, 1,452 percent more than 2030 goals. The authors, who include an FWS biologist, write that focusing development on disturbed lands would avert the development of approximately 5.68 million acres of undisturbed lands, while generating the same amount of energy as energy development based solely on maximizing wind potential. Developing wind energy on disturbed lands rather than placing new developments within large and intact habitats could reduce cumulative impacts to wildlife.

90-day Finding on a Petition to List the Spot-tailed Earless Lizard

On January 13, 2010, WildEarth Guardians petitioned FWS by to list the spot-tailed earless lizard. FWS finds substantial information indicating that listing the species may be warranted due to threats from predation by nonnative red fire ants. This action is not court ordered. We do not anticipate that there will be issues with this finding. Target for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 5.

Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds Award

This Presidential award will be presented in Washington, D.C., on May 24, at the Environment of the America's national event to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. The award will be presented to The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), for its creation and implementation of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), which serves as OSM's focus for its migratory bird conservation practices. Major ARRI partners include the American Bird Conservancy, Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, Cerulean Warbler Technical Group, Golden-Winged Warbler Working Group, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Trust for Wildlife, and many other conservation and environmental groups and associations.

Subsistence Board Meets to Discuss Secretarial Review Action Items

The Federal Subsistence Board will meet May 3-4 to discuss action items identified during the Secretarial review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Items to be discussed include expansion of the Federal Subsistence Board membership to include two representatives of rural Alaska subsistence users; the Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Alaska; the customary and traditional use determination process; executive session policy; and tribal consultation. In addition, the board will discuss the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands chum salmon bycatch and Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon bycatch. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council manages these fisheries. The Federal Subsistence Board will consider how to express its position on bycatch levels for these fisheries to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

LCC Science Webinar Series Begins April 27

Beginning April 27, the Great Plains LCC will present monthly science webinars featuring GPLCC-sponsored research other science topics related to landscape conservation throughout the region. The first GPLCC Science Webinar presentation is scheduled for April 27. Robert Crabtree, chief scientist at Yellowstone Ecological Research Center, and Dan Weiss, a National Science Foundation post-doc fellow, will present "Decision Support for SHC and LCCs: Geospatial Data and Tools for Landscape Planning in Ecosystem Assessment, Geospatial Analysis, and Landscape Evaluation System."

Lower Shannock Falls Dam Removal to Receive Sen. John Chaffee Conservation Leadership Honor

The Environment Council of Rhode Island will honor the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association and its Federal, State, municipal, Tribal and private partners for their outstanding community conservation fish passage project. The lower Shannock Falls was the first dam removal on the Pawcatuck River, and only the second dam removal in Rhode Island. The objective of the cooperative effort is to restore fish access to historical spawning and rearing habitat for diadromous fish such as American shad, American eel, alewife and blueback herring by removing barriers to passage and restoring degraded habitat. FWS provided funds, technical assistance, and American shad for stocking through Fisheries' Fish Passage Program and Hatcheries, Ecological Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal programs, and the regional Engineering Program.

Bayside State Prison Inmates Play an Important Role in Habitat Conservation

FWS' New Jersey Field Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has developed a partnership with the Bayside State Prison Horticulture Center in New Jersey to restore important wildlife habitat. FWS provides seedling plants, soil material, peat moss, and pots to the prison's horticulture center, where the inmate students learn to develop the potting mix, raise plants, maintain and control weeds, and run the greenhouse. Plants raised at the horticulture center are used for habitat restoration projects on the prison grounds and throughout New Jersey. This nontraditional partnership is an extraordinary program because it provides professional training for inmates, opening doors for them to become gainfully employed.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

May 1 – May 6, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – On travel Monday to New Bedford, MA to attend the BOEMRE Rhode Island/Massachusetts Joint Task Force Meeting. On Tuesday meeting with Ken Fletcher, Governor of Maine staff in Augusta, MA. On Wednesday in Houston, TX speaking at the 2011 Offshore Technology Conference. Thursday and Friday in Washington, DC office.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **Update: Proposed Renewable Energy Segregation Rule:** *The renewable energy segregation rule package was published in the Federal Register on Apr. 26.*
- **New: BLM-CA Ivanpah Solar Project Litigation:** *On Jan. 12, the Western Watersheds Project (WWP) filed suit in U.S. District Court, Central District of CA, against the 370-MW Ivanpah Solar project in San Bernardino County, CA. WWP also asked the Court to consider a motion for a preliminary injunction to allow for completion of a new Biological Opinion (BO) to include additional desert tortoises that have been located in the project. The FWS is preparing a BO that should be complete in mid-May. Dates for response to the complaint or for a hearing regarding the litigation have not been set.*
- **New: BLM-CA Palen Solar Project:** *The NOA of the Final EIS for the 484-MW Palen Solar project is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 6. The proposed priority project is located in Riverside County, CA and would cover approximately 5,200 acres.*

Oil Shale

- **New: Oil Shale Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS):** *On May 5, the BLM will host two public scoping meetings in Cheyenne, WY, to consider whether lands identified in a 2008 EIS remain open for oil shale and tar sands leasing and development. The public comment period for the Oil Shale PEIS and proposed land use plan amendments closes on May 9. The public lands under consideration include 1.9 million acres for oil shale development and 431,224 acres for tar sands development in CO, UT, and WY.*

Natural Gas

- **New: BLM-WY Encana Natural Gas Wells Public Comment Period Ends:** *The public comment period for the BLM-WY Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for a proposed natural gas project in western Wyoming ends on May 11. Under the proposed plan, Encana would drill approximately 3,500 natural gas wells on 141,080 acres over a 10-year period. The BLM-WY Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices will host two public scoping meetings in early May to discuss the proposal and take public comments.*

Congressional

- **New: Legislative Hearing on Miscellaneous Bills:** *On May 4, the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands is scheduled to hold a hearing regarding a number of bills, including BLM bill—H.R. 944, Orange County Rocks and Islands. The proposed BLM bill would add approximately 40 small rocks off the coast of Orange County, CA, to the CA Coastal National Monument.*
- **New: Wind and Solar Energy Oversight Hearing:** *On May 11, the House Natural Resources Committee plans to hold an oversight hearing regarding the “American Energy Initiative: Identifying Roadblocks to Wind and Solar Energy on Public Lands and Waters”. A Departmental witness has not yet been determined.*
- **New: Congressional Field Visit Postponed:** *A tour of the Walker Ridge Wind Energy Project and rehabilitation projects at illegal marijuana gardens in northern California scheduled for Cong. Mike Thompson (D-I-CA) has been postponed due to a scheduling conflict. The tour was originally planned for April 25, 2011, with staff from the BLM-CA Ukiah Field Office.*
- **No Change: Capitol Hill Visits:** *Several BLM State Directors will meet with Congressional staffs during May to discuss public land management issues in their states. The following meetings are scheduled: 1) The BLM-AZ State Director will meet with members and staff of the AZ congressional delegation during the week of May 9; 2) The BLM-CA Acting State Director will meet with members and staff of the CA congressional delegation during the week of May 9; and, 3) The BLM-ID State Director will meet with members and staff of the ID Congressional delegation on May 23-25. Staff from BLM Legislative Affairs will attend the meetings.*

Lands and Realty

- **New: BLM-CA China Lake Withdrawal Legislative EIS (LEIS):** *The Department of the Navy, in cooperation with BLM-CA, is in the initial stages of preparing a Legislative EIS Statement on a proposed land withdrawal extension for the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake in central CA. The LEIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects of a 25-year withdrawal of the 1.1 million acres of public lands that make up the ranges at NAWS China Lake. The Navy has scheduled public scoping meetings for June 19-21, in Ridgecrest, Trona, and Lone Pine, CA. The BLM-CA will participate in these public meetings. The current land withdrawal expires in 2014.*

- **New: BLM-UT Proposed Classification Decision for Land Indemnity Selection:** *In May 2009, the State of Utah filed a petition with BLM-UT for an indemnity selection classification on lands in southeastern UT. An indemnity selection is used by a state when it is owed lands for acreage that was lost to other appropriations before title could pass to the state. In many cases, states were given lands in their original statehood grants that had already been lost to other entities prior to the grant. Indemnity selection allows states to acquire lands to meet the acreages owed in such situations (43 CFR, Part 2621, Indemnity Selections). Utah's petition seeks indemnity selection to acquire the surface and mineral estate on 1,120 acres in Beaver County, UT. A preliminary land review indicated the lands' suitability for disposal by indemnity selection, and the BLM-UT Cedar City Field Office issued a proposed classification decision on April 18, 2011. The proposed decision will be published locally once a week for five consecutive weeks beginning in early May. Publication of the proposed decision will initiate a 30-day public comment period. The BLM-UT will also complete environmental analysis on the proposed lands before issuing an Initial Classification Decision on the petition for indemnity selection.*

Miscellaneous

- **Update: Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project:** *Pilot project activities are ongoing with timber sale marking continuing on the ground. Approximately 350 acres have been identified for commercial thinning. Acreage that would receive non-commercial thinning treatments is still being identified for inclusion in the EA.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: Proposed Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) Rule II:** *BOEMRE staff is working to finalize the regulatory text for the Proposed SEMS Rule II to address safety concerns that were not addressed in the SEMS Rule. This rulemaking would require operators to develop and implement a stop work authority (SWA), ultimate work authority (UWA), an employee participation program, and reporting unsafe work conditions. In addition, this rulemaking would allow only an independent third party to conduct a SEMS audit and would provide additional requirements for conducting job safety analysis (JSA) for job activities identified in an operator's SEMS program. The proposed rule is expected to clear BOEMRE and enter Departmental surnaming during the week of May 2.*
- **Update: Proposed Rulemaking on Renewable Energy Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf—Acquire a Lease Noncompetitively:** *The final rule is expected to clear BOEMRE and enter Departmental surnaming during the week of May 2.*
- **Update: National Environmental Policy Act Coverage for the 2012-2017 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program:** *Pursuant to the 2012-2017 program, ten scoping meetings were held between Feb. 15 and Feb. 25; three in the Gulf of Mexico, one in the Washington, D.C. area, and six in AK. The scoping meetings are completed. The AK meetings planned for Point Lay and Point Hope were delayed during the initial scoping*

period due to bad weather, and have been rescheduled for late May. The formal scoping period announced in the Federal Register closed on Mar. 31, 2011. To date, over 500,000 comments have been counted; the final tally is expected to surpass 600,000. Staff will be evaluating all the comments to be incorporated into the 5-year program NEPA analysis.

- **Update: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Activities in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM):** *The NMFS and BOEMRE (as a cooperating agency) are working jointly on the programmatic EIS to assess all GOM-wide G&G activities to support permitting/authorization decisions under the OCS Lands Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA). The draft EIS is expected to be published in summer to fall 2011, with public hearings shortly to follow. The draft EIS is currently undergoing internal NMFS review before going out for the larger BOEMRE and NOAA review.*
- **Update: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Geological and Geophysical (G&G) and Drilling Activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas:** *This EIS will cover all G&G and drilling activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas and will be used to support requests for “take” authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. NOAA and BOEMRE are working jointly on this document with NOAA serving as the primary agency. The draft EIS is expected to be published in late 2011 with public hearings shortly to follow.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **Update: OSM Director Tours Lands That Tennessee Has Petitioned OSM to Declare Unsuitable for Mining:** *During the week of Apr. 24, OSM Director Pizarchik visited an area that the State of TN wants OSM to declare unsuitable for surface coal mining. To date, OSM has received nearly 25,000 comments on the petition, the vast majority of which are form letters from two environmental groups supporting the petition: The Center for Biological Diversity (24,300) and Save Our Cumberland Mountains (320).*

WEEK AHEAD – May 1 to May 6, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, May 3:

- **New: Briefing on Segregation Rule for Renewable Energy Projects with Congressional Staff:** *The BLM Energy Team Lead, Solid Minerals Division Chief, and Legislative Affairs staff will meet with majority staff from the House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee to discuss the segregation rule for renewable energy projects on BLM-managed lands.*

- **No Change: BLM-WY Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-WY will offer 14 parcels for sale that will include a total of 16,082 acres in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties. The sale is being offered under BLM leasing reform policy. The protest period ended on Mar. 3 and BLM-WY received two protests for seven parcels. The protests were filed over concerns for big game, sage grouse, and the master leasing plan and have not been resolved. BLM-WY continues to review the protests.

Wednesday-Friday, May 4-6

- **New: The North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) represented at Arctic Climate Change program in Denmark:** *The NSSI Executive Director will participate as the terrestrial biodiversity co-lead at “The Arctic as a Messenger for Global Processes-Climate Change and Pollution” conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The meeting is sponsored by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the University of Copenhagen, and Aarhus University. A panel discussion will be held to develop messages for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting taking place in Greenland the following week.*

Thursday-Friday, May 5-6:

- **New: BLM-WY Pinedale Anticline Working Group Meeting:** *The Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) will hold its quarterly meeting at the BLM-WY Pinedale Field Office. The PAWG is tasked with providing recommendations and advice to the BLM on the development and implementation of monitoring plans, mitigation and adaptive management decisions pertinent to oil and gas activities in the PAPA.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Monday, May 2:

- **No Change: Joint BOEMRE/RI and MA Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting:** BOEMRE will convene a joint meeting of the Task Force to present and discuss a draft Call for Information and Nominations within the Area of Mutual Interest on the OCS offshore RI and MA. A public question and answer session will follow the intergovernmental meeting.

Monday-Friday, May 2-6:

- **No Change: Offshore Technology Conference (OTC):** BOEMRE will participate in the annual OTC in Houston, TX. OTC is the world’s foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Week of May 2:

- **Update: Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) 2011 Tree Planting Events:** OSM’s Appalachian Region, along with its State partners, conducted tree

planting activities throughout the Region this spring in support of ARRI. The following tree planting events are upcoming: *Apr. 30--90 acres planted at US Forest Service Monongalia National Forest Red Spruce restoration project in Randolph County, West Virginia, with National Civilian Conservation Corps, Oakbrook Church from Reston, VA, and other partners. OSM Director Pizarchik and Regional Director Tom Shope will attend; May 4—approximately 2 acres of tree plantings with construction and planting of a vernal wetland and several bee yards at KY Arbor Day Event at a James River Coal site in Perry County, KY, with local school children and other partners. In both events, volunteers will plant trees on reclaimed mine sites. These events support the DOI's "Let's Move Outside!" initiative.*

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, May 3:

- **No Change: BLM-WY Oil and Gas Sales:** BLM-WY will offer 14 parcels encompassing 16,082 acres in Albany, Carbon, Laramie, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties. The sale is being offered under BLM leasing reform policy. The protest period ended on Mar. 3 and BLM received two protests covering seven parcels. The protests concern big game, sage grouse, and the master leasing plan, and have not been resolved. The BLM is continuing to analyze the protests.

Tuesday, May 10:

- **New: BLM-MT Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-MT will offer 25 parcels totaling 14,458 acres at a competitive oil and gas lease sale, primarily located near the Miles City Field Office. The protest period ended Mar. 11. One protest was received; it concerns climate change and oil and gas production operations. The BLM is continuing to analyze the protests.*

Thursday, May 12:

- **New: BLM-CO Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-CO will offer 12 parcels totaling 7,046 acres at a competitive oil and gas sales located in northwestern CO. The protest period ended on Mar. 14. Two protests were received; they concern impacts to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and sage grouse habitat. The BLM is continuing to analyze the protests.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Wednesday, May 11:

- **Update: BOEMRE/NC Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The second Task Force meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for May 11. BOEMRE will be working with Task Force members to identify an area to be used in the Call for Information which is expected to be published in May.*

Thursday, May 11:

- ***Update:* BOEMRE and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Response Workgroup:** The Workgroup will meet at the BOEMRE Office in Herndon to review the status of twelve tasks related to oil spill planning, preparedness, and response. Emphasis is currently being placed on development of a scope of work for a research project to develop new standards for the effective daily recovery capacity of skimming systems, and preparing a gap analysis of Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) to ensure that oil spill response plan worst case discharge scenarios and appropriate response strategies are incorporated into the ACPs. The workgroup will provide quarterly updates to the BOEMRE & USCG officials.

Weekly Report
April 29, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities May 2-6:

Anne J. Castle – May 2-3, in DC attending various internal meetings; May 4-6; Columbus, OH America Great Outdoors Visit.

John Tubbs – May 2-6, in DC attending various internal meetings.

Deanna Archuleta – May 2-6, in DC attending various internal meetings.

Marcia McNutt – May 2, Personal time; May 5, Tribute Breakfast—Service to America Medals Finalists Public Announcement, Russell Senate Office Building; May 5-6, National Academies' Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability.

Mike Connor – In the office all week, attending regular meetings. Meeting with representatives of the Delta Stewardship Council (California Bay-Delta) at CEQ on Tuesday May 3; Quarterly Senior Leadership Lunch Meeting with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Wednesday May 4.

Reclamation

Reclamation to Provide Limited Public Access to Restricted Areas at Elephant Butte Dam (New Mexico)

Reclamation and New Mexico State Parks have reached an agreement to provide limited public access to restricted areas at Elephant Butte Dam such as the dirt dike and nearby road. On April 21, 2011, Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) hosted a follow-up public meeting at Elephant Butte to discuss the requests to open public access across the dam. Due to the age of the dam, security restrictions, and access issues, the dam has been closed to the public since September 11, 2001. This closure has sparked significant public complaints and criticism of Reclamation's policy. The compromise agreement is not expected to fully dissuade continued criticism.

Allocation to CVP South-of Delta Agricultural Contractors Increased to 80 Percent (California)

On April 25, Reclamation increased the water supply allocation for Central Valley Project South-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors from 75 to 80 percent. Improved hydrology in the San Joaquin Valley and opportunities to exercise Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility influenced water supply conditions, allowing the allocation of 80 percent of the South-of-Delta users' contract total of 1.965 million acre-feet. This represents an increase of 30

percentage points from the initial allocation made in February 2011 and 35 percentage points above their final allocation for last year. The allocation for all other CVP contractors' remains at 100 percent of their contract totals as announced on April 8, 2011. Given the improved hydrology, the CVP will likely enter the next water year with improved reservoir carryover storage, which is encouraging for the 2012 Water Year. Reclamation will continue to monitor precipitation, forecasted snow melt runoff, operations and water demands to determine if an additional increase in the allocation for South-of-Delta agricultural contractors is warranted.

Snowpack Extremely Low in the Pecos River Basin (New Mexico)

Snowpack for the Pecos River Basin is completely gone and there is very little inflow to reservoirs. Overall precipitation for the basin this water year to date has been approximately 50% of average. There is a possibility that Santa Rosa and Sumner reservoirs will be drawn down very low during this water year.

Dry Conditions in the Middle Rio Grande Create Operational Challenges (New Mexico)

The ongoing dry conditions in the Middle Rio Grande continue to create operational challenges. The current snow water equivalent for the basin is 53% of average with total precipitation for the water year to date at 80% of average. Reclamation expects to uphold the 2003 Biological Opinion on the Middle Rio Grande by supplementing river flows with water. Reclamation has leased and is trying to lease from willing San Juan-Chama Project contractors. Reclamation anticipates all water storage supplies will be used by the end of the irrigation season with the hope for a good snowpack next year to rebuild supplies. Reclamation is closely coordinating with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority to manage supplies in the most efficient manner possible.

High Runoff in the Green River Basin (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming)

Forecasted high runoff in the Green River Basin, including the lower tributaries of the Yampa and Duchesne, is causing concern that there may be high flows once the spring runoff begins. The Yampa River runoff is currently projected at 157% of average, which is comparable to 1984 levels, and the projected Duchesne River runoff has increased above 200% of average, a record high for the last 30 years. The significant increase was Upper Green snowpack and the resulting forecasted inflows into Fontenelle and Flaming Gorge reservoirs. The mid-month update increased almost 15% from the beginning of April for both reservoirs. A fast warming trend could result in high runoff in both the Green River and Duchesne River basins. Snowpack has held or continued to increase since the mid-month forecast further increasing the likelihood of high flows once major runoff occurs. Reclamation is evacuating space in Fontenelle and Flaming Gorge reservoirs, above these tributaries, in order to make space to capture anticipated inflow and reduce contributions from the upper Green River.

Snowpack Conditions above Lake Powell above Average – Equalization Releases Scheduled

Snowpack conditions above Lake Powell have remained above average since late December 2010. The “most probable” projected unregulated inflow volume to Lake Powell during water year 2011 is 13.31 million acre feet (maf), or 111% of average. The April 2011 24-Month Study, with the “most probable” water year unregulated inflow condition, has resulted in scheduling equalization releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead in accordance with the 2007

Interim Guidelines. The water year 2011 annual release volume from Lake Powell is projected to be 11.56 maf. The Lake Mead elevation is expected to increase by more than 20 feet, ending September 2011 at elevation 1,105. Lake Powell elevation could increase to a peak elevation of approximately 3,643 above sea level by late July or early August and the resulting end of water year elevation is projected to be 3,638 feet above sea level, or 5 feet higher than the end of last water year.

Two Units Out of Service at Glen Canyon Powerplant for Annual Maintenance (Arizona)

On April 4, 2011, Glen Canyon Powerplant Units 3 and 4 were taken out of service for approximately six weeks for annual maintenance. These units are projected to return to service on May 14, 2011, at which point releases from Glen Canyon Dam will be increased such that peak releases will be at about 22,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and off-peak releases will be at about 16,000 cfs.

Farm and Salmon Summit Scheduled (California)

On April 27, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region staff members will attend the Farms & Salmon Summit in Antioch, organized by Delta farming and fishing interests. The event will provide a forum to discuss long-term solutions to Delta water issues. Congress members John Garamendi, Jackie Speier, Mike Thompson and Jerry McNerney will participate along with community leaders, agricultural producers, sport and commercial salmon fishermen, businesses, agricultural and conservation groups and others.

Tribal Youth Employment and Education Possibilities (Oregon)

Mid-Pacific's Regional Director will meet at the Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Service Office on May 5 to discuss the formation of a Klamath Basin initiative designed to increase employment and education opportunities for Tribal youth in grades nine through 12. Representatives from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Western Fisheries Research Center, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency and National Marine Fisheries Service have been invited to attend.

Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office will participate in Klamath Tribe's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) (Oregon)

Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office is sponsoring two Chiloquin High School students for the SYEP this year. The Fisheries and Water Quality Divisions will both take students for the six week program. The students will be involved with the natural resources activities of their division and will receive guidance from a mentor working in that division. Mentors are scheduled to attend a session at the high school the first part of July to meet the students and the coordinator. Mentors will meet with the coordinator each week to report on the student's performance.

Hydrology at Jamestown Dam and Reservoir (North Dakota)

On April 19, 2011, Jamestown Reservoir was at elevation 1447.75. This was the second highest reservoir elevation of record. The historic high reservoir elevation was 1454.1, which occurred in 2009. The top-of-joint use pool is elevation 1431. The Corps and Reclamation currently forecast the reservoir to peak between elevations 1451-1453. Current reservoir inflows are about

4400 cfs and dropping, and current releases are 1300 cfs. The Corps of Engineers, city of Jamestown, and Stutsman County are proceeding with plans to construct emergency dikes downstream of Jamestown Dam in the event releases of up to 1800 cfs are required from Jamestown Dam. If the reservoir rises to current projections, several cabins may experience flooding problems. Cabin owners have been kept apprised of the reservoir status and updated projections, and the county is furnishing sandbags for use by owners to protect personal properties.

Hydrology at the North Platte Reservoir System, April 22, 2011 (Wyoming)

While higher releases over the last month have drafted storage in the North Platte reservoir system, stored water is still well above average for this time of year due to the high flood runoff in 2010. Stored water in Seminole, Pathfinder, and Glendo reservoirs is 130, 174, and 98 percent of average respectively. Snow water equivalent in the mountain snowpack in the upper North Platte River basin is 159 percent of average and in the lower portion of this basin it is 129 percent of average. To prepare for expected high spring runoff, system storage releases were started from the North Platte system in late February, two months earlier than normal. Releases have been steadily increased during the last two months to a total system release of about 4,100 cfs.

Reclamation to Conduct Meeting on Repayment Contract for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (New Mexico)

On **May 4, 2011**, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office will conduct the seventh contract negotiation meeting between Reclamation and the City of Gallup, New Mexico, on a proposed repayment contract for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. The project will convey approximately 37,376 acre-feet of water annually from the San Juan River to the eastern section of the Navajo Nation, southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City of Gallup via approximately 260 miles of pipeline, 24 pumping plants, and two water treatment plants. Meeting participants will discuss the terms and conditions by which the City will repay its portion of project construction and operation, maintenance, and replacement costs.

Proposed horizontal gas well at Choke Canyon Reservoir, Nueces River Project (Texas)

Reclamation's Technical Services Center (TSC), Dam Safety Office, Great Plains Regional Office, and Oklahoma-Texas Area Office (OTAO) are in the process of reviewing a proposal submitted by Enduring Resources to drill a horizontal gas well into the Eagle Ford Shale beneath the Choke Canyon Reservoir. The horizontal portion of the well would be located approximately 12,000 feet below the ground surface. Reclamation conducted a Risk Assessment in March 2011. The Risk Assessment team consisted of technical experts from Reclamation and a geotechnical engineer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The TSC is currently preparing a Technical Report of Findings for the Risk Assessment, and a Dam Safety Advisory Team (DSAT) meeting has been scheduled in May 2011.

Meetings

- On Tuesday, May 3, Lower Colorado Deputy Regional Director Terry Fulp will speak at the Instream Flow Council Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. His topic is the Colorado River Basin Study.
- On Thursday, May 5, Lower Colorado Deputy Regional Director Jayne Harkins will attend a Coachella Canal Lining Project meeting in San Diego, California.

Congressional Activity

- 5/3/11 – 5/5/11 – Lower Colorado Regional Director Lorri Gray-Lee will conduct annual congressional visits in Washington, assisted by Reclamation congressional affairs.
- 5/12/11 – Reclamation is preparing for an expected House Water & Power Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 489 and H.R. 818, legislation relating to the CC Cragin Dam in Arizona (H.R. 489), and the early repayment of contracts with the Uintah water conservancy district in Utah (H.R. 818). Reclamation has testified on these bills in prior congresses, and that testimony is being updated for carryover clearance.

U.S. Geological Survey

Landsat Imagery of Texas Fires Aids Decision Makers: The USGS is assisting the National Park Service (NPS) and local fire managers by providing Landsat imagery showing the extent and location of several fires burning in Texas including the Swenson, Rock House, Roper, and Cooper Mountain Ranch fires. The imagery and other derivative maps help fire managers identify and mitigate the most severe effects of the fire. The Rock House fire near the town of Fort Davis, TX has burned a portion of the NPS Fort Davis National Historic Site.

USGS Participates in the Classrooms for Climate Symposium: The USGS will participate in the “Classrooms for Climate Symposium,” May 4-7, in Anchorage, AK, by presenting research findings on topics including sea ice and sea level changes, glaciers, coastal ecosystems, salmon distribution and geese populations in relationship to changing climate. The symposium will create an educational opportunity for students, agencies, and the interested public by bringing together scientists and experts to collaborate across institutions, cultures and landscapes to advance solutions to climate change in Alaska. Symposium session themes include biophysical systems, human dimensions of climate, education, policy and partnerships. This event is sponsored by Chugach National Forest, the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and the Northern Forum. Northern Forum is a nonprofit international organization of eight northern countries. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the organization's Youth Eco-Forum which will join the Classrooms for Climate event. Approximately 80-100 youth from all over the north will join the conference to explore research and quests concerning climate change and forested landscapes.

Economic Analysis of the NPRA: The week of May 2, the USGS will release a new economic analysis of the energy resources of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR) of the updated oil and gas assessment released last fall. The calculations use 2010 costs and technology. Cost functions include the cost of finding, developing, producing, and transporting the resource

to market. Transportation costs from the field to the market were included in the analysis so that the prices and costs are at the market rather than at the wellhead. Because there is currently no pipeline to transport gas from the North Slope of Alaska, the economic analysis assumed that there would be either a 10-year or a 20-year delay between discovery of gas accumulations and its development and production that would access a gas pipeline to market. The Communications Plan includes DOI briefings, a press release, and Congressional notifications.

USGS Responds to Nevada Earthquake Swarm: An earthquake swarm struck near Hawthorne, Nevada in mid-April, with more than 400 earthquakes recorded in a week's time. The largest event, a M4.6 earthquake, occurred on Saturday afternoon, April 16, at 5:45 PM PST, and was quickly followed by a M4.1 ten minutes later. In total, this sequence produced nine M4 or larger earthquakes near Hawthorne. Portable seismometers were installed by the ANSS regional network operated by the University of Nevada at Reno. Two were loaned by USGS to supplement the university pool. An InSAR analysis by USGS scientist, Zhong Lu, suggests normal faulting on a northeast-dipping plane. This earthquake swarm located about 20 km SW of Hawthorne is adjacent to the Aurora-Bodie volcanic field. Although nothing to date indicates a volcanic component to the activity, USGS Volcano Science Center scientists will check for any significant large-field deformation associated with the earthquake swarm.

USGS Scientists to Join Tsunami Investigations in Japan: Plans are now in place for an international team to deploy to Japan to study liquefaction deposits on the coastal plain, in and near Sendai. The team will deploy for nine days starting May 2, and will include Japanese, Polish, Australian, Indonesian and UK scientists--with USGS's Bruce Jaffe and Bruce Richmond, as well as Rob Whitter from the United States. The plan is to study tsunami deposits from Tohoku (and previous events) and relate deposit and erosion features to tsunami speed and flow observations (e.g., from video), with the goal of improving the interpretation of paleo-tsunami deposits.

Central U.S. Earthquake Hazards Report: The level of seismic hazards posed by the New Madrid Seismic Zone, along with the uncertainties that still remain, is the subject of a new report approved by the *National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council* (NEPEC). The report comes during the Bicentennial of the 1811-1812 New Madrid Earthquakes that struck the central United States. The report concludes that the New Madrid Seismic Zone represents a significant hazard for large earthquakes that would cause widespread damage and this hazard must be accounted for in urban planning and development. The panel does not support the view of some individuals that the region has "shut down" in its production of large earthquakes, and believes that the current version of the USGS national seismic hazard maps are a good estimate of the overall hazard posed by the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

Southwest Climate Science Center and the Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee: On May 3, at a United States-Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee (FCC) meeting in El Centro, CA, the USGS Southwest Climate Science Center (SWCSC), will brief FCC representatives on the DOI climate program and pre-implementation activities for the SWCSC. The mission of the FCC is to facilitate opportunities for communication and coordination between DOI bureaus and offices regarding natural and cultural resource issues affecting the international border vicinity.

USGS, NASA, and Others Begin New Research on Climate Impacts to Wildlife: NASA is partnering with several Federal agencies, including the USGS to fund new research on climate change impacts to wildlife and ecosystems. Other Federal agencies include the NPS, USFWS, and the Smithsonian Institution. Together they are providing \$18 million for 15 new research projects over the next 4 years. NASA issued a news release on April 22 and the USGS highlighted the effort as a Science Feature on its homepage.

Central U.S. Version of “Putting Down Roots” published: The general interest publication, “Putting down roots in earthquake country-Your handbook for earthquakes in the Central United States” is now published. This handbook provides information to residents of the Central United States about the threat of earthquakes in that area, particularly along the New Madrid seismic zone, and explains how to prepare for, survive, and recover from such events. It explains the need for concern about earthquakes for those residents and describes what one can expect during and after an earthquake. The handbook describes such preparations that can be taken by individual residents before an earthquake to be safe and protect property. The report may be found on the web.

Presentation to Louisiana State Legislators on Wetland Losses and Gains: A presentation to the Louisiana State Legislators about a new product that illustrates wetland losses and gains on the Louisiana coastline over a 78-year period, from 1932-2010, will be given by the USGS and is planned for early May. This product provides opportunities to better understand the timing and causes of wetland loss, which are critical for forecasting landscape changes in the future. Understanding the occurrence and rates of wetland loss is of vital importance for developing tools to monitor ecosystems, forecast possible impacts, and plan protection and restoration activities. The communication plan includes a media event, media advisory and press release.

USGS to Meet with DOI NRDAR Director: The USGS will host a visit by Steve Glomb, the Acting Director of the DOI Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment, on May 2-4. This office oversees Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) cases across the nation. Steve Glomb will be discussing on-going studies as well as future DOI needs in restoration science.

USGS Samples for Radioactive Constituents in Groundwater of Southwestern Montana: The USGS, in cooperation with Jefferson County, recently sampled groundwater in southwestern Montana for uranium and other radioactive constituents. USGS scientists collected 165 groundwater samples from 128 wells in Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Powell, and Silver Bow Counties. Most of the wells included in the study provide water for human consumption. The objectives of the study were to evaluate the occurrence and concentration of radioactive constituents and the geologic settings and conditions in which elevated concentrations occur. Preliminary results indicate that radioactive constituents were detected in groundwater from all wells sampled, regardless of geologic formation tapped by the well or location of the well. Although most values were low, 29 percent of the wells exceeded the drinking-water standard for at least one of the analyzed radioactive constituents. The USGS will release preliminary findings to Jefferson County officials on May 3, 2011. The USGS will publish a report describing methods and results later in 2012.

Audubon Magazine - BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Wildlife Update: USGS ornithologist finds that Roseate Spoonbills do not seem to have suffered much damage from the oil spill, in part because the oil stayed on the coast whereas the birds now feed on crawfish ponds farther inland. However, it may take up to 10 years to determine if there are serious impacts on their reproduction rates. (Audubon Magazine; April 21, 2011)

Congressional Activities

- **Climate Science Center Briefing for Interior Appropriations Chairman:** At the request of House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee **Chairman Mike Simpson** (ID-2), the **USGS and the FWS** will brief the Chairman on the significance, operation and coordination of the Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. The briefing is scheduled for May 4, at 3 p.m. Chairman Simpson is particularly interested in the Northwest CSC and implications within the State of Idaho. He would like a clear understanding of how this new model will enhance conservation research and management and not put in place a redundant function that creates additional, unnecessary bureaucracy. The request for the briefing came originally last fall, but has been rescheduled several times because of the Chairman's availability.
- **FRESC Center Director to Conduct Congressional Courtesy Visits:** On May 11, Carol Schuler, Director, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center (FRESC), will meet with congressional staff to highlight various science activities at the FRESC. For selected staff, activities related to the Northwest Climate Science Center will be discussed.
- **Lucy Jones to Address California Democrats:** Lucy Jones, USGS, has been invited to brief California's Democratic delegation at a luncheon on May 11. Dr. Jones will elaborate on previous briefings discussing seismic and tsunami hazards in the State. There remains significant concern about the State's two nuclear power plants, Diablo Canyon and San Onofre.
- **Chesapeake Bay Congressional Courtesy Visits:** Scott Phillips, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator, will conduct courtesy visits to Members of the Chesapeake Bay delegation on May 11-12. Dr. Phillips will provide an update on USGS efforts to implement the Executive Order and support restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Given the large number of Members and the interest in this issue, more visits will likely be scheduled throughout the spring and summer.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff

From: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- **HIGH PRIORITY PERFORMANCE GOAL/PUBLIC SAFETY**

Acquisitions: The Acquisition Division of Central Office awarded a Blanket Purchase Agreement for Law Enforcement Uniforms and Equipment on April 20, 2011. This acquisition meets one of the procurement requirements for the HPPG project. The contract was awarded to BALCO Uniform Company, a women-owned Hubzone business located in Williston, North Dakota. BALCO has received previous contract awards and has an excellent past performance record. This will be a nationwide contract that all Acquisition Regional Offices will be permitted to order from in support of the BIA's Office of Tribal Justice Services District Offices. Reduced pricing will be realized due to bulk buys.

Crime Reduction: The BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) in coordination with the Tribes and its sister federal agencies have achieved a combined reduction of 11 percent of violent crime on all four targeted reservations. The OJS is reviewing crime reduction strategies and crime statistics at all four sites.

- Homeland Security:

FEMA: OHES meet with FEMA representatives including the new Continuity Program Manager for FEMA Region 10, and discussed improved interaction and provision of assistance to Tribes in emergencies. Discussed transition into new FEMA organizational structure as it affects Tribes, and ongoing flood fighting efforts in FEMA R-10 (BIA NW and Alaska Regions).

Field Training: Meetings were held with in support of BIA Northwest Regional Office's upcoming Agency Superintendents meeting to coordinate and present interagency training in emergency resources available to Tribes, and procedures for Tribes, and Superintendents to request/secure assistance. IHS, FEMA, State(s), and other offices are to make presentations. OHSES Emergency Manager continues to meet/work with IHS/FEMA/COE and other

agencies to develop presentations for upcoming Regional Offices' similar presentations; this interagency presentation is being used as a prototype for those Regional Emergency Management Team/Emergency Relocation Group (EMT/ERG) – Tribal Leaders and Emergency Managers 'Listening/Learning' Sessions. The focus is to enhance response capabilities/readiness for a NOAA/USGS predicted West Coast Ark-Storm event, the predicted "Big One" Quake event in California, and the predicted Oregon/ Washington States' Cascadia Subduction Zone series of quakes (magnitude 8-9) and resulting tsunamis. Invited I-RECC and other federal agencies to bring representatives to the upcoming Cascadia Quake training being presented by the Oregon Dept. of Geology, hosted by the OHSES/NWRO.

Floods: Discussions with representatives of the Corps of Engineers (COE), BIA Regional and Tribal Emergency Managers and Coordinators (EMC) regarding the status Flood Fight 2011, and preparation for flooding in Indian Country were conducted. Additional assistance was given for emergency procurement of sandbags, and consultation with several offices was provided.

Training: OHES made arrangements with the Federal Protective Service (FPS) to present 'Active Shooter' training to the BIA's Northwest Regional Office (Portland, Oregon) and sister Federal agencies in the area (i.e., ASIA, OST, and I-RECC) in light of the shooting a block from the Regional Office. This shooting resulted in the 'full-clip' discharge of a semi-automatic weapon, killing a 14 year old individual across the street from the offices, a park, and mall, and the light-rail stop used by Federal employees during the commute. There was much confusion as to what the Active Shooter plans for the Federal facilities were, who and how they should activate, and no warning was given to employees (no PA announcement, etc.). Plans are being reviewed by FPS to address these findings and preparation for the future.

Physical Security Inspections: The Physical Security Inspection Programs Pre-Assessment Checklist (PAC) Survey deadline has been reached. Those facilities that have started but not yet completed their survey will be contacted so that analysis of data received may begin in May. To date, 78 percent (147 out of 188) of all BIE schools have completed the PAC Survey. We are continuing to encourage the remaining 22 percent (41 out of 188) of facilities to complete their survey. OHSES is also working with Crimecast, which has generously offered to provide the violent crime statistics for each facility. Analysis will begin in May to identify on a continuum which BIE facilities are likely to need a physical security site visit.

- **TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT (TLOA):** BIA is hosting the third of four DOJ/BIA/NCAI webinars titled "Community Support for Reentering Tribal Members Detention: Construction, Operations and Pre-release Reentry Issues Today." Next week we will finish the final session titled "Community Support for Reentering Tribal Members."

BIA's Office of Justice Services and the DOJ are collaborating on the detention plan required by the TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from BIA's

Office of Indian Services and the Bureau of Indian Education will be asked to participate in sub-committees appropriate for their discipline.

The Indian Affairs review team comprised of IA, BIA and the SOL have made the initial review of the draft MOA. These comments will be provided to TLOA workgroup for revisions. Section 241 of TLOA amends the 1986 Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Program. This amendment specifically directs the Secretaries of DOI, HHS and the AG to develop a Memorandum of Agreement by July 29, 2011. The draft MOA is currently being reviewed by the BIA, SOL and IA. The implementation of TLOA is currently on target. The standards for Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLECs), BIA Interim SLEC Protocol and Core Jail Standards were published on January 25, 2011. Indian Affairs is coordinating the next round of Tribal Consultations on long term incarceration under TLOA. These consultation sessions will be held jointly with the DOJ.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Choctaw Nation of Florida (Petitioner #288): Federal Register Notice was published on April 27, 2011 denoting the Assistant Secretary's action in issuing the Final Determination against Federal Acknowledgment of the Choctaw Nation of Florida. The negative was issued on April 21, 2011. The group could not demonstrate descent from a historical Indian tribe.

EDUCATION

- ESEA Reauthorization: Internal discussions as well as those with the Department of Education continue on potential provisions to the reauthorization bill. In one area, Indian Affairs has submitted language to be included in the reauthorization for education services at juvenile detention centers. The language is currently being vetted through the Department of Education. Additionally, the BIE will participate in a roundtable discussion on the issue with the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on April 28.

- Elementary and Secondary Education

School Improvement:

- *The Minneapolis Education Line Office (ELO)*: Hannahville School is operating a very successful *BIE Reads* program and is doing well with math working with a consulting group *Kokopelli*, and has been awarded a *FOCUS* grant to continue doing the good things that have spurred them toward meeting AYP. Nay Ah Shing School received rave reviews, by the Division of Performance and Accountability Reviewer, for successful implementation of the *BIE Reads* program. *The Special Education Program was monitored, by the Division of Performance and Accountability, and the findings were very positive with a few recommendations made for improvement.

- *The South and Eastern States ELO*: The Choctaw Tribal Schools are on the cutting edge with the use of technology in the classrooms and the use of Covey's "7 Traits of Leadership," in all classrooms and schools as well as the "7 Habits of Effective College

Students” as part of the 8th grade Transition Program to 9th grade. The curriculum is on a 6-year replacement schedule. Teacher evaluations are also standardized in all eight of the Choctaw Schools. Staff morale is high.

- *The Turtle Mountain ELO:* The ELO staff continues to work with the Native Star and data analysis with the BIE-operated schools
- *Crow Creek /Lower Brule ELO:* Small “wins” or changes in the dormitory, academic, and administration at Flandreau Indian School is evident after making outlined mandates of the Chief School Administrator to lift barriers and support the professional progress of the employees. The Principal and Superintendent have been in the classrooms 50 percent of their time. Additionally, the curriculum mapping consultant was on campus this week and it is projected that the Flandreau Indian School curriculum will be “finalized” by May 2011. The staff is currently working on course syllabi.
- *The Standing Rock ELO:* The Education Line Officer has been meeting with the high school Principal and the Principal’s Assistant to influence the implementation of the Native Star. The ADD, East staff will work closely with him in this endeavor. A meeting is scheduled for May 2-4 in North Dakota.
- *Safety/Facilities*
 - Pine Ridge School will have the underground pipes replaced this summer. Highway construction and potholes on the Pine Ridge reservation have wreaked havoc with buses.
 - Attention and steady progress is being made on safety issues at all of the schools in the Minneapolis ELOs jurisdiction.
 - The Pearl River School playground surface area is in need of repair.
 - Roads at the Crow Creek/Lower Brule area that were paved and usable prior to construction in the dormitory are now in bad shape and the funding there is no funding available to address the issue. The Crow Creek/Lower Brule Education Line Officer will contact BIE Facilities in Albuquerque to discuss.
- BIE PALA Challenge: The BIE PALA challenge is wrapping up. The BIE had over 13,000 children participate, although the number of completions is still to be determined. The winning school will be announced the 1st or 2nd week of May (school with the highest percentage of PALA completions). The tentative date for the PALA Awards Ceremony with Nike’s N7 and Levi Horn from the Chicago Bears will take place at the winning school on May 17th. The BIE Director’s calendar has been secured with a Save the Date, plus he has cleared time on May 16 and May 19 for travel to and from the winning school.
- Let’s Move in Indian Country (LMIC)

The First Lady will not be at the LMIC launch. BIE was notified by the White House to proceed with a Secretarial level launch of the program. The new launch date is May 25,

2011, with Secretary Salazar and BIE Director Moore leading the effort. The event will take place at the Menominee Tribal School and community in Wisconsin. The event promises to bring together students from the BIE funded school, tribal leaders, and community health stakeholders to participate in discussions and activities promoting a healthier lifestyle, getting involved in some form of physical activity, and preserving traditional culture through community and school gardens. The USDA is still working on securing Secretary Vilsack's attendance.

1. A toolkit to supplement the launch is being finalized within the Department of the Interior, for submittal to OMB for review and clearance, the first week of May.
 2. The BIE is supporting the LMIC and the Department's physical activity pillar by providing matching funds for a Corporation for Community and National Service, Coach Across America service partnership. The partnership will fund three part-time Physical Education instructors and three part-time after-school coaches in six targeted BIE schools. Schools were identified based on interest and need, according to the LMIC OMB approved survey. The Memorandum of Agreement will be finalized the week of April 29.
 3. The BIE has agreed to provide funding for an American Indian intern to work in collaboration with the White House Domestic Policy Council to develop the survey system to manage the LMIC Call to Tribal Leaders Initiative. The initiative will provide an infrastructure and capacity for tribal leaders and organizations to sign up and make commitments to the LMIC. The face of this piece of the initiative will be led by the White House Domestic Policy Council, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and supported by the DOI intern and the LMIC interagency team.
- Tribal Consultation: A Tribal Leader letter signed by the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs was distributed to tribal leaders, ELOs, Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Directors, schools and school boards over the course of the past week. The letter announces upcoming tribal consultation on the aforesaid policy. The letter, policy, and supplemental document are also available on the web at www.bia.gov, click on "Consultation." In addition, you can also find it at www.bie.edu, click on "Resources," then click on "Policy and Evaluation" to find the documents listed on the left side of the page. The policy was drafted with the input and support of IHS, USDA, CDC, the WH-DPC, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, BIE ELOs and Management, and CDC Tribal Grantees. BIE still needs to identify Senior Management to meet with Tribal Leaders. The consultation dates are May 12, 19, and 26, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Consultations will be held online through WebEX.
 - Professional Development
An Environmental Management Systems Training will be held in the South and Eastern States Line Office on May 24 and 25.
 - Post Secondary Education
PostSecondary Office: The office has started receiving Tribal Colleges and University application packets. The packets are to be submitted no later than May 2, 2011. The Office has also scheduled its monitoring visit to the Bay Mills Community College and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College from May 3 to May 6, respectively.

Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell)

- A review panel will begin telephone interviews with the candidates for the position of Haskell President on May 4 - 6, 2011.
- Haskell campus was the site of the third annual indigenous empowerment summit on April 22 - 23, culminating with a Powwow on that Saturday.
- Haskell hosted the 10th Annual Haskell Safety and Wellness Fair which featured 49 local and regional vendors with information on personal health care, weather, workplace and home safety.

YOUTH OFFICE

- Washington, DC
 - Intern Orientation Guide – Currently coordinating comments into the Orientation guide through Public Affairs, BIE, IA for submission by April 29, 2011.
 - Coordinating placements of summer interns with the Assistant Secretary's Office by providing resumes and transcripts of 11 students for 15 minute interviews and possible placements.
 - Met with the USDA Tribal College Liaison & 1994 Programs to discuss collaborative efforts to build a partnership between DOI/BIA and USDA.
 - Compiling an inventory of Federal agencies, organizations, tribes, and TCUs in the Great Plains, Western, and Alaska Regions.
 - A memorandum was transmitted to the Regional Directors (RDs) requesting Youth Program Liaisons (YPL) who will assist in identifying on-going programs and current and future activities which will be compiled at the Central Office level for dissemination to the RDs and the YPLs on a monthly basis. Monthly teleconference calls and webinars will also be part of the development, training, and information sharing between all YPLs and the Youth Coordinator.
- Great Plains Region/East/District I
 - Badlands Collaboration – The National Park Service (NPS), the Badlands, and the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Tribe are working collaboratively together to design a pilot program that would hire 12 high school students for the summer. Four students will be selected from each of the following locations -- Pine Ridge, Rapid City, and from a non-tribal community. The program will run either in August or September and is established to host summer work camps to instill self-empowerment, conservation work ethics, and healthy lifestyles by working alongside biologists, paleontologists, educators and facility managers to complete park projects such as fence building, train maintenance, and wildlife monitoring. They will incorporate native practices and beliefs as part of the experience by inviting tribal leaders, storytellers, and park scientists from the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA) to share culture, music, and stories about the resource areas.
- Western Region/West and Navajo/Districts III and IV
 - An inventory is currently being conducted to identify all TCU's and colleges and universities with high concentrations of Native students. Once the YPLs have provided a

current listing of activities and programs within their regions a better work plan will be developed to compile a program to fit the needs of the region in the area of youth participation.

- Staff attended several meetings regarding the Let's Move in Indian Country initiative. BIE has been the lead on this project with various meetings with both the Federal and private sector with groups and individuals to promote this initiative.
- Alaska Region
 - ANSEP Meeting: YGO met with representatives from ANSEP and will facilitate presentations for BIA staff to discuss opportunities for collaboration in target states.
- Recruitment Efforts
 - Haskell Targeted Recruitment Fair: Over 300 Haskell students attended the Career fair. BIA brought 25 resumes back to DC to review and send to the regional offices identified in their requests.
 - Working with NPS on a one day cultural awareness camp to be held in the summer at Mount Rushmore or Devil's Tower. More discussion will be conducted to determine availability and feasibility.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. Oral presentations from the contractors is progressing to its final phase: 7 of the 8 oral presentations have been completed. All oral presentations are targeted to be completed by the week of May 9.
- BIA Organizational Realignment: Indian Affairs has notified the Department of its need for an extension to the March 15 due date to OMB for its passback directive to address consolidation of its field sites. BIA has been working feverishly on the analysis as directed by the OMB passback language, however, due to the complexity and size of the BIA organization itself, additional time is required to complete the work. A meeting with OMB to discuss the progress of the realignment is scheduled for May 18.

OUTREACH

- The BIE Summer Institute is scheduled for the week of June 20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.
- The Navajo Nation is hosting a Tri-State Data Meeting for state Indian education directors from New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. The BIE will participate at the event by presenting data related to Navajo students within BIE schools. The meeting is scheduled for the week of May 19, 2011.

- Planned Events:

Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

May 2 – 6, 2011:

Kingman, AZ: Meet with the Havasupai Tribal Council and tour flood damaged area

Palm Springs, CA: Attend the 2011 National Self Governance Conference.

Artesia, NM: Provide the keynote speech at the annual BIA Law Enforcement Memorial.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

May 15 – 16, 2011, the Deputy Assistant Secretary is scheduled to attend the session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, New York.

Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs:

May 2 – 6, 2011: Accompanying the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Arizona and New Mexico to meet with the Havasupai Tribe, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and attend the Indian Law Enforcement Memorial in Artesia, NM.

CONFIDENTIAL

April 29, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for May 2 to May 8, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report May 2, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in Washington (5/2-6)

Review – April 25 to April 29

- **New:** OHTA announced that it is closing the Aberdeen Special Deposit Accounts program office to consolidate facilities and save costs. The lease expires August 30. Logistics to close the office are underway. Ten boxes of active Cheyenne River Agency SDA case files were sent via FedEx to Albuquerque on April 21; 57 boxes of active Fort Berthold Agency records were shipped on April 22.
- **Update:** The *Status Report to the Court Number Forty-Four* is for the period January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. The purpose of the report is to inform the Court of actions taken since the issuance of the preceding quarterly report, including delays in and obstacles to trust reform activities. BIA, BLM, BOEMRE, OCIO, OHTA and OST program managers submit reports on the status of their respective Indian trust activities and attorneys from SOL and DOJ and senior OST managers interview them about content. The report and the transmittal letter, which is signed by the Secretary, were sent to the executive secretariat on April 26. DOJ is scheduled to transmit the report to the Court on May 2.
- **Update:** The Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Tulsa Urban Office attended an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) hearing in the Eastern District Federal Court on litigation between the Seminole Tribe and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Also attending the hearing on April 26 were SOL and DOJ attorneys, the BIA Superintendent for the Wewoka Agency and tribal leaders of the Seminole Tribe. Issues considered were outlined in the March ADR hearing.
- **Update:** On April 27, the Fiduciary Trust Officer at the Northern Cheyenne Agency conducted the first session of financial skills courses for participants in the Second

Season program. The topic was *Building a Healthy Economy*. These one hour sessions will be held twice a month until the financial skills course material is completed. Participants are boys between the ages of 12 and 18 who are first time offenders.

- **No Change:** The Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) delivered to SOL approximately 5000 imaged documents relative to the Kaw Nation tribal litigation. Since the litigating parties are engaged in mediated settlement talks, SOL has requested additional time for OHTA to search for documents, beyond the Court's April 30 deadline.
- **No Change:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, was detailed to the OAS office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 21 to April 8 to develop the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews. On March 29, he met with OST's IT personnel regarding their requirements and assistance with deployment. Issues raised that may impact development of OASIS include certification, independent of OST's blanket certification, and submitting a "technical paper" that includes intended use, users, program flow, application objects, and database table design. IT indicated they prefer a web-based application, which has hindered development and increased costs of the Appraisal Request and Review Tracking System. The Review Appraiser is identifying alternatives for consideration by the OAS Director.

Week Ahead – May 2 to May 6

- **New:** A trial in the Quechan tribal litigation has been scheduled for March 26, **2012**, in Seattle, Washington. This trial will address plaintiffs' trust fund accounting and mismanagement claims for the time period July 1, 1972 to September 30, 1992.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **New:** The FTO at the Rosebud Agency is participating on the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance (SDIBA) planning committee for the annual South Dakota Indian Business Conference (SDIBC). The conference will be held May 17-18 at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. An invitation is being extended for Secretary Salazar and Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph to speak at the conference. SDIBA, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities for tribal members in South Dakota, is comprised of individuals in federal, state and tribal governments and non-profit organizations.
- **No Change:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. More than three dozen activities were held during April. To date, four activities have been planned for May.
- **No Change:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other

tribe is not federally recognized). Parties are considering the week of May 23 for a mediation session.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

April 29, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Chris Henderson, for Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: April 29, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations: Two Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) - one for Federal Gas Valuation and the other for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation are currently under review by OMB. ONRR has also developed a communications plan and press release to announce the publication of the ANPRs, which is anticipated in early May 2011.

Take Your Child to Work Day. The Office of Youth hosted 100 kids at the Main Interior Building Thursday for a *Let's Move Outside!* event in celebration of Take Your Child to Work Day. The students, mostly children of DOI employees, enjoyed a morning full of environmental education games that taught them about DOI's mission and how it relates to healthy, outdoor activity.

Report to Congress: Analysis of RSFA Provisions and Adjustments to Royalty Payments
ONRR will be submitting for Departmental review a report to Congress as requested by GAO-08-893R, *Mineral Revenues: Data Management Problems and Reliance on Self-Reported Data for Compliance Efforts Put MMS Royalty Calculations at Risk*. The report examines the six-year time period where companies may make adjustments to Federal royalty data without ONRR approval and ONRR's seven year time period for issuing monetary demands. The report notes that the majority of adjustments occur within the first three years of the six-year period. In response to GAO's recommendation, ONRR proposes amendments that will shorten the six-year period and clarify the period for which ONRR may make monetary demands.

MANAGEMENT

Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. The FY 09 and 10 dollars that had been set aside in support of this agreement were lost in the final budget resolution. CBP is evaluating other options to support the agreement with end of year funds but no word has been forthcoming as yet on if or how much funding might be available. Discussions will continue on the final language to be contained in the amendments to the agreement so that when funding becomes available the approved projects in the amendment can be executed. The amendments under consideration could make available as much as \$22 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS): The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced this week the release of the new NTAS. The previous advisory system was color coded and part of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 3. OLES Security has reviewed this plan and determined the primary difference from the old system to be three alert levels rather than five: current status (formally yellow), Elevated (formally orange) and Imminent (formerly red). During the last update (2010) of the Departmental plan we had already transitioned to three alert levels. The alerts will now be more sector/location specific. An example is if a threat was made regarding the Statue of Liberty it would cause an alert to be issued to the Statue and surrounding areas, not across the nation.

Security Screening at the Statue of Liberty. On Monday, April 25 DAS Thorsen and Office of Law Enforcement and Security Director Polly Hanson traveled to New York to meet with NPS and NYPD personnel regarding Statue of Liberty security screening options. The NPS is looking to move the screening facility from Battery Park to another location. NYPD requested more time to evaluate additional options; the NPS and NYPD will be working on these over the next week or two. Once all options have been evaluated, a recommendation will be made to the NPS Director.

Meeting with GAO On Monday, May 2, 2011, Acting DAS NRR Gould will be meeting with Frank Rusco, Director of GAO's Natural Resources and Environment Team, to discuss the GAO High Risk Series list published in February 2011, updates to ONRR's progress in closing recommendations from previous GAO reports, and ONRR's strategic review process.

BUDGET

2011 Continuing Resolution. The DOD and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10), was passed by the House and Senate on April 14 and signed by the President on Friday, April 15. The Act funds government operations for the duration of FY 2011 and cuts current-year spending by \$38 billion from both discretionary and mandatory programs, government-wide.

The Act includes \$11.8 billion for Interior programs. This is \$450 million or 3.7 percent below the 2011 budget level. It includes:

- Generally operating funds for land management bureaus were protected from large reductions:
 - BLM total cuts of \$9 million or 0.7%. Operations increased by \$2.2 million.
 - FWS total cuts of \$143 million or 9%. Operations decreased by \$25 million.
 - NPS total cuts of \$139 million or 5%. Operations decreased by \$12 million.
- The Act protects funding for Indian programs. Indian Affairs funding level was reduced \$26 million below 2010. The CR funds them \$54 million above the 2011 budget.
- The Act provided increases for BOEMRE and ONRR of \$62 million or +24%.
- The CR reduced land acquisition and grants;
 - For DOI programs, LWCF is funded at \$215 million, a reduction of \$95 million below the 2010 level and \$230 million below the 2011 budget.
 - The CR includes \$144 million for Federal land acquisition, \$40 million for NPS State grants, \$31 million for FWS Cooperative Endangered Species grants (CESCF is funded at \$60 million of which \$31 is derived from LWCF) .
- The CR funds Wildland Fire above the 2010 level and the 2011 budget sustaining funding for hazardous fuels. The CR rescinds \$200 million in surplus balances.

The Act includes two legislative provisions that impact Interior:

- Section 1713 directs the reissuance of the final rule published in April 2, 2009 that deals with the delisting of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf.
- Section 1769 directs that no funds may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order No. 3310, on wildlands.

The Act requires submission of Operating Plans to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days of enactment or May 15. The Office of Budget issued guidance on April 15 to bureaus and offices on operating plans with a due date of April 26 for review and OMB clearance.

The Office of Budget has also worked with bureaus and offices to complete FY 2011 apportionments, which were due to OMB on April 25. POB has worked with bureaus to gather data to provide to the Department of the Treasury to enable the preparation of warrants for FY 2011.

2012 Budget Resolution. On April 15, before departing for recess, the House adopted H.Con.Res. 34, the budget resolution for FY 2012. This provides the basis for the Appropriations Committee to issue Subcommittee allocations and proceed to markup the 2012 appropriations bills. Likely the schedule for markup will be clarified when the members return from recess next week.

Accountable Government Initiative and GPRA Modernization Act of 2010. On April 14, 2011, the OMB Director and Deputy Director for Management and Chief Performance Office issued a memo on “Delivering on the Accountable Government Initiative and Implementing the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010.” The memo identifies several key near-term requirements of the Act, including identifying the agency’s Chief Operating Officer and the agency’s

Performance Improvement Officer, beginning data-driven progress reviews on near-term High Performance Priority Performance Goals, and reducing reporting by ten percent. The Deputy Secretary has been named as the Chief Operating Officer.

IG/GAO Reports. The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:

PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
April 28, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Update: Non-Traditional Response Projects Workshop. OEPC continues to plan for the Deepwater Horizon Supplemental-funded Non-Traditional Response Project Lessons Learned Workshop. The workshop will focus on establishing direction to improve guidance for funding and authorities relating to non-traditional response projects that seek to protect sensitive natural resources. Current efforts include finalizing the participants, logistics, and agenda. OEPC will host the three day workshop in DC May 17-19. Expected participants include the US Coast Guard, NPFC, EPA, USDA, NOAA, FWS, NPS, BIA and possibly a state and tribal representative.

New: Deepwater Horizon Orphan Anchor Plan. The *Phase II Orphan Anchor Work Plan* has not yet been released. However, remote sensing for anchor location is underway in St. Bernard Parish. Louisiana is pushing very hard for removal of remaining boom anchors; they consider them a safety hazard for both near shore shrimping and recreational boating. Louisiana is in the process of formally questioning the Net Environmental Effect Analysis (NEBA) that was done on the anchors. One interesting conclusion of the Orphan Anchor NEBA is that the anchors pose a “Medium” navigation risk, but recovery of the anchors poses a “High” risk. There still has been no release of an estimated number of anchors in the Area of Response (AOR). To date, there has been no retrieval methodology identified. Operations have prioritized anchor removal to: those visible in the water column (really floating lines) those visible on the seabed, and buried anchors. This plan will be expanded to other areas, if successful in identifying and removing anchors. The DOI Historic Preservation Specialist and Louisiana have requested both raw and processed data generated from the orphan anchor remote sensing survey for archiving for long-term Trustee use. There has been no Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review. There are no monitors on the remote sensing vessels; however, Louisiana has observed survey operations from separate boats. We have previously requested that the anchor removal plan develop an equivalent to the current shoreline treatment recommendations process subject to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 106 review.

New: Deepwater Horizon Submerged Oil Mat (SOM) Plan. The *Tactical Plan for Submerged Oil Mats (SOM)* is complete and ready for signature. States are now commenting on the plan. SOMs are mats of oil that have entrained sand sufficient to increase the density so that mats or residual oil patties sink. SOMs are generally more than 85% sand. The plan provides for Section 7 and 106 review for identified SOMs. Current belief is that SOMs are located primarily between the first and second sandbars. These offshore SOMs are beyond the reach of shore-based mechanical recovery. Offshore SOM removal has been identified as a complicated and potentially dangerous undertaking. Currently, there is no agreed method for their removal; the first step is to locate and delineate SOMs. Section 106 review and in most cases additional

remote sensing survey specifically for submerged historic properties will be required prior to seabed disturbance.

New: Deepwater Horizon Trustee Meetings. Two meetings addressing Section 106 are planned by the Trustees. A Trustee Work Group meeting to review and revise Section 106 best management practices, protocols and the draft Programmatic Agreement is planned for June 1. This meeting will revise documents for the review of the full Trustee Meeting planned for July 12. Both meetings will be held in New Orleans.

Update: Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC continues to work with the DOI PRFA Cost Documentation Team to review and improve DOI bureaus/offices' reimbursable cost documentation packages and submit them to the US Coast Guard (USCG) National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC). DOI bureaus and offices have received Pollution Funding Removal Authorizations (PRFAs) totaling \$91.16 Million in reimbursable budget authority. So far, DOI has submitted cost documentation packages totaling \$50.49 million and the US Coast Guard has processed and reimbursed in full a total of \$11.63 million.
- The USCG/NPFC has indicated it will soon approve the proposed amendment to DOI's PRFA for DOI staffing of the National Incident Command (NIC). That amendment will increase the total reimbursable budget authority from \$125,000 to \$147,462.76. OEPC will subsequently submit the PRFA cost documentation to the NPFC and coordinate reimbursements to those bureaus and offices that provided staff to the NIC under this PRFA (OEPC, OEM, BOEMRE, USGS)
- Last week, the USCG/NPFC received an official request from FWS for reimbursement of approximately \$2.2 Million of indirect costs that FWS incurred for its first PRFA cost documentation package that covered FWS work up to June 30, 2010. FWS had recently provided additional information to the NPFC on its indirect cost methodology and an official memo attesting to its accuracy. The NPFC is expected to process this reimbursement request in the near future.
- The FWS is preparing answers to specific questions from the USCG/NPFC regarding the FWS' second PRFA reimbursement request for \$34 Million that FWS submitted to the NPFC in early February. The FWS is also revising its third PRFA cost documentation package and reimbursement request to satisfy NPFC requirements.
- OEPC REO-Albuquerque received the approved PRFA Amendment #8 for the USGS which extended the period of performance to June 30, 2011, and reallocated some of the funding to different activities within the various previously approved statements of work to reflect actual costs determined after the work was completed.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque represented DOI on a conference call convened among Regional Response Team 6 representatives to discuss a proposal to use bioremediation agents in a pilot field study to address their effectiveness in areas of Barataria Bay, Louisiana, that were oiled in the summer of 2010. The impacted areas have been very difficult to clean. Previous studies in a laboratory setting using the same oil from the spill and actual water from the Bay indicated that some of the agents tested did degrade the oil when they were added but not much better than just adding nutrients to the mixture of oil and Bay water. Therefore, the REO requested that the addition of nutrients also be one of the treatments investigated in the field. RRT 6 approved the field study with that addition.

Update: Northwest Arctic Oil Spill Preparedness Meetings: Meetings were held on April 28 and 29 to brief and obtain input from federal, state, and local governments and tribes on Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs) for the southern Chukchi Sea and northern Bering Sea coasts. GRSs are site-specific tactics to protect priority sensitive areas from an oil spill, and will become part of the joint Federal/State of Alaska *Northwest Arctic Subarea Contingency Plan* (SCP). The DOI OEPC Anchorage Office is the lead for preparing the Sensitive Areas Section of the SCP.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Technology Transfer. In preparation for updating the decades-old Departmental Manual chapter on technology transfer, the Office of Policy Analysis will participate in the conference of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer in Nashville, TN, May 2-5, addressing matters related to technology transfer between federal researchers, industry and other non-governmental entities. Participation includes training, and meeting with the Deputy Administrator and, possibly, the Administrator of the Office of Technology Transfer, Agricultural Research Service, which has had substantial experience in this area. This participation should help identify opportunities and barriers to rapid transfer of technology, as well as methods to surmount them.

New: Presentation on Vertebrate Invasive Species Management on Islands. On April 26, the National Invasive Species Council hosted colleagues from DOI, USDA, DOD, and the State Department to hear a presentation by John Parkes, from Landcare New Zealand, the New Zealand government research institute. John presented on a number of recent case studies to illustrate the hot topics in the management of invasive species on islands including development of quarantine systems, planning eradication attempts, program reviews, diagnoses of failures, and validating success in eradication.

New: Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): The Invasive Species Council staff is coordinating development of draft text on invasive alien species for inclusion in U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) negotiating positions at the next round of negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement (June 2011, Vietnam). The USTR included a place-marker on invasive alien species in a proposal presented to negotiating partners at the previous round of negotiations (March 2011, Singapore). Discussions are ongoing with USTR (Environment and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Affairs divisions) as well as a range of other agencies and DOI

bureaus to develop the draft text, which will likely be submitted to USTR for their interagency process in early May.

Update: Economic Report. The report has been cleared by OMB and is currently being reviewed by the Council of Economic Advisors.

Update: Klamath. The pilot test for the non-use valuation survey has begun implementation. It is anticipated that the data collection phase will last 6-8 weeks. Policy Analysis also reviewed and provided technical comments on the draft Klamath Environmental Impact Statement.

Ongoing: Arctic Policy. The Office of Policy Analysis continues to work with the Office of International Affairs to support the Secretary for his upcoming participation in the Arctic Council Ministerial, on May 12, in Nuuk, Greenland. In addition, the Office of Policy Analysis is also representing the Department at the staff-level Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC). The first Principal-level IARPC meeting took place on April 26th and covered high-priority Arctic research issues across the Federal government.

Ongoing: Pechanga Indian Water Settlement. Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office and provided comments on how elements of the Settlement were being valued. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled.

Ongoing: National Ocean Policy Implementation. Policy Analysis continues to coordinate implementation of the National Ocean Policy for DOI. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) – “Coordinate and Support,” and is providing support for another “Changing Conditions in the Arctic;” FWS is chairing the “Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration” SAP writing team. The Ocean Resources Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM IPC) co-chaired by Eileen Sobeck DAS-FW and the National Ocean Committee staff are now reviewing full content outlines of all SAPs prior to the outlines being released for public comment in May. An ORM IPC meeting was held on April 27 at the Department of Commerce.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Completed: Recreation Fees. On April 20, Policy Analysis participated in a briefing for the DAS – Policy and International Affairs on the recreation fee program and the online reservation system, Recreation.gov.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

Updated Hawaiian Home Lands Land Exchange Review. The State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) requested the review and approval of a revised exchange deed between their Department and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Revision of the deed was necessary because the State of Hawaii Attorney General's description for the Coast Guard site in Lualualei did not meet the requirements for registration of the deed with the Hawaii Land Court. Approval or disapproval of the revised exchange deed by the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget is also required under the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act of 1995 (HHLRA), Public Law 104-42, 109 Stat. 357. After careful consideration by the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, the Office of General Law, the Assistant Secretary approved the land exchange on April 21, 2011.

Updated: Offender Reentry American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian. Communities Webinar April 26, 2011 – The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations has worked with the Department of Justice to develop five webinars on offenders returning to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities. The webinars are a follow up to the e-publication released in November “Strategies for Creating Offender Reentry Programs in Indian Country <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/programs/reentry-indiancountry/>>.” The first webinar will take place on April 26, 2011.

Office of International Affairs

New: Seminar in Amman on Best Practices for Protected Areas Management in Jordan. DOI-ITAP will host a one-day seminar on Best Practices in the Management of Protected Areas in Jordan in Amman on April 26. Approximately 75 representatives from relevant organizations in the Kingdom of Jordan will participate. The seminar will produce recommendations for decision makers on critical protected areas management issues. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Update: AS/PMB Participation at Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization Meetings. OIA staff is supporting participation by Rhea Suh, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget in a meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Mining Task Force in Big Sky in Montana on May 6 – 9, 2011. OIA is coordinating with BLM, the Department of Commerce, USG lead for the Mining Task Force, and the Department of State to review the meeting agenda, coordinate the USG approach across agencies, and draft briefing materials.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff has continued to work with State Department, the Arctic Council Secretariat, and several DOI offices to coordinate logistics necessary for this meeting. OIA staff has worked with several bureaus (FWS, USGS, BOEMRE, BIA, NPS) to provide briefing material for the Secretary.

Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment

New: DEEP WATER HORIZON Natural Resource Trustees Announce \$1.0 Billion Agreement to Fund Early Restoration Projects. The Natural Resource Trustees for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)) announced on April 21 that BP agreed to provide \$1 billion toward early restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico to address injuries to natural resources caused by the spill. This early restoration agreement, the largest of its kind ever reached, represents a first step toward fulfilling BP's obligation to fund the complete restoration of injured public resources, including the loss of use of those resources. The Trustees will use the money to fund projects such as the rebuilding of coastal marshes, replenishment of damaged beaches, conservation of sensitive areas for ocean habitat for injured wildlife, and restoration of barrier islands and wetlands that provide natural protection from storms. The selection of early restoration projects will follow a public process, and will be overseen by the Trustees. The full natural resource damage assessment process will continue until the Trustees have determined the full extent of damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The agreement will speed needed resources to the Gulf in advance of the completion of the assessment process. This voluntary agreement to provide "up front" restoration funding to the trustees does not relieve BP of any of its ultimate liability for damages to trust resources.

The \$1 billion in early restoration projects will be selected and implemented as follows:

- Each state – Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas - will select and implement \$100 million in projects;
- The Federal Resource Trustees, NOAA and DOI, will each select and implement \$100 million in projects;
- The remaining \$300 million will be used for projects selected by NOAA and DOI from proposals submitted by the State Trustees.

All projects must meet the other requirements of the Framework Agreement and be approved by the Trustee Council comprised of all the natural resource trustees.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

New: DOI STEM Education Strategic Plan: The Youth Office, in partnership with USGS, called for Youth Task Force members to identify a Bureau representative for a new DOI STEM Education Strategic Plan Work Group – by May 2. The Work Group will meet beginning the week of May 9 for approximately 3 months.

New: Foundation for Youth Investment Presentation: The Youth Office Director joined outdoor youth providers for an afternoon discussion on Program Relevancy at the Presidio in San

Francisco on Tuesday. In addition to presenting on AGO Youth recommendations, the Director helped to develop a logic model for outdoor youth providers to implement AGO Youth recommendations across California.

New: Promise Neighborhoods Initiative Town Hall: The Youth Office Director joined Secretary Arne Duncan, Melody Barnes, Mayor Vincent Gray, and Founder of the Cesar Chavez Charter School Network for a Town Hall on the Promise Neighborhood Initiative. Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy's is one of 21 grantees awarded a U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods planning grant last fall.

New: Filming of Sam Bradford PSA and USDA First People's Garden Planting.

On Wednesday the DOI *Let's Move in Indian Country!* team was joined by quarterback Sam Bradford of the St. Louis Rams to film a PSA for the First Lady's Initiative. Sam was joined by native youth from Tuba City Boarding school to participate in physical activity on National Mall. Sam also participated in a garden event with Secretary Vilsack and Director Keith Moore highlighting the importance of traditional foods and gardening in Native culture.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

New: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership.

The Office of Youth is working with the Budget and Contracts/Agreements Office to develop Bureau guidance and a system for streamlining funding for the AmeriCorps Summer Internship Program.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: Draft "Call for 2011 Nominations for the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award" sent to Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management & Budget for review and surname process. Interior Bureau/Office nominations due June 30, 2011 and potential Departmental Award Ceremony in the fall of 2011.

Ongoing: MOU – DOI / U.S. Dept of Education to "Maximize the Use of Federal Lands in Enhancing Educational Opportunities for the American Public." Final draft MOU developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America's Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education's "Blueprint for Reform." Signing ceremony tentatively scheduled for National History Day, June 13, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Ongoing: Partnership Coordinator delegated to participate in OS "Organizational Impact Assessment" for FBMS for the Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service. Coordinator is tasked with being the information liaison for DOI to external partners on new processes on internal reporting, tracking, monitoring and affect on agreements, partnership processes.

Completed: FACA Charter drafted - Advisory Committee for 21 Century Conservation Service Corps (AC - 21CSC). Charter and call for nominations - FACA Committee for 21 CSC

drafted and agreed to among AGO Inter-Agency Jobs & Youth Workgroup. Federal register notice of charter and call for nominations proposed for early May, pending GSA concurrence, and Secretary's approval.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Website, logo & National Awards. Work continued this week on the redesign of the Federal Interagency Team on Volunteerism (FITV) website, volunteer.gov/gov, along with a redesign of the Take Pride in America logo. Both redesign efforts should be complete by the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in June. Also, the coordination of the annual Take Pride in America National Awards began in full this week. Nominations for the awards will be accepted through May 6.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Hydropower Licensing Rule. OHA has received a legal opinion from the Solicitor's Office on the major remaining issue in this rulemaking. Deputy Solicitor Russell concluded that the Department is not required to provide an equal consideration statement regarding a condition or prescription for a hydropower license if no license party has proposed an alternative condition or prescription. OHA has prepared an options paper for the Assistant Secretary on how to revise the draft rule in light of the legal opinion.

New: Statoil and ExxonMobil Case. Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC and ExxonMobil Corporation wrote the OHA Director requesting him to render a decision in their case by May 10 in light of significant business decisions they must make in the next few weeks. In December 2009, the Interior Board of Land Appeals held that the former MMS had improperly rejected the companies' request for a suspension of production. MMS subsequently asked the Director to reverse the Board's decision, which could result in termination of the companies' offshore leases. The Director has the case under active consideration.

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Update: IT Transformation Listening Sessions. CIO Bernie Mazer will conduct listening sessions in Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania for Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service employees. The sessions in Hadley (MA) will focus on Region 5 IT and program staff and are supported by the FWS ADIR, Ken Taylor.

Update: Compliance Reviews/FISMA Reporting. A contract has been awarded to KPMG to assist the OCIO with completion of the FISMA review. Our kick-off meeting with KPMG is scheduled for 27 April.

Update: IT Transformation Listening Sessions. IT Transformation Listening sessions were conducted in Jefferson and Lafayette, Louisiana with USGS, BOEMRE and NPS employees, as

well as in Rolla, Missouri, with USGS and NPS staff. These sessions were led and facilitated by Larry Gross, the DOI Deputy CIO and were supported by Bureau Assistant Directors for Information Resources (ADIRs) Bob Brown (BOEMRE), Sue Hawkins (NPS) and Karen Baker (USGS).

Update: Unified Messaging. OCIO staff are working with NBC to engineer and test an interim Department-wide email solution while litigation related to our planned cloud-based messaging system continues. Testing has been successful, and the project team is developing its next steps for the pilot and migration. OCIO's unified messaging team began its review of BLM's migration plans and Microsoft Exchange architecture and design in preparation for BLM's migration to Exchange from Lotus Notes.

Update: Radio Program Support. OCIO staff successfully conducted high frequency Radio tests between DOI's continuity of operations (COOP) site at the FWS National Conservation Training Center and the Corbin, Virginia Radio Lab. This work supports the Office of Emergency Management's COOP requirements.

Update: Information Correction request on the "Public Report on Allegations of Scientific Misconduct at Point Reyes National Seashore, California" Memorandum. An information correction request was submitted on March 30, 2011 by the President of Save our Seashore on the "Public Report on Allegations of Scientific Misconduct at Point Reyes National Seashore, California". OCIO staff met on April 14, 2011 with SOL to obtain guidance from SOL on the procedures according to the DOI Information Quality Guidelines. A meeting with OMB, SOL and the Information Quality Coordinator is scheduled for April 28, 2011 to obtain OMB's guidance on how to proceed.

Update: Data Center Consolidation: On April 19, OMB hosted a data center closure meeting Co-Chaired by DOI CIO, Bernie Mazer, and the Department of Homeland Security's CIO. The Federal CIO, Vivek Kundra, held the meeting to provide agencies another opportunity to verify their data center closure projections for CY 2011 as well as the total projections through 2014. The information will be used in an OMB press release next week. DOI reported that 4 data centers were closed this year, 14 are scheduled for closure by the end of the calendar year, and a total of 95 are scheduled to be closed by the end of 2014.

Office of Valuation Services

New: New Employees. The Quality Assurance Officer, Ken Daw and the Special Projects Manager, Ed Stehouwer, report for duty this week.

New: NACT Meeting. The next NACT meeting is set for Thursday, May 5, and will include introductions of Quality Assurance Officer, Ken Daw, and Special Projects Manager, Ed Stehouwer, to OVS clients.

Update: IVIS Testing. Final requirements for the May 23 "go-live" date were completed last Friday. Another round of testing is being scheduled this week and will include the previous OVS and client testers. Communication on the "go-live" date, training and downtime has been uploaded on the ARRTS log-in screen for all current users.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

New: Facilitation for Cultural Resources Division of NPS. CADR is providing meeting planning and facilitation assistance for the cultural resources team in NPS.

Ongoing: Training requests. On request, CADR will be providing conflict management and communication skills training for supervisors in the Bureau of Reclamation in 3 locations including Arizona, Utah and Colorado. The training will also satisfy diversity training requirements for supervisors.

Update: Government to Government Consultation Policy Team. CADR continues to provide process support for DOI and Tribal representatives jointly developing a new Departmental policy on government to government consultations with Tribes. Final discussions on policy provisions are occurring via facilitated teleconferences. The signing ceremony for a new policy is expected to take place in August.

Update: New contract for professional conflict management services. Working with AQD Herndon, CADR completed the review of proposals and will be conducting interviews for vendors under consideration for the new IDIQ contract. The new contract will replace the existing blanket purchase agreements and provide timely access to expert services including: coaching, mediation, facilitation, organizational development, change management and system and process design.

Update: ONRR Negotiated Rulemaking process. CADR is working in close coordination with the Office of the Solicitor and the Committee Management Office in Executive Secretariat to assist ONRR in planning a negotiated rulemaking process to collaborate on the development of new Indian oil valuation regulations. Private professional facilitators are being interviewed and the contracting of facilitation services will be handled through the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution under an existing interagency agreement with the CADR office.

Update: Open Government Working Group. The next meeting of the open government working group will be held on April 28 in the new BLM offices in SW DC, and project plans will be finalized for the open government initiatives to be completed in the next 18 months.

Update: ADR request in IBIA appeal. In response to a request from an attorney in an appeal pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals, CADR is consulting with the parties to determine whether a mediation process will be pursued.

Update: CORE PLUS services. The CADR office is providing impartial conflict management and dispute resolution assistance for 7 EEO complaints, 2 administrative grievances and 5 situations that do not involve informal or formal complaints.

Geospatial Information Officer

Update: Geospatial Platform. The geospatial portfolio manager in OMB's E Government Office has requested an update on the Geospatial Platform this week.

Update: Federal Geographic Data Committee. The FGDC Executive Committee's monthly meeting will be held this week, followed by a session with the ExCom and staff from the Federal Trade Commission to discuss FTC proposed regulations on "Privacy in the Digital Age." The proposed regulations would prohibit mobile devices from collecting "precise geographic locations" of users without their knowledge and consent.

National Business Center

New: NBC Support BOR. The NBC ITD Auto Visual team recorded Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor for the Bureau of Reclamation's diversity program.

New: NBC Supports FBMS. The NBC, working with the FBMS Project Management Office, was successful in converting to the new Department of the Treasury payment confirmation processes. This major change was accomplished in two months, and required coordination with multiple Treasury Regional Finance Centers. While this change primarily benefits Interior clients, some non-Interior clients will also see improvements from this upgrade.

The National Business Center has been working extensively with the FBMS Implementation Office. The focus for this week was the three day role mapping sessions. NBC is participating in these sessions as both a customer and a service provider. Financial Management is providing input into charge card, accounting operations, and business warehouse and system security issues.

New: NBC Provides Updated Financial Service Level Agreements (SLA). All Interior clients who use discretionary financial management services received reports on NBC's second quarter fiscal year 2011 service level agreement performance. These reports show a summary of the NBC's overall financial services performance levels and workload volumes. All external customers also received second quarter reports.

New: Aviation Management System (AMS) User Access Control Weakness. The NBC Audit Liaison Office provided Interior's Office of Financial Management (PFM) artifacts, including a new aviation policy, updated system user access forms, and evidence of the first completed AMS periodic access review for the Interior aviation community. NBC mitigation and closure evidence supports the Office of the Secretary in exceeding its audit performance metrics.

New: Design activities for Enhancing the Courtyard Commenced. Work tasks, including removing existing pavers, rebuilding the drainage system, and adding electrical and AV outlets in the courtyard have begun. As a result, the Courtyard should be completed and open for employees by early Fall 2011.

New: Customer Communication Forum. The monthly meeting was well attended by DOI employees and included information regarding: Modernization, Earth Day in Rawlins Park, Organic

Garden and Composting, Open Season Parking, GSA Child Care Center Board, Safety Awareness, and Rehabilitation of Constitution Avenue.

New: Earth Day Event in Rawlins Park. NBC Administrative Operations employees staffed exhibits on DOI's composting program and organic garden, and collected used electronics for recycling.

Update: Parking Open Season. The parking database is being updated as a result of feedback NBC received from Bureaus & Offices. All category A/B assignments have been received.

Update: Organic Garden. Compost was deposited in the organic garden at the South Interior Building, aligning with the Department's goal of full-cycle composting.

New: Federal Personnel and Payroll System (FPPS) System Release. NBC's Human Resources Directorate implemented a new FPPS Software Release on all production databases. Some enhancements made to FPPS included: an updated beneficiary pay process that allows multiple payments and processes returned checks and a new annual payroll report that summarizes pay data for each employee that will be sent to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and kept for 56 years to meet record keeping requirements. These changes added to FPPS's functionality and capability in order to meet Bureau needs and regulatory/policy requirements of OMB and OPM.

New: QuickTime System Release. NBC's Human Resources Directorate implemented a new Quicktime Software Release on all production environments. The enhancements include a system audit record for changes made to an employee's core hours information on their profile, which will reduce the risk of negative audit findings.

New: AMD ERO Support Fires in Texas. Teresa Zappia (AMD-ERO) is currently performing dispatch duties at the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC), a key player in the National Incident Management System that was developed to coordinate and provide support in emergency situations. With the wildfire breakouts in Texas, SACC is the focal point for mobilizing resources including aircraft, crews, equipment, and personnel within the Southeastern U.S. in support of wildland fires and emergency/disaster relief efforts.

New: AMD Teams Out on Aircraft Inspections. The AMD Western Region Office (WRO) currently has three teams out inspecting aircraft this week in Abbotsford, BC, Southern Idaho, Western Utah, and Eastern Washington providing safe aviation resources to our bureau customers.

New: AMD Delivers Training to Alaska DOI Personnel. AMD Safety & Program Evaluations Division delivered mishap prevention training to DOI employees in Alaska. The training addressed the many unique challenges associated with aviation operations within Alaska's challenging landscape.

New: Acquisition Services Directorate Contracting Officer is recognized by DARPA. AQD-Sierra Vista Contracting Officer, Lisa Mattocks, was recognized recently by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for her professionalism, dedication, knowledge

of acquisition requirements, customer focus, teamwork, and leadership in her work to award a key DARPA contract.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Office of Human Resources

New: DOI and Office, Chief Army Reserve (OCAR) Employer Partnership. The Office of Human Resources (OHR) had conversations directed toward continuing to develop a strategic partnership with OCAR. The partnership will focus on enhancing DOI's ability to recruit highly talented employees from the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), while enhancing the Army Reserve's ability to keep soldiers skills current. Opportunities exist in law enforcement, engineering and other support functions where the reserve has a pool of already qualified talent. The initial step of the partnership was gaining access to a resume database maintained by the USAR Office of Employer Partnership. Bureau representatives have been given access and can now actively use the database as a recruitment tool. Other opportunities being discussed include targeted hiring events, collaboration on training events, engaging with local USAR commanders to educate USAR families on America's Great Outdoors and DOI opportunities.

New: Interagency Collaboration to Standardize Emergency Responder Access Procedures for Workforce of Multi-agency, State and Local Government personnel. With DOI Access, today's emergency responders reporting to an incident response site must complete an identity verification process before they can access computers. Agencies may follow different procedures to grant computer access, especially for responders from state and local offices. To address this issue, DOI offices (OCIO, DOI Access PMO, Office of Wild land Fire Coordination and NBC) are meeting with GSA, USDA, and Department of Homeland Security. This group will identify a federated approach to recognize externally-issued PIV credentials, and grant access to federal facilities and information systems. These DOI offices also worked together to create OCIO Directive 2011-005, "Granting Limited/Controlled Access to DOI information Systems for Short-term Emergency Response Personnel", dated April 14, 2011. This addresses the risk-mitigation procedures to grant computer access for the 2011 fire season responders.

New: DOI Access. Streamlining Procedures to Grant Access to OS Youth and Summer Hires. The DOI Access Program Management Office met with the OS Youth Office and PMB administrative staff prior to the summer hiring season to provide training on the procedures to request network access and DOI Access cards for youth and summer hires. This will ensure these new hires will have computer and facility access as soon as they report to work.

Update: Direct Hire Authority for BOEMRE. The Office of Human Resources has submitted a request to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to modify the authorization for slots for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE)'s direct hire authority. BOEMRE found that they need additional Inspectors and fewer Safety Engineers. The direct hire authority expires on June 30, 2011. OPM is reviewing the request.

Update: Personnel Bulletin on Reduction in Force. The Office of Human Resources issued a draft Personnel Bulletin on reduction in force to the bureaus for comments. We are considering bureau comments before we issue a final Personnel Bulletin.

Update: Federal Government-wide Veterans Acquisition Career Field Developmental Program. The Veterans Acquisition Intern Program is an inter-agency program designed to recruit and support the development of our nation's student veterans for careers with the Federal government. The program offers student veterans the opportunity to gain valuable on-the-job training and experiences related to the contracting field while pursuing their education. Selected interns will be expected to perform a variety of duties and technical tasks in support of functions related to the occupational area and their organizations. Interns who complete the program will transition into Federal contract specialist positions – one of the government's most critical positions. The program will be marketed to student veterans through agencies and partner organizations. The goal is to hire 200 interns government-wide and DOI managers have committed to providing 12 positions across the country to this initiative.

Update: Recruiting Diverse Talent: Using Non-competitive Hiring Authorities. Seminars are currently scheduled as follows:

Portland	May 24, 2011
Boise	June 1, 2011
Denver	June 2, 2011
Phoenix	June 14, 2011
Sacramento	June 16, 2011
Reston	June 22, 2011

Update: Same-sex Domestic Partner Benefits Review Checklist. OHR recently submitted an updated Domestic Partner Benefits Review Checklist to the Office of Personnel Management documenting the benefits that Interior makes available to same-sex domestic partners.

Update: eOPF. Interior continues to implement eOPF throughout the department. Group I (BLM, USGS, NPS, NBC, BIA, SOL, IG) successfully implemented eOPF. Group II (BOR, BOEMRE, OSM, FWS, and OS) is now moving forward in preparation for the project implementation. Now that a 2011 budget has passed, the final Reimbursable Service Agreement (RSA)'s have been sent to the bureaus to fund the remaining work this fiscal year. We have had a meeting with OPM on the next steps and have started the deployment activities. Formal training is being scheduled with the first class in Chantilly, Virginia, the week of May 16, 2011.

Office of Civil Rights

New: DOI and National Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. On April 27, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is holding a signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of the Interior and the Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a cooperative framework for the parties to establish a program that will promote involvement of diversity in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences in DOI initiatives in natural resource management and conservation. The National Park Service (NPS) is the lead bureau on this MOU.

New: Holocaust Days of Remembrance. DOI joins the Nation in observing the Holocaust Days of Remembrance from May 1 – 8, 2011. In recognition, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has a Days of Remembrance exhibit on the 4th Floor, 4300 corridor of the Main Interior Building. Also, DOI is a co-sponsor of the Federal Interagency Holocaust Memorial Remembrance Program that is taking place on May 4, 2011, at Washington, D.C.'s historic Lincoln Theatre located in Northwest Washington. The morning program features three individuals who survived the Holocaust.

New: Public Civil Rights Coordinators Meeting. Staff members of the Public Civil Rights Division attended a meeting with the Public Civil Rights Coordinators led by Jack Andre, Chief, Public Civil Rights Division on April 21, 2011. The agenda included discussion and final preparations of the upcoming 2011 PCR Forum which will be held May 3-4, 2011, at the National Park Service in Washington, DC. The focus was to identify goals and actions needed to meet the standards identified by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

New: EEO Compliance Training. On April 25, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Of OCR, conducted EEO Compliance Training for managers of the BLM, Eastern States Office, following a finding of discrimination. The training will be conducted in Lorton, VA.

New: EEO Training for Managers. During April 26-28, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Of OCR, will conduct EEO Training For Managers of the National Park Service, WASO. . The training will be conducted in Hagerstown, MD.

Update: Rescheduled EEO Counselor Training. The Office of Civil Rights (OCR), in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), will provide EEO Counselor Training at the NPS Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado from June 27 thru July 1, 2011. A Basic EEO Counselor Training course will be conducted June 27 thru July 1, 2011. In addition, an Advanced EEO Counselor Training Course will also be conducted June 29 thru July 1, 2011. Tuition for each course is \$500.00. Training will be provided by staff members of OCR, NPS, and USGS. Additionally, a presentation will be made to each class by two Administrative Judges of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Completed: Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership. On April 21, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights represented the DOI at the Federal Interagency Diversity Partnership Meeting held at the National Archives, in Washington, D.C. Agenda topics included best practices for diversity, OPM diversity initiatives, and the annual Diversity Summit.

Completed: Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions. On April 21, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights represented the DOI at a meeting of Directors from several Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions. The meeting was coordinated by the White House Initiative Office on Asian American Pacific Islanders and provided opportunity for Federal agencies to share information and increase partnership opportunities with AANAPI Serving Institutions.

Completed: EEO Compliance Training. During April 20-21, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor of OCR, conducted EEO Compliance Training for supervisors, managers, and

employees of the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Park Police, Battery Park, New York Region, following a Finding of Discrimination. The training was held at Ellis Island, New York.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

New: Upcoming Forums and Speaker Events.

On April 27, 2011, Elvis Medina from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration will host a special Leadership Forum entitled “Accountability Training.”

On May 9, 2011, the Government-wide Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum will feature the book “*It’s Not Just Who You Know: Transform Your Life (and Your Organization) by Turning Colleagues and Contacts into Lasting, Genuine Relationships*” by author Tommy Spaulding. He delves into why relationship matter, how they work, and, most importantly, how they can change the minds of people and organizations. The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington DC.

On May 10, 2011, the Department of the Interior Leadership Forum will feature again the book by New York Times bestselling author, executive coach, entrepreneur, and leadership consultant Tommy Spaulding “*It’s Not Just Who You Know*”. The forum will be held in the south interior building for DOI executives.

On May 18, 2011, the Government wide Senior Executive Service (SES) Forum will feature an address from National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Retired), entitled “*Leading Through Crisis and Times of Change.*” He will address how large, complex organizations react to and manage unprecedented, anomalous events. The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington DC. This forum will be available on Webinar.

Ongoing: Skillsoft Open Season now open. With the Skillsoft season now open, employees’ licenses are available until April 29, 2011. Each license is \$15 which provides access to over 4,000 online courses. Visit www.doiu.nbc.gov/skillsoft for additional information.

Ongoing: Appropriations Law Training. The Washington Learning Center (WLC) staff is working with the Office of the Personnel Management for the possible coordination of twelve Principles of Appropriation Law courses for OPM employees. The WLC center manager met with OPM’s subject matter experts and instructor to make sure the course content is customized according to OPM’s needs.

Completed: FISSA 2011 Course. The Learning Technology Solutions Division completed both the paper copy and CD versions of the course. The CD version of the course is available on the CD download website. The paper copy of the course will be distributed as needed. To date over 22,000 DOI learners have completed the training.

Completed: Presidential Management Fellows Update: OPM announced its 2011 Presidential Management Fellows Program with the selection of 850 finalists for this year’s

program. The finalist fair was held April 19 -21, 2011, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Maritime Advisory Committee meeting. Dave Schuller, Program Manager, Office of Safety and Health (OSH), attended the Maritime Advisory Committee for OSH April 19-20, 2011. This was the first meeting since the new members were appointed and focused on committee roles and responsibilities. Maritime Enforcement Division's Special Emphasis Programs were outlined for 2011. The shipyard and long shoring technical work groups were established for the remainder of the two year committee charter.

New: Injury/Illness Data Analysis. OSH completed the FY 2009 Injury/Illness Analysis and presented the report to the Designated Agency Safety and Health Officials (DASHO) Council on April, 21, 2011. This report includes a complete data analysis of injuries/illness plus an employee/supervisor survey.

New: Safety Program Evaluations. OSH personnel are conducting the Program Evaluation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) with the assistance of Federal Occupational Health contractors in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

New: Workplace Safety and Health Evaluation. OSH participated in the close out meeting with the National Institute Of Safety and Health (NIOSH) and FWS personnel on the Workplace Safety and Health Evaluation of Exposure to the Chemosterilant Bisazir Among Biological Technicians – Michigan; Health Hazard Evaluation Report, Health Evaluation Technical Assistance (HETA) 2010-0012-3125, March 2011. OSH will continue to support the follow on to this effort.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS): The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced this week the release of the new NTAS. The previous advisory system was color coded and part of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 3. OLES Security has reviewed this plan and determined the primary difference from the old system to be three alert levels rather than five: current status (formally yellow), Elevated (formally orange) and Imminent (formerly red). During the last update (2010) of the Departmental plan we had already transitioned to three alert levels. The alerts will now be more sector/location specific. An example is if a threat was made regarding the Statue of Liberty it would cause an alert to be issued to the Statue and surrounding areas, not across the nation.

Update: Security Screening at the Statue of Liberty. On Monday, April 25 DAS Thorsen and Office of Law Enforcement and Security Director Polly Hanson traveled to New York to meet with NPS and NYPD personnel regarding Statue of Liberty security screening options. The NPS is looking to move the screening facility from Battery Park to another location. NYPD requested more time to evaluate additional options; the NPS and NYPD will be working on these over the

next week or two. Once all options have been evaluated, a recommendation will be made to the NPS Director.

Immediate Office of the DAS

New: Border Coordinator to Attend Meetings in Arizona and California. DOI Border Coordinator Jon Andrew will attend a meeting near Douglas, Arizona organized by the local ranching community to discuss border related issues. Also in attendance will be Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle and Border Patrol Sector Chief Randy Hill. Following this Andrew will attend a portion of the Borderlands Management Task Force meeting in El Centro and attend a tour of the El Centro area with Bureau of Land Management and BP officials.

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. It was learned on April 15th that the FY 09 and 10 dollars that had been set aside in support of this agreement were lost in the final budget resolution now being sent to the President for his signature. CBP is evaluating other options to support the agreement with end of year funds but no word has been forthcoming as yet on if or how much funding might be available. Discussions will continue on the final language to be contained in the amendments to the agreement so that when funding becomes available the approved projects in the amendment can be executed. The amendments under consideration could make available as much as 22 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: Integrated Fixed Towers - OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Site visits in the Sonoita/Nogales area will take place this week. These visits were postponed due to uncertainty over passage of this year's budget. Field work will involve review of tower locations that had been identified and evaluated as part of SBInet planning and which are now being updated. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be in the Douglas, AZ area.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. A final module ready for field testing is expected to be completed in late summer with initial field implementation in the fall.

Update: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The field meeting

originally scheduled for early March has been postponed several times. No specific reschedule date is known at this time but a review is expected soon. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

Update: Radio Transformation. Meeting of project directors the week of April 25 to develop a formal project plan and present to executive sponsors was cancelled due to personal conflicts attendees. A meeting with the executive sponsors on April 29 is still planned.

Update: Fire IT Project. The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) met with focus groups in Boise the week of April 18. Additional meetings with fire executives and agency chief information offices are being arranged.

No Change: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release on May 13th. Public meetings will be held from May 30 to June 17 with comment closing in July following a 45 day public comment period. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

No Change: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. Coordination on NEPA and ESA compliance is continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

No Change: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for “non-waived” tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in July for Arizona and August for California. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis also includes “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

No Change: Interagency Interoperability. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (comprised of Interior and Agriculture executives in information technology, fire, and law enforcement) met to discuss priorities, projects, and organization. The group agreed to pursue a Secretarial level charter and to re-configure the group to make it more agile and strategic. Two major sets of initiatives are underway. First is interconnectivity of networks and cross-recognition of credentials. A large interagency conference call took place this week among USDA, FS, and DOI CIO offices, with LESEM, to coordinate and prioritize a number of activities in this area. This work also involves the DOI and USDA Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) program offices. The second initiative is radio program improvement including interoperability, infrastructure consolidation, and use of new technologies. This initiative is being handled through the DOI Radio Transformation Project in partnership with USDA and Forest Service.

No Change: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. Work by DOI staff in the IC has centered on gathering information to write the FWS Stage four staffing plan and the DOI Stage 4 staffing plan. Stage 4 STRs for the Eastern states have been signed by FOSC and BP and most returned from the states. The STRs for stage 4 in Louisiana have been signed by FOSC and BP but they have not been signed by the State. If oil from the BP MC252 is later found during the monitoring stage, the impacted area will revert back to stage 3 for cleanup. A final Stage 5 plan will be developed to end the response after final inspections conducted after the end of hurricane season.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. OCIO Directive 2011-005 was signed and issued. Initial planning on interagency (between Interior and Agriculture) is underway.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland

fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: DOI Victim Assistance Program (VAP) Coordinator and Phoenix Victim Specialist Present Victim Rights Training to DOI and Oregon Law Enforcement Communities. The DOI VAP Coordinator and Victim Specialist continue to train individuals from law enforcement communities and other agencies. On April 19, 2011, the DOI VAP Coordinator provided crime victim rights training to 23 Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement managers at the National Conservation Training Center. On April 20, 2011, the Victim Specialist in Phoenix, Arizona, provided training regarding domestic violence services for crime victims, to members of the Oregon US Attorney's Office and law enforcement participants.

New: OLES Attendance at USNORTHCOM Annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference. As a result of the recent OLES visit to the Southwest border, OLES learned that the USNORTHCOM Joint Task Force–North (JTF-N), located in El Paso, will host its annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference on June 6-9, 2011. This conference identifies and prioritizes U.S. military Civil Support missions, at no cost to the receiving organization, in support of Counterdrug and Counter Narco-Terrorism activities. OLES will send a representative to this conference to represent the Department.

New: OLES attendance at Montana's US Attorney's Office Northern Border Summit. OLES border branch personnel attended a conference hosted by the US Attorney for Montana about northern border issues. Border enforcement initiatives in Montana were discussed, including informing the group about Borderlands Management Task Forces (BMTF). The US Attorney's Office was invited to attend the next BMTF meeting to learn more about coordination efforts between resource agencies and DHS bureaus.

Update: Federal Chief Information Officer's 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Technology Division's Cloud Computing Request for Information (RFI) closed on April 22nd. After evaluation of the vendors who respond to the RFI, the Request for Proposal (RFP) with the Statement of Work will be issued. This Cloud Computing Initiative is required by the 25 Point Implementation Plan to Reform Federal IT released by the Federal Chief Information Officer from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

No Change: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. Specific White House guidance to departments and agencies is forthcoming; a Deputy-level meeting will be scheduled during the first half of May. Tentatively, the DOI has not been selected as a department/agency that will be audited this calendar year but should anticipate such an audit in 2012.

No Change: Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Updates provided to the Program Manager's Office, Information Sharing Environment (ISE), for Report to Congress.

OLES, together with the OCIO, provided written updates on DOI's progress toward implementing numerous ISE initiatives. The Department is progressing well and will have an automated method of reporting Suspicious Activity Reports once the Incident Management, Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) is fully deployed and operational.

No Change: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. This workshop provides required in-service training that satisfies part of the required 40 hour annual training for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge. The Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection from the Department of Homeland Security, Todd Keil, has confirmed his participation as the keynote speaker.

No Change: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and official turn over to OLES is pending. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun and work on G ramp is scheduled to begin on April 18th.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** C ramp guard booth (frame) has been delivered and installed. Façade and internal wiring work is scheduled to be completed 2nd/3rd week in April.
- **Physical Access Control System (PACS):** The PACS solicitation has been posted on the GSA schedule and a contractor "walk through" was completed on April 14th.
- **OPM/GSA Campus Initiative:** Internal Security continues to download OPM/GSA personnel files to allow unfettered access for GSA and OPM employees into MIB.
- **Intrusion Detection System (IDS) and Camera Rehabilitation:** Significant progress has been made on the IDS. Work should be completed w/in the next two months.
- **MIB Child Care Center:** OLES Director and DAS briefed on the estimated (\$472,095) security upgrade costs associated with this initiative. A talking points paper was submitted for follow-up.
- **MIB Entrance Re-design:** DAS Andrew Jackson commissioned a study to re-design the C and E street entrances into the MIB. OLES commented on this plan.

No Change: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating reviews of all bureaus/office personnel security programs. The reviews are conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. The review of the BOEMRE program supporting the Office of the Secretary was completed last week. Additional reviews have been scheduled for the USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

No Change: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12. Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request is due by

April 29. In addition, OLES is attempting to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management in support of the initiative.

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Unfortunately, per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years. Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individual in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 National Monuments & Icons Sector Annual Report. OLES Security is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Infrastructure Protection Division and the National Monuments and Icons security managers in the development of the 2011 annual report. Currently, the document is in the data collections stage with a first draft due to DHS by June 6, 2011.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Update: Emergency Response Activities. The Interior Operations Center (IOC) monitored the following activities during the past week:

- *Japanese 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami - Update:* Japanese authorities now report that there are 14,300 confirmed deaths and 11,999 missing following the earthquake and tsunami. EPA continues to check radiation levels for U.S. mainland and insular areas and has found no radiation levels that pose a health risk.
- *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response:* Approximately one-hundred DOI personnel continue to work full-time on Deepwater Horizon planning and operations. On April 19, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reopened 1,041 square miles of Gulf waters immediately surrounding the Deepwater Horizon wellhead to commercial and recreational fishing. This is the twelfth and final reopening in federal waters since July 22, and opens all of the areas in Federal waters formerly closed to fishing due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Much of the cleanup efforts remain focused on Submerged Oil Mats and finalizing staffing plans for continuation of DOI cleanup efforts.
- *Flooding in the Midwest:* Flooding continues in the Midwest with many rivers in North and South Dakota, Illinois, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma all experiencing near record flooding that has been fueled by warming temperatures, snowmelt, ice jams and rainstorms. FWS continues to perform two FEMA Mission Assignments to provide Search and Rescue personnel and air boats near Fargo, ND. USGS is installing, maintaining, and reading gauges on all of the impacted rivers.

Update: Interagency Emergency Health Policy. LCDR Elaine Wolff, our detailee from the U.S. Public Health Service, coordinated the DOI review of the interagency document *Guidance for Protecting Responders' Health During the First Week Following a Wide-Area Aerosol Anthrax Attack*. Next week, LCDR Wolff will represent the Department in the Emerging Pandemic Threat sub-Interagency Policy Committee and HHS-led hurricane planning meeting with its National Response Framework ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical) partners.

Update: Homeland Security Council (HSC). The Domestic Readiness Group (DRG) Interagency Policy Committee will meet this week to review the White House's draft implementation plans for Presidential Policy Directive 8 – National Preparedness. The DRG will also discuss an executive order to addressing the National Security Professional Development program. Last week, in coordination with DAS Archuleta in Water and Science, OEM coordinated DOI response to the National Security Staff regarding a draft Executive Order dealing with current usages of the Defense Production Act of 1950.

Update: Indian Affairs Emergency Management Expert Study. OEM will be meeting with Beth Zimmerman, Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Response & Recovery, DHS/FEMA on April 29 to gather additional FEMA input for the Expert Study. OEM is also working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and emergency management staff within the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs (AS/IA) office to plan meetings with tribal representatives during the AS/IA-sponsored Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) Conference in Green Bay, WI the week of May 9.

Update: All-Hazards Positions and Qualifications Guide. OEM has released the latest *DOI Positions and Qualifications Guide* to the Emergency Management Council (EMC) for review and approval at the May 4 EMC meeting. The updated Guide includes positions that were developed as a direct result of the Gulf Oil Spill. OEM also released draft policy regarding emergency incident staffing for EMC review and approval. Both efforts directly support the effort to ensure all DOI responder qualifications are loaded into the same qualifications system and subsequently into the single point ordering system for future emergency response efforts.

Update: Enterprise-level Emergency Management Applications. OEM and OCIO continue to make progress on completing enterprise-level emergency management applications. OEM group owners have been given rights to manage their respective group lists in the Contact Management System (CMS) and, at this time, will manually update/synchronize the associated Outlook email groups with the current contact information. When completed, the CMS will streamline the process of managing lists of emergency personnel by automatically feeding data into rosters, emergency notification systems, and e-mail groups. OEM is also coordinating with OCIO and OLES to enhance readiness of secure systems to support operations on a reliable 24/7 basis; OCIO is taking the lead to explore migration of our secure video-teleconferencing capability to a IP-based system.

Update: Exercise Eagle Horizon-2011. OEM will host bureau and office planners the DOI Final Planning Conference (FPC) on April 27, as well as participate in the Interagency Controller Training on April 28. The agenda for the FPC will include DOI's objectives which include testing lessons learned from EH10, DOI's evaluation strategy, and finalizing the Site E

participant list. Exercise EH11 will take place on June 23 and will focus on the ability of federal agencies to execute essential functions when their primary continuity sites are inoperable.

Update: Continuity of Operations (COOP) Team Configuration. OEM continues to work with Emergency Coordinators to refine the roster of essential leadership and personnel required to work from alternate facilities during emergency situations. OEM met with BOEMRE and ONRR representatives this week to discuss their evolving COOP responsibilities during their ongoing re-organization. The updated COOP Team configuration will be included in a revised DOI COOP Plan; the COOP Plan revision is now in progress with the plan to be published prior to exercise Eagle Horizon 2011 in June.

Update: Occupant Emergency Planning (OEP). OEM staff will be assisting the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) with their evacuation drill this week. As part of the drill we will test the DOI-OPM Memorandum of Understanding for emergency evacuations by hosting and supporting their senior leadership during the evacuation. OEM also met with OLES and NBC to improve communications and procedures for the emergency evacuation of people with disabilities.

No Change: National Level Exercise (NLE) 11. A letter of instruction regarding DOI participation in NLE 11 has been submitted to the Assistant Secretary, PMB for final approval and issuance to bureau and office directors. NLE 11 will take place the week of May 16, 2011 and the scenario will consist of a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (Midwest US).

No Change: Single Point Ordering of Resources. The Emergency Management Council (EMC) continues to collaborate with the NICC on a way ahead to incorporate the non-land management agencies into the ROSS dispatch system. Based on these discussions, OEM will be revising the initial cost estimate for implementing the system to better reflect the needs of the bureaus.

Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC)

New: Secretary Salazar visit to NIFC: OWFC is preparing briefing material for the Secretary's visit to the National Interagency Fire Center. An All-Employees' Meeting is scheduled April 28 in Boise.

New: Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC): The IFEC members will be meeting April 26-28 in Washington DC to discuss the Hazardous Fuels Reduction budget for 2013, to address the Forest Service issues surrounding the firefighter series use of 301, inter-relationship of the governance councils and specifically IFEC, FPA short and long term goals, challenges, potential solutions, and decisions, review and recommendations related to DM 112 and DM 212, and the Phase II process, deliverables and timeframes of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The IFEC members include the Director, OWFC; Fire Executives from BLM, BIA, NPS, and FWS; and the Interior Fire Directors. The IFEC Associate Members include the Director, Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) and a representative from USGS.

New: LANDFIRE – Refresh Production. The next geo-area, South Central was delivered April 22, 2011. Production work is on schedule for the remaining geo-areas (Northeast, and Alaska/Hawaii). The first through fifth geo-areas have been delivered, namely; the Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, and North Central. Updating LANDFIRE data products as part of the Refresh project is focusing on areas where vegetation composition and structure have changed due to activities such as; but not limited to wildland fires, fuel treatments, or vegetation management. The 50 United States have been organized into eight geographic areas based on ecological parameters.

Update: Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Oversight Group Web Meeting. The FPA Oversight Group (OG) held a webinar/conference call Friday April 22nd, 2011. The topics of the webinar were:

- an update on the progress of FPA 2011 Technical and Business review;
- presentation of FY 2013 budget Themes and Messages derived from IAT analysis;
- FPA Management Advisory Team (MAT) regarding their role in support of FPA.

The outcomes were substantial. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the “*External 2012 External Business and Technical Review*” will be published within the month.

The FY 2013 Budget Themes and Messages demonstrate the progress to date and functionality of the FPA application. FPA is functioning at the national strategic level and does provide the ability to display and describe tradeoffs between programs and effects of funding scenarios.

With the adoption of the MAT roles all standing Teams (Analysis; Science; Mgr Advisory, and; Support Teams), have been updated and are working in concert to the completion of the Stabilized FPA Phase 2 expected NLT June 2012.

Update: Hazardous Fuels Reduction. The DOI Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) analysis for FY 2012 is progressing. All of the attributes for the Project Priority System (PPS) have been completed, including their weights, definitions, and business rules. Formal approval from IFEC was received on March 28.

The first phase of the HFPAS Technical Guidance Document (TGD) is complete, and will be submitted for formal approval by the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC) on April 26. Work on Phase 2, determining the process for integration of results of the PPS and the Ecosystem Management Decision Support (EMDS) has begun.

No Change: Wildland Firefighter Safety – Annual Report to Congress. Interior and the Forest Service are preparing the joint report to Congress on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire during the 2010 calendar year. The OWFC and FS risk management and safety leads will be collecting draft sections of the report and will begin developing the final draft. A final NIFC draft was submitted on April 15, 2011 to OWFC and FS Fire and Aviation offices.

No Change: International Support. OWFC continues to provide support and coordination to the DOI Office of International Affairs and USAID for the potential deployment of DOI resources should they be required to assist Mexico.

No Change: National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). On March 25, 2011, Secretary Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack jointly signed and transmitted to Congress two documents: the first is *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (Cohesive Strategy) and the second is the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. Together, these important documents provide the foundation for the entire wildland fire management cohesive strategy effort. A joint press release was issued on Monday March 28, 2011 at 11am, officially announcing the public availability of these documents on www.forestsandrangelands.gov. The release of these documents concludes Phase I, and effort is underway to implement the direction of the Cohesive Strategy in phases two and three. A Regional Strategy Committee (RSC) has been established for each region of the country – Northeast, Southeast, and West – to provide executive leadership and oversight for implementing phases II and III. The RSC meetings are scheduled as follows: West RSC, May 2-3 in Denver; Northeast RSC, May 9-10 in Minneapolis; and Southeast RSC, May 16-17 in Atlanta.

No Change: Possible DOI Co-sponsorship of Fire Ecology Conferences. The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) recently announced three conferences to be held in the Western U.S. in 2011 and 2012. The Interior West Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Snowbird Resort in Utah November 14-17, 2011. The Southwest Fire Ecology Conference is planned for Santa Fe, NM, in February 2012, and the 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress is planned for December 3-7, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. OWFC co-sponsorship for these conferences has been solicited. Conference attendance by DOI and our partners and collaborators has been strong in the past.

No Change: EPA's Wildland Fire Policy/Smoke Management Paper. EPA's goal is to work with federal agency staffs through as many technical issues as possible; revisions are ongoing. EPA is preparing to host a policy meeting for senior staff and agency executives; possible dates have not yet been proposed. Following the policy meeting, EPA will present the status of the document and editorial options to a broad group of stakeholders, and use input from that meeting to draft a new policy document for agency review. The Executive Secretariat continues to coordinate DOI involvement

No Change: Wildland Fire Boots. OWFC and Bureau Fire Directors are developing a Department-wide policy covering wildland fire boots. A draft policy statement was submitted to IFEC and a final will be reviewed at the next meeting in April.

No Change: DOI AD Pay Plan Business Case Study and Analysis. DOI requires a business case study and analysis to review the justification and supporting documentation utilized to grant the pay plan increase for emergency wildland personnel. Federal Management Partners, Inc. under contract with U.S. Office of Personnel Management submitted to HR and OWFC a summary of findings from the documentation review and interviews. The findings did not

support phase 2 of the contract to build and business case. OWFC met with HR to outline next steps.

Final: LANDFIRE – Re-Charter & Governance at WFLC. LANDFIRE program leaders met with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) at the March WFLC meeting addressing three main points.

1. Success in completion of LANDFIRE National program data products on time and on budget which support a multitude of systems (Cohesive Strategy, Fire Program Analysis, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation).
2. Submission of draft re-charter for routing and review of WFLC.
3. Discussion on governance of LANDFIRE with proposal of oversight to be provided by WFEC (Wildland Fire Executive Council).

It was recognized that LANDFIRE needed to be re-charted to support the continued refinement of critical data for fire management and natural resource management programs across the country. WFLC will provide comments by May 1, 2011 on the draft re-charter with input on the proposed oversight of WFEC with decisions on completing this new program charter and governance.

Final: Report to Congress for the Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets. The Forest Service and the Office of Wildland Fire are participating as members of the C-130 Firefighting Capability Integrated Working Group (IWG) to assess the viability of the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, Interior and the Forest Service to operate jointly a fleet of new C-130Js procured for the primary purposes of firefighting duties. The Final Study on the Joint Use of Federal Forest Fire Fighting Assets for formal coordination was submitted to the IWG for review and comment. The Department of the Defense is expected to state in the report that they do not see viability in the joint use the new C-130J model. The Report to Congress is expected to come to the Secretaries soon.

Final: DOI International Fire Program. As a member of North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group, OWFC is collaborating with the Australian Forestry Commission Fire Fighting Working Group to present a position paper at the 5th International Fire Conference. This paper highlights the important role of land managers in the overall management and response to fire worldwide.

Final: DOI International Fire Program. OWFC is coordinating with DOI International Affairs Office, the US Forest Service and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group to establish a well-defined DOI International Fire and Resource Sharing/Exchange Program. The Australia Arrangement and Operating Plan have been reviewed by the State Department and are currently with Victoria DSE for review.

Final: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC). WFLC met and approved the following reports: *A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Report to Congress: The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009*. It is anticipated that these final documents will be available for Secretarial approval on or before Friday, March 18,

2011. The WFLC also approved a proposed plan and timeline for implementing Phase II of the Cohesive Strategy and concurred with the membership recommendations for the three Regional Strategy Committees (Northeast, South, and West) to provide executive leadership and oversight to the planning process.

Final: Wildland Fire Training Course Proposal for OSHA. OWFC is coordinating with the Office of Occupational Safety and Health and Bureau Fire Safety Program Managers on the development of a proposed wildland fire safety training course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Officers.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

New: Guidance for the GS-1109 Grants Management Series. Interior's grant portfolio is large and diverse and currently grants are administered in multiple offices throughout the Department and bureaus. In order to set specific requirements for personnel that administer grant programs, OPM has come out with a new job series for grants managers.

In order to implement OPM requirements for this new job series, PAM is preparing a memorandum to Bureau Personnel Officers, Procurement Chiefs, and Grants Officers. The memo will clarify the basic requirements identified in the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualification Standards for the GS-1109 Grants Management series. OPM issued the final qualification standards for the GS-1109 series in December 2010. The interagency Grants Policy Committee is finalizing a business case to propose government-wide training and possible certification requirements for consideration by OMB. It is anticipated that the next steps for agencies will be to develop specific Grants Management body of knowledge requirements relevant to their financial assistance business processes. In the interim, DOI will establish basic training requirements and DOI-specific requirements for signing agreements and making system approvals within FBMS PRISM Grants.

New: OMB Data Call for Real Property Cost Savings and Innovation Plan. The Director of PAM attended the Wednesday, April 20 OMB Federal Real Property Council meeting on behalf of the DAS. OMB has set a goal of \$3 billion in property disposals and will be asking each Department to update plans to implement these actions.

PAM is working with bureaus to compile Department-wide data on the disposition status of excess real properties in the DOI portfolio for submission to OMB by April 27. The Department will report to OMB the amount of savings and cost avoidance achieved to date as part of DOI's Real Property Cost Savings and Innovation Plan.

New: Annual Data Call for Museum Property. On April 19, 2011, PAM issued the Bureau Museum Property Management Data Call for Fiscal Year 2011 to the Museum Property Executive Program Committee. This annual data call requests information on bureau and office museum property pertaining to accomplishments, resources, challenges, oversight, and collection size and management. The annual data call is required by 411 DM and has been used by PAM since 1995 to track bureau progress in improving accountability and management of its museum property.

New: DOI Suspension and Debarment Program. On April 21, 2011, DOI issued Notices of Proposed Debarment to Alex Charles Good Rider, Clarice Ann Hall, and Bobbie Jo Arnoux. DOI proposes to debar these individuals based upon their respective criminal convictions for their participation in a scheme to illegally obtain funds from the Blackfeet Tribal Credit Department, in Browning, Montana.

On April 19, 2011, the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency presented David Sims, DOI Debarment Program Manager, together with Stanley Stocker and Stephanie Baugh of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) debarment team, an Award for Excellence recognizing debarment program contributions to the OIG Recovery Oversight Office in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Debarment and Suspension Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Public Contracts Law Section has selected David Sims as a Committee Vice-Chair. The ABA Committee consists of practitioners from the major Federal agency debarment programs and the private bar. The committee meets monthly to discuss developments in the field of interest to practitioners.

Contracting did not contest their respective Notices of Proposed Debarment.

Office of Budget

Update: 2013 Budget Formulation. On April 21, the Office of Budget issued initial 2013 formulation policy guidance from the DAS-BFPA to bureau budget officers. This guidance contained bureau/office planning targets for the Departmental submission, due May 31, as well as fixed cost placeholder estimates, funding levels for Secretarial initiatives, and a tentative schedule for the 2013 formulation process. POB continues to develop bureau-specific/cross-cutting and technical guidance, to be issued shortly.

Office of Financial Management

New: GAO Reports. PFM completed review and surname of the Department's response to the GAO report on Oil and Gas Bonds (GAO-11-292). PFM received a proposed response to GAO report on Indian Country Criminal Justice (GAO-11-252) from IA and forwarded the comments for revision.

Ongoing: Pollution Removal Funding Authority (PRFA) Costs. The PRFA cost team received the 10th reimbursement request from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,

Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) totaling \$25,634. After review, the PRFA cost team submitted the BOEMRE cost documentation package to the U.S. Coast Guard for payment.

Ongoing: Use and Monitoring of GovTrip. PFM continues to address various bureau concerns on the ongoing OIG audit of the Use and Monitoring of GovTrip. PFM is working with the OIG to respond to concerns expressed by bureaus about the volume of data requested for transactions testing in an extremely short turnaround time.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. Priority Goal results for the second quarter of FY 2011 were due to PPP on April 22. The data will be discussed along with other priority goal issues at the quarterly status reviews scheduled with David Hayes and bureau goal owners the first week of May.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New Item: Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Goal Setting. After the FY 2010 Small Business Procurement Scorecard is published, SBA will begin the process of setting and negotiating small business goals for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013. The SBA plans to send each federal agency a proposed goal in late June. SBA will meet with each agency that is interested in negotiating their goal and the target is to have all goals set before the beginning of Fiscal Year 2012 on October 1.

New Item: Women-Owned Small Business Program Update: The Central Contractor Registration and On Line Representations and Certification Application databases have been updated to include the Women-Owned Small Business Program. The dollar thresholds for the program in the Federal Acquisition Regulations were increased to \$6.5 million for Manufacturing contracts and \$4 million for other contracts. Agencies are to keep SBA updated on contracts awarded through the program and contracts which are set-aside for the program.

Update: 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference. On April 21, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization co-hosted and represented the Department at the 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference. Ari Matusiak, Executive Director of the White House Business Council addressed the more than 3,000 conference participants.

Update: Small Business Jobs Act Listening Tour. On April 27, the nation-wide Small Business Jobs Act Listening Tour will be held at the Department of Transportation Headquarters. Items to be discussed include size standards, regional contract environment, Jobs Act provisions, set asides and bundling. Members of the OSDBU staff will attend the event.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 3 (tentative): Construction Outreach Event:** Event will be held at the Yates Auditorium during the evening hours. Further details to be provided when finalized.

- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.
- **September 15 (tentative) New Mexico Outreach Event in Albuquerque, NM.** Further details to be provided when finalized.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSBDU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

New: FBMS Deployment 7 (D7) Deployment Baseline Review (DBR). The D7 DBR is scheduled for April 28, 2011. The DBR will consist of presentations by key FBMS Program Management Office team members on the preparations for D7, and discussions by Bureau and Departmental Office stakeholders about deployment preparations, risks, and issues. The DBR also provides an opportunity for stakeholders to receive from the program's independent verification and validation contractor and the system integrator recommendations concerning D7's readiness to transition from the project preparation phase to the business blueprint phase. A DOI caucus will be held after the DBR to discuss the review with the Project Sponsor and receive a decision on the D7's readiness to proceed. During D7, FBMS will be deployed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

Update: Organizational Change Management. OS held the OS role mapping workshop 2 on April 19-21 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office will be holding the second role mapping "check-in" conference call on May 4. This conference call will provide a forum for reporting on the status of the assigned role mapping exercise and to discuss any issues or problems encountered along the way. The final role mapping workshop 3 will be held on May 17-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR Strategic Review (Update): Implementation Work Groups (IWGs) continued to meet, with additional meetings planned in the near future. The IWG teams are in the process of framing the scope of the tasks ahead and formalizing work plans to implement the Strategic Review recommendations.

Company Analytics Team Highlights (New): The Company Analytics Team (Team) held its kick off meeting April 11, 2011. The Team developed a methodology to calculate the “compliance gap”, that is, the difference between the revenues ONRR received compared to what we expected to receive. The Company Analytics Team is using data for the Green River Basin to begin piloting the compliance gap calculation. Action items resulting from the kick-off meeting included contacting the IRS, the State of Texas, the State of Wyoming, and the Southern Ute Tribe to determine if they already calculate a compliance/revenue gap as a benchmark for the Team’s proposed calculation. Team members have also discussed company behaviors with BLM who will have representatives at the Team’s next meeting, scheduled for April 29.

All-Agency Congressional Briefing Scheduled on May 4 (Update): ONRR is participating in an all-agency Congressional Briefing sponsored by the Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) on Wednesday, May 4, at the Denver Federal Center. The All-Agency Briefing will include round-table discussions, tabletop displays, and a briefing notebook of high-level information about each of the participating agencies. ONRR’s Director and Deputy Director will participate in the briefing. In addition to Congressional offices in the state, invitees also include state elected officials, including Denver-area mayors.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions for safeguarding and maintaining work papers, and records developed under the Agreement and equipment. The Utah review is scheduled for June 7-8, 2011.

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Updated): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR’s goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Ft. Belknap Senior Center, Harlem, MT, on May 3, 2011
- Blackfeet Agency, Browning, MT, on morning of May 4, 2011
- New Eagle Shield Senior Center, Browning, MT, on afternoon of May 4, 2011
- Ute Mountain Ute Agency, Towaoc, CO, on May 24, 2011
- Southern Ute Agency & Southern Ute Senior Ctr, Ignacio, CO, on May 25, 2011

Attorney Client Communication – Confidential & Privileged

SOL Weekly Bureau Report for the Week Beginning May 9, 2011

Deepwater Horizon Matters:

Ensco Litigation

Count IV and Count V (Undue Delay and Development Plans (DOCDs)) – The government appealed Judge Feldman’s preliminary injunction orders regarding undue delay of permitting to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which issued a stay of the injunctions pending that appeal. The government’s opening brief in the Fifth Circuit is due on May 5. On April 28, the district court ordered additional briefing of the issues regarding Development Plans and postponed the trial date until after that briefing is done. The trial date will likely occur after July 20. Depositions are now scheduled for the middle of June.

BOP Examination

On Saturday, the Joint Investigation’s forensic examiner, DNV, provided a formal addendum/supplement to its final report of investigation to the JIT. The supplement corrected several problems that were raised during the JIT’s public hearings on the BOP in New Orleans in early April. The report also addressed several questions that the JIT members posed to the examiner. The principal conclusions, however, remained unchanged. The supplement was released to the parties in interest on Tuesday. The additional BOP testing ordered by the multi-district litigation is continuing at the Michoud site in New Orleans. Testing is ordered to be completed by June 15, 2011.

Multi-District Litigation (MDL)

Discovery in the MDL is ongoing and various units of the Solicitor’s Office are working to cumulate responses to BP’s vast request for production of documents. The Solicitor’s Office is also working with the Justice Department to set depositions, beginning in July, for several BOEMRE witnesses from the Gulf of Mexico Region. (b) (5)
(b) (5)

(b) (5)

BP intends to oppose the motion, which is set for hearing on
Friday morning.

Other Matters:

Reissuance of Wolf Delisting Rule and Withdrawal of the SPR M-Opinion

The reissuance of the 2009 Northern Rockies Mountain Wolf Rule and my withdrawal of the M-Opinion interpreting the phrase “throughout a significant portion of the range” have ripple effects on several pending cases. The Department of Justice is notifying courts of these actions primarily in the following types of cases: (1) where the DOI has been challenged on listing/delisting decisions that relied on the reasoning of the M-Opinion; (2) direct challenges to the M-Opinion itself; and (3) the case before Judge Molloy in Montana where plaintiffs have challenged the initial delisting and a 2008 rule for managing experimental populations of Northern Rockies Mountain gray wolf. In addition, environmental plaintiffs filed lawsuits Thursday in the Montana district court challenging the constitutionality of the rider and validity of the reissued rule.

Flying Squirrel Delisting Litigation

(b) (5)

Empire Fulton Ferry State Park Site

NPS now has until May 8 to either reach a settlement with the parties, file a briefing schedule for summary judgment motions, or to request conversion of the preliminary injunction to a ruling on the merits. The preliminary injunction—and the court has signaled its merits decision would be the same—reverses the NPS approval of a LWCF Sec. 6(f) boundary revision for the former Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, which was subsequently transferred to New York City. This ruling would effectively require the City to go through a conversion process and remove both the Tobacco Warehouse and Empire Stores buildings from the park boundary before it could proceed with its development plans for these buildings.

Yellowstone Winter Use

NPS released its draft EIS for the new Yellowstone winter use plan on May 5. The proposed rule is expected to follow within a week (depending on the timing and outcome of OMB review). The Solicitor’s Office has reviewed both the proposed rule and the draft EIS. NPS still expects to complete the final EIS and rule for Yellowstone in advance of the mid-December start of the 2011-12 winter use season. Still pending is the Tenth Circuit appeal by the State of Wyoming and Park County of the September 2010 decision dismissing their challenge to the 2009 winter use plans and rules, in which the district court (Judge Johnson) found that that the state and

county lack standing to pursue their claims. Our brief, which agreed with Judge Johnson's reasoning, was filed on March 29.

City of Glendale Litigation

In *Gila River Indian Community v. United States* (D.AZ), the district court issued a bi-lateral injunction against the City of Glendale from any annexation action and against the United States from any action to put land into trust on behalf of the Tohono O'odham Nation pending appeal. This case concerns the July 23, 2010 decision by the Secretary to accept in trust for the benefit of the Tohono O'odham Nation a 54-acre parcel of unincorporated land surrounded by Glendale. In an order dated March 3, 2011, the court granted summary judgment in favor of the Department. On September 16, 2010, the City of Glendale and the Gila River Indian Community brought suit to overturn the Trust Decision and to enjoin the United States from acquiring the land. The State of Arizona and members of the Arizona Legislature intervened as Plaintiffs, and the Tohono O'odham Nation intervened as a Defendant.

Yankton Sioux Reservation

In 1998, the Supreme Court held that the Yankton Sioux Reservation was diminished by lands ceded in 1894. On remand, the district court determined that allotted land still in trust was Indian country, that land reacquired under the Indian Reorganization Act in trust also was Indian country, and that fee land continuously held by Indians remained in reservation status. In 2010, the Eighth Circuit in *Podhrasky* affirmed the district court's decision as to trust lands and lands reacquired under the IRA and further found that the record regarding fee lands in Indian ownership was not ripe for review. The Eighth Circuit also affirmed *Gaffey II*. The County, State, and waste management company filed petitions for *certiorari* in a case now called *Daugaard*. The Tribe responded and filed a conditional cross petition on the incremental diminishment issue in *Gaffey II*. The Solicitor General determined to oppose *certiorari* and to not support the cross petition for *certiorari* filed by the Tribe. The United States brief is due May 9, 2011.

In the related *Corps of Engineers* case, after the Eighth Circuit followed the holding in *Gaffey II*, the Tribe filed a petition for *certiorari*.(

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Ivanpah Solar Project

Pending completion of renewed ESA consultation, BLM has temporarily suspended certain activities on areas of the Ivanpah Solar Project site because the project proponent was nearing, and in some cases, exceeded, desert tortoise incidental take limits established by the FWS Biological Opinion. The remaining areas of the project continue to be developed pending the issuance of a revised Biological Opinion, which is expected to be issued in mid-to-late May. On May 5, 2011, Plaintiff threatened to seek a preliminary injunction of the Ivanpah Project unless the BLM agrees to halt work.(b) (5)

Sage Grouse Litigation

On May 9, the United States will file a brief for summary judgment and motion for partial remand without vacatur. The motion for partial remand without vacatur will be for the Craters of the Moon Resource Management Plan (Idaho). After reviewing the Craters plan and administrative record, the Solicitor's (b) (5)

We expect that Plaintiff will oppose the motion and ask the court to reach a decision on the merits, ask the court to place conditions on any remand, but not seek to have the Craters plan vacated. (b) (5)

. The Craters plan is one of two plans that are to be litigated as "test case" plans in this lawsuit challenging sixteen plans for failing to consider and adequately protect the greater sage grouse and its habitat. The other plan that will be the subject of the summary judgment motion is the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (Wyoming).

Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) Litigation [Douglas Timber/Pacific Rivers Cases]

The Solicitor's Office is working with the BLM to develop an options paper for addressing the reinstatement of WOPR by the *Douglas Timber Operators* decision. We also have notified DOJ that BLM does not wish to appeal this ruling. The BLM needs clarity on which land use plan it is operating under in order to begin planning for timber sales beyond FY 2012. The court vacated and remanded the decision to withdraw the 2008 RODs, which means the BLM is currently operating under the 2008 RODs, rather than the Northwest Forest Plan. Environmental groups have filed a lawsuit challenging the 2008 RODs on the grounds that the RODs violate the ESA, NEPA, and the Oregon & California Railroad Lands Act (*Pacific Rivers Council v. Shepard*).

Wild Lands Complaints: State of Utah v. Salazar (D. Utah, complaint filed April 29, 2011); ***Uintah County, Utah v. Salazar*** (D. Utah, amended complaint filed March 22, 2011).

On March 22, the counties filed an amended complaint, which now seeks to invalidate Secretarial Order 3310 – "Wild Lands." Plaintiffs now seek to invalidate Secretarial Order 3310, the manuals, and Mineral Leasing Plan Instruction Memorandum (MLP IM) as illegal, *ultra vires*, or in violation of procedural requirements, i.e., the APA, NEPA, and FLPMA. The Department is preparing a motion to dismiss Uintah County's lawsuit, which is due May 27, 2011.

On April 29, 2011, the State of Utah filed a facial challenge to Secretarial Order 3310 – "Wild Lands." Although Utah's complaint is substantially similar to the *Uintah County* case, it raises fewer claims and places a greater focus on challenging the Order. (b) (5)

Additionally, the State of Alaska has moved to participate as *amicus curiae* in this case. If Utah's case is not consolidated with *Uintah County*, which is a strong possibility, an answer or response is due by June 28, 2011.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
THREE WEEK OUT REPORT
May 6, 2011**

WEEK AHEAD

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (KY-TN) and Obed Wild and Scenic River (TN) – Evaluation of Mining Suitability of Nearby Lands. The NPS will participate with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) as a cooperating agency in preparing an EIS. This EIS relates to a State of Tennessee petition to OSMRE to designate certain lands within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and the Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement as Lands Unsuitable for Mining. Much of those two areas are within watersheds that drain into the parks.

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (WA) – Request for Extension to the Vacation Cabin Environmental Assessment Denied. The Lake Roosevelt Cabin Owners Association seeks an additional 45-day extension to the public comment period for the draft environmental assessment. The NPS has denied this extension request. The public comment period ends on May 6. This issue has generated significant media and congressional interest.

ON THE HORIZON

Virgin Islands National Park (USVI) – General Management Plan. The internal draft of the park's GMP has been distributed for NPS internal review. The plan presents four alternatives for the future management of the park, including a preferred alternative. The plan has been developed with widespread input from the public and other stake holders. Upon completion of internal agency reviews, the park looks forward to release of the public draft later this year.

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park – Amtrak Interpretive Program Returns. The NPS and Amtrak will restore the onboard Trails & Rails program between New Orleans and Beaumont, TX, starting Memorial Day weekend onboard the "Sunset Limited." The park will provide onboard guides who will talk about the places of significant interest between New Orleans and Beaumont. This program ran from 1994 until Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This original partnership between Amtrak and the NPS grew into a nationwide program of 28 Trails & Rails programs managed by 19 different NPS sites/offices.

Catoctin Mountain Park (MD) – Deer Management Program. The park's second season of deer management has been safely and successfully completed according to the White-tailed Deer Management Plan/Final EIS. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

personnel removed 192 deer from the park between December 2010 and March 2011, resulting in the donation of 4,743 pounds of meat to local food banks. The number of deer to be removed during 2012 will be determined from the results of the monitoring.

Yosemite National Park (CA) – Merced River Planning Workshops. The Park is hosting a series of public workshops to gain a common understanding of transportation issues, user capacity, cultural resources and scientific issues and constraints and how these may affect river values and visitor experiences. The May 13 workshop will focus on science. The workshops will inform the development of the Merced River Plan.

Week Ahead Report
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
May 2, 2011

Proposed Rule to Establish Manatee Protection Area in Citrus County, Florida:

FWS published an emergency rule to designate Kings Bay (located in Citrus County, FL) as a manatee refuge. The emergency rule is effective from March 15, 2010, through March 15, 2011. The refuge designation provides a means to address concerns regarding manatee harassment, adequacy of current protection measures, and negative impacts (taking) from waterborne activities known to occur in this area. In follow-up to the emergency rule, FWS intends to establish a permanent manatee refuge in this area. This rule is due to the Federal Register no later than May 15, 2011. The Florida manatee is a highly-visible species; we expect public, congressional, and media interest to be high.

High Prairie/Wind Capital Wind Habitat Conservation Plan

A Federal Register Notice will publish in early-to-mid May that announces the availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Environmental Assessment (EA), and Implementing Agreement (IA) for the *High Prairie/Wind Capital Wind HCP*. The HCP allows for the incidental take of the federally listed Indiana Bat and two other unlisted bats. This will be the first ITP issued for the incidental take of the Indiana Bat, and, given that populations of the species are declining as a result of white nose syndrome, the decision is expected to garner some controversy as certain environmental groups and other interests feel FWS should not issue ITPs. FWS prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for NEPA analysis purposes, and this could be controversial as well among stakeholders that assert a full environmental impacts statement (EIS) should have been prepared.

12-month Finding on a Petition to List the Pacific Fisher in the Northern Rocky Mountains

A FWS review does not indicate that listing the fisher as an endangered or threatened species is warranted at this time. This finding is on a statutory time frame; there are no court actions or deadlines. *Potential Issues:* The petitioners reiterate that fishers exist in small populations that are vulnerable to any habitat deterioration or trapping. There are ongoing cooperative efforts to improve the knowledge base of fisher habitat ecology, distribution, and population dynamics in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Over the next two to three years, the status of the taxon may require reexamination in light of the newly developing information. The target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 2, 2011.

Final Listing Determination for the Mountain Plover

The FWS determined that the mountain plover does not merit listing under the ESA. *Potential Issues:* The litigants and some other environmental organizations favor listing under the ESA. States, agricultural interests, and the oil and gas industry generally oppose listing. A significant decline in mountain plover has occurred from historical numbers; however, few data are available to support any recent trend in populations. Concerns have been expressed regarding the potential effects of energy development (oil and gas, wind, solar) and overall loss of wintering habitat in California. We do not believe that any of these pose a significant threat to

the mountain plover such that listing as threatened or endangered would be warranted at this time. The notice was sent to the *Federal Register* the week of May 3.

Proposed Rule to List Willowy Monardella and Designate Critical Habitat

The FWS proposes to designate approximately 348 acres of land as critical habitat for willow monardella in San Diego County, California. This proposed revision includes all 73 acres designated as critical habitat in the final rule in 2006, and portions of areas excluded from the 2006 designation. *Potential Issues:* Conservation groups may disagree with our consideration to exclude lands covered by HCPs. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is May 12, 2011.

Public Scoping Meeting on Proposed Alternatives for Mouse Eradication on Farallon NWR

On May 12, there will be a public scoping meeting in San Francisco on proposed alternatives for non-native, house mouse eradication on Farallon NWR. There will likely be concerns raised about proposed use of rodenticide and potential gull die-offs—though key NGO partners are supportive of the effort. Scoping letters seeking comment on the alternatives were sent the week of April 25 to interested parties, including Bay Area elected officials. An NOI on proposed alternatives for an EIS was published in the FR Apr. 13.

Unveiling of the Saving Vanishing Species Semipostal Stamp

On May 11, 2011, the official unveiling of the “*Saving Vanishing Species*” semipostal stamp image will take place at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Congressional Reception at the Rayburn House Office Building Cafeteria at 6:00pm. The Deputy Postmaster General, members of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Coalition, and FWS representatives will officially unveil the semipostal stamp image. This is the fourth semipostal stamp to be issued in the history of the U.S. Postal Service. Net proceeds from the sale of the semipostal stamp will directly benefit the Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF) administered by FWS. The stamp will be available for purchase to the general public beginning September 30, 2011, accompanied by further ceremonies for the first day of issuance.

Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony for Kirtland's Warbler Conservation

On May 21, 2011, representatives of FWS (Midwest Region), U.S. Forest Service and Michigan DNR will sign a memorandum of understanding to maintain long-term conservation programs for the Kirtland's warbler, an endangered songbird that lives almost exclusively in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. The MOU spells out necessary conservation measures for survival of the warbler, and facilitates efforts to remove the bird from the list of endangered and threatened species. The signing event will take place at Kirtland Community College during the annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival. Other attendees will be The Nature Conservancy, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and past and present members of the Kirtland's warbler recovery team. Local media interest is anticipated.

Dedication of Sodalis Nature Park, Hendricks County, Indiana

On May 13, 2011, FWS will participate along with Hendricks County Parks and the Indianapolis Airport Authority in a dedication ceremony for Sodalis Nature Park. The park was created as the result of a Habitat Conservation Plan developed by the airport to conserve endangered Indiana bats during expansion of the airport, construction of a new terminal, and construction of new

interstate highway near the airport. The park provides summer habitat for Indiana bats and provides an outdoor recreation opportunity for area residents. Local and statewide media interest is expected.

New: Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern project a part of Alaska Native relations training

A report entitled "Alaska Natives and Conservation Planning: A Recipe for Participation", coauthored by previous SCA intern Mellie Jacobs and FWS Alaska Region social scientist Dr. Jeffrey Brooks, has been made required reading for participants in the upcoming Alaska Native Relations training. Dr. Brooks has been working to help expand and improve participation of Alaska Natives in refuge conservation planning. SCA interns have been a critical part of this work. Current SCA intern, Minerva Dorantes, is working with Dr. Brooks to take the project to the next stage, creating a handbook.

ARRA

Coastal Program ARRA Project Receives State Land Board Award

The Oregon State Land Board recognized the Miami Wetlands Enhancement project in an awards ceremony on April 12, 2011, honoring exemplary efforts to promote responsible stewardship of Oregon's natural resources. In presenting the Wetland Project Award, Secretary of State Kate Brown, a member of the Land Board, praised the project proponents, led by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), for their efforts to voluntarily restore habitat for five species of salmonids: Coho, Chinook and chum salmon; and steelhead and cutthroat trout. The \$1.8 million project involved nearly 25 partner organizations, including two private landowners, an advisory committee, and numerous local, state, federal and tribal entities. The Coastal Program was instrumental in providing technical assistance for increasing freshwater and tidal channel complexity, restoring the historical character of the site's vegetation through invasive species removal and native planting, and enhancement of riparian vegetation to provide shade, increased dissolved oxygen and a source of wood for recruitment. Not expected to be controversial.

LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

May 8 – May 14, 2011

SENIOR OFFICIALS' ACTIVITIES

ASLM Lewis – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Baca – In the Washington office all week.

DAS Farquhar – In the Washington office all week.

HOT TOPICS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Renewable Energy

- **New: Notice of Proposed Withdrawal for Proposed Solar Energy Zones:** *On Apr. 21, the Federal Register published a Notice of Amended Proposed Withdrawal for 24 tracts of BLM-administered land located in six western states—AZ, CA, CO, NV, NM, and UT. The BLM is proposing that these tracts be withdrawn from the location of mining claims or other land appropriations for a five-year period in order to evaluate their suitability for utility-scale solar energy development. The lands total approximately 677,000 acres and comprise 24 areas now known as proposed Solar Energy Zones (SEZs). The Federal Register publication initiated a 90-day public comment period that ends July 20. The associated public meeting is being rescheduled to allow for more extensive public notification.*
- **Update: BLM-CA Imperial Valley Solar Notice of Intent (NOI) to Terminate:** *AES Solar has until May 23 to respond to a second NOI to Terminate the Imperial Valley Solar project for failure to fully implement the terms and conditions of the existing right-of-way authorization and amend the existing project authorization. The proponent acknowledged the first notice of proposed termination on Mar. 11. However, their response was insufficient. Accordingly, BLM provided a second notice, giving AES additional time to respond. The 750-MW project is located on 6,440 acres in Imperial County, CA.*
- **Update: BLM-CA Calico Solar Notice of Intent (NOI) to Terminate:** *K Road Power responded to a second NOI to Terminate the Calico Solar Project for failure to fully implement the terms and conditions of the existing right-of-way authorization and amend the existing project authorization. Calico submitted a required ROW grant amendment and revised Plan of Development. Accordingly, the process of termination has ended and the process of perfecting the amended application is now underway. The 663.5-MW project is located on 4,604 acres in San Bernardino County, CA.*
- **Update: BLM-OR North Steens Transmission Project:** *Publication of the NOA of the Final EIS for the North Steens Transmission Line Project in the Federal Register has*

been delayed until May 27 to provide cooperating agencies additional time for review. The project consists of a 29-mile, 230kV transmission line in southeastern OR, crossing nine miles of BLM land.

- **Update: BLM-CA Palen Solar Project:** *The NOA of the Final EIS for the 484-MW Palen Solar project is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 13. The proposed priority project would cover approximately 5,200 acres of BLM land and is located in Riverside County, CA.*

Coal Sales

- **New: BLM-WY Coal Lease/Sale:** *BLM-WY will conduct two competitive coal lease sales near Gillette, WY: 1) the notice of the competitive coal lease sale for the Belle Ayr North Coal tract will publish in the Federal Register on May 13. The sale covers 1,670 acres with an estimated 221 million tons of recoverable coal; and 2) the West Antelope II North Coal Tract lease sale will be held on May 11. The tract includes 2,837 acres containing an estimated 350 million tons of recoverable coal.*

Wild Horse and Burro

- **New: BLM-NV Proposed Legislation Restricts Water to Wild Horses and Burros:** *The NV Legislature approved a bill to exclude wild horse and burros from being defined as wildlife. If signed by the Governor, this bill would restrict or eliminate the use of current water resources by wild horses and burros throughout the state. The BLM-NV Acting State Director met with the NV State Engineer during the week of May 2 to clarify potential impacts of the bill.*

Congressional

- **New: Oil & Gas Field Hearing, CA:** *On May 6, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a field hearing in Bakersfield, CA, entitled "Pathways to Energy Independence: Hydraulic Fracturing and Other New Technologies" to examine the regulatory and policy impediments to full development of domestic oil and gas resources, and provide industry an opportunity to discuss Federal regulations they find burdensome. The Federal government was not invited to testify at the hearing.*
- **New: Wild Horse Eco-Sanctuaries Briefing:** *Sen. Landrieu requested a briefing from the BLM on its progress in establishing eco-sanctuaries for the care of unadopted wild horses. Director Abbey and Legislative Affairs staff will meet with Sen. Landrieu the during week of May 9 to discuss the status of the solicitations, the number of proposals received to date, and the potential size of the eco-sanctuaries.*
- **New: Wild Lands Policy Oversight Hearing:** *On May 24, Director Abbey and the DAS Baca will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on Wild Lands.*

Miscellaneous

- **New: Air Quality Memo of Understanding (MOU):** *The multi-agency Air Quality MOU is currently under simultaneous review by the BLM, NPS, FWS, ASLM, ASFWP,*

FS, and EPA. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and the EPA Administrator are scheduled to sign the MOU on May 18. The BLM, NPS, and FWS are developing a Decision Memo for the Secretary of the Interior that outlines the agreement.

- **New: Conference Call to Discuss Western Oregon Forest Management:** During the week of May 9, DOI and BLM leadership will brief OR Congressional Delegation staff on recent developments pertaining to western OR forest management including: 1) progress on the OR Pilot projects; 2) impact of the Douglas Timber Operators court decision; 3) status of the BLM's coordination with the FWS on the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan; and 4) Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act. Participants will include DAS Baca; Acting ASFWP Bean; Director Abbey; BLM OR/WA staff; and BLM WO-Legislative Affairs. This briefing is a continuation of on-going dialogue with the OR Congressional delegation on forest management issues in western OR.
- **New: Government Accounting Office (GAO) Initiates Mining Review of Phosphate:** The GAO initiated a review of issues related to phosphate mining on Federal lands. The review, requested by Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), will focus on the phosphate mining program administered by the BLM-ID Pocatello Field Office and will also include mine clean-up activities directed by EPA and FS. The GAO will evaluate the process used to permit and monitor mining operations; practices used to mitigate environmental impacts; and the status of investigation and remediation of impacts from historic phosphate mining. The GAO will visit the Pocatello Field Office and tour some of the phosphate sites the first or second week in June.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

- **Update: Deepwater Exploration Plans (EP) Deemed Submitted:** As of Apr. 29, there are four deepwater exploration plans for which there is a 30 day review/decision clock in effect. Three of those plans (Shell, Statoil, and BHP) were initially deemed submitted in late Mar. and early Apr., but since then the companies filed amendments that have restarted the 30 day review/decision clock. The fourth plan (Hess) was initially deemed submitted during the week of Apr. 18, and its initial 30 day clock is still in effect. Below is a summary of the current deadlines for decision.
 - a. Shell: Amendment deemed submitted on 4/12/11 – EP review decision due 5/12/11.
 - b. Hess: Deemed submitted on 4/22/11 – EP review decision due 5/20/11.
 - c. Statoil: Amendment deemed submitted 4/28/11 – EP review decision due 5/27/11.
 - d. BHP: Amendment deemed submitted 4/28/11 – EP review decision due 5/27/11.
- **New: Government Accountability Office (GAO) review - Oil Spill Containment Technologies:** At the request of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, GAO is initiating a review of oil spill containment technologies. One of the objectives of the review is to determine to what extent the Department and other agencies evaluate and approve new or innovative technologies for sub-sea oil spill control and containment. The entrance conference was held on May 5.

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Stream Protection Rule Draft EIS:** *OSM is reviewing the draft working chapters of the EIS. A team will also review the associated preliminary draft rule language to ensure consistency with the draft EIS chapters. OSM will complete the EIS in-house, but is seeking outside contractor expertise to prepare the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) and assist with monetizing the natural resource benefits of the alternatives for Chapter 4 of the EIS, as well as other tasks to support the rulemaking effort. The Final Statement of Work will be ready in the near future.*
- **New: OSM Issues Ten-Day Notice (TDN) to West Virginia:** *On Apr. 28, OSM's Charleston Field Office issued a formal TDN requiring the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) to address violations relating to the removal of coal refuse from a reclaimed slurry impoundment that OSM observed in the field and during the permit review of a site permitted by Coal Valley, LLC. The WVDEP will have 10 days from receipt of the notice to prepare a response.*
- **New: OSM Awards Abandoned Mine Land Grant to WY:** *On May 2, OSM awarded a \$133,061,765 Abandoned Mine Land program grant to WY to develop and complete reclamation projects that pose a threat to human health, safety, and property, such as sites which have hazardous shafts, portals, subsidence features, and dangerous high walls.*
- **New: Award of Watershed Cooperative Agreement to Pathfinders (WCAP) Funding in Iowa:** *On May 6, OSM awarded a \$100,000 watershed cooperative agreement to Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Inc. Pathfinders RC&D will use the money to regrade, reseed, and treat abandoned mine land spoil material with lime on the Gronendyk AML project in Mahaska County, IA.*

WEEK AHEAD – May 8 to May 14, 2011

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Tuesday, May 10:

- **No Change: BLM-MT Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** BLM-MT will offer 25 parcels totaling 14,458 acres at a competitive oil and gas lease sale. The majority of the parcels are located on public lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM Miles City Field Office. The protest period ended Mar. 11. One protest was received regarding climate change and oil and gas production operations. The BLM-MT continues to review the protest and will conduct the sale in compliance with the recently implemented oil and gas leasing reforms.

Tuesday, May 10-12:

- **New: Arizona Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *The BLM AZ State Director and BLM Legislative Affairs staff will conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the AZ Congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in AZ, including renewable energy development, border security, and the proposed northern Arizona mineral withdrawal.*

Wednesday, May 11:

- **New: Wind and Solar Energy Oversight Hearing:** *Director Abbey will testify at the House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on the “American Energy Initiative: Identifying Roadblocks to Wind and Solar Energy on Public Lands and Waters.” Director Bromwich is also scheduled to testify.*

Thursday, May 12:

- **New: BLM Land Acquisition and Disposal Briefing:** *Kim Berns, BLM Lands and Realty Division Chief, and BLM Legislative Affairs staff will meet with Rep. Heck to discuss the BLM's lands program.*
- **No Change: BLM-CO Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-CO will offer 12 parcels totaling 7,046 acres at a competitive oil and gas lease sale. The parcels are located in northwestern CO. The protest period ended on Mar. 14. Two protests were filed, citing concerns about impacts to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and sage-grouse habitat. BLM-CO continues to review the protests and will conduct the sale in compliance with the recently implemented oil and gas leasing reforms.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday-Thursday, May 10-12:

- **Update: BOEMRE to Participate in an Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI) in Guyana:** *Under the auspices of the State Department-funded EGCI, BOEMRE will conduct its first technical assistance workshop in Georgetown, Guyana entitled, “Managing Offshore Oil and Gas Resources: The U.S. Model.” The sessions will include detailed discussions on issues relevant to Guyana’s oil sector.*

Wednesday, May 11:

- **Update: BOEMRE/NC Renewable Energy Task Force:** *The NC Task Force Meeting will be held in Raleigh and will focus primarily on the identification of an area suitable for wind energy development offshore NC. The DOD, Coast Guard, NPS and NOAA will provide information regarding areas that should be excluded from development.*

Wednesday-Friday, May 11-13:

- **Update: BOEMRE to Participate in an Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI) in Uganda:** *Under the auspices of the State Department-funded EGCI, BOEMRE will conduct its second technical assistance workshop in Entebbe, Uganda*

entitled, "Oil and Gas Reserves Classification and Economic Valuation for both Discovered and Undiscovered Resources: The U.S. Model." The sessions will include detailed discussions on issues relevant to Uganda's oil sector.

WEEKS AHEAD

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Monday, May 16-18:

- **New: North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Washington, DC Meeting:** Representatives from NSSI will meet with DOI and BLM leadership, the US Coast Guard, NOAA, and congressional staff to discuss the NPRA, climate change, a project tracking system, and the recent NSSI workshop held Mar. 29-31 in Barrow, AK.

Monday, May 23-25:

- **New: Idaho Delegation Courtesy Visits:** *The BLM-ID State Director will conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the ID Congressional delegation to discuss public land management issues in ID, including renewable energy, grazing management, and preparations for the 2011 fire season.*

Tuesday, May 24:

- **New: BLM-ID Offers Geothermal Leasing Parcels:** *The BLM-ID State Office will offer eight parcels for geothermal leasing totaling approximately 26,000 acres in southern ID. The protest period ended Apr. 18; no protests were received.*
- **New: BLM-UT Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale:** *BLM-UT will offer 7 parcels at a competitive oil and gas lease sale covering 12,002 acres located throughout the state. A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued for the EA. The protest period ended Mar. 18; no protests were received.*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Tuesday, May 16:

- **Update: Sale 193 Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS):** *On Mar. 4, BOEMRE announced the revised schedule for completion of the Sale 193 SEIS, which will include an analysis of a Very Large Oil Spill scenario. The revised draft SEIS is scheduled to be available for public comment from late May until early July 2011. The NOA is under departmental review and approval and is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 27.*

Tuesday – Thursday, May 17-19:

- **New: BOEMRE OCS Scientific Committee (OCSSC) Meeting:** *The OCSSC will meet in Hyannis, MA to review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet BOEMRE scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend*

changes in scope, direction, and emphasis to the Secretary through the Director of BOEMRE.

Monday-Friday, June 6-17:

- **New: National Ocean Council (NOC) Listening Sessions in Alaska:** *BOEMRE's AK Region has been designated as the lead agency by the NOC for conducting listening meetings in AK for the public, local and State Governments, and Tribes on the Draft Strategic Action Plans for the nine National Priority Objectives. Meetings are expected to be held in each of the coastal areas (Barrow, Juneau, and Bethel) and one in Anchorage.*

Tuesday, June 7:

- **New: NOC Listening Session for the Mid-Atlantic:** *BOEMRE, on behalf of DOI, will be leading the National Ocean Policy (NOP) listening session for the mid-Atlantic region, which includes DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, and VA. The purpose of the listening session will be to obtain public input on the draft outlines for each of the nine Strategic Action Plans (SAPs), which align with the nine priority areas discussed in the NOP. The mid-Atlantic session is tentatively scheduled to take place in NJ on Jun. 7. The session will followed by an open public forum to enable the public to ask questions and express comments.*

Monday, June 20:

- **New: Sale 193 Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Public Hearings:** *Public hearings are scheduled for the week of Jun. 20 in the communities of Kotzebue, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Barrow, and Anchorage to discuss the Draft SEIS.*

Tuesday-Thursday, July 12-14:

- **Update: The Atlantic Wind Energy Workshop:** *To assist in the environmental review and evaluation of sites for new offshore wind projects under the Secretary's "Smart from the Start" wind energy initiative, BOEMRE is planning a 3-day workshop in the D.C. area to provide a summary of recent and ongoing environmental, socioeconomic and technological/safety studies that are relevant to the development of wind energy areas and will identify information needs and gaps.*

Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

- **New: Oklahoma Federal Lands Permit Revision to Oklahoma Department of Mines Permit 4254F, the Shady Point Mine:** *On Aug. 20, 2009, OSM's Mid-Continent Region (MCR) received the OK Department of Mines approval of revision 1786F to Farrell-Cooper Mining Company's Shady Point Mine. An OSM-requested permit condition was added to the permit in Feb. 2010. OSM has developed the environmental assessment for this mining plan modification, which adds 150 acres to the existing 680-acre permit. The coal resource to be recovered by this mining plan modification has both privately and federally owned reserves. The entire surface is privately owned. On Apr. 28, the BLM finalized the resource recovery and protection plan for this mining plan modification. The mining plan modification will be submitted to OSM headquarters as soon as OSM*

receives concurrence from the DOI Solicitor's office. The anticipated date for submittal to headquarters is late May or early June.

Weekly Report

May 6, 2011

Memorandum

To: Meghan Conklin
Associate Deputy Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: Weekly Meeting Issues

Senior Officials' Activities May 9-13:

Anne J. Castle – May 9 in Denver, CO for briefings on Colorado River Cooperation Agreement and USGS issues; May 10-11 in Utah for CUPCA hydropower development opportunity announcement and touring CUP facilities; May 12-13 in DC attending various meetings.

John Tubbs – May 9-13 in DC attending various meetings.

Lori Caramanian – May 9, 12 in DC attending various meetings; May 10-11, in Utah for CUPCA hydropower development opportunity announcement; May 13, personal leave.

Marcia McNutt – May 10, Field trip to Site D; May 12-13, Denver and Golden, Colorado, USGS Denver Federal Center Briefings and All Hands Meetings; USGS National Map Users Conference; Commencement speech and signing of MOU with the Colorado School of Mines.

Mike Connor – May 9, in DC; May 10, in Albuquerque, NM, speaking at Dam Safety Conference; May 11, attending AGO event in New Mexico; May 12, AGO event in Kansas; May 13, AGO event in Nebraska.

Central Utah Project Completion Act Office

On May 11, I will hold a media event in Salt Lake City, UT, to announce the decision to allow private hydropower development at a flow control structure in the Central Utah Project (CUP). The announcement will be followed by publication of a request for proposals to develop hydropower at the Spanish Fork Flow Control Structure under a lease of power privilege from the Department. The event will be held at the Utah State University Botanical Center, which received a portion of its construction funding through CUPCA's Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and was developed as a center for educational outreach and research to guide conservation and wise use of plant, water, and energy resources. State resource and energy officials have been invited to participate.

Reclamation

Rewatering Truckee Carson Canal Planned (Nevada)

Reclamation is working very closely with the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District to resume flow in the Truckee Canal for deliveries to the Truckee Division (Fernley, Nevada). Rewatering of the canal will begin any day. Rewatering will continue through the remainder of the irrigation season (November 15) when the canal will be dewatered for construction replacement of the

conduits in the Fernley reach of the Truckee Canal. Due to potential state health and water quality issues and to be compliant with state law, diversions to the unincorporated community of Hazen will not resume.

Status of Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Breech Court Settlement Agreement (Nevada)

On April 26, the U.S. Attorney's Office forwarded Reclamation a draft of Truckee-Carson Irrigation District's (TCID) Truckee Canal Breech State Court Settlement Agreement (Agreement). Within this Agreement, TCID's insurance company pledged as security for payment numerous assets that belong to the United States, not TCID. The asset security issues include the purported assignment of the O&M contract, purported assignment of the Operating Criteria and Procedures, commitment to deposit federal revenues (from Old Lahontan Powerplant, a Reclamation facility) into a settlement trust account, commitment to deposit restricted-use revenue into the same settlement trust account (water user fees), and inclusion of Donner Lake water rights, which is problematic because of explicit restrictions on TCID's transfer or encumbrance of Donner Lake water rights by Judge McKibben in the recoupment case. Reclamation responded in writing outlining these issues. As a result TCID has declined the Agreement. The Plaintiffs are now requesting an emergency mediation meeting to discuss the Agreement.

NEPA Extension Granted in Consolidated Delta Smelt Case (California)

On May 4, District Court Judge Wanger granted the Federal Defendant's motion to modify the required completion date for a final biological opinion, reasonable and prudent alternatives, and NEPA compliance. The completion date is now December 1, 2013.

High Spring Flows in the Upper Green and Yampa River Basins (Wyoming)

Continued storms over both the Upper Green and Yampa River Basins have significantly increased the potential for high spring flows in 2011. On April 15, the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center increased the forecast for inflows into Flaming Gorge Reservoir by 13 percent from the final April forecast. Maintenance has been completed at Flaming Gorge Powerplant and three generating units are now available. Beginning April 26, 2011, in order to evacuate space in anticipation of spring runoff, releases will increase over a three-day period from 3,060 cubic feet per second (cfs) per day to powerplant capacity with three available units (approximately 4,600 cfs per day).

Reclamation to Conduct Meeting on Repayment Contracts for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (New Mexico)

On May 4, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office will conduct the seventh contract negotiation meeting between Reclamation and the City of Gallup (City), New Mexico, on a proposed repayment contract for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. The project will convey approximately 37,376 acre-feet of water annually from the San Juan River to the eastern section of the Navajo Nation, the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City of Gallup via approximately 260 miles of pipeline, 24 pumping plants, and two water treatment plants. Meeting participants will discuss the terms and conditions by which the City will repay its portion of project construction and operation, maintenance, and replacement costs. On May 17, Reclamation will conduct the fourth contract negotiation meeting between Reclamation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation (Nation) on its a proposed repayment contract.

ACWA Conference Scheduled for May 10-13 in Sacramento (California)

Regional Directors Lorri Gray-Lee and Don Glaser will participate in the Association of California Water Agency Spring Conference in Sacramento May 10 – 13. Sessions include policy-oriented panels and a variety of presentations addressing specific topics. As part of the conference, on May 11, a “Town Hall Meeting: Straight Talk about BDCP” will be conducted and moderated by Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency. The Association of California Water Agencies is a statewide coalition of public water agencies. Reclamation’s Lower-Colorado Region also participates. ACWA’s mission: to assist members in promoting the development, management and reasonable beneficial use of good quality water at the lowest practical cost in an environmentally balanced manner.

AGO Meeting Scheduled Between Reclamation Commissioner and New Mexico Governor

Commissioner Connor and New Mexico Governor Susanna Martinez are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 11, 2011, to discuss the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative and Reclamation’s efforts in New Mexico. The meeting may include some federal and state natural resource leaders. A larger meeting may follow with additional federal, state, and local stakeholders to discuss progress on the initiative and next steps.

Reclamation to Host C.A.S.T. for Kids Event in New Mexico

On Saturday, May 14, Reclamation’s Upper Colorado Region will host a C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill) for Kids fishing event at Navajo Lake State Park, Pine Recreation Area, in New Mexico. This event was selected to be a “Let’s Move Outside” event as part of the First Lady’s Healthy Kids Initiative. As a “Let’s Move Outside” event, information about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles will be incorporated into the day’s activities including participation by the New Mexico state nutritionist and healthy food choices being offered at the event lunch.

Hydrology at Jamestown Dam and Reservoir (North Dakota)

On April 26, Jamestown Reservoir was at elevation 1450.4. The historic high reservoir elevation was 1454.1, which occurred in 2009. The top-of-joint use pool is elevation 1431. The exclusive flood control pool is 77 percent full. The Corps and Reclamation currently forecast the reservoir to peak between elevations 1450.5 and 1451.5. Current reservoir inflows are about 3000 cfs, and current releases are 1500 cfs. The Corps of Engineers, city of Jamestown, and Stutsman County are proceeding with plans to construct emergency dikes downstream of Jamestown Dam in the event releases of up to 1800 cfs are required from Jamestown Dam. If the reservoir rises to current projections, several cabins may experience flooding problems. Cabin owners have been kept apprised of the reservoir status, and the county is furnishing sandbags for use by owners to protect personal properties. Reclamation has coordinated with Stutsman County Park Board for the removal/monitoring of hazardous materials and the removal/protection of structures located within the flood pool.

Congressional Activity

- May 11-13 – Upper Colorado Regional Director Larry Walkoviak will conduct annual congressional visits in Washington, assisted by Reclamation Congressional Affairs office.
- May 12 – Reclamation is preparing for an expected House Water & Power Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 489 and H.R. 818, legislation relating to the C.C. Cragin Dam in Arizona (H.R.

489), and the early repayment of contracts with the Uintah water conservancy district in Utah (H.R. 818). Reclamation has testified on these bills in prior congresses, and that testimony is being updated for carryover clearance.

- May 13 – San Joaquin River Restoration Project update call with congressional offices.

U.S. Geological Survey

USGS Hosts Exhibit at May 14th NASA Goddard Open House: On May 14, 2011, the USGS Land Remote Sensing Program in partnership with NASA will host a Landsat and Land Remote Sensing exhibit as part of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's 2011 Open House event. USGS staff will be available to answer questions and provide information about the USGS's role in providing accessible satellite data and ensuring the importance of long-term satellite data continuity.

3D Animation of Mount St. Helens: The USGS has developed a new 3D animation of Mount St. Helens. The animation is based on bare earth digital elevation models derived from lidar, when incorporated into the National Elevation Dataset, the elevation layer of *The National Map*, these animations become a valuable tool for studying debris flows surrounding volcanoes.

Ongoing Hazard Responses

- **Nevada Earthquake Swarm:** USGS is continuing to observe a swarm of earthquakes in western Nevada's Aurora-Bodie volcanic field about 20 km southwest of Hawthorne, NV, which began on April 10. The swarm includes nine earthquakes between magnitude 4.0 and 4.6, and over 25 earthquakes in the magnitude 3.0 range, detected by seismologists evaluating real-time seismic data from University of Nevada, Reno, instruments. Although the swarm is within and adjacent to the Aurora-Bodie volcanic field, available seismic, deformation, and geologic data strongly suggest a non-volcanic origin for the earthquakes.
- **Levee Break near Cairo, IL:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) activated the Birds Point-New Madrid floodway at approximately 10 p.m., on May 2, 2011, by detonating explosives along a stretch of the Mississippi River levee just downstream of Cairo, Illinois. The resulting inflow of water into the 130,000 square-mile floodway caused the river levels near Cairo to drop nearly 1/2 foot during the first hour of operation. The total area is 200,000 acres with 130,000 acres of tillable farmland. The USGS is making flow measurements upstream (OH and MS) and downstream (MS) of the breach to determine the amount of water flowing through the breach. The USGS will be doing velocity mapping in the floodway, at the request of the Missouri DNR. The USGS has 38 sensors in the floodway, measuring water depth as a function of time. The USGS is collecting water quality (nutrient, pesticide, and sediment) samples above and below the breach, as well as at a number of sites all the way down the river to New Orleans, including in the Atchafalaya. Sampling will continue through at least the end of the month. Flood warnings remain in effect for south east locations along the Mississippi River down to the Missouri/Arkansas border. Historical record flooding is forecasted for points along the Mississippi River from Cape Girardeau to Caruthersville.

- **Flood Response in Missouri:** The USGS Missouri Water Science Center is responding to wide-spread flooding in Southern Missouri caused by significant rainfall amounts over the last 5 days. Field crews have made 74 flood discharge measurements since April 30. Currently, there are 27 streamgages reporting water levels above flood stage. The smaller streams are beginning to recede and the measuring efforts are now being focused on the larger rivers such as the Gasconade, Meramec, Black, Missouri and Mississippi. The USGS is working closely with the Corps, NWS, and the Missouri DNR concerning flood events.
- **Arkansas Water Science Center Crews Continue to Measure Flood of April 2011:** As many as six USGS streamgaging crews measured streamflow as major floods hit much of northern Arkansas. Six long-term stations have experienced peaks of record. More than 60 flood discharge measurements have been made since the flooding started. High water marks will be flagged this week and next at sites where gages were damaged and the peak stage was not recorded. The flooding in eastern Arkansas has been forecasted to last through next week and has been categorized by the National Weather Service (NWS) as major. The Arkansas Water Science Center has continued to stay in communication with the Little Rock Corps of Engineers and the NWS. The USGS has regularly participated in conference calls with each agency to update the USGS's status on measurements being made and damaged gages being repaired. USGS activities have been described in newspaper, radio, and television coverage.
- **Media: South Central Area Flooding Media Coverage:** Local press releases on USGS measuring flooding have been and continue to be issued. Photos are being uploaded as they come in from field crews.

New Approach for Rapid Mapping of Open Ocean Hydrocarbon Plumes: The U.S. Army Redstone Missile and Defense Command has submitted a patent application to the U.S. Patent and Trademark office, for and on behalf of the USGS, for a new method developed by the USGS to measure seawater capacitance in three spatial dimensions, as well as time. The patent covers a new technological approach for a system to rapidly map hydrocarbon plumes in the open ocean, as well as characterizing movement and degradation over time. Currently, mapping the Deepwater Horizons/Macondo Well plume requires stationing a \$100,000/day ship for up to 3 hours in one place; the samples acquired must later be analyzed in a laboratory for hydrocarbon content, making it extremely expensive to acquire even limited point data on the plume. The new system will map hydrocarbon plumes in the seawater column as fast as a ship can tow an array of stacked electrical geophysical streamers through it.

Northwest Climate Science Center (NWCSC) "Climate Bootcamp": The NWCSC academic hosts (the Universities of Washington and Idaho, and Oregon State University) are sponsoring a week long "climate bootcamp" this coming August. This unique event will be held at the University of Washington's Pack Forest and is aimed at enhancing NWCSC graduate fellows' abilities to work at the science and decision making nexus. The first of its kind, this hands-on workshop will provide integrative training in climate/impacts science, communication, and application to resource management, as well as opportunities to network with other Climate Science Center fellows, graduate students from the region, and professionals in Northwest science and resource management agencies.

2nd Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference: The 2nd Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference will be held September 13-14, 2011, in Seattle on the University of Washington campus. The conference, sponsored by a number of Pacific Northwest (PNW) research institutions and Federal and State government agencies, aims to stimulate an integrated place-based exchange of information about emerging climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science in the PNW. The conference will also include presentations on emerging policy and management goals, objectives, and information needs related to climate impacts and adaptation. Last year's inaugural conference was attended by over 300 PNW scientists, executives, program managers and resource managers.

The National Map Users Conference and the Geospatial Information Science Workshop: The U.S. Geological announces *The National Map* Users Conference, and the Geographic Information Science Workshop, to be held May 10-13, 2011 in Lakewood, Colorado. This inaugural event will assemble a wide range of participants including scientists, managers and geospatial professionals from government, industry, and academia. Deanna Archuleta will represent Interior and provide opening remarks.

ShakeCast, Caltrans, and Bridge Inspection: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing a News Release to announce technology developed by the USGS and Caltrans that immediately prioritizes inspection of bridges following earthquakes. This technology is now being used to monitor the crisis in Japan and at nuclear power plants around the world. They note that, following an earthquake, one of the most critical tasks is to assess the condition of bridges and roadways. In the past, inspection teams had difficulty setting priorities because they lacked precise information about where the worst shaking and, most likely, the greatest damage had occurred. The USGS ShakeCast system specifically addresses this need. They also note that in addition to the adoption of ShakeCast to monitor ground shaking at powerplants, the Los Angeles Unified School District is using ShakeCast to improve earthquake monitoring and emergency response for over 1000 school buildings.

USGS West Coast ARkStorm Scenario Used in U.S. Navy Training Exercise: The U.S. Navy is using the USGS ARkStorm scenario, a scientifically plausible massive West Coast storm scenario, for its full-scale emergency response exercise "Citadel Rumble," scheduled for July 18-21, at 10 large California and Nevada Navy bases. This full-scale exercise will receive high-level visibility within the Navy, as they test emergency response processes and capabilities.

Key objectives of the exercise will be Defense Support to Civil Authorities and the integration of civilian response organizations in the design and execution of the exercise.

USGS Director Signs MOU with Colorado School of Mines: USGS Director Marcia McNutt will visit Colorado on May 12-13 to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between the USGS and the Colorado School of Mines; the agreement allows for a broad range of collaborative studies in the areas of geologic, engineering, and hydrologic research. On May 13, Dr. McNutt will preside as Commencement speaker at the Colorado School of Mines.

Effects of Removing Existing and Historic Dams in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region: In an article for the American Society of Civil Engineers Manual and Reports on Engineering Practice, the USGS provides a synopsis of several investigations conducted on the short-term and long-term effects of dam removal in Pennsylvania and Maryland. The paper examines a recent dam

removal on the Manatawny Creek in Pottstown, PA, and three historic dam removals on Muddy Creek in southeastern PA, and assesses the effects, through upstream/downstream comparisons, of existing dams at 13 sites in Pennsylvania and 2 in Maryland.

Memorandum

To: Chief of Staff
From: Chief of Staff, Indian Affairs
Subject: Indian Affairs Weekly Look Ahead Update

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 6, 2011

INDIAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Indian Law Enforcement Memorial: Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk delivered the keynote address at the 20th Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service held May 5, 2011, at the United States Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services held the event to honor and commemorate tribal, state, local and Federal law enforcement officers working on Federal Indian lands and in tribal communities who have given their lives in the line of duty. This year, seven names were added to the Memorial, bringing the total number of fallen officers listed on the Memorial to 96. The seven individuals are:

BIA Deputy Special Officer A. H. Scott, killed June 22, 1925.

Uintah and Ouray Tribal Police Officer Joshua Yazzie, killed June 2, 2010.

City of Hoonah (AK) Police Officer Anthony Michael Wallace, killed August 28, 2010.

City of Hoonah (AK) Police Officer Matthew Dean Tokuoka, killed August 28, 2010.

US Border Patrol Agent George Debates, killed December 19, 2004.

US Border Patrol Agent Michael Vincent Gallagher, killed September 2, 2010.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Police Officer Merrill Allen Bruguier, killed October 9, 2010.

These officers gave the ultimate sacrifice in protecting Indian Country. The Memorial has a long history, beginning with the first name inscribed in 1852, in recognizing these sacrifices. The BIA held the service in conjunction with the International Association of Chiefs of Police Indian Country Law Enforcement Section, the National Sheriffs' Association, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and the U.S. Border Patrol.

- Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): Next week BIA will finish the final session titled Community Support for Reentering Tribal Members. The BIA/OJS and the Department of Justice (DOJ) are collaborating on the detention plan required by TLOA. The project is progressing and focus group sessions and a consultation are being set up to engage the Tribes

in the process. A series of webinars are being conducted with NCAI to further discuss TLOA detention plan issues. Representatives from BIA's Office of Indian Services and Bureau of Indian Education are participating in sub-committees appropriate for their discipline.

- High Priority Performance Goal/Public Safety: The BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) in coordination with the Tribes and our federal family has achieved a combined reduction of 11 percent of violent crime on all four targeted reservations. The OJS is reviewing crime reduction strategies and crime statistics at all four sites.
- Homeland Security:
 - *Survey:* OHSES officials attended a follow up meeting with representatives from the Office Director National Intelligence regarding Aviation Security Information Sharing and Intelligence Integration Survey. We are reviewing the draft Tribal leader's letter and making our comments. We are still on schedule for a Monday, May 2nd distribution of the survey to the tribes.
 - *TeleConference:* OHSES officials participated on the weekly STATE OF THE BORDER TELECONFERENCE call on April 28, 2011. Updates were provided on "State of the Border and Effects of the Arizona Surge". The SOB PowerPoint brief, Talking Points and Nexus report were discussed and will be shared with the tribes.
 - *Checklist:* The Physical Security Inspection Programs Pre-Assessment Checklist (PAC) Survey deadline has been reached, however, OHSES is continuing to pursue those facilities that have started but not yet completed the survey. OHSES is also working with Crimecast, which has offered to provide the violent crime statistics for each facility. This will facilitate in the analysis to identify where on a continuum a BIE facility is likely to fall and in need of attention regarding their level of security.
 - *DHS:* OHSES conducted a call with the DHS Community Requirements Division (CRD) regarding the use and addition of BIA & tribal asset data points to the Situational Awareness Geospatial Environment (SAGE) platform. An in person meeting for demonstration a viability testing is scheduled for the week of May 9, 2011.
 - *Tribal Emergency Preparedness:* OHSES coordinated a meeting with the Tribal Liaison for the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Emergency Preparedness Program, for a Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinators and Emergency Managers, May 24th, at the Warm Springs Reservation.
 - *National Level Exercise:* OHSES participated in the final planning meeting for National Level Exercise (New Madrid Earthquake) to be held on May 18, 2011. This exercise is a part of a series of Congressionally mandated emergency preparedness exercise activities designed to educate and prepare participants for potential catastrophic events. It will simulate an earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) in the central US and

will provide the framework for testing coordination among eight impacted states and four FEMA regions to examine earthquake and recovery plans.

- *Floods:* OHSES coordinated with the Corps of Engineers (Corps) Tribal Liaisons, and Tribal Representatives regarding ongoing Flood Fight operations and preparation. The Corps is concerned about the high water content of the snow remaining on the ground along the Northern Tier States, and especially about the 60” of water equivalent currently reported on the Blackfeet and Flat Head Reservations in Montana (Rocky Mountain and Northwest Regions, respectively).
- *Severe Weather Hazards:* OHSES coordinated the distribution of the announcement of the National Weather Service (NWS) Pacific Northwest Annual Severe Weather Awareness Campaign (from May 1-7) to help educate the public on severe weather hazards. Special daily Public Information Statements about severe weather will be issued during that week and will highlight a different topic each day.

Sunday	Kick Off
Monday	Flood and Flash Flood Safety
Tuesday	Tornadoes, Waterspouts and Tornado Safety
Wednesday	Wind, Hail and Lightning Safety
Thursday	Wildfire Awareness
Friday	NWS Watch and Warning Program
Saturday	NOAA Weather Radio

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Wind Power Conference: The Wind Power Conference is scheduled for May 22 - 25, 2011, in Anaheim California.

NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- **Federal Recognition:** The Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) is currently working on proposed findings for the following:
 - Piro-Manso-Tiwa Indian Tribe (Petitioner #5) – by July 18, 2011.
 - Meherrin Tribe, NC (Petitioner #119b) – by before November 1, 2011.
 - Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, CA (Petitioner #82) – by November 1, 2011.

The comment period on the Proposed Finding of the Tolowa Nation, CA (Petitioner #85) ends on May 23, 2011; discussions are underway on the group’s recent request for a 90-day extension to the comment period. The comment period on the Proposed Finding of the Central Band of Cherokee, TN (Petitioner #227) has been extended to August 15, 2011.

***Website:* Available on the OFA section of the Indian Affairs website are the following reports (as of April 29, 2011):**

Office of Federal Acknowledgement, Brief Overview

Status Summary of Acknowledgement Cases
List of Petitioners by State
Number of Petitions by State
Letters of Intent Received

EDUCATION

- ESEA Reauthorization: Internal discussions as well as those with the Department of Education continue on potential provisions to the reauthorization bill. The BIE Director participated in a roundtable discussion on the issue with the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on April 28.

- BIE PALA Challenge: The BIE had over 13,000 PALA participants in the PALA challenge. On May 2, 2011, the BIE PALA challenge ended with the results tallied for the winning school. BIE is pleased with the turnout for this program and hope that the momentum to get out and be active will continue. On May 17, the BIE Director will travel to the winning school to present awards.

- Elementary and Secondary Education School Improvement
 - Roxanne Brown, the Associate Deputy Director, East is awaiting word from the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Education Committee Director on a proposed date to reschedule a meeting about the Crazy Horse School. The meeting was a follow up to a meeting held on April 25. The rescheduled meeting is to define roles and responsibilities of BIE and the Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA), as determined by the Tribe's Education Committee. Crazy Horse School is a Public Law 100-297 tribally operated school.
 - The Associate Deputy Director, East staff, the Education Line Office staff, and the Pine Ridge School Administrators have a progress monitoring type meeting scheduled for May 11 at 10:00 AM, CST to discuss School Improvement progress and status of undertakings.
 - BIE's DPA held a meeting in the BIE Albuquerque office with the Native Star coordinator team. The team is comprised of the following individuals: Cheryl Quimayousie, Margaret Claymore, Loverty Erickson, Ethel Davis, Charmaine Weston, and Veronica Klain. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the implementation of Native Star in its first year and to plan for the second year of implementation. In addition, we discussed Native Star training at the 2011 BIE Summer Institute.
 - The BIE Albuquerque office had a Pacesetters meeting with Pam Shelley and Lisa Kinnaman of the Center on Innovation and Improvement (CII). The BIE is a member of the Academy of Pacesetting States, which is a collaboration of 15 states and the BIE (16 members), whose sole purpose is excellence in their respective statewide systems of support. A focus of the program is on leveraging existing resources, both personnel and funding, so that the states (and BIE) can more effectively and cost-effectively support improvement efforts of schools in their states.
 - The two-day meeting was devoted to the development of an operations manual for BIE's Statewide System of Support (SSOS). Several other

Pacesetter states have developed their operations manual, with the resulting document proving valuable to their school improvement efforts. Development of the operations manual will take place over the next several weeks and will be introduced at the 2011 BIE Summer Institute.

- The annual Special Education Data Summit was held at the National Indian Training Programs Center (NIPTC) in Albuquerque this past week. Representatives from 20 schools attended. The purpose of the meeting with stakeholders from throughout the BIE was to discuss critical Special Education data issues and provide advice on criteria for school Special Education levels of determination and determining a monitoring focus for on-site visits to schools in SY 2011-2012.
- BIE held a conference call with Donna McCahon of Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). The call focused on follow-up planning of the week spent in Portland with NWEA staff and planning of NWEA workshop at the 2011 BIE Summer Institute. (See attached High Level Overview of Data Conversations and listing of NWEA presentations.)
- The BIE is involved in a project to provide support to tribal schools in the development of Oral Native Language Assessments in connection with an Alternative Definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In connection with that project, two letters were sent out related to tribal school leaders regarding services available through BIE contractors on the project. The letters are as follows:

- 1) Professional Development Opportunities related to Native Language
- 2) Technical assistance for Oral Native Language Assessment

DPA sent a professional development letter to representatives of the three groups that BIE has worked with, including the Navajo Nation, Miccosukee Indian School, and a group of schools in South Dakota represented by the Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium. The letter offered to send up to two representatives of each group to professional development activities as a means to support their Native Language efforts. The technical assistance letter was sent to all tribal schools and offered to provide oral language assessment and related services to a wider group of tribally-operated schools and tribes than are currently served by the BIE. Both offers of assistance are intended to provide a higher level of services to the three groups already served and to a larger group of tribal schools and tribes. Funds are available in the existing contract to accomplish these ends. (See attached letters.)

- The Oglala Sioux Tribal Chairman met with the Pine Ridge Education Line Officer and participated on the 4-25-11 teleconference on Crazy Horse School. The discussion was interesting and the OST Education Committee's immediate plans to advertise, screen, and select were unfolded and dissection of the Transformation/Turnaround Model under School Improvement allowed us to cite important components to a successful transformation, if you will, to be considered as the Committee moves forward.

- The Dunseith Day School K-5 instructional staff presented data to the Turtle Mountain ELO and staff describing the type of data used, and how they utilize it for instruction, and how it is shared with parents. The staff clearly demonstrated their knowledge in the use and application of assessment results.

Student Instruction/Improvement

- Turtle Mountain ELO:
 - Planning professional development activities for the four BIE-operated schools toward improving the instructional delivery system, and will be evaluated by studying assessment results.
 - Conducted classroom observations with the consultants from Engaged Learning, observed administration of the DIBELS progress monitoring instrument.
 - Scheduled a conference call with the state of South Dakota DPI on the AYP of Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School for May 3 at 9:00 MST.
- Crow Creek /Lower Brule ELO:
 - Overseeing improvement of the academic, residential, and administrative components of Flandreau Indian School. Improvement is visible and comprehensive.
 - Flandreau Indian School has solidified the 'Office of Victims' and Crime' Grant.

Safety/Facilities

- Pine Ridge Education Line Office
 - Pine Ridge School will have the underground pipes replaced this summer.
 - Highway construction and potholes on the Pine Ridge reservation have wreaked havoc with buses.
- Cheyenne River Education Line Office
 - Both BIE-operated schools conducted tornado drills on April 27, 2011.
 - Notified the Office of Facilities Management and Construction (OFMC) of the major leaks in the new roof at the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School.
- Crow Creek/Lower Brule Line Office
 - A meeting, next week, with OFMC in Albuquerque, will address the deficiencies left by the work crew and the absence of funds to correct them.
- Post Secondary Education
 - About half of the Tribal Colleges and Universities have submitted their applications for funding. The Post Secondary Office has been reviewing the files to ensure completion and correct calculation/reporting of Indian Student Count numbers.
 - Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
 - *Quarterly Meeting:* The Board of Regents successfully held its quarterly Board meeting, April 27-28, 2011. The Board was provided a report from the SIPI Leadership team covering all aspects of college operations; the Board was also

- provided in-depth information on accreditation, including next steps and a discussion on possible future changes in SIPI's operation.
- *Accreditation:* The draft report from the Higher Learning Commission's onsite visit (March 21-23, 2011) was received via email on April 27, 2011. The college must review the report and submit any "error of facts" to the Chair of the HLC visiting team; this will be completed next week.
 - *Faculty of the Year:* Samuel Henderson, Jr. was selected as the 2011 SIPI Faculty of the Year. Mr. Henderson exemplifies a stellar commitment to scholarship, teaching and service. He has been an instructor and/or program coordinator for the Vision Care Technology Program for nearly 23 years. During this period, he has worked collaboratively with other faculty, and industry advisory committee to offer our students a rigorous curriculum that is accredited by the Commission of Opticianry Association (COA) and ensures students pass the National American Board of Opticianry Certification Exam. Over the years, he has engaged in service at the state and national level as an executive officer to the Opticians Association of New Mexico, a treasurer to the National Federation of Opticianry Schools, and a Commissioner to the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation. Most recently Sam was elected the Chairperson, SIPI Curriculum Committee.
 - *Internships:* SIPI students will participate in the following internships this summer: Calvin Silas (Alternative Energy Research Group at NMSU - NM AMP Internship); Mile Connally (Bio-Medical Engineering - UNM - PREM Program); Noah Billy (NASA Johnson Space Center - NASA Scholars Internship); Joshua Begay (Harvard Bio-medical Engineering - PREM Program); and Zak Netzer (Air Force Research Lab.)
 - *Institutional Effectiveness:* SIPI has completed a series of graphs/charts of historical enrollment data (by gender, commuter/residence, enrollment status, full-time/part-time status), as well as term-to-term retention rates. These will be supplemented by program-level enrollment, retention and success data. We enter data into a prototype webpage for the Institutional Research Office. SIPI hopes the webpage can go live as soon as possible. BIE is also looking at SIPI data on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) website and preparing to aggregate it into a report that will also go on the website. In the next few weeks, SIPI plans to add historical Noel Levitz survey and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) summary reports to this page.
 - *Housing and Recreation:* Letters notifying all the new students that they have been accepted into the SIPI Residential Program were sent out the week of May 3, 2011.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING INDIAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION

- Administration Reassessment: In the area of administration reassessment, the joint Indian Affairs – Department contract for a study of the implementation/effects of the 1999 NAPA Study has moved forward. Oral presentations from the contractors is progressing to its final phase: 7 of the 8 oral presentations have been completed. All oral presentations are targeted to be completed by the week of May 9.

- BIA Organizational Realignment: A meeting with OMB to discuss the progress of the realignment is scheduled for May 18.

OUTREACH

- Planned Events:

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs:

May 9 - 10, 2011, provide the commencement speech at the Dull Knife College, Billings, Montana.

May 16 - 19, 2011, keynote address at the United SouthEast Tribes (USET) Semi-Annual Meeting, Marksville, Louisiana.

May 17 - 19, 2011, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, New York.

May 26, 2011, speech at the official launch of the *Let's Move in Indian Country* initiative, Neopit, Wisconsin.

May 31 – June 3, 2011, keynote speech at the Oklahoma Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and at the Native Leadership Forum, Temecula, CA.

June 6 - 8, 2011, the CAP Water Settlement Listening Session, Phoenix, Arizona.

June 13-16, 2011, keynote speech at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the SAIGE Annual Training, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Bureau of Indian Education:

May 9, 2011, week, provide the commencement speech at the Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas.

May 12, 19 and 26, 2011, Tribal Consultation sessions on the Health and Wellness Policy for K-12 BIE-funded schools. Consultations will be held online through WebEX.

June 20, 2011, the BIE Summer Institute, Reno, Nevada

September 25-27, 2011, 8th annual South Dakota Indian Education Summit, Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain, SD. The theme of the Summit is “Supporting Culture, Building Expectations and Creating Partnerships.”

CONFIDENTIAL

May 6, 2011

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
Attn: Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Ray Joseph, Principal Deputy Special Trustee

Re: Assistant Secretary Report for May 9 to May 15, 2011

Office of the Special Trustee (OST) Assistant Secretary Weekly Report May 9, 2011

Schedule and Activities

Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph

- Management meetings in Washington (5/9-13)

Review – May 2 to May 6

- **New:** The Supreme Court ruled April 26 that tribes cannot simultaneously file lawsuits in both in U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims over the same issue. As noted in an *Indian Country Today* article on April 29, “Under the Supreme Court ruling, tribes will have to decide if they want an historical accounting in U.S. District Court, or a damage claim in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.” The decision will affect pending tribal litigation.
- **Update:** The *Status Report to the Court Number Forty-Four* is for the period January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011, was filed with the Court by DOJ on May 2 and posted on the OST website on May 3. The purpose of the report is to inform the Court of actions taken since the issuance of the preceding quarterly report, including delays in and obstacles to trust reform activities. BIA, BLM, BOEMRE, OCIO, OHTA and OST program managers submit reports on the status of their respective Indian trust activities and attorneys from SOL and DOJ and senior OST managers interview them about content.
- **Update:** The Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) delivered to SOL approximately 5000 imaged documents relative to the Kaw Nation tribal litigation. Since the litigating parties are engaged in mediated settlement talks, SOL requested additional time for OHTA to search for documents. The Court in the Western District of Oklahoma stayed discovery in the case pending resolution of Alternative Dispute Resolution proceedings in the Court of Federal Claims case. There is no specific end date for the stay. Therefore, OHTA will continue to deliver imaged documents to SOL.

Week Ahead – May 9 to May 13

- **Update:** The Review Appraiser, Midwest Region, is developing the Office of Appraisal Services Information System (OASIS), which will track appraisals and reviews. After meeting with OST's IT personnel regarding their requirements and for assistance with deployment, it was determined that the system will be constructed in SharePoint 2010, which is already in use as OST's intranet. In addition to meeting system requirements, using SharePoint 2010 will result in cost savings to OST. OASIS Phase I includes request and tracking features. A timeline extending through June 2011 is being targeted for the completion and rollout of OASIS Phase I. Later phases will provide tools to measure staff performance, data analysis and appraisal reporting functions. When *all* OASIS design features are available in *all* OAS appraisal regions, tracking time (and potentially valuation costs and time) will be reduced by up to 50 percent.
- **No Change:** OST continues to work directly with the Cobell Implementation Team, the Garden City Group and SOL on communication challenges as they arise.

On the Horizon

- **Update:** The FTO at the Rosebud Agency is participating on the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance (SDIBA) planning committee for the annual South Dakota Indian Business Conference (SDIBC). The conference will be held May 17-18 at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. An invitation was extended to Secretary Salazar to speak at the conference opening. Principal Deputy Special Trustee Ray Joseph is scheduled to make remarks at the conference. SDIBA, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities for tribal members in South Dakota, is comprised of individuals in federal, state and tribal governments and non-profit organizations.
- **Update:** OST's Field Operations schedules outreach events, training seminars and meetings at powwows, schools and other venues. Almost a dozen activities have been planned so far to take place in May.
- **No Change:** Plaintiffs' counsel, Brian Leinbach, is handling 16 tribal litigation cases in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the DDC. On March 17, OHTA provided SOL and DOJ the Expedited Settlement Evaluation Method results for 15 of those cases (the other tribe is not federally recognized). Parties are considering the week of May 23 for a mediation session.

**Week Ahead Report to the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
May 6, 2011**

FAPAC Meeting, Bellevue, WA - On Wednesday, May 11, AS-IN will be a featured speaker at the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) Conference in Bellevue, WA. FAPAC represents the interests of over 155,000 civilian and military Asian American and Pacific Islander employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments. AS-IN will participate in the plenary session among other high level government and congressional leaders.

Pacific Executive Leadership Development Program - Director Pula will travel on May 5, to Honolulu to be a judge for the Pacific Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP) final group presentations and also speak at their graduation ceremonies. The program is funded by DOI to build leadership skills in mid-level officials from the Insular Areas.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference - From May 18-19, The Office of Insular Affairs will conduct an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) conference in San Francisco, CA that will bring together speakers from the U.S. insular areas, including experienced ADR providers, judges, and lawyers to explore alternative dispute resolution procedures that could enable the islands to resolve disputes quickly, fairly, and cost-effectively. ADR is a process increasingly used by many States and local governments to settle international, commercial or labor disputes without having to go directly through the courts. ADR has the potential to serve as an innovative supplement to the judicial process that relieves some of the pressure on already overburdened territory court systems.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

May 5, 2011

Memorandum

To: David Hayes, Deputy Secretary
Meghan Conklin, Associate Deputy Secretary
c/o Courtenay Lewis, Special Assistant

From: Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary-Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: May 5, 2011, Policy and Other Issues

This provides major policy and other issues that fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary – PMB.

POLICY

Arctic Council Ministerial. We are finalizing the schedule, logistics and briefing materials for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting on May 12 in Nuuk, Greenland. The Department of State shared the draft Declaration with us, and we are pleased with the language included for the two proposals Secretary Salazar initially put forth to Secretary Clinton in February 2011.

Youth: DOI Alaska Town Hall and Youth Programming Strategic Planning. The Youth Office Director travelled to Alaska to meet with DOI leadership to layout out the Secretary's Youth Vision and to receive bureaus updates and youth programming action plans. It was evident that the DOI Alaska Offices have aligned their efforts to clearly support the Secretary's Youth Vision. It was also evident that DOI has engaged in very productive partnerships with state and local government entities to address environmental literacy. The Director also had the opportunity to address the Cook Inlet Tribal Council to discuss their efforts and to explain Let's Move in Indian Country and the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award.

MANAGEMENT

ONRR Deputy Director named CFEB Executive of the Year: The Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) named ONRR Deputy Director Debbie Gibbs Tschudy the Executive of the Year as part of the 2011 Rocky Mountain Eagle Awards competition. The Colorado Federal Executive Board notified the award winners and made a public announcement of all the

award winners on Monday, May 2. An awards ceremony luncheon will take place on Wednesday, May 18, in Denver.

ONRR Tribal Consultation: ONRR has invited tribal leaders to three meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could affect the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. These meetings will take place in Albuquerque, NM on May 19, 2011, Denver, CO on May 26, 2011, and Oklahoma City on June 9, 2011. The consultation meetings will open dialogue with Indian Tribes on potential changes including valuing crude oil produced from Indian leases, removing certain natural gas index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal valuation regulations.

Gulf Coast Response Staffing. The DOI transition plan is in surname prior to submittal to the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team. Under this plan the activities of DOI relative to oil spill response will continue to be coordinated with the US Coast Guard Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) through the DOI Federal Trustee. The DOI Federal Trustee operates with delegated authority from the Secretary of the Interior and will continue to be stationed within the GCIMT Unified Incident Command (UIC). The plan will coincide with the incident transition from Stage 3, Cleanup to Stage 4, 2011 Shoreline Maintenance and Monitoring Assessment Technique Plan for Alabama, Florida, Mississippi (eastern states) and the Draft SCAT Stage IV Plan for Louisiana. As such, this plan will be implemented as the incident workload directs and will not be fully implemented until all locations within the area of response have reached Stage 4.

BUDGET

2011 Continuing Resolution. The DOD and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10) passed by the House and Senate on April 14 and signed by the President on Friday, April 15 funds government operations for the duration of FY 2011 and cuts current-year spending by \$38 billion from both discretionary and mandatory programs, government-wide.

The Act includes \$11.8 billion for Interior programs. This is \$450 million or 3.7 percent below the 2011 budget level. It includes:

- Generally operating funds for land management bureaus were protected from large reductions:
 - BLM operations increased by \$38 million above the 2011 budget.
 - FWS operations decreased by \$22 million.
 - NPS operations decreased by \$47 million.
- The Act protects funding for Indian programs. Indian Affairs is \$28 million above the 2011 budget.
- The Act provided increases for BOEMRE and ONRR of \$62 million or +24% above 2010.
- The CR reduced land acquisition and grants;
 - For DOI programs, LWCF is funded at \$215 million, a reduction of \$95 million below the 2010 level and \$230 million below the 2011 budget.

- The CR includes \$144 million for Federal land acquisition, \$40 million for NPS State grants, \$31 million for FWS Cooperative Endangered Species grants (CESCF is funded at \$60 million of which \$31 is derived from LWCF).
- The CR funds Wildland Fire \$155 million above the 2011 budget sustaining funding for hazardous fuels. The CR rescinds \$200 million in surplus balances.

The Act includes two legislative provisions that impact Interior:

- Section 1713 directs the reissuance of the final rule published in April 2, 2009 that deals with the delisting of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf.
- Section 1769 directs that no funds may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order No. 3310, on wildlands.

2011 Operating Plans. The Continuing Resolution (P.L. 112-10) requires submission of Operating Plans to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days of enactment or May 15. The Office of Budget is currently working with the bureaus and offices to finalize their operating plans for review and clearance by the Deputy Secretary and OMB prior to submission to Congress.

IG/GAO Reports. The list of current reports and their status is attached.

Attachments:
PMB Office Reports

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretaries—Policy, Management and Budget

Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget
Weekly Office Reports
May 5, 2011

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

New: National Wide Permit 21 (NWP 21- Surface Coal Mining Activities). The Department met last week with internal stakeholders to discuss the three options proposed by the Corps for NWP 21. The Department supports option 2, which is also the Corps' preferred Option. Option 2 imposes limits on acreage and stream length impacts and does not authorize valley fills. However, the Department plans to ask for further modifications to option 2. The Department recommends this NWP explicitly exclude use for mine through as well as valley fills. Justifications for any waivers should include, at a minimum, an explanation of the avoidance and minimization measures used by the applicant to reduce the adverse impacts to the stream and a description of how the applicant will compensate for unavoidable impacts that are greater than minimal, using the watershed approach described in the 2008 Compensatory Mitigation Rule. The Department plans to submit its comments to the Corps NLT Friday, May 6, 2011.

New: Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference. The Department will be following up on discussions and meetings this week as a result of last week's conference in Washington, DC. The Department was well represented by Mr. Stanton, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Willie Taylor, Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, panelist from BIA and BLM, and a host of other Department EJ representatives and personnel. The Conference theme focused on renewable energy and equity. The Department will continue to work on its reinvigoration efforts to include the revision of its EJ Strategic Plan and development and participation in regional listening sessions.

New: Navajo Coal Mine, Navajo Nation, New Mexico. Regional Environmental Officer/Albuquerque, New Mexico met with representatives of BHP Billiton Navajo Coal Company on May 4, 2011, in Albuquerque, to start discussions on the environmental impact statement that will be needed for the new permit to extend mine operations into new areas of the lease. Existing permits expire in 2016. OEPC, BIA, BLM, OSM, FWS, SOL, COE, Navajo Nation, BHP Billiton Navajo Coal, and Arizona Public Service Company (owners of Four Corners Power Plant) are all scheduled to attend. This in all likelihood will be a non-delegated EIS requiring PMB participation. Issues regarding the lead agency/lead bureau, cooperators, actions to be addressed and connected actions, among others, will need to be discussed.

Update: DEEPWATER HORIZON Oil Spill Response. OEPC headquarters and regional staff continue to provide support to senior DOI officials, and the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) based in New Orleans. The current phase of the cleanup is monitoring and maintenance through the spring and into summer.

- OEPC REO-Albuquerque submitted proposed FWS PRFA Amendment #15 to the FOSC. The amendment would fund an additional staff member to coordinate FWS involvement in the Endangered Species Act Section 7 biological assessment to document impacts of the spill response actions, not the oil itself, on listed species and critical habitats. If approved, the FWS staff person will be covered until the end of June with no increase in the spending ceiling. Also discussed with FWS and NPFC the possibility of adding an experienced Forest Service staffer to assist (as requested by the USCG) and the best mechanism to cover that approach.

Update: Non-Traditional Response Projects Workshop. OEPC continues to plan for the Deepwater Horizon Supplemental-funded Non-Traditional Response Project Lessons Learned Workshop. The workshop will focus on establishing direction to improve guidance for funding and authorities relating to non-traditional response projects that seek to protect sensitive natural resources. Current efforts include finalizing the participants, logistics, and agenda. OEPC will host the three day workshop in DC May 17-19. Expected participants include the US Coast Guard, NPFC, EPA, USDA, NOAA, FWS, NPS, BIA and possibly a state and tribal representative.

New/Complete: - Region VII Oil and Hazardous Substances Regional Response Team (RRT) On May 3 and 4, OEPC Regional Environmental Officer Robert Stewart represented the Department at the semiannual RRT meeting in Kansas City, MO. In addition to the customary Federal and State member and On-Scene Coordinator reports and updates, principal agenda items included “refresher training” on standing and incident-specific RRT roles/responsibilities; updates on SubArea Contingency Plans, the Region VII New Madrid Seismic Zone Plan, and National Level Exercise 2011; and presentations on Presidential Policy Directive 8, water security in Iowa, and Bio-Response Operational Testing and Evaluation. Participation in these meetings and interaction with other Federal and State emergency response personnel is a crucial part of ensuring full consideration of the Department's natural, cultural, and historic resources during responses to oil and hazardous substances spills.

New: Quarterly Munitions Response Forum. OEPC staff attended the Quarterly Munitions Response Forum April 26-27, 2011 at the EPA Potomac Yard office. The Forum was hosted by EPA with participants from DOD, Army, Navy, Air Force, USACE, National Guard, USDA, FWS, Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), and state representatives. The meeting updated progress and status of various programs including the munitions sites inventory, investigation, cleanup, and regulatory concurrence; Federal Land Managers’ and state’s concerns and issues were discussed; and three issue and white papers drafted by Work Groups on Interim Risk Management – States Perspective, Emergency Response Policy at munitions sites, and Underwater Munitions issues were reviewed. The Director of the DOD Environmental Research Programs presented a new technology for munitions mapping. The next quarterly forum is scheduled for September 20-21, 2011 in D.C. This might be the final quarterly meeting due EPA budget cuts.

New: Response to Indian Tribes on ECM 10-2. OEPC continued working with BIA, AS/IA and SOL on responses to several letters from Indian Tribes in the Midwest regarding

Environmental Compliance Memorandum (ECM) 10-2 – Pre-Acquisition Environmental Assessment Guidance for federal Land Transactions.

Office of Policy Analysis

New: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas, May 3-6. The Department's Invasive Species Coordinator and National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff participated in the conference of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 3-6, and reported on 2011 National Invasive Species Awareness Week accomplishments and NISC/ANSTF Prevention Committee accomplishments on screening and risk analysis. They led discussions of new activities on pathways analysis and prevention activities, as well as improved database tracking of strategic plan accomplishments and reporting utilizing U.S. Geological Survey decision support tools recently implemented for reporting accomplishments under the NISC management plan.

New: Technology Transfer. In preparation for updating the decades-old Departmental Manual chapter on technology transfer, Policy Analysis participated in the conference of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer in Nashville, TN, May 2-5, addressing matters related to technology transfer between federal researchers, industry, and other non-governmental entities. Participation included training and meeting with the Deputy Administrator and, possibly, the Administrator of the Office of Technology Transfer, Agricultural Research Service, which has had substantial experience in this area. This participation should help identify opportunities and barriers to rapid transfer of technology, as well as methods to surmount them.

Update: Commission on Environmental Cooperation Support of North American Invasive Species Network. On April 26 - 29, the Department's Invasive Species Coordinator led interagency discussions with colleagues in Mexico, the U.S., and Canada on implementation and budget planning for the North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) which will receive funding for two years as part of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation's operational plan for 2011/12. Colleagues in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, Canadian Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Algoma University (Canada), and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission participated in the steering committee discussions. Linking local regional hubs for information sharing, the NAISN will utilize the latest and least expensive technology for early detection and rapid response to new invasive species.

Update: Animal Imports and Wildlife Disease Working Group. On April 27, the Department's Invasive Species Coordinator and the NISC staff participated in the third organizational meeting of the General Accounting Office Interagency (Arizona) Working Group to identify wildlife disease agents and the current agency authority for protecting against the introduction and spread to wild animals and potentially to humans. Lists of disease agents provided by agency experts from the Centers for Disease Control, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Food and Drug Administration, and others will be reviewed for potential gaps in authority to take prevention and early detection actions.

Update: National Ocean Policy Implementation. Policy Analysis is co-chairing the writing team for one priority area Strategic Action Plan (SAP) – “Coordinate and Support,” and is providing support for another “Changing Conditions in the Arctic;” The SAPs have been released to the Governance Coordinating Committee and the Ocean Resources and Research Advisory Panel and will be released for public comment on June 1. Policy Analysis continues to coordinate implementation of the National Ocean Policy for the Department. The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop will be held June 21-23, in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. The Secretary has been invited to speak on June 21.

Ongoing: Economic Report. The report has been cleared by OMB and is currently being reviewed by the Council of Economic Advisors.

Ongoing: Klamath. The pilot test for the non-use valuation survey has begun implementation. It is anticipated that the data collection phase will last 6-8 weeks.

Ongoing: Arctic Policy. Working together with the Office of International Affairs, Policy Analysis continues to support the Secretary for his upcoming participation in the Arctic Council Ministerial, on May 12, in Nuuk, Greenland. PPA is also representing the Department at the staff-level Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) and participating on the White House-led interagency team on Alaskan Offshore Oil/Gas Permitting.

Ongoing: Pechanga Indian Water Settlement. Policy Analysis met with the Indian Water Rights Office and provided comments on how elements of the Settlement were being valued. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled.

Ongoing: Departmental Communications Policy. At the request of the Office of Communications, Policy Analysis is leading the development of a new Departmental Communications Policy, in collaboration with bureau Public Affairs Officers. The new chapter will update the 1999 guidance currently in the Departmental Manual.

Completed: Price Shocks in Crude Oil and Gasoline Markets. At the request of the Secretary, Policy Analysis provided information and analysis on price shocks in crude oil and gasoline markets.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations

Updated: Screening of the Documentary “Under a Jarvis Moon” On Thursday, May 12, from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m., in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Month, the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations and the Office of Insular Affairs will show in the Yates Auditorium the documentary “*Under a Jarvis Moon*.” This documentary tells the story of over 130 young men employed by the U.S. Department of the Interior – most of whom were Native Hawaiians – who were sent to occupy Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands from 1935 to 1942. While their public mission was to take weather readings and collect specimens and records of the wildlife on and around the islands the United States secretly recruited these young men to colonize the islands to keep them out of the hands of other countries. Living for months at a time in teams of four, the colonist collected specimens; mapped the islands; cultivated coconuts and

vegetables; and even prepared a landing field for Amelia Earhart, who was expected to make Howland Island one of her last stops on her round-the-world flight. Through it all, they endured rats, sharks, isolation, and ultimately, enemy fire with grace and aloha for each other.

New: Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Community Development Financial Institution Program The Office of Native Hawaiian Relations has begun working with the State of Hawai'i Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) on how the State agency can assist Native Hawaiian organizations in the creation of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The primary mission of CDFIs is to promote economic development in struggling areas, both urban and rural, that are underserved by traditional financial institutions. CDFIs can play a critical role in building a healthier economy by providing these communities with the access to capital. CDFI's provide an array of financial services in their target areas, including mortgage financing for home buyers, financing for the rehabilitation of rental housing, financing for the building and rehabilitation of community facilities, commercial loans to small- and micro-enterprise businesses, and financial services needed by low-income households and businesses in the target areas.

CDFI's Include:

Community Development Banks, which provide needed capital to help rebuild economically distressed communities through targeted lending and investment.

Community Development Credit Unions, which provide affordable credit and financial services to low-income and minority communities.

Community Development Loan Funds, which typically raise capital from socially responsible investors at below-market rates and then re-lend the money to nonprofits that build housing and community facilities in struggling urban and rural areas.

Community Development Venture Capital Funds, which provide start-up capital for real estate and new business development in economically distressed areas.

Microenterprise Loan Funds, which provide loans and technical assistance to low-income people starting very small businesses.

Office of International Affairs

New: Participation in Field Coordinating Committee (FCC): OIA staff are participating in the May 3-4 meeting of the FCC in El Centro, CA. The session provides an opportunity to share information about Departmental-level engagement with Mexico with the bureau field representatives who make up the FCC, and to learn about current issues on the border from them and from outside experts presenting at the meeting.

New: Secretary's Planned Trip to Spain: OIA has begun assisting with preparations for the Secretary's attendance at the US/Spain Council meeting in Spain, including assembly of information on travel and outreach to the Embassy and desk office at the State Department.

New: Study Tour in U.S. for Jordanian Team. This week, DOI-ITAP will host a team of three conservation specialists from Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature who will visit Pinnacles National Monument, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and

other sites to learn best practices for management of forested areas. The group will also include the project's in-country coordinator who will act as a translator. This work is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

New: Forests and Protected Areas Committee Meeting in Guatemala. DOI-ITAP's Central America Regional Coordinator will participate in a meeting of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development's regional Forests and Protected Areas Committee. She will inform the participants of the results of DOI's workshop on Non-Detriment Findings in support of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in the Dominican Republic in November 2010. This work is funded by the U.S. Department of State.

New: CITES Identification Guide Review in Guatemala. DOI-ITAP's Central America Regional Coordinator will meet with the Guatemala CITES Authorities and a consultant to review identification guides for CITES-listed Bromeliad species in that country. This work is funded by the U.S. Department of State.

New: New Funding Secured for Technical Assistance in the Philippines. DOI will be signing an amendment to its Participating Agency Program Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development for \$205,000 in new funding to support continued technical assistance on natural resources law enforcement efforts in the Philippines.

Update: AS/PMB Participation at Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization Meetings. OIA staff is supporting participation by Rhea Suh, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget in a meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Mining Task Force in Big Sky in Montana on May 6 – 9, 2011. OIA is coordinating with BLM, the Department of Commerce, USG lead for the Mining Task Force, and the Department of State and appropriate White House offices to review the meeting agenda, coordinate the USG approach across agencies, and draft briefing materials.

Update: Preparation for Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 2011. OIA staff has continued to work with the Office of Policy Analysis and the State Department to coordinate logistics necessary for this meeting. OIA staff has submitted a nearly complete briefing book draft to the DAS. There are still a number of outstanding items from bureaus.

Update: Russian Participants in State Department-funded International Visitor Leadership Program Meet with DOI Bureaus. On April 28, Russian participants in the State Department-funded International Visitor Leadership Program met with representatives from NPS, FWS, BIA, and USGS to discuss topics including: status of work to develop a shared Beringia heritage area; U.S.-Russia cooperative activities under the Environmental Agreement, with particular emphasis on the Alaska-Chukotka relationship in polar bears, marine mammals and migratory birds; and Tribal fish and wildlife management. OIA staff planned and coordinated the meeting.

YOUTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors

America's Great Outdoors Implementation

New: DOI Alaska Town Hall and Youth Programming Strategic Planning. The Youth Office Director travelled to Alaska to meet with DOI leadership to layout out the Secretary's Youth Vision and to receive bureaus updates and youth programming action plans. It was evident that the DOI Alaska Offices have aligned their efforts to clearly support the Secretary's Youth Vision. It was also evident that DOI has engaged in very productive partnerships with state and local government entities to address environmental literacy. The Director also had the opportunity to address the Cook Inlet Tribal Council to discuss their efforts and to explain Let's Move in Indian Country and the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award.

New: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation presentation. On May 4, the Youth Office participated in a Youth Involvement Discussion as part of ACHP's Communications, Education and Outreach Committee meeting.

Ongoing: DOI STEM Education Strategic Plan: The Youth Office and USGS are co-leading a new DOI STEM Education Strategic Plan Working Group. Youth Task Force members have identified a Bureau representative for the Working Group. The Working Group will meet May 10 and continue meeting, about every other week, for about 3 months.

Leveraging Public/Private Resources

Ongoing: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Partnership. The Office of Youth is working with the Budget and Contracts/Agreements Office to develop Bureau guidance and a system for streamlining funding for the AmeriCorps Summer Internship Program.

Office of Conservation and Educational Partnerships

New: Draft "Call for 2011 Nominations for the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award" sent to Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management & Budget for review and surname process. Interior Bureau/Office nominations due June 30, 2011 and potential Departmental Award Ceremony in the fall of 2011.

Ongoing: MOU – DOI / U.S. Dept of Education to "Maximize the Use of Federal Lands in Enhancing Educational Opportunities for the American Public." Final draft MOU developed to formalize agreements between Secretary Salazar and Secretary Duncan which develops broad partnerships on environmental education to implement recommendations from the America's Great Outdoors report, and the Department of Education's "Blueprint for Reform." Signing ceremony tentatively scheduled for National History Day, June 13, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Ongoing: Partnership Coordinator delegated to participate in OS “Organizational Impact Assessment” for FBMS for the Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service. Coordinator is tasked with being the information liaison for DOI to external partners on new processes on internal reporting, tracking, monitoring and affect on agreements, partnership processes.

Office of Service – Take Pride in America

New: Take Pride in America National Awards. The nomination period for the annual national awards ceremony ended this week. Many nominations were received from around the country and demonstrate the continuing work of outstanding public lands volunteers. The nominations will be reviewed and winners will be selected in the coming weeks.

New: Key Meetings. This week Take Pride in America participated in the FITV (Federal Interagency Team on Volunteerism) meeting, where policy issues were discussed, and the redesign of the volunteer.gov/gov website was reviewed. Take Pride in America also participated in the Boy Scouts of America Conservation and Environmental Committee meeting, followed by a discussion on the pending MOU between BSA and the Department.

TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Office of Hearings and Appeals

Update: Statoil and Exxon Mobil Case. The OHA Director wrote counsel for Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC and Exxon Mobil Corporation regarding the companies’ request that he make a decision in their case by May 10. In the correspondence, the Director stated that he was unable to commit to making a decision by the 10th and is making every effort to render a decision this month.

Office of the Chief Information Office

New: IT Transformation Listening Sessions. Chief Information Officer (CIO) Bernie Mazer will conduct IT Transformation listening sessions in Billings, Montana and Yellowstone National Park for National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and other DOI employees who work in that area.

Update: IT Transformation Listening Sessions. IT Transformation listening sessions were held in Hadley, Massachusetts; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and various locations in New York for FWS and NPS employees. The sessions were facilitated by CIO Bernie Mazer and FWS Assistant Director for Information Resources (ADIR) Ken Taylor. Additionally, Deputy CIO, Larry Gross, facilitated listening sessions in Herndon and Arlington, Virginia respectively, with Bureau of Ocean, Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and FWS employees. Bob Brown, ADIR for BOEMRE co-facilitated these sessions.

New: OCIO Directive Regarding Limited/Controlled Access to DOI Information Systems. The CIO issued a directive to bureaus to allow short-term emergency response personnel

limited/controlled access to DOI computer systems and applies to bureaus who hire short-term emergency response personnel.

New: DOI IT Client and Systems Change Advisory Board Meetings in Arlington, Virginia. DOI Systems and Client Change Advisory Board (CAB) meetings will occur from May 2nd to 5th in Arlington, Virginia. Bureau/office subject matter experts and technical managers will meet to discuss key operational topics in support of the DOI IT Transformation. Topics include the extent of protection needed for email on iPads.

Update: DOI Support System. Several meetings were held this week to focus on the next generation ESN network and data protections components, collectively referred to as the DOI Support System or DSS. The proposed future design of DOI's network is an open computing environment facilitated by removing internal barriers that prevent interoperability across the agency. It also emphasizes protecting business data to the maximum extent required based on the nature of the information. This dual approach will maximize opportunities for secure information sharing and collaboration amongst DOI employees who work in different bureaus and offices, as well as facilitate their ongoing communications with business partners outside of DOI.

New: Support for Unified Messaging Transition. OCIO staff performed an evaluation of the Bureau of Land Management's migration plans for their transition from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Exchange to support the Departmental goal of a unified e-mail and messaging solution.

Update: Open Government Working Group Meeting. OCIO supported DOI's Open Government activities at the regular working group meeting. Progress was made in developing approaches to foster innovation through processes that promote prizes and challenges. This will help to stimulate the first DOI-wide ideation tool that will substantially improve the Department's ability to collect and rank employee and citizen suggestions and comments.

Update: Technical Support for Office of Emergency Management. OCIO staff is providing on-going technical support for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) High Frequency (HF) Radio capabilities, which are critical elements in the Department's continuity of operations efforts. National Communication System Directive (NCS D) 3-10, required the Department to implement HF radio stations at specified remote sites. At Site C, OCIO re-engineered the antenna system, installed an encryption device and updated other accessories to bring the system to a fully operational level. Additional enhancements are anticipated in the coming months.

Update: Active Directory Consolidation. OCIO staff prepared an executive status briefing for the Deputies Operating Group. Active directory consolidation was undertaken based on the Office of the Inspector General's findings in August 2010. All initial planning activities are either complete or in-progress.

Update: Network Request for Proposal (RFP). The Network Fair Opportunity project is on track for a June 27, 2011, completion. Proposals from all three vendors on the Universal Contract were received on Friday. Evaluations are scheduled to begin May 2, 2011.

Update: Closing the Feedback Loop as a Result of the IT Transformation Listening Sessions in Oakland, California. During the IT Transformation listening sessions in Oakland, California, NPS employees expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of their network connectivity. As a result, the Infrastructure Service Division (ISD) formed a tiger team to address the performance issue. ISD staff moved equipment utilized by NPS in Oakland from Reston to Denver. Moving the equipment to Denver improved performance to a satisfactory level.

Update: Data Center Consolidation Project. The Data Center Consolidation team participated in the monthly Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative Task Force meeting on 4/26/2011. OMB subsequently released Calendar Year 2011 data center consolidation information to the press which was reflected in a Wall Street Journal article and discussed in the White House Data Center Consolidation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) blog.

New: Storms Create Network Outages at Several DOI Facilities. Severe weather resulted in the loss of network capabilities at eight DOI facilities, primarily as a result of power outages. OCIO technicians restored connectivity to five of those stations.

Office of Valuation Services

Update: Meeting in Salt Lake City. Director Ross and Deputy Director Henderson met with OVS staff in Salt Lake City last week. During the meeting BLM representatives discussed a potential major exchange project in Utah.

Update: NACT Meeting. The NACT meeting will be conducted on Thursday, May 5, and will include introductions of Quality Assurance Officer Ken Daw, MAI, RPRA, and Special Projects Manager Ed Stehouwer, MAI, to OVS clients.

Update: IVIS Testing. The contractor for IVIS, OVS' new case tracking system, conducted Client and OVS users' testing for the second time last week. Data migration testing begins this week.

Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

Update: Open Government Working Group. CADR facilitated and provided process assistance to the Open Government Working Group during a meeting conducted last week at the new BLM Office space. As a result, working group members are finalizing the draft project plan which will be submitted to the DAS-TIBS for approval.

Geospatial Information Officer

Update: Geospatial Information and Tools for Open Government. The GIO continues to work with the Open Government Steering Committee to develop a work plan for consolidated trails information.

National Business Center

New: The NBC ITD Network Services Implement the MIB WiFi Project. WiFi has been deployed to 71% of laptops in the Office of the Secretary and the NBC user network at MIB.

New: NBC ITD Infrastructure Engineering. Staff is working to develop and implement an Active Directory Password Self Service solution to enable end users to reset his/her own Active Directory passwords leveraging NBC's standard Enterprise Access Control System (EACS). As long as no major problems are experienced in the testing phase, a full solution is expected to be complete and implemented within three months. Significant benefits to DOI/NBC should be realized by greatly reducing the number of password related calls and support while enhancing user productivity and customer satisfaction to end users, thus lowering overall costs. Based on estimates, a Return on Investment period for this project is about one year, *with positive payback of \$100k/year*.

New: Significant Milestone Achieved. The NBC ITD System Software Administration Branch completed a significant milestone (Internal Client Concurrence for Readiness Review) in support of upgrading the mainframe hosting environment for the Federal Financial System (FFS) and Federal Personnel and Payroll System (FPPS).

New: OMB Data Call. NBC is assisting the Interior Financial Management Office with responding to an Office of Management and Budget data call regarding travel information including establishing appropriate parameters for data collection (e.g., excluding inactive employees). The overall charge card delinquency rate for the Department as of March 31, 2011 was 0.01%.

New: AMD Hosts Interagency Aviation Training Workshop. AMD Training Division, in collaboration with DOI bureaus and the US Forest Service, conducted a National Interagency Aviation Training (IAT) workshop in Boise April 25-28, 2011. Aviation managers, pilots and crew members participated in an intensive 3.5 day schedule on mandatory aviation safety courses.

New: Earth Day event in Rawlins Park. NBC Administrative Operations staff hosted an exhibit on DOI's composting program and organic garden, as well as collected used electronics for recycling in recognition of Earth Day.

New: Refinishing Stage Floor. Staff will begin to refinish the stage floor in the Sydney R. Yates Auditorium in preparation for the May 9 event with the President, Secretary Salazar, Secretary Clinton, Secretary Geithner, and a delegation from China.

Update: Organic Garden. An informational message was distributed to all volunteers who work at DOI, OPM, and GSA last week announcing the planting schedule developed by a GSA horticulturist. The first planting session is scheduled for Friday, April 29. A meeting with cafeteria staff will also be conducted to discuss the types of vegetables and herbs that will be grown and used in the cafeteria.

Update: Parking Open Season – The new parking database is approximately 95% complete. The parking policy and associated procedures have been reviewed and finalized with OLES. The new parking passes for the MIB / SIB / FRB will be distributed the week of May 9.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DIVERSITY

Update: Holocaust Days of Remembrance. DOI joins the Nation in observing the Holocaust Days of Remembrance from May 1-8, 2011. In recognition, the USGS has a Days of Remembrance exhibit on the 4th Floor, 4300 corridor of the Main Interior Building. Also, DOI is a co-sponsor of the Federal Interagency Holocaust Memorial Remembrance Program that is taking place on May 4, 2011, at the Lincoln Theatre in Washington, D.C. The 11:30 a.m. program features three individuals who survived the Holocaust. DOI is providing bus transportation for Anacostia High School students to attend the program.

Completed: DOI and National Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. On April 27, 2011, the Office of Civil Rights held a signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Interior and the Society of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. The purpose of this MOU was to provide a cooperative framework for the parties to establish a program that will promote involvement of diversity in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences in DOI initiatives in natural resource management and conservation. The National Park Service was the lead Bureau on this MOU.

Completed: EEO Compliance Training. On April 25, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, conducted EEO Compliance Training for eighteen managers of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States Office, following a finding of discrimination. The training was conducted in Lorton, VA.

Completed: EEO Training For Managers. During April 26-28, 2011, Alvin Dillings, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, conducted EEO Training for 102 managers and supervisors of the National Park Service, WASO. The training was conducted in Hagerstown, MD.

Office of Strategic Employee and Organizational Development

New: Upcoming Forums and Speaker Events

- On May 9, 2011 the Government-wide Career, Diversity and Leadership Forum will feature the book *It's Not Just Who You Know: Transform Your Life (and Your Organization) by Turning Colleagues and Contacts into Lasting, Genuine Relationships*

by Tommy Spaulding. The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington D.C.

- On May 10, 2011 the Department of the Interior Leadership Forum will feature the book *It's Not Just Who You Know* by Tommy Spaulding. The forum will be held in the South Interior Building for DOI executives.
- On May 18, 2011 the Government wide Senior Executive Service Forum will feature a lecture from the National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (Retired), entitled *Leading Through Crisis and Times of Change*. He will address how large, complex organizations react to and manage unprecedented, anomalous events. The forum will be held at the National Transportation Safety Board Conference Center in Washington, D.C. This forum will be available on Webinar.

New: Principles of Federal Appropriations. OSEOD/DOIU has signed an Inter-Agency Agreement with OPM to deliver ten “*Principles of Federal Appropriation Law*” courses in the Washington Metropolitan area and in Denver, Colorado. The courses have received outstanding reviews from the participants.

Update: FISSA 2011 Course. The Learning Technology Solutions Division completed both the paper copy and CD versions of the course. The CD version of the course is available on the CD download website. The paper copy of the course will be distributed as needed. To date over 25,000 DOI learners have completed the training.

Completed: Training for White House Staff. Sondra Cook, Chief Administer Officer for the Executive Office of the President (AO/EOP) and Jerry Gidner, OSEOD Deputy Director made welcoming remarks at “The OZ Principle Accountability Training Workshop,” held in DOIU’s classroom on April 27, 2011. The training was facilitated by Maury Heirs and had over 25 attendees.

National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC)

Completed: NIPTC Fifth Anniversary. On April 27, 2011, The National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC) commemorated its 5th Anniversary in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Guest speakers included Mr. William Walker, Southwest Regional Director for the BIA; Margaret Williams, Deputy Special Trustee Trust Accountability for OST; Lynn McPheeters, President of DOIU; and representatives of local officials. Governor Frank Lujan from the Pueblo of Isleta and Governor Marcellus Medina from the Pueblo of Zia were also in attendance. Approximately 150-200 attended this special event.

Office of Occupational Health and Safety

New: Silica Exposure Evaluation of BLM Minerals Lab in Worland, WY. OHS staff provided sampling and evaluation support to the BLM Lab in Worland, Wyoming.

New: USGS Large Vessel Safety Committee. OHS staff reviewed and provided input to the management response to American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 723

comments on the VOP1.6 policy which contains the recently approved medical standard for USGS Larbe Vessel Crewmembers.

New: Nitrosamines in Disposable Gloves – USGS Water Lab. OHS is providing technical support to USGS in evaluating employee concerns relating to potential nitrosamine exposure in disposable gloves.

New: Clear Creek Natural Occurring Asbestos. OHS is reviewing an International Environmental Research Foundation/Harvard University report in support of BLM's effort to manage the access and mitigate the risk of exposure to the motorcycle riding public in the Clear Creek, CA Management Area.

New: NPS Conserv-O-Gram. OHS staff is reviewing the draft, "Guidelines for Handling, Care, Storage and Disposal of Chemical Compound in Historical Collections."

New: Wildland Fire. OHS staff will participate in a teleconference with the USGS, Harvard School of Public Health, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on the particulate exposure in wildland firefighting and cardiopulmonary effects. This is follow on work to the NIOSH research completed in 2008, and more recent work by USGS on Hexavalent Chromium in smoke from structures burned during wildfires.

New: Indian Affairs (IA) Safety and Health Program Evaluation. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protection Programs, conducted IA's formal Safety and Health Program Evaluation from April 18 – 28, 2011.

New: OHS Attendance at the Interior Fire Executive Council (IFEC). Barry Noll and Dave Schuller held discussions with the IFEC regarding the current letter of interpretation the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provided to clarify who pays for boots that are used while fighting Wildland fires. The IFEC discussed OSHA's letter of interpretation and felt additional clarification was needed to explain what the definition of "extreme heat" is according to OSHA. Overall, the IFEC was not receptive to OSHA's current position requiring specialized safety footwear with fire resistant features for Wildland fire fighters expected to enter a fire zone where extreme heat would be encountered. Barry Noll expects to schedule a meeting within the next week or two with OSHA to get a clarification on what constitutes as extreme heat.

New: Wildland Fire Safety Training. Barry Noll, Chief of Safety, Evaluations, and Voluntary Protection Programs, briefed the IFEC on the Wildland Fire Safety Training concept. The course will likely be three days long and was developed in PowerPoint with additional teaching aids. The goal is to have a course ready to beta test by the end of FY 2011. Overall, the IFEC was receptive to the training concept proposed by OHS.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Immediate Office of the DAS

Update: Interagency Agreement with Customs and Border Protection. It was learned on April 15th that the FY 09 and 10 dollars that had been set aside in support of this agreement were lost in the final budget resolution now being sent to the President for his signature. CBP is evaluating other options to support the agreement with end of year funds but no word has been forthcoming as yet on if or how much funding might be available. Discussions will continue on the final language to be contained in the amendments to the agreement so that when funding becomes available the approved projects in the amendment can be executed. The amendments under consideration could make available as much as 22 million dollars to purchase lands to mitigate for the impacts of waived border infrastructure projects in California (San Diego NWR) and Texas (South Texas Refuge Complex).

Update: Integrated Fixed Towers - OTIA (Office of Innovation, Technology and Acquisition) Program Development (formerly known as SBInet). Site visits in the Sonoita/Nogales area took place the week of April 25. These visits were postponed due to uncertainty over passage of this year's budget. The field review of tower locations went very well. This is the first phase of work which will take place in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and on private lands near Sonoita and Nogales. DOI concerns at this point are focused on possible threatened or endangered species impacts. The next phase of work will be in the Douglas, AZ area.

Update: Environmental and Cultural Stewardship Training Module. CBP, USDA, and DOI Bureaus are working cooperatively to develop a two hour, on line, mandatory course to be used by CBP to orient CBP personnel to DOI and USDA Forest Service lands and resources. The aim is to educate and thus reduce unnecessary impacts on natural resources and the environment. The Alpha version of the module will be made available for review this week with comments due on May 16. Field launch of the module is expected to begin in September of this year.

Update: Mitigation Project on Lower Colorado River. BLM and CBP had negotiated an agreement to offset impacts of CBP activities through restoration of riparian habitat. After substantial planning and design work BOR noted that the proposed project was located on a site planned for dredge spoil deposition. BLM and BOR are discussing at the regional level and seeking solutions which will allow the planned project to move forward. The field meeting originally scheduled for early March is now scheduled for May 18. Alternative sites have been identified for mitigation and will be evaluated on this field trip.

Update: Northern Border EIS Being Prepared by CBP. The internal draft of this EIS is undergoing review and concerns have been raised over the document, time frames etc. CBP will be preparing a single document for the entire border. A request for cooperating agency status was received by letter dated March 14, 2011. Borderlands Coordinator will respond to CBP and indicate DOI will cooperate in finalizing the PEIS. The current, ambitious, schedule indicates issuance of a Record of Decision in the fall of this year. DOI and USDA will be provided with an opportunity to review the Draft PEIS prior to the scheduled public release in mid May followed soon thereafter by public release of the draft. Public meetings will be held from mid to late May 30 to late June with the comment period closing in late July following a 45 day public

comment period. OEPC has been contacted concerning cooperating agency status. Documents will be loaded on the DOI Sharepoint site for review.

Update: Ajo Forward Operating Base. CBP has begun specific planning and coordination with DOI bureaus for this new base which was funded in FY 2010 and has submitted a notional site plan for review by NPS and FWS. The notional plan will use 3 acres of land in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Construction of the new, expanded facility will likely be at the currently approved tower site supporting the relocation of the Bates Wells camp. A coordination meeting on NEPA and ESA draft compliance work is planned for the week of May 16th.continuing. The schedule for completion is very tight since the funds available for this project must be obligated this FY.

Update: CBP to Prepare NEPA documents for Maintenance of Tactical Infrastructure Along the Southwest Border. CBP initiated interagency scoping for programmatic NEPA documents in December. A letter describing efforts to date and the plan for preparing NEPA documents for “non-waived” tactical infrastructure will be sent to land managers and permitting offices in the next few weeks. The initial work will focus on California and Arizona with draft documents released in late July for Arizona and mid August for California. Texas and New Mexico will be released later. The scope of the analysis also includes “new” construction and routine operational maintenance of constructed projects, e.g., roads and fencing. TIMR contracts for other border maintenance work will be finalized this summer. Each sector will have a Project Manager for this work who will work closely with the Public Lands Liaison Agent to address maintenance needs. CBP will provide a list of these for distribution to DOI field personnel.

Update: Radio Transformation. Meeting with the executive sponsors on April 29 was postponed due to schedule conflicts and will be rescheduled. Project directors are waiting for approval to hire a senior-level project manager.

Update: Gulf Coast Response Staffing. The DOI transition plan is in surname prior to submittal to the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team. Under this plan the activities of DOI relative to oil spill response will continue to be coordinated with the US Coast Guard Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) through the DOI Federal Trustee. The DOI Federal Trustee operates with delegated authority from the Secretary of the Interior and will continue to be stationed within the GCIMT Unified Incident Command (UIC). The plan will coincide with the incident transition from Stage 3, Cleanup to Stage 4, 2011 Shoreline Maintenance and Monitoring Assessment Technique Plan for Alabama, Florida, Mississippi (eastern states) and the Draft SCAT Stage IV Plan for Louisiana. As such, this plan will be implemented as the incident workload directs and will not be fully implemented until all locations within the area of response have reached Stage 4. Upon the transition, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will move the management and coordination of cleanup, monitoring, and maintenance activities on DOI lands to the affected local units. Cleanup, monitoring, and maintenance of Bureau of Land Management lands will continue to be coordinated through the DOI Federal Trustee in New Orleans and the FWS Project Management Office for Bon Secour. Trust resource implications of monitoring, maintenance and additional cleanup on non-DOI lands will be addressed through the Environmental Units, including input to planning, coordination with SCAT, Section 106, and emergency Section 7 coordination and other trust

resource technical assistance. Remaining constant during these transitions is the Department's Federal Trustee responsibilities for endangered species, migratory birds, DOI lands, historic properties, and archeological sites and artifacts as described in the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, The National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, the NPS Organic Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act as well as its management authority over ocean energy production through its Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulations, and Enforcement. Additionally, the Department's US Geological Survey (USGS) participates in scientific studies, reviews, and conclusions. The Department's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) coordinates and communicates the Department's decisions regarding response. The trustee advisor in the OEPC operates remotely, oversees development and approval of agency PRFAs, and coordinates with Bureau Directors and Regional Directors.

No Change: Border Coordinator to Attend Meetings in Arizona and California. DOI Border Coordinator Jon Andrew will attend a meeting near Douglas, Arizona organized by the local ranching community to discuss border related issues. Also in attendance will be Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle and Border Patrol Sector Chief Randy Hill. Following this Andrew will attend a portion of the Borderlands Management Task Force meeting in El Centro and attend a tour of the El Centro area with Bureau of Land Management and BP officials followed by coordination meetings with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Carlsbad, CA.

No Change: U.S. Geological Survey Border Monitoring Plan. USGS is revising their proposal for monitoring impacts of Border infrastructure put in place by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A revised proposal was sent to CBP the last week of December and CBP is evaluating the revised proposal. CBP funding for this monitoring has yet to be identified.

No Change: Annual Public Lands Liaison Conference. This annual conference will be convened in Tucson from June 28-30.

No Change: Fire IT Project. The project leaders (Jim Douglas (DOI) and John Phipps (USFS)) met with focus groups in Boise the week of April 18. Additional meetings with fire executives and agency chief information offices are being arranged.

No Change: Interagency Interoperability. The Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (comprised of Interior and Agriculture executives in information technology, fire, and law enforcement) met to discuss priorities, projects, and organization. The group agreed to pursue a Secretarial level charter and to re-configure the group to make it more agile and strategic. Two major sets of initiatives are underway. First is interconnectivity of networks and cross-recognition of credentials. A large interagency conference call took place this week among USDA, FS, and DOI CIO offices, with LESEM, to coordinate and prioritize a number of activities in this area. This work also involves the DOI and USDA Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) program offices. The second initiative is radio program improvement including interoperability, infrastructure consolidation, and use of new technologies. This initiative is being handled through the DOI Radio Transformation Project in partnership with USDA and Forest Service.

No Change: Short-term Access to Government Computers for Emergency Response. OCIO Directive 2011-005 was signed and issued. Initial planning on interagency (between Interior and Agriculture) is underway.

No Change: Civil Applications Committee Coordination. The chair of the CAC (USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball) and the Interior CAC representative (Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) briefed the Deputies Operating Group in March on the mission and purpose of the CAC and solicited bureau input on improving coordination within Interior.

No Change: Interagency Dispatch Improvement. All bureaus/agencies have signed the charter. Plans for a meeting or conference call of the Steering Committee are underway.

No Change: Wildland Fire Accident Investigation Procedures. The protocols and procedures for conducting safety investigations after serious accidents differ between the Interior Department and the Forest Service (and somewhat within Interior) with respect to such issues as the role of law enforcement, sharing of information, and release/use of results. In December 2009 a “summit meeting” of wildland fire, safety, and law enforcement was held to discuss these issues and develop solutions. On January 27 the chair of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group briefed the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency management on the results of their efforts to develop a common approach within the wildland fire community. That work now needs to be discussed with safety and law enforcement program managers to determine how to agree on a common approach to these investigations.

Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES)

New: OLES participated in a Curriculum Review Conference at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center on April 26 and 27. The Conference was to review and revise the curriculum for the Uniformed Police Training Program, the basic training utilized by the United States Park Police and the Bureau of Reclamation. The meeting was a formal working group meeting leading up to the final conference in late May. The participating agencies and FLETC have proposed several changes, but no major modifications.

New: Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) Deployment: The IMARS team is completing its first of 10 deployment pushes to the DOI law enforcement bureaus during the week of May 2, 2011. The Records Management System (RMS) is being implemented across five bureaus and seven law enforcement programs nationwide. During this deployment push, 500 users will receive the RMS and begin entering live incidents in the system.

Update: Federal Chief Information Officer’s 25 Point Implementation Plan. The Technology Division received eight responses from vendors to the cloud computing Request for Information (RFI). The Technology Division and the OCIO will review the responses to the RFI. After evaluation of the vendors who responded to the RFI, the Request for Proposal (RFP) with the Statement of Work will be issued. This Cloud Computing Initiative is required by the 25 Point Implementation Plan to Reform Federal IT released by the Federal Chief Information Officer from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Update: Main Interior Building (MIB) Security. The MIB is currently undergoing the following security upgrades:

- **Electric Bollards:** The C ramp bollard installation is complete and C ramp is now opened. Work on the A ramp bollard has begun and work on G ramp should begin in the near future.
- **Exterior Guard Booths:** C ramp guard booth has been installed and is operational.

Update: Facility Security Level Initiative in Support of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12. Per guidance from the Executive Steering Committee and the DOI Access Team, OLES has requested all bureaus/offices compile and submit a list of facilities they own or have control over the security function along with the assigned security level. This request is in support of the HSPD-12 Initiative. A response to this request was due by April 29, but the majority of Bureaus/Offices did not comply. OLES is attempting to forge a partnership with individuals from facilities management to support this initiative.

Update: OLES Security Assessments. OLES has completed security assessments (in accordance with 444 DM 2) on four of the five designated National Critical Infrastructure (NCI) Dams including Hoover, Folsom, Shasta and Grand Coulee. An assessment has been scheduled at Glen Canyon Dam for the week of June 20th. In addition, OLES has completed assessments at the following National Monuments and Icons: Mount Rushmore, National Mall, St Louis Arch, and the Statue. Additional assessments are in the process of being scheduled at the Liberty Bell and the USS Constitution. A security assessment (in accordance with 444 DM 1) has been completed at the main BOEMRE facility in New Orleans. An additional assessment has been scheduled for the USGS EROS Data Center in May. Also in May OLES will conduct a progress review based on the recommendations listed in the 2009 assessment at Mount Rushmore.

No Change: OLES Attendance at USNORTHCOM Annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference. As a result of the recent OLES visit to the Southwest border, OLES learned that the USNORTHCOM Joint Task Force–North (JTF-N), located in El Paso, will host its annual Operational Campaign Planning Conference on June 6-9, 2011. This conference identifies and prioritizes U.S. military Civil Support missions, at no cost to the receiving organization, in support of Counterdrug and Counter Narco-Terrorism activities. OLES will send a representative to this conference to represent the Department.

No Change: OLES Participating in WikiLeaks Interagency Policy Committee. Based on continuous participation with numerous committees and workgroups, OLES has instituted security changes at DOI facilities with access to classified systems and intelligence. Specific White House guidance to departments and agencies is forthcoming; a Deputy-level meeting will be scheduled during the first half of May. Tentatively, the DOI has not been selected as a department/agency that will be audited this calendar year but should anticipate such an audit in 2012.

No Change: Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Updates provided to the Program Manager's Office, Information Sharing Environment (ISE), for Report to Congress. OLES, together with the OCIO, provided written updates on DOI's progress toward

implementing numerous ISE initiatives. The Department is progressing well and will have an automated method of reporting Suspicious Activity Reports once the Incident Management, Analysis Reporting System (IMARS) is fully deployed and operational.

No Change: OLES Departmental Security and Intelligence Workshop. This workshop provides required in-service training that satisfies part of the required 40 hour annual training for DOI security and law enforcement personnel. The security portion of the workshop will highlight the team effort between the Golden Gate Bridge Authority, National Park Service, United States Park Police, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard in supporting the security program at one of the Nation's most iconic structures, the Golden Gate Bridge. The Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection from the Department of Homeland Security, Todd Keil, has confirmed his participation as the keynote speaker.

No Change: Departmental Personnel Security Review. OPM has requested the assistance of OLES in coordinating reviews of all bureaus/office personnel security programs. The reviews are conducted in support of personnel security, suitability, fitness, and credentialing requirements. Each review is expected to take up to nine months to complete. The review of the BOEMRE program supporting the Office of the Secretary was completed. Additional reviews have been scheduled for the USGS (May 2) and FWS (May 16).

No Change: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12 Foreign National Guidance Update: OLES Security is currently working with the DOI Access Team to update the HSPD-12 Foreign National Guidance. HSPD-12 requires all individuals who are allowed unsupervised access to Departmental IT systems and facilities undergo at a minimum a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background investigation. Unfortunately, per OPM regulations, a NACI requires an individual to be in the United States for at least three years. Following OMB guidance, OLES previously issued policy regarding this class of individual in 2008. OLES is in the process of updating and clarifying certain aspects of this guidance.

No Change: 444 DM 1 "Physical Protection and Building Security" Update: The current 444 DM 1 was created in 1999 and is currently non-compliant with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements listed in the DHS Interagency Security Committee document titled "Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities". The new draft 444 DM is pending a second review from all bureau/office Security Managers. OLES Security hopes to issue the updated version as interim guidance in June of 2011.

Final: DOI Victim Assistance Program (VAP) Coordinator and Phoenix Victim Specialist Present Victim Rights Training to DOI and Oregon Law Enforcement Communities. The DOI VAP Coordinator and Victim Specialist continue to train individuals from law enforcement communities and other agencies. On April 19, 2011, the DOI VAP Coordinator provided crime victim rights training to 23 Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement managers at the National Conservation Training Center. On April 20, 2011, the Victim Specialist in Phoenix, Arizona, provided training regarding domestic violence services for crime victims, to members of the Oregon US Attorney's Office and law enforcement participants.

Final: Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 National Monuments & Icons Sector Annual Report. OLES Security is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Infrastructure Protection Division and the National Monuments and Icons security managers in the development of the 2011 annual report. Currently, the document is in the data collections stage with a first draft due to DHS by June 6, 2011.

New: Inter-agency Security Process Review at the Statue of Liberty. On April 25, the DAS LESEM, Director OLES, USPP and NPS personnel met in New York regarding security procedures and visitor screening for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. A final decision from the NPS on the security screening procedures is pending.

BUDGET, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACQUISITION

Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Complete: OMB Data Call for Real Property Cost Savings and Innovation Plan. On April 27, PAM submitted to OMB Department-wide data on the disposition status of excess real properties in the DOI portfolio. The Department reported to OMB the amount of savings and cost avoidance achieved to date as part of DOI's Real Property Cost Savings and Innovation Plan. This is part of OMB's strategy to focus on reducing the Federal government's footprint in space and facilities with a goal of \$3 billion in reduced costs for non-DOD related property. The Administration will propose legislation to establish a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission for civilian lands and facilities.

Office of Budget

New: OMB Travel. The week of June 26, OMB Examiner James Hurban will visit the Rocky Mountain Region to review BIA and OST programs.

No Change: 2013 Budget Formulation. On April 21, the Office of Budget issued initial 2013 formulation policy guidance from the DAS-BFPA to bureau budget officers. This guidance contained bureau/office planning targets for the Departmental submission, due May 31, as well as fixed cost placeholder estimates, funding levels for Secretarial initiatives, and a tentative schedule for the 2013 formulation process. POB continues to develop bureau-specific/cross-cutting and technical guidance, to be issued shortly.

Office of Financial Management

New: Financial Statement Audit. The Office of Financial Management completed a successful week of Financial Statement Audit walkthroughs with KPMG.

New: Benchmarking Initiatives in Accounts Receivable, Direct Loans, and Travel. PFM submitted the Department's response to the Office of Management and Budget on the benchmarking initiatives in Accounts Receivable, Direct Loans, and Travel.

New: Internal Controls Related to System Access. PFM is collaborating with the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to identify the optimum solution for OIG system access for an Office of Inspector General audit of GovTrip Use. PMB will formulate a recommendation to take to the OIG.

New: Assessment of the Financial and Business Management System: The contractor has provided a first draft of the Task 4 deliverable “Project Change Management Assessment Report” and provided a walkthrough of Task 4 to the Sponsors. The final Task 4 deliverable is due Friday, May 6, per the Project Plan. Daily status calls were held at the Herndon PMO with extended sessions on Thursday for deliverable review.

Ongoing: GAO Report. PFM submitted the Department’s statement of actions in response to the GAO report on *Oil and Gas Bonds* (GAO-11-292) on time and added four recommendations to the tracking system for BLM.

PFM received and processed GAO Draft report on *Small Business Contracting: Action Needed by Those Agencies Whose Advocates Do Not Report to Agency Heads as Required* (GAO-11-418). Comments are due back to GAO on May 13, 2011.

Office of Planning and Performance Management

Update: FY 2010-2011 Priority Performance Goals. The first set of Priority Goal Quarterly Status Reviews with David Hayes and bureau goal owners begin this week. OMB has requested that we provide a “Progress Update”, which we will base on the progress analysis surveys to be provided by the goal leaders by May 6.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

New: White House Federal Agencies Small Business Update. The Department was represented by Chris Henderson and Mark Oliver at a meeting of the White House Small Business Procurement Group on April 26. The meeting is part of a quarterly series of meetings between the White House and federal agencies focused on small business contracting. Topics discussed included meetings between new vendors and program staff, increasing small business opportunities on General Services Administration (GSA) Schedules and Multiple Award Contracts and outreach to small businesses in economically disadvantaged groups.

Complete: Small Business Jobs Act Listening Tour. On April 27, the nation-wide Small Business Jobs Act Listening Tour was held at the Department of Transportation Headquarters. Items discussed included size standards, regional contract environment, Jobs Act provisions, set asides and bundling. Members of the OSDBU staff attended the event.

Update: Events Scheduled. The OSDBU has the following events scheduled. Please contact OSDBU for further information.

- **June 3 (tentative): Construction Outreach Event.** Event will be held at the Yates Auditorium during the evening hours. Further details to be provided when finalized.
- **June 14: Intermountain Region Outreach Event in Houston, TX.** Registration to open by April 30.
- **September 15 (tentative) New Mexico Outreach Event in Albuquerque, NM.** Further details to be provided when finalized.

Update: Webinars Scheduled. OSBDU has scheduled the following upcoming webinars:

- May 4: General Small Business
- June 1: Minority Serving Institutions

FBMS Program Management Office (PMO)

Update: FBMS Deployment 7 (D7) Deployment Baseline Review (DBR). The DBR was held on April 28, 2011 in which key FBMS Program Management Office team members reported on the status of preparations for D7 and deployment preparations, risks, and issues. The DBR also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to receive recommendations from the program's independent verification and validation contractor and the system integrator concerning readiness to transition from the Project Preparation Phase to the Business Blueprint Phase. A DOI caucus was held after the DBR to discuss the review with the Project Sponsor and approval was given for D7 to proceed to its Business Blueprint Phase. The D7 Business Blueprint Phase will begin on May 2, 2011, and end on November 11, 2011. During D7, FBMS will be deployed to Indian Affairs and the National Park Service.

FBMS Office of the Secretary and Departmental Offices Implementation

New: Go-Live Preparation. The Office of the Secretary Implementation Management Office (OS IMO) has begun the development of processes and procedures for the FBMS "Go-Live" black out period and catch up plan that is scheduled to begin September 25th. This plan will be vetted and disseminated through the stakeholder community.

New: ONRR Conversion to OS. OS IMO is working closely with ONRR to develop a strategy to ensure cross bureau support from BOEMRE is accomplished in accordance with OS standards and meets the needs of ONRR. ONRR financial transactions will be processed through BOEMRE through FY2012 and Acquisition support will be provided by the National Business Center Acquisition Services Directorate.

Update: Organizational Change Management. The OS IMO conducted additional one-on-one meetings with OS small offices to prepare them for upcoming role mapping activities. OS IMO will be holding the second role mapping "check-in" conference call on May 4. This conference call will provide a forum for reporting on the status of the assigned role mapping exercise and to discuss any issues or problems encountered along the way. The final role

mapping workshop 3 will be held on May 17-19 in Herndon, VA, the Stewart L. Udall Main Interior Building, and Denver, CO concurrently.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Report to Congress: Analysis of RSFA Provisions and Adjustments to Royalty Payments (Update): ONRR will be submitting for Departmental review this week a report to Congress as requested by GAO-08-893R, *Mineral Revenues: Data Management Problems and Reliance on Self-Reported Data for Compliance Efforts Put MMS Royalty Calculations at Risk*. The report examines the six-year time period during which companies may adjust their Federal royalty data without ONRR approval and ONRR's seven year time period for issuing monetary demands. The report notes that the majority of company adjustments occur within the first three years of the six-year period.

Royalty Simplification – Valuation Regulations, Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (No Change): On April 22, 2011, the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget signed two Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) - one for Federal Gas Valuation and the other for Federal and Indian Coal Valuation. The ANPRs are currently under review by OMB. ONRR has also developed a communications plan and press release to announce the publication of the ANPRs. ONRR anticipates the publication in May 2011.

Indian Oil Negotiated Rulemaking (No Change): ONRR is in the process of forming a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) to address the valuation of crude oil produced from Indian leases. ONRR is working with the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution and the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to obtain a third party neutral to serve as facilitator for the Committee. In addition, ONRR is gathering information necessary for the Department and the White House liaison to analyze and vet the proposed Committee members. Once the Department and White House liaison approve the members, the Department will publish *Federal Register* notices announcing the members and establish the Committee. Additionally, the Secretary will need to sign the charter for filing with Congress. The estimated timeframe for holding the first meeting of the Committee is August 2011.

Update to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases related to Index Zones (No change): The Economic and Market Analysis Office (EMAO) is proposing changes to the Indian gas valuation regulations that will remove certain illiquid natural gas index prices from the Indian Index Zone calculation. These changes will potentially increase natural gas royalty revenues for Indian leases located in Oklahoma Zone 1, Oklahoma Zone 2, and the Central Rocky Mountain Zone. EMAO is participating with State and Indian Coordination to conduct outreach to Indians affected by these regulatory changes. EMAO is also in process of drafting a FR Notice to publish the changes to the calculation.

Tribal Consultation Letter (Update): ONRR has invited tribal leaders to three meetings seeking their input and comments on several policy and regulatory changes that could affect the valuation of mineral production on Indian lands. These meetings will take place in Albuquerque, NM on May 19, 2011, Denver, CO on May 26, 2011, and Oklahoma City on June 9, 2011. The consultation meetings will open dialogue with Indian Tribes on potential changes including valuing crude oil produced from Indian leases, removing certain natural gas index pricing points, and amending the Federal and Indian coal valuation regulations.

ONRR Strategic Review (Ongoing): Implementation Work Groups (IWGs) are in the process of framing the scope of the tasks ahead and formalizing work plans to implement the Strategic Review recommendations.

Communications Team Highlights (New): The Internal and External Communication IWG held a spirited two-day meeting in Denver April 26-27 to continue defining the scope of the communications effort and plot a path forward to fundamentally change the way ONRR employees communicate among ourselves. The IWG agreed that internal communications would be the first priority of the team, followed by recommendations to address external communication issues. The Communications IWG also met with representatives of the Strategic Review Organizational Health Team, ONRR management, and a representative of McKinsey & Company via teleconference. The group discussed several initiatives to engage all ONRR employees in the exchange of information needed to complete ONRR's mission, and to engage the other IWG teams currently working on other issues as part of the ongoing Strategic Review process. The Communications IWG plans to begin initiating some of those initiatives in the very near future.

Solid Minerals & Geothermal SM&G Mill Fork Reversion Meeting with Bureau of Land Management and State of Utah (New): On Wednesday, May 4th, ONRR Solid Minerals staff met with BLM and the State of Utah to discuss the reversion of a State coal lease to Federal lease status. The lease reverts to the federal government after the lessee produces 22.3 million tons of coal. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how to account for the royalties and bonus payments from this lease and the status similar State leases due for reversion to Federal lease status.

SM&G Potash Audit Guidance Meeting with the New Mexico State Taxation and Revenue Department (New): On Wednesday, May 11th, ONRR Solids staff will meet with the New Mexico State Taxation and Revenue Department in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to provide guidance and assistance for New Mexico's audit of Mosaic Potash. ONRR supporting New Mexico's audit of a commodity for which they have had little prior audit experience.

Cooperative Agreement Reviews (Ongoing): Staff from the State and Tribal Support office conducts Cooperative Agreement Reviews to enhance our partnership with the States and Tribes and comply with Section H 10 of the 202/205 Agreements and CFR Title 30, Part 227 (Delegation to States) and Part 228 (Cooperative Agreements with Indian Tribes). On a cyclical basis, ONRR is required to conduct attestations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Delegations/Agreements. The main areas reviewed include review of the audit work done under the Agreement, contract costs incurred under the Agreement, special provisions

for safeguarding and maintaining work papers, and records developed under the Agreement and equipment.

- Navajo review, on May 11-13, 2011
- New Mexico review, on May 31-June 2, 2011
- Utah review, on June 7-8, 2011

Outreach with Individual Indian Mineral Owners (Ongoing): ONRR continues its outreach with individual Indian mineral owners. These meetings enable us to listen to concerns and suggestions for royalty accounting improvement, answer questions, and identify and resolve mineral-related problems in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of the Special Trustee. ONRR's goal is to enhance our trust responsibility and foster a positive working relationship with the Indian community. Outreach sessions will take place with mineral owners including:

- Ute Mountain Ute Agency, Towaoc, CO, on May 24, 2011
- Southern Ute Agency & Southern Ute Senior Ctr, Ignacio, CO, on May 25, 2011